

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: As the Minister has said, these amendments were initially proposed and moved in this House. Strangely enough, however, they were opposed by the Government and consequently we were unable to have them inserted in the Bill. I am pleased to see, however, that when the Bill reached the other place it was decided that the arguments put forward by members of my party were obviously correct at the time and the Government has now seen fit to accept the proposals. I am pleased to support the amendments moved by the Assembly.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendments agreed to.

#### *Report*

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

### **DENTAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (Lower West) [5.12 p.m.]: One would wish that all Bills were as simple as this which contains an obvious correction of an error made when the legislation was before us in 1972.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East—Minister for Local Government) [5.13 p.m.]: I thank Mr. MacKinnon for his support of the Bill and I commend the second reading.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Co-operative, aren't we?

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.*

## **Legislative Assembly**

Thursday, the 4th October, 1973

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

### **BUDGET**

#### *Photographing of Premier on Delivery*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton): I wish to advise members that I have given permission to *The West Australian* to take a photograph of the Premier delivering the Budget.

### **HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

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

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (2ND.)**

#### *Third Reading*

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

### **ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

#### *Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

#### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. J. T. TONKIN** (Melville—Treasurer) [11.10 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I have pleasure in presenting the Budget for 1973-74.

When introducing last year's Budget, I commented that it had been framed in a difficult economic and financial climate. Our financial problems have not lessened, but it is gratifying to record that the State economy has moved out of the doldrums and that we are on the threshold of another extended period of development and economic growth.

I also said at this time last year that there was little satisfaction to be drawn from a survey of the State economy in the past year. Such has been the turn of economic events that on this occasion I can take considerable satisfaction from a review of economic performance in 1972-73.

#### **The Economy**

During the past year there was a marked resurgence in most sectors of the economy and current indicators point to a healthy growth situation in the year ahead. Highlights of economic activity in Western Australia during 1972-73 were—

continued strong recovery in the rural sector, led by rising prices and increased demand for wheat, wool, and beef;

a revival in mining, particularly of iron ore, where increased world demand has led to a stepping up of production rates and an acceleration of expansion programmes, contrasting with the

uncertainty that faced the industry a year ago;

- a transformation in the labour market, with a halving of unemployment and vacancies now at the highest August level for four years. From a high point of 2.91 per cent. in July, 1972, unemployment fell to 1.88 per cent. of the work force by June this year and is currently down to 1.38 per cent.;
- a rise of 3.2 per cent. in civilian employment during the year and a population increase of 15,218 to bring State population at the end of June, 1973, to an estimated 1,068,400;
- a progressively strong increase in home building, leading to record levels for house commencements and approvals in the June quarter;
- a welcome improvement in manufacturing activity, with employment in secondary industry increasing by 1.4 per cent. in 1972-73, as opposed to a fall of 2 per cent. in the previous year.

In brief, these were some of the more notable achievements in the economy in the past 12 months but further comment on performance and expectations in some sectors is warranted.

### The Rural Situation

The year 1972-73 was one of continued recovery in the rural sector and, with buoyant markets predicted for all major commodities, further records are likely to be achieved in the current year.

The net value of rural production in 1972-73 reached a record level of \$417,000,000, representing a gain of 30.9 per cent. on the previous year.

Following a number of years of over-supply, the wheat situation has completely reversed, so much so that, with world stocks at their lowest level in two decades, a global deficit of around 330,000,000 bushels has been predicted for 1973-74.

In 1972-73, wheat production in Western Australia amounted to only 73,600,000 bushels, compared with the State's quota of 95,000,000 bushels.

The quota for the current season has been raised substantially to 112,600,000 bushels, with provision for acceptance of certain amounts above this level if necessary. There are good indications that, with continuing favourable seasonal conditions, the wheat harvest could be a record 130,000,000 bushels.

With the possibility of a record wheat crop and world prices very much higher than they were a year ago, wheatgrowers can look forward to a very favourable season.

Mr. Gayfer: It would have been higher had it not been for revaluation.

Mr. Taylor: It will be good enough.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am blamed for almost everything that happens, but I do not see any basis for blaming me for that. To continue: The element most responsible for the improved rural situation in 1972-73 was the welcome lift in wool prices.

Although the Western Australian wool clip fell by more than 18 per cent. to 138,200,000 kilos, the gross value rose by almost 62 per cent. to \$218,000,000. The average price per kilo for 1972-73 was 122 per cent. above that of the previous year.

Prices rose rapidly from July, 1972, reaching a peak average in March of this year of 245.3c per kilo for greasy wool. This compares with an average for 1972-73 of 160.8c. At the end of August, the overall average price of greasy wool on the Australian market was around 221c per kilo.

With continuing strong demand from traditional overseas buyers it can be expected that good price levels will be maintained and that wool producers will experience another excellent season.

The other major influence on the rural economy during 1972-73 was the rapid rise in meat prices and increased export opportunities brought about by increased world demand and short supplies.

Rising beef prices as a result of shortages on domestic markets led to a number of major importers, notably the United States of America, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Economic Community group, lifting import quotas or lowering tariff barriers with the aim of increasing the flow of supplies to their markets.

The gross value of all livestock slaughtered rose by nearly 35 per cent. in 1972-73 to \$95,100,000. Given current market conditions, further growth in the year ahead should be assured.

### Mining

Following successive years of rapid growth, the mining industry faced some problems in 1972.

As a result of depressed markets for several of our major minerals and reduced returns due to the U.S. dollar devaluation of December, 1971, the total value of mineral production in 1972 increased by only 0.3 per cent.

Declines in the value of production of iron ore, nickel, petroleum, and mineral sands were offset by increases in the value of natural gas, alumina, and gold produced.

In spite of a further currency realignment, a return to a healthy growth situation can be expected for this current calendar year.

Statistics for the first six months of the year, when projected to full year figures, indicate an increase in the total value of mineral production for 1973 of 8.3 per cent.

This projected increase is, however, regarded as minimal, for the six-monthly figures on which it is based do not fully reflect the substantial price concessions granted by the Japanese in respect of iron ore contracts and the greatly accelerated world-wide demand for iron ore and other minerals.

The remarkable recovery of the Japanese steel industry has resulted in an early resumption of expansion programmes by Western Australian iron ore companies, which will mean a substantial boost to production in the year ahead and beyond.

Adding to the renewed Japanese requirements the demand pressure from Europe and other sources for both ore and pellets, it is clear that growth prospects for this sector of the mining industry are very bright. Prospects for alumina also appear to be picking up rapidly.

### Building

For the building industry, 1972-73 was a year of steadily rising activity.

The housing sector moved ahead strongly with house completions at 13,766, showing an increase of 3.6 per cent. over the previous year. This level of completions is only marginally short of the record achieved in 1969-70.

Flat construction, however, continued to decline with completions reaching a level of only 942 units, which was well below the 1,595 units constructed in 1971-72.

The remainder of the building industry virtually maintained its performance of the previous year. The value of completions of buildings other than houses and flats totalled \$151,500,000 in 1972-73, representing only a slight increase over 1971-72. While the growth rate may have been small, the actual value of work completed was significant in comparison with recent years.

The current situation in the building industry is highlighted by a high level of activity in the housing sector.

Throughout 1972-73 the quarterly numbers of permits and approvals issued for houses were consistently well above those of the previous year.

The SPEAKER: Order! I must ask members to be quiet.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: This trend culminated in June quarter approvals in 1973 reaching 4,720, which was one-third higher than in the corresponding period of 1972 and a clear all-time record.

Similarly, figures for housing commencements depict what can only be described as boom conditions in the sector. During the June quarter, 4,783 houses were commenced

representing a 46 per cent. increase over the same quarter in the previous year. Again this was an all-time high.

With home-building running at such a high rate it would perhaps be timely for me to sound a warning that current construction rates appear to be in excess of requirements arising from population increase.

The building industry is particularly prone to periodic high building rates in response to peaks of demand which outrun long-term requirements. As recent experience has demonstrated, such bursts of activity are invariably followed by a slacker period as balance is restored.

There is little the industry can do but respond to demand as it arises but it is as well for us to realise that in the long run, housing needs are governed by population factors and a more stable growth rate is in the best interests of all concerned.

The new measures introduced at the Federal level in relation to interest rates are expected to have some dampening effect on building activity. However, in the light of present trends and the industry's vulnerability to over-supply, some slowing down of the current demand for new houses could be of advantage to the industry in the longer term.

### Wages and Prices

Preliminary figures for 1972-73 show that average weekly earnings in Western Australia rose by 5.8 per cent.

A more accurate picture of the trend in average weekly earnings is provided by quarterly data. During 1972-73 the increases in each quarter, compared with the same period in the previous year, moved progressively upward being 2.6 per cent., 3.1 per cent., 5.9 per cent., and 11.1 per cent. respectively.

While the high increase in the June quarter reflects the national and State basic wage decisions, it also reflects the improved conditions in industry.

The Department of Labour's survey of factories shows that the percentage of employees working overtime rose from 46.3 per cent. in June, 1972, to 53.4 per cent. in June this year, and that the average overtime hours worked increased from 3.6 to 4.4 over the same period.

Prices continued to rise at a relatively fast rate during 1972-73, with the Consumer Price Index for Perth recording an increase of 5.5 per cent.

While this represented a slight fall from the 1971-72 increase of 5.8 per cent., it was significantly higher than the annual average for the last five years of 4.3 per cent., which in itself is above what we have traditionally come to regard as an acceptable rate of increase in prices.

A most disturbing feature was the movement of the index in the last half of 1972-73. In the March and June quarters

the increases were 2 per cent. and 2.8 per cent. respectively. The latter, if maintained, represents a formidable annual rate of 11.2 per cent.

These figures clearly illustrate the unhealthy inflationary situation we are now facing and emphasise the need for a concerted effort on the part of Government, business, and the community at large to reduce price increases to a more acceptable level.

### Prospects for 1973-74 and Beyond

The general outlook for the year ahead is excellent.

Western Australia has weathered the economic downturn which affected the nation as a whole and there is every reason for optimism as to future prospects. All sectors of the economy have experienced upturns and are looking forward to growth from trends now firmly established.

Given the current healthy climate of our economy, I am confident of a resumption of broadly based capital investment which will set the pattern of growth for many years to come.

As was the case in our recent development phase, the mining industry is leading the way in the investment field. I refer to the following—

Mt. Newman Mining Company has expansion programmes in progress to raise capacity to 35,000,000 tons per annum by mid 1974.

Work on a \$10,000,000 expansion of the Cliffs (Robe River) project has started one year ahead of schedule.

Hamersley Iron is currently expanding the capacity of its Dampier pellet plant from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 tons per annum. This could form part of a large expansion project now under consideration as a joint venture with the Japanese steel mills, which could involve two additional plants, each of 3,000,000 tons per annum and a further investment of \$150,000,000.

In addition the company has renewed its deferred expansion programmes at Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

Goldsworthy Mining Ltd. is actively planning for a major increase in production capacity and a possible move into pelletising.

Other iron ore companies which have concluded agreements with the Government are poised, awaiting the outcome of sales negotiations and feasibility studies, before commencing development.

Construction of Alcoa's \$20,000,000 third production unit at Pinjarra is well under way and should be completed by the end of 1974.

Alwest-B.H.P. should complete the final proving and engineering studies for a new alumina refinery in the Collie area by the end of this year. This project, together with the \$11,000,000 wood chipping industry at Manjimup, which has recently been given approval to proceed, should provide a welcome boost to the south-west region.

Poseldon's development at Windarra is well advanced, with delivery of nickel concentrates scheduled for next August.

Texada mines has let major contracts for the construction of a \$6,000,000 potash plant at Lake MacLeod.

A. V. Jennings is investing \$10,500,000 to produce heavy minerals at Eneabba.

B.H.P. is actively engaged in studying the prospects for the construction of a jumbo steel plant on the west coast. An announcement regarding its intentions is expected within a few months.

Potential development of the northern offshore gas deposits is encouraging, as are associated prospects for at least one oil desulphurising refinery in the Pilbara and for the construction of offshore platforms at a site still to be determined.

Sir Charles Court: You should rewrite that paragraph.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I do not think there is any need to rewrite it.

Sir Charles Court: Change the tense.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: If the Leader of the Opposition will be a little patient instead of talking about confiscation, he will realise how off the beam he is.

Sir Charles Court: We have seen enough today to realise we are right on the ball. You should have rewritten the paragraph in the past tense.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Western Australia is commencing a new development phase which will assure a resumption of high growth rates over a broader base than in the past.

The task is no longer one of searching out investment and initiating growth. The lure of our natural resources is such that investment opportunities abound and there is no lack of entrepreneurs seeking to take advantage of them. Economic growth is assured.

The challenge before us now is one of ensuring the resources in men and materials to underpin the investment programme and to so manage our affairs that the quality of life for all Western Australians is enhanced and not diminished by the new industrial phase that we are entering.

### Financial Results for 1972-73

Transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund during 1972-73 resulted in a deficit for the year of \$3,490,000. At the time last year's Budget was presented, the estimates indicated a deficit of \$5,077,000 but, due to a combination of circumstances, we were able to improve on the forecast to the extent of \$1,600,000.

As I explained when introducing the Supply Bill earlier in this session, expenditure for the year exceeded the estimate by \$2,800,000, but this deterioration was more than offset by improved revenue collections which were \$4,400,000 higher than had been anticipated.

We were fortunate that the upswing in the economy during the year resulted in revenue from State sources, particularly from stamp duties and mining, substantially exceeding the estimates and offsetting the shortfall in Commonwealth revenue grants which proved to be \$2,900,000 less than the amount originally forecast.

### Funding Deficits

A deficit on revenue fund transactions must be made up in some way. It is no different from the situation that arises in our personal accounts when we spend in a year more than we earn. The additional money has to come from somewhere either by borrowing or by drawing on savings.

The Government is in exactly the same position. If expenditure during the year exceeds its income, the resulting cash deficiency must be funded from one source or another.

In recent years it has been possible to clear Consolidated Revenue Fund deficits from moneys earned by the investment of the State's cash resources on the short-term money market.

Since the passage by Parliament of the Public Moneys Investment Act in 1961 the Treasury has developed procedures for investing all cash resources surplus to immediate requirements. With careful management, the flow of funds in and out of the Treasury results in a level of cash balances in the Government account which can be invested for short periods until required. The interest earned on these investments is a supplementary form of income to the Government which varies from year to year according to the level of our cash balances and the prevailing interest rate for short-term funds.

At the 30th June, 1973, there was an accumulated balance of earnings from these investments of \$8,700,000 of which \$4,400,000 has since been applied to funding the 1971-72 and 1972-73 deficits. The remaining sum of \$4,300,000 is being taken to revenue in this current year and is included in the Budget.

Members will be interested to note that as a result of this policy of carefully investing our cash balances on the short-term money market, a total of slightly more than \$26,300,000 has been earned from this source since the Public Moneys Investment Act became law in 1961. Of this sum, the Consolidated Revenue Fund has directly benefited to the extent of \$11,200,000, deficits amounting in aggregate to \$8,900,000 have been funded, and State business undertakings have received some \$6,200,000.

With the clearance of the deficits for 1971-72 and 1972-73, I can report that all past deficits on the Consolidated Revenue Fund have now been funded and we move into 1973-74 with a clean slate.

Sir Charles Court: That is due to the action taken in 1961, which is good to note.

Mr. Rushton: There is nothing new in that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: That does not alter the fact that we are moving into the future with a clean slate.

Sir Charles Court: We are pleased to see it; I am just reminding you that it is due to the action taken in 1961.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I bet it is hard for the Leader of the Opposition to say that he is pleased to see it, because my experience is that he is not very pleased to see anything.

Sir Charles Court: I am pleased to see it because of the decision we took in 1961. That is all I am trying to say to you.

### Budget 1973-74

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I now turn to the Budget for 1973-74.

As each year passes the task of framing a State Budget becomes more complex, more beset with uncertainties.

The demand for new or expanded services to the public continues unabated. The Government is in sympathy with many of these demands, particularly in the fields of education, health, and community welfare. I believe I can claim that we have made many forward moves of real benefit to the people of this State during the last two years.

Provision is made in the present Budget for further advances which will improve the quality of life for the many people who must look to the Government to assist them to achieve their rightful place in the community.

However, few forward moves can be made without the expenditure of money and State Governments are increasingly constrained in what they can do for the community by their lack of financial resources and the increasing inflation of costs.

Each year the cost of providing existing services escalates at a greater rate than the revenue available to us. Each year the margin from which we can finance new developments shrinks appreciably.

Undoubtedly the greatest problem facing State Governments is how to cope with rapid increases in wage costs with revenue resources that do not respond to inflationary trends to the degree necessary to preserve financial stability.

When in June last we reviewed our Budget prospects for the current year, it was apparent that we faced an even more difficult financial situation than at the same time a year earlier. The problem of how to cope with increased costs was difficult enough but it was accentuated by the prospective loss of \$6,500,000 in general revenue grants payable to this State by the Commonwealth in 1972-73 which, under the then existing arrangements, would not be available to us in 1973-74.

This matter and subsequent developments at the June Premiers' Conference warrant some explanation before I proceed with details of the Budget.

#### Commonwealth Revenue Grants

Most members will recollect the wrangle that occurred at the June, 1970, Premiers' Conference over the treatment of the \$15,500,000 special additional grant which Western Australia had received since ceasing to be a claimant State.

At that conference, the then Prime Minister announced that the Commonwealth Government had decided to discontinue the payment claiming that Western Australia's financial position had improved sufficiently to justify this action. My predecessor, Sir David Brand, resisted this move most strongly and clearly felt that it represented a breach of the undertaking given him two years earlier.

It was some time before the disagreement was finally resolved and, with considerable reluctance on our part, we finally settled on an arrangement whereby the \$15,500,000 additional grant would be reduced by \$3,000,000 a year, commencing in 1970-71, accompanied by a corresponding increase in our semi-governmental borrowing allocation in recognition of our special needs in that area.

Under this arrangement the additional grant had been progressively reduced to \$6,500,000 in 1972-73 and was due to be further reduced to \$3,500,000 this year.

Whatever justification there may have been in 1970 for the claim that Western Australia's financial position had improved since we ceased to be a claimant State, that claim could not be sustained today.

With the enormously increased salaries bills that all States have had to absorb since 1970, it is clear that our position has

completely altered since that time. We are in no position to continue enduring an annual deduction of \$3,000,000 from our revenue grants when we are so vitally dependent on a substantial rate of growth in those grants to have any chance at all of making ends meet.

However pressing our capital problems may have been, our revenue fund difficulties are now far more acute. Consequently I put it to the conference that it was time this "put and take" arrangement was ended and that we should rule off the page after 1972-73. I am pleased to report that I was able to obtain agreement to this proposal with the result that our revenue grants will be higher by \$3,000,000 in 1973-74 and \$6,000,000 next year than would have been the case if the arrangement made in 1970 had run its course.

I was also concerned at the prospect of Western Australia losing \$3,500,000 in special assistance that had been paid to us last year because of the special problems we faced in relation to mining revenue following the devaluation of the U.S. dollar and the cut back in iron ore purchases by Japan.

Although that assistance had been provided in the form of a non-recurring grant, it was clear that the problems we faced this year were even greater than at the beginning of 1972-73 and that in moving into 1973-74, we could not afford to drop \$3,500,000 in revenue. I therefore pressed for retention of this extra assistance and I am pleased to report that the Prime Minister agreed that an additional temporary grant of \$3,500,000 will be again paid to us this year.

The Prime Minister also agreed to provide special additional assistance to the extent of \$25,000,000 to be divided among the States in the same proportion as the formula grants. Western Australia's share of this supplementation is estimated to be \$2,800,000.

The total effect of these decisions as far as Western Australia is concerned was to provide us with \$9,300,000 more than we might otherwise have received if existing arrangements and the formula grants had been adhered to.

The States had sought considerably more than was actually provided but it was recognised that the Australian Government had major budgetary problems of its own. It was also made clear to us that we were expected to take steps to raise additional revenue ourselves as indeed the Australian Government proposed to do.

At the conclusion of the conference the Premiers discussed their mutual problems and agreed that there was no alternative but to increase pay-roll tax by 1 per cent. from a common date. All States have now moved to give effect to this decision.

### The Budget Prospect

The problem of framing a Budget this year which would enable the existing services of the State to be continued and some advances to be made, is clear from a comparison with the Budget presented to this House three years ago.

In a Budget that Sir David Brand described as a "community welfare Budget", total expenditure in 1970-71 was planned to rise by \$41,000,000.

This year it has been necessary for the Government to provide for a considerably greater increase in expenditure than \$41,000,000 merely to cover the full year cost of wage increases granted during 1972-73 and to make a prudent provision for further increases that may occur during the current year.

There are many other increases in expenditure that are just as inescapable.

Nevertheless the Government is determined to give effect to the policies it was elected to carry out and to effect a number of improvements in community services which I will outline in a moment.

A detailed examination of departmental requests was made to restrict the growth of expenditure to those areas where maximum benefit to the community could be obtained. But, notwithstanding a careful rationing of our resources, it was clear that additional revenue had to be obtained if we were to avoid an unmanageable deficit on this year's transactions.

As a result of greatly increased wage and salary payments in recent years, the losses by such undertakings as railways, M.T.T., and country water supplies have reached serious proportions and are, in large degree, responsible for the State's financial problems. In the absence of action to adjust charges for at least some of these services to bring them more into line with today's costs, the drain on the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the three undertakings I have mentioned would alone have aggregated \$43,000,000.

If charges for these services are not raised when warranted, the alternative must be a general increase in State taxes in which case the users of the services would be subsidised by the taxpayer to an unfair degree.

The Government's decision to increase rail freights and fares and suburban bus fares was announced last month and the new rates are now in operation.

I have already mentioned the proposal to increase pay-roll tax and a Bill to give effect to that proposal has been submitted to Parliament.

No other major increase in taxation and charges is proposed.

In fact, the Government intends to introduce legislation to lessen the impact of probate duty on small and moderate estates. At the same time it is proposed to close a number of loopholes in the present

law which have allowed many large estates to pay minimal duty or escape payment of duty entirely.

A Bill will be submitted to Parliament providing for—

More liberal concessions in the case of estates passing to widows and dependent children.

An increase in the range of bequests to charitable bodies qualifying for exemption.

A rewritten and modernised death duty assessment Act which will be more readily understood and will streamline procedures for the assessing of estates.

Allow greater freedom of access by beneficiaries to bank accounts pending settlement of the estate.

Tighten loopholes and reduce inequities between taxpayers.

Full details of the proposals will of course be given when the amending Bill is introduced.

Taking into account the additional revenue to be derived this year from the measures already announced and the expenditure proposals that I will turn to in a moment, the Government is budgeting for a deficit of \$6,948,000 on Consolidated Revenue Fund transactions in 1973-74.

While this is a substantial amount, the Government is satisfied that a reduction in its planned programme of expenditure could not be accepted and that further increases in taxation are not justified at this stage.

Nevertheless, excess expenditure of this magnitude would be inflationary in present economic circumstances.

We have therefore decided to bring the total State Budget—that is, the Consolidated Revenue Fund and General Loan Fund Estimates—into balance by setting aside \$6,948,000 of the 1973-74 general purpose Commonwealth capital grant for the funding of the estimated deficit on revenue account.

This is by no means a new development as most Australian States have found it necessary in recent years either to take some of the capital grant directly to revenue to bring their Budgets near to balance or, alternatively, to set capital grant funds aside to fund mounting revenue deficits.

I doubt that any State will be able to avoid this course in future. Under the present Federal financial structure, the States simply cannot cope with inflation. They lack the taxation base to raise sufficient additional revenue themselves and the financial assistance grant formula is demonstrably inadequate to meet the situation in which the States are placed today.

By setting aside sufficient of the capital grant to cover the expected deficit the Government is ensuring that, overall, its total receipts and payments are in balance and that no liability is carried forward into next financial year. It is also ensuring that no impetus is given to inflation as would be the case if we were to spend more in the year than we received.

In presenting his Budget to the Tasmanian Parliament recently, the Treasurer of that State summed up the situation admirably when commenting on his Government's proposed deficit of \$4,500,000. I could do no better than quote his words—

A State Treasurer of a few years ago would have been horrified by the thought of funding \$4,500,000. However, the times and circumstances have changed. A Consolidated Revenue Fund deficit can now be funded from the Commonwealth Capital Grant. This means that the act of funding a deficit no longer carries with it the need to meet future interest charges and sinking fund contributions.

#### Estimated Revenue

Total revenue in 1973-74 is expected to be \$546,400,000, an increase of \$72,600,000.

Receipts from State Taxation are estimated to increase by \$18,700,000, principally on account of increased pay-roll tax collections of \$15,100,000, and higher stamp duty revenues consequent upon increased economic activity.

Land tax collections are expected to fall by \$1,500,000 for two reasons: Firstly, an abnormally high recovery rate of arrears last year resulting from a streamlined legal procedure will not be repeated; and, secondly, the concession given to land developers by the 1973 amendment to the Land Tax Assessment Act will take effect this year.

Commonwealth grants for general revenue purposes are expected to amount to \$221,600,000 in 1973-74, an increase of \$21,000,000 or 10.5 per cent.

The Financial Assistance Grant is by far the biggest single item of State revenue. I have already outlined the discussions which culminated in the State receiving \$9,300,000 more under that heading this year than would have been the case if our representations had been unsuccessful.

It remains to be said that the grant that would otherwise have been paid to this State in 1973-74 has been reduced by \$11,600,000 on account of expenditure on tertiary education that the State is being saved this year by the Australian Government's assumption of full financial responsibility for tertiary education from the 1st January, 1974.

Our grant for 1974-75 will be reduced by \$24,200,000 which is the full year saving arising from the change.

There will therefore be no improvement in the State's financial position as a result of the new approach but it is to be assumed that the State as a whole will benefit in future from higher expenditure on tertiary education as this area is freed from the constraints of the State Budget.

An additional \$5,200,000 is expected this year under the heading of "Territorial Revenue". Royalties from mining are expected to increase by \$6,300,000 with expanded production of iron ore and alumina, but receipts from lease rentals continue to decline as speculative leases are surrendered in the aftermath of the mining boom.

Law courts and departmental revenue is estimated to increase by \$12,000,000 of which \$5,000,000 arises from increased interest payments to the Treasury from various bodies as a result of additional capital supplied to those bodies and a higher average rate of interest charged.

An increase of \$1,300,000 estimated for Department of Agriculture revenue reflects in the main a change in the presentation of the accounts. Whereas salaries expenditure recouped from Commonwealth funds was previously deducted from expenditure it is now shown as revenue.

The increase also reflects an increased Commonwealth grant under the brucellosis eradication scheme and the inclusion in this year's estimates of \$237,000 in Commonwealth grants which were received too late to be included in the 1972-73 accounts.

A substantial increase in Commonwealth grants for expanded community health services is the main reason for the \$2,500,000 additional revenue budgeted for the Public Health Department.

The estimates of revenue for the computer centre also reflect a change in accounting. Payments by departments for computing services were previously rebated from the centre's expenditure. However, from this year, all payments are to be treated as revenue to the centre.

The main item of revenue under the heading of "Public Utilities" is the earnings of the railways which in 1973-74, are expected to reach \$74,800,000, an increase of \$14,100,000.

Increased fares and freights are expected to return an additional \$4,500,000 this year, but the principal reason for the higher estimate of earnings is the expectation of increased traffic, particularly grain and iron ore.

Railway revenue has suffered in recent times from reduced traffic in grain as a result of the succession of dry years. However, the expected excellent crop this year

and the prospect of early and substantial shipments should do much to arrest the deterioration in railway finances.

### Estimated Expenditure

The Estimates provide for expenditure to increase by \$76,000,000 to \$553,400,000 this year. This is a rise of 15.9 per cent.

It would be pleasing if an increase of this magnitude reflected new and improved services. Unfortunately in large degree it simply reflects the inflated cost of maintaining existing standards. As I remarked earlier, by far the greater part of this increase is required to meet the full year cost of wage increases awarded last year and the cost to this year's Budget of further increases in prospect.

Nevertheless, by careful budgeting we have found room for some worth-while advances in the areas of greatest need.

### Education

Nowhere is the involvement of the Australian Government more apparent than in the field of education.

I have already mentioned the decision of that Government to take over responsibility for tertiary education expenditure from the 1st January, 1974. That move is of course reflected in reduced expenditure by the State on tertiary education in the current Budget as it is necessary for us to provide for only a half-year allocation to tertiary institutions in 1973-74.

The Australian Government has also undertaken to provide substantial sums for expansion of State education services in 1974 and 1975 and will no doubt extend this programme in subsequent years.

In this financial year, Government schools in Western Australia will receive about \$2,700,000 for recurrent purposes and \$5,700,000 in capital grants.

These grants are not reflected in the Budget, but a condition of the assistance is that the State will continue to direct to education the same proportion of its total expenditure as in 1971-72.

The proposed vote to the Education Department in 1973-74 is \$106,100,000. Direct comparisons with the previous year are complicated by the separation of teacher education from the department as from the beginning of this financial year.

Separate provision has been made for teachers' colleges for the six months, to the 31st December next, during which time the Australian Government will share the cost with the State on the same basis as currently applies to universities and colleges of advanced education. From the 1st January, 1974, the State will no longer be responsible for providing funds for teacher education as the Commonwealth will assume full responsibility from that time.

In 1974 our promise to provide free text material to all primary school pupils over a three-year period will be fully implemented.

Provision has also been made for additional teachers to enable the department to cope with an anticipated increased enrolment of almost 5,000 primary and secondary pupils without any reduction of standards.

### Hospital and Health Services

Hospital and health services are to be provided with an additional \$16,500,000 this financial year, which is 23 per cent. more than the amount spent in 1972-73.

Provision has been made for staffing and operating the new \$5,000,000 extensions to Royal Perth Hospital, a 40-bed psychiatric unit at the Perth Medical Centre, a new hospital at Paraburdoo, and major extensions to the Collie and Pinjarra hospitals.

The Royal Perth Hospital extensions include a new accident and emergency department which will provide a much needed improvement in facilities to cope with the growing problem of road and other accidents.

The psychiatric unit which will also house the Medical School Department of Psychiatry, is the first of its kind in the State and will permit beds used for psychiatric patients in existing accommodation to be used for other purposes.

The Public Health Department programme this year provides for significant improvements to key community services.

With the aid of grants from the Australian Government there will be a dramatic expansion of the community health services programme which is concerned with the control of disease and improvement of nutritional standards and hygiene in the lower socio-economic sector of the population. The programme will be extended to all parts of the State by the end of this year.

The Australian Government is also assisting us to expand the school dental service. With the aid of dental therapists who will be trained at the new dental therapy training school now under construction, the service will be expanded so that eventually all children under 15 years of age will be provided with regular free dental attention.

Additional staff and facilities have been provided to cope with venereal disease which is an increasing problem.

Facilities to detect pollution on land, in water, and in the atmosphere are to be strengthened.

Mental Health Services are also to be expanded with emphasis on new facilities to assist the mentally retarded.

In addition, substantially increased assistance will be paid to the Slow Learning Children's Group and the Mentally Incurable Children's Association.

### Community Welfare

The proposed allocation to the Department for Community Welfare is \$11,400,000 an increase of \$1,800,000 when due allowance is made for the takeover by the Commonwealth of certain relief payments which previously were borne by the department.

This is another area where the Government has made a strong effort to meet basic community needs notwithstanding its budgetary problems.

It is proposed to make substantial increases in payments to foster parents and private institutions caring for State wards.

As from the 14th November, 1973, the new minimum rate for children in institutions will be \$12.50, an increase of \$3 per week. The payment for children in foster homes will be increased from \$8 per week to \$13. Special rates applying to children in group homes and missions will also be increased.

A sum of \$50,000 has been allocated to enable a start to be made this year on the establishment of a community services training college. The college will assist with the training of staff for both private and Government organisations working in the field of family and community service in an effort to raise the standard of child care.

At present the Government subsidises private institutions caring for children to the extent of 33 per cent. of the cost of engaging professional social workers. To encourage these institutions to obtain professional help, the subsidy is to be lifted to 75 per cent.

### Other Activities

Time does not permit me to give further details of other proposed developments in community welfare, nor to go into the detail of other departments' votes. Members will have the opportunity to obtain further information from the responsible Minister when the appropriations are being dealt with in Committee.

However, there are features of the Budget which clearly demonstrate the Government's desire to improve community services and therefore warrant special mention. I refer to the following—

The Police Force will again be strengthened this year by 100 men to ensure the adequate maintenance of law and order throughout the State, and to provide staff in country centres where local authorities hand over control of traffic. The programme to replace patrolmen's motorcycles with more powerful units equipped with two-way radios will continue in 1973-74.

The Office of the North West has been re-established, and provision has been made for the appointment to the

research staff of a female special adviser whose role will be to assist with the improvement of the quality of life for women and to investigate family problems in the north-west.

Under the direction of the Roadside Verges Committee of the Forests Department, a research team will start studies in 1973-74 on the effects of fire, introduction of weeds, and control of vermin on road reserves. Various subcommittees will examine the need for new roadside flora areas for the convenience of the travelling public, and will follow up any reports of damage to road verge flora.

Provision has been made for a continuation of key resource studies by the Fuel and Power Commission. The results of the natural gas pipeline study will be vital for future development planning. The commission is also well advanced on an overall appraisal of the potential of Collie coal. A power study related to the Pilbara development concept and a possible means of achieving integrated power in the eastern goldfields are also under way.

The proposed vote for the Department of Environmental Protection provides for increased Government support for the goldfields dust abatement programme. Significant success has been obtained with the programme to this point.

The Environmental Protection Council's evaluation of the degree of air pollution at Coogee will be continued into 1974 to enable a full year range of weather conditions to be studied.

A sum of \$30,000 has been provided to meet the State's half share of the cost of re-erecting the Argyle Homestead. The Australian Government has agreed to provide a matching grant for this purpose.

A donation of \$10,000 will be made to an appeal for funds to establish a combined art gallery and museum at the Benedictine Monastery, New Norcia. The Australian Government is matching this contribution.

Pensioners who are holders of a free travel and concession fare certificate, issued by the Department of Social Security, are to be granted one free return rail—or rail-bus—pass per year between any two serviced points in the State. This concession is to take effect from the 1st February, 1974.

Grants to cultural organisations paid on the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Board are to be increased by \$78,000 to \$310,000 in the current year.

Substantially increased funds are to be provided to the Youth, Community Recreation and National Fitness Council this year to enable a wider range of services to be extended to bodies contributing to community recreation. Provision has been made for the appointment of community recreation officers who will assist local and voluntary organisations, and for increased travel assistance to be given to State sporting teams.

The grant to the St. John Ambulance Association is to be increased by almost 50 per cent. to \$625,000 in 1973-74 to enable the association to recruit additional staff and to establish a staff training school.

Assistance to other charitable bodies has been reviewed and in a number of cases will be substantially increased.

Specific examples are—

The Braille Society for the Blind is to have its annual grant increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to permit expanded welfare and rehabilitation services. The grant to the Institute for the Blind is to be lifted from \$14,300 to \$25,000.

Wanslea Homes annual grant is to be doubled to \$60,000 to permit staff salaries to be updated and to enable additional, more highly qualified staff to be appointed. The Tuberculosis and Chest Association will receive, for the first time, an annual grant of \$12,000 for its sheltered workshop at Claremont.

The Government subsidy of annual operating losses on local authority swimming pools is to be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The Government continues to support and encourage moves to modernise systems and improve efficiency within the Public Service.

Recruitment of graduates for administrative as well as technical positions has been stepped up with promising results, while increasing numbers of public servants are gaining tertiary qualifications through part-time study under the Government's study assistance programme.

In-service training of Public Service personnel in management techniques will commence this year with the opening of the Public Service Board's Executive Development Centre at Mt. Lawley.

Conversion of many Government procedures and records to computer processing is making good progress. The Metropolitan Water Board's billing and accounting procedures, and Government Stores ordering, stock records, and payments will be computerised this year and

a start will be made on conversion of State Electricity Commission billing and accounting.

Equipment has been installed for the direct transfer of records from computer output to microfilm. The retention of bulk records such as motor vehicle licenses and drivers' licenses on microfilm will permit compact storage and rapid access to information with consequent savings in office space and records staff.

### Conclusion

That concludes my survey of the Budget which I believe I can claim is progressive and forward looking, despite problems of greatly increased costs and inadequate revenues.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The Government's financial programme for the current year aims at providing for many important community needs. I believe it also responds to the community's desire for a realistic attempt on the part of the Government to improve the lot of the less privileged members of society.

I now turn to the purpose of the Bill which is to appropriate the sums required for the services of the current financial year as detailed in the Estimates. It also makes provision for the grant of supply to complete requirements for this year.

Supply of \$230,000,000 has already been granted under the Supply Act, 1973, and further supply of \$239,775,000 is provided for in the Bill now under consideration. This total sum of \$469,775,000 is to be appropriated in the manner shown in a schedule to the Bill.

The Bill also makes provision for the grant of further supply of \$35,000,000 from the Public Account for Advances to Treasurer which is to supplement the sum of \$5,000,000 already granted under the Supply Act.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the Bill ratifies the amounts spent during 1972-73 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are given in the relevant schedule to the Bill.

Under section 41 of the Forests Act, it is necessary for a scheme of expenditure from the Forests Improvement and Reforestation Fund to be submitted annually for the approval of Parliament.

The Bill makes provision for the appropriation of moneys for the current financial year in accordance with the scheme of expenditure already laid on the Table of the House.

I commend the Bill to members and in so doing, table the Estimates for 1973-74.

Government members: Hear, hear!

*The Estimates were tabled.*

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Leader of the Opposition).

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1973-74

## INDEX TO RETURNS

	Return No.
I. Balance Sheet .....	1
II. Consolidated Revenue Fund—	
Revenue and Expenditure, 1972-73, compared with Estimate .....	2
Revenue—Statement of Receipts, 1972-73, and previous years .....	3
Expenditure Statement, 1972-73, and previous years .....	4
Revenue and Expenditure—Source and Functional Application Per Capita .....	5
Dissection of Expenditure .....	6
III. General Loan Fund—	
Loan Repayments .....	7
Loan Expenditure for 1972-73, and previous years .....	8
IV. Public Debt—	
Loan Indebtedness .....	9a
Sinking Fund—Transactions for the Year .....	9b
Net Public Debt per head of Population .....	9c
Contingent Liabilities .....	9d
Loan assets, 1972-73—Summarised classification .....	10
Loan assets, 1972-73—Detailed classification .....	11
V. Business Undertakings—	
a. Public Utilities—Summary .....	12
Country Areas Water Supply .....	13
Railways Commission .....	14
State Batteries .....	15
b. State Trading Concerns—Summary .....	16
State Engineering Works .....	17
West Australian Meat Export Works .....	18
c. Other business undertakings—Summary .....	19
Albany Port Authority .....	20
Bunbury Port Authority .....	21
Esperance Port Authority .....	22
Fremantle Port Authority .....	23
Geraldton Port Authority .....	24
Port Hedland Port Authority .....	25
Charcoal-Iron and Steel Industry .....	26
Government Employees' Housing Authority .....	27
Metropolitan Market Trust .....	28
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust .....	29
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board .....	30
Midland Junction Abattoir Board .....	31
Rural and Industries Bank—Rural Department .....	32
State Electricity Commission .....	33
State Government Insurance Office .....	34
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission .....	35
VI. Trust Funds—	
Road Funds .....	36
Forests Improvement and Reforestation Fund .....	37
Hospital Fund .....	38
The State Housing Commission Funds.....	39
VII. Statistical Section—	
Receipts from Commonwealth taken to the Consolidated Revenue Fund 1901-02 to 1972-73 .....	40
Adjusted Budget Results after Receipt of Commonwealth Special Grants, 1948-49 to 1968-69 .....	41
Other Receipts from Commonwealth, 1972-73 .....	42
Commonwealth Grants for Science Laboratories, Secondary School Libraries and Technical Training .....	43
State Taxation and Taxation per head .....	44
Social Service Expenditure, 1972-73 .....	45
Western Australian Government Railways—Statement of Operations .....	46
Tonnage and Earnings on goods carried .....	47
Indicators of Western Australian Economic Conditions .....	48

[Return No. 1]

## GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 1973

30th June, 1972		30th June, 1973
\$		\$
	<b>Funds Employed</b>	
1,170,577,068	Loan Flotations	1,239,240,120
194,618,657	Less Redemptions from Sinking Fund	209,180,442
975,958,411		1,030,059,678
39,150,000	Commonwealth Capital Grants	62,363,000
1,015,108,411		1,092,422,678
49,118,162	Trust Funds, Governmental	41,901,091
7,102,580	Less Investments	6,560,607
42,015,582		35,431,384
62,274,294	Trust Funds, Private	71,315,818
59,524,716	Less Investments	66,773,511
2,749,578		4,540,307
27,227,276	Suspense Accounts	26,269,747
4,881,134	Commonwealth Grants and Advances	13,903,183
14,964,081	Trading Concerns and Public Utilities' Banking Accounts	16,666,021
1,106,046,062		1,180,263,325
	<b>Deduct:-</b>	
4,489,974	Consolidated Revenue Fund:	
890,971	Balance at commencement of year	890,971
	Deficit for year	3,489,510
5,380,945		4,380,481
4,489,974	Less Amount paid into Fund (Public Monies Investment Act—Section 4 (b))	
890,971	Balance	4,380,481
1,106,055,091		1,184,882,844

## Employment of Funds

	<b>Works and Services—</b>	
1,157,615,382	Railways, Transport, Electricity, Harbours, Water Supplies, Housing, and other State Undertakings	1,246,262,244
12,210,776	Flotation Expenses and Discounts and Exchange	12,473,153
39,413,162	Consolidated Revenue Fund Deficits (Funded)	39,413,162
1,209,239,320		1,298,153,560
194,618,657	Less Redemptions of Debt applied to depreciation of assets, etc.	209,180,442
1,014,620,663		1,038,973,117
	<b>Other Assets—</b>	
70,995,745	Short Term Investment	80,307,751
2,319,990	Cash at Bank	700,939
898,133	Cash in London	227,403
98,274	Cash in Hand	34,005
2,816,397		962,407
6,080,119	Stores Accounts	5,465,541
	<b>Advances—</b>	
11,540,857	Treasurer's Advances to Departments, etc.	8,013,325
1,310	Trust Funds, Governmental (Overdrawn Accounts)	283,630
	Trading Concerns and Public Utilities (Overdrawn Banking Accounts)	455,263
	Commonwealth Grants and Advances (Overdrawn Accounts)	411,810
11,542,167		9,174,028
1,106,055,091	<b>Total Assets</b>	1,184,882,844

## II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

Return No. 2]

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1972-73, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE

## Summary

	Estimate	Actual	Comparison with Estimate	
			Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue .....	469,444,000	473,840,018	4,396,018	....
Expenditure .....	474,521,000	477,329,528	2,808,528	....
Deficit .....	5,077,000	3,489,510	1,587,490	....
Net Improvement .... \$1,587,490				

## DETAILS

Revenue	Estimate	Actual	Comparison with Estimate	
			Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Taxation .....	95,381,000	97,140,601	1,759,601	....
Territorial .....	33,405,000	37,162,386	3,757,386	....
Law Courts .....	3,052,000	3,035,327	....	16,673
Departmental .....	64,504,000	66,711,123	2,207,123	....
Commonwealth .....	203,564,000	200,632,925	....	2,931,075
Public Utilities .....	69,538,000	69,157,656	....	380,344
Total Revenue .....	469,444,000	473,840,018	7,724,110	3,328,092
Net Increase .....	....	....	\$4,396,018	

Expenditure	Estimate	Actual	Comparison with Estimate	
			Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Special Acts—				
Constitution Act .....	18,700	18,700	....	....
Interest—Overseas .....	1,797,912	1,686,970	....	110,942
Interest—Australia .....	53,245,088	52,602,980	....	642,108
Sinking Fund .....	11,000,000	10,990,301	....	9,699
Other Special Acts .....	12,497,300	12,479,466	....	17,834
Governmental—				
Departmental .....	310,269,000	311,178,637	909,637	....
Public Utilities .....	85,693,000	88,372,474	2,679,474	....
Total Expenditure .....	474,521,000	477,329,528	2,808,528	....
Net Increase .....	....	....	\$2,808,528	

## II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

{Return No. 3}

## REVENUE

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1969-70 TO 1972-73, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1973-74

Heads	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	Estimate 1973-74
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Taxation—</b>					
Land Tax .....	6,932,058	7,505,262	9,831,028	10,880,204	9,400,000
Stamp Duty .....	25,864,241	23,156,930	21,295,087	26,096,900	29,786,000
Probate Duty .....	9,499,064	8,469,741	7,751,816	7,656,340	7,728,000
Pay-roll Tax .....	.....	.....	28,096,975	38,944,355	54,000,000
Licenses .....	3,303,636	3,793,322	4,484,452	5,034,935	5,473,000
Third Party Insurance Sur- charge .....	816,155	873,132	1,586,065	2,401,857	2,558,000
<b>Betting Taxes—</b>					
Totalisator Duty and Licenses	652,916	718,581	834,030	870,221	946,000
Bookmakers Betting Tax and Licenses .....	235,087	342,683	500,746	527,622	550,000
Investment Tax .....	740,935	435,935	.....	.....	.....
Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax .....	2,746,390	3,062,023	4,033,180	4,652,317	5,274,000
Stamp Duty on Betting .....	77,808	76,648	76,158	75,850	80,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>50,868,290</b>	<b>48,434,257</b>	<b>78,490,437</b>	<b>97,140,601</b>	<b>115,795,000</b>
<b>Territorial and Departmental—</b>					
Land .....	1,489,480	1,448,745	1,653,280	1,895,106	1,960,000
Mining .....	18,979,826	27,487,485	30,021,368	32,003,478	36,670,000
Timber .....	3,164,060	3,251,207	3,316,892	3,263,802	3,718,000
Royal Mint .....	484,150	.....	.....	.....	.....
Departmental Fees, etc. ....	36,901,141	45,583,183	54,130,848	66,711,123	78,430,000
Law Courts .....	2,054,243	2,300,627	2,807,641	3,035,327	3,330,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>63,072,900</b>	<b>80,071,247</b>	<b>91,930,029</b>	<b>106,908,836</b>	<b>124,108,000</b>
<b>Commonwealth—</b>					
Financial Assistance Grant ....	123,334,745	146,463,492	161,459,900	186,369,000	203,442,000
Additional Assistance Grant .....	15,500,000	12,500,000	9,500,000	6,500,000	6,500,000
Special Temporary Addition .....	.....	.....	.....	3,500,000	3,500,000
Special Revenue Assistance .....	1,544,612	5,030,441	6,014,355	.....	2,800,000
Debt Charges Assistance .....	.....	1,105,534	2,211,069	3,316,603	4,422,000
Interest Contribution .....	946,864	946,864	946,864	946,864	947,000
Receipts Duty Compensation .....	.....	4,350,000	.....	.....	.....
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>141,326,221</b>	<b>170,396,331</b>	<b>180,132,188</b>	<b>200,632,925</b>	<b>221,611,000</b>
<b>Public Utilities—</b>					
Country Areas Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage .....	5,601,834	6,475,606	7,209,342	8,371,157	10,011,000
State Abattoirs and Saleyards .....	48,719	.....	.....	.....	.....
Railways .....	57,199,647	61,819,859	66,179,679	60,716,866	74,807,000
State Batteries .....	71,167	54,342	57,066	69,633	95,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>62,921,367</b>	<b>68,349,807</b>	<b>73,446,087</b>	<b>69,157,656</b>	<b>84,913,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>318,188,778</b>	<b>367,251,642</b>	<b>423,998,741</b>	<b>473,840,018</b>	<b>546,427,000</b>

[Return No. 4]

## II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1969-70 TO 1972-73, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1973-74

Head	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	Estimate 1973-74
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Special Acts</b> .....	62,382,602	65,405,678	74,250,431	77,778,417	83,400,000
<b>Departmental—</b>					
Parliament .....	388,465	451,921	526,571	631,339	660,000
Premier's (a) .....	881,482	918,183	1,005,380	1,100,079	1,205,990
Public Service Board (b) .....	293,660	359,098	449,366	628,975	821,000
Treasury .....	426,185	445,889	548,357	599,531	696,000
Computer Centre .....	79,604	210,578	241,031	681,523	839,000
Superannuation Board .....	93,001	110,882	141,764	165,590	201,000
Government Printing Office .....	1,336,949	1,478,709	3,440,090	3,760,859	4,367,000
Government Stores .....	696,659	730,859	718,882	705,604	933,000
Audit .....	341,048	400,675	477,468	534,929	560,000
Taxation .....	1,453,529	2,389,250	2,624,081	2,543,457	2,728,000
Miscellaneous Services .....	27,203,393	34,857,464	40,022,367	48,238,992	71,576,000
Development and Decentralisa- tion .....	1,009,121	1,240,191	1,047,547	1,358,969	1,790,000
Crown Law (c) .....	3,932,289	4,931,301	5,675,840	6,440,721	7,582,000
Education .....	55,839,110	66,340,677	82,471,686	94,546,685	106,132,000
Mines .....	2,908,886	3,695,882	4,562,095	5,372,973	5,736,000
Fuel and Power Commission....	.....	.....	.....	44,055	171,000
Public Works .....	10,805,007	13,307,653	13,661,653	15,530,571	14,907,000
Harbour and Light .....	1,910,490	2,209,157	2,009,010	1,825,824	1,893,000
Motor Vehicles....	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	1,725,000
Lands and Surveys .....	4,309,495	4,237,357	4,834,157	4,880,224	5,040,000
Bush Fires Board .....	202,732	207,690	197,331	248,510	300,000
Agriculture (e) .....	5,938,474	6,951,760	7,994,544	8,827,876	11,002,000
Forests .....	1,574,730	1,745,222	1,988,516	2,478,522	2,885,000
Environmental Protection .....	.....	9,694	67,492	128,006	158,000
Medical .....	31,502,828	40,194,071	44,899,306	53,750,389	64,985,000
Health .....	3,553,886	4,587,267	5,009,026	6,343,723	9,683,000
Mental Health Services .....	6,392,634	7,793,523	9,954,077	11,771,421	13,708,000
Town Planning .....	388,000	494,204	582,731	629,446	763,000
Local Government .....	201,382	253,610	284,669	334,074	403,000
Chief Secretary (f) .....	635,485	738,938	851,333	943,978	1,078,000
Department of Corrections .....	2,474,950	3,352,807	4,390,085	5,368,015	6,112,000
Fisheries and Fauna .....	746,850	928,782	1,075,326	1,230,481	1,403,990
North-West .....	169,217	228,809	234,133	95,544	147,000
Police .....	9,396,182	10,811,117	14,313,844	15,631,481	15,539,000
Community Welfare .....	6,824,323	8,145,903	9,804,673	11,427,464	11,960,000
Tourist Development Authority .....	649,300	762,589	924,000	1,027,000	1,188,000
Labour (g) .....	792,015	974,880	1,190,813	1,345,807	1,631,990
Immigration .....	(h)	(h)	(h)	(h)	509,000
Sundries .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
<b>Total Departmental</b> .....	<b>185,351,961</b>	<b>226,496,597</b>	<b>268,228,844</b>	<b>311,178,637</b>	<b>373,119,000</b>
<b>Public Utilities—</b>					
Railways .....	56,955,514	62,937,073	68,173,149	71,196,224	77,508,000
State Batteries .....	498,102	578,069	563,067	731,945	784,000
Country Areas Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage .....	13,648,518	16,202,345	13,674,221	16,444,305	18,564,000
State Abattoirs .....	63,940	(i)	(i)	(i)	(i)
<b>Total Public Utilities</b> .....	<b>71,166,074</b>	<b>79,717,487</b>	<b>82,410,437</b>	<b>88,372,474</b>	<b>96,856,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>318,900,637</b>	<b>371,619,762</b>	<b>424,889,712</b>	<b>477,329,528</b>	<b>553,375,000</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b> ....	<b>711,859</b>	<b>4,368,120</b>	<b>890,971</b>	<b>3,489,510</b>	<b>6,948,000</b>

(a) Includes Governor's Establishment, Government Motor Car Service, London Agency and Tokyo Agency. (b) Includes Public Service Arbitration. (c) Includes Electoral and Licensing. (d) Previously provided under Division No. 52—Police. (e) Includes Co-ordinator of Agricultural Industries and for College of Agriculture (prior to 1970-71). (f) Includes Registry and Observatory. (g) Includes Industrial Commission, Scaffolding, Factories, Inspection of Machinery, Weights and Measures and Prices Control and Consumer Protection. (h) Previously provided under Division No. 34—Lands and Surveys. (i) Amalgamated with W.A. Meat Export Works.

## II. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

[Return No. 5]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE  
SOURCE AND FUNCTIONAL APPLICATION PER CAPITA

Details	Year and Per Capita				
	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	Estimate 1973-74
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Commonwealth (Including Financial Assistance Grant) ....	141,326,221	170,396,331	180,132,188	200,632,925	221,611,000
	145.26	168.60	172.54	188.56	203.50
State Taxation ....	50,868,290	48,434,257	78,490,437	97,140,601	115,795,000
	52.29	47.92	75.18	91.30	106.33
Departmental and Territorial ....	63,072,900	80,071,247	91,930,028	108,908,838	124,108,000
	64.83	79.23	88.06	100.48	113.97
Public Utilities and Trading Concerns ....	62,921,367	68,349,807	73,446,088	69,157,656	84,913,000
	64.67	67.63	70.35	65.00	77.97
<b>Total—Revenue</b> ....	318,188,778	367,251,642	423,998,741	473,840,018	546,427,000
	327.05	363.38	406.13	445.34	501.77
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Social Services</b>					
Education ....	71,031,772	88,822,267	103,358,346	118,932,634	129,131,000
	73.01	87.88	99.00	111.78	118.58
Health, Hospitals and Charities	51,491,086	63,926,617	73,479,713	89,121,937	107,609,000
	52.93	63.25	70.38	83.76	98.81
Law, Order and Public Safety ....	16,695,254	20,142,575	26,294,343	30,186,862	33,181,000
	17.16	19.93	25.19	28.37	30.47
<b>Total, Social Services</b> ....	139,218,112	172,891,459	203,132,402	238,241,433	269,921,000
	143.10	171.07	194.57	223.91	247.86
<b>Development of State Resources</b>	42,531,735	47,503,759	48,460,203	52,609,103	60,751,000
	43.72	47.00	46.42	49.45	55.79
Transport ....	66,138,882	74,471,586	80,501,399	85,346,938	91,620,000
	67.98	73.69	77.11	80.21	84.13
Legislative and General ....	19,137,394	22,101,292	30,237,269	35,298,153	61,117,000
	19.67	21.87	28.96	33.18	56.12
Public Debt Charges ....	51,874,514	54,651,650	62,558,439	65,833,901	69,966,000
	53.32	54.07	59.92	61.87	64.25
<b>Total—Expenditure</b> ....	318,900,637	371,619,762	424,889,712	477,329,529	553,375,000
	327.79	367.70	406.98	448.62	508.15

Based on estimated mean populations, viz. 1972-73 1,064,000 ; 1973-74 1,089,000.

Return No. 6]

DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE  
1968-69 TO 1972-73

Item	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Interest ....	41,935,117	46,189,014	44,611,410	51,663,940	54,289,950
Sinking Fund ....	9,450,336	11,089,266	9,566,415	10,364,746	10,990,301
Salaries and Wages ....	111,659,252	125,265,284	153,989,721	176,742,601	201,954,708
Grants ....	17,794,041	20,306,441	29,121,853	36,865,344	43,906,269
Pensions ....	3,936,787	4,727,265	5,687,681	6,532,487	7,039,976
All other ....	91,361,426	111,323,367	128,642,682	142,720,504	159,148,324
<b>Total</b> ....	276,136,959	318,900,637	371,619,762	424,889,712	477,329,528

## III.—GENERAL LOAN FUND

[Return No. 7]

LOAN REPAYMENTS  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

Year ended 30th June	Receipts	Expenditure	Balance
	\$	\$	\$
1929	470,808	68,594	712,430
1930	307,166	433,294	586,302
1931	168,496	.....	754,799
1932	224,722	343,600	635,920
1933	183,502	498,550	320,872
1934	201,870	431,480	91,262
1935	301,014	194,128	198,148
1936	215,812	149,582	264,378
1937	245,950	156,752	353,576
1938	268,924	309,850	312,850
1939	294,080	306,210	300,720
1940	254,940	202,172	353,488
1941	255,778	280,404	328,862
1942	342,464	179,734	491,592
1943	562,710	369,414	684,888
1944	512,306	397,792	799,402
1945	414,150	444,986	768,566
1946	574,086	421,190	921,462
1947	381,006	385,636	916,832
1948	906,174	564,310	1,348,696
1949	485,640	1,076,408	757,928
1950	504,366	597,278	665,016
1951	2,171,604	517,982	2,318,638
1952	2,012,620	2,177,342	2,153,916
1953	2,824,668	2,149,086	2,829,498
1954	3,280,686	2,586,280	3,523,904
1955	3,427,212	3,523,904	3,427,212
1956	3,366,960	3,427,212	3,366,960
1957	3,361,928	3,366,960	3,361,928
1958	3,667,446	3,361,928	3,667,446
1959	3,213,650	3,522,846	3,358,250
1960	3,659,398	3,358,250	3,659,398
1961	3,424,122	3,659,396	3,424,124
1962	3,900,476	3,424,124	3,900,476
1963	5,523,588	3,900,476	5,523,588
1964	4,273,400	5,523,588	4,273,400
1965	4,071,150	4,273,400	4,071,150
1966	4,983,483	4,071,150	4,983,483
1967	4,391,647	4,983,480	4,391,650
1968	7,348,516	4,391,600	7,348,566
1969	9,692,618	7,348,500	9,692,684
1970	10,822,767	9,692,000	10,823,451
1971	8,880,637	10,823,000	8,881,088
1972	6,000,679	8,881,000	6,000,767
1973	6,734,259	6,000,000	6,735,026

## III.—GENERAL LOAN FUND

[Return No. 8]

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FROM 1968-69 TO 1972-73

Undertakings	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Railways.....	15,503,159	11,963,316	10,672,374	9,721,503	7,753,665
State Electricity Commission .....	5,576,000	4,500,000	.....	3,652,000	4,100,000
Electricity for Government Establish- ments .....	108,587	67,164	28,119	13,535	4,286
Harbours and Rivers .....	313,044	382,825	681,569	397,837	890,917
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage .....	7,251,000	8,000,000	9,900,000	9,587,000	14,138,400
Water Supplies, Irrigation and Drain- age .....	7,232,671	7,229,677	8,028,952	8,031,767	8,669,294
Sewerage for Country Towns .....	635,849	1,090,193	903,013	848,306	860,535
Public Buildings, Furniture and Equip- ment—					
Schools .....	9,608,428	11,774,617	12,034,421	11,864,148	14,290,731
Hospitals .....	5,199,462	6,740,071	4,969,348	2,923,947	7,358,650
Perth Medical Centre .....	1,389,099	1,239,216	2,325,190	3,973,315	3,998,907
Public Health .....	89,944	78,605	89,471	725,255	3,458,373
Mental Health .....	613,496	743,816	812,641	457,231	781,294
Police .....	900,901	863,515	918,553	373,428	789,089
Native Welfare .....	66,085	9,964	.....	757,382	.....
Community Welfare .....	709,564	482,415	445,913	254,646	489,296
Prisons .....	547,914	1,309,191	650,803	238,140	361,059
Other .....	1,467,090	1,853,221	3,548,981	2,519,194	2,315,032
Kununurra Townsite Development .....	40,755	72,777	71,658	48,985	58,393
Agriculture .....	739,884	934,710	025,664	644,522	694,427
Fisheries Research .....	.....	848	11,662	5,800	76,917
Forests .....	400,000	400,000	500,000	1,100,000	1,900,000
Government Printing Office .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79,248
Housing .....	2,523,500	3,322,000	5,550,000	23,858,000	15,650,000
Development and Decentralisation .....	403,096	386,587	471,649	199,923	288,597
Mines .....	97,493	43,834	13,335	18,664	11,011
Albany Port Authority .....	195,952	.....	470,000	.....	.....
Bunbury Port Authority .....	205,742	50,299	350,000	450,000	430,000
Esperance Port Authority .....	33,273	549,028	320,000	797,000	.....
Fremantle Port Authority .....	408,000	1,075,000	420,521	.....	520,000
Geraldton Port Authority .....	46,813	.....	.....	.....	.....
Port Hedland Port Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	267,593	537,000
Metropolitan Passenger Transport Trust .....	267,000	240,000	296,000	500,000	854,000
Midland Junction Abattoir Board .....	244,000	1,217,000	3,200,000	2,453,000	665,000
Murdoch University .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	356,833
Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agencies .....	483,282	1,225,000	1,405,000	56,951	45,000
University of Western Australia .....	466,000	1,182,300	866,000	775,000	841,167
Western Australian Institute of Tech- nology .....	409,100	817,906	1,130,600	1,519,000	624,000
West Australian Meat Export Works .....	180,000	200,000	500,000	1,241,000	490,000
Grants for Unemployment Relief Works .....	.....	.....	.....	1,840,000	1,000,000
	64,361,183	70,044,900	72,209,437	92,113,972	95,381,121
Add Discounts, Expenses, etc. (a) .....	141,832	125,244	190,521	215,669	107,325
Total Expenditure .....	64,503,015	70,170,144	72,399,958	92,329,641	95,488,446

(a) Charged to General Loan Fund.

## IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

[Return No. 9]

## (a) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS

## (i) Transactions for the Year

					\$	\$	
Total amount raised to 30th June, 1972	....	....	....	....	....	1,170,577,068	
Flotations during the year—							
Commonwealth Loans—							
Loan 215	....	....	....	....	....	18,797,000	
217	....	....	....	....	....	21,159,000	
218	....	....	....	....	....	11,416,616	
219	....	....	....	....	....	7,541,000	
220	....	....	....	....	....	8,074,190	
Special Bonds—							
Series "Y"	....	....	....	....	....	70,788	
Series "Z"	....	....	....	....	....	1,598,449	
						<u>68,063,052</u>	
							<u>1,230,240,120</u>

## Redemptions—

Total to 30th June, 1972 ..... 194,618,657

## During the year—

## National Debt Commission :

## Securities repurchased and redeemed :

London	....	....	....	....	....	2,864,552	
New York	....	....	....	....	....	727,011	
Canadian	....	....	....	....	....	27,535	
Netherlands	....	....	....	....	....	35,845	
Commonwealth Government Debenture	....	....	....	....	....	369,722	
Instalment Stock	....	....	....	....	....	218,290	
Other Australian Securities	....	....	....	....	....	10,318,830	
						<u>14,561,785</u>	
							<u>209,180,442</u>

Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1973	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,030,059,678
Sinking Fund	....	....	....	....	....	....	265,065
Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1973	....	....	....	....	....	....	<u>1,029,794,613</u>

## (ii) Mint Par (Face) Values at Current Rates of Exchange

				At Mint Par of Exchange	At Current Rate of Exchange
				\$A	\$A
Australia	....	\$Aust.	993,159,371	993,159,371	993,159,371
London	....	£Stg.	16,853,267	33,706,535	30,748,526
New York	....	U.S. \$	5,057,000	2,078,291	3,570,067
Canada	....	Canadian \$	988,000	406,041	698,875
Switzerland	....	Swiss Francs	4,863,000	385,353	1,174,808
Netherlands	....	Guilders	1,962,000	324,087	527,037
Gross Public Debt	....			<u>1,030,059,678</u>	<u>1,029,878,684</u>

[Return No. 9—continued]

(b) SINKING FUND  
Transactions for the Year

Receipts :		\$	\$
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1973—			
National Debt Commission	.....	.....	1,216,049
Contributions :			
State—			
½ per cent. on loan liability	.....	2,830,851	
¼ per cent. on Special Deficit Loan	.....	80,850	
¼ per cent. on Deficit Loans	.....	539,199	
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	.....	7,433,413	
Midland Railway Acquisition	.....	116,715	
Special contribution under clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement	.....	6,018	
Commonwealth—			
½ and ¼ per cent. on loan liability	.....	2,714,619	
Net earnings on investments	.....	32,076	
			13,753,741
Disbursements :			14,969,790
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange)	.....	.....	14,704,725
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1973	.....	.....	265,065

## (c) NET PUBLIC DEBT PER HEAD OF POPULATION AS AT 30th JUNE\*†

Year	Debt per Head	Year	Debt per Head
	\$		\$
1927	315.47	1966	831.56
1930	326.97	1967	851.83
1935	393.88	1968	867.33
1940	405.39	1969	878.64
1945	392.74	1970	896.57
1950	393.04	1971	898.92
1955	540.73	1972	925.51
1960	683.31	1973	1956.70
1965	805.73		

\* Adjusted on corrected figures of population.

† Prior to 1967 excludes Aborigines.

‡ Preliminary figure, liable to revision.

## (d) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30th JUNE, 1973

	Securities Issued	Re-deemed	In Circulation	Funds Invested
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Abattoirs Act (Midland Junction)	3,185,000	15,000	3,170,000	48,025
Albany Port Authority Act	1,940,000	.....	1,940,000	35,413
Bunbury Port Authority Act	2,700,000	.....	2,700,000	67,353
Esperance Port Authority Act	1,900,000	.....	1,900,000	19,932
Fremantle Port Authority Act	4,650,000	.....	4,650,000	254,897
Geraldton Port Authority Act	1,100,000	.....	1,100,000	9,024
Government Employees Housing Act	2,300,000	52,508	2,247,492	1,697
Industrial Lands Development Authority	1,000,000	33,400	966,600	16,248
Metropolitan Market Act	478,000	229,829	248,171	.....
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act	6,827,160	106,121	6,721,039	2,138,039
Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act	9,290,000	235,839	9,054,161	404,618
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act	15,903,250	305,449	15,597,801	164,045
Milk Board Act	80,000	18,491	61,509	.....
Port Hedland Port Authority Act	1,000,000	.....	1,000,000	5,115
State Electricity Commission Act	117,372,460	425,363	116,947,097	4,515,702
State Housing Act	22,321,000	917,364	21,403,636	20,920
State Trading Concerns Act—				
State Implement and Engineering Works	200,000	3,319	196,681	.....
West Australian Meat Export Works	1,600,000	.....	1,600,000	18,771
W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission Act	2,300,000	.....	2,300,000	45,601
	196,146,870	2,342,683	193,804,187	7,765,400
Bank Guarantees and Indemnities in force	.....	.....	87,132,126	.....
Total, Contingent Liabilities	.....	.....	280,936,313	.....

## IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

(Return No. 10)

## SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1972-73 (a)

Undertaking*	Loan Liability (b)	Capital Charges		Net Earnings	Surplus	Deficiency
		Interest	Sinking Fund			
					\$	\$
<b>Fully Productive</b>						
Charcoal Iron & Steel Industry .....	1,286,416	74,852	8,193	83,045	.....	.....
Electricity Supply .....	60,173,221	3,287,770	513,721	3,801,491	.....	.....
Government Employees Housing Authority .....	4,697,321	264,643	42,426	307,074	.....	.....
Metropolitan Markets .....	158,434	9,634	10,003	19,692	.....	.....
Metropolitan Water Supply .....	133,788,680	6,949,838	1,279,020	9,407,081	1,178,203	.....
Roads and Bridges .....	4,480,125	259,446	31,084	291,430	.....	.....
Rural and Industries Bank .....	22,229,544	1,264,303	2	1,264,307	.....	.....
State Engineering Works .....	299,212	17,630	7,432	304,649	279,587	.....
State Housing Commission .....	85,069,806	3,960,703	645,224	4,605,927	.....	.....
West Australian Meat Export Works .....	3,684,850	139,016	26,481	215,497	.....	.....
	316,467,409	16,277,912	2,504,491	20,300,193	1,457,790	.....
<b>Partially Productive</b>						
Bulk Handling at Ports .....	267,090	14,294	2,969	8,841	.....	8,422
Harbours and Rivers .....	57,973,152	3,053,341	559,788	2,196,495	.....	1,418,634
Kwinana Development .....	336,220	28,098	5,911	286	.....	34,323
Loans to Local Authorities and Other Public Bodies .....	47,171	2,525	537	953	.....	2,109
Midland Junction Abattoirs .....	10,743,631	584,270	70,345	570,250	.....	84,365
Miscellaneous .....	5,947,120	338,297	67,058	140,476	.....	264,900
Pine Planting and Reforestation .....	11,413,045	610,830	104,863	63,461	.....	652,232
Plant Suspense .....	2,160,714	115,642	23,818	124,241	.....	15,219
Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, etc. ....	234,658,000	12,602,790	2,107,478	234,602	.....	14,475,666
Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agency .....	7,341,227	392,905	82,179	103,682	.....	371,402
State Batteries .....	1,408,311	147,888	30,919	7,474	.....	171,333
	332,496,260	17,893,480	3,055,895	3,450,761	.....	17,498,614
<b>Totally Unproductive</b>						
Abattoirs Sale Yards, Grainsheds and Cold Storage .....	72,660	3,880	891	.....	.....	4,690
Agriculture Generally .....	10,482,907	561,048	113,621	†788,169	.....	1,462,838
Assessed Expired Capital (c)—						
Electricity .....	2,545,332	136,227	28,057	.....	.....	184,284
Railways .....	34,592,123	1,851,381	397,211	†170,354	.....	2,427,046
Assistance to Industries .....	3,524,621	188,039	40,023	†182,037	.....	411,299
Country Water Supplies, Sewerage, Irrigation and Drainage .....	130,442,990	6,981,350	1,332,958	†5,487,273	.....	13,801,581
Kununurra Township Development .....	803,277	35,499	6,675	†175,022	.....	217,196
Metropolitan Transport Trust .....	6,231,039	348,664	40,399	†4,233,937	.....	4,823,000
Mining Generally .....	2,763,215	75,373	15,528	†657,992	.....	748,893
North West Electricity .....	210,754	11,280	2,276	.....	.....	18,556
Rabbit Proof Fence .....	631,778	33,813	6,904	.....	.....	40,777
Railways .....	168,012,193	8,736,716	1,990,420	†8,726,042	.....	10,502,178
Tourist Resorts .....	280,155	14,994	5,713	.....	.....	29,707
W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission .....	7,831,761	453,196	77,136	†4,093,327	.....	4,623,659
	369,184,805	19,481,069	4,057,782	†24,523,753	.....	48,062,604
<b>Summary</b>						
Fully Productive .....	316,467,409	16,277,912	2,504,491	20,300,193	1,457,790	.....
Partially Productive .....	332,496,260	17,893,480	3,055,895	3,450,761	.....	17,498,614
Totally Unproductive .....	369,184,805	19,481,069	4,057,782	†24,523,753	.....	48,062,604
Special Deficit Loans .....	4,589,800	245,647	369,722	.....	.....	615,869
Deficit Funded .....	3,871,848	207,221	937,035	.....	.....	1,144,256
Balance of General Loan Fund .....	3,449,561	184,621	5,376	.....	.....	189,997
	1,030,059,878	54,289,950	10,990,301	†772,790	1,457,790	17,510,840

Public Debt—30th June, 1973 .....

Net Deficiency \$66,033,050

\* For details see Return No. 8. † Debit.

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets. (b) Total expenditure from loan funds (including the proportionate cost of raising), after allowing for sinking fund redemptions and other adjustments. (c) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

## IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

[Return No. 11]

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1972-73 (a)

Undertaking	Loan Liability	Capital Charges		Net Earnings	Surplus	Deficiency
		Interest	Sinking Fund			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Railways .....	168,012,198	8,785,716	1,990,420	18,726,042	....	19,502,178
Railways—Assessed Expired Capital (b) .....	34,592,123	1,851,381	397,211	179,354	....	2,427,946
Metropolitan Transport Trust .....	6,231,039	348,664	40,399	14,233,037	....	4,623,000
Electricity Supply .....	60,173,221	3,287,770	513,721	3,801,491	....	....
Electricity Supply—Assessed Expired Capital (b) .....	2,545,832	136,227	28,057	....	....	164,284
	272,453,008	14,409,758	2,969,808	19,337,842	....	26,717,408
<i>Harbours and Rivers</i>						
Fremantle Port Authority .....	20,662,896	1,005,526	263,951	1,332,430	62,962	....
Fremantle—Other .....	3,528,545	188,849	38,633	358,387	130,905	....
Bunbury Port Authority .....	6,956,691	377,869	44,781	447,650	25,000	....
Bunbury—Other .....	313,833	16,796	3,170	21,552	1,580	....
Geraldton Port Authority .....	5,106,524	295,323	29,743	325,066	....	....
Geraldton—Other .....	80,656	4,317	839	51,110	45,004	....
Albany Port Authority .....	3,989,263	281,631	43,779	130,410	....	145,000
Albany—Other .....	417,405	22,340	4,601	16,017	....	10,924
Esperance Port Authority .....	4,654,212	267,831	26,063	....	....	293,894
Esperance—Other .....	120,870	6,469	636	2,400	....	4,705
Busselton .....	240,444	12,869	2,050	120,942	....	36,461
North-West Ports .....	4,311,631	230,759	39,667	1436,987	....	707,363
Port Hedland Port Authority .....	3,097,081	154,289	14,010	168,299	....	....
Port Hedland—Other .....	202,017	10,313	2,296	449,031	435,922	....
Swan River .....	1,718,443	91,972	17,120	1280,316	....	308,408
Dredges, Steamers and Plant .....	1,357,061	72,630	14,959	1182,394	....	260,083
Other Jetties and Works .....	1,215,580	65,058	12,840	1176,277	....	254,175
	57,973,152	3,055,341	559,788	2,106,405	....	2,120,913
<i>Water Supplies</i>						
Metropolitan .....	133,788,080	6,949,853	1,270,020	9,407,031	1,178,203	....
Country Water Supply .....	95,160,376	5,093,013	969,533	14,470,199	....	10,532,745
Other Water Supplies .....	1,578,850	84,501	15,194	1328,346	....	428,041
Irrigation and Drainage .....	24,771,712	1,325,790	259,259	1,051,830	....	2,636,879
Sewerage for Country Towns .....	8,932,052	478,046	88,972	363,102	....	203,916
	264,231,670	13,931,203	2,611,978	3,910,808	....	13,801,581
<i>Trading Concerns and Business Undertakings</i>						
State Engineering Works .....	209,212	17,630	7,432	304,640	279,587	....
W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission .....	7,831,761	453,196	77,136	14,093,327	....	4,623,650
West Australian Meat Export Works .....	3,684,850	189,016	26,481	215,497	....	....
North-West Electricity .....	210,754	11,280	2,276	....	....	13,556
Metropolitan Markets .....	158,434	9,684	10,008	10,692	....	....
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry .....	1,286,416	74,852	8,193	83,045	....	....
	13,471,427	755,658	131,526	13,470,444	....	4,637,215
<i>Development of Agriculture</i>						
Rural and Industries Bank .....	22,229,544	1,264,305	2	1,264,307	....	....
Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agency .....	7,341,227	392,905	82,179	103,682	....	371,402
Rabbit-proof Fence .....	631,778	33,813	0,964	....	....	40,777
Generally .....	10,482,907	501,048	113,621	1783,169	....	1,462,838
	40,685,450	2,252,071	202,766	579,820	....	1,875,017

## IV.—PUBLIC DEBT

{Return No. 11—continued}

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1972-73 (a)—continued

Undertaking	Loan Liability	Capital Charges		Net Earnings	Surplus	Deficiency
		Interest	Sinking Fund			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i>						
Midland Junction .....	10,743,631	584,270	70,345	570,250	....	84,865
Generally .....	72,660	3,889	801	....	....	4,690
	10,816,291	588,159	71,146	570,250	....	89,055
<i>Development of Mining</i>						
State Batteries .....	1,408,311	147,888	30,919	7,474	....	171,333
Generally .....	2,769,215	75,373	15,528	†657,992	....	748,893
	4,171,526	223,261	46,447	†650,518	....	920,226
<i>Public Buildings</i>						
Education Buildings .....	107,826,343	5,770,899	1,177,037	†1,933,714	....	\$,881,650
Health, Hospitals, and Charities—						
Hospitals .....	78,178,404	4,227,025	402,475	3,051,396	....	979,004
Other Buildings .....	15,910,481	835,478	161,602	†457,561	....	1,454,641
Law, Order, and Public Safety	14,283,121	764,437	144,336	†610,182	....	1,518,955
Buildings Generally .....	18,760,191	1,004,051	222,028	†415,337	....	1,641,410
	234,858,000	12,602,790	2,107,478	234,002	....	14,475,666
<i>All Other</i>						
Assistance to Industries .....	3,524,621	188,639	40,023	†182,637	....	411,299
Bulk Handling at Ports .....	267,069	14,294	2,060	8,841	....	8,422
Loans to Public Bodies .....	47,171	2,525	537	953	....	2,109
Miscellaneous .....	5,947,120	338,297	67,088	140,470	....	264,909
Pine Planting and Reforestation	11,413,045	610,830	104,863	63,461	....	652,232
Plant Suspense .....	2,100,714	115,642	23,818	124,241	....	15,219
Roads and Bridges .....	4,480,125	250,446	31,084	291,430	....	....
Tourist Resorts .....	280,155	14,994	5,713	....	....	20,707
State Housing Commission .....	85,600,608	3,960,703	645,224	4,605,927	....	....
Government Employees Housing Authority	4,697,321	264,048	42,426	307,074	....	....
Kwinana Area Development .....	536,220	28,698	5,911	280	....	34,323
Kununurra Township Development	663,277	35,409	6,675	†175,022	....	217,196
Special Deficit Loans .....	4,589,800	245,647	369,722	....	....	615,369
Deficits Funded .....	3,871,843	207,221	937,035	....	....	1,144,256
Balance of General Loan Fund .....	3,449,561	184,621	5,376	....	....	189,997
	131,597,648	6,471,704	2,289,364	5,185,030	....	3,576,038
<b>Total</b> ....	1,030,059,678	54,289,950	10,990,301	†772,790	....	66,063,050
Public Debt, 30th June, 1973 .....	1,030,059,678	....	....	....	....	....

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets.

(b) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

†Debit.

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 12]

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## A. Public Utilities

Public Utility	Return No.	Trading Results 1972-73	
		Profit	Loss
Country Areas Water Supply ....	13	\$	\$
Railways Commission ....	14	....	13,682,493
State Batteries ....	15	....	17,056,525
		....	669,306
Total—Net Loss ....	....	....	31,408,324

[Return No. 13]

## COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	73,248,393	77,196,610	81,073,786	87,957,810	95,151,078
Total Annual Revenue ....	3,502,823	4,453,038	5,174,810	5,038,374	6,644,337
Working Expenses ....	5,569,305	6,417,161	8,022,226	9,147,707	11,359,590
Interest ....	3,690,080	4,030,962	4,632,250	5,027,831	5,722,254
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	2,291,005	2,577,264	3,168,341	3,216,247	3,240,800
Provisions and Other Charges ....	1,224	2,837	7,746	3,404	4,186
Total Annual Cost ....	11,551,614	13,028,024	15,830,563	17,395,189	20,326,830
Loss ....	8,048,791	8,574,386	10,655,753	11,756,815	13,682,493

Return No. 14]

## RAILWAYS COMMISSION

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	152,830,377	158,919,603	161,683,955	161,886,667	160,624,808
Loan Capital—non-interest bearing ....	2,866,708	2,866,897	3,128,800	2,944,759	7,220,254
Total ....	155,697,085	161,786,500	164,812,755	164,831,426	167,845,062
Total Annual Revenue ....	50,558,113	57,239,508	61,917,414	64,846,483	64,792,800
Working Expenses ....	44,503,059	48,550,274	53,204,819	57,111,712	61,010,672
Interest ....	9,532,959	10,630,702	11,697,388	11,908,554	12,041,478
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	6,573,892	7,631,965	7,720,538	7,974,378	8,797,175
Total Annual Cost ....	60,609,910	66,812,941	72,622,745	76,994,644	81,849,325
Loss ....	10,051,797	9,573,433	10,705,331	12,148,161	17,056,525

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 15]

## STATE BATTERIES

Details	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	1,335,595	1,368,564	1,373,820	1,375,920	1,375,570
Total Annual Revenue ....	80,725	101,347	58,705	59,046	73,097
Working Expenses ....	477,410	509,602	507,771	558,280	637,797
Interest ....	60,102	61,585	61,822	61,916	61,901
Depreciation ....	29,109	27,557	30,524	29,494	27,207
Provisions and Other Charges ....	7,369	10,431	13,768	18,233	15,498
Total Annual Cost ....	573,990	609,175	613,885	667,923	742,403
Loss ....	493,265	507,828	555,180	608,877	669,306

[Return No. 16]

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## B. State Trading Concerns

Trading Concern	Return No.	Trading Results, 1972-73	
		Profit	Loss
		\$	\$
State Engineering Works ....	17	201,369	....
W.A. Meat Export Works ....	18	153,661	....
Total—Net Profit ....	....	355,030	....

[Return No. 17]

## STATE ENGINEERING WORKS

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	327,075	320,562	313,756	306,644	299,212
Private Borrowings ....	....	....	....	....	196,681
Total ....	327,075	320,562	313,756	306,644	495,893
Total Annual Revenue ....	1,757,767	1,823,783	2,147,150	2,495,641	2,295,069
Working Expenses ....	1,464,558	1,445,466	1,658,828	1,985,659	1,840,811
Interest ....	16,655	16,999	17,617	17,247	28,400
Depreciation including Sinking Fund (a) ....	46,585	47,873	58,020	57,706	61,871
Provisions and Other Charges ....	128,369	87,180	101,975	131,124	162,618
Total Annual Cost ....	1,656,167	1,597,518	1,836,440	2,171,736	2,093,700
Profit ....	101,600	226,265	310,710	303,905	201,369

(a) Includes Sinking Fund charged, in the accounts of the Concern as follows:—

\$6,233	\$6,513	\$6,806	\$7,112	\$13,752
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## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 18]

## WEST AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORT WORKS

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	1,330,401	1,513,628	2,000,213	3,221,332	3,684,851
Subscribed Loans .....	300,000	600,000	900,000	1,200,000	1,600,000
Total .....	1,630,401	2,113,628	2,900,213	4,421,332	5,284,851
Total Annual Revenue .....	3,512,442	4,680,758	4,662,993	5,522,505	6,170,452
Working Expenses .....	3,305,521	4,343,180	4,271,573	5,339,291	5,346,033
Interest .....	62,345	100,251	129,925	196,646	286,628
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	94,078	126,122	138,791	162,162	200,702
Provisions and Other Charges .....	42,609	57,116	75,901	89,767	183,428
Total Annual Cost .....	3,504,553	4,626,669	4,616,190	5,787,866	6,016,791
Profit .....	7,889	54,089	46,803	.....	153,661
Loss .....	.....	.....	.....	265,361	.....

[Return No. 19]

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

## C. Other Business Undertakings

Undertaking	Return No.	Trading Results 1972-73	
		Profit	Loss
		\$	\$
Albany Port Authority .....	20	.....	96,022
Bunbury Port Authority .....	21	70,205	.....
Esperance Port Authority .....	22	.....	214,264
Fremantle Port Authority .....	23	264,661	.....
Geraldton Port Authority .....	24	57,547	.....
Port Hedland Port Authority .....	25	28,457	.....
Charcoal-Iron and Steel Industry .....	26	.....	218,133
Government Employees' Housing Authority .....	27	7,876	.....
Metropolitan Market Trust .....	28	1,006	.....
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust .....	29	.....	4,613,535
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board .....	30	65,869	.....
Midland Junction Abattoir Board .....	31	.....	90,938
Rural and Industries Bank—Rural Department .....	32	1,226,098	.....
State Electricity Commission .....	33	5,471,852	.....
State Government Insurance Office .....	34	518,364	.....
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission .....	35	.....	4,413,839
Total—Net Loss .....	.....	.....	1,934,796

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 20]

## ALBANY PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	3,679,515	3,643,327	4,074,936	4,033,042	3,989,263
Inscribed Stock ....	770,000	1,070,000	1,370,000	1,670,000	1,940,000
Other Capital ....	453,286	453,286	453,286	453,286	453,286
Total ....	4,902,801	5,166,613	5,898,222	6,156,328	6,382,549
Total Annual Revenue ....	517,573	513,308	548,983	548,620	629,746
Working Expenses ....	345,192	206,723	236,048	236,564	330,794
Interest ....	207,228	250,073	285,294	322,861	351,195
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	33,692	36,188	38,391	41,894	43,779
Total Annual Cost ....	586,110	492,984	559,733	601,319	725,768
Profit ....	....	20,324	....	....	....
Loss ....	68,537	....	10,750	52,699	96,022

[Return No. 21]

## BUNBURY PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	5,844,557	5,849,445	6,162,173	6,571,472	6,956,692
Inscribed Stock ....	1,400,000	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,300,000	2,700,000
Other Capital ....	38,000	38,000	1,048,505	1,532,513	1,950,176
Total ....	7,282,557	7,587,445	9,210,678	10,403,985	11,606,868
Total Annual Revenue ....	807,513	835,796	911,005	963,655	1,044,638
Working Expenses ....	287,865	283,220	300,566	388,390	362,887
Interest ....	354,790	397,138	432,266	478,327	542,144
Depreciation ....	65,822	64,137	64,899	67,284	69,402
Total Annual Cost ....	708,477	744,495	797,731	934,001	974,433
Profit ....	99,036	91,301	113,274	29,654	70,205

[Return No. 22]

## ESPERANCE PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	3,044,017	3,593,046	3,879,176	4,654,212	4,628,149
Inscribed Stock ....	....	600,000	900,000	1,500,000	1,900,000
Total ....	3,044,017	4,193,046	4,779,176	6,154,212	6,528,149
Total Annual Revenue ....	96,667	417,936	570,387	407,318	458,408
Working Expenses ....	16,929	115,592	281,037	222,518	207,146
Interest ....	44,955	180,815	248,637	318,720	392,703
Depreciation ....	....	41,440	43,867	56,028	72,823
Total Annual Cost ....	61,884	337,847	573,541	597,266	672,672
Profit ....	34,783	80,089	....	....	....
Loss ....	....	....	3,154	189,948	214,264

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 23]

## FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	18,999,139	20,238,913	20,659,433	20,406,847	20,602,896
Revenue Capital .....	62,005	48,687	35,382	23,648	11,914
Inscribed Stock .....	2,250,000	2,550,000	3,150,000	3,750,000	4,650,000
Other Capital .....	507,523	435,046	862,569	1,143,784	1,321,307
Total .....	21,818,667	23,272,646	24,707,384	25,324,279	26,646,117
Total Annual Revenue .....	10,009,346	9,919,993	10,832,454	10,969,782	11,387,760
Working Expenses .....	7,455,044	6,946,102	7,639,235	7,960,162	8,164,649
Interest .....	1,071,648	1,164,647	1,271,273	1,302,733	1,366,743
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	1,266,468	1,406,481	1,579,807	1,371,839	1,404,582
Provisions and Other Charges .....	181,523	183,762	184,087	186,145	187,115
Total Annual Cost .....	9,974,683	9,760,992	10,674,402	10,820,879	11,123,089
Profit .....	34,663	159,001	158,052	148,903	264,661

[Return No. 24]

## GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	5,261,165	5,211,689	5,164,730	5,136,267	5,106,524
Inscribed Stock .....	.....	300,000	600,000	900,000	1,100,000
Total .....	5,261,165	5,511,689	5,764,730	6,036,267	6,206,524
Total Annual Revenue .....	235,264	643,005	769,341	677,651	806,088
Working Expenses .....	47,552	190,786	322,006	201,465	263,937
Interest .....	77,858	274,566	318,668	335,895	369,923
Depreciation .....	.....	60,075	109,106	113,469	114,681
Total Annual Cost .....	125,410	525,427	749,780	650,829	748,541
Profit .....	109,854	117,578	19,561	26,822	57,547

[Return No. 25]

## PORT HEDLAND PORT AUTHORITY (a)

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	.....	.....	.....	2,574,091	3,097,081
Inscribed Stock .....	.....	.....	.....	600,000	1,000,000
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	3,174,091	4,097,081
Total Annual Revenue .....	.....	.....	.....	3,122,394	5,997,461
Working Expenses .....	.....	.....	.....	2,611,629	5,483,489
Interest .....	.....	.....	.....	168,921	213,577
Depreciation .....	.....	.....	.....	129,438	183,813
Provisions and Other Charges .....	.....	.....	.....	65,735	88,125
Total Annual Cost .....	.....	.....	.....	2,975,723	5,969,004
Profit .....	.....	.....	.....	146,671	28,457

(a) Constituted as an Authority from 15th June, 1971.

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 26]

## CHARCOAL-IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	1,317,130	1,309,951	1,302,449	1,294,609	1,286,416
Earnings .....	4,086,036	4,271,530	4,608,004	3,884,082	5,051,802
Increase in Stocks .....	.....	69,544	17,237	698,596	.....
Decrease in Stocks .....	205,450	.....	.....	.....	430,224
Total Annual Revenue .....	3,880,586	4,341,074	4,625,241	4,582,678	4,621,578
Working Expenses .....	3,587,150	4,073,960	4,236,992	4,315,927	4,455,263
Interest .....	66,480	68,520	72,047	71,650	91,200
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	44,064	47,951	60,497	76,781	75,635
Provisions and Other Charges .....	160,382	135,782	161,104	196,530	217,613
Total Annual Cost .....	3,858,076	4,326,213	4,530,640	4,660,888	4,839,711
Profit .....	22,510	14,861	94,601	.....	.....
Loss .....	.....	.....	.....	78,210	218,133

[Return No. 27]

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	3,635,709	4,085,761	4,610,465	4,559,849	4,711,322
Subscribed Loans .....	990,428	1,282,736	1,572,795	1,861,150	2,245,812
Total .....	4,626,137	5,368,497	6,183,260	6,420,999	6,957,134
Total Annual Revenue .....	503,770	640,011	875,090	1,345,802	1,633,207
Administration .....	58,276	69,498	95,547	118,003	137,810
Maintenance .....	111,745	108,325	168,039	159,530	241,329
Rates on Rental Properties .....	39,574	50,478	64,597	79,856	92,190
Rents Payable .....	6,043	88,677	185,385	298,022	446,560
Interest .....	214,092	252,734	331,131	361,997	389,872
Depreciation .....	50,927	70,448	100,696	265,965	188,681
Provisions .....	25,113	17,059	.....	.....	128,889
Total Annual Cost .....	503,770	657,219	945,395	1,283,373	1,625,331
Profit .....	.....	.....	.....	62,429	7,876
Loss .....	.....	17,208	70,305	.....	.....

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 28]

## METROPOLITAN MARKET TRUST

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	195,952	187,183	178,018	168,442	158,434
Subscribed Loans ....	345,486	320,866	297,246	273,025	248,171
Total ....	541,438	508,049	475,264	441,467	406,605
Total Annual Revenue ....	197,734	211,388	222,940	240,917	248,043
Working Expenses ....	100,791	111,174	125,378	139,911	152,316
Interest ....	27,883	29,556	28,340	26,520	25,065
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	30,427	33,389	32,784	33,797	34,862
Provisions and Other Charges ....	37,037	34,979	34,546	39,156	34,794
Total Annual Cost ....	196,138	209,098	221,048	239,384	247,037
Profit ....	1,596	2,290	1,892	1,533	1,006

[Return No. 29]

## METROPOLITAN (PERTH) PASSENGER TRANSPORT TRUST

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	4,907,707	5,147,706	5,443,705	5,907,438	6,721,039
Inscribed Stock ....	5,482,151	5,773,020	6,062,441	6,343,103	6,721,039
Total ....	10,389,858	10,920,726	11,506,146	12,250,541	13,442,078
Total Annual Revenue ....	7,541,194	8,297,034	8,853,527	9,039,398	9,013,579
Working Expenses ....	7,373,384	8,069,562	9,418,522	10,952,982	12,214,747
Interest ....	463,788	510,057	559,220	580,157	630,904
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	627,582	638,854	667,438	715,303	775,463
Total Annual Cost ....	8,465,254	9,218,473	10,645,180	12,248,442	13,627,114
Loss ....	924,060	921,439	1,791,653	3,209,044	4,613,535

[Return No. 30]

## METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE BOARD

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital ....	94,869,697	102,670,879	112,571,931	122,130,601	133,788,680
Subscribed Loans ....	3,580,000	4,460,000	5,400,000	8,600,000	14,150,000
Total ....	98,449,697	107,130,879	117,971,931	130,730,601	147,938,680
Total Annual Revenue ....	11,844,454	13,029,271	14,022,409	18,410,529	19,511,939
Working Expenses ....	4,420,530	5,143,947	6,092,559	7,138,745	8,567,333
Interest ....	4,570,004	5,151,351	5,949,764	6,670,812	7,748,589
Depreciation including Sinking Fund ....	949,227	1,070,330	1,192,502	1,335,428	1,490,148
Provisions and Other Charges ....	1,313,000	1,279,268	735,000	2,732,500	1,640,000
Total Annual Cost ....	11,252,761	12,645,496	13,969,825	17,877,485	19,446,070
Profit ....	591,693	383,775	52,584	533,044	65,869

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 31]

## MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIR BOARD

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73*
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	3,406,287	4,283,521	7,752,990	10,148,976	10,743,631
Subscribed Loans .....	1,260,000	1,552,000	1,844,000	2,428,600	3,298,000
Total .....	4,666,287	5,835,521	9,596,990	12,577,476	14,041,631
Earnings .....	3,173,178	4,331,062	3,721,565	6,746,269	9,020,112
Increase in Stocks .....	178,807	.....	91,896	.....	.....
Decrease in Stocks .....	.....	159,989	.....	49,666	31,224
Total Annual Revenue .....	3,351,985	4,171,073	3,812,961	6,696,603	8,988,888
Working Expenses .....	2,887,336	3,928,547	3,809,445	6,123,498	7,777,338
Interest .....	231,290	297,991	405,031	613,021	766,852
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	198,344	252,708	319,016	369,915	535,636
Total Annual Cost .....	3,316,970	4,479,246	4,534,392	7,107,334	9,079,826
Profit .....	35,015	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loss .....	.....	307,273	721,431	410,731	90,938

\* Preliminary figures.

[Return No. 32]

## RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK OF W.A. (RURAL DEPARTMENT)

Details	†1969	†1970	†1971	†1972	†1973
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	22,229,552	22,229,550	22,229,548	22,229,546	22,229,544
Total Annual Revenue .....	9,824,829	13,377,574	15,055,041	16,684,050	18,632,637
Total Annual Cost .....	9,034,550	12,349,746	14,002,535	15,536,196	17,406,539
Profit .....	790,279	1,027,828	1,052,506	1,147,854	1,226,098
General Reserve .....	3,968,876	4,996,704	6,049,210	7,197,064	8,423,162

† Financial Years ending 31st March.

[Return No. 33]

## STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	47,767,502	53,416,724	53,416,723	56,586,942	60,245,496
Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing .....	2,545,332	2,545,332	2,545,332	2,545,332	2,545,332
Subscribed Loans .....	74,172,069	81,705,188	89,819,716	101,913,580	116,947,097
Total .....	124,484,903	137,667,244	145,781,771	161,045,854	179,737,925
Total Annual Revenue .....	38,611,904	43,779,611	48,065,531	58,383,772	68,591,560
Working Expenses .....	27,800,200	31,507,070	37,160,821	44,668,897	52,015,344
Interest .....	6,337,113	7,132,345	8,155,632	9,327,118	11,104,364
Total Annual Cost .....	34,137,313	38,640,315	45,316,453	53,996,015	63,119,708
Profit .....	4,474,591	5,139,296	2,749,078	4,387,757	5,471,852

## V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

[Return No. 34]

## STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1972	1973
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Assets .....	14,276,720	15,399,744	17,762,919	18,603,114	20,544,604
Earned Premiums .....	7,482,394	8,415,586	9,172,422	9,892,090	10,987,913
Other Revenue (including Interest, Rents, etc.) .....	891,257	986,491	1,155,581	1,255,737	1,381,559
Total Annual Revenue .....	8,373,651	9,402,077	10,328,003	11,148,427	12,369,742
Claims Paid and Outstanding .....	6,896,605	7,683,475	7,586,500	8,226,152	9,468,267
Working Expenses (including Taxes, Rebates, etc.) .....	1,205,822	1,451,651	2,049,250	2,301,859	2,382,841
Total Annual Cost .....	8,102,427	9,135,126	9,635,840	10,528,011	11,851,108
Taken to Reserves—					
Surplus .....	271,224	266,951	692,163	620,416	518,364
Total Reserves .....	6,845,028	7,111,979	7,804,142	8,424,558	8,942,922

[Return No. 35]

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COASTAL SHIPPING COMMISSION

Details	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loan Capital .....	8,353,966	8,353,965	8,353,964	8,344,874	7,831,761
Subscribed Loans .....	700,000	1,300,000	1,600,000	1,900,000	2,300,000
Commonwealth Grant .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,500,000
Total .....	9,053,966	9,653,965	9,953,964	10,244,874	11,631,761
Total Annual Revenue .....	5,342,795	5,008,713	5,005,077	5,738,313	4,783,573
Working Expenses .....	7,190,709	7,032,016	7,407,238	8,448,294	6,717,747
Interest .....	458,179	474,230	524,262	558,993	580,698
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	747,229	749,222	678,949	807,888	785,889
Provisions and Other Charges .....	125,895	149,800	342,128	469,856	1,113,078
Total Annual Cost .....	8,522,012	8,405,268	8,952,577	10,285,031	9,197,412
Loss .....	3,179,217	3,396,555	3,947,500	4,546,718	4,413,830

## VI.—TRUST FUNDS

## ROAD FUNDS—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1972-73

Details	Roads Trust	Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, 1969	Road Maintenance Fund	Railway Crossing Protection Fund	Beef Cattle Roads	Mitchell Freeway (State)	New Building Account (State)	Total
Balance from year 1971-72	\$ 5,564,007	\$ 1,181,463	\$ 80,778	\$ 79,795	\$ 28,565	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 26,052	\$ 9,960,660
Receipts during the Year—								
License Fees and Permits	14,567,225	....	3,358,685	....	....	....	....	17,925,910
Recoups by Government Departments and Local Authorities and Payments for Work Done	2,672,443	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,672,443
Commonwealth Government Grants	....	43,910,000	....	....	1,900,000	....	....	45,810,000
Overload Permits—Traffic Act, Section 14B	222,897	....	....	....	....	....	....	222,897
Rents Received	238,489	....	....	....	....	....	....	238,489
	23,265,061	45,091,463	3,439,463	79,795	1,928,565	3,000,000	26,052	76,830,399
Transfers to Other Funds	343,230	7,847,162	3,428,512	39,581	247,035	....	....	11,905,520
Transfers from Other Funds	11,510,918	....	....	294,602	....	....	100,000	11,905,520
	34,432,749	37,244,301	10,951	334,816	1,681,530	3,000,000	126,052	76,830,399
Payments During Year—								
Administration, Office Equipment, etc.	5,853,164	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,853,164
Miscellaneous Works—Surveys, Laboratory Operation, Supervision of Works, Overload Policing, etc.	2,442,620	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,442,620
Interest and Sinking Fund	291,430	....	....	....	....	....	....	291,430
Road Construction and Maintenance	18,420,186	25,302,365	....	307,937	1,580,331	1,500,000	....	47,110,819
Statutory Grants to Local Authorities	3,015,000	10,279,605	....	....	....	....	....	13,294,605
Traffic Control Lights, etc.	777,467	....	....	....	....	....	....	777,467
Progress Payments—New Building	....	....	....	....	....	....	118,838	118,838
	30,799,867	35,581,970	....	307,937	1,580,331	1,500,000	118,838	69,888,943
Balance on Hand, 30th June, 1973	†3,632,882	1,662,331	10,951	26,879	101,199	1,500,000	7,214	6,941,456

\* Balance adjusted to exclude \$10,505 Cr. held in Cash Order Suspense Account.

† Balance excludes \$781,563 Cr. in Cash Order Suspense Account for outstanding cheques.

## VI.—TRUST FUNDS

[Return No. 37]

## FOREST IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND

Transactions during the Years, 1968-69 to 1972-73

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Receipts</i>					
Balance from previous year	470,707	456,929	257,430	778,813	916,010
Appropriation from Revenue Fund	2,761,178	2,713,126	2,678,627	2,757,712	2,239,628
Commonwealth Loans—Softwood Forestry Agreement	600,000	600,000	1,033,000	56,241	1,020,000
Sundry Receipts	265,942	279,926	278,461	246,988	397,515
General Loan Fund	400,000	400,000	500,000	1,100,000	1,900,000
Treasurer's Advance	.....	.....	.....	462,000	.....
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>4,497,827</b>	<b>4,449,981</b>	<b>4,747,518</b>	<b>5,401,754</b>	<b>6,473,151</b>
<i>Payments</i>					
Expenditure on Forest Improvements and Re-forestation during year	4,040,898	4,192,551	3,968,705	4,485,744	4,412,394
Repayment Treasurer's Advance	.....	.....	.....	.....	462,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,040,898</b>	<b>4,192,551</b>	<b>3,968,705</b>	<b>4,485,744</b>	<b>4,874,394</b>
Balance on hand, 30th June	456,929	257,430	778,813	916,010	1,598,757

[Return No. 38]

## HOSPITAL FUND

Transactions during the Years, 1968-69 to 1972-73

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Receipts</i>					
Treasury Grants	24,368,645	30,205,682	38,489,299	43,221,552	52,128,567
Miscellaneous Receipts	84,852	90,597	120,412	30,846	93,238
Lotteries Commission	.....	.....	.....	1,449,990	1,659,790
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>24,453,497</b>	<b>30,296,279</b>	<b>38,609,711</b>	<b>44,702,388</b>	<b>53,881,595</b>
<i>Payments</i>					
Administration Expenditure	750,973	939,448	846,982	1,399,449	1,627,308
Hospitals Expenditure—					
Departmental	4,445,364	7,190,328	8,918,089	9,632,508	10,665,768
Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc.	13,868,490	18,325,068	23,960,233	28,791,873	34,421,979
Miscellaneous	5,388,670	3,841,435	4,884,407	4,878,558	7,166,540
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>24,453,497</b>	<b>30,296,279</b>	<b>38,609,711</b>	<b>44,702,388</b>	<b>53,881,595</b>

## VI.—TRUST FUNDS

[Return No. 39]

THE STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS  
Transactions during the Years, 1968-69 to 1972-73

Details	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance—Brought forward ....	7,926,741	10,231,947	6,779,330	5,204,319	13,356,042
Receipts during year—					
General Loan Fund ....	2,300,000	2,700,000	5,150,000	21,750,000	15,000,000
Other Borrowings ....	1,600,000	1,900,000	2,325,000	2,550,000	3,500,000
Sale of Land and Leases ....	2,195,983	2,866,162	1,517,223	3,526,463	3,506,413
Rents ....	307,785	549,897	675,915	336,239	296,779
Principal Interest and Repayments from Borrowers ....	6,368,583	6,923,002	6,428,770	8,376,695	11,688,027
Construction for other Government Departments etc. ....	2,390,401	2,856,086	4,076,036	2,710,466	1,328,888
Fees and Agency Commissions ....	370,648	606,833	745,477	2,575,521	2,856,673
Other Revenue ....	1,725,706	1,489,218	3,193,590	2,571,852	13,166,092
Total Receipts ....	25,185,847	30,123,145	30,891,341	49,601,555	64,698,914
Payments during year—					
Repayment of Borrowed Funds ....	478,137	520,802	588,436	724,070	789,989
Construction ....	5,759,367	11,326,101	11,306,262	8,733,236	23,959,167
Purchase of Land and Leases ....	3,482,875	5,531,778	6,039,596	17,949,186	13,000,856
Revenue Vote—Administration ....	1,957,720	2,285,003	2,749,234	3,237,440	3,853,740
Interest ....	1,796,774	1,979,010	3,195,817	4,128,198	6,329,189
Other ....	1,479,027	1,701,121	1,807,677	1,473,374	11,296,716
Total Payments ....	14,953,900	23,343,815	23,687,022	36,245,513	59,229,657
Balance on hand 30th June ....	10,231,947	6,779,330	5,204,319	13,356,042	5,469,257
Cashier's Advance ....	6,500	12,870	11,000	10,840	12,500
Total ....	10,238,447	6,792,200	5,215,319	13,366,882	5,481,757

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, 1901-02 TO 1972-73

Year	Contribution towards Interest	Surplus Revenue Returned	Payment per Head, \$2.50	Special Payment to W.A.	Grant Under Sec. 96	Financial Assistance Grant	Additional Assistance Grant	Debt Charges Assistance	Tuberculosis Financial Aid	Other Receipts	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Period Covered by Braddon Clause											
(a) 1901-02 to 1910-11	....	(b) 17,745,444	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17,745,444
Period Covered by Per Capita Payments and Special Payment to W.A.											
1911-12 to 1920-27	....	....	13,264,528	5,112,490	1,131,810	....	....	....	....	(c) 924,020	20,432,834
Period Covered by Financial Agreement Act											
(i) Prior to Uniform Tax Reimbursement											
1927-28 to 1941-42	14,202,060	(d) 402,000	....	....	15,040,000	....	....	....	....	147,280	29,792,240
(ii) Under Uniform Tax Reimbursement											
1942-43 to 1958-59	10,008,606	....	....	....	182,280,000	(e) 272,719,804	....	....	7,421,966	(f) 2,563,412	481,081,878
(iii) States Grants Acts, commencing 1959											
1959-60	946,850	....	....	....	7,000,000	50,024,000	....	....	1,042,092	(g) 30,610	59,949,553
1960-61	946,864	....	....	....	8,618,000	55,958,950	....	....	1,034,518	(g) 53,034	66,600,366
1961-62	946,864	....	....	....	12,312,000	60,170,848	....	....	....	(g) 58,254	73,487,964
1962-63	946,864	....	....	....	12,420,000	62,480,608	....	....	....	(g) 64,424	76,011,896
1963-64	946,864	....	....	....	12,144,000	65,596,650	....	....	....	(h) 302,350	79,079,864
1964-65	946,864	....	....	....	17,120,000	70,493,358	....	....	....	....	83,585,222
1965-66	946,864	....	....	....	24,038,000	78,474,063	....	....	....	....	103,458,927
1966-67	946,864	....	....	....	19,406,000	86,395,579	....	....	....	....	106,748,443
1967-68	946,864	....	....	....	15,518,000	96,151,755	....	....	....	(i) 35,405	112,652,024
1968-69	946,864	....	....	....	582,000	109,295,948	15,500,000	....	....	(j) 1,200,060	126,020,872
1969-70	946,864	....	....	....	....	123,334,745	15,500,000	....	....	(k) 1,009,198	141,390,807
1970-71	946,864	....	....	....	....	146,483,492	12,500,000	1,105,534	....	(l) 9,502,621	170,518,511
1971-72	946,864	....	....	....	....	101,459,000	9,500,000	2,211,069	....	(m) 6,216,564	180,334,397
1972-73	946,864	....	....	....	....	180,369,458	6,500,000	3,310,603	....	(n) 4,267,000	201,399,925
Total, 14 years	13,256,038	....	....	....	129,158,000	1,352,569,352	59,500,000	6,633,206	2,076,610	23,531,520	1,586,724,776
Total, 72 years	43,555,744	18,147,444	13,264,528	5,112,490	327,609,810	1,625,289,150	59,500,000	6,633,206	9,498,570	27,108,238	2,135,777,198

(a) First complete year of Federation.

(b) Including \$1,737,926 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for 5 years after the imposition of uniform customs duties.

(c) Interest on transferred properties.

(d) Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus distributed to States.

(e) Includes Special Payment under the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, 1942, of \$1,325,118 and Special Payment on account of coal strike of \$1,323,354.

(f) Includes Mental Institutions Benefits \$177,460; Immigration Subsidies \$70,824; Entertainment Tax Reimbursement, \$736,396; Price Control Reimbursement, \$703,212; States Grants (Additional Assistance) Act, \$630,124 and Kimberley Research Station, \$245,300.

(g) Kimberley Research Station.

(h) Includes Immigration Subsidies, \$34,000; Kimberley Research Station, \$58,350 and Additional Assistance Grant for Employment Giving Activities, \$300,000.

(i) States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act.

(j) Special Revenue Assistance, \$1,200,000.

(k) Includes Special Revenue Assistance Grant, \$1,544,612 and Eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, \$64,580.

(l) Includes Special Revenue Assistance Grant, \$5,030,441; Receipts Duty Compensation, \$4,350,000; Eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, \$118,680 and Home Care Services, \$3,500.

(m) Includes Special Revenue Assistance Grant, \$6,014,355; Eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, \$192,209 and Home Care Services, \$10,000.

(n) Includes Special Revenue Assistance Grant, \$3,500,000; Eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, \$387,500; Home Care Services, \$12,500; and Community Health Services, \$367,000.

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 41]

## STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET RESULTS AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMMONWEALTH SPECIAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR PAYMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION

Year	Special Grants Included as Revenue for year of receipt	Published Budget Results after bringing to account Special Grants as per column 2 (See Return No. 5)		Special Grants not included as Revenue for year of receipt but applied towards extinguishment of previous years' deficits		Negative adjustments in respect of previous years' Special Grants		Adjusted Budget Results after bringing to account amounts listed in columns 5 and 7	
		Surplus	Deficit	Amount	Year of receipt	Amount	Year of deduction	Surplus	Deficit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$		\$	\$
1947-48 ....	5,954,000	....	704,184	876,000	1949-50	....	....	171,836	....
1948-49 ....	7,200,000	....	1,634,522	1,634,522	1950-51	....	....	....	....
1949-50 ....	10,360,000	47,516	....	....	....	....	....	47,516	....
1950-51 ....	10,043,478	318,694	....	....	....	318,000	1952-53	694	....
1951-52 ....	10,176,000	....	1,183,222	900,000	1953-54	....	....	....	283,222
1952-53 ....	(a) 16,400,000	....	1,015,766	700,000	1954-55	....	....	....	315,766
1953-54 ....	14,700,000	....	205,353	60,000	1955-56	....	....	....	155,353
1954-55 ....	14,200,000	....	663,080	196,000	1956-57	....	....	....	772,080
1955-56 ....	(b) 17,700,000	....	3,661,662	644,000	1957-58	....	....	....	3,017,662
1956-57 ....	(b) 18,294,000	....	3,824,736	2,634,000	1958-59	....	....	....	1,140,736
1957-58 ....	(b) 19,556,000	....	2,246,660	702,000	1959-60	....	....	....	1,544,660
1958-59 ....	(b) 19,516,000	....	3,369,466	1,218,000	1960-61	....	....	....	2,151,466
1959-60 ....	(b) 6,298,000	....	2,811,628	1,612,000	1961-62	....	....	....	899,628
1960-61 ....	(b) 7,400,000	....	2,409,152	620,000	1962-63	....	....	....	1,789,152
1961-62 ....	(b) 10,400,000	....	1,623,024	344,000	1963-64	....	....	....	1,584,024
1962-63 ....	(b) 11,800,000	....	1,505,750	1,320,000	1964-65	....	....	....	185,750
1963-64 ....	(b) 11,800,000	....	2,792,360	3,038,000	1965-66	....	....	245,640	....
1964-65 ....	(b) 15,800,000	....	4,697,050	4,706,000	1966-67	....	....	8,950	....
1965-66 ....	(b) 21,000,000	....	10,110	18,000	1967-68	....	....	7,890	....
1966-67 ....	(b) 14,700,000	....	27,494	532,000	1968-69	....	....	554,506	....
1967-68 ....	15,500,000	828,636	....	....	....	....	....	828,636	....
1968-69 ....	(c)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

(a) Includes \$318,000 transferred from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(b) Excludes final adjustment of results of previous years shown in column 5.

(c) From 1st July, 1968, the Special Grant under Section 96 of the Constitution was discontinued.

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 42]

Receipts from Commonwealth taken to various funds other than Consolidated  
Revenue Fund, 1972-73

Details	Amount
	\$
Aboriginal Advancement .....	6,886,000
Aboriginal Wards Education .....	37,830
Advisory Committee on Research into Crown of Thorns Starfish .....	6,557
Agriculture Extension Services .....	592,374
Assistance to Deserted Wives .....	1,741,666
Australian Advisory Committee on Child Care Research .....	4,056
Australian Advisory Committee on Research and Development in Education .....	17,500
Australian Dairy Produce Board Research .....	13,527
Australian Meat Research Committee .....	106,400
Australian Research Grants Committee .....	370,439
Australian Wool Board .....	94,022
Australian Water Resources Council .....	6,510
Barley Research Advisory Committee .....	17,500
Beef Cattle Roads .....	1,900,000
Capital Grants for Government Schools .....	1,242,000
Chicken Meat Research .....	500
Child Migrant Education .....	86,323
Coal Mining Industry—Long Service Leave .....	89,717
Colleges of Advanced Education .....	5,704,526
Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, 1969 .....	43,910,000
Disposal of Ships' Garbage .....	10,026
Drug Education Campaign .....	38,978
Dwellings for Aged Pensioners .....	518,815
Exmouth Township .....	28,030
Free Milk for School Children .....	990,340
Gnowangerup Agricultural School .....	5,860
Hospital Benefits—Departmental Hospitals .....	31,397
Hospital Benefits—Nursing Homes .....	1,264,181
Hospital Benefits—Pensioners .....	807,270
Housing Advances .....	400,000
Housing Grant—Interest Subsidy .....	770,750
Independent Schools .....	2,903,286
Kimberley Research Station .....	186,000
Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme .....	277,000
Mental Institutions .....	270,805
Metropolitan Sewerage—Unemployment Relief .....	3,500,400
Migrant Education .....	130,320
Murdoch University .....	344,350
National Fitness .....	73,650
National Pleuro Pneumonia Fund .....	60,000
National Safety Council .....	24,750
National Warning on Smoking Campaign .....	12,500
Non-Metropolitan Unemployment Relief .....	5,400,600
Non-Productive Capital Works .....	23,213,000
Ord River Irrigation Project—Stage II .....	748,000
Petroleum Products Subsidy .....	5,325,289
Pharmaceutical Benefits .....	3,789,913
Pig Research .....	7,803
Total—Carried Forward .....	113,960,760

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

{Return No. 42—continued}

Receipts from Commonwealth taken to various funds other than Consolidated  
Revenue Fund, 1972-73—continued

Details	Amount
	\$
Total Brought Forward	113,960,760
Railway Standardisation Agreement	1,250,000
Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	133,862
Research Laboratory, Kalgoorlie School of Mines	9,700
Rural Reconstruction Scheme	8,130,000
Science Laboratories and Equipment—Government Schools	467,508
Science Laboratories and Equipment—Non-Government Schools	443,276
Secondary School Libraries—Government Schools	720,300
Secondary School Libraries—Non-Government Schools	143,697
Senior Citizens Centres	67,232
Sinking Fund (Financial Agreement)	2,714,619
Softwood Forestry Agreement Loan	1,020,000
South West Region Water Supplies	158,000
State Wheat Research	101,250
Strategic Roads and Roads of Access to Commonwealth Property	36,000
Teachers Training College	1,865,000
Technical Training—Buildings and Equipment	1,166,333
Tuberculosis Financial Aid	817,494
University of Western Australia	7,852,863
University Residential Colleges	16,500
War Service Homes	6,450,000
Water Resources	709,900
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission	2,500,000
Wheat Research	43,314
Total	150,777,628

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 43]

### Commonwealth Grants for the Provision of Science Laboratories, Secondary School Libraries and Technical Training Facilities

Details	Amount
<b>Science Laboratories—</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>Government Schools :</i>	
Balance on Hand, 1st July, 1972	142,341
Commonwealth Advances, 1972-73	467,508
	<b>609,849</b>
Expenditure, 1972-73	514,723
	<b>95,126</b>
<b>Balance on Hand, 30th June, 1973</b>	<b>95,126</b>
<b>Details of Expenditure—</b>	
<b>Buildings and Equipment :</b>	
Albany	640
Armadale	10,826
Balcatta	1,895
Balga	65,371
Belmont	34,533
Boyup Brook	1,755
Bullsbrook	43,439
Busselton	29,909
Cannington	96
City Beach	10,943
Corrigin	4,499
Esperance	598
Hamilton Hill	33,923
Hampton	1,793
Hollywood	1,977
John Forrest	37,192
Kalamunda	3,057
Kewdale	2,156
Kwinana	32,930
Melville	52
Mount Barker	8,397
Mount Lawley	64,046
Narrogin Agricultural	83
Newton Moore	54,639
Pinjarra	26,465
Rossmoyne	11,190
Wongan Hills	11,842
Equipment—Various Secondary Schools	20,477
	<b>514,723</b>
<i>Non-Government Schools :</i>	
Balance on Hand, 1st July, 1972	52,140
Commonwealth Advances, 1972-73	443,276
	<b>495,416</b>
Payments to Non-Government Schools	442,276
	<b>53,140</b>
<b>Balance on Hand, 30th June, 1973</b>	<b>53,140</b>



## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 44]

Total Net Collections of State Taxation taken to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Trust Accounts, and Special Accounts, for the Year ended 30th June, 1973

Details	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund	Paid to Trust or Special Accounts	Total	Taxation per Head (a)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Probate and Succession Duties	7,499,078	....	7,499,078	7.05
Other Stamp Duties	25,945,698	....	25,945,698	24.39
Land Tax	10,511,908	....	10,511,908	9.88
Third Party Insurance Surcharge	2,401,857	....	2,401,857	2.26
Payroll Tax	38,916,183	....	38,916,183	36.57
Liquor Licenses	4,987,721	....	4,987,721	4.69
Racing—				
Stamp Duty on Betting	75,444	....	75,444	0.07
Totalisator Duty and Licenses	870,156	....	870,156	0.82
Bookmakers' Betting Tax and Licenses	527,315	....	527,315	0.49
Betting Tax—Totalisator Agency Board	4,652,317	....	4,652,317	4.37
Motor Taxation	806,577	18,590,556	19,397,133	18.23
Other Vehicle Taxation	....	141,301	141,301	0.13
Shipping Fees and Permits	....	2,017	2,017	....
Fruit Fly Eradication Registration Fees	....	11,107	11,107	0.01
Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax	....	1,341,251	1,341,251	1.26
Licenses not elsewhere included	2,433,442	....	2,433,442	2.29
Total	99,627,696	20,086,232	119,713,928	112.51

(a) Based on estimated mean population for year 1972-73, 1,064,000.

**VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION**  
**COST OF SOCIAL SERVICES—YEAR 1972-73**

Service	Loan Lia- bility	Expenditure				Receipts	Net Ex- penditure	Cost per Head	
		Indirect		Direct	Total				
		Interest	Sinking Fund	Con- solidated Revenue Fund					
									(*)
1.—Education—									
(a) Education Department and Schools	\$ 84,658,950	\$ 4,530,973	\$ 945,902	\$ 81,748,025	\$ 87,224,000	\$ 654,271	\$ 86,570,629	\$ 81.36	
(b) Universities	6,481,013	346,866	64,750	8,002,214	8,413,830	....	8,413,830	7.91	
(c) Tertiary other than University	7,587,732	406,098	70,829	16,594,173	17,071,100	....	17,071,100	16.04	
(d) Technical Education	5,079,081	271,834	52,807	10,076,865	10,401,506	1,089,339	9,312,167	8.75	
(e) Agricultural Education	2,246,605	120,230	22,880	124,000	267,119	....	267,119	0.25	
(f) Library, Museum, etc.	1,590,413	85,110	17,773	2,314,090	2,416,982	6,433	2,410,549	2.27	
(g) Deaf, Dumb and Blind	182,549	9,770	2,096	73,267	85,133	....	85,133	0.08	
Total 1	107,826,343	5,770,899	1,177,037	118,932,634	125,880,570	1,750,043	124,130,527	116.66	
2.—Health, Hospitals and Charities—									
(a) Public Health	2,121,089	113,521	7,618	5,338,582	5,459,721	1,664,151	3,795,570	3.57	
(b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted, Health of Mothers and Children	84,887,723	4,557,006	480,697	68,546,449	73,614,152	1,633,163	71,980,989	67.65	
(c) Recreation Facilities	....	....	....	1,346,859	1,346,859	....	1,346,859	1.27	
(d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm and Child Welfare	6,780,133	362,876	75,762	13,694,119	14,132,757	489,594	13,643,163	12.82	
(e) Miners' Phthisis	....	....	....	78,022	78,022	....	78,022	0.07	
(f) Natives n.e.i.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	
(g) Unemployment Relief	....	....	....	117,906	117,906	....	117,906	0.11	
Total 2	93,788,945	5,063,403	564,077	89,121,937	94,749,417	3,786,908	90,962,509	85.49	
3.—Law, Order and Public Safety—									
(a) Administration of Justice	2,669,682	142,882	22,480	4,896,667	5,062,038	3,261,800	1,800,238	1.89	
(b) Police	7,511,702	402,029	77,326	16,346,812	16,825,667	3,427,129	13,398,538	12.59	
(c) Gaols and Reformatories	4,034,226	215,913	44,521	7,601,243	7,861,677	105,204	7,756,473	7.29	
(d) Public Safety	67,511	3,613	....	1,342,640	1,346,253	84,184	1,262,069	1.19	
Total 3	14,283,121	764,437	144,336	30,186,862	31,095,635	6,878,317	24,217,318	22.76	
GRAND TOTAL	215,898,409	11,598,739	1,885,450	238,241,433	251,725,622	12,415,268	239,310,354	224.91	

(\*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1972-73, viz. 1,064,000

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

## Statistical Statement of Operations

Details	Year Ended 30th June				
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Average number of miles open Results of Operations (per train mile)	3,826	3,828	3,837	3,800	3,832
Earnings .....	616·91c	702·15c	751·32c	812·16c	862·35c
Operating Expenses .....	543·24c	593·83c	642·85c	710·77c	805·14c
Depreciation .....	83·20c	97·25c	97·19c	103·42c	121·32c
Interest .....	120·65c	135·46c	147·26c	154·44c	166·06c
Operating Expenses plus Depreciation and Interest .....	747·09c	826·54c	887·30c	968·63c	1,092·52c
Deficit .....	130·18c	124·39c	135·98c	156·47c	230·17c
Operating Expenses per cent of Earnings .....	88·02	84·82	85·93	88·07	94·16
Passenger Traffic					
Rail					
Earnings from Passengers Carried .....	\$2,874,048	\$3,490,183	\$3,592,122	\$3,533,428	\$3,815,785
Road Services					
Number of Passenger Miles	25,439,635	25,444,646	24,224,610	24,326,617	23,468,330
Earnings from Passengers Carried .....	\$596,963	\$614,102	\$645,665	\$623,559	\$614,526
Average Earnings per Passenger Mile .....	2·35c	2·41c	2·67c	2·56c	2·62c
Parcels Earnings .....	\$1,699,188	\$1,751,980	\$1,725,093	\$1,621,125	\$1,757,505
Goods and Livestock Traffic Paying					
Number of Ton Miles (millions) .....	1,526	1,749	2,078	2,109	2,254
Average haul per ton of Goods (miles) .....	170·78	165·31	156·89	154·49	167·12
Average tonnage including Departmental per loaded wagon .....	10·3	11·0	12·9	13·0	13·9
Average locomotive load (tons) including Departmental .....	261·3	285·4	347·1	370·6	428·2
Average Earnings per ton mile .....	2·80c	2·74c	2·51c	2·61c	2·39c
Earnings from Goods and Livestock .....	\$43,375,249	\$48,580,006	\$52,761,120	\$55,597,486	\$54,427,911
Goods and Livestock Traffic Gross					
Average Tonnage per Loaded wagon .....	22·7	24·3	27·4	27·8	29·2
Average locomotive load (tons) .....	568	641	730	783	889
Average number of vehicles per locomotive—Loaded .....	24·5	25·4	26·1	27·8	30·0
Average number of vehicles per locomotive—Empty .....	13·8	14·7	16·1	16·8	17·8
Rolling Stock on 30th June					
Locomotives Steam—No. ....	†205	†155	†49	†49	†3
Locomotives Diesel Electric and Hydraulic—No. ....	161	178	192	198	205
Passenger Vehicles—No. ....	225	214	192	198	196
Brake Vans—No. ....	259	254	269	265	257
Goods Vehicles—No. ....	12,818	12,829	12,991	12,737	12,046
Omnibuses—No. ....	63	63	62	57	57
Staff—Average per Year					
Salaries—No. ....	2,133	2,142	2,158	2,187	2,203
Wages—No. ....	9,120	8,773	8,414	8,074	7,786
Total Staff—No. ....	11,253	10,915	10,572	10,261	9,989

† Includes 1 Diesel Mechanical Locomotive.

**VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS**  
**(a) TONNAGE OF GOODS CARRIED**

Class of Goods	1968-69		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72		1972-73	
	Tonnage	Percentage of Total	Tonnage	Percentage of Total	Tonnage	Percentage of Total	Tonnage	Percentage of Total	Tonnage	Percentage of Total
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	229,242	2.56	135,129	1.27	136,201	1.41	191,343	1.40	160,184	1.19
Ores and Minerals	4,352,482	49.71	5,485,810	50.97	7,471,275	50.41	7,545,603	55.29	8,107,762	60.77
Wool	141,904	1.59	126,340	1.18	123,908	.97	143,903	1.05	114,223	.85
Wheat	1,512,215	16.92	2,280,523	21.38	2,424,220	13.30	2,587,805	13.59	1,949,174	14.45
Grain and Grain Products	311,224	3.49	184,311	1.73	626,108	4.73	868,591	6.37	401,914	2.98
Local Timber	332,900	3.73	333,442	3.13	291,584	2.20	276,812	2.02	279,608	2.07
Imported Timber	}									
Fertilisers		7.40	559,802	5.25	413,765	3.12	415,839	3.05	576,528	4.27
All other goods	1,387,786	15.54	1,009,975	15.00	1,702,378	12.86	1,969,579	12.23	1,809,325	13.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,934,477</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>10,605,392</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>13,244,439</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>13,048,475</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>13,489,208</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**(b) EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED**

Class of Goods	1968-69		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72		1972-73	
	Earnings	Percentage of Total	Earnings	Percentage of Total	Earnings	Percentage of Total	Earnings	Percentage of Total	Earnings	Percentage of Total
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	\$ 639,465	1.47	\$ 391,605	.80	\$ 555,071	1.05	\$ 582,010	1.05	\$ 483,629	.80
Ores and Minerals	8,829,760	19.80	10,393,403	21.39	14,140,570	26.30	13,979,657	25.14	16,321,470	29.99
Wool	2,063,007	4.76	1,814,991	3.74	1,614,407	3.03	2,123,513	3.82	1,702,096	3.13
Wheat	7,661,176	17.52	11,311,626	23.28	10,232,474	19.39	12,170,484	21.80	9,805,117	18.12
Grain and Grain Products	1,582,003	3.65	982,203	2.02	3,235,021	6.13	4,498,738	8.09	2,045,327	3.76
Local Timber	2,439,506	5.74	2,514,028	5.16	2,140,725	4.00	2,033,004	3.66	2,035,485	3.74
Imported Timber	}									
Fertilisers		7.06	2,822,110	5.81	2,098,834	3.98	2,109,803	3.79	2,905,234	5.34
All other goods	17,047,848	39.30	18,350,130	37.78	18,444,018	34.90	18,095,167	32.65	19,009,558	35.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,375,249</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>48,580,099</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>52,761,120</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55,597,436</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>64,427,911</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 48]

## Selected Statistics on Western Australian Economic Conditions

Item	Unit	1965-66	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
<b>A. POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (a)</b>						
Population at 30th June (b) .....	No.	954,816	991,354	1,030,469	1,053,182	(c)
Annual Rate of Increase (b) .....	%	4.35	3.82	3.95	2.20	(c)
Births .....	No.	20,007	21,211	23,173	23,162	(c)
Marriages .....	No.	8,427	9,178	9,453	9,249	(c)
Immigration (net Overseas Arrivals and Departures) .....	No.	13,708	12,816	13,693	1,419	(c)
<b>B. EMPLOYMENT</b>						
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment at 30th June .....	'000's	303.7	324.0	343.9	(d) 342.2	(d) 353.3
Registered Unemployed at 30th June .....	No.	4,007	5,147	6,683	12,076	8,461
Registered Vacancies at 30th June .....	No.	3,788	3,200	2,340	1,564	3,302
State Basic Wage (Adult Males) .....	\$	35.45	36.45	38.45	40.45	44.00
Commonwealth Minimum Weekly Rate (Adult Males) .....	\$	38.90	42.40	46.40	51.10	60.10
Average Weekly Earnings (Male Units) .....	\$	*63.80	75.50	*34.80	93.60	90.00
<b>C. LAND SETTLEMENT</b>						
Area of Land Selected during the year .....	acres '000's	409	71	516	*13	35
Area of Land Lensed during the year .....	acres '000's	2,693	4,766	7,065	4,181	1,865
Total Area of Rural Holdings .....	acres '000's	278,174	280,819	283,107	*282,864	†282,159
Area of Land under Crop .....	acres '000's	9,490	9,676	9,408	*9,260	†9,522
Area of Land under Pasture .....	acres '000's	15,363	16,472	17,254	*16,826	(c)
<b>D. PRODUCTION</b>						
<b>(1) Rural and Primary</b>						
Wool (Shorn, Dressed and Fellingmongered)—						
Quantity .....	tonnes	164,307	144,527	151,808	170,219	†138,500
Gross Value .....	\$ '000's	158,264	120,819	92,009	135,137	†218,215
Wheat—						
Quantity .....	tonnes '000's	3,060	1,815	2,957	2,165	2,002
Gross Value .....	\$ '000's	151,308	93,988	158,033	115,934	†112,855
Oats .....	tonnes '000's	416	281	520	414	212
Barley .....	tonnes '000's	208	273	769	1,000	640
Livestock at 31st March (e)—						
Sheep .....	'000's	32,901	33,634	34,709	*34,405	30,919
Cattle .....	'000's	1,546	1,681	1,781	*1,975	2,182
Livestock Slaughtered—						
Cattle and Calves .....	'000's	366	402	348	*389	†450
Sheep .....	'000's	2,379	3,164	2,931	*4,106	†4,312
Lambs .....	'000's	1,429	1,370	1,485	*1,895	†1,338
Pigs .....	'000's	263	316	316	*367	†506
Meat Produced—						
Beef and Veal .....	tons '000's	68	72	63	*76	†85
Mutton .....	tons '000's	47	58	56	*77	†76
Lamb .....	tons '000's	21	19	22	*27	†13
Pigmeat .....	tons '000's	14	17	16	20	†29
<b>(2) Mining</b>						
Gold (g)—						
Quantity .....	fine oz. '000's	481	396	359	340	299
Value .....	\$ '000's	17,454	14,158	11,770	*13,144	16,610
Coal—						
Quantity .....	tons '000's	1,103	1,159	1,171	1,189	1,135
Value .....	\$ '000's	4,953	5,407	5,653	5,855	6,422
Iron Ore (Mine Production) .....	tons '000's	23,345	34,130	45,509	52,402	60,831
Bauxite .....	tons '000's	2,075	2,861	4,140	4,741	5,413
Oil .....	bbls. '000's	11,649	15,583	16,535	15,976	14,924
<b>(3) Manufacturing</b>						
Bricks (Clay—all sizes) .....	'000's	*273,078	*288,949	240,323	†228,942	†289,798
Electricity Generated (Government) .....	mil. kWh	1,902	*2,195	2,446	†2,671	†2,368
Timber Sawn (f) .....	sup. ft. '000's	188,204	190,345	190,265	172,474	171,610
<b>(4) Building and Construction</b>						
Houses and Flats—						
Completed .....	No.	16,331	19,529	16,934	*14,682	14,700
Value .....	\$ '000's	155,682	191,819	189,636	180,650	172,545
Total All Buildings .....	\$ '000's	254,833	303,397	365,012	331,440	324,013
<b>(5) Net Value of Production</b>						
Agricultural .....	\$ '000's	136,355	*84,233	*178,363	*144,670	†136,886
Pastoral and Trapping .....	\$ '000's	169,541	133,380	*105,029	*156,954	†263,647
Dairying, Poultry and Beekeeping .....	\$ '000's	17,523	15,137	*15,988	*17,352	†17,590
Fisheries .....	\$ '000's	22,239	17,989	23,055	*29,080	†25,605
Forestry, exclusive of Milling .....	\$ '000's	12,591	12,795	14,845	*13,288	†13,160
Mining .....	\$ '000's	†191,098	†236,874	†386,444	††429,731	(c)
Manufacturing .....	\$ '000's	†362,361	†414,986	n.a.	†481,322	(c)
Electricity and Gas .....	\$ '000's	†36,661	†44,153	n.a.	(c)	(c)

## VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION

[Return No. 48—continued]

## Selected Statistics on Western Australian Economic Conditions

Item	Unit	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
<b>E. TRADE</b>						
Imports—						
Interstate .....	\$'m	562.3	640.2	726.8	787.8	(c)
Overseas .....	\$'m	203.5	242.3	278.3	*283.3	(c)
Total .....	\$'m	765.8	882.5	1,005.1	1,071.1	(c)
Exports—						
Interstate .....	\$'m	149.9	149.9	151.1	138.5	(c)
Overseas .....	\$'m	546.4	675.0	862.4	*946.5	(c)
Total (A) .....	\$'m	696.3	824.9	1,013.5	1,085.0	(c)
Principal Exports—						
Wheat .....	\$'m	73.0	86.6	130.6	128.1	(c)
Wool (Greasy and Degreased) .....	\$'m	158.0	135.0	98.3	120.5	(c)
Chemical Elements and Compounds .....	\$'m	34.1	41.0	61.4	78.1	(c)
Gold Bullion (i) .....	\$'m	12.7	13.0	3.0	4.1	(c)
Iron and Steel .....	\$'m	27.0	34.3	94.6	30.4	(c)
Iron Ore and Concentrates .....	\$'m	151.8	233.6	341.7	347.5	(c)
Meat (Fresh, Chilled or Frozen) .....	\$'m	26.4	36.4	30.0	44.8	(c)
Rock Lobster Tails .....	\$'m	17.1	15.7	19.4	24.6	(c)
Petroleum and Petroleum Products .....	\$'m	47.3	49.8	46.6	41.9	(c)
Retail Sales—						
Excluding Motor Vehicles, etc. ....	\$'m	651.5	708.4	778.2	*836.9	(c)
Motor Vehicles (j) .....	\$'m	294.3	320.3	348.0	354.3	(c)
Total .....	\$'m	945.8	1,028.7	1,126.2	1,191.2	(c)
<b>F. FINANCE</b>						
Depositors' Balances—						
Trading Banks—Weekly Averages for June....	\$'m	494.4	532.0	516.6	553.0	720.8
Savings Banks—end of June .....	\$'m	413.0	431.9	464.6	511.5	608.1
Insurance—Life:						
Sum Assured (existing Policies) (k) .....	\$'m	1,588.0	1,869.0	2,206.6	2,578.1	(c)
Insurance—General:						
Gross Premiums (l) .....	\$'m	47.6	55.6	63.9	71.1	(c)
Installment Credit—Balances Outstanding at 30th June:						
Non-Retail Finance Business .....	\$'m	143.3	162.6	131.2	191.0	(c)
For All Business (m) .....	\$'m	170.9	*187.3	204.4	212.4	(c)
<b>G. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>						
AT 30th JUNE						
Cars and Station Wagons .....	No.	288,731	314,401	340,040	346,346	(c)
Light and Heavy Commercial .....	No.	96,624	102,291	107,616	105,402	(c)

(a) Includes events among the total population, including Aborigines.

(b) Figures revised in accordance with the final results of the Census.

(c) Not available at time of publication.

(d) Excludes trainee teachers, some of whom were classified as wage and salary earners for earlier periods.

(e) 31st March of year last mentioned.

(f) From local logs. Includes plywood veneers and railway sleepers.

(g) Comprises gold refined at the Perth Mint and gold contained in gold-bearing materials exported. Includes payments by the Gold Producers Association Ltd., but excludes Commonwealth Subsidy.

(h) Excluding ships' stores.

(i) Recorded in the year of shipment which is not necessarily the year of sale.

(j) Including Parts and Petrol, etc.

(k) At end of year.

(l) Excluding particulars of The Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust.

(m) Operations of Retail Businesses and Non-Retail Finance Businesses.

† Preliminary.

• Revised.

‡ Value added. Not comparable with data for years prior to 1968-69.

n.a. denotes "not available"

## BUILDING INDUSTRY CONTRACTORS LICENSING BILL

### *Second Reading*

**MR. JAMIESON** (Belmont—Minister for Works) [12.22 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In 1939 the Builders' Registration Act was placed on the Statute book. At the time the Act, which was designed to protect the public against incompetent and unscrupulous builders, broke new ground as far as Australia was concerned. Subsequently the principles incorporated in the Act were adopted by some other State Governments as a basis for similar legislation.

Whilst the Act achieved its purpose, it has been shown in recent years that there are a number of deficiencies. For example, the penalties are inadequate to deter persistent offenders. It is a matter of record that a person has been prosecuted on a number of occasions for building and selling spec homes without a license. I have been informed that this person regards the \$400 fine, which is the maximum which can be imposed, as being part of his expenses and prices his houses accordingly.

Another weakness is the difficulty of preventing a person to whom a license is issued from "dummying". There have been a number of instances where retired master builders have permitted companies to use their license for a fee or directorship and have in no way exercised any control or accepted any direct responsibility for the operations of the organisation. Some have even lent their names to more than one firm.

Then there have been instances where an owner has been the victim of poor workmanship but has been unable to obtain any relief because the builder is insolvent or has ceased to carry on business.

Members would also be aware that the present Act is restricted in its application to the metropolitan area. This means that people living in the country are exposed to the operations of people who may be incompetent and members may well ask, as I have, why some of our citizens should be discriminated against in this fashion.

These deficiencies in the existing legislation alone are sufficient in my opinion to warrant a comprehensive review, but there were other factors which also influenced the Government's decision to recast the Act.

Recently an approach was made by the Association of Master Plasterers for a registration Act similar to the builders' and painters' legislation.

Members would appreciate that it would be difficult to justify a refusal of this request, or for that matter a similar request by any organisation of contractors engaged in the building industry. If the re-

quest from the master plasterers had been acceded to we could have finished up with half a dozen different Acts controlling contractors, which would not have been a desirable state of affairs.

Another factor was the number of complaints being received from the public regarding the operations of the odd job and specialist contractors, over whom there is no control at present.

It was clear that the only way to overcome the total problem was to prepare legislation which would update and combine the builders' and painters' registration Acts and extend the licensing provisions to all contractors engaged in the building industry who deal directly with the public, and to include in such legislation authority to establish an insurance fund—such fund to be used to compensate owners of partly-built or unsatisfactorily-completed homes, who were not able to obtain satisfaction from their contractors.

That briefly summarises the background to the Bill and I will now explain in detail those provisions which I consider require elaboration.

Clause 5: The definition of "building" is wide and includes such things as driveways, fences, out-buildings, and other things ancillary to a building. I have been informed that it could be interpreted to include a swimming pool, for example.

The definition of "contractor" provides that the person requiring registration under the Act is one who has a contractual relationship with the owner of a building.

It would be appreciated that not all contractors engaged in the building industry would deal directly with the public. Some examples of these firms would be those who supply aluminium window frames, plasterboard ceilings, and tile roofs. While these firms only subcontract to builders they would not be required to be registered under the Act. The principle involved is that the contractor, who has a contractual relationship with the owner, has the responsibility of ensuring that these people carry out their work in a competent manner—and, in fact, he would be the one held responsible to make good any deficiencies.

Paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of clause 6: Originally it was proposed that the exemption would be higher than \$100. However, it was pointed out to me that there are many complaints from persons who enter into a contract for a small job which is poorly executed and in many instances the contractor has collected his money and refuses to rectify the poor workmanship. The \$100 minimum should cut out many of these complaints.

Even so, one must realise that a painting job, in particular, could be done over an extensive area of a home and it could be found that, say, two or three rooms had

been painted in such a way as to need subsequent attention. The figure of \$100 is not very high but we felt some figure should be stipulated in the legislation.

Clause 8: This clause is to prevent an unlicensed contractor from obtaining a fee for work carried out. The clause, however, does provide that any person who knows that a contractor is unregistered cannot have recourse to this defence.

Clause 13: This clause deals with unsatisfactory work and it will be noted that it applies only to residential buildings—and where the contract in regard to such residential buildings does not exceed \$25,000. The principle here is that it is considered that the householder is the person requiring protection.

A person who enters into a contract for the erection or alteration of factory buildings, shops, etc., would normally be in business and would know what action was necessary to obtain satisfaction in the event of a dispute. The same principle applies to those persons who are in a position to enter into a contract related to residential premises exceeding \$25,000 in value.

As will be explained later, the persons who are exempted under this clause do not participate in the insurance provisions and naturally they are therefore not involved in contributing to this fund.

It will be noted that there are substantial fines for contractors who do not abide by an order to rectify faulty construction. There is also provision for the suspension or cancellation of the contractor's license.

Clause 16 provides for the application by the board of an injunction to restrain any person from continuing an offence under the Act. This provision overcomes a weakness under the Builders' Registration Act where the board had no power to stop work.

Clause 20 sets out the constitution of the board. Members will note that the chairman will be a permanent officer of the Public Service. This is considered desirable in view of the increased responsibilities of the board. However, it is not contemplated that it would occupy an officer full-time. The other members of the board are persons who are either professionally or technically qualified and who will be able to offer practical advice in regard to complaints received by the board. Their qualifications will also be advantageous when setting standards of competency etc. for the various categories of contractors who will be licensed under the Act.

Under subclause 3 of clause 21 the board also has authority to consult with persons or organisations who have knowledge of matters affecting the functions of the board.

Under clause 23 the board will determine the course of study or training to be followed before a person may be licensed as a contractor.

Clause 43 details the requirements for an unrestricted license. This equates to the present registered builder under the Builders' Registration Act, and such a person can automatically obtain this license when the Act is proclaimed.

Clause 44 sets out the details of the proposed restricted license. It will be noted that the restriction can be as to value as well as to a particular category of trade. Persons at present registered under the Painters' Registration Act can be automatically granted under this provision a license restricted to the business of a painter.

Clause 52 deals with the payment of an annual fee by contractors. Members will appreciate that the organisation contemplated under this legislation is to be self-supporting financially. The annual fees are to be determined by the board, but are expected to be at a level which will allow the board to operate financially at or near the break-even point.

Clause 64 sets out machinery which would enable persons who are refused a license, have their license suspended, or have an order made against them by the board to appeal to a magistrate.

Clause 65 deals with compensation. As mentioned earlier, the compensation provisions apply only to a building which is to be used for residential purposes and which is subject to a contract which does not exceed \$25,000 in value. The compensation provisions do not apply to houses constructed by the Crown.

Clause 66 authorises the establishment of a building industry contractors' guarantee fund.

Clause 74 sets out the liability for payment to the fund. It is contemplated that the fund would be self-supporting; that is, the contributions would be equal to the claims. However, without any experience it is difficult to assess the likely amount of the claims in any one year and in investigating the likely level of contributions it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions. It is considered that the rate of contribution should be less than one-tenth of 1 per cent. of the value of the contract subject to the insurance fund. It will be noted that if the board finds it necessary to increase the contribution beyond this figure it will require the approval of the Minister.

Clause 76 provides that contractors must inform owners of the existence of the fund and their rights in relation to it. It was considered that this provision was necessary to prevent cases occurring where people are not aware of their rights.

Clause 83 provides that a complaint may be made no later than two years after an offence has been committed. It was considered necessary to set a time limit to prevent matters dragging on over many years.

Clause 86 provides that the amount of fines and other amounts recovered in respect of offences shall be paid to the board.

From my opening remarks and the brief explanation of some of the provisions of the Bill, members will recognise it as being further legislation for the protection of consumers. As such, when it becomes law its administration will be the responsibility of the Minister for Consumer Protection.

While the Bill was being drafted there was consultation and discussion with various interested organisations. Some of those which made representations regarding the contents of the Bill were the Builders' and Painters' Registration Boards, the Master Plumbers' Association, the Building Workers' Industrial Union of Australia, and the Chamber of Manufacturers.

In addition, I have consistently received complaints from people who have been unable to obtain satisfaction from contractors who have done faulty work. Indeed, the number of complaints over which there is no jurisdiction at all—such as from country centres near and far—has been growing. Those who took the trouble to read the report of the Director of Consumer Protection will have noted that many of his problems were associated with these matters. It was felt this situation must be overcome. Several well-considered suggestions were made in the report and I think this Bill will assist the Director of Consumer Protection to perform his function.

I have also received complaints through country members of Parliament. The member for Northam recently brought to me a complaint about a young couple whose house was falling apart after they had been in it about six months. We had no jurisdiction at all in that case. It would be a matter of taking civil action against the builder because the area concerned was outside the metropolitan area and did not come within the ambit of the Act. These are objectionable practices in the community and we think they should be tidied up.

I indicated earlier that it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with the Bill immediately but, because it is a fairly substantial measure, to introduce it and deal with it when I am available again in several weeks' time, which will allow members to have a good look at the situation. I am sure all members have had experience with people who have not been able to obtain satisfaction from contractors of one kind or another. Many contractors are ghoulish in their dealings with old-age pensioners. They advertise themselves as contract tilers, and so on, and they half do the job and leave the pensioners lamenting, which is a very objectionable practice.

The larger building projects are now the subject of an inquiry by a commissioner who will report on the desirability of changing the present system. He is inquiring into many aspects, and I do not want members to confuse that inquiry with this Bill, which relates only to residential buildings valued at up to \$25,000. The inquiry which is currently being undertaken will result in recommendations to the Government as to what should be done in connection with the contractors for major buildings.

Before I sit down, one of the Opposition members wishes to interject.

Mr. Thompson: Is there provision in this Bill, as there is in the present Builders' Registration Act, for a person to build his own home?

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes. This legislation will not prevent a person building his own home. However, such a person will be protected when he employs, say, a granolithic contractor for certain work. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hutchinson.

#### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

*Sitting suspended from 12.42 to 2.15 p.m.*

### QUESTIONS (25): ON NOTICE

1.

#### SEWERAGE

##### *Albany Scheme*

Mr. SIBSON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the number of connections to the Albany sewerage scheme?
- (2) What is the total amount of capital expenditure on the Albany scheme?
- (3) What is the total amount of interest charged to the Albany scheme?

Mr. Bickerton (for Mr. JAMIESON) replied:

- (1) 2,463 to 31st August, 1973.
- (2) \$2,176,305.
- (3) \$680,860.

2.

#### TRADE UNIONS

##### *Law Governing Picketing*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) Under which Statute or regulation were illegal starting price bookmakers charged for obstructing the traffic?

- (2) Is this same law available to prevent unionists picketing establishments preventing employees or others entering premises?
- (3) Does the United Nations Charter, to which Australia is a signatory, guarantee the right to work?
- (4) Does this United Nations Charter guarantee freedom from discrimination between unionists and non-unionists?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) These charges were used by the police as a means of controlling illegal betting prior to the time when bookmakers were registered. The bookmakers who took bets on the street would be charged with the offence of obstruction.

The charge would presumably have been brought under s. 96 (12) of the Police Act, 1892:

"Every person who shall (in any street) stand or loiter about, to the annoyance of the passers by, or who shall interfere with or impede the free passage of foot passengers . . ."

commits an offence. Penalty \$40.

This section is to be read with s. 2 of the Act ("street" includes road, thoroughfare, and public place) and with s. 95 which provides that the Part of the Act in which s. 96 appears is not to apply where any by-law or regulation for effecting the same or for a similar object are lawfully made by any municipal, council of a shire, or board of health.

- (2) Yes—if—
  - (a) the shire or municipality in which the picketing takes place has not made by-laws as contemplated by s. 95; and
  - (b) the elements of the particular offence as enunciated in s. 96 (12) are made out.
- (3) No—Articles 55 and 56 of the charter deal only very generally with the question of human rights. Article 55—to the effect that the U.N. will promote (amongst other things) universal respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion.

Article 56—The member nations pledge themselves to take joint and separate action for the achievement of Article 55.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has more to say on the subject of human

rights. This document is a general statement of policy by the member nations. Australia was one of the countries which voted for its adoption.

Article 23 (1) "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment."

Article 23 (4) refers to trade unions. "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

- (4) The charter itself only refers (in Article 55) to a person having fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2 refers to people as being entitled to all the rights and freedoms in the declaration (which would include the "right to work" in Article 23) without distinction of any kind, including (amongst other things) political or other opinion. The clause does not refer specifically to membership or non-membership of a trade union.

### 3. ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

#### *Extensions*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it possible and practical to extend the Armadale-Kelmscott District Memorial Hospital by adding additional "floors" on top of the present hospital?
- (2) Will he table a plan showing the planned future development of the hospital site?
- (3) If he has not already initiated a review of the future utilisation of the hospital site, will he do so now and table the report as quickly as practical?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This is not possible as no drawn plan exists.
- (3) There are many high priority hospital projects requiring the time of staff involved in hospital planning and it is not possible to allocate staff to prepare reports on projects for which funds are unlikely to be available in the near future.

## 4. DAYLIGHT SAVING

*Representations from Parents and Citizens' Associations*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government received representations from the Western Australian Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations against daylight saving following the Federation's decision at its recent conference opened by the Premier?
- (2) If so, what has been the Government's reply to the representations?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes. A telegram, registering their opposition to daylight saving, was received on 1st October. It was sent to the Chief Secretary for consideration.
- (2) The telegram did not call for a reply.

## 5. FRUIT-FLY BAITING

*Applecross Scheme: Grant*

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he agreed to an extra grant to the Applecross fruit fly baiting committee to permit it to extend its activities?
- (2) What is the amount of the grant and what additional area is to be covered?
- (3) When will these funds be made available?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$1,800.  
The additional area comprises the Bicton-Attadale Ward of the City of Melville.
- (3) The funds have been passed for payment.

## 6. COMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

*Transfield (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.*

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Minister for Labour:

Since his answer to question 29 on notice on Tuesday, 2nd October, 1973 states that the Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation is considering whether or not Transfield (W.A.) Pty. Ltd. discriminates against Australian workers, will he state—

- (1) Who instituted the inquiry?
- (2) Were complaints lodged and, if so, by whom?

- (3) What other businesses or industries are subject to scrutiny in the matter of discrimination?

Mr. HARMAN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation is appointed by and responsible to the Australian Government and is outside my jurisdiction.

## 7. HARVEST ROAD, NORTH FREMANTLE

*Closure*

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that concurrently with the opening of the new North Fremantle traffic bridge his Government intends to close Harvest Road, North Fremantle, insofar as traffic access and egress is concerned to Stirling Highway, thus virtually locking in and strangling a part of Fremantle which has great historic and social significance and which has obvious residential possibilities?
- (2) Is he also aware that with the "cul-de-sac-ing" of Harvest Road and other streets the only traffic outlet for this area containing almost the whole of the population of North Fremantle will be Alfred Road which already poses potentially dangerous traffic hazards?
- (3) Will he explain how workers and residents who now use Harvest Road to gain access to the North Fremantle shopping centre particularly at lunch time are going to obtain their daily requirements and how are they to safely and conveniently travel to and from work when the street is closed off at the Highway?
- (4) Now that the situation has been explained will he have regard for the human factor and the undoubted rights of North Fremantle people and so urgently request his department to refrain from the strangling of North Fremantle and proceed to solve any technical, engineering and cost problems that may be associated with keeping Harvest Road open?

Mr. Bickerton (for Mr. JAMIESON) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Harvest Road has only been "cul-de-sac-ed" on the west side of Bruce Street. Residents east of Bruce Street will have access to Stirling

Highway and Bruce Street, via Alfred and Harvest Roads. This has been planned to avoid creating a potentially dangerous situation.

- (3) Motorists who use Harvest Road to gain access to the North Fremantle shopping centre may continue to do so via Alfred Road to Stirling Highway or Harvest Road then south in Bruce Street and west in Tydeman Road.

In addition to these routes, motorists returning from the shopping centre to the section of North Fremantle east of Bruce Street can use Tydeman Road and John Street to gain access.

- (4) The Main Roads Department has considered the needs of the residents of North Fremantle in developing the plan for the approach to the new Stirling Bridge. The department considers the "cul-de-sac" of Harvest Road, and other streets, is necessary in order to develop a safe road system for local and through traffic. I have asked the department to review its plan and confirm that there is no satisfactory alternative to the "cul-de-sac" of Harvest Road.

## 8. HOUSING

*No. 15A Harvest Road,  
North Fremantle*

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the house at 15a Harvest Road, North Fremantle, belong to the State Housing Commission?
- (2) How long has it been vacant, and why has it been vacant for so long?
- (3) Will he have the necessary inquiries made and explain what is to be done with the house so that neighbours will not be concerned with vandals and the odd night tenants who occasionally seem to use the building?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Yes. The house was purchased in December, 1972 as part of a larger property which also contained premises previously used as an aged persons' rest home.
- (2) The house was vacant prior to the date the commission was first offered the property in March, 1972 and left vacant after purchase by the commission pending the demolition of the adjoining premises.

- (3) Immediate steps will be taken to secure the house against vandalism during the period in which necessary maintenance is done to make this a habitable property.

9.

## FREMANTLE PRISON

*Royal Commission: Cost*

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What was the cost of the recent Royal Commission into the administration of Fremantle gaol?
- (2) What was the daily rate paid to counsel for D. G. Trainor and prisoners, from 1st November, 1972?
- (3) What was the total amount paid to him at this rate?
- (4) When was the account for \$650, being the cost for interviewing and preparing submissions for 17 prisoners, paid to counsel for the prisoners?
- (5) Was counsel for the members of the Prison Officers' Union paid a daily rate and, if so, what was this rate, and what was the total amount paid?
- (6) If "No" to (5), what was the arrangement for payment and what was the total amount paid to counsel for the Prison Officers Union?

Mr. HARMAN replied:

- (1) \$28,834.25.
- (2) \$150.00 per day.
- (3) \$4,850.00.
- (4) 12th July, 1973.
- (5) No.
- (6) Cabinet approved of an *ex gratia* payment of \$5,050.00 to the Prison Officers Union to recoup their legal expenses incurred in the Royal Commission.

10.

## BATEMAN SCHOOL

*Students from Bull Creek*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

As the proposed new primary school to be built at Bull Creek will not commence for at least another two years, can he advise what type of accommodation will be used for the students from this rapidly developing area who will need to attend Bateman primary school until the Bull Creek school is ready?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

Temporary accommodation will be provided at Bateman in 1974 to meet the needs of children from Bull Creek. A re-assessment will be made during 1974 of the need for a school at Bull Creek in 1975.

13.

Director-General of Education. It is not possible for the council of the authority to make a recommendation to the Minister until after that meeting.

### BUILDING INDUSTRY

#### *Investigation*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Adverting to his replies to questions 25 on 20th September and 10 (without notice) on 2nd October, 1973—

- (1) Would he state that the provisions of the legislation (the introduction of which he gave notice on 2nd October, 1973) dealing with the building trade and contractors registration have no connections whatsoever with the terms of reference of the inquiry into the building industry by Mr. C. Howard-Smith, Q.C.?
- (2) Would he state that the report and recommendations expected from the above inquiry, considering its terms of reference, could not contain anything which would have a bearing on the provisions of the legislation mentioned in (1)?
- (3) If answers to either (1) or (2) are "No" how could he justify to introduce legislation, the provisions of which might prejudice an inquiry just commissioned?

Mr. Bickerton (for Mr. JAMIESON) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government has given Mr. C. Howard Smith, Q.C. complete freedom within the terms of reference to inquire into and report on the building industry. He commences hearing evidence at 10 a.m. on 10th October, and I would not at this stage have any idea of what may be contained in his report or whether his recommendations may have a bearing on the proposed Building Industry Contractors' Licensing Act, or for that matter, any other legislation.

However, I would be surprised if he makes any recommendation affecting the proposed legislation and I am satisfied that introduction of the Bill will not prejudice the inquiry.

- (3) Answered by (1) and (2).

### 11. TRAFFIC LIGHTS

#### *Benningfield Road-Leach Highway*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Works:

As there are a great number of students from the Melville Glades-Bull Creek area cycling to the Rossmoyne Senior High School and as there is no other road than Benningfield Road which leads onto Leach Highway for these students to attend the school, will he give urgent consideration to the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Benningfield Road and Leach Highway before a fatality occurs?

Mr. Bickerton (for Mr. JAMIESON) replied:

Traffic control signals are installed according to priority based on traffic volume and accident hazard and there is a number of intersections in the metropolitan area which warrant attention prior to Benningfield Road-Leach Highway.

However, this junction has been programmed for widening and additional channelisation this financial year and the completion of this work will improve the safety and operation of the junction.

### 12. TEACHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION

#### *"Appointed Day": Determination*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

Considering that during the debate on the Teacher Education Bill it was implied and understood that the appointed day will be before the end of the 1972-73 financial year, would he now please give information as to the contemplated date of the "appointed day" according to the Act?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

The Minister for Education is receiving a deputation from the Teachers' Union on 10th October, the results of which could have an effect upon when the "appointed day" would be. He is being assisted by the Chairman of the Teacher Education Authority, its Chief Executive Officer and the

# 14. OFFICIAL PROSECUTIONS (DEFENDANTS' COSTS) BILL

## *Annual Cost*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Attorney-General:

Could he give an estimate—based on past experience—of the additional yearly cost to that which I have asked on 3rd October, 1973—

- (a) to the Treasurer;
- (b) to bodies including local authorities described in clause 9 (b),

if the provisions of the Official Prosecutions (Defendants' Costs) Bill were to be extended to cover legal costs of successful defendants at the District and Supreme Courts and all other courts and tribunals which the present provisions of the Bill do not cover?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

This information is not readily available but will be conveyed to the Member as early as possible. However it is doubtful whether he will have it today for use in the debate on the Bill.

# 15. TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE BOARDS

## *Staff Representatives*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) (a) Is it possible for a staff member of a teachers college to sit in on the board meeting of that college;
- (b) if not, why not?
- (2) (a) Is it possible for a person who is employed at a teachers college to sit in on meetings of the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority;
- (b) if not, why not?
- (3) (a) Have any staff of the teachers colleges travelled overseas to interview prospective staff members or applicants for positions advertised by the college?
- (b) Have any attempts been made to co-ordinate the interviewing of overseas or interstate applicants for the colleges with a view to reducing the cost involved?
- (c) Were the facilities or are the facilities of other State or Federal Governments available for such purposes as interviewing applicants overseas or interstate?

(4) How does the Minister propose to protect the rights of staff who wish to return to the Education Department after the appointed day?

- (5) (a) If the Graylands Teachers College is to be replaced is it proposed that the staff at the existing college will be transferred to the new college;
- (b) if not, what conditions will apply in terms of redundancy?
- (6) (a) Under what circumstances may a college board appoint an acting senior lecturer or other acting positions?
- (b) If acting positions are made, for what period of time will they operate?
- (7) (a) Under section 55 of the Teacher Education Act, is it possible for the organised association of academic staff to negotiate with the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority on working conditions;
- (b) if "Yes" how and when;
- (c) if "No" what are the terms of reference between the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority and the association?
- (d) Is it possible for the association and the board concerned to negotiate on working conditions?
- (8) (a) Who will give authority to the working conditions and salaries of teachers college staff, the State Minister for Education or the Federal Minister for Education;
- (b) if the State Minister, will this be subject to approval by the Federal Minister?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) (a) Boards of teachers' colleges cannot be officially established until after the "appointed day". They will be entitled to make their own rules when officially constituted.
- (b) Answered by (a).
- (2) (a) At present by invitation only.
- (b) The council of the authority is a duly constituted body under the Act and has three staff representatives as members. No other group of people has greater representation. This is considered adequate. Council meetings are not public meetings. It is not the practice in any other tertiary institution in Western Australia

to allow members of staff, other than those who are members of the governing body to attend its meetings.

18.

## HOUSING

*Aborigines: Acquisitions*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Housing:

- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Negotiations are being held.
- (4) By the provisions of the Act and goodwill on all sides.
- (5) (a) Yes.
- (b) Answered by (a).
- (6) (a) Where there is an establishment for the position and a vacancy is advertised and the selection board considers that there is no suitably qualified or experienced applicant, or when a casual vacancy occurs such as when the holder of the position is on long service leave, sick leave or the like.
- (b) Depending upon the circumstances.
- (7) (a) Yes.
- (b) Either through its own college board or directly to the council or its officers at any time. However, the council will only recommend to the Minister the same conditions for each college.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Yes.
- (8) (a) The State Minister for Education.
- (b) The Federal Minister will need to approve finance.

16. *This question was postponed.*

## 17. WATER SUPPLIES

*Mt. Barker: Denmark River Pipeline*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

As he has previously indicated that Mt. Barker has reached the level of safe draw on the available water supplies, can he indicate when work will commence on the construction of the surveyed pipeline from the Denmark River to Mt. Barker?

Mr. Bickerton (for Mr. JAMIESON) replied:

Construction of a pipeline from the Denmark River to Mount Barker will depend on future allocations of loan funds. Because a major expenditure of some \$1,300,000 is involved, it is not envisaged that this will be accomplished for some years.

- (1) How many homes have been purchased for Aboriginal families in the past year?
- (2) Were homes purchased with Commonwealth or State moneys?
- (3) What is the maximum and minimum price for negotiating purchases?
- (4) In what shires have homes been purchased?
- (5) What number have been purchased in the past five years in each shire or city in the metropolitan area?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Since the commission assumed responsibility for Aboriginal housing on the 1st July, 1972 and up to the 30th June, 1973, 96 houses have been purchased for Aboriginal families.
- (2) Grant funds made available by the Australian Government and the State Government were used.
- (3) All of the houses referred to in (1) were purchased from the pool of vacant commission owned houses so as to provide a dispersion of housing for Aboriginal families within the commission estates. The commission was recouped the outstanding liability on the construction cost of the house and the cost of renovation and upgrading where necessary plus the current value of the land as assessed by the Chief Valuer, State Taxation Department.
- (4) The 96 houses purchased are located in the following local authorities:

## Houses.

## Metropolitan Area—

Armadale-Kelmscott	...	5
Bayswater	...	2
Bassendean	...	1
Belmont	...	7
Canning	...	6
Claremont	...	1
Cockburn	...	2
City of Fremantle	...	1
City of Melville	...	1
City of Perth	...	4
City of South Perth	...	7
City of Stirling	...	20
Swan-Guildford	...	1
Wanneroo	...	2

## Country Areas—

Albany	...	2
Bridgetown	...	1
Broomehill	...	1
Bunbury	...	2

Busselton .....	1
Esperance .....	3
Geraldton .....	4
Goomalling .....	1
Kalgoorlie .....	1
Merredin .....	2
Moorabool .....	1
Narrogin .....	1
Northam .....	3
Perth .....	1
Plantagenet .....	1
Pingelly .....	1
Victoria Plains .....	1
Serpentine-Jarrahdale .....	1
Wagin .....	2
Yilgarn .....	1
Carnarvon .....	2
Warroona .....	2
Katanning .....	1

- (5) The commission has not been able to establish, in the time available, whether the information is available in the form requested by the Member from the records handed over by the former Department of Native Welfare. When the information is available I will write to the Member.

## 19. SOCIAL WELFARE

### *Regional Bodies*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Would he please table the—
- joint statement released by him and the Federal Minister for Social Security in Canberra on 1st October, 1973 or thereabouts;
  - Australian assistance plan to specific regional areas in Western Australia;
  - report by special projects officer, Mr. David Hall, all mentioned in the article on 2nd October, 1973 in *The West Australian* newspaper?
- (2) Could he summarise the subjects and results of the consultations between the Australian Social Welfare Commission and his Department of Community Welfare as reported in the same article?
- (3) Could he define and specify what "regional bodies" are, referred in the article?
- (4) Does the tenor of the article mean that if social welfare, as administered by his department, is going to be organised by other entities, local government bodies will as such have no role and regional authorities or bodies will be created instead?
- (5) Is the policy of the Government to lessen the functions of local governments in favour of yet to be created "regional" bodies?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.  
(b) Yes.  
(c) No copy is available at present. I understand copies will shortly be available from the Department of Social Security.
- (2) The aim of the Australian Assistance Plan is to assist in the development, at a regional level within a nationally co-ordinated framework, of integrated patterns of welfare services, complementary to income support programmes and the welfare related aspects of health, education, housing, employment, migration and other social policies having regard to the following matters—

That the existing responsibilities of State and Local Governments, voluntary agencies and the Australian Government are recognized.

In this context the Social Welfare Commission indicated that they were prepared to fund pilot projects in some States and invited submissions for this funding. My department made proposals and two projects as outlined in the document tabled were accepted. The proposals may be subject to some modification.

- (3) The proposals are that the "regional bodies" or more correctly regional councils for social development referred to in the article will initially be formed by delegates from sub-regional community service committees and representatives from various State Government Departments.

Sub-regional community service committees will be formed by delegates from community committees which will be set up in each local government area. Community committees will be represented by local community organisations such as churches, service clubs or social organisations together with representatives from the local shires.

- (4) Social Welfare as administered by my department will be enhanced by the increased participation of local authorities and voluntary groups. Local authorities will retain their existing roles but in addition will be participants in the

proposals from a regional concern as well as their purely local interests.

The quotation inserted in my reply to (2) makes it quite clear that the existing responsibilities of local government are recognized.

- (5) It is not considered that this conclusion could be reached having regard to the official statements and publications that have been so far made available on the matter.

*The documents were tabled (see papers Nos. 370, 371 and 372).*

## 20. KELMSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

### *Additions*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is a contract to be let for the additions to the Kelmscott high school for the space to accommodate the increased enrolment expected to attend this school at the beginning of the 1974 school year?
- (2) If the details of this contract are known, will he advise me of them?
- (3) When is this work expected to begin and be completed?
- (4) How are the students to be housed from the beginning of the 1974 school year until the new buildings are completed?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The letting of a formal contract is conditional on the submission of the fully priced bill of quantities. A letter of provisional acceptance was issued on 2nd October, 1973.
- (2) Contractor—Argus Building Company Pty. Limited.  
Amount—\$387,157.  
Contract period—4½ months.
- (3) Work should commence in a fortnight and be completed 4½ months later.
- (4) Demountable classrooms will be provided until the additions are completed.

## 21. KELMSCOTT RAILWAY STATION

### *Parking Area*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Referring to my question 12 on 2nd October, will he, despite his assurance in answering the above-mentioned question and because the holes on the entry approaches

to the west of the Kelmscott railway station used for parking and access to the platforms are still large enough to damage a vehicle, and when full of water stall the motor, immediately have this area maintained and sealed?

Mr. MAY replied:

The Kelmscott "park and train" area was again inspected on 4th October, 1973, and the report received again confirmed that the area is in a fair state of repair.

It is possible that the Member may be referring to some area apart from the official "park and train" area and I would be pleased to arrange for the Member to inspect the area in company with a member of the Railways Department should he so desire.

Mr. Rushton: You must be joking!

Mr. MAY: I have not seen it.

## 22.

## POTATOES

### *Production and Price*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would he advise the total acreage and average per acre production of various types of potatoes, i.e., delaware, kenebec, sebage, etc., in each year since 1970?
- (2) Does the Potato Marketing Board make any variation of payment to growers for supply of various types of potatoes and, if so, would he give comparisons of price differential?
- (3) If "No" to (2), would he give reasons why not?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Segregated records are not available.
- (2) No.
- (3) Interested growers are encouraged to produce additional varieties by the allocation of increased acreage.

23. *This question was postponed.*

## 24. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTS COUNCIL

### *Agent of Commonwealth*

Mr. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Has the Federal Government as yet stated that it will use the Western Australian Arts Council as its Western Australian agent?
- (2) If not, what representations are being made to the Federal Government to do so?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) There is not, as yet, a Western Australian Arts Council in Western Australia.
- (2) If, and when, one is established, steps will be taken to ensure its due recognition by the Federal Government.

## 25. LAMB

### *Exports: Supply from Eastern States*

Mr. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Is it a fact that some Western Australian lamb exporters have had to fill overseas orders from Eastern States sources as they could get no answer as to supplies from the Lamb Marketing Board?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

No exporters have been refused lambs by the W.A. Lamb Marketing Board.

## QUESTIONS (6): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. CATTLE SALES

#### *Price Decline*

Mr. H. D. EVANS (Minister for Agriculture): Yesterday the member for Roe asked me a question without notice. I now have the answer. The question was—

I asked for details of recent sales and the case to which I was referring occurred this week when subsequent to the coming into operation of the 1c levy from the 1st October the market here dropped by \$25 per head and in some cases I understand by up to \$60 per head. Is the Minister aware of this and does he attribute it to the fact that the export levy was introduced on the 1st October?

The answer is—

I am informed that values for cattle sold at auction in Western Australia have declined this week, and on some lines of export steer beef the average reduction was in the order of \$15 to \$20 per head.

Values for baby beef also declined on average by \$3 to \$5 per head and cows by \$10 to \$15 per head.

I am informed that increased supplies of beef have become available in the United States following the easing of price controls, and fewer quotes have been received from importers. Demand from the United Kingdom and Japan has also eased.

The effect of the last Australian currency revaluation cannot be determined precisely at this time.

The effect of the proposed levy as suggested by the honourable member is considered to be a matter for conjecture in this market's situation.

## 2. LAND

### *Development Proposals: State Ministers' Conference*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

On Tuesday last I addressed a question to the Premier regarding a meeting of State Ministers. The Premier answered part (1) of the question and said that the answer to parts (2) and (3) would have to wait until he could obtain a report from the appropriate Minister. Is he now in a position to give the answer?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I have referred the question to the Minister for Town Planning who has advised me that a meeting was held to discuss matters relating to the Australian Government's offer to make some money available to the States for land operations. A unanimous agreement was reached at the conclusion of the meeting that no statement would be made by any of the Ministers until the Australian Government had been advised of the outcome and the response received. The Commonwealth Government was not represented at the meeting.

## 3. NATURAL GAS AND OIL RESERVES

### *Commonwealth Takeover*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the great concern felt by the community since the recent grab by the Commonwealth Government, aided and abetted by the Western Australian Government, of the offshore oil and gas deposits in Western Australia?
- (2) Does he not agree that the Whitlam Government, recognising that Western Australia holds only nine out of the 125 seats in the House of Representatives, has clearly indicated that it will milk this State of the financial returns from the great natural resources which we have, the better to be enabled to woo people living in the areas of Australia which have the

greater proportion of seats in the National Parliament, for example, Sydney and Melbourne?

- (3) So that Western Australia, progressing as it should to become the wealthiest State in Australia, is able to get an equitable return for its citizens, will the Premier take the necessary steps for Western Australia to secede from the Commonwealth of Australia?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The situation with regard to offshore oil and gas is no different at present from what it was prior to the change of Government and must remain so until such time as the submerged lands Bill is passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. This Bill cannot be passed without the support of some members other than Labor members.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.

#### 4. BANK HOLIDAYS

##### *Christmas and New Year*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Labour:

Referring to his refusal to grant bank officials holidays for Monday, the 24th December, and Monday, the 31st December, but to grant the holidays to public servants and now the reported Trades and Labor Council intention to request these days for holidays—

Will he give me an assurance that he will grant to bank officials the same holidays as he authorises for other employees as a result of the T.L.C. representations?

Mr. HARMAN replied:

I am unable to give an assurance to the member for Dale in respect of the request he has made. However, I will say that if there are to be any changes made by the Government in regard to the holidays that have already been stated will apply at Christmas I will review the decision I have made in respect of the approach by the Bank Officers' Association.

#### 5. LATCH-KEY CHILDREN.

##### *Survey in Schools*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is a survey on latch-key children being conducted at primary schools in the Albany area by student teachers or any other body?

- (2) Is it correct that the children at these schools are being given a questionnaire involving personal questions relating to children's parents and that these forms are being completed in class and without reference to the parents?
- (3) If the above is correct, would the Minister regard this as an invasion of individual privacy?
- (4) Would he agree that the forms should be taken home and completed by the parents?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), would he immediately issue instructions for this to be done?

Further to these questions, of which notice was given, can the Minister confirm that, as a result of my further representations this morning instructions have been issued to burn all questionnaires?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

I thank the member for Stirling for giving notice of his intention to ask his question. I was unaware he contacted the Education Department this morning or that he was given any further information. Consequently, I cannot give the confirmation he seeks. The answers supplied to the question, of which notice was given, are—

- (1) A pilot study is being undertaken, with the assistance of a Commonwealth grant, to obtain information as to the need for after-school care. The study is associated with the Commonwealth Government's Advisory Committee on Child Care Research.
- (2) to (5) Immediate action has been taken to suspend the study until the nature of the project has been discussed with the local parents and citizens' associations. Complete anonymity of any questionnaires completed to date is assured.

#### 6. NATURAL GAS AND OIL RESERVES

##### *Commonwealth Takeover*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier: Arising out of the answer given by the Premier to the question asked by the member for Darling Range, I wish to ask the Premier a question. The Premier said, in answer to the member for Darling Range,

that there has been no change. I think I should quote his exact words which were—

The situation with regard to offshore oil and gas is no different at present from what it was prior to the change of Government and must remain so . . .

Does not the Premier know that the decision made by Mr. Connor, the Commonwealth Minister for Minerals and Energy, is based on the powers which he says he has—and which we dispute—under the Pipeline Authority Act, 1973? Also, does he know that Mr. Connor, in presenting the legislation about the submerged lands to the Commonwealth Parliament, has said that the legislation, as far as he is concerned, is not intended to interfere with the existing offshore legislation?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

The Leader of the Opposition ought to know that there is a very big difference indeed between opinions of Ministers and what the situation is at law.

I restate that the situation with regard to the ownership and, therefore, the disposition of offshore wealth would have to be determined in the courts. My understanding of the position at the moment is that, unless the submerged lands Bill is passed by the Senate, then the Minister for Minerals and Energy will not have the power which he believes he has.

Sir Charles Court: But you have agreed to his claim.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I have agreed to nothing.

Sir Charles Court: I am quoting your Minister's answer.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am stating that my understanding of the legal position is that, as matters stand, the ownership of offshore oil and gas resides with the State and we would expect to derive royalties from their exploitation.

Sir Charles Court: But you have agreed to the Commonwealth's proposition.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: What proposition?

Mr. May: No, we did not.

Sir Charles Court: Your Minister said yesterday that you agree with what the Commonwealth has decided.

Mr. May: Read it properly.

## FISHERIES

### *Release of Taiwanese Boat Captains: Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 3rd October, on the following motion by Mr. McPharlin—

That this House urges the Federal Attorney-General to take all action necessary to enable the imprisoned Taiwanese fishermen to return immediately to their families in Taiwan.

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Leader of the Opposition) [2.47 p.m.]: Firstly, I want to thank the Premier for agreeing to the request made by the Leader of the Country Party and myself so that the debate on this motion—moved by my colleague, the Leader of the Country Party—could be resumed this afternoon.

I would like to think the incident yesterday was due to a misunderstanding in the Government ranks rather than that it was a deliberate attempt to try to stop a subject, in which compassion is involved, from being discussed as a matter of urgency.

The Premier has agreed to our proposal and to make sure there is no doubt in our minds I say that there will be only two speakers from this side before the Government speaker responds and then, of course, the Leader of the Country Party will reply. So far as we on this side are concerned in each case we will be restricting our comments to a much shorter time than would normally be the case so as not to abuse the courtesy extended to permit the matter to be discussed.

I strongly support the motion moved by my colleague, the Leader of the Country Party, and I refer the House to the wording of his motion. An amazing situation has developed as a result of a series of incidents on our coast. First of all, a Royal Australian Navy vessel intercepted two Taiwanese trawlers—or fishing vessels. They have been called by various names but they were certainly substantial vessels, not only because of their range but because of the fact that they were valued at \$400,000 in the report concerned with their confiscation following the litigation which took place.

These vessels were taken under control by the Royal Australian Navy and, for all practical purposes, the Taiwanese ships, the crews, and their captains, were virtually in custody from that point until they came to Fremantle. Subsequently, a trial took place.

The decision was made—the ships and captains of the ships were found guilty of fishing within territorial waters. Fines were imposed in addition to confiscation of the vessels and their cargoes. It has been

variously estimated that the total monetary value of the ships and cargoes would be approximately \$1,000,000.

Subsequent to this the crews were repatriated, and at a later date the wireless operator was repatriated. This left the two captains. We normally think of captains of ships as being people of considerable standing in their particular profession. However, we are usually envisaging captains of much bigger ships than those concerned in this case. Fishing vessels belonging to any nation are usually captained by men who have come up from the deck. They have considerable expertise as seamen, but they would not be in the same category as the captain of an ocean liner. Captains of fishing vessels are not normally men of great means and in this case they are unable to pay the fines imposed.

In a case such as this, in view of the very delicate situation existing between Australia and Taiwan, it would have been expected that the Australian authorities would bend over backwards to clean the matter up. The Government has its pound of flesh—the ships and cargoes—and it has issued a very salutary warning in relation to unauthorised fishing in our waters.

These two captains are strangers in a strange land. If we were placed in a similar position we would feel very unhappy. Quite apart from the dietary problems, the men are separated from their kith and kin. We know that they are in a friendly place in Australia, and that our people would not stand for any Government or authority treating the captains other than in a civilised way so far as their confinement is concerned, but the men do not know that. We can imagine what it would be like to be imprisoned in a police station or lockup in China, or even Taiwan, where we could not speak the language—at the mercy of an interpreter and very much in the hands of the local people—and we would be unable to remonstrate with the authorities to seek our just ends.

To date a number of people have done their best to further the cause of these gentlemen. I believe that action taken by this Parliament will assist, in a practical way, the two men who are languishing here.

We now have the situation of the Indonesian vessels. It was originally stated that 61 Indonesian vessels were found in our waters, but later reports indicated 69, 70, or even more. Most of us who know the north well are aware that for as long as one can remember all sorts of sailing vessels—some quite primitive craft—have drifted from Indonesia into the northern waters of Western Australia. In the old days, and even in recent times, it has been customary to give these people succor and point them in the right direction. However, these have always been isolated

cases and I cannot remember any more than three or four ships at the one time. I know that more concern was felt about the safety of the Indonesians in the ships than about the possible danger to our fishing waters. However, on this occasion 61 ships came into our waters.

We have heard varying explanations for this—they had lost their way, their navigation failed, they ran into some supply troubles, and that they were only sustenance fishermen. I find it hard to believe that the whole 61 vessels were catching fish for their own use.

Mr. Bickerton: I agree with you.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna has subsequently expressed his own views, and in a very guarded way he implied that this was not a coincidence. The Navy was sent out to offer any succor necessary and to escort the ships out of our waters.

Mr. Bickerton: It had the same instructions in the other case. The ships were to be escorted out unless they were found to be fishing commercially—and the Taiwanese were.

Sir CHARLES COURT: That is not in accordance with the Press reports. The R.A.N. vessel was told that because the Indonesian fishermen were primarily only sustenance fishing, there was to be no action similar to that taken in the case of the Taiwanese.

Mr. Bickerton: Why don't you or your colleagues ask for the file to be tabled?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Do not let us make a mountain out of this unnecessarily. The Minister does not seem prepared to accept the word of my colleague that he is seeking simply to assist these men on compassionate grounds.

Mr. Bickerton: He has not even got in touch with his colleague in Canberra—that is how concerned he is!

Sir CHARLES COURT: I wish to say that the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna is entitled to be concerned about the commercial waters of this State.

Mr. Bickerton: And so should everyone be; including the Leader of the Opposition.

Sir CHARLES COURT: And so we are, but here we have a situation where action has been taken—a very salutary penalty has been imposed—and we are now seeking to intervene on compassionate grounds to help two unfortunate men. The wireless operator has gone home and the ships have been impounded.

Mr. Bickerton: You are making political capital out of it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Minister is using up my time. I am attempting to honour an arrangement with the Premier.

The situation is grotesque. Had these men been criminals or hijackers, they would now be home in their nice little feather beds. Abdul Hamid Abdullah Azzam certainly got the V.I.P. treatment—the Government could not get rid of him quickly enough because he is a dangerous character. But these Taiwanese are peaceable people and not likely to blow up a plane! It is up to the Government and the community generally to do something to help them. The situation is grotesque.

Mr. Bickerton: Will you just answer one question?

Sir CHARLES COURT: If these men had been dangerous characters they would have been repatriated as quickly as possible, even if the Government had to hire a special plane.

Mr. Bickerton: Will you answer just one question and I will guarantee that I will not interject again? If your main concern is for these two people, why did not you and the Leader of the Country Party see the Premier privately about the matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I wrote to the Premier and the Premier replied in a very sensible way. He said he had made representations and he told me the result. I wanted to advise him, and I did in my letter, that if he wished the Opposition to join with him in representations on this problem we would do just that.

Mr. Bickerton: This was after last night!

Sir CHARLES COURT: No it was not. The Premier answered my letter and now we have this motion before us. It is simply a question of joining with the Premier in his representations. I hope the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna will accept it that way. The position is delicate from the point of view of Australia and the Commonwealth Government because we have tension between Australia and Taiwan due to the recognition of Peking. We do not want to canvass that too far.

We have a foreign currency problem with Taiwan. If one wishes to purchase an air ticket to visit Taiwan, one quickly realises the predicament of the owners of the ships. Unless the Commonwealth Government will bury the hatchet for sufficient time to clear a way for the money to get here, then nothing can happen.

The question of payment for imports and exports has been raised, and I remind the Minister that this is a special matter and procedures are provided for it to be dealt with through exchange control. Outside of normal imports and exports it is different. Those of us who wished to visit Taiwan in recent weeks have had to surrender our official passports in another country in order to do so. I know the problems we have, but the Commonwealth leaves itself open to criticism unless it clears up the situation.

Could I conclude by saying this: The problem is one of compassion, and I think Australians generally take a very sensible view towards the administration of justice. They do not like to see the Government exacting a penalty just for the sake of exacting it. We believe justice has been done in the matter. It was a very severe penalty to confiscate the vessels and their cargoes.

The captains have been greatly inconvenienced and they have certainly suffered. We have to realise that they will go back as fairly broken men. They will find it difficult to obtain employment, and they will go back in a very bad state of mind and health. I believe they will not feel angry with us because the police and others have tried to treat them humanely. But the fact is that they are still virtually incarcerated and if something is not done quickly they will probably be placed in more difficult confinement than they are in at present. It does not profit the Federal Government to keep them here.

There is an old saying from the Gilbert and Sullivan days: "Let the punishment fit the crime". To let the punishment fit the crime is a nicety of judgment. In this case I believe the punishment has been exacted on a heavy basis and it is fair enough now for the Commonwealth Government to let these people go and to facilitate their return to Taiwan. This is a very small price to pay when we consider that Taiwan is trading with us to the extent of tens of millions of dollars a year, and wants to expand that trade. It would be just, humane, sensible, decent, and Australian for the Federal Government not only to facilitate the release of these men, but also to ensure that they get back to their country and are united with their families so that they may overcome the sickness and other problems they are experiencing.

I support the motion, and I sincerely hope that we can join with the Premier and the Government in representations to see whether we can soften the heart of the Federal Attorney-General and get some quick action. A public fund has been started, and I believe if this motion and the efforts of the Government fail we might personally have to assist in the collection of money for this purpose. I, for one, would be prepared to join in that, but initially I am anxious to see this action taken as an official gesture. I think it would do much to partially heal the wounds caused by decisions made by the present Government regarding Peking and Taiwan.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) (3.02 p.m.): I am happy to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Country Party. It is an appropriate and timely motion,

and the honourable member is to be congratulated for moving it. My only regret is that the motion does not go far enough. It simply states—

That this House urges the Federal Attorney-General to take all action necessary to enable the imprisoned Taiwanese fishermen to return immediately to their families in Taiwan.

I think we should have gone further and suggested in the motion that the Federal Government be asked to donate to Taiwan the ships which have been confiscated. At this stage there is no reason in the world why the ships cannot be handed back to Taiwan. The Federal Government spends an extraordinary amount of the taxpayers' money each year on international aid, with the main object of promoting good relationships with other nations. I have before me the 1972 Commonwealth Year Book, which indicates the amount of money contributed by Australians to international aid. We find that in 1970-71 the Commonwealth Government spent no less than \$176,700,000 on international aid, which represents about \$13 for every man, woman, and child in the Commonwealth.

That money is raised by way of taxation and is channeled in various ways to the less developed countries of the world. We are spending that fantastic amount each year to promote good relationships with our neighbouring countries. At the same time, however, the Commonwealth Government has taken action to confiscate these ships.

Not only have the fishing operations of the men been disrupted for a long period and not only was their catch confiscated, but also their ships, each worth in the vicinity of \$400,000, were confiscated. So we have confiscated their ships and at the same time we profess to have a policy of promoting good relationships among the countries in the vicinity of the Indian Ocean. This is an action which is calculated to damage seriously the relationship between Taiwan and this country. In those circumstances I think it is perfectly reasonable that we should request the Federal Government to hand back the ships to Taiwan, which is one of the less developed countries of which we speak so often. We often talk in terms of Taiwan being a country which is deserving of aid, and yet we take this action which actually penalises that country.

It is incredible that the Federal Government should be spending \$176,700,000 to aid less developed countries, and at the same time take the action it took recently. The Government has failed to take into consideration the tremendous trade we have with Taiwan. As the Leader of the Country Party emphasised, last year our exports to Taiwan amounted to in the vicinity of \$70,000,000—more than our ex-

ports to mainland China. Yet we have this blatant case of political discrimination—and it cannot be described in any other way because it amounts to that precisely.

An application for leave to appeal on behalf of the Taiwanese fishermen has been lodged with the Criminal Court. I think it was published in the Press recently that the captains did not intend to appeal, but that has been repudiated and they have apparently sought leave to appeal against their convictions and their sentences. But notwithstanding that, whilst they are actually in the process of appealing, a remarkable statement appeared in the Press from the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. I refer to *The Sunday Times* of the 2nd September, 1973, where under the heading of "Trawlers may aid fisheries—Research ship for W.A.?" we saw the following article—

One of the two Taiwanese trawlers confiscated by the District Court this week may be used as a research fishery vessel in WA waters.

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. Bickerton, said yesterday he would consider making an approach to the Commonwealth to allocate one of the trawlers to WA.

The Court ordered that the two vessels be forfeited to the Commonwealth Government and that their skippers be fined \$4,000 each.

I will not read all of the article, because it is not all relevant. Further on it continues—

Mr. Bickerton said his department was carrying out an intense fishery research programme off the WA coast.

The Taiwanese ocean-going vessel could be put to a lot of use in this programme, he said.

The Commonwealth had offered WA one of the Taiwanese fishing boats confiscated in the Gulf of Carpentaria but it had not been suitable.

But the two trawlers forfeited this week were sturdy and well equipped for ocean work and would suit WA conditions.

The article continues in that strain. Here we have two men convicted, fined heavily, and their ships confiscated; and they are in the process of seeking leave to appeal. But before they can appeal the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna has virtually allocated one of their vessels. He proposes to use that vessel on the Western Australian coast.

I think this is an extraordinary outlook. When I think in terms of the \$176,700,000 which was spent by Australia last year on international aid, and in terms of what the Australian people are being taxed to

supply that money to promote good relations, it is unbelievable that that Minister should make a statement of this kind. At this stage we should be doing everything possible to repair the damage which has been done to the good relationships that have always existed between Australia and Taiwan.

We could go a long way towards achieving this if at this juncture the Commonwealth Government were to say, "This has been a sufficient lesson to Taiwan. The vessels and the catches have been confiscated, but at this stage let us hand back the ships to Taiwan, even if they are not returned to the original owners." I am sure the Government of Taiwan could put them to very good use. There is a large number of underprivileged people in Taiwan.

Mr. Hartrey: The Government of Taiwan would not do anything for the underprivileged Taiwanese.

Mr. GRAYDEN: What the Government has done is to adopt a dog-in-the-manger attitude to prevent the Taiwanese from fishing off our north-west coast. The Taiwanese are perfectly entitled to fish beyond the 12-mile limit of our coastline; and under the laws of this State beyond the three-mile limit. These people have been engaged in long-line fishing off our north-west coast from time immemorial.

The species of fish in which they are interested are shark and tuna. It would not matter to us if in the pursuit of these species of fish they came within the 12-mile limit of our coast. The tuna is a migratory type of fish and travels hundreds and thousands of miles. Sharks have similar habits. In fact, it would not mean anything at all if the Taiwanese fished those species within the 12-mile limit. If the specie concerned was prawn it would be a different matter altogether.

It would not matter what the limit was off that part of our coast. The same tuna will be involved, because this fish moves up and down the coastline. The same applies to sharks.

In those circumstances a penalty of this kind is too harsh altogether. For the reasons I have given I believe we should think in terms of handing back these two ships to Taiwan. I do not wish to continue any longer, because of the understanding that has been reached as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, and members have been asked to be brief in their contributions. Before I conclude I would like once again to congratulate the Leader of the Country Party for moving the motion; and I have great pleasure in supporting it.

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [3.14 p.m.]: This motion is aimed at the immediate return of the two Taiwanese captains to their families. That is what

the motion stipulates. However, when speaking to it, the Leader of the Opposition advocated the immediate release of these two men. I want to point out at the start that there is a big difference between sending these two persons back to Taiwan, and effecting their release from gaol.

Sir Charles Court: I also advocate their repatriation.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The first point is that there is no necessity at all for these two persons to be in gaol still; they remain there at their own choice. So, let us get that clear.

No indication was given at the trial of any intention to appeal. If such intention had been given then the judge would have decided to grant bail in order to ensure that these people would be available when the appeal was heard.

Mr. O'Connor: They have elected to remain in gaol?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The Commonwealth Government has indicated that it will not in any shape or form oppose bail, if bail is requested.

Mr. O'Connor: What is the bail?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: It will require safeguards that these people will be available for the appeal. I want to point out that the Federal Attorney-General could not have been more sympathetic or more co-operative than he has been. I have been in touch with him; and he has offered to make available to me the series of the Deputy Crown Solicitor of the Federal Crown Law Department. The Deputy Crown Solicitor conferred with me earlier today, so that I would become completely *au fait* with the situation.

First of all, if we agree to the motion as moved and effect is given to it, and these two persons are returned to Taiwan with Government assistance and approval, what would happen when the appeal came on? Would it not be open to the judge to proceed, in the absence of these two captains, and to say that having regard for the fact that the Commonwealth Government facilitated their return to their country the Commonwealth Government was not very interested in the outcome of the appeal?

Sir Charles Court: I understand from the legal people, not only from the solicitors for the captains, that they are not needed for the appeal. It is purely a question of law.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The statement which has just been made by the Leader of the Opposition indicates what little consideration he has given to this question.

Sir Charles Court: I am going on the experience of the legal people.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I do not care on what the Leader of the Opposition is going; he should be patient.

Sir Charles Court: These are experienced legal people.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: They only tell half the story.

Sir Charles Court: Then you tell us the other half of the story, unless you are afraid they will get their boats back.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: We cannot anticipate what the decision will be on appeal, but one possibility is a retrial. Could we have a retrial in the absence of these two men in Taiwan?

Sir Charles Court: Their boats are here.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Did the legal eagles who have advised the Leader of the Opposition raise this point with him?

Sir Charles Court: That does not affect the issue at all.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Yes, it does.

Sir Charles Court: We have the vessels here.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: We are not trying the vessels.

Sir Charles Court: This is a technicality. You are not up to your usual form.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The further the Leader of the Opposition goes the more he indicates how little he appreciates the difficulties of these people. This is not my advice at all, but that of the Deputy Crown Solicitor.

Sir Charles Court: I still place reliance on the advice I have received. These people are not required for the appeal.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I do not care what advice has been tendered to the Leader of the Opposition. It cannot be gainsaid that one possibility is that it is within the discretion of the court to grant a retrial.

Now to do that the court would first allow the appeal. Next, it would quash the conviction so that the State or the Commonwealth would no longer have the right to retain the vessels. That is the answer to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition a few minutes ago.

Sir Charles Court: That is fair enough.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The State would not have the vessels under those circumstances.

Sir Charles Court: Because it would not be entitled to them. It would have lost the case.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Is a case lost because upon appeal a retrial is ordered? Does that presuppose that at every retrial the decision will be given in favour of the appellant?

Sir Charles Court: Do not confuse the two. If the appeal is upheld the captains will win the case.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Oh, no.

Sir Charles Court: Yes. If a retrial is ordered that is another matter altogether. Do not confuse the issue.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am advised that on the quashing of the convictions—and this would be necessary if there is to be a retrial; it is a necessary corollary of a new trial that convictions are quashed—all orders, including the order for forfeiture, would automatically lapse.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: That would mean the ownership of the ships would revert to the company for whom the captains were working.

Sir Charles Court: Well, there would be no practical problem.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I gave the Leader of the Opposition a fair go, so now let me have a go.

Sir Charles Court: I thought the Premier would like me to answer the question.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I did not ask a question.

Sir Charles Court: You asked for my advice.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: A retrial is at the sole discretion of the court, which would decide in accordance with the justice of the case. It has already been indicated that when the appeal is being heard it will be suggested that a retrial will not be sought. I am advised that this is neither feasible nor practical because it is entirely within the decision of the court, irrespective of any request made to it, as to whether or not upon appeal it orders a retrial.

Mr. O'Connor: The Premier does not trust the views of the solicitors.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Well, the member for Mt. Lawley knows the story about solicitors. A one-armed solicitor is the best one to go to.

Mr. O'Connor: Okay.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: A one-armed solicitor cannot say, "On the one hand it is this, and on the other hand it is that." Even if the court did accede to the suggestion that there be no retrial, and I am advised it would not do so, it would be dangerous for the Crown to concur for the following reasons: The court could adopt the attitude that it would grant an appeal and the Crown would be acquiescing to the abandonment of a retrial. Further, this would also result in the setting aside of the forfeiture order in relation to the ships, and freeing them to the Taiwanese owners. Now the member for South Perth suggests that it is wrong to impose any penalties at all upon these people.

Mr. Grayden: I did not say that at all.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am informed that the poaching of fish in our waters has been occurring for some time, and we have a responsibility to ensure that it does not continue.

Mr. O'Connor: I agree with that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I refer members to what is taking place between Great Britain and Iceland at the present time.

Mr. O'Connor: We are not denying that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: So it is wrong to say, "Wipe out everything; do not require the payment of the fines; do not require the forfeiture of the vessels; simply send these two fellows home and tell them they have been naughty boys, and not to do it again." How much notice would they take of that with regard to the protection of the fish in our waters?

If the fines were remitted—and this is important—and the captains released, that would be an interference with the grounds of appeal. One of the grounds is the severity of the sentence. If the men were let out of gaol and their fines remitted after the sentence was imposed and before the appeal is heard that would be an interference with the grounds of the appeal. Further, this matter is *sub judice* because the appeal has been lodged.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr. O'CONNOR: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if this matter is *sub judice* is it permissible for it to go any further in this Chamber at this time?

#### *Speaker's Ruling*

The SPEAKER: I would have to study the point of order at considerable length, and consider the motion in conjunction with the Act. The motion is that the Taiwanese captains be returned to their country. On the surface of the situation, and after glancing quickly at the motion, I would say it is not *sub judice*.

#### *Debate (on motion) Resumed*

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Further, following the remission of the fines—if that took place—and the letting of these people out of gaol, the captains could leave the country. There would be no legal power or impediment to their so doing.

Mr. W. G. Young: Would they not have to obtain travel documents and passports?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am informed by the Crown Law Department that if the captains were let out of gaol as a result of Commonwealth action, and their fines were remitted, there would be no legal impediment to their return to Taiwan. The court could proceed in their absence and hear the appeal. Whether or not it would do so, would depend on the arguments put to it by counsel. The outcome is not certain because it is at the discretion of the court.

Applications for bail—and this is important—would have the effect of obtaining an order from the court ensuring that the captains would not leave the State before the appeal was determined. That

may be one of the reasons they did not want to apply for bail. They could get bail only on the condition that they were still here for the appeal. Bail would provide a legal prohibition against their leaving. If a retrial were ordered the court would make all necessary directions to ensure the presence of the captains at the retrial, and that would include the granting of bail.

Finally, on the authority of the Commonwealth Attorney-General, I inform the House that irrespective of the result of the appeal the Australian Government will facilitate the return to Taiwan of these two men. All the Commonwealth desires to do is to make certain that the two men are here when the appeal, which is of their own seeking, takes place. If they had indicated at the original trial that they were going to appeal then they would have been given bail immediately, but under the condition that they were here for the appeal.

Why should we try to create a set of circumstances where the two men will be freed from gaol and allowed to return to Taiwan when there is no power to bring them back when the appeal is heard? If those on the Opposition side of the House, who feel so keenly about this matter, desire to facilitate this proposal, they need only have the appeal withdrawn.

Sir Charles Court: The Premier would be the last person to advise us to do that because he would immediately get up on his hind legs and ask, "What about the course of justice?"

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The Opposition cannot have it both ways.

Sir Charles Court: There are some practical factors in this matter about which your Attorney-General friend in Canberra is being deliberately pedantic.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: No he is not. He is being very sympathetic and co-operative. No-one could have been more so.

Sir Charles Court: You know his attitude towards Taiwan.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: That has nothing to do with it. Although the Leader of the Opposition has done his best to introduce that aspect into this question, it has nothing to do with it.

Sir Charles Court: He got rid of the brigand in a matter of hours.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: This matter is simple enough. An appeal has been lodged, apart from the trial. A circumstance exists which would not have existed had it been indicated at the trial that an appeal was to be made. Had that been done, the judge would have granted bail but under conditions which would ensure the two captains were here for the appeal. That indication was not given and the only reason they were

rearrested, after release, and put in gaol again was that it was being published that money was being raised to return them to Taiwan, despite the fact that it was proposed to appeal. The Commonwealth Government therefore felt it was essential to comply with the situation which would have existed had an indication of an appeal been given at the trial. The Commonwealth is only attempting to do what it would do in the case of anybody else, which is—

Mr. Grayden: To get its pound of flesh.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: —to ensure the two men are present for the appeal. I repeat that irrespective of the way the appeal goes—whether it is in favour of the Taiwanese captains and the owners of the ships or whether it is in favour of the Commonwealth Government—the Federal Attorney-General has given me an assurance that the Commonwealth Government will facilitate the return to Taiwan of these two captains.

Sir Charles Court: In the meantime they languish.

MR. McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [3.33 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to thank the Premier for agreeing to bring this motion forward today in order to allow us to debate it and make a decision on it. I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Perth for their support of the motion.

I wish to make one or two points. The first relates to an interjection by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, when he said I had not been in touch with my colleague in the Federal Parliament. When I began my speech in moving the motion yesterday, I made it quite clear that on the 27th September I had been in telephone communication with Senator Drake-Brockman. I asked him on that day to raise the matter in the Senate and request the Attorney-General to facilitate action for the release of these two fishermen. That is what I did on the 27th September.

Mr. Bickerton: Did he do so?

Mr. McPHARLIN: He asked the questions and the Attorney-General agreed to investigate and make inquiries to see what could be done.

Mr. Bickerton: I apologise.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I refer also to the question without notice which I asked of the Premier on Tuesday, the 2nd October, to ascertain what further action had been taken by the Federal Attorney-General and what the investigations had disclosed. His reply was negative. The comments made by the Premier were very interesting. He has had the matter thoroughly investigated by the Deputy Crown Solicitor.

I discussed several of the points made by the Premier—but not all of them—with the solicitor representing these two fishing boat captains, who said that if the men were released and went back to Taiwan they would face further court action in Taiwan because of the trouble they have caused by breaking the rules, and so on. So if they were sent back to Taiwan they would not be entirely free. They would still have to face whatever action might be taken in their own country.

The Premier mentioned bail. Bail has been offered but on condition that the two men remain here while the appeal is being heard. Their solicitor told me that if the men were returned they would give guarantees to come back to attend the court hearing if required. He assured me on two occasions that if it were necessary to bring them back he would guarantee that they would be brought back.

The Premier made the point that the two captains were gaoled at a time when money was being raised, which created a suspicion that the men would be sent home unofficially or, in effect, would be smuggled out of the country. It is significant, however, that on the Friday the radio operator was repatriated and his fare was paid by a solicitor, and on the following Monday the two captains were gaoled.

I think it would be very difficult for these men to arrange to be smuggled out of the country, and it appears to have been unnecessary for them to be gaoled on the complaint that they had not paid their fines. At the present time they are being held at the East Perth lockup, and if bail were paid they could be sent elsewhere, but that is not what is required. They would still be more or less confined to this State and would feel they were being detained in custody, which in effect would be the case. The humanitarian and compassionate action would be to release them on condition that they would return to Perth if it were necessary for them to appear for the appeal proceedings.

Mr. Hartrey: How could you enforce that condition?

Mr. McPHARLIN: Surely these conditions could be agreed to between the representatives here and the Attorney-General. The Taiwanese can be trusted. For a small nation, they are doing a tremendous amount of trade with us at the present time.

Mr. Hartrey: You will still need someone to enforce the law.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Surely there are conditions which could be agreed to and applied. I have not the detailed information which would enable me to discuss the more technical points raised by the Premier when he quoted from the advice given him

by the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor. I repeat, however, that many of the points I discussed with the Deputy Crown Solicitor were referred to by the Premier.

Again, I ask members this afternoon to give serious consideration to allowing the motion to go forward to the Attorney-General with the support of this House, so that the two men concerned may be expeditiously released and returned to their families. The motion merely asks the Attorney-General to move quickly and do everything possible to speed up proceedings. The motion does not ask that the two men be released this afternoon; it merely seeks the support of this House of Assembly and requests that the Attorney-General moves quickly. I have tried to present the motion on sincere and compassionate grounds while attempting to avoid controversial political angles which may well have been introduced, and I hope it will be received accordingly.

Mr. Hartrey: They were yesterday.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The Premier said the Attorney-General is sympathetic, and accordingly I ask him to receive the motion in the spirit in which it has been presented. I trust he will send the motion forward expeditiously to Senator Murphy and ask him to carry out its purport.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

#### Ayes—21

Mr. Blaikie	Mr. O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr. O'Neill
Dr. Dadour	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Sibson
Mr. A. A. Lewis	Mr. Stephens
Mr. E. H. M. Lewis	Mr. Thompson
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. W. G. Young
Mr. McPharlin	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Mensaros	(Teller)

#### Noes—21

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Harman
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Hartrey
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brown	Mr. May
Mr. B. T. Burke	Mr. McIver
Mr. T. J. Burke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Cook	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Davies	Mr. A. R. Tonkin
Mr. H. D. Evans	Mr. J. T. Tonkin
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. Moller
Mr. Fletcher	(Teller)

#### Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Sir David Brand	Mr. Bertram
Mr. Nalder	Mr. Bryce
Mr. Coyne	Mr. Jones
Mr. R. L. Young	Mr. Jamleson

The SPEAKER: The voting being equal, I give my casting vote with the Noes.

Question thus negatived.

Motion defeated.

Sitting suspended from 3.46 to 4.04 p.m.

## MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Harman (Minister for Labour), read a first time.

## OFFICIAL PROSECUTIONS (DEFENDANTS' COSTS) BILL

### Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th September.

MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [4.05 p.m.]: There is no reason whatsoever to oppose this Bill. In fact, in keeping with the well-known and traditional fairness of the Opposition, I would like to commend the Attorney-General for the principle embodied in the measure. The principle is to compensate the successful defendant for his costs following an official prosecution, and although this may break new ground in Western Australia it is not new in other countries. Indeed, according to the document submitted by the Law Reform Committee—which is now the Law Reform Commission—and tabled by the Attorney-General yesterday, we learn that even in some States in Australia, and in the United Kingdom, certain steps to implement this principle have either been enacted or accepted by practice within the last decade or so.

In the continental countries this principle is not new, either. It existed for quite a long time in one or other form. In some countries it existed in the form this Bill proposes. In others it was implemented in a more cumbersome way, based on the principle that anyone had the right to sue the Crown if he incurred any damages. That principle or rule was used widely in the case of the successful defendant; namely, that if the court did not allow him any expenses for his costs he sued the Crown and on practically every occasion he was successful.

I realise that the proposed measure is much simpler because it does not involve any additional litigation or additional legal costs. In most cases it is simply up to the magistrate, in a mandatory way, to award costs to the defendant if he is successful in defending himself against an official prosecution.

The principle is laudable, because if I may express it in one sentence, it provides for, perhaps, slightly more access to justice for the ordinary man. It is not farcical to say that in the present circumstances one has to be either a pauper or almost a millionaire to approach the law with equanimity. Poor people are receiving some form of legal aid and the very well-to-do people cannot bother very much about the amount of costs they would incur if they engaged in litigation or if

they were to defend themselves against a charge. It is the vast majority in between who more often than not have to forgo their principles and decide not to defend themselves against a charge because of the risk of incurring heavy costs. As we all know, very often the costs are much higher than the fine if the defendant is found guilty.

As someone who had legal experience when I first came to this State 23 years ago I was struck by the fact that litigation generally in this State was very expensive. I am not only referring to the cases covered by the present Bill—that is, official prosecutions—but also to civil cases. In most continental countries one was fairly certain that when one engaged in litigation and found oneself on the winning side the costs awarded would cover all the expenses one incurred. In Australia—as opposed to this practice—in most cases the costs awarded by the courts are usually less than the costs that were actually incurred.

However, one could look at this principle from a different angle. If we divorce the legal and moral—and in using the word “moral” I mean socio-ethical—condemnation of a person—I hasten to add we should not do this—we find that up to a generation ago a man could be found guilty of a legal offence and at the same time has usually been condemned by society as well for committing a moral and ethical offence. I submit that this was a proper and desirable circumstance. Nevertheless it is not so today, because the functions of Government and the subjects that Governments legislate about have increased enormously.

This has been brought about by many circumstances. It is partly due to socialistic Governments' thinking. I am not saying this by way of attacking socialistic Governments; I am merely stating it as a fact of life, because even with the best of will—mistakenly, in my view—some of these Governments want to look after the people from the cradle to the grave in every conceivable aspect. They want to regulate all human activities under various catchcries; mostly under the catchcry of protecting the public. They also want to take over human activity which so far has been regarded as being within the sphere of private individuals and their own enterprise. Hence there are many more rules and regulations than there used to be, and consequently there are many more offences.

I would submit that not all these offences cover activities or omissions which are morally wrong in the eyes of society. For instance, no-one can tell me that a man who has omitted to submit some complicated statistical return, or a tradesman who contracts with an owner in excess of

a few dollars of his statutory maximum because he is not registered as a builder or a contractor and so has committed an offence, would be looked upon by society on the ground that he is ethically wrong, and yet according to law he has committed an offence. Therefore the argument that may have prevailed previously; namely, that offenders who are charged are generally of shoddy character, cannot be sustained today.

As I said before, this is one more aspect to consider when looking at the development which led the Attorney-General to introduce this measure in order to recognise that the Crown should be responsible for expenses if the offender who was charged by the Crown, an instrumentality of the Crown, or a semi-Government body, defends himself successfully and proves that he did not commit a moral offence or even a legal offence. For that reason I think it is even more commendable that it is a Labor Attorney-General who has introduced this Bill.

I feel it is a pity that the principle was not carried further and was not extended to have more practical consequences. I refer, of course, to the offences dealt with by higher courts other than Summary Courts. These cases, by the nature of the court and the nature of the proceedings, involve much higher legal costs for the defendant. In most cases in higher courts juries and lengthy proceedings are involved; and barristers must be engaged, and their services are fairly expensive. This all adds up to considerable cost for the defendant. I only hope therefore that this measure is merely a start and that in due course its provisions will extend to higher courts, indeed, to all courts and tribunals—within reason. As it is now one can call it only a palliative measure.

Another thought comes to my mind. Under the measure, appeals are not really encouraged because having been convicted in a Summary Court the defendant still has to decide whether to take the risk of appealing, and we all know that very often it is on account of incompetence of Summary Courts of Petty Sessions that the rulings are changed. Hence I feel that in the interests of uniform and fair justice, appeals should be encouraged. Under the Bill only half the risk is taken away from the contemplating appellant.

There is another aspect to this. It is rather odd that one of the results of this measure is that if on an indictable charge—even murder if we take the extreme—the defendant is successful in persuading the magistrate to strike out the indictment, the costs are awarded, but if the case goes to the Supreme Court on the same charge and there the defendant is found not guilty, he has to pay all the costs involved.

I realise I am being idealistic, but this is one of the results of the measure. I therefore hope the provisions of the Bill will be extended later on.

Coming back to the Supreme Court and District Court, if the provisions of the Bill were extended to them people would not be left in their present situation where they must decide very often against proper defence for monetary reasons. I hope very much that the argument against extending the payment for a successful defendant in the Supreme Court is purely a financial one.

In answer to a question yesterday the Attorney-General told us that the anticipated cost to the Government and direct Government instrumentalities as a result of the implementation of the Bill would be approximately \$150,000 a year. I think this is a fair enough sum to spend to initiate such a measure. However, depending on the costs involved and possible misuse—one can never foretell what will happen under a new measure—one can hope that in due course the provisions will be extended to the higher courts. I also hope that the fact that legal aid is more readily available at the higher courts will not in itself be an excuse in future for these provisions not to be extended to all courts in the State. I also hope that the provisions for costs to be paid to successful defendants out of the Supreme Court special fund when the need arises will not be some sort of reason for not extending the provisions, because these orders are very rarely made and then only when certain points of law are involved.

In the meantime I believe that the problems of defendants in higher courts could be, if not solved, at least made easier by the extension of legal aid. As the system exists today the revenue for legal aid is derived from sources other than the Consolidated Revenue Fund and therefore it seems to me that it does not offend even against Liberal principles to extend it.

I now turn to the Bill to deal with it in some little detail. Again I can see that not only is the principle behind the measure but also the form in which it is drafted commendable. It is a fairly clear, modest, and easy-to-understand piece of drafting and it is easily one of the best of the many legal Bills I have had the honour to handle on behalf of the Opposition during this Parliament.

The first operative clause is clause 4 which contains the definition of "costs". Paragraph (a) of the definition indicates that "costs" means "any expenses that are properly incurred . . ." Of course, one cannot help but think that this expression *a contrario* may imply that the legal profession imposes improper charges, which would not be exactly complimentary to that profession. However, one can

hope that the inclusion of the expression may eliminate the occasional excessive charges which are made today.

Another important definition is that of "official prosecution" which means "the proceedings . . . on a complaint by a public official . . ." The public official is further defined and it is in this regard that I have two queries.

The definition of "public official" is divided into two categories. The first deals with a Minister of the Crown, a person employed in the Public Service of the State, or a member of the Police Force. My query in connection with this first portion of the definition is whether or not some people who are not public servants could have been inadvertently left out of this category. The Attorney-General is perhaps the best person to give an answer as he has been the Minister for Education. I am thinking of a number of people employed in the Education Department who are not public servants. The Attorney-General would probably know better than I whether there are certain teachers, headmasters, principals, or other persons who could become an official prosecutor. There may be something in the Education Act, or affiliated Acts, which might put them in the position of prosecuting and where they would not then be covered by the first part of the definition.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I think that what you contemplate would be any person acting as agent of or under the Minister of the Crown.

Mr. MENSAROS: Yes. This would probably be the solution. At the present moment I cannot think of other categories yet I am quite sure there are some people in a department who are not direct public servants.

I discussed my other query with the Minister who agreed with me to a certain extent. The second part of the definition talks about a statutory body or a person employed by a statutory body. In his second reading speech the Minister referred to local authorities being in this category. He told us that through the Minister for Local Government virtually all the local authorities were approached and were made aware of the proposed provisions of the Bill, and none of them had complained. In other words they appeared to have accepted the Bill.

However, it has occurred to me that there could be some doubt as to whether local authorities are statutory bodies. They are recognised by Statutes, but not created by Statute. Consequently I drafted an amendment to which the Minister has agreed subject to some legal technicalities. As a result of the agreement we reached I will in Committee move an amendment designed to include local authorities as they are termed properly by law which then, if I am right in my contention that

there might be a legal view that they are not statutory bodies, would take away this doubt and clarify the position.

Proceeding briefly, I consider it is good that clause 5 contains no provision for an application to be made. The Summary Court will act of its own volition. In other words there will be no need for a defendant to apply for the costs to be awarded because they will be awarded mandatorily except in those cases which are dealt with in clause 6.

The exceptions to the mandatory order for costs fall into two main categories. One of them deals with section 669 of the Criminal Code, and the other deals with, if I may use the expression, filibustering procedures.

In connection with the first one, clause 6 properly suggests that the court may refuse to order the payment of costs if the charge against the successful defendant is dismissed under the provisions of section 669 of the Criminal Code which enables a court to dismiss a charge against a first offender, if the matter is trivial, or if the offender is of good character.

I notice that by virtue of the definition of "Summary Court" in an earlier clause, a Children's Court operating under the Child Welfare Act is included. It appears therefore that the intention of the Government is that the Children's Court proceedings, which are of course summary, should be placed on a footing equal with other summary proceedings. However, the Child Welfare Act provides that the jurisdiction of the provisions of the Act will prevail over similar provisions in other Acts. Section 26 of the Child Welfare Act empowers the Children's Court to dismiss a complaint for the reasons set out in that section and the defendant does not necessarily have to be a first offender.

The magistrates sitting in a Children's Court have always taken the view that section 26 of the Child Welfare Act takes precedence over section 669 of the Criminal Code. So, if a defendant is to have a charge dismissed against him because it is his first offence or he is of good character, and that defendant is a child according to the meaning of the Child Welfare Act, the provisions of section 26 of the Child Welfare Act and not the provisions of section 669 of the Criminal Code are invoked.

As the Bill stands now it seems to me that if for instance a second offender or, for that matter, a first offender being a child within the meaning of the Child Welfare Act, had a complaint against him dismissed he would be entitled to his costs irrespective of any circumstances, because of the provisions of clause 4 (2) (a) of the Bill.

This appears to me to be somewhat improper, particularly having regard for the fact that he may not be a first offender—it may be his second or even subsequent

offence. This person is to be given the same benefit of the liberal provisions of this legislation and this means that the magistrate would automatically have to award him his costs. However, if, as I said before, the provisions of the Criminal Code are invoked, the magistrate has his discretionary power whether he should or should not award his costs.

For this reason—and after discussion with the Attorney-General—I propose to move to amend the Bill so that the provisions set out in clause 6 (a) should not only apply to section 669 of the Criminal Code but should apply equally to section 26 of the Child Welfare Act.

The second category subject to the discretion of the magistrate is enumerated in clause 6 (b) and (c). Here, of course, it will be interesting to see how the practice will develop. Paragraphs (b) and (c) deal with what I previously termed filibustering in courts. In itself an admission in a proposed Statute that procedural law is not perfect and allows such filibustering to happen is somewhat curious. Nevertheless, it may have the result of preventing such tactics in future. As we generally understand it, filibustering is when the defence counsel does not call the witness in time or by some other means prolongs the proceedings.

An interesting question is whether indeed, if some such happening occurs which could be brought under the provisions of 6 (b) and (c), the defendant would have the right to sue his counsel for damages. I say this because in this case the defendant would be in the position whereby the magistrate might not award costs against him on the basis that the proceedings were prolonged, thus contravening the provisions of 6 (b) and (c). Will the defendant then have the right to sue his counsel? Actually, in such a case, the defendant would incur some damages because the magistrate could say that the defendant's counsel had prolonged the proceedings and, therefore, costs would not be awarded.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You are getting into another area.

Mr. MENSAROS: In such a case the costs would not be awarded to the defendant; but, in most cases, it would not be his fault but the fault of his legal counsel that the costs were not awarded to him.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I suggest the honourable member should look at the Hedley Byrne series of cases.

Mr. MENSAROS: I will try to do this. Generally speaking, I think the measure is quite commendable, as I have said, especially in so far as the latter provisions are concerned. The legislation will regulate the matters and things which are to be taken into account when assessing costs. The Bill merely codifies what is common

law practice at present. There is no departure from this practice in the measure because, at the moment, the courts take some cognisance of the matters which are provided for in clause 6.

Finally I would like to comment on the last very brief clause which concerns regulation-making powers. This provision really deserves commendation in comparison with the very many regulatory provisions in pieces of legislation which come before the Parliament. In this case the regulatory powers are strictly confined to the Bill itself. Almost every other draftsman, whether it is necessary or not, takes the regulation provision to the extreme where the sky is the limit. Usually it is said that the Minister can make regulations for "this, that, the other, and everything else". I have never liked such provisions in legislation and I have often commented on it.

As I have said, I quite agree with the principle of the legislation. I feel sorry it could not be extended further and I hope it will be in future. I shall move my amendment in Committee but now, on behalf of the Opposition, I support the measure.

**MR. MOILER** (Toodyay) [4.35 p.m.]: I, too, support the measure and I am pleased that the Opposition has indicated its support. We must wonder why such a measure has been brought in at this stage when it should have been introduced years ago. Nevertheless, the Bill has now been introduced and I hope it will have a speedy passage.

Relatively speaking the legislation will directly affect few people in Western Australia. We have a population of more than 1,000,000 people in Western Australia but I think relatively few people would be directly affected by the measure.

In some respects the Bill can be likened to other legislation which the Labor Government has already introduced. It can be likened to the action taken by the Government to appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner—commonly known as "the ombudsman"—to carry out certain administrative investigations. Once again, relatively few people within the State have found it necessary to approach the ombudsman and to obtain the benefit of his decision on a particular matter. Nevertheless, that position was created by a Labor Government. The tenor of all such legislation indicates that the present Labor Government is determined to protect the rights of the individual. The fact that the legislation will—it is to be hoped—benefit only a few people does not matter. I should hate to think that excessive numbers of people are, at present, being charged or summoned into court and then subsequently found to be not guilty.

**Mr. Hartrey:** You would be surprised how many it will affect.

**Mr. MOILER:** That may be so. Of course the intention of the measure is to correct a position which has been wrong for many years.

**Mr. Hartrey:** Quite right!

**Mr. MOILER:** As I have been trying to explain, the measure before us—as well as the measure which created the position of a Parliamentary Commissioner—will not have an effect on the masses. Indeed, a great number of people may never find it necessary to be aware of the legislation or to have any contact with it.

The measure under discussion this afternoon will benefit people who are summoned, appear in court, and are successful in defending their cases. It is excellent that at long last such people will have the right to claim the costs of their defence if they are found not guilty or if the case is dismissed.

I believe the legislation can also be likened to the action taken by the Government, on its own initiative, whereby it has increased the payments applicable under the Workers' Compensation Act. The people to benefit from the Labor Government's actions are those who are unfortunate enough to be off work on compensation. The Government has seen fit to raise the level of compensation payment from a percentage of the basic wage up to 100 per cent. of the basic wage. As I have said, this, along with the other measures, will benefit only a small group of people who are unfortunate enough to be off work on compensation.

The same remarks are applicable in regard to the improvements made to the sick leave legislation. For people in Government employment sick leave has been increased by 100 per cent.

I could mention many other issues whereby the present Government has acted and increased benefits available to the people in the community. I can think of one for which there has been agitation over many years; namely, the Government has seen fit to provide that the salaries of apprentices shall be connected with the salaries of tradesmen. For years the position has been that apprentices' salaries have been related to the basic wage.

**The SPEAKER:** Is this relative to the measure?

**Mr. MOILER:** Possibly I have drifted a little in the last couple of instances but it is quite relevant to point out that this legislation is, in many respects, similar to the legislation introduced to appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner. Recently a question was asked in the Parliament and it was stated, in reply, that during the period from June, 1972, to June, 1973, 93 people had found that their claims to the ombudsman had been shown to be justified. This is a relatively small number but, despite this, that number of people in the community did receive benefit by an approach to the ombudsman.

In the same way, probably a relatively small number of people will be affected by the passage of this legislation. It will be those who are summoned and taken to court but whose case is dismissed, quashed, withdrawn, or struck out. Under the provisions of this measure the court will be able to decide to award costs to these people.

The measure will have an extremely desirable effect. Like the previous speaker I am of the opinion that in many cases those who believe they are innocent of some minor offence, shall we say, decide to plead guilty rather than go to court. For some people it would be a traumatic experience to have to go to court. In fact, I am sure it would be a traumatic experience for many because, in most cases, they would be going to court for the first time. Apart from their own apprehension there is the fact that invariably they must lose time from their employment and subsequently suffer loss of wages. Many people would be extremely nervous in a court and would have to obtain the services of a solicitor. This can run them into considerable costs. Then if their cases are dismissed, up to date they would still have been out of pocket by virtue of the fact that they have had to cover their court expenses in addition to their loss of wages. Many defendants decide that it is possibly cheaper to plead guilty rather than defend their case.

Mr. Hartrey: This happens very frequently in traffic cases.

Mr. MOILER: The member for Boulder-Dundas says this happens frequently in relation to traffic charges. It crosses my mind that we will see many more cases defended, and perhaps dismissed, once this Bill is passed. Some local authorities who are anxious at this stage to retain traffic control may find it is not quite as profitable as it has been in the past.

Mr. Hartrey: They will.

Mr. MOILER: Many of them may be happy to see the Government take over traffic control. At the present time officers within local government authorised to issue summonses and make charges are fully aware that they cannot have costs awarded against them even when a case is dismissed. The person charged is caught in the position of "heads he loses and tails the local authority wins". This position has always surprised me. In view of the support for this Bill from the Opposition, it is a wonder that action was not taken years ago to correct this anomaly. Local authorities may find that a more reasonable and discerning approach by the officers issuing summonses will be necessary. Once a few cases have been defended successfully and the costs awarded against the local authorities, they will ensure that there is no pettiness or vindictiveness on the part of the officers authorised to take these actions.

Once again I compliment the Government on the introduction of this legislation. It is progressive legislation and it typifies that Labor Governments, although so often accused of disregarding the individual in favour of the masses, attempt to protect individuals. I believe this measure and the Parliamentary Commissioner Act indicate that the Labor Party concerns itself with the rights of the individual.

Mr. Rushton: You do not worry about the Taiwanese.

Mr. O'Connor: You don't worry about the locals in many cases.

Mr. MOILER: I am quite sure a check would reveal that Labor Governments have introduced more legislation to protect the individual than have other Governments. It is irrelevant to bring in the issue of the Taiwanese.

Mr. O'Connor: Take it *in toto* and see how you stand—very poorly!

Mr. MOILER: I challenge the honourable member to show that his statement is correct.

Mr. O'Connor: Good heavens! All you want to do is to whip everything off the individual and give it to the State.

Mr. MOILER: I repeat my remarks: I congratulate the Government on the introduction of the Bill. I wish it a speedy passage so that the community may receive the benefits which flow from it.

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie—Attorney-General) [4.50 p.m.]: I would like to thank the two members who have contributed to the debate. It pleases me immensely that both members indicated support for the measure.

I will be very brief, but I desire to touch upon one of two of the points raised. First of all, the member for Floreat said he hoped a similar measure in relation to the higher courts would soon be introduced. An undertaking was given that when we have the benefit of the experience of the operation of this legislation at the level set out in the Bill, earnest consideration will be given to an extension of the principle. However, we must also have regard for the polarization—if I may use that term—of this legislation operating alongside the present Suitsors' Fund Act. Close consideration will have to be given to this problem. I gave the assurance that there is no lack of desire on our part to see the principle of costs awarded to successful defendants applying right across the board, and not only in the higher courts but also in legal and other administrative tribunals.

The member for Floreat drew my attention to the definition of the word "costs" in clause 4 of the Bill. He raised a query in relation to the requirement that the costs must be properly incurred. I believe this means costs which necessarily

arise out of particular litigation, but not costs which have been augmented in regard to some issue which is not a necessary ingredient in the particular litigation.

The member for Floreat indicated his intention to move an amendment to the clause, and I would like to make a brief comment on this matter. First of all he said we must ensure that a municipality within the meaning of the Local Government Act is clearly seen to be a statutory body. It is my belief that this is not really necessary because section 9 of the Local Government Act provides that a municipality is a corporation and also a statutory body. However, because the application of this legislation to statutory bodies will mainly concern municipalities within the meaning of the Local Government Act, I see no reason that this fact should not be highlighted. I therefore intend to support the proposed amendment.

The member for Floreat also referred to section 26 of the Child Welfare Act. I believe the suggestion for the inclusion of this provision has a great deal of merit and it is consistent with a reference to consideration being given to the operation of section 669 of the Criminal Code. I have to admit that I cannot see why this reference was omitted from the Bill. If it were consistent to refer to one, it should have been apposite also to refer to the other.

The member for Toodyay also supported the Bill. He said it is an important measure and its importance should not be gauged by the fact that perhaps only a few people will have recourse to it. I contemplate—and I say this with all due respect—that the legislation will benefit far more people than he believes. Obviously we will see many more defended cases in the future and perhaps a consequent diminution in the number of people who plead guilty by endorsement.

I believe the legislation will have other salutary effects in certain other areas of human endeavour, but I do not think I need go into detail at this time.

I will conclude by thanking members for their support and their praise of the legislation. I trust that the measure will take an honourable place alongside other facilities such as legal aid and the extension of legal aid to ensure that justice will not be—like the Ritz Hotel—available to all who can afford it. Unfortunately it is part of our system of law which we have come to accept—or if not to accept, to comply with. As the member for Floreat so correctly said, when we instituted a system of legal aid some years ago we did in fact open the doors of the Ritz Hotel—if I may continue with this theme—to the very poor. The rich have always been able to open the doors, but the people in between are now the victims of the law. It is our duty as legislators,

and as people vitally interested in social welfare, to see that the law should be available to all and one's means should not be the determinant in deciding whether one has recourse to the law. Whilst it may not be necessary for me to do so on this occasion, I earnestly commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Bateman) in the Chair; Mr. T. D. Evans (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Interpretation—

Mr. MENSAROS: Before moving the amendment standing in my name on the notice paper, I would like to say that I was very interested when the Attorney-General interjected during my second reading speech in relation to those employees of the Crown or a department who are not public servants. I wonder whether the Attorney-General wishes to amend the Bill to the extent he mentioned in the interjection or whether he wishes to do this in another place. I was very glad to hear his comments.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I do not think it will be necessary to amend this. The provision says, "a Minister of the Crown, . . . and includes any person acting as agent of or under the instructions of such a person or body", and this refers back to the Minister of the Crown.

Mr. MENSAROS: I am quite happy about this, I simply wanted to highlight it.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I queried this myself, and I received this answer.

Mr. MENSAROS: That being so, I do not think it is necessary for me to explain the amendment I propose to move. This is recorded in *Hansard* in my second reading speech. I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 4—Insert before the word "statutory" the passage, "municipality within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1960 or any other".

Mr. T. D. EVANS: I confirm that the Government intends to support this amendment and the other two proposed by the member for Floreat.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: Saving—

Mr. MENSAROS: Again I refer members to the second reading debate in which I explained the necessity for my next amendment. I move an amendment—

Page 4, line 18—Insert after the word "Code" the passage "or under Section 26 of the Child Welfare Act".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 7 and 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Payment of costs—

Mr. MENSAROS: The amendment I now propose is consequential upon the amendment to clause 4, to which the Committee has agreed. I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 32—Insert before the word “statutory” the passage “municipality within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1960 or any other”.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 10 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

## MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY BILL

### *Second reading*

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Minister for Cultural Affairs) [5.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill, if agreed to, will replace existing legislation intended for the protection and preservation of the remains of historic ships contained in the Museum Act, 1969, and prior to 1969 in the Museum Act Amendment Act of 1964. Redrafting of the legislation has been necessitated by two causes—

- (1) Operating the existing legislation has revealed certain weaknesses which make it very difficult to implement effectively. The Crown Law Department has indicated that while prosecution proceedings can be initiated under existing legislation, the actions are complicated by the difficulty of proving events which happened in the past and are affected by laws not really relevant to today's circumstances; that the legislation needs to be redrafted completely is supported by the Police Department. The law which has usually been referred to in this context is the law relating to “wreck”. Most of the ships dealt with by this Act are not affected by the law of “wreck”, which was intended to provide protection for goods cast ashore. The law which should have been considered was the law of “salvage”; the recovery of the remains and contents of vessels lost at sea, not on the shore. Historically, the impossibility of recovery of vessels lost in deep waters has meant that the law on the subject is fairly limited, since there was little need for such a law. Today things have changed, and the law must be provided to meet that changed situation.

- (2) The existing legislation does not cover certain situations. Particularly important here are objects lost from ships prior to 1900 such as the *Flinders'* anchors and material at the site near Carnac Island where the *Success* stranded in 1829, and material taken ashore by the survivors from wrecks; for example, the camp sites of the survivors of the wreck *Batavia* at Wallabi and Beacon Islands, Zuytdorp north of Kalbarri, and *Zeewyck* on Gun Island. Extension of legislative protection to such sites has been strongly recommended to the Museum by the Joint Committee on Maritime History and Archaeology.

The existing legislation, which was an entirely new concept since adopted in many countries, was based on the law relating to “wreck”. The new legislation removes the emphasis on the act of wrecking—that is, being cast ashore—and introduces the concept of “historic ship”; that is, any ship lost, wrecked, abandoned, or stranded before 1900, whether above or below the low-water mark. The principles conceived for the purpose of the proposed legislation have been adopted in the new legislation in Britain, which is aimed at achieving the same object.

Historic ships are vested in the Museum on behalf of the Crown. The concept of “historic ship” leads to that of a maritime archaeological site which is defined in clause 4 to include the position of an historic ship, relic, or site used by people surviving from an historic ship. Relics are separately defined and under clause 6 (3) vested in the Museum. Thus historic ships, the sites on which these are located, and the sites used by their survivors and the relics from the ships, are all separately dealt with in the legislation.

Mr. O'Connor: Is the incentive retained for people to report things of this nature?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Does the member mean will we be able to take action against them?

Mr. O'Connor: No, if people find things and report them they receive a certain amount. Is this retained?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The same protection is intended. I turn now to a further, and important, new concept—the protected zone, clause 9. The Governor is empowered to declare the area surrounding a maritime archaeological site to be a protected zone. In order to reduce possible inconvenience to fishermen and others using the sea a protected zone below low-water mark may not extend for more than 500 metres around the site it protects. This is the area of protection afforded to offshore drilling sites; any reduction in size would make it too difficult to establish an exact position for the purposes of any prosecution.

The Governor may further make regulations for the control over protected zones, including regulations prohibiting the entry of people or vessels into the zone. This will enable better protection for historic ship sites, for if a vessel trespasses into a protected zone the owner and person in charge are liable for prosecution whether or not the vessel was used for diving and illicit work on a site. This will obviate the need for the Crown to obtain witnesses to events which take place out of sight underwater, but obviously the penalty any magistrate might be likely to impose on a vessel not shown to be causing damage would be less than would be the case where an attempt at looting was discovered.

Clauses 18 and 21 take into account the consequence of the recent agreement between the Governments of the Netherlands and the Commonwealth. Formerly, the Museum Act, 1969, entitled the reporter of a wreck to the metal value of any gold or silver bullion in the wreck.

Under the agreement between the Netherlands and Australia the Commonwealth succeeds to any interest the Netherlands Government may have to material in the Dutch wrecks by virtue of the fact that they are historical successors to the original owners; so it is considered inadvisable that the State should purport to entitle some other person to this value. This provision of the Museum Act, 1969, has therefore been omitted.

Similarly, since the State has agreed to the functioning of an Australian-Dutch committee to apportion material from wrecks, provision is made in this legislation to enable the Governor to instruct the trustees, on that committee's recommendation, to pass such material to an approved body or person.

Penalties have been considerably increased on the previous legislation, and are considered to be more realistic.

This is essentially a Committee Bill, so no attempt has been made to go too deeply into the details at this stage.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. E. H. M. Lewis.

## MUSEUM ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Minister for Cultural Affairs) [5.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is associated with the Maritime Archaeology Bill, 1973, and will be required only if that Bill is enacted. It contains the necessary consequential amendments following upon the enactment of the Maritime Archaeology Bill, 1973. It also contains consequential amendments which have arisen from the enactment of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972.

In addition, two subjects not directly affected by the enactment of the Maritime Archaeology Bill, 1973, have been included in this amending Bill—these are (i) municipal museums; and (ii) meteorites.

There are certain matters consequent upon enactment of the Maritime Archaeology Bill, 1973. These are covered by clauses 3 to 5 inclusive and clause 9, which allow for removal of the subject of historic wrecks from the considerations of the Act being amended—the Museum Act, 1969.

There are also certain matters consequent upon the enactment of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972. While the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972, gives the trustees certain powers in relation to archaeological and anthropological sites, this power was not included in the provisions of the 1969 Museum Act so it is proposed to amend that Act by inclusion of an additional paragraph in section 9 of the Museum Act, 1969, empowering the trustees to preserve on behalf of the community localities of archaeological or anthropological importance, as well as of historical, cultural, or other interest related to the areas of responsibility of the trustees defined earlier in section 9 of the 1969 Act. It deals not only with a locality as such but also objects, whether or not they are still in the locality they are first found. This allows the trustees control over objects removed wilfully or otherwise from their original location.

Clause 7 ensures that the trustees, having been given the power to preserve localities and objects on behalf of the community, shall undertake their care and control, wherever they may be.

Under the provisions of section 37 of the Museum Act, 1969, the trustees are empowered to assist in the establishment or maintenance of local municipal museums which meet certain requirements. One of these requirements is that the site of the museum shall be vested in the local authority. In the course of discussions with various local authorities over these requirements, it has been revealed that there may well be a number of local museums, well situated, and secure on a long-term basis, but whose site for various reasons is not, and cannot be, vested in the local authority.

For example, at Exmouth there is a proposal to establish a local museum in a building previously occupied as lighthouse keepers' quarters. The building is sited on land belonging to the Commonwealth Department of Shipping and Transport, and it cannot be vested in the local authority. Similarly, there have been discussions over the possibilities of establishing museums on sites belonging, for example, to the State Railways Department. Two examples are museums proposed at Merredin and Esperance.

The trustees believe that it should be possible for them to assist local museums whose sites, while not vested in the local authority, are protected by suitable lease arrangements between the local authority and a responsible Government department or instrumentality or other office of the Crown.

Under the Museum Act, 1969, the trustees only have responsibility for meteorites found on land vested in the Crown. The proposed amendments, which are covered by clauses 10 and 11, allow for three provisions. These are, (i) to clarify and extend ownership by the Crown of meteorites falling on privately held freehold land; (ii) to prevent removal of meteorites from the State without permission of the trustees; and (iii) to allow for payment of a reward by the trustees for information which leads to the recovery of a meteorite not previously known to the trustees.

Provision (i) is necessary because at present meteorites found on freehold land can only be acquired by the trustees by donation or purchase. A finder knowing this fact, and having found the meteorite on Crown land, may, in order that he can sell the meteorite to the trustees, claim that it was found elsewhere on freehold land. This results in loss of important scientific information concerning the location of the meteorite.

Provision (ii) is necessary because meteorites are commercially valuable, especially abroad. There have even been recent examples of persons advertising to buy them from other institutions within Australia. The trustees believe that they should be able to control removal of meteorites from the State. Currently the trustees may pay the amount of any reasonable expenses incurred by the finder of a meteorite in notifying the trustees of his find or in recovering and delivering a meteorite to them.

The provision of an award in addition to payment of such expenses should encourage the finder of a meteorite to notify the Museum of his discovery, and, in addition, prevent him from being tempted to smuggle it interstate or overseas for sale.

The final clause of this Bill allows for removal of the schedule to the Museum Act, 1969, since it deals only with historic wrecks vested in the trustees. This schedule becomes redundant upon enactment of the Maritime Archaeology Bill, 1973.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. E. H. M. Lewis.

## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES' HOUSING BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR. BICKERTON (Pillara—Minister for Housing) [5.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The post-war era in Western Australia has seen many efforts to foster local activity by new enterprises founded on the question of guaranteed housing for the required work force. In virtually all country centres labour is not available in sufficient numbers or required skills within the district and must be attracted from elsewhere. Quite naturally workers have been reluctant to accept engagement unless housing for themselves and families was available in the near locality and existing arrangements for provision of housing have not permitted building in advance for employees of specific enterprises.

It would perhaps be useful at this stage briefly to recall some of the procedures which have not been tried, and points out why they have not given the complete answer to what is required. While doing so, it is pertinent to keep in mind the context of the problem we are discussing. The basic concern is with the smaller enterprise without substantial backing, whose limited capital resources and repayment capacity are required for plant and equipment, and which desires to establish in a centre where consistent, actual, and potential demand for housing is not strong enough to attract private sector investment in rental housing. At the same time few, if any, employees would envisage a long-term engagement warranting purchase of a home in a centre where sale could be difficult or involve substantial loss when they wished to go elsewhere.

In the early post-war years non-metropolitan housing was provided almost wholly by the Housing Commission which, in addition to its normal clients, was expected to provide accommodation for Government officers, local government employees, key personnel for local enterprise, and some general employee housing. In general, housing in the special categories was provided to the employer as head tenant who is required to guarantee rentals and with the right of selection of the actual employee tenant.

Although it was continued for some years this system was very unsatisfactory, often resulting in commission homes being occupied by ineligible tenants, the commission virtually losing control of part of its housing stock, and great difficulty being experienced with unsatisfactory tenants and recovery of tenant-liability proportion of maintenance—mainly damage—beyond fair wear and tear.

This procedure was eventually discontinued and rent guarantee housing phased out because of legal advice that such arrangements went beyond the statutory power of the Housing Commission, and were likewise not appropriate under Commonwealth and State Housing Agreements. In essence the Housing Commission is

required to confine its operations to housing of eligible applicants only and must deal only with the individual tenant family. It cannot provide housing, under rent guarantee of an employer, which is reserved for employees of a particular enterprise.

Several moves have been made to fill the gap resulting from the Housing Commission's enforced withdrawal from specific housing support. The Government Employees' Housing Authority has been established to look after housing of Government officers such as teachers, salaried public servants, police, and Department of Corrections' employees.

The Local Government Act has been amended to permit local authorities to borrow for the purpose of providing housing for rental, lease or sale, to employees and others. Some success has been achieved in using this source for employees and for some Government employee housing. At least one scheme is also proceeding with local government housing support to a local enterprise, even though on a limited scale. As a general answer to employee housing for industrial/commercial ventures this approach is limited through Loan Council constraints on local authority borrowing, and other demands on local government capital funds.

The building society movement has been actively promoted and emphasis given to servicing housing outside the metropolitan area. With guarantees available under the Housing Loan Guarantee Act, and insured mortgage facilities, there is virtually no risk to the lender in supporting employee housing in country centres. However, lenders are reluctant to participate substantially, perhaps because of doubt that the enterprise will remain viable for sufficient time to allow repayment of the housing advances. Likewise prospective industry employers face some difficulty in raising the necessary 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. equity required for building society financing, or are doubtful of the capacity and willingness of employees to find the equity for individual houses.

From the preceding comments it will be appreciated there is still a major gap in the machinery necessary to attract and retain viable enterprises in country centres. Even essential servicing facilities—such as mechanics for vehicle and farm machinery repair—cannot be stabilised under the existing structure.

It is to fill this gap that the Bill now before the House has been introduced. Broadly, it proposes to establish an authority with power to raise funds to provide housing for essential industrial or commercial employees outside the metropolitan area. Employees of Government departments serviced by the Government Employees' Housing Act, or of municipalities under the Local Government Act, are specifically excluded.

To be eligible for housing provided by the authority, an employee must be engaged by an employer whose enterprise is accepted by the authority as being of significant benefit to the community wherein it is established, or to the State. Except in special circumstances approved by the authority he must also be within the income limit prescribed for eligibility under the State Housing Act.

The authority is to consist of five members. The chairman must have State-wide experience on a comprehensive basis encompassing planning, provision, and management of housing. The Department of Development and Decentralisation is to be represented by the permanent head or his deputy. Other members are to be representative of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, and the Trades and Labor Council. This composition will allow policy viewpoints, overall strategy, and the interests of employers and employees to be taken into consideration by the authority.

To extend the amount of housing possible within the finances of the authority, and to overcome the equity requirement in building society financing, it is also proposed to authorise the Treasurer to issue guarantees in respect of private loans arranged by employers from institutional financiers and to be applied to the housing purposes of the Act.

The authority will not be an autonomous body, but will be responsible to the Minister for Housing in the administration of the scheme. Apart from the purpose, classes of people eligible to participate, and the composition of the authority, the Bill broadly follows the Government Employees' Housing Act which has been operating satisfactorily for some years.

It must be emphasised this Bill does not propose to supplant any of the existing arrangements which have been detailed earlier. Contributions will still be expected from local authorities, and from employers through building societies. This Bill is intended to provide complementary machinery which will overcome the shortcomings of present systems and provide a comprehensive coverage to permit a positive and practical contribution to the permanent establishment of viable enterprises in country areas as a stable base for their development.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Neil (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

## FIREARMS BILL

### *Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

# CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

## In Committee

Debate resumed from the 3rd October. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Bate-man) in the Chair; Mr. T. D. Evans (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 5: Amendment to section 31—

Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Mr. O'NEIL: I think the Committee can recall the comments I made last night on this clause; and just before progress was reported I was about to move an amend-ment which I now move—

Page 2—Delete paragraph (b).

Mr. T. D. EVANS: Likewise I, too, will rely on the efficient memories of members. I am sure they will recall my opposition to the proposed move and I ask the Com-mittee not to accept the amendment.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—20

Mr. Blaikie	Mr. O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr. O'Neill
Dr. Dadour	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Rushon
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Sibson
Mr. A. A. Lewis	Mr. Thompson
Mr. E. H. M. Lewis	Mr. R. L. Young
Mr. McPharlin	Mr. W. G. Young
Mr. Mensaros	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller)

Noes—20

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Hartrey
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brown	Mr. May
Mr. B. T. Burke	Mr. McIver
Mr. T. J. Burke	Mr. Norton
Mr. Cook	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Davies	Mr. Taylor
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. A. R. Tonkin
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. J. T. Tonkin
Mr. Harman	Mr. Moller

(Teller)

Pair

Ayes

Noes

Sir David Brand	Mr. Bertram
Mr. Nalder	Mr. Bryce
Mr. Coyne	Mr. Jones
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Stephens	Mr. H. D. Evans

The CHAIRMAN: The voting being equal, I give my casting vote with the Noes.

Amendment thus negated.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

## Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE SYSTEM SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

### Printing

Debate resumed, from the 18th Septem-ber, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin—

That the report be printed.

MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.41 p.m.]: The member for Mirrabooka, who was Chairman of the Select Committee, has moved that the report be printed. I under-stand this is a fairly rare move—to print reports of Select Committees.

The member for Mirrabooka gave rea-sons for printing the report and said that it was of great interest to the public; the witnesses were expert witnesses; the report deals with the question of how this Parli-ament should work; and it deals with Parliament's power over the Executive.

Although the member for Mirrabooka did not entirely convince me that these were overwhelming reasons for printing the report, I cannot contradict him that a great deal of interest might have been shown in the report. However, I have not seen more than normal interest.

The report of the Select Committee—which later became a Royal Commission—which inquired into alcohol and drug de-pendency, and where there was no motion for the report to be printed, attracted a tremendous amount of interest. Indeed, the chairman of that committee (The Hon. R. J. L. Williams) has so far ad-dressed 33 various organisations on the sub-ject of his inquiry. Mr. Williams has informed me that his diary still contains a number of future engagements for further discussion of that report.

Equally, of course, the Select Committee which inquired into hire-purchase agree-ments, which was chaired by the Leader of the Country Party, aroused quite substan-tial interest. The member for Mirrabooka has said that the report on the parla-mentary committee system had attracted a greater interest from the public and, therefore, it should be printed. He also said that the witnesses were experts. I think that is a needless argument because it stands to reason that once witnesses are invited to give evidence they should be experts in the subject of the inquiry. In any event, witnesses were not forth-coming voluntarily; they were all invited to give evidence by the chairman of the committee.

The report under discussion deals with the working of Parliament, and it com-ments that Parliament, perhaps, should have more power over the Executive. I cannot see the reasons given for printing as being very convincing. However, if the member for Mirrabooka and the Government feel that it is tremendously important for the report to be printed I can offer no valid reason for it not to be printed. Of course, as was the case with the report of the inquiry into alcohol and drug dependency, the report can be printed at any time after there is some demand for it even if there is no motion to do so. Perhaps the Clerks will be aware of any public interest in this report.

I do not intend to oppose the motion for the printing of the report. However, I would like to emphasise that this support—or nonopposition—does not mean that I, or the Opposition, support the report itself. I particularly emphasise that point for the record.

The member for Mirrabooka pointed out that attached to the report written by the majority of three members of the Select Committee is a minority report which has been signed by the Deputy Leader of the Country Party and myself. If the report is to be printed there could be some merit in the public being able to read both sides. Admittedly, there has been some press publicity concerning the report but even that publicity was not tremendously great. In fact, the member for Mirrabooka was mistaken for the Premier. I do not know whether the Premier or the member for Mirrabooka took more credit for the mix-up, but it was rectified next day. I, personally, was confused because I thought it was rather hasty for the Premier to announce that he had accepted the report. Coming back to the report, and the reason for its printing, the public should be able to see that we had a different opinion, not so much on the statement of the fact that the work of Parliament is very important, but the statement concerning the execution of its work.

We have frequently maintained that the prevailing Standing Orders give ample opportunity for such committees to be appointed. Our Standing Orders provide that we can send a Bill to a Select Committee after the second reading debate, or simply appoint a Select Committee on any project.

Generally speaking, the Opposition feels that members of Parliament should accept a total responsibility to their legislative duties, and not a partial responsibility. Of course, members of Parliament have a great responsibility to the people they represent. If we were to set up five standing committees virtually every member in the House would be employed in extra duties.

It is up to the Government finally to decide whether or not the report will be adopted. If the Government feels that the printing of the report will facilitate its decision regarding the adoption of the report, then the Opposition will not oppose the motion. I again emphasise that our nonopposition does not indicate that we agree with the report of the majority.

**MR. W. G. YOUNG (Roe)** [5.49 p.m.]: I support the remarks made by the member for Floreat. While I do not intend to cover the same ground, I will make one or two points as a result of what I heard during sittings of the committee.

I do not entirely disagree with the concept of committee operation in Parliament. I consider that, perhaps, in the larger

Parliaments of the world there is a place for a multiplicity of committees. However, in a small House such as we have in Western Australia I find it hard to believe that we cannot cover the work involved to the benefit of the majority of members who participate in committee debates.

#### *Point of Order*

**Mr. A. R. TONKIN:** When moving this motion that the report be printed I understood that the contents of the report were not to be debated at all.

The **SPEAKER:** That is correct.

**Mr. A. R. TONKIN:** It will be noted that when I moved the motion I dealt strictly with why the report should be printed. Therefore I ask that you, Sir, see that other members keep to the same rules.

The **SPEAKER:** That is correct. The reasons for the printing or the nonprinting of the report is the question before the House—not the contents of the report.

#### *Debate Resumed*

**Mr. W. G. YOUNG:** I would say that I am in agreement with the suggestion that the report should be printed. However, I was pointing out some of the objections I had to the printing in that it would not serve a useful purpose. The report is at present in the House. Bills would need to be introduced to implement its operation. However, I do appreciate that we are not opposing the printing of the report. I wished merely to make some remarks as to why I do not agree with the majority view expressed in the report.

The **SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mirrabooka has moved that the report of the Select Committee into the Parliamentary Committee System be printed.

#### *Point of Order*

**Sir CHARLES COURT:** Mr. Speaker, is it all right for me to make some comments? I did not realise that you were putting the question.

The **SPEAKER:** I was putting the question. No member had risen to his feet. However, the Leader of the Opposition may proceed.

#### *Debate Resumed*

**SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Leader of the Opposition)** [5.53 p.m.]: I shall be brief in my comments. I had hoped the Government might indicate its attitude towards this motion. I have no great objection to the printing of the report. I do not accept the reasons put forward by the member for Mirrabooka as being valid and adequate for the printing of it because I cannot see the special significance of this report compared with some others which have not been printed.

I want to make it quite clear that if we agree to the printing of the report it must be clearly understood that there is no acceptance of the report, so far as the Opposition is concerned, for reasons which the member for Mirrabooka will appreciate.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: That is understood.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have been a little at a loss to find out exactly what happens now. I assume that it is only a formality if the report is printed. It would then become a printed report, in an official way, instead of an *ad hoc* reproduction which has been the case to date. I also assume that if any action is to be taken on the report, such action would have to be initiated by the Government and would not flow automatically from any decision to have the report printed. There seems to be some uncertainty about this.

I had assumed in my own mind that the printing of the report would make it no more than a formal document, as distinct from an *ad hoc* reproduction. If that is the case, the Opposition does not object to the printing of the report. I certainly cannot imagine there will be a big demand for copies.

This is the point I am making clear on behalf of this side of the House; namely, there is no acceptance of the content of the report and any action to initiate any of it would have to be taken by the Government or the Parliament with ample opportunity for us to debate it.

The SPEAKER: I point out to members that there would have to be another motion moved in the House to adopt the report.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.54 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 9th October, 1973

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### BILLS (2): ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Age of Majority Act Amendment Bill.
2. Wood Chipping Industry Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

#### Corrections

**THE PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Honourable members, I have been requested by the Auditor-General to make the following corrections to his report which was tabled in this House on Wednesday, the 3rd October—

Page 3, Introduction—5th paragraph line 6—"Section 45", should read "Section 48".

Page 4, General Review—3rd paragraph, line 5 "exceeded", should read "fell short of".

### QUESTIONS (2): ON NOTICE

#### TEACHERS

##### *Resignations and Appointments*

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many teachers left the employ of the Education Department at the end of the 1972 school year?
- (2) How many teachers went on Long Service Leave in the 1973 school year?
- (3) How many newly qualified teachers joined the staff of the Education Department in the 1973 school year?
- (4) How many teachers, previously qualified, were re-engaged, excluding those on supply, in the 1973 school year?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) It is not possible to identify the number of teachers who left the Department at the end of the year. However, there was a loss of 763 teachers during the year.
- (2) 226.
- (3) 929.
- (4) All teachers previously qualified and re-entering the Department are employed for a probationary period on supply. However, approximately 200 primary and secondary teachers returned from leave without pay, travel, accommodation leave and other sources in 1973.

### 2. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

#### *Uniform Rate*

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the profit shown by the State Electricity Commission, plus the repeated statements concerning the need for decentralisation, why does not the Government use part of the State Electricity Commission profits to establish a uniform power rate throughout the State?