

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 7 June 1994

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

## STATEMENT - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

### *Committee System; Commission on Government Bill*

**HON JOHN HALDEN** (South Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.33 pm] - by leave: Last Thursday I informed the House that the Opposition would consider its attitude to standing committees in protest at the failure of the Liberal members of the Standing Committee on Legislation to vote in accordance with that committee's recommendations on the Commission on Government Bill, and of the chairperson to be present during discussion of the committee's report and to delegate to any other committee member some responsibility for commenting on the recommendations of that committee. Few options are available to the Opposition to express its disapproval of Government members' unacceptable behaviour. Under the circumstances, withdrawal was more than merely symbolic.

Last week's events are regrettable; all the more so because they may have been avoided had the Government been prepared to admit the possibility of concession. The Opposition has neither the wish nor the intention to destroy the committee system. There is no argument about the benefits that the committees contribute to the quality of the work of this House. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement, and now seems as good a time as any to open constructive negotiations with the Government on the nature and extent of these improvements. Some of them will find ready acceptance; for example, setting aside definite periods when the committees can meet. Others, particularly the make-up of the committees and the allocation of the chairs, will probably need more extensive consideration. The Government must consider its current "winner takes all" attitude: There are Labor members, a Greens member and an Independent in this House.

To show our good faith in this matter, ALP members will resume their committee attendance. In turn, I ask the Leader of the House to indicate his willingness to discuss the existing structure and operations of the Legislation Committee and his agreement that he and I should be able to present proposals to the House when it resumes after the forthcoming adjournment. I ask the Leader of the House to honour his pledge to promptly set up the parliamentary committee to supervise the Commission on Government. This committee should be evenly balanced between the Houses and the parties. The Opposition has little choice but to reconsider its level of participation in the committee system and other parliamentary processes.

To remind the Government of its responsibilities to the House and to the committee system of the House the Opposition will from tomorrow withdraw pairs for all members until at least the end of this parliamentary sitting - until the adjournment of Parliament for the winter recess. Depending on the Government's willingness to negotiate and resolve these difficulties the situation may alter, but only after consideration of the Government's proposed reforms in this area.

## MOTION - SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

### *Airports, North West, Greater Use by International Traffic*

Resumed from 12 May.

**HON P.H. LOCKYER** (Mining and Pastoral) [3.37 pm]: I rise almost from my death bed to attend to this matter because of the great urgency that Hon Tom Stephens, who proposed this motion, put on this subject, even though we have had some difficulty in finding him over the past few weeks to finish off this debate.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let us listen to the member.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The urgency that Hon Tom Stephens placed on this motion has been tempered by Hon Iain MacLean taking a seat in this place, a matter which happened when Hon Tom Stephens was untowardly detained on parliamentary business elsewhere.

Several members interjected.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I know that the President would not let me discuss the Northern Territory election, but perhaps we will have an opportunity later this evening to do so.

Hon Tom Stephens: I can probably find a way in this motion.

The PRESIDENT: Not while I am here.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I suggest we might put an airport in the Northern Territory seat of Victoria River, which is now in great hands due no doubt to the efforts of Mr Tim Baldwin, who clearly won it, despite the efforts of my colleague on the other side of the Chamber. No doubt we will hear more of that matter in question time.

Prior to the adjournment of this debate on 12 May I was making the point that it is totally unnecessary to have a select committee into the use of north west airports at this time. I said that Hon Tom Stephens had been a member for the area long enough to know intimately the actions of each of those north west airports. For instance, it is well known that the airport in Carnarvon is of such a short length that difficulties are involved in taking any other aircraft. It is also recognised that one of the options for an international airport in this state is at Learmonth, where there is 10 000 feet of runway. It is also recognised that the Shire of Roebourne saw fit to upgrade its airport which now caters for bigger aircraft. In addition, it is recognised that Port Hedland had, and still has, the first international airport in the north of this state. Hon Tom Helm will be happy I mentioned that without any encouragement from him. His comments when this motion was debated previously were unbecoming of him and were almost as bad as the comments made by Hon Sam Piantadosi, who does not know anything about airports in the north of the state. When the motion was debated previously there were unparliamentary interjections.

Several members interjected.

Hon T.G. Butler: Do you consider the last remark to be unparliamentary?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Hon Tom Butler has already had one crack at me today. I referred to his stature and he corrected me and said that he is vertically impaired, nothing less.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Tom Butler will come to order. He should ignore what the member on his feet is saying. Hon Phil Lockyer has only 16 minutes left.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I hope Hon Tom Butler does not ignore me because some of my comments will give him the ability to go forth in his electorate with the knowledge of what is happening in the north with respect to airports. As I said, Port Hedland has an international airport.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: It is a lot safer since you stopped flying.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I have not stopped flying. I said outside this Chamber earlier today that I am not well because I have been struck down by a little wog. Hon Sam Piantadosi said, "He was a little under 6 feet."

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Just a shade under 6 ft, although I am not worried.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: According to a weight and balance chart, Hon Sam Piantadosi is a little bit out of kilter and I will speak to him about that later.

It is no secret that for some time the Town of Port Hedland has been trying to encourage more international flights into the town as have other towns in the north of this state. The Minister for Transport made it clear that the Department of Transport is well aware of

these requirements. The people of Broome feel that there should be an international airport in that town and the people of Kununurra feel the airport there should be considered for an upgrade. Hon Sam Piantadosi knows -

Hon Sam Piantadosi: You said I did not know anything and now you are saying that I do know!

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Hon Sam Piantadosi knows more about the fruit and vegetable industry than does any other member in this House. I was about to give him a pat on the back.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: That worries me.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Hon Sam Piantadosi knows that the horticulture industry in Kununurra would like the opportunity to send its produce directly to the eastern states or, even better, to South East Asia where there is an enormous market for it. While it is healthy to have this competition, international airports will be established in the towns where they are commercially viable. Unfortunately, the direct flights between Port Hedland and Bali have stopped.

Hon Tom Helm: Only half.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The 50 per cent Australian factor has stopped and that route is serviced only by Garuda Indonesia. Whether that is right or wrong is obviously a commercial decision. I have been told that by Qantas Airways Ltd, which holds the international carriage licence to fly between Port Hedland and Bali - it has Ansett under licence to it. I would very much like to see it start again. They are being commercially pursued by Broome, through a variety of carriers not the very least of which is Ansett, which is trying to encourage Broome to become an international destination for people from South East Asia. All these towns are competing with Darwin, which sees itself as the gateway to South East Asia and believes that people should fly there and use domestic carriers to fly down the west coast. It is as obvious as the colour of one's skin that these problems will be solved only when it is economically viable to do so. All the select committees in the world will make absolutely no difference to it whatsoever.

With reference to part (1)(a) of the motion the whole method of costing airports boils down to whether they can be commercially viable to the people who operate the airports and the people who fly in and out of them. For instance, to make Exmouth an international airport would be the cheapest option. All that is needed is a slight upgrade of the terminal to cater for the immigration and customs officers. It has the added advantage that most international flights out of Perth fly over Exmouth.

I cannot agree with this motion and I urge the House to vote against it.

**HON SAM PIANTADOSI** (North Metropolitan) [3.46 pm]: I did not intend to enter this debate but my colleague opposite decided he wanted to hear a few words of wisdom from me to enlighten him on his electorate. In considering this motion one must take into consideration some of the points raised by Hon Phil Lockyer and the remarks made by Hon Murray Criddle last week when he referred to his trip to Japan. He also mentioned my name with respect to the horticulture industry and referred to the measures required to be put into place to export fresh produce from the north of the state to South East Asia.

This motion refers to the benefits to the state not only from tourism, but also from trade. This Government is continually bombarding the electorate about the need to look at exports, including the export of produce from the north of the state to South East Asia. Western Australia has the best growers in the world and its fruit and vegetable industry would be second to none. However, the industry is up against stiff opposition, particularly from the subsidisation of many goods, especially from America. If the facilities were available we may be able to penetrate the market by having produce available at relatively short notice. Hon Murray Criddle said that we must be able to move quickly to take advantage of that situation. Currently Western Australia is not in a position to do that. I am sure Hon Phil Lockyer genuinely forgot to mention that the agriculture industry in Broome has grown significantly.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: It has indeed.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The industry would grow very quickly if the facilities to export the produce were in place. One of the facilities required is the extension of the runways to an international standard to enable them to take 747 cargo planes.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: It is a well known factor.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: If it is well known, then the motion moved by Hon Tom Stephens has some merit because it proposes that a number of factors be looked at, including tourism and the other growth industries in that area. We cannot take advantage of trade opportunities if we do not have in place the necessary infrastructure. At present, produce for South East Asia must be shipped from the south of the state or from Darwin. In today's competitive market, it is important to take advantage of trade opportunities immediately and to try to break into new markets. When we look at how America is dumping its produce into South East Asia -

Hon P.H. Lockyer: And here.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: That is right. We do not suffer much from that on the west coast, but it is very evident on the east coast of Australia.

Hon Phil Lockyer referred to the way that airlines rationalise flights out of Bali to Port Hedland. Most airline companies around the world make deals with other airline companies to take up so many seats on a particular route which does not have a high volume of traffic, rather than compete for traffic on that route. Qantas and Air New Zealand have such an arrangement in regard to flights from Perth to New Zealand. It is becoming evident that many European people who visit Bali are keen to visit Australia and would do so if we had the necessary infrastructure to enable them to fly from Singapore, to Bali, to Broome or Kununurra.

Members who represent the north west need to look at the long term benefits that can be gained from the use of airports. There will be a cost, but this region is growing rapidly, and the longer we let the situation continue, particularly in regard to the horticultural industry, the more difficult it will be in future to make any inroads into South East Asia and to try to regain the ground that we may have lost.

**HON TOM STEPHENS** (Mining and Pastoral) [3.54 pm]: It is a long time since I introduced this motion for the appointment of a select committee of this House to inquire into the use of north west airports and to produce a cooperative response to the challenges facing the north west and this state. One of the factors that motivated me to move this motion, apart from the compelling need within my electorate, which I share with Hon Phil Lockyer, Hon Mark Nevill, Hon Tom Helm and Hon Norman Moore, the Minister for Education, was an invitation that was issued by the Minister for Transport, Hon Eric Charlton, in June last year, to the Opposition to stop adopting a negative and critical approach to the new Government and to join with the Government in a cooperative response to address the challenges facing the state. I said at the time that this motion was one of the positive responses that the Opposition had made to the Minister's invitation. It galls me no end to hear from the Leader of the House and my colleague for the Mining and Pastoral Region, Hon Phil Lockyer, that despite that positive, cooperative approach being adopted by the Opposition in moving this genuine motion, the Government intends to reject this motion. I am saddened by that response, not just because it rejects the approach advocated by the Minister for Transport, but also because there is an enormous need to look at the use of airports within this region. This select committee could have made available to the people of Western Australia, at a three tiered level of state, federal and local government, together with the people of this State, a positive response to this problem. However, it appears that we will have no such response from this Government.

The Minister for Transport has indicated that so much has happened since he became Minister for Transport and the Court coalition Government took the Treasury bench that the need for such a select committee has been obviated. However, as recently as 8 May, it was reported at page 4 of the *Sunday Times*, in an article headed "Conference switch to

Bali raises hackles", that an international conference of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, which will attract some 350 people from Australia, New Zealand and Asia and which had been planned for Broome, will now be relocated to Bali because of the impracticalities of holding that conference in Broome.

This is not just a one-off event; it is demonstrative of the decisions made by conference organisers and individual Australians as they consider travel in Australia or beyond. When considering packages available for holidays and conferences, people are leaving our national boundaries and heading to places like Bali owing to the economics of air travel. The Minister for Transport has a vast knowledge of all things Tammin, but he does not understand that we face a real problem in the north west, an area which will be well served through a bipartisan approach to these matters.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We have done more in the last 15 to 18 months to overcome the problems in the north than was done for a long time previous.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: In responding to an earlier motion the Minister identified not one constructive result of any efforts made during the past 18 months.

Hon E.J. Charlton: When I was responding you did everything but listen to my contribution - you were busy organising numbers.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have read Hon Eric Charlton's comments and could not find a single positive contribution to address the needs of the north west. I know that the Government has been approached by residents of the north west, particularly from Derby, seeking support for my motion. I hope these people have approached Hon Phil Lockyer; they assured me that they approached the Premier and Hon Norman Moore. They indicated that they are desperate in the face of potential loss of the daily jet service to Derby. The north west airports need volume to guarantee even the existing level of service at places such as Derby, Exmouth, Carnarvon and Newman. However, that is just for starters, as additional services are necessary to ensure a reduction in air fares for north west travel. A great benefit would accrue from increased air traffic volume into the north west through fare reductions and the use of different aircraft types.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Have you made a submission to the current review?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister raises a very good point. He claims that a great deal has happened since this Government came to office. Indeed, a lot has happened, including a national inquiry into customs operations in Australia. However, this State Government sat on its hands during that review, and the Minister made neither submission nor response. One of the most compelling problems facing north west airports and international traffic across this continent is the previous, current and - I fear - prospective customs operations.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You refer to what your Federal Government was going to do.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister did not voice support for the submission I made to that review, nor for the interests of the state.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is a decision by your mates in Canberra, not this Government.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: In the face of the fundamental question of customs operation in this nation -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The arrogant Court Government has no regard for the ordinary people of Western Australia, particularly people in the regions. If people do not operate on the metropolitan stage or float around the wheatbelt of Tammin and its surrounding areas, they do not attract the attention of the Minister.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Was that Hon Iain MacLean's maiden speech, Mr President?

Hon E.J. Charlton: You missed that because you were in the Northern Territory helping your mates lose the election!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister need not worry; he will hear more from me about the Northern Territory.

Hon I.D. MacLean: I did not think that you lot would talk about the Northern Territory ever again.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Court coalition would do well to leave its arrogance behind. The Government front bench could extend a collaborative and cooperative response on this matter. The Minister could respond to his own invitation to make a positive contribution. He rejects us and tells us to return to the process of highlighting the Government's weaknesses, challenging it and outlining the problems it is causing to the people of Western Australia. Therefore, the Opposition does not take seriously the Minister's invitation for a cooperative and collaborative response. This does not augur well for this Government's term in office. When we were in government we would often draw on the expertise available - it was certainly limited - on the then opposition benches, particularly from the National Party. We would draw on advice and assistance from members' areas of expertise. The Minister has expertise regarding the sheep paddocks and wheat fields of Tammin and its close proximity, but some of us have a wider expertise.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We have heard about your air travel experience.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Real people, including those in my electorate, face real problems in areas other than Tammin, and these matters must be addressed.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Why do you not do something about getting them road funding if you want to do something positive?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Here we go! The Minister for Transport urges us to adopt a cooperative approach, I suppose, on that issue.

Hon John Halden: If you want to do something about road funding, get rid of the State Minister!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Indeed. My recent 10 days' experience in the Northern Territory indicated that through a collaborative approach by the people of the Northern Territory and the Federal Government, an enormous effort was made to attract international flights to the top end. The Federal Government has ensured that the top end receives additional assistance to guarantee traffic volume to that area to its benefit. Jobs are the name of the game, and jobs come with tourists! This Government has not learnt that lesson yet. Traffic volume produces the capacity to reduce the fundamental cost to the residents of the north west.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We agree with all of that.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Why not do something about it? Why not allow a committee of this Parliament to consider the matter?

Hon E.J. Charlton: You are arguing for a job on a select committee.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister needs all the help he can get.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Having you on-side is like playing one man short.

Several members interjected.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister would be well served by drawing on the expertise available, even that on his back bench, to ensure -

Hon E.J. Charlton: I was on a select committee with the member and he did not front up unless it spoke to people who supported him.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - that his words are not just hot air, and that attention is given to the real problems in the north west.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: The Minister is beyond help.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have never given up on him.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: You're a charitable man.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I know that some of my colleagues have given up on him, but I have always held out -

Hon E.J. Charlton: You're a bad judge of character, Mr Stephens!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Maybe that is the case, and maybe I should have given up on the Minister; however, I have always believed in the capacity within us all for redemption. I am not sure yet that this Minister for Transport is beyond salvation. It may be that he is, but if he would just stop, listen and learn from the message -

Hon E.J. Charlton: I listened to you once before.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - that we are giving to him; that is, there are real people with real challenges facing them that neither he nor his department are dealing with because the Minister has lost the plot. He is preoccupied with the myopic view he has of Western Australia based on Tammin or wherever he lives in the western suburbs of Perth.

Hon E.J. Charlton: At least I live in my electorate, and have an office there; that is more than you do.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister may have an office in his electorate, but he needs to take the opportunity to see beyond his own patch to the real needs of ordinary Western Australians for jobs, for reduction in costs associated with their life - as represented by air travel - and for a reduction in freight charges, such as would flow from the provision of new infrastructure and the support of local efforts associated with this north west community.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I agree totally with all of that.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister might agree totally, but he will not do anything about it. That is the problem with the Minister for Transport. One of the points that Hon Sam Piantadosi made in concurring with Hon Phil Lockyer was this whole change associated with agricultural produce from Carnarvon and beyond in the north needs a network of air transport that would guarantee a real increase in market opportunities for producers in the north west. The Minister for Transport could perhaps relate to this because he is a producer of some sort. This is not dealing with people, but with farms. In that context I thought the Minister might find some sensitivity to the argument because it is a farming argument.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: It is the wrong kind of farm.

Hon E.J. Charlton interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I want the Minister to come to order.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I was just trying to help him.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Do not try to help him. If the Minister interjects any more I will give him only one more warning and then out he will go.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I hoped the Minister for Transport could respond positively to this motion, even at this point -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: He has been trying to.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - because I am now dealing with a question that concerns farms. The north west has had a dramatic increase of farming products coming from the farming communities of the Gascoyne and the -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Do you mean the Kimberley or the Gascoyne?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - Kimberley.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Well, say that, don't just say "the north west"; isolate the Kimberley. You are not being accurate.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Mr Lightfoot should go back to sleep. He has already been moved from deputy Whip to close to the door; he will be out the door if he goes any further. Mr Lightfoot should quieten down and stop his interjections otherwise his colleagues will have him right out the door before we can say, "Ross Lightfoot." In the context of the increasing quality produce that is coming out of the Ord valley and the Gascoyne region, there is a real need to have that market opportunity locked firmly into place by modes of transport that will guarantee that produce can get to its neighbouring market. Quite clearly the market I am most anxious to ensure it has the chance to get to is the near Asian market. Producers cannot do it by themselves. We need this match of passenger transport and freight components.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: You won't get it with Mabo. You will cut that down by half.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The only appropriate response to Hon Ross Lightfoot is the one from the Prime Minister of Australia, which goes something like, "Blub, blub, blub"; that is the appropriate response because all Mr Lightfoot can say is "Mabo, Mabo, Mabo." Mr Lightfoot drivels on about Mabo as though it were some kind of overwhelming problem when in fact -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: With a voice like yours -

The PRESIDENT: Order! What I have said to the Minister for Transport applies equally to everybody else. I do not want interjections. I am not sure what one of those Hansard machines does when a member makes a funny noise like that, but I will be interested to read the daily *Hansard*. The Hansard reporters have a difficult enough job as it is without your bringing in those sounds that no machine was built to interpret.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The mumbo jumbo of Hon Ross Lightfoot has no place in this debate and I will get back to summarising my points: We need effort and determination to solve these problems. That effort and determination has not been on display from this Government in the short time it has been in office. I fear that when it is finally booted out of office, when the people of Western Australia have the opportunity at the first general election that confronts the Government, members opposite will still not have achieved what needs to be achieved for the people of Western Australia -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: They will never again bring back a bunch of crooks.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - in particular the people of the north west. Here the Government had a chance, with a genuine response by myself and my colleagues, to find a cooperative, collaborative approach to these questions in the north west. Instead of grabbing that chance the Government has rejected it for presumably partisan political reasons. Somebody has suggested it is because members in this place are under some sort of direction from the Premier in the other House to bind them not to agree to the appointment of any select committees in this House. Maybe that is the case; the capacity of the Premier in the other place in regard to the committees of this place would not surprise me.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: You know that is an untruth.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Someone else suggested to me by way of comments in the debate that this committee was -

Hon George Cash: In Alice Springs?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I was in Fannie Bay where there was a 15.5 per cent swing towards the Labor party. That is not bad, Mr Cash.

Hon George Cash: Who did all the damage?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have already asked Hon Ross Lightfoot to stop his



interjections; I will not ask him again. I cannot understand what happens to members every couple of days in this place. The member is moving a perfectly legitimate motion and asking for the House to listen to him with a view ultimately to making a decision. It behoves the members to at least listen to him, so that at the end of it they can make some sort of reasonable determination as to whether they will support him or not. In the meantime, they should keep quiet, because I want to listen to it.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The other thing that has happened, of which this Minister seems to be oblivious, is that the decision making process that has developed within Ansett's operations here in this nation runs the risk of substantially damaging the infrastructure of this state; that is, changes in aircraft type, and changes in the mode of operation of that airline whereby it has become much more of an eastern states based board with an eastern states based preoccupation that is not being matched with an effort and energy to support its previous interest in supplying decent services, even at existing levels, within this state. If anyone knows that network, as I know Hon Phil Lockyer does -

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I would not criticise them like you. Over the years they have provided a good service.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Over the years it has been a service second to none, but it is expensive. It is a tremendous service for those who can afford to pay or for those for whom the service is paid, but for those ordinary Western Australians for whom the service is not paid and who must meet the cost themselves it is a frightfully expensive service. Added to that, Ansett Australia has made decisions recently - and it would appear more are imminent - that will impact on communities such as Derby, and possibly the communities of the Gascoyne and inland Pilbara. In the face of that, surely the warning bells are sounding for members on that side of the House, because clearly the dedicated management that exists within Ansett at this state level is losing its clout on the board of that national airline carrier with its preoccupation with Tokyo, Cairns, Sydney and Melbourne. The daily services that are developing and that will flow through on the eastern seaboard are the preoccupation of that Ansett board. Anyone who reads the financial pages of the daily Press can see that Ansett is changing its operations, and its fleet. Here we are, a small population, left with a monopoly operation of an airline carrier in this state without the response to generate the traffic numbers that would bring the competitors that would make these routes possible, and would create the opportunities for ordinary Western Australians living in or wanting to visit the north west and use air travel for that purpose.

It is a tragedy that members opposite are so blind. In recent weeks, since I first moved this motion, the Federal Government has at least responded to some of these challenges by allocating approximately \$280 000 to the Kimberley Travel Association which will go some way towards tackling the issues I first raised in June last year. It will allow that association to do the door knocking necessary to attract into the region the airline capacity so necessary to its future. However, that tourism association and that region could well have done with the resources and the support of a parliamentary committee of which I have spoken. Such a committee would not have done what the Minister for Transport suggested it would do if agreed to by this House; that is, be a peripatetic group of wise men from the south travelling around the nation.

My motion makes no provision for the proposed committee to travel; nor did I have any intention of including such a provision. I was hoping it would have had the expertise of people like Hon Phil Lockyer, Hon Mark Nevill or Hon Tom Helm who, like me, need no more travel in the area of the Mining and Pastoral Region for starters than they do already. We need to apply our minds and use the resources of the proposed committee to tackle the questions in a collaborative and cooperative approach. I agree that my counterpart on the opposite side of the House, Hon Phil Lockyer, travels his electorate well and knows the problems.

Hon Mark Nevill: In style!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: He certainly travels his electorate well. It is a pity he has been put in a position, either of his own volition or by his colleagues, that could lead to this

motion not being agreed to. As a result, air fares will remain unacceptably high. The return economy air fare from Kununurra to Perth is about \$1 100. That is an extraordinary barrier for people in Perth who wish to travel to Kununurra and to people in Kununurra who wish to travel to the south of the state.

I express my deep regret and anger on behalf of the people of the north west that, as flagged by the Minister for Transport and the member for the north west region, they will vote against a well intentioned motion such as this for reasons which are inadequate and which members opposite hold secret to themselves. Their failure to support this motion will leave the people of the north west the poorer, without the care and attention they deserve from this Parliament and without an opportunity to have a positive response and collaborative and cooperative approach to the challenges which await them and which I guess will await a change of government at the next election.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

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Ayes (13)		
Hon T.G. Butler	Hon John Halden	Hon Tom Stephens
Hon Kim Chance	Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan	Hon Doug Wenn
Hon J.A. Cowdell	Hon Mark Nevill	Hon Tom Helm ( <i>Teller</i> )
Hon Cheryl Davenport	Hon Sam Piantadosi	
Hon N.D. Griffiths	Hon J.A. Scott	

  

Noes (15)		
Hon George Cash	Hon Barry House	Hon N.F. Moore
Hon E.J. Charlton	Hon P.R. Lightfoot	Hon M.D. Nixon
Hon M.J. Criddle	Hon P.H. Lockyer	Hon W.N. Stretch
Hon B.K. Donaldson	Hon I.D. MacLean	Hon Derrick Tomlinson
Hon Max Evans	Hon Murray Montgomery	Hon Muriel Patterson ( <i>Teller</i> )

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Pairs	
Hon Bob Thomas	Hon B.M. Scott
Hon Graham Edwards	Hon Peter Foss

Question thus negatived.

### MOTION - ROAD TRAINS, PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA *Leave of the House Denied*

**HON N.D. GRIFFITHS** (East Metropolitan) [4.29 pm]: I move -

That in the light of information in an article on road trains in *The West Australian* newspaper on Wednesday, 20 April 1994 -

- (1) the House notes the failure of the Minister for Transport to properly advise the House on police advice with respect to the entry of road trains into the Perth metropolitan area, in answering questions on notice 581 and 584;
- (2) the House deplores the waste of \$350 000 to facilitate the entry of only one road train into the metropolitan area;
- (3) the House requires the Minister to table all documents relevant to police advice on road train entry into the metropolitan area.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to Standing Order No 195.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

#### *Motion*

Resumed from 2 June.

**HON J.A. SCOTT** (South Metropolitan) [4.31 pm]: To set the theme of my Address-in-Reply speech I have entitled it "Back to the future mark 2". In the film of the same

name the hero goes back to the past to fix up some of the faults of his ancestors so that he can live a good life in the future. Paradoxically, the Government's revisiting of the past seems to be in order to create the same old problems all over again. Policies put forward by the Court Government are about downgrading the lives of present and future generations of Australians. Let us examine some of those policies.

The first policy relates to the environment. Not satisfied with weakening the Environmental Protection Authority by forcing out the chief executive officer and chairman of the board by splitting the positions against the advice of the independent advisory committee, the Government is now attacking further environmental protection in this state. The Minister for Planning - the same Minister who had not noticed any change in the condition of the Swan River in the last 30 or 40 years, possibly because he always had one eye stuck to a theodolite - now wants the right to override environmental decisions in planning matters. The Minister for Energy and Resources Development - the same Minister who said that putting a larger chimney on the Collie power station would stop environmental pollution - wants the power to set environmental assessments on mining projects.

Apart from the breaking up of the EPA, the Government has obviously decided that, when weighing up environmental considerations against those of a quick buck, the precautionary principle must be reversed. I am not sure whether members opposite know what the precautionary principle is. I imagine that Hon Derrick Tomlinson understands what it is, but I am not sure about other members. It means that when a project places the environment under threat, on balance one should always look after the ecological imperative rather than the development imperative. In comparing this Government's approach to that of other governments, I will read to the House an article by the United States Information Service which has some interesting things to say about sustainable development. It states -

Sustainable development - an idea that has as many interpretations as it does syllables - must be universally understood for what it is: the integration and harmonization of the powerful economic and environmental forces at work in today's world. It is a concept rooted in recognition of the mutually reinforcing nature of economic and environmental progress. Ecological systems are the very foundation of modern society - in science, in agriculture, in social and economic planning. Over the long-term, living off and using up this ecological capital is a bankrupt economic strategy.

I think this Government should take note of these points. It continues -

At the same time, economic growth and social progress provide the financial, scientific and technological wherewithal to protect the environment and achieve sustainability.

Few places in the world have the opportunity - or the need - for defining and championing sustainable development than do the nations of Asia and the Pacific Rim.

Most members opposite know that we are in that area. The article continues -

Around the world, Asia is viewed as an economic powerhouse, overflowing with opportunity for the future. During this decade, 50 percent of the global increase in output of goods and services will occur in Asia.

Less promising are trends on the other side of the sustainable development ledger: the growing and ominous challenge of environmental protection and progress on persistent, cross-cutting issues.

Already the most populous region of the globe, Asia's large, young population of 2.8 billion is growing rapidly. By the year 2025 it is anticipated that Asia will be home to more than 50 percent of the projected world total of 8 billion people. And these individuals will bring with them basic human needs and corresponding demands for infrastructure and services that cannot be met even for today's population - in spite of the massive economic progress we all know of. . . .

At the turn of the century, half of the world's megacities (with 8 million or more people) will be in East and South Asia. In those cities and rural areas alike, safe drinking water and proper sanitation is a distant hope for all but the most fortunate. Clean air is ever more elusive. Lead levels are so high that the World Bank estimates that by age seven, children in the dirtiest cities are losing four or more IQ points. The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS looms large on the horizon as a public health crisis of enormous proportions.

Of regional and global significance, Asia is home to some of the most troubling large-scale environmental trends. In the 1980s, the world's highest rates of deforestation were in Southeast Asia and Indochina.

Western Australia is doing its part there. It goes on -

Some nations have virtually exhausted their forest resources, and in the not distant future the region may become dependent on timber imports. Simultaneously, East and South Asia will lose a higher proportion of its species and natural ecosystems than any other region during the next 25 years.

The American government spokesperson commented -

The array of challenges - environmental, social, economic and political - require that we link these forces on behalf of bold, creative action to turn "sustainable development" from concept into reality in Asia, as in the United States. The persistent and perplexing nature of cross-cutting global issues demonstrates that safety no longer lies in wealth or power alone.

I would suggest that this generation of leadership must embrace the fact that global threats are replacing Cold War confrontations as our primary challenges and as the greatest catalysts for our common purpose. At the end of this century we will be measured by how well we made the transition, redirected our national efforts, and refocussed our scarce resources.

This Government lacks integrity in its handling of environmental issues. A classic example of this is found in the total destruction of our magnificent old growth forests in the state's south west.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: We cannot totally destroy them in 18 months. That is an inaccurate statement. There is a lot of old growth forest left. It has certainly not been destroyed by this Government.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: To give Hon Ross Lightfoot some idea of what I am talking about, I have distributed a map which compares the old growth forests in Western Australia in 1860 and in 1990.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: They are totally destroyed?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: They are not yet totally destroyed. I said this Government is moving towards that.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: You did not say that; you said they were totally destroyed.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: For the benefit of Hon Ross Lightfoot, I intended the honourable member to understand that the policies of this Government are leading to that destruction.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: That is a lot different from what you said.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I hope that the situation is now clear to the member.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: My underlying message to you is to be truthful.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The map I have circulated is not completely accurate because it was drawn from a map in the Department of Conservation and Land Management. No-one is allowed to remove the map and copy it and, therefore, because of the secrecy involved in our south west forests, we must sometimes suffer some inaccuracies in mapping. However, the map is as accurate as could be managed.

Hon Mark Nevill: Request that they be tabled in the House.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I should ask for that. The coloured area on the map shows the remaining old growth forest protected in this state today. The terrible destruction of the total area of the forest can be seen from the map; very little is left. Unfortunately, the present Government, despite the 1987 strategy pointing out the need to wind down the level of cutting of our old growth forest, has gone along with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, which wishes to increase the cut. It bases that increased cut on changing the way in which jarrah forests will be cleared, and proposes clear-felling instead of selective logging. Following strong opposition, the previous government asked the Environmental Protection Authority to consider that level of cutting. I very much condemn the Environmental Protection Authority for allowing this to go ahead. The Environmental Protection Authority bulletin 652 on new timber strategies states -

When asked by the Authority to express the 1987 and proposed 1992 Timber Strategies in comparable terms CALM advised that it is very difficult to compare them because of changes in definition and improved assessment techniques. The Authority acknowledges the desirability of using the best methodology, but considers that some comparisons are essential to understand the implications of the new timber harvesting proposals. CALM needs to address comparability when introducing new resource assessment techniques so it can clearly explain to the broader community the implications of management changes.

Based on the Authority's best estimate, it would appear under CALM's proposals that the volume of jarrah logs classified as sawlogs would be harvested at a higher rate for the term of this Strategy than that proposed in the 1987 Timber Strategy. A consistently greater volume of karri sawlogs is also proposed to be available for harvesting. In addition, a substantial volume of jarrah and marri is identified for the first time as being available as residue material.

That residue material is not leaves and branches; it is fully grown old growth trees which are not chosen for first grade logs. On some occasions they are magnificent trees. The bulletin continues -

#### Recommendation 6

The Environmental Protection Authority has noted that CALM's silvicultural prescriptions for the jarrah forest have been developed with incomplete knowledge of their long term consequences; and therefore concludes that the proposals to amend the 1987 Timber Strategy should be implemented cautiously. The Authority recommends that the annual sustainable yield estimates in the Timber Strategy should only be applied for the life of the Strategy (i.e. until 2002).

I believe the Environmental Protection Authority did a grave disservice to the community in allowing the increase in cut to that extent, without any scientific evidence whatsoever. In addition, it was pointed out in the McCarrey report that this state has been giving away its timber from the forests at a loss. Our magnificent karri, jarrah, marri and tingle forests are being knocked down and it is costing us money. When the present Government came to office it was the recipient of a report commissioned by the previous government, entitled the Tos Barnett report. That pointed to a great number of holes in CALM's arguments and in what many people in the environment movement call its pseudo science. The report recommended many changes and reductions in the strategy. However, when the new Minister took office he commissioned a new inquiry which has been described by people and organisations within the environment movement as very unscientific. The following comments have been made -

"This forest destruction is a gross betrayal of the people of WA, especially our children - who will never know the joy of walking in unspoilt jarrah forest.

"Most civilised countries would cherish a unique forest like this - an ecosystem that scientists believe to be at least three million years old.

"Clearfelling kills animals and birds as well as trees on a truly appalling scale.

"The Meagher document was deeply flawed because it ignored vitally important work of leading CALM scientists," said Mr Robertson.

"The suppression of CALM research results is already a major scandal in the national scientific community. Our analysis takes account of the suppressed CALM research on dieback, the Greenhouse effect and the impact of logging on wildlife.

"The Government's new plans mean:

- destruction of centuries old jarrah trees;
- the entire jarrah forest thrown open to tree-killer dieback disease;
- huge increase in karri and marri (redgum) logging as well as 100 per cent increase in the jarrah cut;
- the decimation of the 51 bird and animal species that need tree hollows to nest and breed - hollows found only in the oldest trees;

CALM made some untrue statements about the age at which a tree provides hollows for nesting places for animals and birds. Our previous advice was that trees must be 200 years old before providing those hollows but the report made by CALM indicated that the trees need be only 50 or 60 years old. That is false information. It has also been stated with regard to the Government's new plans that there will be wholesale destruction of native flora, including many rare orchids.

The 1992 management strategy has allowed an increase of almost 50 per cent in the cut of jarrah forests, despite the 1987 report indicating that the cut should be reduced. What has been the response of the Minister for the Environment? He has tried to disguise the increase. He has made very misleading statements. He said that the sawlog cut would be decreased. How did he arrive at that figure despite the huge increase in the total cut? He has recalculated the bowl value of that area of forest. He has decided that more would be defined as waste and less as sawn log. That was a grossly dishonest statement. Future generations will consider members of this Government as environmental vandals of the highest order because they have put at risk vast stocks of genetic material in order to gain a loss, of all things! While the last remaining karri and jarrah forests will fall to the woodchippers, who could operate their own plantations, miners are being allowed to enter areas such as the D'Entrecasteaux national park. Once again a deal is being set up for a land swap. We know which way the Minister will decide because on every occasion when he has been asked to stand up for the environment he has done the opposite. Whenever we pick up a comment by the Minister he is always standing on the side of some development against the environmental imperatives. That is the opposite to what has been stated in the United States.

To give some examples, the Minister made a number of comments recently about heritage listings in the south west forest around Pemberton. He has been very critical of the Australian Heritage Commission. I refer to an article in *The West Australian* on Monday, 9 May which reads -

Environment Minister Kevin Minson says WA timber towns could be lost and farms made difficult to sell under new Federal Government proposals . . .

Mr Minson said the State Government opposed the proposals which aimed to put privately owned farmland on the heritage list and rearrange forestry management in WA.

He said it was a case of the Federal Government coming in over the top of the State and creating uncertainty . . .

"Canberra's latest attitude has nothing to do with concern for forests at all but with centralising power at the expense of good management."

The last of more than 50 logging contracts guaranteeing supply to saw millers for 10 years was signed 10 days ago.

"This means every sawmill in this State now has a legally binding log supply contract," Mr Minson said.

"Timber towns could be lost if the Commonwealth sets different levels of logging. Reassessment will undo all our good work."

On farmland being placed on the heritage list, Mr Minson said this simply gave Canberra control of previously privately owned land in WA.

The interesting point about that comment and all his comments is that Mr Minson does not mention the preservation of our natural heritage. His comments are always about someone making a buck from the forests. As to the threat to bay heritage at Shark Bay he said -

The Shark Bay World Heritage area could miss out on \$475,000 because the State Government is not meeting its obligations, according to the Federal Government ...

WA Environment Minister Kevin Minson wants to rewrite the State-Commonwealth agreement to take control away from the Federal Government and said this week he had held up the process until his concerns about management were dealt with ...

Mr Minson wants the Commonwealth to agree to give that power to the State and to agree to compensation industries which are hampered or closed because of World Heritage listing.

At no stage do we find concern expressed by Mr Minson about heritage values. No matter the statement, no matter the decision, Mr Minson invariably decides against the environmental imperatives. Recently we witnessed a number of decisions, including approval of the Cockburn Cement proposal in Cockburn Sound. I will address that issue later.

I turn now to how the Minister for the Environment and the Government are perceived by the environmental movement. I refer to *The Greener Times* published in April 1994 by the Conservation Council. The editorial under the heading "Mismanaging the Environment", at page 2, reads -

The last three months has been a horror stretch for the Court Government. The inadequacy of its environmental policies is now abundantly clear to anyone who cares about these issues. There is nothing Mr Minson can do to persuade us that he has the answers when he has failed so often to deliver on his promises.

The signs of mismanagement are all around us. This is ironic for a Government which came to power with a promise of "More jobs and better management". They have cut funding for conservation and environmental protection to the lowest levels in the developed world. Is it any surprise that Perth experienced an epidemic of environmental problems this summer?

Another article is headed "Smog Levels Soar".

Hon N.F. Moore: Is that for the last 12 months?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: It is very much part of the problem -

Hon N.F. Moore: So nothing happened until February last year.

Several members interjected.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The article reads -

Perth's air pollution problem was clearly evident in late March when still, warm conditions produced alarming smog levels for nearly two weeks ... After years of covering up the smog problem the Government finally admitted it existed in October 1990. Now it is clear that the problem is worse than we had thought and there is a need for urgent action.

So far the Government's only response has been to set up a three year study to determine what causes Perth's smog. The study began in 1992 and is due to conclude in mid 1995.

Hon N.F. Moore: It refers to 1992. When were you elected? Was it 1982? Be fair about how you are lashing out with that criticism.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The criticisms are made because instead of seeing an improvement we are seeing an increase in the problem. The Minister for Transport said that he believes that an increase in the use of private cars would be environmentally prudent. The next article states that the Government has bought a dinosaur -

Hon George Cash: Do you catch the bus to Parliament House every day?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: No, not every day, but I catch the train often.

Hon E.J. Charlton: How do you get to the train station?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I walk. The next article reads -

The Co-ordinator of the Council, Rachel Siewert, said that the Council was disappointed that the State Government had chosen the politically expedient course of purchasing a 300 megawatt coal fired station -

Hon N.F. Moore: And you wanted a 600 MW power station!

Hon J.A. SCOTT: That is not true.

Hon N.F. Moore: Just be fair and balanced with your criticism.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Unfortunately the Government of today is the one with responsibility for today's decisions. Hon Norman Moore may be a little embarrassed about that.

Hon N.F. Moore: I am not embarrassed in the slightest.

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Another article in *The Greener Times* is entitled "Government Buys a Dinosaur", which is a criticism of the Government for going ahead with the coal fired power station at Collie. On the next page an article entitled "Minister Allows Increased Pollution" states -

The Minister for the Environment, Kevin Minson, has exempted Western Mining Corporation operations from the provisions of the updated Environmental Protection Policy on Sulphur Dioxide in Kalgoorlie for two years.

In the past three months the smelter has several times breached the new sulphur dioxide limits which came into effect in January.

Further on the article states -

It will also have to try to avoid producing very high, shorter term concentrations. Recently the one hour maximum sulphur dioxide levels in Kalgoorlie have exceeded 2000 micrograms per cubic metre on several occasions. The WHO limit for sulphur dioxide is 350 micrograms per cubic metre of air.

Despite this easily exceeding the limit, the Government has allowed this pollution to continue to the detriment of the health of the people of Kalgoorlie. The next page includes articles entitled "Government Plans for Swan River Inadequate" and "Algal Blooms Worsen". An article on page 6 entitled "Sad Day for Forest Flora and Fauna" states -

The State Government's adoption of amended forest management plans for WA's native forest, marks a sad day for forest flora and fauna.

An article on the same page entitled "Rare Species Killed in CALM Burn" states -

The Conservation Council has called for an inquiry into the burning by CALM of a honey possum study area in Scott National Park near Augusta.

The honey possums is a threatened species and this study is of international significance.

The study area was the centre of University of WA research into the survival needs of the honey possum, a magnificent small mammal now found only in restricted parts of the South-West.



\*All the honey possums in the area were killed by fire.

Council Vice-President, Peter Robertson, said it was unbelievable that an agency which promotes itself as being concerned about the protection of the State's endangered species and has a legal duty to protect them could even contemplate such an action.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Far more possums are killed by wildfire than by controlled burning.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Unfortunately this is a scientific study area and these animals were under scientific study. To burn an area under scientific study is an act of stupidity.

Hon I.D. MacLean: In New South Wales the wildfire burned the top of the vegetation and there is nothing left.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: That included areas that had been burned only a week before. The burning did not do any good. Not one of those fires in New South Wales started in a wilderness area and very few started in national parks. Most of them started in forestry areas and on private property. An article in the April edition of the *The Greener Times* refers to the cover-up in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's endangered species program and another article, headed "Threatened Species List Continues to Grow", reads as follows -

Western Australia's list of threatened species has reached alarming proportions the Conservation Council claimed recently.

Conservation Council, Co-ordinator Rachel Siewert said that 22% (over 1000 species) of the State's flora is now listed as threatened.

The Government's reaction to that is amazing when one considers the list of threatened species. An article in the same magazine, headed "More Wildlife Targeted", states -

Hard on the heels of the Government's decision to reinstate duck shooting they have now listed more of the State's native fauna for destruction. In a Public Notice on 12 March 1994, the Agricultural Protection Board listed the following species for "management" (this is a bureaucratic euphemism which means they may be shot on sight by farmers who dislike them).

red capped parrots, Port Lincoln parrots and western rosellas  
galahs, little corellas, long billed corellas, Western silvereyes and  
Australian ravens  
wedge-tailed eagles and emus  
white tailed black cockatoos  
Australian shelduck and wood duck  
agile wallaby, euro, red kangaroo and Western grey kangaroo

The Government's response to endangered species is to shoot more of them. Another article is headed "Coastal Management Still a National Crisis". The Western Australian Government is refusing to take part in a coastal management program.

Hon W.N. Stretch: The species you mentioned are not endangered species.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Some are.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Which ones?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The wedge-tailed eagle.

Hon M.D. Nixon: Have you been across the Nullarbor lately?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: No.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: None of the species of parrots you named is an endangered species.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: They do not cause any damage and they should not be blasted away because they are considered to be pests. The reason that some of these species can no longer be found in their normal environment is that this Government, as did the previous government, has been bowling over the forest so quickly that their natural nesting places have disappeared. This Government believes the nesting places for parrots and galahs do not need to be preserved.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Galahs need to be eliminated.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The Minister for Transport has demonstrated the Government's attitude.

Other articles in the magazine are headed "Smog Levels Exceed WHO Limits", "No Action on Felspar Road" - the Government made all sorts of promises on the incinerator at Welshpool - and "The Signs of Environmental Neglect". Other articles are about the destruction of Woodlupine Brook and the proposed decimation of the Neerabup national park. The Western Australian Water Authority is proposing to construct a reservoir in the Neerabup national park.

To give the House an indication of where this philosophy comes from I will quote from the following article in this magazine, under the heading "Wise Words from the Minister" -

Environment Minister, Mr Kevin Minson recently told the Environmental Management Industry Association of Australia about the environmentally sensitive way he cleared his family property in his Greenough electorate.

Mr Minson said there were only two trees left on the property after he had finished and that was because the survivors were too big for the dozer to push over. . . .

He told the association, which is a group of companies providing industrial environmental management services that the key word in environment was management not protection.

This is where the Minister is wrong.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: In your humble opinion.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Not only in my humble opinion, but also in the humble opinion of those people who understand ecology. The Government is proposing to allow an area of Lake Clifton to be developed and it will threaten the survival of the stromatolites, a very rare species which is one of the oldest living organisms in the world. Western Australia is one of the few places in the world where the freshwater variety of stromatolites is found, and a slight change in the water conditions will kill them, yet this Government does not really care. The entire magazine is full of disasters which have occurred over a one month period. It is an indictment of this Government and its environmental record.

On a slightly brighter note, I recently attended the Pathways Now 1994 conference in Wyalkatchem. The conference was held by a group of year 10 children from surrounding schools and it is held annually. The students prepare an earth care charter and they usually put forward approximately 26 resolutions. The list I have is incomplete because they were still finalising the details when I left. It was encouraging to see that these children have a greater understanding of the environment than does this Government. It was evident that they are concerned about the path which this Government is taking. They were very concerned about the Government's lack of concern over the incursion into national parks and other areas that should be protected by miners and other developers because their activities will cause extreme damage to the environment. The students put forward a number of proposals and some of them were as follows -

- 1 That the State Government provide stability in National Parks by setting sacrosanct the external boundaries and demand that under no circumstances land be excised within these boundaries, for any purpose at all detrimental to the ecological values inherent in a National Park; and that the Government enforce a law as such. . . .
- 2 That the State Government assign a team of qualified and experienced people to reassess current national parks and establish boundaries that reflect the value and beauty of the land. . . .
- 3 That the State Government gradually increase the percentage of national parks area in our State.

The students put forward some interesting propositions for land care, including -

- 2 That the Government should provide incentives such as a rebate for money spent on their land that reduces salinity and generally improves soil condition (such as planting more salt tolerant and other kinds of trees/vegetation on farms). . . .
- 3 That taxation deductions apply for expenses incurred by farmers in rehabilitation.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Do you support that?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Very much so, and more measures like that would help farmers who do not get any value out of the vegetation on their properties while their neighbours do. I support any move towards the retention of that bushland.

Hon E.J. Charlton: The Greens in the Senate could push for a taxation deduction.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: They are pushing that. The fourth recommendation the conference made on land care was -

That the Government increase tax incentives and resources to land users in agricultural areas to plant trees on a certain percentage of their property.

All the recommendations were passed unanimously. There were many other resolutions, but I will not read them out to the House now. This Government has a very long way to go with its environment program before it comes anywhere near fulfilling the promises it made during the last election campaign. It must seriously look at the statistics which show what people consider to be the most important environmental issues not only in this state, but Australia-wide. A recent survey in the state showed that 60 per cent of people put the environment as their principal concern, ahead of jobs and economic stability. In an Australia-wide survey conducted by Coles-Myer, 92 per cent of respondents said that they wanted governments to put more effort into protecting the environment.

The next area in which the Government is moving backwards is its relationship with young people. On Thursday in the Address-in-Reply debate, Hon Tom Butler pointed out that there has been a deterioration in the lifestyle of young Australians. I believe this has been caused in part by the high level of unemployment, which is now a feature of our nation and many others. This impinges directly upon young people in that they cannot get jobs and are depressed about that. It also impinges upon them indirectly in that they are often in impoverished circumstances where one or both parents are out of work, or where both parents have to work in order to make enough money to stay alive. This places parents under a great deal of stress, and children and teenagers in those situations are more likely to become the victims of abuse and violence in their homes.

Recently, I attended a number of seminars and forums on juvenile justice and the problems of youth. At one of those forums at the University of Western Australia, Richard Eckersley, who compiled a number of reports for Australia's Commission for the Future, including one called "Youth and the Challenge to Change", said that at this time of cultural transition, we are faced with the breakdown of our traditional system of moral values. Materialism and consumerism are the order of the day, and as a result we are suffering a loss of spiritual and communal values, to the point where kids have no ideals to believe in. He said also that our society is not providing these children with a sense of meaning and belonging. Today, we have the highest level of suicide ever, apart from during the time of the Great Depression. However, the principal difference is that at the time of the Great Depression, it was mature aged people, usually men, who committed suicide, but now it is young people; and that age level is decreasing as the total number of suicides is increasing. Eckersley pointed out that the rate of suicide of young males has trebled from what it was just after the Great Depression, and is particularly high in rural areas. He pointed out the need to shift the economic stimulus to rural and environmental repair, and to improve the infrastructure, natural resources and services in the country.

A subsequent speaker, Howard Sercombe, who is a lecturer in work and youth studies at Edith Cowan University, said that the measures that increase alienation also increase

crime. He pointed to the overkill by the media, and to the irresponsible attitude by sections of the media and politicians, who paint a picture of totally lawless streets ruled by teenage and child hooligans, when in fact the principal people who cause problems in our streets are not juveniles but young adult males, usually full of alcohol. He pointed out that 97 per cent of young people do not commit crimes, yet in our newspapers, two out of three articles about juveniles are critical of youth, and that increases to nine out of 10 critical articles when it applies to Aboriginal youth. I believe that the media and politicians have a responsibility to promote the positive aspects of young people. The vast majority of young people in our community make a worthwhile contribution. Mr Sercombe claimed that the fear of crime is probably a bigger social problem than crime itself. He said that women felt unsafe on the streets at night partly because there were few women on the streets at night. He said also that the solution to building out crime is to build in community. A common point raised at a number of these seminars and forums is that the gradual disintegration of our sense of community has had a detrimental effect upon young people. Hon Norman Moore might take note that Mr Sercombe said that the most common predictor of criminal behaviour is a bad school experience, and that such bad experience is most often a feature of large schools, of up to 2 000 students.

Hon N.F. Moore: We do not have any of those.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: We do have large schools. Once the number of students gets near that number, there are big problems. He pointed out that the move towards huge, impersonal schools is not good in regard to people having good school experiences.

Hon N.F. Moore: What did he consider to be the optimum size for a school?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: He did not say.

Finally, he said that he believed in good punishment, and that the significant feature of good punishment is that it works.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Is hanging a good punishment?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: He pointed to the fact that hanging has not decreased crime, except by that person hanged.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: He does not offend again!

Hon Kim Chance: But he is not rehabilitated.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: If governments move along the path where they hold no respect for human life, they end up with a population that has the same expectation. Where does the present Government stand in regard to the handling of youth issues? I suggest that it is some decades in the past, because, firstly, it has an obsession with material values. I have pointed out already in regard to the environment that material values are given greater importance, to the exclusion of any spiritual or community values.

Hon N.F. Moore: Can you give an example of how things have changed dramatically in the education system in the last year, along the lines you have suggested? How have we become more material in our schools now than we were last year? How has the policy changed?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Because every government department - and I do not entirely blame this Government for that - is being corporatised, as if corporatisation of every department were the answer, but some departments do not work as well when they are corporatised.

Hon N.F. Moore: You were being critical of the current Government on the ground that materialism was affecting the education system. How have policy changes in the last 18 months -

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: He was talking about change generally.

Hon N.F. Moore: So he was referring to the former government also?

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: To society generally.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The Government is moving in the wrong direction with young people. It has adopted punitive measures which will take more young people from society for longer periods of time. At the same time, the Government has done virtually nothing to make positive moves to advance work prospects for young people. The Government is prepared to crush the basic human rights of young people with illegal street sweeps, which are often used against totally innocent people.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Will you acknowledge that the neglect of our young people is primarily a federal responsibility?

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The Government uses the excuse that these exercises are for the good and the protection of the detained children. However, the reality is that young people are removed from the streets at the request of the retailers, and little or no effort is expended on the welfare of the child. We are told that some young girls and boys, as young as 12 years of age, are prostituting themselves to buy food, yet none of the fine, upstanding citizens who are taking advantage of these people is being arrested - it is too difficult to catch them.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: They are not fine, upstanding citizens; they are despicable scum.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: It is the same story with drugs. We are told that the big dealers are very clever people; they have a mobile phone network and move from one pick-up spot to another. We are told that they are very difficult to catch. It is much easy to pick up the children, who are the victims of these jerks.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Who says it is too hard? You do ramble on with drivel at times.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I have attended a number of seminars, one of which was addressed by Mr Sam Rogers of the Northbridge Business Association; he said that the major problem was the street kids and that more had to be done so that they would fit into the community. When it was pointed out that businessmen were taking sexual advantage of the children, the reply was, "You should tell us about this, and we would talk to them." These people should not be talked to, but arrested. A push should be made against them.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: I agree. They should be birched.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: Two wrongs do not make a right.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: It is a disgrace that those children are even out there on the streets, and this disgrace sits heavily on our society. We must ensure that we build a community into which these children are accepted and not alienated as they are by the Government's present policies.

Surveys by social workers indicate that Operation Sweep resulted in children still being on the streets, but that they had moved underground. Rather than going home, they had been pushed to the outer suburbs and other areas. If the Government wants to help these people, it should develop more humane and cost effective programs. The programs should not only address juvenile crime, but also draw the children into the community by promoting rehabilitation and community values. The Government should provide drop-in centres and places for young people to meet in which to enjoy each other's company. More youth facilities should be provided in our lifeless suburban areas, particularly the northern suburbs.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: Hear, hear!

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Public transport must be more accessible for people with limited budgets. Families in stress require greater assistance before irretrievable breakdowns occur. Most of all, young people must be valued and respected, as the vast majority of them are considerate and caring members of the community - they should not be treated as though they are all criminals.

I now briefly refer to the planning of our cities. Planning in Western Australia very much lacks vision beyond providing more space for land developers. We must make more intelligent decisions to incorporate the desires of the communities into the wider

strategic aims of planning, such as the optimum size of our metropolis. Planning in this state does not consider the long term survival of the environmental, social and economic needs of the residents of the city.

A city should service its hinterland, which makes it imperative in a state this size that planning for further cities is conducted. We cannot go on with a single capital city in the south west corner of the state. Present planning directions indicate that a single city, with unfettered urban sprawl, will be the continued strategy, with little thought given to its occupants. Plans exist for over 170 kilometres of coastal urban sprawl from Quinns Rocks to the Dawesville Cut. There appears to be no integration of employment and housing thought out in a sensible and rational way. This is very much impinging on our social values. Consideration for families and children must be part of the planning process, and this relates to my earlier comments. We should take planning more seriously and create better social amenities for all sections of our community. We should not create alienating suburbs in which women without a second family car have no means of transport and become isolated from the rest of the community.

Also, Hon Eric Charlton's campaign to gain more funding for roads is ill-conceived.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The present push for more and more road funds which comes at the expense of public transport is the result of very bad planning processes which have created a city which is beginning to resemble the early days of Los Angeles, which has 170 kilometres of coastal sprawl with little delineation of different areas within that sprawl. The environmental and social consequences of that lack of vision have been very well documented in a number of studies that have been done in this state - for example, the south west area transit study and a report prepared for the Town of Cottesloe by Dr John Roberts of the Transport and Environmental Studies organisation. Dr Roberts said -

The 1980s have shown an unprecedented acceptance of the need to change transport policies, and it is very likely these trends will continue for the foreseeable future. Their origins can be traced to a series of concerns, starting with energy scarcities and the increasing life risk of being killed or injured when driving, cycling or walking on urban roads. These were followed by a realisation that the living and working urban environment was deteriorating as a result of increasing dependence on road transport, an obsession with mobility rather than accessibility, and the continuing demolition of the urban fabric to make way for more roads. Finally, and of least equal importance, we are witnessing in the 1990s a profound concern with global environment deterioration, which road vehicles contribute in a range from substantial (carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons) to near-total (lead, carbon monoxide).

Dr Roberts listed a number of responses to these concerns. The first was -

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced a hard-hitting indictment of motor vehicle emissions in 1990. Their report has its Australian equivalent (ANZEC 1990) which points out, inter alia, that Australia is the fifth highest contributor per capita, from fossil fuel combustion of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions among the world's nations. One of Western Australia's responses to this dilemma is to place greater emphasis on efficient public transport, electrification of the Fremantle-Perth railway is indicative.

Unfortunately there seems to be a shift in this direction by the present Government which is moving away from improving public transport. The Government is not taking into account the real costs of car travel in this city, of which most people in this House should be very well aware. We now know that health costs relating to motor vehicle accidents, the great amount of money that needs to be spent on outer urban infrastructure as the city sprawls out, the social breakdown costs and many other costs - including perhaps half of our Police Force being tied up with traffic matters - are not taken into account in the true cost of car travel. Unfortunately, for some reason or other the present Minister seems to

be rejecting all the wisdom that has been built up. In fact he is telling us that building more roads is an environmentally sound practice when, in fact, that is total rubbish. Not many people in this world would agree with him. When we look at our city and its development we must also look at some current world trends. One of the most important of those trends is the running down of our fossil fuels. According to a document called "Fix Australia Fix the Roads" which came from a summit organised through the office of the Minister for Transport, one of the items put forward for discussion was the diminishing of the global supplies of fuel. The Minister said -

Australia could not be isolated in the world scene. The world was smaller every day. For us to change our economy in isolation from the rest of the world was not on. To change before time and out of step with the rest of world would be economic suicide. If the change was significantly more costly, we would be out of business the first day. We could not be driven morally - we have to be driven by economic guidelines.

We cannot get off this world. If people fall by the wayside, they have to be picked up at somebody's expense.

In Perth we have a public transport system that goes within 300 metres of every home. If we introduced all gas buses in Perth tomorrow, the cost would go up enormously and obviously the fares would have to rise to match. We'd lose patrons. You have to be real. Life is all about balance.

Brian Fleay may well be right but as one fuel runs down something will come to take its place. We can only make the change when the rest of the world is also doing it.

I would dispute that. We would be far better off to make the change before the rest of the world and take advantage of those changing technologies which we can sell to the rest of the world.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Brian Fleay is a very important man too.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: Even though there may be more fuels available at this time, the cost of those fuels is exorbitant. Ethanol, the nearest equivalent fuel that can be used, costs about \$65 a barrel to produce. Our economy would be destroyed if we had to import that from overseas instead of getting on and producing our own industries in that area.

A far better way would be to reduce the amount of fuel we are using, which is what is happening in other countries. That is different from the comments of Hon Eric Charlton. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics pointed out that Australia's importing of fuel will jump to around \$5.67b by the year 2004, which is something we cannot afford. We need to change the way we are going. Hon Eric Charlton should realise that the farmers, who are in agri-business, use quite a lot of fuel in their tractors. If we continue to use fuel as wastefully as we are, farmers will have no alternatives in the near future.

Another area in which the Government is looking backwards instead of forwards is its energy strategies. Rather than taking the chance when it had the opportunity to move away from the wrong decision made by the Labor Party to have a coal fired power station at Collie the Government has been indulging in the same sort of politics and disregarding the advice of experts in a number of studies - the Harman report being the most definitive - which pointed out very clearly that the gas option was much cheaper. I have a great deal of documentation which shows that very clearly. The strange thing is that when I attended a United States Consulate function relating to energy savings and took the opportunity to approach the state Minister for Energy about the fact that we should be investing more in technologies for energy savings, he said that we could not keep up with the rest of the world and it would be a waste of money. Yet in *The West Australian* of Saturday, 4 May was an article entitled "Sun cell offers rooftop power" which reads -

Researchers have designed a new solar cell they claim will cut the cost of electricity to a fifth that of coal-generated power within 20 years.

The University of NSW team predicts that within 10 years, solar collectors built into roof tiles could generate all the power needed for an average sized house for a one-off cost of less than \$2 000.

It goes on more in that vein. The point is that the present Minister has lumbered us with a very expensive system which he claims will produce energy for about 5¢ to 6¢ a unit, when in fact the real cost of that, given the cost of financing and many other factors, is more likely to be closer to 15¢ a unit. That will make it the most expensive power in Australia and will be a drain on our local economy compared with the return from investment in other technologies. If we spent \$800m on solar technology research in Western Australia we would gain the benefits not only of much cheaper power, but also of being able to sell the technology worldwide. A very backward set of policies is coming from this Government. It needs to lift its game if Australia is to move into the next century in a competitive, environmentally sound and socially equitable way.

Unfortunately, most of the programs in this state have been driven by the desire to prop up the mining industry. The energy industry is a very good example of that and because of very poor contracting in the past we must continue with this spiral into higher energy uses and become increasingly tied to old technologies with massive capital outlays which are very irresponsible moves. If the Government wants to make positive moves in the area of energy it should look to the World Centre for Solar Research which has been set up in Western Australia, and stop making promises to coalminers so that it is impossible for us to use the technology from that research, and make sensible decisions based on a sustainable method of energy production and energy saving. That will enable us not only to become more competitive but also to provide many more jobs. It is now well-known from research that investment in energy savings provides four times as many jobs for each dollar spent as does investment in energy production. I could say much more about the Government's policies on energy savings and research, but I will leave that for another time.

**HON REG DAVIES** (North Metropolitan) [7.54 pm]: It is a privilege to speak on this Address-in-Reply motion moved by Hon Murray Nixon. First, I take the opportunity of congratulating Hon Iain MacLean on taking his seat in this Parliament. I hope that the brevity of his maiden speech is indicative of future contributions in this Chamber. I often recall his predecessor, Hon Bob Pike, saying that if one has nothing to say, one should not take up the time of the House saying it. I will not be taking up much of the time of the House this evening.

I also take this opportunity of congratulating His Excellency Major General Philip Michael Jeffrey, AO, MC on his appointment as our new Governor and wish him well in that post. I also take this opportunity of defending his right as a leading citizen of this state to speak out on issues, to give his views and to encourage community debate. I believe it is the right of every leading citizen in this state to contribute to the wellbeing of our community. My knowledge of His Excellency as a former commanding officer of mine in the Special Air Service is of a very strong and reliable leader. I know he will be a very worthy representative of the Crown for the five years of his term.

This debate also gives us, as a House of Parliament, the opportunity of once again expressing our loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and wishing her well and continued good health.

Hon Tom Helm: Without the Governor.

Hon REG DAVIES: With or without the Governor.

Hon Tom Helm: As long as she stays in her own country; that is fine.

Hon REG DAVIES: I recall the first time we sat in this Parliament. I was in the President's Gallery listening to the debate before I took my seat. Hon Tom Helm was speaking to the Address-in-Reply castigating our system in which a member who was elected to this House must express loyalty to the Crown.

Hon Tom Helm: To a foreign Crown.



Hon REG DAVIES: I am under the impression she is Elizabeth, Queen of Australia. I can remember my great desire to jump the barrier to take him to task.

Several members interjected.

Hon REG DAVIES: I could not wait to get into this Chamber to debate that issue. As time progressed I found Hon Tom Helm to be an extremely likeable character and I appreciate that he has his view to express as I have mine. However, I believe I am expressing the majority view of our community. While on the subject of royalty I also express my admiration for Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, a gracious lady in her nineties who, to this day, sets a great example of devotion, loyalty and hard work - an example we could all well follow.

Hon Tom Helm: And she loves dogs.

Hon REG DAVIES: Since members last had the opportunity of speaking on wide ranging issues in this Chamber the Court of Disputed Returns, which was examining the validity of the election of the North Metropolitan Region, has made its determination. It decreed that the Australian Labor Party made a mistake in its administration by leaving a name off its ballot paper, although in the interim there was much time lost, cost and inconvenience to many members of this House, me included. My election and the election of six other members were confirmed and we then had to go through the recounting of the votes on the death of Hon Bob Pike to ensure that the election of Hon Iain MacLean was correct. The result of that was rather strange. I received the results the other day and I ended up with an extra 244 votes to my name; the Greens, who also disputed the original election, lost 40 votes in the count.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson interjected.

Hon REG DAVIES: I would not go that far. However, for financial reasons, under our current superannuation arrangements, one has to if one wants to participate in that scheme.

Hon Graham Edwards interjected.

Hon REG DAVIES: I am getting a very small retainer for my 23 years in the Army. I have just about passed the age of the Army wanting my services again. I turned 50 in December last year and I think I am just past my prime. That is one of the major reasons I decided to look for other areas to which I could contribute my talents. That is why I am in this place.

Law and order is another matter that has concerned the citizens of this state for a long time. Parties have gone to the electorate on the law and order issue always promising that citizens would get a better deal, and that our Police Force would get more members, more equipment and a better deal all round. The Government was elected at the 1993 election on the promise of stopping the revolving door. As yet, I have not seen any increase in numbers in the Police Force. It is a little like the last Labor promise when it was in government of giving us an extra 1 000 police which was then watered down to 800 extra police.

Hon Graham Edwards: We actually got them.

Hon REG DAVIES: Originally we were to be given them immediately but then the numbers were to be increased over three years. At least during that administration we got 800 extra police, but I am not sure of the attrition rate at the time and therefore do not know whether we received a net increase of 800.

Hon Graham Edwards: It was a net increase.

Hon REG DAVIES: If that is so, it is good. However, this Government promised us extra police officers and I hope that we will see that promise come to fruition quickly.

Members are aware that in past weeks I have once again called on the Government to establish a royal commission to investigate certain aspects of the Western Australian police service. I often feel like a lone voice in the wilderness on this issue. We know from daily newspaper reports that there are problems within the Police Force. A very

severe disciplinary problem exists inasmuch as there is, almost daily, an allegation of some sort of illegal or corrupt activity. Although these allegations appear prominently on the front page of our newspaper and in our nightly television news reports, very little is being done about them. I am sure that that has a very important bearing on morale in the Police Force. Many police officers want to do what they are paid to do; that is, to keep law and order in the community and gain the respect of the community. While these allegations continue to occur, it is very difficult for those officers to do that and, as a result, the morale of the force is suffering. Until something positive is done and until the Government - it is only the Government that can do it - bites the bullet and spends the money and acquiesces to calls for a royal commission or a commission of inquiry - I am told that commissions of inquiry can have the same powers as royal commissions - very little will be done to resolve the problems of the Police Force.

I do not want to be seen to be forever police bashing. However, if I have to do that to get something done I will continue. I want to see the problems solved quickly to allow members of the force to get back out on the streets to stop the criminals getting into our houses and our cars, molesting our children, selling drugs on street corners and so on. That will never occur if we continue to allow corrupt people to be part of the Police Force. Therefore, once again I plead with the Government to spend the money to appoint a royal commission and to give it good, strong terms of reference and resolve the problem. That must be done for the sake of the citizens of this state and for the sake of our Police Force, whose members generally bear the brunt of those accusations. Accusations made against one police officer tar every police officer with the same brush. We know that every time an accusation is made against a member of Parliament, we are all seen in the same light.

I am also concerned about the defacement of buildings and other property around the city and our suburbs. A few people out there are covertly engaged in this purposeless pursuit and for the life of me I cannot understand why. I imagine it is for some personal gratification in getting even with society which these people feel has done them some wrong. That is the excuse they generally use to justify damaging the property of other people. One of our primary purposes in this Parliament is to attempt to see that opportunity is distributed as fairly and as equitably as is humanly possible. However, we must also recognise that, throughout history, everything has been unequal; life has been unequal and I do not think it will ever be any different no matter what we do. The personal capacities of people are different, their intellectual abilities are different, their will to succeed is different, as is their work ethic and all manner of other things. I guess that makes life interesting. However, we need to change people's perceptions or their expectations of what life has to offer them and we must encourage them to do things for themselves. They must learn once again to look after themselves as they must learn to care for themselves. We now live in a society in which too many people think that somebody else is responsible for them and for their actions. People must take responsibility for themselves and for their actions. As legislators, we must look at things in a different light. We must set examples for society. We have been through the heady days of the 1980s when almost anything went, and there was a complete change in our culture and society. The state was responsible for almost anything and everything we did. We took away family responsibility, and most of our problems started when we took the power away from families to control their own children and to set an example. We even have situations now in our society where a 13 year old boy or girl who has an argument with his or her parents can get the support of the Department for Community Development and leave home without the parents being told.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: And be paid to do so.

Hon REG DAVIES: Yes, and be paid to do so.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: Are you suggesting that children should stay in a home where they are being sexually or psychologically abused?

Hon REG DAVIES: Hon Cheryl Davenport knows perfectly well that I am not suggesting that. She knows my views on that matter because I have expounded them

several times in this Chamber. However, I am suggesting that a 13 year old child should be subject to parental discipline, and the parents should at least be consulted if the child is allowed to leave home because of a silly argument or the generation gap, or because the child cannot get on with its parents. Of course, if the child is being ill-treated and abused mentally, physically or sexually, the authorities should step in. However, I sometimes wonder whether we are doing the right things in that area. We need to spend more time and money and put more effort into that whole area. Of course, someone should intervene if a 13 year old wants to leave home, because everything is laid on for them. Life's opportunities are abounding in our society today. It has never been so good for anybody who wants to do well, to work and to better themselves. Yet, the younger generations are bucking our system because we allow it to happen and pay them to do so.

I received a letter last week from a person who is known to many members, particularly those who serve on the Delegated Legislation Committee. He made a presentation last year or the year before during which he brought in a barrel of bricks and proceeded to show the damage that could be done to a person's back if those bricks were lifted incorrectly. He has been a big supporter of mine ever since 1991 when I raised the issue in this House of a military style boot camp for young offenders. He wrote to me recently and told me of a story his uncle had told him about the way wayward youth were dealt with in his time. I do not agree with everything he says, but it is representative of the feelings of people in our community, particularly towards recidivist young offenders. He wrote -

To condense the story Uncle told I will try and relate only to the method that was used to tame and teach respect to some of the toughest, meanest, hard, bash artist, standover men, one could ever come across, and the method worked as I found out later in life, some of these previous baddies made it through the war, they went on into civilian life and became respected gentlemen although still tough they showed respect to all and protected the weak and others, the best was that they respected themselves.

Of course we are not at war in this time, those men were conscripted to defend the country, so they had to be brought into line at that time, nevertheless I believe we have a war out there, the war against arrogance, lack of respect and the thumbing of noses at the law that is supposed to protect life and property.

Now to the above mentioned method, the men were stripped of their cigarettes, rollies, tobacco money, photos, comb etc, then if they didn't follow a reasonable order they were introduced to the method, they were given a nice clean bright red house brick of the old solid type weight 9 lb or 4.085 kg - approx - 9" x 4" or 229 mm x 114 mm, a small teaspoon size trowel, they then had to dig a hole the exact size of the brick without a safe measure or rule to assist them.

They would be required to dig a hole the exact size and without using the brick as a guide to size, so as you may imagine this exercise went on for quite some time with no rest breaks, only two toilet breaks were allowed, and even they were timed and on the double, this went on from dawn to dusk and until they finally got it right, then? You guessed it they had to go through it all over again and I think it was with a slightly different sized brick, also if they happened to pee their pants they had to wait until dark (knockoff) to wash them.

My method based on the Army method I think would work with these graffiti vandals, quite simply bring the culprits together in front of a disused factory wall, then hand them as many spray cans as they need to use. Then tell them "go for it boys do your best work". Of course there would be no smokes no drinks no rest etc. When they finished their graffiti handiwork then they should be congratulated on their efforts then without a break smoke or a drink hand them cleaning gear and when they have finished, then hand them spray cans again, and so on and so on.

It won't be long before the cry is "Enough, enough", and most likely the majority of them will not want to see a spray can again as long as they live.

That is one way of dealing with the graffiti problem. Of course, our do-gooders and myriad social workers would scream and jump up and down, and our civil libertarians would say that we cannot do that to those poor little mites.

Hon John Halden: You are dead right, they would do because the proposal is absolutely outrageous.

Hon REG DAVIES: It is a thought. Perhaps we do not need to be quite so harsh, but we must do something. If we catch these young scoundrels, perhaps we should make them clean up their mess, under supervision.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: You must catch them first.

Hon REG DAVIES: Of course. Perhaps one way to stop them is to regulate the sale of spray paint cans or even sell it on a restricted basis whereby people must sign for it. The cans could be numbered and the number registered when they were sold. It may be a denial of the civil liberties of those people, but how do they affect our civil liberties and our right to have a clean wall, a clean office, and so on?

Hon John Halden: It is not so much the civil liberties argument that I support. My argument is that they should have something constructive to do, perhaps to clean a wall or two, but they should not paint it all over again.

Hon REG DAVIES: I would like to break their spirit and retrain them because clearly something is wrong somewhere for them to be carrying out this sort of antisocial activity.

Hon J.A. Scott: They are alienated from society.

Hon REG DAVIES: Are they? I have already said that society has offered them anything they want - except a good job.

Hon John Halden: Unfortunately not if one is black or poor perhaps - particularly if one is black.

Hon REG DAVIES: I do not know if anyone could sustain for much longer the argument that if a person is black he is disadvantaged.

Hon John Halden: How young are Aborigines when they die?

Hon REG DAVIES: In our community many young white families would say the opposite. They would say that they are disadvantaged because they are not black.

Hon John Halden: You should look at the statistics that suggest people are disadvantaged by being black.

Hon REG DAVIES: I cannot argue against that statement, but we cannot use that as an excuse all the time.

Hon Tom Helm: It is more a reason than an excuse.

Hon REG DAVIES: Both federal and state governments provide billions of dollars for Aboriginal programs. My concern is that those funds are being misdirected. Aboriginal activists and leaders receive legal aid to fight cases in the courts. Yet, families not far from where I live should receive funds for extra schooling or after hours tuition. Currently they do not receive such funding. I would prefer to see money spent in that area rather than going to the high flyers who go south and hold conferences among the karri trees.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: We do that too!

Hon REG DAVIES: But we do not give inordinate amounts of money for programs for minority groups. If that were the case, as a minority member of Parliament, I would have five or six staff at my electorate office helping me.

Hon Tom Helm: You have more staff than I have.

Hon REG DAVIES: Does the member not have an electorate officer?

Hon Tom Helm: I have one.

Hon REG DAVIES: So have I.

Hon Tom Helm: And what else?

Hon REG DAVIES: I have a photocopying machine.

Hon Tom Helm: And a research officer?

Hon REG DAVIES: No.

Hon Tom Helm: Did the new Government take the research officer from you?

Hon REG DAVIES: Yes. The new Government did not need me any more. I am superfluous. It is a matter of numbers. The provision of staff at electorate offices is a very difficult issue. Today where we have massive constituencies, and when wonderful media people such as Howard Sattler say to people that if they want to do something about a particular matter, they should ring up the local member, the general public do that! One staff member is trying to deal with many complaints and concerns in a large area, and it is a very difficult situation when they are faced with this extra workload. As an Independent member, I find that many people throughout the state who have lost faith in both major political parties come to me to ask me to solve a problem or to do something about a situation. I deal with people from all over the state trying to resolve their problems. Members in the upper House really need an extra staff member because the workload is too heavy for just one person. I thank the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for increasing our electorate allowance last Friday. That \$1.37 a day will be handy for purchasing three extra postage stamps! I will be able to respond to some of the correspondence I receive from other parts of the state.

Hon Tom Helm: It will not pay your bus fare to Parliament House.

Hon REG DAVIES: Generally, I leave my letters in reply to queries from outside my electorate until the last item, because I want to look after the people who have elected me. But, as a member of Parliament, I must respond to anyone who contacts me. I am very grateful for those three extra stamps a day.

Hon John Halden: So am I. You would not believe how grateful I am!

Hon REG DAVIES: If the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal ever sees fit to award even a part-time research officer to upper House members I will be eternally grateful. I would even consider standing for another term.

Hon John Halden: In all fairness, we must acknowledge that the tribunal does not have the power. The Government has the power to do that.

Hon REG DAVIES: The previous government approved extra research assistance at a time when I really needed it.

Hon J.A. Scott: Does the Government need to enlarge the Government Media Office?

Hon REG DAVIES: That is an interesting point. While government-bashing in this segment -

Hon Tom Helm: Do you want an extension?

Hon REG DAVIES: I said earlier that I would be very brief, but I want to say that it always amuses me, as I sit here and observe debate from both sides of the Chamber, to listen to comments by the Opposition and the Government's response. The situation has not changed one iota from when the Labor Party sat in government and when coalition members sat on this side.

Hon John Halden: We are a smidgin more eloquent on this side.

Hon REG DAVIES: There is not much difference. It is pretty much a mix similar to the last Parliament. That says a lot for having more minority parties in the Parliament. As members will recall, in the latter months of the previous Parliament, the government then did not have a majority in either House. During that time we witnessed very good, strong legislation coming through. That government was prepared to listen and to debate matters thoroughly. It was prepared to concede the odd amendment. That government even accepted Bills and motions from the opposition, and so on. It was a fairly enlightened period of our history. The five Independents in the Assembly, and I, did not

in any way hinder that government in the carriage of its major programs. It was a very healthy time. At the next election I hope that the electors in this state will look closely at the minor parties and the Independents who stand for elections. If they are worthy candidates, equal to the major parties' candidates, why not give them a go? It would probably be an encouraging time for the state and we would probably move away from the situation currently where we hear the cry, "You did it, and it is good enough for us to do now that we are on the government benches." As a former member of the Liberal Party, that situation is disappointing for me.

I had a great deal of faith in the integrity of the Liberal Party members and I had a hope that once they got onto the government benches, they would carry through what they started in opposition; that is, accountability and giving good, proper answers to questions. When I leave Parliament, that will be one of the great regrets of my time here. I, like many citizens in this state, had faith that we would see a complete change when the Liberal Government took office.

Hon Kim Chance: We were not disappointed.

Hon REG DAVIES: I guess I am idealistic.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: They certainly changed last week.

Hon REG DAVIES: The other day I said what I thought of the committee system. I believe very strongly in it. The whole idea of it is to check the excesses of the Executive, as is this House of Review. It is very difficult to do that when five members of the Executive are in this House participating in debate.

Hon John Halden: If it is of any help, we need to get rid of them. We need only one to cross the floor. I am working on it.

Hon REG DAVIES: It is a black mark against the Government. It is probably indicative of the lacklustre lot from which the Liberal Party had to choose in the other place in order to make up the Ministry; it therefore had to use the talents of those in the upper House.

I would have liked to talk in great detail this evening about a pet subject of mine; that is, the Family Court. I have some great concerns about that court and the effect it has on troubled families in this state. In particular, I am concerned about the emphasis that is placed on the female party as opposed to the male party. I probably would have spoken about this subject 12 months ago. Just recently I have noticed more and more situations where the male going out of a marriage with children is almost financially, and often emotionally, crippled. Very little thought or care seems to be given to the rearing of any child of that union. I am looking at this area in more detail and I would like to speak about it when I have a lot more knowledge of it.

It is time that this Parliament looked at the committee report on the Easton petition. That matter is of great concern to many people in the community. That report was presented to this Parliament almost two years ago, and no mention has ever been made of it since. The consequences of that report bear very greatly on the Family Court and on the issues that I have just outlined and that I want to look at in more detail. I urge the chairman of that committee, the Minister for Health and the Arts, to bring forward that document for debate. It is vital in the grieving process of the families of Penny Easton. It is also important, as part of the community debate on the Family Court, that we debate that report, and as soon as possible. With those few remarks, it is my pleasure to support the motion before the House.

**HON CHERYL DAVENPORT** (South Metropolitan) [8.34 pm]: At the outset of my contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor on his appointment to office and to wish him well in his years as Governor of Western Australia. I would also like to congratulate Hon Iain MacLean on his election to this place, albeit in very sad circumstances. I note that he comes from the Girrawheen-Koondoola area. I am a former resident of that area. I know that he will do his best to represent the people of that region, given that it is very socially deprived. I look forward to his contribution to the Parliament for the balance of this term.

In this debate I will talk about a memorial in which I took part on Saturday in relation to the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989. In that context I will touch very briefly on the young people involved and will lead into the area of preventing youth crime. I know there has been quite a lot of discussion already in this debate about juvenile justice. However, people will know that I have participated in this area in my years in this Parliament, and it is one about which I care very deeply. I was invited by the alliance for a free and democratic China to participate in its memorial last Saturday afternoon, the fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. I participated in the memorial as the representative of the Parliamentary Amnesty Group. It brought back some very painful memories. On 9 June 1989 I represented, and spoke on behalf of, the then government at a rally that was called together to remember those people who lost their lives in very tragic circumstances in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

In 1986 I visited four provinces in China as part of an all-party political exchange delegation. It was very interesting that our initial agenda included the province of Shanghai but when we reached China we found that Shanghai had been removed from the itinerary. At around Christmas time, following our return to Australia on 6 December, we learned from news that had been leaked out of China of the start of riots on university campuses. I found that to be very interesting because when we were in Guangzhou, formerly Canton, I had been approached by a young Chinese student who took me aside before I got back on the bus to continue our visit and asked whether in Australia we had freedom of speech on our campuses. Upon my return and finding out about the unrest in China at that time, particularly by the young students of that country in relation to democracy, things fell into place.

In September 1995 the fourth world conference on women will be held in Beijing. There are at present a number of pre-conference meetings being held around the world. I have no doubt one of the major issues for women attending this conference will be the question of the progress on human rights in China and the conflict that exists between the nation's trading status and the abrogation of human rights that we all know is occurring in that country. It is an atrocity which was certainly made clear to both my colleague Hon Nick Griffiths and me at the rally on Saturday afternoon. The conference was not particularly well attended owing to the inclement weather. Nevertheless, a lot of Chinese people attended who are very grateful for the decision of the Australian Government to allow to stay those Chinese students who would have found it very difficult to return to China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre. They certainly made it clear to us that they were very grateful that we had made the effort to attend.

I will quote from a statement made by the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, an African woman by the name of Gertrude Monghella. I agree with her when she states -

The old generation has lived in a world of inequality. If we can, we should quickly facilitate the new generation to live in a peaceful world. If we do not involve youth themselves, listen and pay attention to their voices, we will all fail.

That is particularly relevant to what happened in China in 1989 and continues to happen; that is, young people who speak out in the quest for democracy within China certainly face very severe consequences. On behalf of the WA Parliamentary Amnesty Group I was pleased to participate in that event last Saturday.

That quote from Gertrude Monghella leads me to the notion of the family and young people. I will quote from an article in the "Education Insight" supplement of the *The West Australian*. The article is entitled "Slow down and be a parent" and makes the following comment in the lead in to the article -

One result of living in the fast lane is that we have no time to listen to our children.

That is said by Alice Steinbeck, the author of the article. We would all do well and make the world a better place for our young people if we took some note of this article. It continues -

Let us begin with a question: Do we pay too little attention to our children? But first, a word of caution. The question is not about whether we talk a lot about children or shower them with material things or spend hours every day getting them to day care, to pre-school, to school, to the library, to tutoring classes, to football practice or ballet lessons.

And it is not about being up-to-date on the latest wrinkle in child psychology or reading the newest how-to book on raising children.

What is at issue here dives down much deeper into our underlying attitude towards children. The real question is: Have we adults become disconnected from the real lives - the inner needs as well as the outer ones - of our children.

At least one important child advocate thinks we have. In a major address, American Education Secretary Richard Riley delivered a grave assessment of the unfortunate "disconnection" between children and adults.

"We seem as a nation to be drifting toward a new concept of childhood which says that a child should be brought into this world and allowed to fend for himself or herself" Mr Riley told hundreds of educators assembled at a Georgetown university.

We have moved, it seems, over the last 30 years into what some psychologists call the era of the Postmodern Family. And in so doing, they say, we have traded in the view that children need an extended period of guidance from adults for one that perceives children as competent at an early age.

Competent enough, for instance, to deal in early childhood with the image of violence on TV.

And confident enough as teenagers to be able to navigate, often with little or no parental help, the maze of realities confronting adolescents. These realities now routinely include sex, AIDS, drugs and crime.

In trying to account for the emergence of the Postmodern Family, Mr Riley touched on one of the forces at work in our society: The huge time deficit that exists on the part of most parents.

"Parents are certainly the first and most important teachers," he said in his speech. And he urged them to slow down in this routinely fast-paced "world of fax machines, car phones and beepers".

But slowing down is precisely what the Postmodern Parent cannot figure out how to do.

For three decades we have worked hard to develop a society that offers more flexible lifestyles - in terms of work and family - for adults. At the same time, it has become increasingly difficult for many families to live on one salary.

This combination has produced more two-parent working families, more single-parent families and more economic and emotional stress. It has also produced the hurried parent.

And the hurried child.

Child psychologist David Elkind has looked at what happened to such families and he told an interviewer as early as 1982: "Sooner is not better. Not for learning to read, not for lipstick, not for sex, not for hearing about parents' lovers".

His advice at the time was not unlike the one suggested - a dozen years later - by Mr Riley: Parents must slow down and spend more time with their kids.

Easy to say, hard to do. Particularly where the economics of a family dictate parents work long hours.

But perhaps for parents who do have some economic leeway, it might be helpful to remember their own childhood.



It might be helpful to remember that so many of the well-intentioned plans made for you by your parents - piano lessons, summer camp, dance classes - are not what shape the things most important in life: an ability to trust others and feel empathy; an acceptance of yourself and others; and a receptivity to loving the world.

Someone said that no-one can have it all, that life unravels faster than anyone can weave it back together.

And, let us face it, there is no turning back to the so-called simple life. We have to work with what we have.

But I can tell you what I regret most about my parenting days; that I did not listen more and in a different way to my sons when they were younger.

That I didn't spend more summer evenings sitting on the grass with them, talking.

Or more to the point, listening.

One of the things that comes through loud and clear today is that we as parents do not listen enough or talk enough to our children.

Hon Reg Davies: Has television anything to do with it, do you think?

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: The article did say that that is one of the things that young people have to contend with. Kids of our day I guess did not have the same kind of access to television or the messages it sends.

Hon Reg Davies: Or technology?

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: Indeed, technology.

I took the opportunity in April of this year to use my imprest account to attend a conference in New South Wales entitled "Prevention of Youth Crime", which was run by the Institute of Criminology together with the New South Wales Government's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. This was the second conference of that magnitude I have attended and it had some 300 participants who were from all over Australia and also New Zealand.

One of the sad things for me is that Western Australia's national profile on juvenile justice is appalling. In 1992, I attended in Adelaide the first conference on juvenile justice sponsored by the Institute of Criminology. It took place six months after we had enacted the Crime (Serious Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Act. We came in for a severe bucketing over that legislation, which I must say in hindsight that I am not proud to have been a part of. I am pleased that tomorrow the Crime (Serious Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Act will lapse. At the conference held this year at Terrigal in New South Wales, Western Australia came in for serious criticism over a paper entitled "The wild, wild west. An Overview of Juvenile Crime Prevention in Western Australia" presented by Shawn Boyle from Western Australia.

Hon Reg Davies: The wild, wild west!

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: It is a worry. The paper was presented in an almost flippant way and was critical of our state. Shawn Boyle is a young person who works for the Aboriginal Legal Service in Western Australia. People might say that they have always been the do-gooders.

Hon Reg Davies: I remember that legislation. When I stood up to move that it should go to the Legislation Committee before the third reading, I could not get a seconder.

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: In hindsight, we might well have done things differently. Nevertheless, we also received a bucketing this time around. The first paragraph of the paper under the section entitled "How the west was lost" states -

The public's current perception of the juvenile justice system as promoted by most politicians and media commentators, is that the system is too "soft" and has been for far too long under the influence of the "do-gooders". The solution that is advocated is to bring back the three D's. Discipline, Death and Deterrence.

He went on to talk about the possible reintroduction of the death penalty and the comments made by the member for Riverton in another place, which he quoted from an article in *The West Australian* of 4 March -

It was worth executing murderers even at the risk of sending an innocent person to the gallows because of trauma of wrongful imprisonment meant they were better off dead.

Hon Reg Davies: What year was that - 18 what?

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: The member may well ask. The second notion over which we came in for criticism and some derision was the fact that Premier Court had, like his father, praised Singapore as the model law and order society that Western Australia should emulate and that we were to be treated to a visit by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to Western Australia to provide some program and policy advice to the Government.

Hon Reg Davies: Maybe that will be a part of their electoral review, as well?

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: One wonders about that. Then the paper contained this interesting quote -

And just like an advertisement for Demtel, the Government cries, "But wait there's more!" Elect the Premier's candidate at the State By-election and not only will you get a capital punishment referendum, but military style boot camps thrown in for only \$40 000 per child! And wait there's more! As a complimentary offer, the government will give you a de-facto curfew called Operation Sweep. By using an defunct child welfare power all children seen out on the street after dark will be picked up and detained in police custody until their parents come to get them. No questions asked no charges required."

The people from Western Australia attending that conference of 270 people, including some from the Attorney General's department, were less than happy about the way in which Western Australia had been talked about in the area of juvenile justice. Nevertheless, we deserved to be criticised. We were criticised at the 1992 conference that I attended when we were in government and we were criticised for our continued track record this year.

When dealing with the repeat offenders legislation, Shawn Boyle said that only five adults and one juvenile have been caught under the Crime (Serious Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Act, and the six of them were Aboriginal people. One of the comments that I thought very relevant was that, of those five adults who were imprisoned under the Act, not one had been imprisoned as a result of high speed car chases. During debate on that legislation, we were told repeatedly that it had been introduced in the main to catch young people who participated in high speed car chases. The only person who was caught for that offence was the young man who was involved in the Blorton tragedy. It is interesting to note that that Act has not done the job that we were told it would do. I am pleased that it will lapse tomorrow. The subject will be debated in great detail when we deal with the Young Offenders Bill. On my initial reading of that Bill, it seems to have some positive aspects, but not as many as I would like to see included.

The conclusion of the Boyle paper says that there is a challenge for fair minded people in Western Australia to inject some rationality and balance into the crime debate. We are challenged to make sure that the new legislation will do Western Australia credit in the whole juvenile justice debate.

I turn now to some of the positive crime prevention programs that were outlined in various papers at the conference. The first one was by the keynote speaker, Jon Bright, who made a very good contribution to the conference. He heads a non-government organisation in the United Kingdom called Crime Concern. His paper was entitled "Preventing youth crime - towards a strategy". I will refer to a couple of sections of that paper, because we can learn from it in Western Australia. It states -

Crime Concern is the UK's national crime prevention development organisation.

It is an independent, not-for-profit body, part-funded by government. Its status is that of a Charitable Trust. Its work is overseen by an Advisory Board and it enjoys all-party political support. Its mission is to reduce crime and to create safer communities. It seeks to achieve this in three ways: by providing a developmental and consultancy service to towns and cities (it has worked in over 60 areas); by developing innovative approaches to crime prevention; and by promoting more and better crime prevention through conferences, seminars and publications.

Crime Concern has made a significant contribution to the crime prevention debate in the UK and has been especially vigorous in promoting criminality prevention. It has strong links with crime prevention organisations in the USA and Canada and is active in the European Forum for Urban Security.

One of the points made by Jon Bright in this paper is that in the United Kingdom only 50 out of every 100 household crimes are reported to the police, only seven are cleared up and only three result in a conviction or caution. It is interesting to note that apprehension rates are low. That has led to an attempt to deal with this matter by different strategic means. Jon Bright also refers to the money spent on the prevention of crime. The Netherlands is the only country in the world which spends a sizeable proportion of its gross domestic product - 1 per cent - on a criminal justice budget on prevention which is directed totally at preventing crime rather than the other end of the system, the penalties. On the role of government in the prevention of crime he states that it may be useful to identify the two levels at which prevention must be addressed: The first refers to what national or state governments can do to prevent crime; the second concerns what can be done at a local level. He is concerned with involving the total community in providing the means to assist the government, rather than fighting with government to secure funding. Although he advocates a healthy involvement of the whole community policing ethic, that is not seen as a totally Neighbourhood Watch type scheme. It is more about problem oriented solving of issues of crime where they begin. The method reminds me somewhat of the program in South Hedland to which Hon Tom Helm has referred on several occasions. Another section of this paper states -

It is government's response to changing economic circumstances and employment patterns which many consider to be one of the most important issues in the debate about youth crime. In many parts of the USA, UK and Europe, the decline of unskilled and semi skilled work has resulted in unemployed young men growing up to feel that they have no stake in society. This has obvious implications for offending. The argument runs as follows: localised crime and much community disorder, is primarily committed by young men. Criminal activity declines with age when young men acquire a personal stake in conformity (through marriage and employment) and the risks of crime outweigh the rewards.

The paper continues -

Creating training and employment opportunities must therefore be a key feature of a national strategy that seeks to reduce crime and criminality.

... federal or state government's should set up interdepartmental groups to ensure that their policies take crime and criminality prevention into account as a matter of course ...

The second level refers to what can be done locally to manage crime problems more effectively ...

He then says that as a community we must define the problem, decide with government on what we should do, work out a program of implementation and, finally, assess what has been achieved. By all accounts the sorts of initiatives that have been tried in no less than 60 areas in the United Kingdom - the concept has also been introduced in other countries, particularly the United States and Canada - seem to be paying off in a positive way. One of the other areas referred to in the paper under the heading "Community based prevention" states -

As children grow up, they spend more time away from home. Young people whose leisure time is unsupervised and spent largely in the company of their friends are more likely to behave anti socially and commit crime . . . Many argue that organised recreational and social activities occupy leisure time constructively and thereby can help keep them out of trouble.

It does not follow, however, that activities provided for young people *necessarily* prevent them offending. Different approaches are needed for different groups and they need to have a clear delinquency prevention objective. Organised clubs and activities are best for under 14s. Older young people respond better to a drop-in centre or an 'adult' style non-alcoholic club than they do to the 'traditional' youth club. Peer-led drug education in schools and youth clubs may be more effective than adult-led drug prevention initiatives. Outreach or detached youth work, aimed at contacting and involving young people most at risk of offending, is essential to help them to develop a stake in their own communities . . .

In areas where young people face multiple problems, more focused, comprehensive projects are required such as those promoted in the USA by the Eisenhower Foundation . . . The Foundation has identified model inner city youth empowerment programmes which aim to address the multiple problems faced by inner city youth. The essential elements of these programmes are:

- \* Development of self esteem
- \* Extended family type support
- \* Education
- \* Peer group support and activities
- \* Employment training
- \* Employment creation and job placement . . .

. . . preventing youth crime in high crime areas requires a combination of measures to prevent both *crime and criminality*. High crime areas do not have a crime problem. They have crime problems. The response should be a package of crime prevention solutions. In the few areas where this approach has been implemented, sustained reductions in crime have been achieved . . .

That information was provided by the United Kingdom department of environment in 1993. That paper states - it is an issue of which we must be aware - that if we are serious about preventing youth crime we must not react, but find ways through the maze of prevention rather than advocating the harsher penalties line. Although I do not advocate that we drop the whole notion of penalties, the young people who participated at this conference clearly asked us as adults to let them participate and to listen to what they saw as their needs, rather than us as adults imposing our will on them because we thought a particular solution was best for them. We must stand back to some degree and be there as a consultation mechanism for them, but allow them an ownership of their problems. They should then be trusted to design some of the positive outcomes which were outlined in other papers presented at various workshops during the conference.

Between 15 and 20 prevention programs were outlined during the "Prevention of Youth Crime" conference and one was called "Youth Empowerment and Crime Prevention: Youth and the Law Project". This program was developed in New South Wales over the best part of 10 years for young people and, like the Jon Bright paper, it states -

Young people must be allowed to own the problems of juvenile offending and discover and implement their own solutions. There is little value in imposing crime prevention programs on disinterested youth and expecting significant results.

Both New South Wales and South Australia are moving towards the specific involvement of young people in designing such programs. Until that is done in this state the programs which are devised will not be successful. Until we address young people appropriately,

this state will be confronted with the problem of more young people going off the rails and it will have to provide additional expensive institutions to cater for the penalties imposed. It will be useful to members if I read two significant strategies which were designed by young people in New South Wales. The section is referred to as "The South Sydney Story". It reads -

Redfern and Waterloo are two inner suburbs just south of the centre of Sydney. The community is represented by cultural groups almost too numerous to count. There are some small park lands and one or two ovals, but the streets are a bland blend of houses and manufacturing or marketing industry. There is a mix of high rise and tight tenement no rise housing. It is typical inner city dense urban living.

There is a population concentration of the elderly and the young, with high teenage unemployment. There is much youth boredom and a certain aimlessness and hopelessness, particularly among the school leavers.

Teenage crime rates are about average for the density of population and for the area. Police, education and local industry representatives are concerned however about the higher than average rate of property damage, car thefts and street assaults that make up most of the teenage crime that is reported. There have been the occasional suburban summits on what to do to get the crime rate down and how to keep it down. But there has been little co-ordination or real community involvement in that process.

In this environment the Law Foundation experimented with the local (South Sydney) Police Citizens Youth Club and the experiment has managed to take route and flourish. The experiment went straight to the perceived heart of the crime problem - the young people of the area; many of whom frequent the Club and many of whom have been heavily involved in street and property crime. The Club is something of a unique sanctuary for its several hundred members. It offers a range of active and passive recreation activities, 7 days a week in a fairly ordinary complex comprising outdoor space and indoor rooms for gymnastics, basketball, pool, videos, boxing and developing study skills.

The South Sydney Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) wanted to see whether YALP's concept of youth initiated action against crime would work for them as it had done in the Campbelltown area. Their Club had been repeatedly vandalised as had local shops and some of the nearby industrial complexes.

Essentially the Club adopted the YALP concept with the youth membership identifying and owning the problems and suggesting solutions. Did this approach succeed in South Sydney? Did the method work out in reality? What was achieved? Did the aims match the results?

The South Sydney PCYC experiment began when local high school students were canvassed, some of whom were members of the PCYC. A day was organised to outline the youth-to-youth crime prevention concept and to seek a response. Only a handful (about 30) of participants turned up, mainly Years eight to ten (13 to 15 year olds) from three local schools. At the end of a day of difficult and, at times, disorganised discussion and workshopping, a project group of six young people agreed to take on the seemingly (to them) crazy idea that they could plan, and actually do something that might benefit themselves, their friends and the wider community.

Their suggestions and achievements were intended to have a positive impact on community safety and on the reduction of local crime. The group sought the help of older adolescents who had territorial clout and whose involvement would give any proposals peer respectability.

After an uncertain start, in December 1991 the project "group of six", using the YALP model, decided to test whether police staff at the Club and other adults would give them the opportunity to actually own and operate two recreation strategies that the group had thought up.

**Strategy One:**

The group organised a regular basketball competition at the Police Youth Club inviting rival so called "colour gangs" from neighbouring inner city suburbs to participate. While this sounds an easy and relatively unspectacular assignment, a number of factors increased the risk of the strategy's likely failure:

the organisers were young people - who thought up the idea who agreed to manage it and who agreed to own the outcome;

the project group had to co-operatively arrange teams, venues, times, equipment and transport themselves;

staff and volunteers of the Police Youth Club were to assist the group in the organisation process, but essentially the basketball competitions were to be a youth-to-youth initiative; and

the competitions would bring cultural and rival groups together with the obvious risks of aggressive or explosive behaviour.

While there have been minor upsets, there have been no failures and the strategy has lasted six months so far.

**Strategy Two:**

The project group organised a fortnightly dance party rivalling other adult run discos in the district. They needed a venue, they needed music, they needed publicity, they needed transport, they needed parental co-operation and they needed to "police" the disco participants. There were to be no drugs and no alcohol. The whole operation was to be their responsibility. If the discos were popular they would be held regularly on a Friday night (a traditionally active street crime night), and youthful energies would therefore be channelled into a crime free fun activity. They needed to attract around 200 to 300 to each disco.

The strategy met with some scepticism by the local police patrol. The police working at the Youth Club who backed the strategy were also sceptical.

Finding a venue proved extremely difficult. Even with Police Youth Club staff backing, hall owners were reluctant or were unable to assist. There were large open spaces at several of the local industries; spaces that during the week were used for parking, packaging or delivery of goods. One such industrial site was owned by a local meat exporter whose premises incidentally over the years had been subjected to repeated vandalism. He had already established a connection with the Police Youth Club working with the staff and club members in an effort to reduce the graffiti focussed vandalism, by encouraging known "offenders" to develop their various graffiti styles into a useful art form. The exporter was approached and agreed to make his premises available at no charge, every second or third Friday night as the disco venue.

Eight discos were successfully held. The venue proved popular and the discos met their targeted numbers of between 200 and 300 participants each time. The exporter is on record as saying that the organisational and motivational skills of the group impressed him beyond his expectations.

Profits of around \$1,000 per night were used to purchase equipment for the Police Youth Club and to help pay for much needed building renovations.

The success of the youth-to-industry connection so far is likely to prompt more local industries to consider inviting the young crime fighters to share some other ideas they might have on making their community a much safer place for residents and workers alike. Individuals from local industries are also looking for ways to more practically assist the local Police Youth Club who rely on community support to meet their weekly program costs.

These strategies in Redfern and Waterloo in Sydney are examples of what happens when young people are trusted to own their problem and solve it.

Another program paper presented at that conference by the Western Australian Westrek Foundation is titled "From Youth at Risk to Independent Living" and it provides a very positive outcome for young people. Over the past couple of years that organisation has assisted approximately 500 young people in this state who were well and truly off the rails and they have gone from youth at risk to young people who now have the ability to live independently.

The third program, entitled "Residents in Safer Environments", is a tremendous tale about the corporate sector being prepared to participate in the process of assisting young people. The National Roads and Motorists Association of New South Wales sponsored a housing estate crime prevention program in the Fairfield area in the western suburbs of Sydney, where rather than provide funding for security people to patrol the area, it provided a budget to employ a young project organiser for three years. Fairfield probably resembles the suburb of Karawara in my electorate, and rather than people being antisocial to each other, the coordinator of this project has been instrumental in bringing that community together. There is a predominance of Islamic migrants in the Fairfield area, and over the past 12 months the Australian residents have been able to get to know their migrant neighbours. The program has led to a dramatic decline in the claim rates for burglary and car theft in that area over the last two years. Statistics for 1991 presented at that conference indicate that household burglaries in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory cost an estimated \$135m and car thefts \$170m per annum.

On the final afternoon of the conference, we heard from the New South Wales Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, which is a government-appointed committee, comprising politicians of both political persuasions. That session was chaired by Ron Dyer, the shadow spokesperson for community development, and the two key speakers were John Hannaford, the New South Wales Attorney General, and Dr Marlene Goldsmith, a Liberal member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, who chairs that committee. I was impressed that they are working together closely as politicians to make changes to their juvenile justice system. It behoves us as legislators to follow that example.

I turn now to a project that is very much in its embryonic stage, called Willetton Youth Community Connection. This committee has been meeting in Willetton since September of last year, and comprises Mike Board, the Liberal member for Jandakot; myself; a range of community organisations, such as the Rotary and Lions Clubs; the Anglican Church; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia; the police; and various professional and non-professional community workers and young people. That committee is trying to deal with concerns in the local community that young people in that area have gone off the rails.

We invited the local Press to be part of that committee, and to its credit it did turn up for the first couple of meetings, but it has since fallen by the wayside. However, we were most concerned to find in an April edition of the *Canning-Melville Times* that the local youth program had come in for some harsh criticism from what we believe to be two people who had no intention of trying to find out why young people were acting up. They talked about community tempers boiling over, and sought to look at the possibility of setting up vigilante groups, which in my view do not contribute to people's wellbeing but rather incite bad feeling between young people and others. The committee chose to write to that newspaper and express its concern, and it came in for some criticism from that local newspaper. Nevertheless, I think it made the point, and, since that time, that newspaper has made some effort to be more positive about this issue.

Our local Press had been urged for six to eight months to run a story about a forum that was held late last year, sponsored by the Willetton Rotary Club in conjunction with the Lynwood, Willetton and Rossmoyne Senior High Schools. I thought it was interesting that the young people at this forum outlined the concerns that the Willetton Youth Community Connection is seeking to address. The people who were asked to attend that forum were the police, the City of Canning, and local politicians. One student, Rashmi Madan of Willetton Senior High School, said -

In the suburb of Willetton, there is no real community. Our suburb has grown too large for there to be a real community feeling. We need to establish a place where teenagers can meet each other and build a community with each other.

This support network would help kids to gain important skills like assertiveness, communication, self-esteem, decision-making and self-acceptance.

A place that would provide the necessary activities to build these skills would be a youth headquarters. The headquarters would be located in the area and would organise activities for teenagers that are constructive and healthy but still cheap and fun - like fitness programmes, aerobics and self-defence, regular discos and a permanent drop-in centre.

The drop-in centre, as well as all other activities would be run by the teenagers themselves. It would be run after school and would have things like pool, table tennis, music, food and drinks and would generally be a place where kids would "hang out" as an alternative to hanging out at the shops or on the streets.

Annabelle Davis and Alison Lawson of Willetton Senior High School wrote -

There is a desperate need for a youth centre in the area as youth have nowhere to meet and relax together and are questioned by police, teachers and social workers when they are seen loitering around the shopping centre or local parks.

At present the only places where youths can meet are in the parks or shopping centre. If a youth drop-in centre were built it could offer activities such as discos, sports, drug abuse resistance education programmes, self-defence classes, counselling services and careers information.

An environmental impact group should be set up in the locality to prevent the misuse of the region. If some teenagers were involved in such a committee they would have a worthwhile project.

The Willetton-Riverton area is now considered old (by Perth standards). These suburbs were built in 1979 (approximately) and many families moved there with young children and babies. These children have now grown into teenagers. It is essential that the council, government and organisations such as Rotary provide for the needs of these teenagers otherwise these pleasant middle-class suburbs will become the ghettos of the future.

In the main, these comments are from students aged 15 years. It will be at our peril, and we will stand condemned, if we do not start to listen to what our young people are telling us. Many of the suburbs which were part of the mortgage belt explosion in the mid-1970s were not catered for by governments of the day, whether conservative or of my own party. Those governments failed to take note of the type of infrastructure necessary to accommodate youth.

A positive element which arose from Operation Sweep in Fremantle was the realisation by the community that young people cannot continually be simply moved on. Young people must have some ownership of public space. It is not available only for the use of adults. When some parents received a telephone call from the police and were told to pick up their children who were picked up under a section of the Child Welfare Act, they were told that their children were associating with Aboriginal children. What is wrong with that? That is exactly the type of comment which leads to racism in our community. It behoves us as adults not to cop such situations in the future.

Another positive aspect to arise from Operation Sweep was that the Fremantle City Council has formed a working group to consider the needs of young people. This group will consider not a structured recreation area, but places where young people can congregate. As young people indicated in the article from which I quoted, all they ask for is a place to go to be themselves and to be trusted. If we as adults are serious about attempting to end youth crime, we must listen to our young people. We should take ourselves back to our years as children. Things may well be different these days. Advances in technology and communications systems mean that young people today



[Tuesday, 7 June 1994]

1037

expect more from us as adults. We must listen to what they want. Their expectations are entirely different from what ours were as children. We cannot ignore this plea from youth. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Sam Piantadosi.

*House adjourned at 9.35 pm*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - CAMPION HEALTH  
SERVICE NEEDS ANALYSIS  
*Curtin-UWA Tender*

17. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Health:

I refer the Minister to the Curtin-UWA tender for the Campion Health Service Needs Analysis -

- (1) Did the Minister give a verbal assurance to members of Rural Growth, a community development group based in the north eastern wheatbelt, that the tender from Curtin-UWA would be considered in spite of some technical problems with the format of that tender?
- (2) Is it correct that the office of the central wheatbelt health region incorrectly advised Dr Bishop that the Curtin-UWA tender could be lodged at that office in Northam?
- (3) Is it correct that one of the technical problems with the Curtin-UWA tender was that it was received two minutes late?
- (4) If yes to part (3), who determined the time of the tenders arrival, and how was the accuracy of the time verified?
- (5) Is it correct that following the verbal assurance given by the Minister that the tender would be considered, Mr Bill Marmion, of the Minister's office, faxed a letter to the regional director of the central wheatbelt health region, on 15 April 1994, assuring the regional director that the Minister would not seek recommencement of the tender process or rule that the tender should be considered?
- (6) How many tenders have been received to perform this analysis?
- (7) Were any of these tenders submitted on the instigation of the Health Department, and if so, which tenders?
- (8) Who will decide on the acceptance of any tender?
- (9) Will the Minister order that the tenders be recalled, or that the Curtin-UWA tender be considered?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No. I did, however, speak to a concerned inquirer and passed on information from the Supply Commission that if the Curtin-UWA tender applicants appealed to the Supply Commission, then that would enable the review committee to look at both tenders pending decision on the appeal. I also said that the appeal would ultimately determine whether the tender would be eligible.
- (2) No. The person who took the call from Dr Bishop had not seen the advertisement. Given that it was the day before the deadline and the regional director was out of the office, Dr Bishop did not want to wait and have his call returned by the regional director. It was agreed by both parties that his safest option was to fax his tender to both the State Supply Commission and the regional office.
- (3) Yes. I reiterate it was only one of the technical problems and probably not the most significant.
- (4) The tender arrived by fax and the date and time of receipt is recorded at the top of the page.
- (5) Mr Bill Marmion of my office did fax a letter to the Regional Director of the Central Wheatbelt Health Region, on 15 April 1994, assuring the regional director that the Minister would not seek recommencement of the

tender process or rule that the tender should be considered. The tender process is conducted by the Supply Commission and the decision rests with it.

- (6) From 21 inquiries, one valid tender was received.
- (7) No.
- (8) The Commissioner of Health, who will engage the tender following advice and recommendation from a locally based reference group.
- (9) No. The tender process is conducted by the State Supply Commission and the decision rests with it.

#### STATE BUDGET - DEFICIT

99. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the report in *The Australian Financial Review* on 28 March 1994 relating to the proposed deficit for Western Australia in which it is stated that based on State Government figures supplied to the Commonwealth for Loan Council allocations, the estimated deficit for 1993-94 is \$185m and the nominated deficit for 1994-95 is \$178m -

- (1) Were these figures supplied to the Commonwealth by the State Government?
- (2) Does it follow that the Government, on these figures, was at that time only planning a reduction of \$7m in the Budget deficit for 1994-95?
- (3) What is the current net financing requirement or Budget deficit for 1994-95?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The estimate for 1994-95, provided for determining the Loan Council allocation, relates to the general government sector, not just the Consolidated Fund, and is the government finance statistics based deficit. The estimate was provided early in the budget process. It does not reflect the range of expenditure and revenue decisions taken for this Budget.
- (3) Both the Budget deficit and the net financing requirement for 1994-95 are currently being determined and will be provided in the Budget papers when the Budget is brought down.

#### STATE BUDGET - NET FINANCING REQUIREMENT

100. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Finance:

What was the net financing requirement for the nine months ending 31 March 1994?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

The net financing requirement on a government finance statistics basis is currently only published on an annual basis.

#### HANSARD - OPERATORS, PARLIAMENT HOUSE *Workers' Compensation for Repetitive Strain Injury Claims*

125. Hon P.R. LIGHTFOOT to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many Hansard operators employed at Parliament House have sought workers' compensation for repetitive strain injury during -
  - (a) the last 10 years; and
  - (b) during the period prior to that?

(2) How many claims, if any, were -

- (a) successful;
- (b) unsuccessful?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1) (a) Seven operators as per following -

Date of accident	Occupation
26/8/84	Hansard typist
18/9/84	Hansard typist
26/9/84	Hansard typist
9/10/84	Hansard typist
25/10/84	Chief Hansard Reporter
30/10/84	Hansard subeditor
21/1/92	Hansard reporter

(b) Four operators as per following -

Date of accident	Occupation
19/8/83	Hansard typist
20/9/83	Hansard typist
20/10/83 x 2	Hansard typist

(2) (a)-(b) All claims were accepted with 10 claimants receiving both weekly payments and medical expenses and one claimant receiving medical expenses only.

The above information has been provided from claims data recorded from the workers' compensation policy of the Joint Printing Committee which has been in effect from 30 June 1977.

#### COMMERCE AND TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF - FINANCIAL RECORDS, COMPUTERISED

166. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) With respect to question on notice 40, are the financial records of the Department of Commerce and Trade computerised?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, why does it require considerable research to answer question 40?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The Minister for Commerce and Trade has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) Details are unable to be supplied on payments to individual media organisations. This information is managed by Media Decisions WA, which won the Government's media contract through public tender.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF - GREENOUGH SHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

##### *Crown Solicitor's Office's Advice*

90. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Local Government:

I have given some notice of this question.

- (1) Did the Minister submit the report of the Department of Local

Government into the Greenough Shire Council to the Crown Solicitor's Office to check whether the publication would expose witnesses to liability for defamation?

- (2) Did the Crown Solicitor's Office then make minimal changes to the report and return it to the Minister?
- (3) Did the Crown Solicitor's Office give advice as to the publication of the revised report?
- (4) If yes, was that advice that the report should not be released?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for notice of this question. The Minister for Local Government has provided the following reply -

(1) Yes.

(2)-(4)

Advice to the Minister from the Department of Local Government, based on advice to it by the Crown Solicitor's Office, was accepted and followed by the Minister. It was important that the council be aware of other matters raised in the report for its good administration. Accordingly, it was proper that the council consider the report, but because of the other issues canvassed in it, it was equally proper for it not to be released.

#### CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF - MANJIMUP DEPOT, CONTRACTING OUT SERVICES; FUTURE

91. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for the Environment:

I have given some notice of this question. With regard to the contracting out of the servicing and repair of equipment for the Manjimup depot of the Department of Conservation and Land Management announced by tender in *The West Australian* of 27 April 1994 -

- (1) When was the decision made to contract out this work?
- (2) Who made the decision?
- (3) Was there any consultation with the workers and the union?
- (4) What are the future plans for the Manjimup depot?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) March 1994.
- (2) Department of Conservation and Land Management corporate executive.
- (3) All mechanics and welders applied for CALM's recent voluntary redundancy scheme.
- (4) It will remain in use for 12 months by district staff for minor servicing and then be reviewed.

#### CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF - DEPOTS, CONTRACTING OUT SERVICES

92. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for the Environment:

I have given some notice of this question. With regard to the decision to contract out the servicing and repair of equipment of the Department of Conservation and Land Management at Manjimup -

- (1) Will the Government be contracting out the services at other CALM depots?
- (2) If yes, which depots?
- (3) Apart from servicing and repair of CALM equipment, are there any other services relating to CALM which the Government is considering contracting out?
- (4) If yes, what are the services?
- (5) What is the Government's intention for those workers in CALM whose employment will be affected by this contracting?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(4) The Department of Conservation and Land Management is presently reviewing its organisational structure to ensure that it is able to service its core responsibilities. As part of this review, workshop functions will be examined. The department will take advantage of services offered by the private sector whenever it is prudent to do so. In various locations, servicing by the private sector has occurred for many years.
- (5) CALM will ensure that its employees are offered alternative opportunities.

#### SWAN PORTLAND CEMENT LTD - FRETTING MORTAR COMPLAINTS *Scientific Advice*

93. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Fair Trading:

I refer to question without notice 1097 which was asked on 29 March 1994 concerning fretting mortar complaints. I ask -

- (1) Has the expert scientific advice determined the cause of the problem?
- (2) If so, will the Minister advise the House of the outcome of that expert advice?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(2)

No, it has not. The scientific expert has suggested a number of possible causes but has not been able to determine which one is responsible for the fretting. We have suggested to the expert that that person should go to the location to see whether there is some clear reason why the fretting occurred. At the moment all we have is a number of possible suggestions, scientifically backed up, but none of which would prove the cause. The biggest problem is that, to the extent that it has been looked at currently, the cause could be attributed to many different factors; for example, where the product was; how it was treated by people who used it; whether it was left overnight before it was applied. There are many occurrences which could explain the outcome. The office is not able to -

Hon Reg Davies: But there is nothing wrong with the product?

Hon PETER FOSS: We would have to eliminate that possibility. Some of the things that have happened could have happened by virtue of the way in which the product was used. That would provide possible causes. Some of those possibilities must be eliminated so that we are left with the only possibility of something else being wrong, that being the problem. To do

that, evidence must be gathered from a number of sites. The laboratory tests have been able to establish that a perfectly legitimate product could be dealt with in a number of ways to get the same result. All that proves, I suppose, is that the fretting could have occurred for different reasons. The expert really needs to go out of the laboratory and onto the sites to gain evidence which will eliminate some of the possibilities.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Has that not been done?

Hon PETER FOSS: No. The expert looked for the cause in the laboratory and that has only shown a number of possible causes. My department is talking to Fremlag to get a number of sites so that what has been found in the laboratory can be compared with what is found on the site, and to see whether some of the possibilities can be eliminated.

Hon Reg Davies interjected.

Hon PETER FOSS: That is one of the things that the expert is asking Fremlag for. It had been hoped that the laboratory tests would have eliminated use as the cause. Unfortunately, the tests have only confirmed the possibility of use as the cause.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Bad product!

Hon PETER FOSS: That is not what has been shown in the laboratory; it has not been eliminated either. The laboratory tests have shown only that it is quite possible to achieve all of those possibilities from the way in which the product was used on the building site. That is not terribly helpful for someone wanting to sue the manufacturer, but it gives an indication of the practices which are available to eliminate possibilities in order to establish whether something is wrong with the product.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: Perhaps you can prepare a deal with the subcontractors so that the work can be done better.

Hon PETER FOSS: I am not saying that. The work done to date has been done in the laboratory. The results from that work show that to get that outcome, fretting could have occurred in a number of possible ways, many being related to the way in which the product was used.

It has been alleged by the people who are interested in this matter that the fundamental problem is with the product and not the way in which it was used. If we want to pin responsibility on somebody, we must be able to pin it either on the contractor, by showing the fault was caused by the way in which the product was used, or on the producer, by showing that the product was faulty. To date the laboratory tests have shown only that the fretting could very definitely have been caused by the way in which the product was used. We must now look at particular cases and use the laboratory results to see whether we can establish that the fretting was a result of someone's method of use or some other factor.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR - MIRRABOOKA DIVISION, WORKLOAD ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

94. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Community Development:

- (1) Have the staff members at the Mirrabooka division of the Department for Community Development written to the chief executive officer, Mr Bob Fisher, seeking assistance to overcome their huge workloads?
- (2) If yes, does the chief executive officer intend to take action to relieve the stress on this group of workers?
- (3) If yes, what form of action is contemplated?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

The Minister for Community Development has provided the following answer -

(1)-(2)

Yes.

(3) A number of initiatives have been examined by the executive of the department.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR - CHILD ABUSE**  
*Allegations, Priority Factors; Low Priority Cases, Investigations*

95. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Community Development:

I have given some notice of this question. In relation to a report in *The West Australian* newspaper on 1 June 1994 in which the Minister said that there were 28 reported cases of child abuse not being investigated because they had been a low priority -

- (1) Can the Minister indicate how cases of child abuse are prioritised?
- (2) Have the 28 cases to which he referred as low priority now been investigated?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

The answer to the question has been provided by the Minister for Community Development.

- (1) Child abuse allegations are categorised according to immediacy and severity of risk. A range of factors is considered in determining the risk, including age of child, severity of injury, likelihood of recurrence of injury, and whether the child can be protected within the family. All allegations are important, but the categorisation by professional staff determines the priority of response.
- (2) All investigations have not yet been completed.
- (3) Investigations are continuing as quickly as possible to complete these allegations and other high risk allegations being received. It should be noted that resources to child protection work have been substantially increased by the Court Government, when compared to those allocated by the previous government. In the period 1988-89 to 1992-93 the previous government actually reduced the department's budget by \$4.5m in real terms allowing for the consumer price index and population growth. In the same period, average employment in the department fell by 10.6 per cent. While this was happening, allegations of child abuse increased by more than 200 per cent and calls to the crisis care unit on abuse in families increased by more than 400 per cent. So, while the workload was increasing dramatically, the previous government effectively allocated fewer resources to the problem at the end of its term than it did at the beginning of it.

Since this Government took office it has reallocated 20 positions from head office to field work and created the position of senior social work supervisor in each district. Although this does not add to the total departmental numbers, it does enhance quality control and ensure that the best use is made of experienced staff. We have also seen the introduction of a new training program for field staff



and production of a new case work manual. Currently under investigation within the department is a wide range of options for further strengthening the child care and protection program. These include contracting people to undertake some of the work, creating a pool of trained people who would be available as needed, and reorganising district boundaries to spread the workload more evenly.

**HOSPITALS - SUNSET**  
*Spears and Wade Lodge, Renovations*

96. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to Sunset Hospital and ask -

- (1) Is the Spears and Wade Lodge being renovated, including new curtains and painting?
- (2) If yes, who supplied the funds for these renovations?
- (3) Does this activity indicate that the Minister has made a decision not to close the hospital and relocate its residents?
- (4) I refer the Minister to a previous question I asked when he answered that he would visit the facility and canvass the views of residents, and ask whether the Minister has visited and canvassed the residents' views?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(3)

I have no knowledge of what has happened at the Spears and Wade Lodge, and it does not indicate anything.

- (4) I have not visited the hospital. I shall when I have a proposal to put to the people there. Until such time as a proposal is ready and I can canvass their views, I will not go.

Hon Reg Davies: You have not made up your mind whether they will be relocated or not?

Hon PETER FOSS: No.

**CARR, DAVID - CONSULTANT, MINISTER FOR PLANNING'S PORTFOLIO**

97. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is a consultant, Mr David Carr, currently employed on any projects connected with the Minister's portfolio area?
- (2) If yes, what are these projects?
- (3) If yes, what remuneration is Mr Carr receiving?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1) No.

(2)-(3)

Not applicable.

**CARR, DAVID - RESIGNATION, SOUTH WEST PLANNING COMMITTEE**

98. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has Mr David Carr resigned as a member of the south west planning committee, a statutory body involved in planning decisions in the south west of the state?
- (2) Did Mr Carr tender his resignation because of conflict of interest with his

employment as a consultant for the Government and property developers in the south west?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No formal reason has been given, although the Minister for Planning was made aware of his intention to become a consultant in the area.

**CARR, DAVID - CONSULTANT, MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S PORTFOLIO**

99. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is a consultant, Mr David Carr, currently employed on any projects in the Minister's portfolio area?
- (2) If yes, what are these projects?
- (3) If yes, what remuneration is Mr Carr receiving?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

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

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRAM (JOBLINK) - FUNDING**

100. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the employment equity program currently has 29 projects operating throughout the state and that these projects have collectively assisted 200 000 unemployed Western Australians since the program's inception in 1984?
- (2) Is he aware that in the 1992-93 funding period these projects assisted more than 19 000 unemployed people and had a success rate in excess of 60 per cent?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware that in this period the projects attracted more than \$9m of direct and indirect federal funds while costing the state only \$3.5m?
- (4) Given that the rumoured funding cuts to the program are causing great concern to the unemployed and others concerned with these projects, will the Minister give an assurance that the program is not under threat?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(4) The program is being assessed in the context of the White Paper delivered by the Federal Government and initiatives contained in it which relate to the sorts of activities undertaken within these projects. It was deemed to be an appropriate time to assess the way in which the programs are operated and funded to ensure that there is a set of programs complementary to those in the White Paper. It is not intended to cut the funding but to ensure it is properly focused on those areas which are most important.

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRAM (JOBLINK) - CHANGES**

101. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Can the Minister advise whether a project team within the Department of Employment and Training has been examining issues concerned with the operation and funding of the employment equity program and/or other employment related programs and has prepared an options document from which formal guidelines were to be derived?

- (2) Is the Minister aware that such guidelines were to be made available to the projects two weeks prior to a Department of Employment and Training employment projects conference - originally scheduled for 18 May and now postponed until 14 June - so that project committees and staff could be consulted prior to any final decisions being made?
- (3) Since the rescheduled conference is now only one week away, can he inform the House if there are any formal guidelines or plans to change the program and whether there is to be the promised consultation with these community based projects?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1)-(4)

As I just explained to the member, the projects are being assessed in the context of the Federal Government's White Paper which, as members will know, is largely related to an attempt to do something about unemployment in Australia. The whole area in which the State Government is involved is being assessed in that context, so that it makes sure the funds it spends are focused on directions where they are most needed, to avoid any duplication of activity or effort. When the decisions are made an announcement will be made. No decisions have been made. There may be a group of people working on this, which would be quite in line with my understanding of the reasons for the reassessment; that is, the White Paper. As soon as decisions have been made, following consultation with those involved, any necessary changes will be made.

#### HOSPITALS - SUNSET

*Mordant, Kerry, Only Relocation Brief*

102. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to Sunset Hospital. Was Mrs Kerry Mordant given a brief detailing only relocation and not other options; for example, part demolition and upgrading of existing facilities? Was she given a brief only to relocate residents?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Mrs Kerry Mordant has only that role and has not a role to look at other options. It would be inappropriate for her to be involved in that as it is not her role at all.

#### HOSPITALS - SUNSET

*Part Demolition or Upgrading*

103. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

As a follow up question to the previous one, are other consultants looking at the other issues of part demolition or upgrading the facility?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

No.

#### OUR HEALTH OUR FUTURE - PRINTER; COST

104. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Health:

In relation to the full colour, glossy pamphlet entitled *Our Health Our Future* distributed to every house in Bunbury, Eaton and Australind last week -

- (1) Who produced this pamphlet?
- (2) What did the pamphlet cost to produce?

(3) What were the distribution costs?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The Bunbury Hospital Ministerial Technical Advisory Committee.
- (2) Photography costs, \$175.20; graphic design costs, \$300; print costs, \$6 265.75.
- (3) Distribution costs \$969.40.

**HOSPITALS - BUNBURY REGIONAL**  
*Board, Appointment Process*

105. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Health:

What process will the Minister follow in appointing the health management board for the new Bunbury Regional Hospital? I hope that it is better than the one followed by the Minister for Mines.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member should just ask questions and not make comments.

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I will use the same basis I use to appoint boards for all the major hospitals. Firstly, I try to find a suitable chairman. As I indicated in Bunbury, I hope that might be Dr Tom Cortee. Secondly, I take the advice of people in the area, especially the person whom I would hope to be the chairman. Thirdly, I seek opinions of people who are prepared to put forward names. I would be happy if members of this Parliament would suggest names to me. I do not guarantee that I will accept them all. If any person can give me the name of a person who can contribute to the board, I would be grateful for the suggestion.

**PUBLIC SERVICE - LABOR VOTERS, DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

106. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Minister for Fair Trading:

Further to question on notice 367 in the name of Hon Iain MacLean in today's Supplementary Notice Paper, is the Government considering the introduction of a policy that discriminates against suspected Labor voters who are employed in the Public Service?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I am not quite sure what this question is further to and I cannot see whether it is further to anything that has anything to do with me.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: If you read the question, we were wondering whether you could enlighten us as to your intentions.

Hon PETER FOSS: Obviously we are not considering such a policy, but I am not the person to ask. I beg the member's pardon; I am the Minister for Labour Relations at the moment. No, we are not considering it.

**ELECTIONS - NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
*Local Members' Assistance*

107. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Leader of the House:

As the Leader of the House is no doubt aware, a number of members of Parliament assisted with electioneering in the Northern Territory last week. Could he enlighten us as to the effect that that assistance had on the Northern Territory election, particularly on the result in the seat of Victoria River?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

Last week, I received a media release headed "Labor imports WA minder" which stated -

CLP President Gary Nairn says the Labor Party has imported a Western Australian Labor politician to campaign for the seat of Victoria River.

It went on -

This is another clear signal that Labor locally is reliant on its southern connection.

It went on to detail the exploits of one of our members in that area.

I do not want to say that I let things ride last week, but it became obvious to me by about Thursday that a couple of our members had not graced the House for a while. I am quite sure that they were on parliamentary business elsewhere. However, it was interesting today to receive a call of appreciation from a senior member of the Country-Liberal Party in the Northern Territory. He said, "Did you get that press release last week?" I said, "Yes. You appeared a bit upset."

Hon T.G. Butler: Did he want to tell you how successful the racial campaign was?

Hon GEORGE CASH: Let me finish this answer before I deal with that question.

He said, "It is pretty obvious that we were a bit upset that some of your people were up here helping out the Labor people." He was referring to some alleged members of this House. I said, "What is the purpose of your call?" He said, "I just want to thank you, because one of your members was escorting one of the Labor candidates, Gary Cartwright, around a remote electorate. The good news is that the harder your member worked, the more our Country-Liberal Party member gained in the polls. I am absolutely delighted that you sent him up, because the good news is that Tim Baldwin, the Country-Liberal Party member, is now the new member for Victoria River." I said, "How did our member manage to do that? He is meant to be working for the Labor Party and it seems that it worked in reverse." He said that it appeared that our member was fairly aggressive towards some of the Aboriginal community up there and they took the view that he was an imported southerner who really was not offering a lot of assistance in that area. It annoyed them to the extent that they voted for the Country-Liberal Party. He said, "Next time, if you would be good enough to send a few more, we could probably win a few more seats."

#### MEDICAL BOARD OF WA - REGISTRAR

108. Hon SAM PLANTADOSI to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are there any provisions in the Medical Act 1894 for the Medical Board of Western Australia to appoint an acting registrar or deputy registrar?
- (2) Who is currently the registrar of the Medical Board of Western Australia?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) This question is seeking a legal opinion.
- (2) Mr Bradbury.

#### GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE - GERALDTON CONSULTANT

109. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

With regard to the consultant appointed to meet the Government's media needs in Geraldton and the mid west -

- (1) Will the Minister provide the House with the job description for this position?
- (2) Will the Minister describe the types of activities, including actual examples, that the consultant is involved in?

- (3) What is the breakdown of the costs of running this service?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Premier has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

The Geraldton consultant is required to provide media services to the Government, including monitoring, and to assist with ministerial requirements in the Geraldton and mid west region.

- (3) The contract price of \$40 000 plus costs is all inclusive. It is part of the Government's policy of using the private sector where the service can be provided more cheaply than by government. The member will be aware that the Government closed the Geraldton office of the Ministry of the Mid-West, which had a staff of three, including a media officer. As a result of these considerable savings, the Government will be able to provide a better service for far less cost.

#### YAMATJI PATROL - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

110. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Community Development:

Some notice has been given of this question. Will the Minister advise whether the Yamatji Patrol, which has been such a success in Geraldton, will continue to receive funding from the Government?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

The Minister for Community Development has provided the following reply -

The Yamatji Patrol does not receive funding from the Department for Community Development.

#### PARKING - WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY SCHEME

*Minister for Transport's Decision*

111. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Transport:

Given that approval has been given to a parking control scheme in Subiaco, when will the Minister make a decision on the residential parking scheme for the West Leederville-Wembley area submitted by the City of Perth 12 months ago?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. As Minister for Transport, I am responsible under the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act for defined parking activities in the City of Perth, currently including the West Leederville and Wembley areas. However, I have no direct responsibility for nor control over parking arrangements in other local government areas, including the City of Subiaco.

Parking difficulties being experienced by residents in the vicinity of Subiaco Oval were examined in the Subiaco Oval social impact study. The access and parking control strategies promoted by that study were given an opportunity to successfully address the kerb side parking problems in the area. In this regard, council undertook a trial of the effectiveness of the park 'n' ride strategy which included the provision of free parking at selected council car parks in conjunction with reduced public transport fares to get to the oval. It is significant that the percentage of Subiaco Oval football game patrons using public transport increased from 8 per cent to over 16 per cent in 1993. That was effective

at that time and various organisations should consider where else it can be applied. A continuation of this success may provide a basis for addressing the access and parking requirements of Subiaco Oval.

Notwithstanding this limited public transport achievement, council's review has indicated that in the absence of kerb side parking restrictions in the vicinity of Subiaco Oval, alternative access strategies based on the park 'n' ride principle are unlikely to achieve a high level of success. In developing a successful peak event access strategy it would be highly desirable for control measures to operate consistently and supportively in the City of Perth and the City of Subiaco. In pursuit of this objective I am consulting with my colleague the Minister for Local Government prior to making a decision about prospective kerb side parking subscriptions in the area surrounding Subiaco Oval. I have discussed this matter with the West Australian Football Commission. I have also met with other people who are interested in this issue in an attempt to resolve the area's problem.

**TAFE - AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES**  
*New Model, "Integrated" and "Autonomous"*

112. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Education:

The Minister has described the new model of technical and further education colleges as "integrated" and "autonomous". Given that the *Macquarie Dictionary* defines "integrated" as whole and harmonious, and "autonomous" as self-governing, independent, and subject to its own laws, will the Minister explain how independent colleges under the Colleges Act are supposed to respond to what appears to be a contradiction in terms?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The model that has been put forward for consideration is yet to be finalised. The model that was produced is for public consideration. I have received a number of submissions from a variety of people including the Hedland College, an independent college, and I am taking on board the views of people involved in the TAFE sector. The term "integrated autonomous colleges" is quite logical when one considers the requirements of the Australian National Training Authority agreement, which was entered into by my predecessor, requiring this state to have a state training profile. It requires an integrated, statewide response to the strategic needs of Western Australia. Therefore, there needs to be a proper relationship between the colleges to ensure that the state can deliver what it is required to under the ANTA agreement. From the point of view of that obligation a need exists for an integrated college system. Within that system it is legitimate to have independent and/or autonomous colleges operating on a day to day basis under their own decision making process, but at the same time being required to meet their obligations under the ANTA agreement. I must explain to Hon Tom Helm when we have half an hour to spare -

Hon Tom Helm: You said that months ago and I am still waiting.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not think Hon Tom Helm or many of his colleagues understand the agreement into which Hon Kay Hallahan entered on behalf of this state under the ANTA agreement. The agreement requires that Western Australia determine a statewide strategic plan for training in this state. The State Training Board has been set up to provide that plan. That must be agreed to by ANTA before any funds can be obtained from the Commonwealth for training in this state. I am obliged to ensure that a statewide plan exists and, once that is agreed to by ANTA, to ensure that the autonomous colleges - they are autonomous because we believe that is the best way to manage them - are then required to deliver the programs

that are part of the state training profile. I am seeking to provide the maximum degree of independence or autonomy - whichever word one cares to use - to the college system to enable it to respond better to local needs and to have a better management structure within the constraints provided for by the ANTA agreement.

Hon Tom Helm: Limited autonomy?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I would like to give them total and absolute freedom to do all the things they want. I was part of a government that set up the independent colleges in the north in the first place. I draw to members' attention that the then shadow Minister for Education, Mr Pearce, in the pre-election period prior to the 1983 election vowed and declared to get rid of the independent colleges. It is interesting that Opposition members are now significant supporters of that system.

Hon Tom Helm: I was then.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I believe that independent colleges are the way to go. However, within the constraints that I now find myself, there may be some requirement when the model is finalised for a little less independence, given the requirements of the ANTA agreement. That is the only constraint I have, and is a constraint I would not have put on Western Australia had I been the Minister at the time.

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