

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 8 April 1981

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

SETTLEMENT AGENTS BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Hassell (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MRS CRAIG (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [2.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This very important piece of legislation proposes the repeal and re-enactment of part IV of the Local Government Act dealing with municipal elections, polls, and referendums.

The Bill is the result of a great deal of thought and effort on the part of many people and was prepared after extensive consultation with local government.

Many significant changes have been incorporated in the Bill.

Mr Davies: None of them will help the ratepayers.

Mrs CRAIG: The franchise for enrolment has been extended; the system of voting widened to permit greater participation by electors; the principle of one-man-one-vote has been incorporated; and numerous improvements have been made to the machinery provisions for the conduct of municipal elections and polls.

Development of this legislation has been a very extensive process which commenced some years ago.

Initially a committee of representatives of local government was appointed to review the existing provisions of the Act relating to elections.

Following completion of that far-reaching review a further committee of local government and departmental officers was appointed to examine the practical application of the reforms recommended by that first committee.

In 1978 a document outlining the changes which had been recommended by the review committee was circulated to all municipalities and the associations of local government for comment. Some 87 submissions were received from councils,

the associations, and other interested parties. All of these submissions were given careful consideration and a draft Bill prepared incorporating many of the comments and proposals which had been made.

This draft Bill was then circulated, for further consideration and comment. About 75 responses were received and where appropriate, suggested alterations have been incorporated in the Bill now before the House.

This process of consultation with local government has enabled the Government to bring forward legislation which is very much in tune with the views of local government generally.

Although it would not be possible on this occasion for me to explain all of the major improvements to the local government electoral system that are included in this Bill, I do propose to explain briefly some of the key features of the new legislation.

First and foremost is the change to the electoral franchise. The franchise has been extended to permit the enrolment of the spouse of an occupier of ratable property thus overcoming the problem where tenancy agreements are often in the name of one partner only and that person's spouse has not been entitled to enrolment. Non-British subjects, who own or occupy ratable property and are ordinarily resident in Western Australia, will also now be entitled to enrolment for municipal elections.

Although the property based franchise is to be retained, those who have a vital interest in the activities of their local council, the owners and occupiers of ratable property and their spouses—irrespective of their nationalities—will have the right to elect their representatives to council. Qualifications for election to council will remain substantially as they are at present.

To be a candidate for a council election a person will still have to have attained the age of 18 years, be the owner or occupier of ratable property, be registered on the electoral roll of the municipality, and be a natural born or naturalised British subject. The one change is that owners will have to be enrolled on the electoral roll in order to be qualified as a candidate.

Annual elections will continue, with one-third of all councillors retiring each year. The date for the annual election has been brought forward to the first Saturday in May.

The multiple voting provisions that presently exist in the Act, and give an elector between one and four votes in a mayoral election and one or two votes in a councillor election—depending on the value of his property—will be abandoned.

The Bill provides that an elector will be entitled in a personal capacity to one vote only in respect of each ward in which he is entitled to vote. Where an elector is registered in both a personal capacity and as the nominee of a corporate owner, or as a nominee for two or more corporate owners, he will be entitled to a maximum of two votes, being one vote for each enrolment.

Polling hours of 8.00 a.m. till 8.00 p.m. on polling day will be retained. However, major changes have been made to the system for the casting of a vote prior to polling day. An elector will have an opportunity to cast his vote prior to polling day by either of the following three methods—

Early voting—which will allow an elector who is unable to attend a polling place on election day to cast his vote at the office of the council in which the election is to be held, during normal office hours, for a period of 19 days prior to the election day.

Absent voting—for an annual election only, an elector who is unable to attend on polling day and is also unable to cast an early vote, will be able to lodge his vote at the office of any other council in Western Australia. The period during which absent votes may be cast will be normal office hours, from the 19th day through to the third day, prior to the annual election day.

Postal voting—which will allow an elector who is unable to attend on polling day, to apply to the returning officer for postal voting papers in much the same way as he is able to do under the existing provisions of the Act.

Under the Act at present, the dates prescribed for a variety of procedures preliminary to an election, including advertising the election and receipt of nominations, differ between councils in the southern parts of the State and those in the northern areas. This difference has been removed and all councils in the State will now operate under the one timetable. The period during which nominations may be made will now be 14 days for all councils; previously it was 35 days in the northern districts and 14 days in southern districts.

The amount of the deposit which must accompany a candidate's nomination for election has been increased from \$10 to \$40.

The procedures involved in the preparation of municipal electoral rolls have been changed considerably. However the requirement for the annual preparation of an electoral roll has been retained. Owners of ratable property will

automatically be included on this roll whereas occupiers will be included only on application.

Mr Bryce: That is a disgrace. That is a blasted disgrace.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Davies: Second class citizens. You will live to regret it.

Mrs CRAIG: Once an elector is enrolled for the first time he will automatically be included on the new annual roll each year provided he retains his eligibility.

Mr Bryce: Shades of the 19th century.

Mrs CRAIG: An important new feature of the electoral roll procedure is the inclusion of a requirement for each council to prepare a supplementary roll prior to every election, including extraordinary elections, to ensure that the electoral roll is as up-to-date as possible.

There will be one addition to the circumstances under which a member of a council is disqualified from holding office. The Bill provides that a councillor who is convicted of committing a misdemeanour—which is defined to include all the more serious electoral offences under the Bill—in relation to his own election, will be disqualified from holding that office. There have been several occasions in the past where a councillor or councillors have committed very serious breaches of electoral provisions of the Act in relation to their own election, have been prosecuted and found guilty of those offences, but have continued to hold office as a councillor. The disqualification from office will apply only in relation to his particular election and he will not be prohibited from nominating again. This change will ensure that candidates are unable unlawfully to manipulate the electoral procedures to gain election to office.

There have been difficulties encountered in situations where councillors have apparently disqualified themselves from office but have not been willing to acknowledge that disqualification. In these cases the returning officer has been left in the position of not knowing whether he should proceed to fill the vacancy that would result from that disqualification. To overcome these difficulties a procedure for testing the qualification of a councillor through the courts has been incorporated in the Bill.

The preferential system of voting will continue. However the method of counting votes where there is more than one vacancy to be filled at a particular election has been changed.

The present method for determining the results of a multiple vacancy election is known as the

universal system under which the numeral recorded against a candidate's name on the ballot paper is counted as that number of votes against him and the candidates receiving the least number of votes are declared elected.

This system is to be replaced by the exhaustive preferential system which is presently used in New South Wales and Victorian local government elections. In essence the exhaustive preferential system involves the application of the standard preferential system of counting votes to elect the first successful candidate.

Subsequent candidates are elected by the application of the same system but with the votes recorded in favour of any elected candidate being brought back into the count as votes in favour of the candidate next highest in the electors' order of preference.

The present three-year term of office for a councillor is to continue, with one-third of the council retiring each year. However the term of office for a mayor or president elected by the electors of a municipality has been increased from two years to three years. The term of office for a mayor or president elected by the council will continue to be one year.

I believe that this Bill offers important and significant improvements to the system of local government in this State.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Carr.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 7 April.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [2.30 p.m.]: Advance Australia is a topical theme which is sponsored by virtually all sectors of the Australian community. In my mail today I received, as probably every other member of the House did, part of the "Advance Australia" literature. All of us have been urged to get behind Australia, not only that we should have great pride in Australia and loyalty to Australia but also no doubt that we should raise the importance of Australia in the eyes of the world.

It is of critical importance to appreciate that the Federation of Australia consists of six, nearly seven, separate States, plus the Territories. Any such programme should take full cognisance of that. While it is highly desirable, and probably even essential, that we should increase Australians' loyalty to Australia, I want to make the very firm point that this should not be at the expense of loyalty to one's State. We are part of a

Federation, and not part of a unitary State, and we should never seek to be part of the latter.

The publication I received today was *Advance Australia*, issue No. 2 of March 1981. It included the result of a competition in which it urged contestants to express the various feelings they believe are important in any realisation of Advance Australia. A man from South Australia thought we should advance Australia by being "appreciative, understanding, sensitive, tolerant, responsible, active, law-abiding, imaginative, and artistic in respect to our environment". By contrast the person from New South Wales expressed his thoughts in a much more shirt-sleeved style when he said "Instead of saying 'she'll be right mate' we should say 'I'll make sure everything is right'".

I want to put forward a proposal today which I do not think has been advanced previously in Australia.

We should try to do something to reduce the friction that exists in Australia against Canberra. All sorts of people are anti-Canberra for a variety of reasons.

Mr Bryce: You have just blown your chances of Cabinet selection.

Mr CLARKO: Many people are anti-Canberra because politically they are on the other side of the fence to those in power.

Mr Davies: I advocated this last week.

Mr CLARKO: Also, people from the smaller or less populous States of Australia have very strong anti-Canberra feelings. It is hypocrisy in the extreme—as my colleague, the member for South Perth would say—to try to suggest that this strong antipathy towards Canberra does not exist. Therefore, we should do something to moderate it, and we should moderate it along lines with which many people in Australia would agree.

Some people would take the view that the way to resolve the problem is to have a single united Australian State. I am opposed to this, and I believe the people of Australia have always shown they are opposed to such a unified State; they are for a Federation.

The very location of Canberra is a compromise. The decision to site the Federal Parliament there was based on the ill-will or at least the inability of the people of the two major centres of population in Australia to come to an agreement. The people of Melbourne wanted the capital of Australia there, and the people of Sydney wanted the capital to be in Sydney. When the people of the respective cities could not have the capital in their own cities, they compromised, and the home of

the Federal Parliament was placed approximately midway between the two. Great statesmen would have accepted the positioning of the capital in either of our two major cities and then this compromise would not have been necessary.

Another alternative would have been to choose Adelaide or Brisbane, but instead, Canberra became the capital city to serve the unsatisfied desires of the people of the two biggest cities in Australia. The very act of the creation of Canberra was a hostile act against the capitals of the remainder of Australia.

This animosity towards Canberra becomes stronger the further one gets away from it.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you refuting your leader?

Mr CLARKO: The same situation exists in our State—the further one gets away from the capital city, the greater the animosity towards that capital city. People who live a long way from a capital feel that their views are not represented properly. What we should have in Australia is a movable Parliament—the Federal Parliament should sit in each of the capital cities of Australia, and perhaps we could include Canberra as well. So the Parliament would relocate itself eight times in the life of each Parliament. By doing this there would be an opportunity for the people who are part of the smaller States to feel they are represented properly.

Mr E. T. Evans interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The honourable member can treat this with the typical ill-humour he tends to show to the House. However, I am putting a serious proposal before Parliament. I have sat here for seven years, and regularly I have heard from the Opposition benches a series of complaints; whenever we criticise Canberra we are accused of being disloyal in some way. I am attempting to say that Australia is a Federation, and not a unitary State. Therefore, we should not have a divisive element in our society so that people are against the Federal Parliament or against Canberra.

We have approximately 190 representatives in the Federal Parliament—125 in the House of Representatives and 64 in the Senate. These members could come to Western Australia for, say, two months during the most appropriate period of the session. We would then have here the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Cabinet, the back-bench committees, and the political hierarchy.

Mr H. D. Evans: Would it cost very much? How much would it be in money and time?

Mr CLARKO: The question of what it would cost is important. At the present moment a committee is in the midst of preparing the terms of reference for an inquiry by the Grants Commission into the financial aspects of the administration of the Australian Capital Territory. Presently the ACT in totality costs the Australian taxpayer \$400 million a year, from which we could deduct \$140 million which is paid in return for various local government services. It is true also that the residents of the ACT pay large sums of money in taxation. On a *per capita* basis, the average taxation payment is higher in the ACT than in any other region or subregion in Australia because public servants are very well paid.

In this financial year a sum of \$140 million is to be spent on two major projects in Canberra. One is the new Federal Parliament and the other is the Casey Academy of Defence. The ACT costs us 1.1 per cent of the Federal Budget.

Clearly, to site the Federal Parliament in Perth, Darwin, Adelaide, or Hobart, would mean a significant increase in fares for the members of Parliament. Nearly 80 of the members of the House of Representatives represent New South Wales and Victoria, and 47 of them represent the other States and Territories.

Mr Parker: Where would they meet when they came to Perth?

Mr Davies: The Sheraton!

A Government member: The Entertainment Centre!

Mr CLARKO: I believe that the air fares involved would represent a small part only of the total cost of running a Parliament.

Mr Davies: What about all the other people who run the Parliament?

Mr Parker: What about *Hansard*—would the reporters have to come too?

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The member for Ascot raises an important point. As that member would know, in South Africa Pretoria is the seat of administration, and the Parliament is in Cape Town.

Mr Parker: They pay them two bob a day.

Mr CLARKO: That is a diversionary comment, and I want to deal with this matter seriously. South Africa is quite a large country, although its total area is 400 000 square miles only; that is, equal to the size of South Australia.

Just compare that with the three million square miles of Australia. We are one of the largest

political entities in the world. The point I am making is that I find it most undesirable to suspect that if the people of Australia were asked whether they love or hate Canberra, 90 per cent of them would say they hate it. I suggest we should try something else because of this undesirable political occurrence.

I was privileged to be one of the delegates to the Australian Constitutional Convention in Hobart in 1976. The delegates could not fit into the small Tasmanian parliamentary Chamber, which is a most interesting place because it is an ex-customs house and it is interesting to see the barrels which are still within the foundations. The Constitutional Convention would be about the same size as the Federal Parliament, and it was held in the conference room at the Wrest Point casino. Perhaps that would be the proper place to hold a Federal Parliament in Hobart.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order! The member cannot hear the interjections.

Mr CLARKO: Many ravings are made from both sides of the House, and it is not my place to comment on them, nor even to comment on the most intelligent remarks made here.

Mr H. D. Evans: Even holding a Premiers' Conference is most difficult.

Mr CLARKO: Therefore I suggest to the House that the question of cost is not a matter of significance.

In respect of location, I have pointed out to members that Hobart, the smallest capital city of the lot, had no trouble housing all the delegates of the Constitutional Convention in the conference room at the Wrest Point casino. I am sure if we went to Darwin we would find convention facilities there which would house the Parliament. As some members might know, Darwin is planning a new parliamentary building, and—I think in error—it is to be built in the heart of Darwin instead of being sited a few miles away on a lovely point overlooking the sea. However, that is the decision of those responsible in Darwin. I am sure that new building would house the sort of Parliament I am talking about.

As I have pointed out, a great gap exists between the Federal Parliament in action and the people of Australia, and that is particularly true of the people on the remote periphery of Australia. Let us consider the troubles in which we have just been involved in respect of interstate air fares. It seems to me that both sides of the political fence in Western Australia are as one in respect of their opposition to the iniquitous position which has applied to Western Australia

for decades. However, only in the last few days—and much later than it should have been—have we been able to begin to make a breakthrough.

It is on issues such as that we could express ourselves much more strongly if the members of the Federal Parliament met occasionally and regularly somewhere in this beautiful city of Perth. We as parliamentarians could take a joint delegation or separate delegations to the Federal Parliament and use any sort of pressure, influence, or persuasiveness we can muster in talking personally to the Federal Minister for Transport and others.

I believe that my proposal is desirable, and if members do not believe it is, I think they make a mockery of what we do in this Parliament, because I am sure we in this place are much closer to the people than are Federal politicians.

We have close contact with our people. Certainly if one represents an inner metropolitan area as I do, one is able to maintain close contact with them. My office is only 20 minutes from this Chamber and I can drive to any part of my electorate from my office or home in four or five minutes. My electors have the opportunity to see me, and I think it is terribly important that can occur. The electorate offices that we have, which some members are not overly happy with, are a tremendous asset because they provide the opportunity for constituents to meet freely, regularly, and easily with their representatives. My suggestion in respect of the Federal Parliament would enable members of the State Parliament and ordinary citizens to meet freely and regularly with their Federal representatives.

I am only a new boy here; I have been in this Parliament for only seven years.

Mr Davies: Don't say that.

Mr CLARKO: Before that I was in local government.

Mr Tonkin: Were you a Liberal when you were in local government?

Mr CLARKO: When I was a member of the Stirling City Council, I did not represent the Liberals of Hamersley; I represented everyone there, as was shown by the voting. At one election I received the highest vote of anybody in Western Australia and also I had the biggest margin. I had scores of Labor people voting for me, and if I went back to local government today those same people would vote for me again.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: Getting away from that sidetrack, I believe it is of critical importance that

we do everything in our power to establish the sort of situation that exists in the French system of government, where deputies go to their villages and take up residency in the town hall. They make themselves available to the people, who visit them and bring gifts. The people take their representative a gift of a couple of fowls, a dozen eggs, vegetables, and so on. That is very much a part of the French parliamentary democratic procedure.

In Australia today, and particularly in Western Australia, people generally have a high degree of access to their members of Parliament. I was fortunate enough to attend a seminar in London in 1978, and I found it most interesting to talk to a man who came from, I think, Sierra Leone. He told me the area he represented was in the back country and I asked him how often he visited it. He said he usually visited it at least once just prior to an election.

We have the opposite situation in Western Australia and in Australia. Our problem is that our Federal members repeatedly have to travel 2 000 miles to attend Parliament and they spend very little of their time here in Western Australia. Obviously that situation applies also to Northern Territory representatives and Queensland representatives.

It is important that we are able to get together and talk. That is what Parliament is all about; it is about talking, getting together, and exchanging ideas. That is all I am trying to advance. I am trying to drag down the barriers that exist between ourselves and the Federal Government irrespective of which political party is in office. We find on almost every occasion an ever-increasing gap between the people of Australia and the centrally located Parliament. That is a natural and normal situation, because if one has friends that one does not see for a couple of years then when one meets them one finds it difficult to establish a basis for conversation. The same applies with politics.

I feel we should be prepared to have a go—to put it in simple Australian language—and to try my suggestion. If we tried it and it lasted for only a couple of years, what harm would be done? Certainly the economy of Darwin would be boosted every time the Parliament spent a month or so there, and I am sure Federal members of Parliament would learn a great deal more about Australia.

Everybody in Australia who comments on the Australian political and social scenes knows there is a dichotomy between the people who live in the deep south-east of this nation and those who live

in the far areas of the north and the west. That is a self-evident truth. The people of Sydney and Melbourne would have an equal opportunity to have the Parliament held in their cities, and it would therefore be easier for a Sydneysider to see a Minister or to approach a back-bench committee on mining or what-have-you. Therefore my proposed system would not be only to the advantage of the small States, but also it would be an advantage to the citizens of the big States. Go to Hobart—

Opposition members: No, you go to Hobart.

Mr CLARKO: —and ask the people there whether they feel they are left out. Of course they feel that way. Go to Queensland.

Opposition members: You go there.

Mr CLARKO: I have not had the opportunity to visit the most northern reaches of Queensland, but if one were to go to the central coast of Queensland and ask the people if they feel left out, one would find they do. If we went to Darwin we would find the only reason the people there are not completely anti-Canberra is that the purse has been most silken for them. In the past Darwin has received significant sums of money to help with development to which it has been fully entitled and has fully deserved. That is the reason there has not been more tremendous and intense pressures for a greater movement towards full Statehood for the Northern Territory.

Members who read the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association newsletter would have read in recent months of the various West Indian States backing off from full independence from Britain because they are still keen to get some of those pound notes coming through. That is quite understandable.

We must understand all sorts of divisions occur within Australia. Although people say secession is a disloyal concept, the facts are that people in the remote areas of Australia regularly talk about secession. If we raise the subject with such people we find that the further they are away from Canberra the more likely they are to say they should be separate from Canberra.

In fact, Western Australia nearly was a separate State. I believe if we had not found gold in the 1890s, which resulted in the population trebling in only three or four years, Western Australia might have been another New Zealand or another Fiji. Delegates from Fiji and New Zealand attended the first conference to discuss uniting the various colonies. The Western Australian parliamentarians who attended the first convention spoke on only two matters: One was to thank everybody at the end of the

convention for how well they had been treated, perhaps suggesting the treatment would have been better had the convention been held in Western Australia, and the other was when a member spoke of how horrific it would be if members of Parliament were paid. I gather at that time, everybody else but Western Australian politicians were paid, so that represented something of a minor "blue".

Our representatives at that first convention did not believe the people of Western Australia wanted to be in the Australian Federation. Certainly the people of Western Australia do not want to be in a unified Australian State. I believe this view becomes even more a feeling of the population, the further they are from Canberra.

There are all sorts of reasons that we need to develop this argument. Frequently, Federal Treasurers make economic decisions for all Australians which are appropriate only to the people of Sydney and Melbourne. Hopefully, if we had a system where the whole of those 125 Federal members spent a couple of months every three years in each of the Australian States and Territories, the sort of attitude where we think only of the largest group or, alternatively, where we are bound to think only of the largest group would be moderated, leaving room for a greater consideration of those parts of Australia which have differing needs.

In the seven years since I have been a member of this Parliament I question whether there has ever been a need for a Federal Government to adopt a tight fiscal and monetary policy relating to Western Australia, because Western Australia has been on the edge of a boom for a long time. In fact, if it had not been for Federal constraints which, naturally and logically are part of world restraints over recent years, we would be booming now. As the boom occurs in Western Australia, so we bring prosperity to the rest of Australia. No true federalist has any sort of wish to deny the other parts of Australia from sharing in our wealth.

Western Australia is one of the wealthiest areas in the world in terms of resources, and we have the people, the leadership and the skills to get on and develop those resources. However, we are held back and restrained by people gathering together in Canberra who represent in large numbers places other than, say, Western Australia. Naturally, they cannot be expected to take up our particular cause with the same fierce devotion as would be expected if we were able to have those people visit Western Australia from time to time.

Without question, the present Prime Minister and his predecessor, Mr Whitlam, travelled widely around Australia. I assume they travelled more widely than any of their predecessors.

Mr Pearce: That is because Menzies was always in London, watching cricket matches.

Mr CLARKO: That is partly due to the fact that communications have become much simpler and cheaper. However, I believe both of those two leaders wanted to travel around Australia because they believed it was essential to see themselves identified with each of the States and regions of Australia. That is logical and sensible, and it is good politics. If it is appropriate for our leaders to do this, why should we not have all these political people from time to time located in each of the separate parts?

I normally speak for about 40 minutes. I regard what I have said as important. Here is an opportunity—even on a trial basis—for us to "renew" federalism in Australia.

MR BRYCE (Ascot) [2.55]: I regret I have only 45 minutes, because some of the comments of the member for Karrinyup need to be replied to, but I do not have sufficient time available to me to reply to them in an adequate manner. However, I must make some reference to a couple of aspects of his theme.

Firstly, in the event of there being a Cabinet vacancy, the betting on the member for Karrinyup becoming the next Liberal member of Cabinet has just taken a gigantic step backwards; his price has lengthened considerably. He has overlooked the reality that his Premier, and his Premier's principal political ally in Australia, the Premier of Queensland, have relied for almost a generation on Canberra bashing; they have been the principal exponents of this practice. They have been the most divisive elements in Australian politics in terms of the expertise they have brought to that task. I imagine that in reality the member for Karrinyup has just disgusted his leader.

Sir Charles Court: No, he has not.

Mr BRYCE: This speech should have been made in the party room, because it was wasted on members of the Opposition. The member for Karrinyup should have taken his leader to task and dressed him down—had he been game enough to do so—inside the party room.

Mr Clarko: Your mind is as fertile as your head.

Sir Charles Court: I thought the member's speech was very constructive and thoughtful.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier has just interjected suffering from what must be the most unmitigated dosage of gall he has ever had in his career. This is the man who is nearly deranged in the way he attacks Canberra, and who has become the finest exponent in the nation in the art of Canberra bashing. I believe the Premier is being utterly insincere in his interjection that he agreed with anything the member for Karrinyup had to say, when he condemned the bureaucrats, the policy makers and the decision-makers in Canberra.

Sir Charles Court: We have been trying for years to achieve an adequate communication with Canberra.

Mr Sodeman: Why does the Premier do it?

Mr BRYCE: The Premier does it because there is a little parochial, cheap political gain to be had from criticising the Commonwealth; he thinks he can stampede the Western Australian hillbillies, but who listens to him?

I would draw the attention of the member for Karrinyup to one fact of life: He has totally overlooked the fact that what he has suggested will amount to nothing more than window dressing because, as it has happened in this Parliament so it has happened in the Federal Parliament that the elected representatives of this country are nothing but rubber stamps for the Executives of this nation. The Executives govern. When the conservatives are in office, the bureaucrats pack the power punch, and whilst the bureaucrats are the real decision-makers, the John Stones, the Sir Arthur Tanges and others remain domiciled in Canberra. The fanciful suggestion of the member for Karrinyup that we should have elected representatives travelling around the Parliaments of Australia in the form of a touring circus is nothing more than window dressing, with the real decisions still being made in Canberra. I suggest that is the greatest flaw in the plan that has been put to this House by the member for Karrinyup.

Mr Clarko: Why don't you say whether you agree with it or not, and give some reasons for and against?

Mr BRYCE: If the member for Karrinyup will move an extension of time for me to debate the subject, I will be happy to accommodate him.

Mr Clarko: Well, you have wasted four minutes on a personal attack.

Mr BRYCE: I would like to refer to a number of matters in this Address-in-Reply debate. As this Wednesday afternoon seems to be the afternoon for constructive suggestions, I too have one to put to the Legislative Assembly. It relates

to what members on both sides of this House share as a matter of common concern, and that is the spread of violence and violent crime in our community. In the long term, the rate of spread of violent crime in the Perth metropolitan area—and it would seem that other capitals share our problem—will have a serious debilitating effect on our community, affecting the quality of life of every city dweller. I regret that in 1981 this is beginning to have a serious effect on the lifestyle of people in country towns as well.

I suggest to the Legislative Assembly, in all seriousness, that rise after rise and improvement after improvement in the material standard of living of the people we represent amount to nothing if we reach the stage where people are too frightened to walk the streets—too frightened to leave their homes to engage in social, leisure, or cultural activities after dark. I regret that that is a tendency. It is a scourge that has developed in the metropolitan area, where I live and where the people I represent live. It is time we took a very long and carefully considered look at the problem.

Not long ago, on the very day that an American citizen had taken a potshot at the President of the United States of America, I asked the Premier whether he recognised that there were certain tendencies prevalent in the United States of America which were becoming apparent in Australia, and was his Government giving any thought to identifying the causes of violent crime in our community. The Premier gave me a very vague answer to my question. He suggested that there were various people in various departments, not naming any of them, who were working on this subject, and who were in close contact with the Government. I suggest that not enough is being done.

I suggest to members of this House that it is time we had a Western Australian task force to investigate the causes, and the nature, and the spread of violence in our community. That would be a task force comprising members of Parliament and some experts in the field of criminology. I am not satisfied that in 1981 a Select Committee of parliamentarians would be the type of committee or organisation that would be appropriate to look at this question.

We should put our society under a microscope. Let me suggest to the members of this House that if the anxiety and the fear that are spreading as a result of the spread of violence in our community could be pinned down to a microbe or a virus, we would be calling it a disease, and we would probably label it an epidemic. Because we could identify it, we would probably be doing something about it. However, because the cause of this

increasing violence in our community is not readily appreciated, we seem to be sitting back, almost paralysed, apparently unable to diagnose the cause, and certainly unable to take any remedial action.

Mr Shalders: Would you support telephone tapping if that is considered appropriate remedial action?

Mr BRYCE: I would like to see the recommendation; and I would like to see it done legally, if it has to be done. I would like to see it done within the guidelines laid down by the Federal Parliament.

Some of us live in this community and we pretend that the violence is not a fact of life. We live in the hope that it will not touch us and that it will not touch our families. That is a fond hope that has not extended to many families in the United States of America.

There are members of this Parliament who, in their speeches in this place, have indicated to us that they would like to see Australia becoming a replica of the United States.

Mr Shalders: Gough Whitlam wanted us to become a republic.

Mr BRYCE: I would ask members who are inclined to that view to ponder the tragedy in respect of the wave of violent crime in the United States of America. Before we go very much further down the road towards imitating and becoming a replica of United States society, let us take a long, hard look at where we are right now. Let us begin to examine some of the solutions.

I will make brief reference to some figures that were brought to light in a very recent feature article in *Time* magazine on 23 March of this year. The feature dealt with the concern across the length and breadth of the United States for the wave of crime in that country. In the United States of America today, every 24 minutes somebody is murdered; every 10 seconds a house is burgled; and every seven minutes a woman is raped.

If I were asked to nominate a single example of the rise in violent crime in our own community, I would suggest that it has been the increase in the incidence of rape in Western Australia. It has more women terrified in 1981 than at any other time in the history of our society.

Rape is a crime of violence. It is not a crime related essentially to sexuality. The sooner the Statutes of this State are changed, and the sooner the punishments are altered to recognise that particular fact, the better.

Mr Williams: What would you recommend as the solution?

Mr BRYCE: We are going to debate that subject in this Parliament at some length, I understand; and I prefer to leave my comments on that subject to that particular time.

The spread of violent crime in the United States is becoming apparent in this country; and that is a matter about which we all ought to be concerned. Although crime and violence have always been malignant forces in inner city areas, a matter for grave concern for us all is that violence and violent crime seem to be spreading to suburbia. Crime is no longer simply the sort of thing one comes across in the inner city areas.

Of equal concern is the fact that the nature of violent crime is becoming more brutal, more irrational, and more random. It is probably the random nature of an attack by somebody completely unknown to the attacker, in the dark, that causes the growing sense of anxiety and fear in communities, and urban communities particularly.

At this stage, and as I said earlier, I make the point that not only is violence spreading to suburbs, but the forms of violence that we were accustomed to seeing only in inner city suburbs are also becoming apparent in country towns. That might indicate there is some form of sickness abroad and as representatives of the people of this State we should not be sitting back ignoring the problem, putting our heads into the sand and, as some would suggest, saying in effect that nothing can be done.

I would like to draw the attention of members to a couple of rather priceless quotes in that dramatic article I referred to in *Time* magazine, a series of quotes by some very prominent people in the United States of America. I quote as follows—

The nation's top jurist, Chief Justice Warren Burger, warned last month about the "reign of terror in American cities" and biting asked: "Are we not hostages within the borders of our own self-styled, enlightened, civilized country?"

The article went on to quote the famous Figgie report which was a privately-funded study on crime in the United States. To continue—

"The fear of crime is slowly paralyzing American society." Observes Houston Police Chief B. K. Johnson: "We have allowed ourselves to degenerate to the point where we're living like animals. We live behind burglar bars and throw a collection of door locks at night and set an alarm and lay down

with a loaded shotgun beside the bed and then try to get some rest. It's ridiculous."

I concede that our society has not reached that stage yet, but I stand in this place today and say to the members of the Legislative Assembly that I am concerned that we are rapidly becoming another United States of America in respect of the spread of violent crime. I believe we can no longer ignore it.

Mr Shalders: The United Kingdom is having problems, too.

Mr BRYCE: On the contrary, the United Kingdom does not have anything like the number of violent crimes that is experienced in practically every corner of the United States. I do not want my comments to be misunderstood; I am not attacking the United States of America. I have had two very pleasant experiences visiting that country. There are a tremendous number of institutions and people in that country for which and for whom I have an enormous amount of respect. But they do have this problem which I recognise is spreading to this country. I appeal to my fellow legislators to do something about it by taking up a constructive suggestion before it is too late.

There are people who blame violence on television. I do not know the answers. I have my thoughts in respect of that subject but I cannot prove them one way or another. I am aware of the enormous flood of violent films onto the market. I am aware that the classification of films in this State leaves a great deal to be desired.

If a parent wants to assess a film that any child is about to see there is no indication whatsoever whether that film is bloodthirsty and violent. There are "R" and "M" classifications which do not distinguish between sexuality and violence or a combination of the two.

I do not know whether my concern is properly founded, but there are many people who have a similar concern. I tend to believe there is a great deal of imitation in the criminal sense of the violence seen on television by young people.

Mr Grewar: A lot of people would agree with you.

Mr BRYCE: I have heard executives from television companies say that is not so and those very same executives have then sold advertising space on their television stations for very large sums of money with the argument that they can influence people's behaviour.

Other people will point to the spread of unemployment; to the frustration and anxiety associated with unemployment. Others will talk

about drugs because some crimes are committed whilst the perpetrators are under the influence of drugs; some of these will go mad in order to feed their habit.

Some people point to our gun laws. I am delighted to hear the Premier say that he will not have a bar of relaxing the gun laws of this State and I support him on this matter. If I had my way, guns would be taken out of supermarkets. I cannot think of anything more incongruous than a husband and wife with their family walking out of a supermarket with a week's or fortnight's groceries—

Mr Jamieson: Armed to the teeth.

Mr BRYCE: —armed to the teeth.

Mr Shalders: They cannot just walk up to a counter and buy a rifle.

Mr BRYCE: They can. Perhaps the member for Murray has not been to the Belmont shopping centre or K Mart. Of course, there are some procedures which have to be followed, but those guns are on display and are being pushed and advertised. I have no time for the fanatics in Western Australia who are urging the Government to relax the gun laws.

Mr Watt: Have you given us a proposal for an alternative?

Mr BRYCE: I have given such a proposal and perhaps I can conclude on this subject by saying that this Parliament should no longer rely on methods used in the 19th century and so far in this century to investigate the problems of society. This is a multi-faceted problem; it is a problem which reaches very deeply into the social fabric.

I believe the Government should appoint a task force involving members of Parliament from both sides of the House and experts in the field of criminology and other related fields which could put our society under the microscope. It would not worry me how long and what measures or resources were necessary for that body to bring down a decent and substantive report to this place with suggestions as to what may be done to curb this wave of violent crimes.

The second subject I would like to mention is nuclear fallout shelters. I have had a fairly unhappy experience in the questions I have asked the Premier and the Deputy Premier in respect of this subject over recent weeks. My only interest in the subject was stirred by the promises and statements made by the Prime Minister and the Premier that it was their desire, if not their intention, to see a foreign base established in Cockburn Sound. This was prior to the last election.

Over the years on the eve of Federal elections we have become accustomed to hear Federal Liberals talk about establishing major defence bases in Western Australia. This time there was the clarification that it may involve nuclear ships with nuclear weapons and therefore the need for storage space for nuclear armaments.

I posed the question to the Premier that if his Government supported the Fraser Government's move in that respect would it not inevitably make this city a nuclear target. I asked what action was being taken to provide some sort of protection or defence for the 800 000 people who live in this city. The answer I received was "Nothing".

The Premier and the Deputy Premier have been splitting hairs and I intend to reveal this to the Legislative Assembly. I do not intend to breach the confidence the Deputy Premier placed in me when I went to see the information in his office recently by revealing the names of the buildings designated as being suitable for nuclear fallout shelters for the citizens of this city. I intend keeping that information confidential. However, I cannot for the life of me imagine why he will not remove the shroud of secrecy, but he has asked me to keep it quiet, so I intend to do so.

I might just ask the rhetorical question of you, Sir: Who but the people involved who would be looking for shelter should know where the shelter is to be found in the city in the event of a nuclear attack? Why would we keep secret the names, addresses, and localities of any buildings which are suitable for providing shelter in the event of a nuclear attack? The Deputy Premier is not here. I had intended to ask him to answer that question by way of interjection during the course of my remarks this afternoon.

Mr Pearce: If everyone knew where they were, everyone would want to go there!

Mr B. T. Burke: It would get too crowded.

Mr BRYCE: The facts are these: Despite the obvious discussion which has occurred between Government members at this level and at the Federal level in regard to the establishment of a foreign base involving nuclear weapons at Cockburn Sound, no discussions whatsoever have taken place between the Western Australian Government and the national Government concerning the provision of nuclear attack shelters.

There is a very big difference between a building in St. George's Terrace which would provide people with shelter from the secondary effects of a nuclear attack—the nuclear fallout, radiation dust, etc.—and it is quite conceivable that provision for approximately 150 000 people

could be made in that part of the city, and an underground facility. However, no provision has been made and no discussion has taken place in respect of building or developing—

Mr Cowan: You were talking about the American attitude, but you are adopting an American attitude to nuclear fallout shelters.

Mr BRYCE: In reply to the interjection of the member for Merredin, let me say the attitude I am expounding is based not only on experience in the United States of America and Canada, but also throughout Europe and Asia. Let me draw to the attention of the member who has just interjected the fact that the most important parts of the City of Peking are duplicated underground. In many parts of western, central, and eastern Europe, and in Britain, a great deal of money has been spent on the development of nuclear attack shelters.

I am not talking about identifying the Tower of London as a place into which people could crowd for protection against nuclear fallout. I am talking about substantial buildings which will provide protection against an attack and these facilities would probably be underground.

Maybe such buildings are not necessary in Perth. However, the signal point I am making is this: This Government and its Federal counterpart have no right to make this city a target if they have no intentions or desires to provide any form of protection for the population. That is the serious implication of any talk about providing facilities at Cockburn Sound for a major foreign base which involves nuclear weapons.

I do not want to see that happen. I do not want to see the city in which I and most of my friends live become a prime target for a nuclear attack. The people in the cities to which I have referred in Europe and those in Peking accept the fact that they are a target and something has been done about it. That was the sole context in which I raised that subject and I suggest there is no justification for this Government to retain the shroud of secrecy over the names, addresses, and localities of the buildings in our central city district which have been classified as places suitable for providing protection for people against nuclear fallout.

Throughout the countries to which I have referred, every building classified in that manner bears a large, readily identifiable, yellow and black symbol so that people who pass it each day on their way from their homes to their workplaces are aware of its locality. They know, whether they are at work or at home, certain places in close

proximity will provide them with suitable shelter in the event of a nuclear attack.

I would not suggest it was scare-mongering or fear-mongering on anybody's part, if the Government is serious about the establishment of a foreign base on our doorstep, to begin making these sorts of provisions.

The third and final subject to which I wished to refer during the course of this debate as the ALP spokesman on technology, is the 35-hour week. I have a very different view from that which was put to the Chamber last night by the member for East Melville. It is time the Government accepted that the 35-hour week is inevitable. I unequivocally support the concept of a 35-hour week to be introduced sector-by-sector throughout our economy, just as the reduction in working hours has been introduced on several other occasions during the last century.

I am not talking about a blanket, uniform, across-the-board introduction of the 35-hour week tomorrow. I am talking now about the absurdity of this Government's position in adopting the arguments which have been used for two centuries to deny social justice to the employees of this country and every other sophisticated, industrial country associated with Australia in trade terms.

Mr Grewar: How would you pay for it?

Mr BRYCE: I shall explain that aspect to the member, if I have time.

For some years we have been arguing that shorter working hours, shorter working years, and a shorter working life will be the inevitable consequences of the technological changes which are occurring around us. I do not think there is a member opposite who would deny that that will happen or that it is desirable in many respects. All members opposite are fearful of is who will pay for it.

The member for East Melville in his remarks last night reflected the answer to the crunch question; that is, the redistribution of wealth and who will pay for shorter working hours. If in fact time and money are going to be redistributed to the wage and salary employees of this country, where will the finance which will be necessary to do this come from?

The member for East Melville finds the answer very difficult to swallow, because it will come from the same source from which it came when working hours were reduced from 60 to 56½, from 56½ to 48, from 48 to 44, and from 44 to 40. On each of those occasions the same conservative politicians and spokesmen for the employers of this country went on record as prophets of gloom, doom, and despair when they said industry could

not afford such decreases in working hours and that the economy would be brought to its knees.

The record is so old and it has been played so many times that it has countless cracks and imperfections. Last night in this Chamber the member for East Melville sounded exactly like his 19th century forebears in the House of Commons when the Factories Act was being debated and an attempt was being made to introduce a six-day, 60-hour week. That occurred in 1875 and precisely the same sentiments were expressed then as are being expressed today.

Mr Tonkin: The same arguments were used in regard to wives and children.

Mr BRYCE: I find it astonishing that members opposite have suddenly found the question of productivity bargaining to be a bitter pill to swallow, because they have said "We have not had the productivity increases. If there had been increases in productivity, then perhaps . . ."

Of course, during the last 34 years in this country unprecedented increases in productivity have occurred and great advances have been made in the development of mankind; not only greater than at any time during this century, but also greater than at any time in man's history.

The increase in productivity in this country in the last 34 years has been unparalleled and that alone to a very large extent justifies the claims which have been made. I shall turn to the other justifications in a moment.

What we have seen is conservative politicians and employer spokesmen orchestrate the campaign against the 35-hour week by saying "not now". They know those words mean, if they can help it, "not ever".

Mr Williams interjected.

Mr Skidmore: It has gone up 700 per cent.

Mr Williams: That is not right.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order!

Mr Skidmore: I am sorry, Mr Acting Speaker; it was unruly.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Absolutely.

Mr BRYCE: A person who could not be described as a friend of the Labor movement, Mr P. C. Singleton, a top IBM executive, visited this State last year and gave a fine address to the University of Western Australia. A key part of his address included three essential points. One was that our working week will drop well below 30 hours by the year 2000. The second was that the old idea of having a five-day working week will fast become irrelevant. The third was that the

question is not whether we have more leisure time, but how.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I ask the member to resume his seat. There is far too much cross-Chamber talk from both sides of the House. I think it is important that the member on his feet is able to present his argument. I have no objection to the normal interjections provided they come one at a time, but I find it a little distasteful that members from both sides of the House are talking at a level which makes the member's speech very difficult to hear.

Mr BRYCE: I can appreciate that the members opposite find it fairly distasteful to have to swallow the economic truth of my arguments, because they are fighting a rearguard action.

The member for East Melville, the Premier, and other people of that ilk see themselves as King Canute. Nobody has taken the time to explain to them that King Canute was not successful in keeping back the waves. These people are fighting a losing battle. Instead of involving themselves in conflicts, political confrontations, nastiness, and divisiveness. They should support the campaign for a 35-hour week. Instead of standing by while the net economic return from Australian developments goes overseas they should see that it goes to Australian citizens. They should be concerned to see that the 35-hour week is introduced, and introduced smoothly instead of using all the emotive claptrap that the Premier uses. He talks about sinister and manipulated campaigns by people who have set about to destroy the Australian economy. That is a great deal of rubbish.

I would like to put on record some of the reactions we have encountered over the centuries in regard to this argument. Some of the quotes I have go back 130 years. As far back as 1856 an editorial in *The Age* in Melbourne added to the argument about whether there ought to be a six-day, 56-hour working week with two hours less for children. I might emphasise that the worthy editor of *The Age* in Melbourne at that time said—

Beware of strikes. Beware how you interfere with the natural operation of the law of competition. Let it have its free course and it will spontaneously increase your wages to the highest possible rate: strikes are suicidal. The Capitalists always have the advantage in such a contest. Capital can wait a month or two; labour cannot.

Twelve months after that, as a result of quite a deal of strike action at the time, the 56-hour working week was introduced and spread over six

days. Some considerable time later, on 20 June 1928, the 44-hour working week was introduced in this State.

I ask you, Mr Acting Speaker, to reflect upon the meaning of my next quotation. I wonder whether you will be able to recognise what sort of person made this statement. It reads—

I am confident that the 44 Hour Week will add a burden which will be very difficult for the employers to bear. I do not see any way open for employers to overcome the disability placed on the employers shoulders by the 44 Hour Week principal to the Engineering Trade. It must be borne in mind that this move will have to be paid by the entire community.

That statement was made by a Mr Bloxsome in the Western Australian Court of Arbitration. He was representing the employers' organisation in this State.

Mr Coyne: What year was that?

Mr BRYCE: It was in 1928.

Mr Coyne: Was there 7 per cent unemployment throughout the nation at that time?

Mr BRYCE: The unemployment rate at that time was probably higher.

Mr Coyne: It wasn't.

Mr BRYCE: The eve of the great depression was in 1928, and the unemployment rate probably was higher than 7 per cent. I wonder whether the same sort of comment was made in 1947 when, as members well know, the 40-hour week became a reality in this country. It was granted across the nation by a decision of the federal arbitration court.

Mr Coyne: No-one fought it.

Mr BRYCE: The quotation I will give the House is from the judge who handed down the decision. I would like members to ponder on the substance of his words: He said—

The pursuit of leisure by the workers of the world—

That was not Karl Marx. To continue—

—has persisted through history for many centuries.

One hundred years ago in England a 10-hour day or a 60-hour week was enacted. In Australia 90 years ago an 8-hour day or 48-hour week was achieved in limited cases. Twenty years ago this Court awarded a 44-hour week. There is no reason to assume that the capacity of industry has ended at 44 hours.

He went on to say something which is absolutely critical to the argument. To continue—

It has been the historic role of employers to oppose workers claims for increased leisure. They have, as is well known, opposed in Parliament and elsewhere every step in this direction, and this case is no exception.

Their argument has not changed much in 100 years. Employers have feared such changes as a threat to profits; an added obstacle to production; a limitation upon industrial expansion; and a threat to internal and international trade relations. And history has invariably proved the forebodings of employers to be unfounded.

I reiterate that the speaker was a commissioner of the arbitration court who that far back scarcely could be described as someone in the pocket of the Labor movement.

Mr Trethowan: Did you hear what the commission said yesterday about productivity bargaining and the 35-hour week?

Mr BRYCE: The reality of the situation at present in this country is that 36 per cent of employees in non-managerial positions have working weeks of less than 40 hours, and in many cases very close to 35 hours. The precedent has been set. Overseas the countries with which we trade—namely, Japan, Sweden, Britain, France, Belgium, and a whole range of other similar nations—have already reduced the average working week well below 40 hours. Let me remind the members of this House—

Mr Coyne: Not in Japan.

Mr BRYCE: In Japan the average working week is 36 hours. In Japan the average level of wages is higher than it is in this country.

Mr Williams: Get back to productivity.

Mr BRYCE: Furthermore the wage and salary earners in Japan retire at the age of 55.

Mr Young: They really work for it up till that time.

Mr BRYCE: Members like the member for East Melville and the Premier who argue that the 35-hour week will destroy our international competitiveness should listen to my argument. One might think that in the countries I mentioned their politicians would be able to argue that their working week be extended to 40 hours so that they can compete with Australia, but that is rubbish. There is no substance in the argument that we will destroy our international competitive position.

Mr Trethowan interjected.

Mr Coyne: It is the other way around.

Mr Tonkin: Why don't you live there?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order!

Mr BRYCE: A sensible justification for reducing the number of working hours is that the level of unemployment will decrease. The experience in Belgium over the last few years—to the best of my knowledge Belgium is the only country in which this situation has been documented, with information provided to the OECD conferences—has enabled the people there to realise and appreciate that after the reduction in their average working week from 40 hours to 36 hours the number of jobs available in the community has increased by a factor of one-half in respect of the number of hours. So, if the number of hours is reduced by 10 per cent, the number of jobs in the community is increased by 5 per cent. That is a very laudable reason.

Mr P. V. Jones: At whose cost?

Mr BRYCE: The Minister asks "At whose cost?" That is precisely the issue. The Minister for Resources Development would be happy to see the benefits from resources development go overseas. I suggest to this Chamber that a significant share should go to the wage and salary earners in this country, in the form of a reduced working week.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [3.41 p.m.]: I wish to lament the development, in this country, of what we could call the underarm bowling syndrome. This is an unfortunate development which did not start when Greg Chappell gave the unfortunate order to his younger brother to bowl underarm the last ball in a one-day match, with the New Zealand cricket team.

The underarm bowling syndrome seems to have taken off in this country over the last decade; it is an attitude that says: win at any cost. Cheat, if one has to to win. That is the only thing that matters.

This is a disease which is sweeping Australia. It is one which presents itself in many ways and I am particularly concerned about the way it is presented in the political sphere. It can be seen in people's personal lives also and perhaps that is the reason for the deterioration of our social standards which was referred to by the member for Ascot when he was talking about the increase in the crime rate.

We see this underarm bowling syndrome, win-at-any-cost attitude demonstrated by the conservatives in this country. They say we may have an election, by all means, but we must realise that if the election does not go their way

there will be several ways in which they will subvert the result of the election.

This ploy is used to give the whole political system the appearance of democracy; it appears to be democratic because elections are held. However, the wishes of the people are subverted in many ways.

Mr Coyne: Like the manipulation of the Aborigines?

Mr TONKIN: That is one area of the manipulation and we certainly saw such a case in 1977 when a Supreme Court judge ruled that the member's Minister was in fact guilty of cheating at an election and a re-election was ordered. I am pleased the member mentioned that fact.

The member for Murchison-Eyre has admitted that a Minister from his Government cheated at an election. I appreciate his reminder.

The Electoral Act in this State is another attempt to subvert the result of an election. It has been worked out that if certain people wish to vote one way and if the value of their vote is increased, it will also increase the likelihood of a decision being made in a certain way. So, an election can be decided even before the polling booth is opened.

Mr Bertram: That has always been the case in the upper House.

Mr TONKIN: The Legislative Council is another example of that. I will refer to that august body in a moment.

We saw this win-at-any-cost attitude displayed with respect to the Whitlam Government when the Senate attacked and destroyed the voice of the people when a non-political event occurred. A person had a heart attack and as a consequence, the Premier of Queensland replaced that member with a person who was committed to the destruction of the Whitlam Government. Of course, when that occurred, supply was denied. So, once again, we saw the conservatives prevent a Labor Government from governing.

We have in this State a Legislative Council which, in spite of the wishes of the people of Western Australia, has refused to allow a Labor Government to have power. Although a Labor Government has often been desired by the people of Western Australia, it has never been in power.

We have had appointed to this State a Governor who has stated—I am not sure whether he said so before he arrived or after he arrived—that he will not be a rubber stamp. I would like to know what that means. Does it mean that the Premier is quite prepared to accept that the Governor may not sign into law a Bill

which has been passed by both Houses of this Parliament? Is that what the Governor might do? In fact, he is not even an Australian and he seems to be saying he will decide which legislation he will sign into law.

I would suggest, with all the respect that I have to give the Governor under our Standing Orders, that such a statement is sheer nonsense.

Mr Young: Of course he is a rubber stamp.

Mr TONKIN: I am making our position very clear because the Premier likes to grovel in the presence of Royalty, or even, as in this case, commonality.

I will not accept the position where the Governor of the State is anything else but a rubber stamp. We will not accept the position that the person, whether he be a foreigner or an Australian, who is appointed to the position of Governor, shall have the power of veto or any other such power to limit this Parliament.

When the Labor Party becomes the Government in this State, we will not accept the Governor's right to dismiss a Government which has a majority in this House of Parliament, as happened in 1975.

Mr Young: What about the situation in 1971?

Mr TONKIN: It will not happen when the Labor Government is in power. A non-elected person will not have the power of veto. The situation is that, in spite of the fact that a constitutional monarchy exists the Queen of England does not have, and does not seek, power over a Government which has the confidence of the House of Commons.

We in this State used to be part of a colony and if the Premier has his way we will remain a colony. We in the Labor Party do not believe we should remain as a colony and we certainly should not have a situation of a feudal system with the monarchy's representative having power over us.

Mr Young: What about 1971 when the Speaker died and the majority disappeared?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order!

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr Young: Just a minute. He is big enough to answer for himself; he has been around for 10 years.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I understand the Minister has asked a question—

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are acceptable.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health has asked the member for Morley a question.

Mr Pearce: You don't have to answer the questions.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The member for Gosnells will refrain from interjecting whilst I am on my feet so that we can resume with the business of the House. The member for Gosnells had no right to enter into a cross-Chamber debate with another member of the House.

The member for Morley is the one making the speech, and I believe everyone, including the member for Gosnells, should have respect for the member on his feet. The member for Morley.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr TONKIN: I am pleased to answer a couple of questions.

Mr Young: You have had plenty of time to think of an answer.

Mr TONKIN: In 1971 the only proper thing for the Governor to do was to accept the advice of his Government.

Mr Young: What if he had not?

Mr TONKIN: If he had not, he would have been acting unconstitutionally.

Mr Young: So the Government of the day determines whether it remains in power, regardless of what the conventions of the House might be.

Mr TONKIN: The conventions of the House are important, and the convention is that the Queen and the Queen's representative take the advice of the Ministers.

Mr Young: When the House is in session. We could have met the next day and tossed you out.

Mr TONKIN: I am glad the Minister raised that. If ever there was an example of a scandalous situation it was the then Opposition's attempt to persuade the Governor on that occasion. Although the death of Mr Toms was a non-political event—it had nothing to do with the wishes of the people of Western Australia—the then Opposition did not want Parliament prorogued.

Mr Young: That is the point.

Mr TONKIN: That is the point; it was a scandal.

Mr Young: The then Leader of the Opposition did what he was entitled to do; he went to the Governor to put his point of view.

Mr TONKIN: In other words, if we hold an election, and someone happens to die, the

Minister would not agree that the Government should continue. We had an election in that very same year, and the then Opposition wanted to undo the results. The Minister has the cheek to call himself a Liberal. In fact, he is a highly reactionary Tory.

Mr Young: You had the majority of one and you lost it. You were saved by the Governor, and may I say quite properly.

Mr TONKIN: That is right.

Mr Young: I am asking you: Who should have made the decision? Your answer was: The Premier of the day.

Mr TONKIN: The truth is it is the Governor's job, the same as it is the Queen's job, to take the advice of her Ministers. It is as simple as that. If the Minister does not know that, I suggest we should institute an examination before people are promoted to the Ministry so that our Ministers understand the rudiments of the Westminster system.

Mr Carr: The Premier would fail.

Mr Young: In other words, that one was okay, the rest are all right, but the others are not.

Several members interjected.

Mr Young: If the Governor had not agreed with the Government of the day, are you saying that the Government should have sacked him?

Mr Bryce: That is right.

Mr Young: That is what you wanted Whitlam to do with Kerr.

Mr Bryce: And he did not do it. That was the biggest mistake he made.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order! Will the member for Morley resume his speech please!

Mr TONKIN: Thank you, Sir; I have been trying to do so. I have already mentioned several examples of the way conservatives will cheat in order to win, even though there are elections. We have witnessed examples from the Minister for Health. He made his position quite clear. Other examples are the amendments to the Electoral Act, the way in which the Senate was subverted, the Legislative Council, and the Governor who says he is no rubber stamp. I asked a question while the Premier was not here, but now the Premier is in the Chamber, I would like to know his answer to it: If the present Governor is no rubber stamp, what would be the Premier's attitude if the Governor refused to sign into law a Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament?

Sir Charles Court: The law is very clear. He would not hesitate to sign such a Bill. What do we do when we come back from the official opening?

Mr TONKIN: I thank the Premier.

Sir Charles Court: I want to tell you, one thing you have omitted is that there is a time when the Governor or the Queen does not take the advice of the Ministers, and that is when she is going to sack the Prime Minister or the Premier. If the Premier or the Prime Minister is not obeying the law, he should be sacked.

Mr TONKIN: But who is it who says the Premier or the Prime Minister is not obeying the law?

Mr Young: The member for Morley is saying that the opinion of the Premier of the day is—

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order!

Mr TONKIN: Do you think, Sir, that I should go home and give my speech in the lounge room?

Sir Charles Court: We would enjoy reading it—send it in with humorous illustrations.

An Opposition member: He is doing a good job.

Mr TONKIN: I am trying to do a good job.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I suggest to the member for Morley that he should address his remarks to the Chair and proceed.

Mr TONKIN: Thank you, Sir. I agree with the Premier that the Queen has a right to dismiss a Prime Minister, but only based on the situation in the House of Commons. If the Prime Minister has the confidence of the House of Commons, she does not have the constitutional right to dismiss him, and she would not do so. It would be the same situation here.

Mr Pearce: And she has never dismissed anybody because the Prime Minister always resigns in those circumstances.

Sir Charles Court: She would not be put in that position.

Mr TONKIN: No, because England does not have a Parliament that refuses supply. It legislated to clip the wings of the House of Lords in 1911.

Several members interjected.

Sir Charles Court: It was a vintage year.

Mr TONKIN: I am afraid my time will run out and there are some other matters I would like to refer to. If members would like a lecture on that subject later on, I will be happy to accommodate them.

Mr Young: Go on—you have half an hour.

Mr TONKIN: Another way the underarm bowling syndrome operates in Australia is a strike of capital. A Government may be elected by the people, but in fact the people who control the capital can say "We will take our ball and go home; we won't play that way." Such action can have a great effect.

It is accepted by the conservatives that a strike of labour is very evil and should not be allowed, but I have never heard the conservatives object when a group of capitalists take their capital away. These capitalists may not even live in this country.

The capitalists may say that the profits are not high enough, or, indeed, they do not have to give a reason at all. So a strike of capital can affect the economy of a country and help to destroy a Government.

If we have a situation where a party of reform cannot obtain reform through a parliamentary system—and it cannot in this country because of the win-at-any-cost attitude, the subversion of the Electoral Act, the Legislative Council which is not democratically elected, and for all the reasons I have already given—then it has to go outside the system.

The conservatives bleat that they want Parliament to be respected. We cannot expect Parliament to gain respect if it is elected on crooked and dishonest laws. We cannot expect Parliament to be respected if people who are seeking reform according to the rules then find the rules have been changed. If reformists find they cannot change the Government through the system, they will go outside the system. If ever there were an example of this, it is the recent example of the conservationists in this State who have been forced to go to the United States of America because they realise they cannot get through this system.

Of course we disagree with their going to a foreign court to try to influence events occurring in Australia, but never let the Premier fail to realise for a moment that a great deal of the responsibility for forcing people into desperate measures must lay with his Government for its attitude of not allowing conservationists to get the ear of Government.

We know conservationists in this State have been called subversive and fifth columnists by this Premier, and the environmental judgment of this Government is that they are traitors to this country. So we should not be surprised when people decide to take other measures in desperation. If we want this Parliament to be the main source of law and of reform, and if we want

this Parliament to be respected, then we have to see that there is a fair and equitable system through which people can work.

If we make it a system that is unjust and fraudulent which will not agree to changes, then the people who want changes and the society which demands changes will go around the Parliament in various ways—whether by going into the streets or going to the United States courts or doing something else to try to achieve their ends.

We have even seen in the *Western Mail* recently the same kind of vicious attacks on environmentalists by journalist Tony Warton. I would like to say that I was very hopeful when the *Western Mail* was established that we would see a great step forward as far as the media in Western Australia is concerned. How disappointed I am in the quality of that newspaper, and particularly in the quality of the work of Tony Warton who apparently cannot forget that he was once on the Premier's staff because most of the stuff he writes suggests he is still on the Premier's staff. These are the words he used when talking about environmentalists: Emotional, vicious, and fanatics.

If that is the kind of term we use about people who have a point of view different from ours, then that is the sort of thing which leads to extremism. We have an extreme right-wing element in the Liberal Party in this State led by our posturing Premier. I know the Premier was brought up to know the Bible, and so was I. Whenever I see the Premier I am reminded of this quotation: "When I was a child I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things." When I see the Premier I am reminded that children sometimes play at being soldiers; they give themselves medals of various kinds. Here we have a Premier who expects us to take seriously his knighthood when in fact he gave it to himself.

Sir Charles Court: He did nothing of the sort.

Mr TONKIN: That is the system; and the Premier was not content to have only one knighthood, so he gave himself another one.

Sir Charles Court: That is not correct.

Mr TONKIN: If the Premier says that is not correct, then he is saying that technically he did not recommend his knighthood to her Majesty; but, of course, we know his mates recommended it.

Sir Charles Court: It was explained by the Governor of the day. It had nothing to do with me.

Mr B. T. Burke: Was that before or after you fixed his gutters, you guttersnipe?

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: Yes, the Governor of the day who, of course, is appointed by the Government—and who had his gutters fixed as a consequence.

Sir Charles Court: What rot.

Mr TONKIN: I do not mind having honours if someone else gives them to me; but for me to give myself an honour because I am the Premier—and not just one knighthood, but two—is purely posturing. It is about time the Premier grew up. I saw his comments when he was at Buckingham Palace last. He said "There is something magical about the Queen and about Buckingham Palace." There is nothing magical about the way in which he arranged for himself to receive a KCMG.

Mr B. T. Burke: It will cost him a fortune to fix the gutters at Buckingham Palace.

Mr TONKIN: We see the Premier as a chocolate soldier at the salute as colonel in charge—or something—of the Special Air Service, playing at soldiers. We see the Premier waving his arms and holding the baton at the openings of Festivals of Perth. I know of thousands of people who stay away from such openings because they have been turned into political events by the Premier.

I was speaking to a musician who told me that anyone who can keep time can wave the baton. I am reminded that when I was a child I used to wave in time to music, too. I said to the musician "Surely he is doing a good job" and he told me that the Premier misses beats half the time. I asked him how the musicians got on, and he said "We just ignore him."

Mr Williams: You haven't got a chip on your shoulder; you've got a 20-foot jarrah log on it.

Mr B. T. Burke: You have been at the dry cleaning fluid again.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order! The member for Morley will resume his seat. I find the current situation intolerable. I find that not only are interjections coming from the Government side of the House, but also the member for Morley in his attempt to make a speech is being frustrated by members of the Opposition. I appeal to the House to give the member for Morley an opportunity to make his speech. That applies to all members. I suggest to the member for Morley that he address his remarks to the Chair and continue with his speech.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr B. T. Burke: You can't take it, can you?

Mr Grayden: What absolute rubbish!

Mr B. T. Burke: You are just big whingers.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morley will resume his seat. I believe the member for Balcatta's behaviour is totally unruly. He did not even give the member for Morley a chance to recommence his speech. I ask him to desist from that sort of interjection.

Mr TONKIN: Thank you, Sir.

We have this extremely right-wing Government led by the Premier, and I would like to deal briefly with just how right-wing it is. The other day we had a motion of condolence in respect of the President of the United States, who was not killed. That seems a little strange because "condolence" suggests something more serious than that which actually occurred. I do not want to argue about that. However, why did not the Premier stand in his place and move a motion of condolence when the democratically elected President of Chile (Mr Allende) was shot by the gang which is still in power there?

An Opposition member: Murdered!

Mr TONKIN: Yes, murdered. Why did we not have a motion of condolence on that occasion? I will tell the House the reason. It is because the present gang in power in Chile is of the same ideological complexion as is this Premier.

One of the forms this extreme right-wing attitude takes is in the matter of State rights. As the member for Karrinyup rightly said, we are a Federation. I was born in Australia and I am very proud to be an Australian. I was born in Western Australia also. Unfortunately, State rights topple over into calls for secession. I do not know any secessionists who are Australian born, although I am not saying there is none. The people who are secessionists, like Don Thomas and Professor Martin Webb—

Mr Bertram: The Premier.

Mr TONKIN: —and like the Premier—were in fact not born in this country so it is most difficult for them to feel real patriotism for Australia.

Mr Clarko: Do you know that in 1933 two out of three people voted for Western Australia to get out of the Federation? They were born here.

Mr TONKIN: I know that, but how many of them were Australians? In the 1920s we had an enormous influx of immigrants from the United Kingdom in particular.

I am not saying Australians will not vote for secession; all I am saying is that the leaders of the

secessionist movement are people who do not have Australia as their first love. Let me make my position quite clear: I was born in Australia and in Western Australia. If we seceded it would make me a foreigner in the land of my birth. People always say to me that would not be the case at all, but they do not know what secession means. It means all of us who were born in Australia would be foreigners if this State seceded. We would no longer be Australians in that situation, and I do not know what we would call ourselves.

I am certainly strongly opposed to that suggestion. I notice the Premier almost topples over—of course, he does not go that far because he is a member of the Liberal Party without which he would not be a Premier—into the secessionist camp at times.

Mr Pearce: He even said we could be defended by the Japanese Army.

Sir Charles Court: You have never heard me defending secession in the post-war period.

Mr TONKIN: I did not say the Premier proposed secession.

Sir Charles Court: You have heard me oppose it.

Mr TONKIN: I believe the Premier's posturing against Canberra or against Australia in favour of Western Australia at times almost topples him over into secession.

Sir Charles Court: You have never heard me speaking against Australia.

Mr TONKIN: I am not saying I have ever caught the Premier out in saying he is a secessionist. However, I am saying this: His championing of State rights has gone beyond what is normal in a proper Federation; it has become almost a hatred and a fear to the point where the Premier has a paranoid attitude to the Australian Parliament and the Australian Government. I am not talking about Whitlam now, but the Australian Government.

Mr Hassell: Which Australian Parliament? There are eight of them.

Mr TONKIN: There is only one Parliament which belongs to the whole of Australia. If I went to France and talked about the French Parliament, the Frenchmen would know to which Parliament I referred; similarly if I went to Germany or Spain and talked about the German or Spanish Parliament, the people there would know what I meant. Yet here we have a person whom I presume is an Australian asking, "What do you mean when you talk about the Australian Parliament? Which Parliament are you referring

to?" There is only one Parliament of Western Australia and only one Parliament of New South Wales and there is only one Parliament for the whole of Australia which is the Australian Parliament. Although the Parliament of Western Australia is "an" Australian Parliament, it is not "the" Australian Parliament.

Mr Hassell: Neither is the other one.

Mr TONKIN: It is the Australian Parliament; it is the only Parliament representing the whole of Australia; the other Parliaments represent only bits of Australia.

We see the absurd attitude expressed by the Minister for Police and Traffic; he expresses that attitude for the simple reason he knows it is the way to the Premier's heart. When listening to the member for Karrinyup earlier this afternoon, I thought to myself, "These people opposite must stay awake at night trying to think of ways to their Premier's heart." We have heard from the Minister for Police and Traffic, who is almost a clone of the Premier. He has modelled himself on the Premier; it has paid off so far and he hopes it will continue to pay off. We heard him mouth those statements, but it was purely an echoing of the Premier's rhetoric.

Mr Williams: You talk about clones. Listen to the clown over there.

Mr TONKIN: We heard the member for Karrinyup talk about the "Advance Australia" promotion. Members must decide what they want. If they want to advance Australia, they cannot knock it all the time by talking about Western Australia.

Mr Clarko: We can advance both.

Mr TONKIN: The Government is not advancing Australia when it brings an English Admiral to be the Governor of this place. How is it advancing Australia by such an action? There are many good Australians who could take the position of Governor of Western Australia. Of course, they might not have been Admirals; however, we have outstanding men of letters and outstanding scientists.

Mr Young: Western Australians?

Mr TONKIN: He does not need to be a Western Australian.

Mr Young: The point I was making is that our last Governor was an Air-Marshal, and he happened to be Western Australian.

Mr TONKIN: The Premier said he could not find an outstanding Western Australian. He would pick an Englishman rather than a South Australian, a Queenslander or a New South Welshman. So, we have this Government

knocking Australia and at the same time recommending we spend taxpayers' money advancing Australia.

England was colonised by German tribes. Can members imagine the English sending to Germany for a Governor to come over and lord it over them? They did that a long time ago, when they had trouble with their succession, and the House of Hanover did come over. However, can members imagine the English people—a proud people—saying "We were settled by Angles and Jutes hundreds of years ago, so we should have a German Governor"? Western Australia was settled by English people over 200 years ago, yet we are still bringing people from that country to act as our Governor.

Mr Blaikie: You suggest we appoint Australians to this position. Naturally you would agree that John Kerr was a great Australian.

Mr TONKIN: The member for Vasse asks me—

Mr Blaikie interjected.

Mr TONKIN: Does the honourable member want me to answer his question?

Mr Blaikie: It took me 10 minutes to get that interjection in, so please answer it.

Mr TONKIN: I am trying to, but the honourable member keeps interjecting on me.

Mr Blaikie: You are trying to think up an answer.

Mr TONKIN: I am not saying every Australian is great.

Mr Blaikie: Only the ones you think are great.

Mr TONKIN: Naturally, it is a matter of opinion.

Mr Blaikie: Do you think John Kerr was a great Australian?

Mr TONKIN: I certainly do not think he was. However, simply because some Australians are not great, it does not follow that we cannot appoint Australians as Governors General or Governors. The English have their rogues, too. What kind of silly argument is it to say that because one man turned out to be a dud, we should never again appoint an Australian? It is a stupid argument from a stupid member.

I have been speaking about what a right-wing Government this is. It is not right wing as is the Government of South Australia or the Government of Victoria; it is extremely right wing. We have always seen that the extreme right likes to use the police. I do not intend in any way to criticise the Police Force here; however, I do want to criticise the attitude of the Minister for

Police and Traffic. The Minister has said he does not know whether telephone tapping is going on, and he does not care; he does not intend to find out if telephone tapping is going on.

Mr Pearce: He knows it is going on.

Mr TONKIN: Why is he Minister for Police and Traffic? We may as well not have one, if that is the type of answer we are to receive.

Members opposite claim this Parliament is based on the Westminster system; that system was introduced here to keep our ties with Britain, just as, I suppose, was bringing over an English Admiral to be our Governor. A basic tenet of the Westminster system of government is that of ministerial responsibility. Yet the Minister for Police and Traffic says that he does not know whether the police are tapping telephones and, what is more, he does not intend to find out because it is none of his business.

The Minister for Police and Traffic has informed us on previous occasions that the Police Department is responsible to Parliament. I do not know whether he has opened the Police Act; if he has not, he should ring the bell and an attendant can bring him a copy within a few minutes. If he cares to look at sections 5 and 9 of the Police Act he will find it is the Government which appoints the commissioner and the Government which dismisses him. So, for the Minister for Police and Traffic to say that, really, it is a question for the Parliament is nonsense.

Furthermore, in talking about things like whether the police are doing certain things, the regulations which govern the conduct of the police are made by the commissioner with the consent of the Minister. Yet it is this Minister who says, "I do not know whether the regulations are being broken, or are adequate, and I do not want to know."

If ever a person has abdicated his responsibility it is this Minister. If that is his attitude to the Police Force, he should resign; he has no right to be Minister for Police and Traffic if that is to be his cavalier attitude.

Mr Hassell: Why don't you get your facts right before you make your silly statements?

Mr TONKIN: Let the Minister tell me where I was not right.

Mr Hassell: I will take what you have said, unscramble and untwist it and give you an answer.

Mr TONKIN: Tell me where it is wrong. For the sake of *Hansard* readers who may not know that silences are not recorded, let us note there has been a long silence while I waited for the

Minister to say where I was wrong. He has refused to do so, except to talk about scrambling eggs.

Mr Hassell: There is no need for you to wait.

Mr TONKIN: I know; the Minister for Police and Traffic will not answer because he knows I have not misrepresented him. If I had, do members not think he would take the first opportunity to show where I had misrepresented him?

Mr Pearce: You quoted the Act perfectly accurately.

Mr TONKIN: I have only seven minutes remaining. There are other matters I would like to raise, but I seem to have used most of my time—or, to put it another way, members have used about 20 minutes of my time for me!

However, in my remaining few minutes I wish to make one little plea which is not related to what I have said to this point. I happen to take my music very seriously.

There are large numbers of people in our society who say, "I just cannot stand classical music. I just cannot stand Beethoven." When one asks them what pieces they do not like, it is quite clear they have never listened to any. That is their democratic right, of course. On the other hand, those very same people watch channel 7 or channel 9, the commercial television stations; and they rush off to buy coffee, or air tickets from Ansett, or to join the Australian Army Reserve, or to buy *Libra*—but I am not sure what that is. They have all been seduced by classical music. It is then that I become very annoyed. The people say they do not like classical music, and yet classical music is regarded by the advertisers as seductive. It annoys me that there is no recognition of the fact that some great man has written the music.

I know that classical music is out of copyright; but one would have thought there was a moral obligation on the people using classical music to sell their coffee brands, or their air tickets, to indicate the name of the composer and the name of the piece.

There is the coffee advertisement. I am not sure whether it is Nescafe or Bushells. I have two notes written to myself which disagree with one another. However, the advertisement is for coffee beans. It uses the magnificent music of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. If anyone has seen that commercial, it shows the hot water pouring in on the coffee beans; and it is backed by the most magnificent choral work one could ever hear. However, there is no acknowledgment of the fact that Carl Orff wrote that piece of music.

Mr Young: And the other one uses *The Floral Dance*.

Mr TONKIN: That is so.

Mr Clarko: Is Carl Orff related to "nickoff"?

Mr TONKIN: He has a few brothers, but I will not repeat their names here.

The Ansett commercial uses Richard Strauss's *And Thus Spake Zarathustra*—magnificent music, pinched once again for 2001: *A Space Odyssey*.

Mr Young: You would not have liked Nietzsche, who wrote *Thus Spake Zarathustra*. You would not care for his politics.

Mr TONKIN: I am talking about the music only. Then we have the commercial for the Australian Army Reserve which uses Russian music. It uses the *1812 Overture* by Tchaikovsky. We talk about "Advance Australia", yet we are using Russian music. I thought the No. 1 enemy today was Russia, according to the Prime Minister.

Mr Trethowan: It is pre-revolutionary.

Mr TONKIN: That is right.

Mr Bryce: Czarist Russia!

Mr TONKIN: The Soviet Union very proudly acknowledges Tchaikovsky. They have not repudiated him.

Finally, the *Libra* advertisement uses Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*. Morally, I believe there is an obligation to acknowledge the music, so that the people listening to the great music which seduces them in this way should be able to say, "By God, that's Beethoven—that's Tchaikovsky. I would like to buy a record", or something like that. Certainly acknowledgment should be made.

On that portentous note, I conclude.

MR GREWAR (Roe) [4.24 p.m.]: It is a pity that some of the proceedings of this Parliament are not televised. I believe we would stay in Government forever were people to know of the policies being advocated by the Opposition.

I would like to join other members of this Assembly in wishing our Governor, Sir Richard Trowbridge, and his wife a very enjoyable stay in Western Australia during his term of office. I would like also to express sincere appreciation to Sir Wallace and Lady Kyle for their dedicated service carried out with dignity and decorum during their long term with us.

In his Speech, Sir Richard Trowbridge highlighted the exciting developments that have occurred or are about to occur in Western Australia. So much has happened in the past 20

years that our economy has been transformed completely from a rather quiet, rural-based one to a bustling mix of mining, fisheries, agriculture, and other resource developments.

The quickening pace of the development became manifest in 1980, and it brought about an air of prosperity and prospect for this State. That is in contrast to the mundane existence we would have been faced with had this not occurred.

I am amazed at the negative response of the Opposition to our resources development. Are members opposite not caught up in the exciting prospect and potential? We have not even scratched the surface yet. Only recently we have discovered mineral deposits such as tantalite at Greenbushes. We now know that there are vast coal deposits at Esperance. Diamonds have become a hopeful prospect. There are significant further developments in mineral wealth in the Kimberley in the Fitzroy Valley. There are significant deposits of vanadium at Wundowie, and maybe titanium and vanadium at Katanning. There are dozens of potential mines being explored in this State at the moment. There is an air of confidence everywhere, except on the benches of the Opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr GREWAR: The member for Warren has highlighted the doom that will fall to the lot of agriculturists. All of the points raised are pertinent, and they could happen in the hands of bad government; but a Government interested in the well-being of Australia has counter measures for these negative effects. It is a pity the member did not propound the Opposition's view on the 35-hour week. I am sure that view would not endear him to the farmers of this State.

The resource development has some very positive aspects. I would like to deal with these, because they will bring improved viability for agriculture. Technology has not been sedated. It has been the means of survival for agriculture in the past 20 years, in the face of many problems. Technology has been, and will continue to be, the key to our continued prosperity by reducing costs and increasing production per unit of input. We have only to look at the role of chemicals in our cereal farming enterprise, and at the role of improved machinery and the use of higher fertility sheep in our breeding programmes.

Mr H. D. Evans: Would you not think that the Government would go for agricultural engineering research, in which it is totally deficient now?

Mr GREWAR: The Government will do all in its power to bring about a lot of changes. All these matters will have positive effects in

countering such things as the exchange rate and the money supply, and all the points raised by the member.

In addition, the resource development will bring an inflow of population to this State. That will create a much bigger home market that is more secure and more stable, and with better prices. In addition, the world market will demand a wider range of goods from agriculture.

The fuels for traction purposes may one day have to be provided by agriculture. We can think of ethanol from the biomass, oil from rapeseed crops, and the hydrocarbon derivatives.

Mr H. D. Evans: In the meantime, agricultural fuels will be at a premium.

Mr GREWAR: There will be a great percentage of fibres coming from agriculture; and liquid fossil fuels will become exhausted. All these factors will reduce our dependence on our traditional crops of wheat, meat, and wool.

Even in this field there will be additional demands as the world population rises by 50 million to 70 million a year. Any resource development will bring a lot of indirect benefits as well. Those benefits will be in relation to roads, transport, communications, service industries and facilities, and infrastructure. It is important that both State and Federal Governments monitor their policies in relation to inflation, to tariffs, to the money supply, and to the exchange rate. A responsible Government will not bring about the demise of agriculture. It is in the Government's interest to maintain a buoyant agricultural economy.

If agriculture is doomed, I fail to see why, in the last 12 months, land values have escalated dramatically. Farmers have not lost confidence; instead I believe they have more confidence now than they had previously.

We tend to think of the future of our resources industries as being rosy, but such may not always be the case. These industries will be subject to the same vagaries of the marketplace as are our agricultural export products. There will be periods of boom and bust and they could well be responsible for devaluation and reductions in the exchange rate which could be to the advantage of agriculture.

Resource development has advantages to us all. We must not fall for the ALP's ploy.

Mr Pearce: What ploy is that?

Mr GREWAR: In a strong economy we need a multi-variety of resources and we must foster exploration, not hinder it.

In recent times environmentalists, conservationists—call them what one will—have been mounting a concerted campaign to bring about the demise of land releases. This debate is only in its early stages and already it is very emotional and such matters as "desertification" and salination have been referred to.

Those of us who profess some knowledge of the environment and agriculture realise the dangers inherent in our land release policy. In a dry climate, we are aware of the pitfalls and potential problems which could exist. It is not our wish to see agriculture fail because of poor planning or bad practices. We see too much of this now.

Clearing land for agriculture has a profound effect on the environment, as, indeed, do all the activities of man, including the expansion of cities, mining for bauxite, and other matters of that nature. However, man must sacrifice some of the environment to survive, but he must tread carefully, because the balance is delicate.

It is important for us to develop our agriculture, not only in terms of our economy, but also because we need to be fed and clothed and to have access to fuel.

The land releases which took place 20 years ago were quite different from those which are taking place today. Environmental issues were not watched as strictly then as they are now. Today environmentalists have their say, together with agriculturists and Lands Department officers. I would go so far as to say that no land release is given the stamp of approval without consideration being given to the possibility of environmental damage.

If care is taken in our land release programme, I believe we will not repeat the mistakes of the past. I should like to speak a little further on this issue because all around us we see mistakes which have been made as a result of previous land releases which in fact probably should not have taken place. We also see mistakes in the practices adopted once the land has been released.

A number of these mistakes resulted from lack of knowledge and the failure to realise the changes which would occur to the structure of the soil once vegetation was cleared. We did not realise how quickly the salts in the soil would be translocated following the clearing of vegetation and the effects of salination lower down in the valley system. However, I believe we now realise this and we know vegetation has an important bearing on salt translocation.

I do not believe farmers should be allowed to clear every vestige of vegetation from their properties, unless the long-term projections prove

no environmental danger would result from such a practice. We must leave our agricultural land in good condition for future farmers and for the well-being of the nation.

We know our native vegetation has an important role to play in the control of salinity and it is possible we should legislate that when land is released a certain percentage of it may not be cleared for agriculture and in some situations where stock graze native scrub that tree species should be sown on an area equivalent to that which should have been retained.

In my electorate we see many farms with not a vestige of vegetation remaining. This contrasts very strongly with land cleared in the 1920s in the Esperance mallee area where around each 100 or 200 acres a half chain belt of native mallee was retained. This practice is much more aesthetic and it has probably had a profound effect on salt encroachment, because there is not a great deal of salt in this area and wind erosion does not present great problems. Many newly cleared areas, while not yet salt affected, will become so and the effects of wind erosion are already apparent.

We, as a Government, should endeavour to prevent exploitation of our agricultural lands and lay down hard and fast rules in relation to clearing or, alternatively, we should make it obligatory for farmers to plant trees.

I will suggest amendments which could be made to the Land Act to effect the safeguards I have mentioned. Around each new group of farm properties I suggest belts of timber, five to 10 chains wide, should be left and this should occur also along the sides of roads. Farmer tree planting should be encouraged and it should be encouraged very quickly.

Some of our original farms were cleared 50 or more years ago. The trees which were left when that land was cleared are now very old and, in many cases, they are dying out. They have not been replaced and frequently they have been cleared. Very few farmers are planting belts of trees. In fact, the only activity one sees in this direction is tree planting along farm roadways. One asks why this should be the case and I believe the answer is that this is not being done for economic reasons and because of a lack of knowledge on the importance of these matters.

Many farmers bulldoze huge banks across the countryside to prevent salt encroachment. Tree planting takes out of production a great deal of land and it covers a considerable area. The costs of purchasing trees, planting, cultivation, tending and watering them during the first summer are very high. The major cost involved in tree

planting is fencing and it amounts to approximately \$1 000 a kilometre to provide adequate fencing for 100 trees to each kilometre—the cost is in the vicinity of \$10 a tree.

Some properties which are completely denuded would need to have tens of thousands of dollars spent on them and not only would the farmer fail to receive any economic return for his efforts, but also his crop area would be reduced.

In our long-term interest and bearing in mind that, in many cases, farmers do not have the money to lavish on these sorts of activities, some assistance should be given by the Government.

I hate to suggest this, because I believe farmers should stand on their own feet; but the cost is formidable and without some sort of help from the Government I believe such a project would not be put into effect.

Tax concessions are important but only for those farmers with well established properties. However, they would be of little value to a new farmer who is not in a position where tax is important to him.

Assistance is required also in regard to fencing and materials. A desirable type would be fences which can be erected and, after a few years, dismantled and relocated. In parallel, we need the assistance of the Forests Department to advise on the species and techniques of sowing and to educate us on the value of using different tree species. These officers could also investigate other potential species that could be used in our agricultural system. It is possible that one day profits could be gained from using this timber for saw logs or for some other purpose.

The answer to the problem may well be in the provision of browse-type plants. This was suggested about 20 years ago by Dr Laurie Snook. Unfortunately, the concept foundered, because of the unsuitability of the species—it was tree lucerne—to the environment of Western Australia. However, the concept was excellent. This plant type was an ideal fodder source which would be handy during periods of drought or when summer feed requirements were at a peak.

The Government needs to give a lead in the reforestation programme I have suggested, because if it is left to the farmers, in the present economic conditions, little will develop. It is in our national interest to retain our farmland in good heart. Our climate is dry and it would be very easy, if we were not careful, to turn some of our country into a desert.

At the risk of being called a square, a conformist, or whatever the word might be today, I should like to talk about our established

traditional values. I express genuine concern at the state of behaviour, the lack of motivation in the work force, and the lack of direction and purpose of many of our young people.

Before I develop my argument, I would like to insist that I am not talking about the majority of young people, who are responsible, but I am talking about the lesser group which is irresponsible and not interested in the betterment of our society and does not care about or have any regard for the future. Their main concern is for what they term as a "good time"; whatever that may mean.

As one grows older, one watches the succeeding generation more closely and hopes that that group will be better, more secure and responsible than the previous one. I suppose one believes also that one has some licence to express fears and hopes on the subject.

What I see does not convince me that the succeeding generation is more, or better, equipped to become the custodians of society than we were. If society is to survive it has to place restrictions and taboos on many things. Our society had evolved from a stable system based on experience, trial, and error. No section had the reins drawn harder than the young because of their zest for life and their enthusiasm and the fact that this enthusiasm may have led them into trouble.

We have extended those freedoms and given young people a great deal of latitude which they did not have previously until they had attained the age of 21 years. We believed that education and our social development has made a child of 18 as responsible as a child of 21 previously.

We have extended alcohol rights to 18-year-olds and while a great number of these people are responsible and can handle alcohol quite satisfactorily, some cannot, as we all know. We know the results and one instance is the carnage on the roads. Another instance is the increase in the number of crimes against our society which are committed by those in this age group.

While 18 years of age may be fair enough, to most there are a lot of people who are younger drinking in our hotels, taverns and entertainment centres. Some of these young people are 16 years old, still school children, and they are consuming alcohol which they cannot handle.

We have given young people the right to vote at State and Federal elections. That is a great privilege which many are able to understand and accept but quite a few are unable to do so. We have allowed young people access to hire-purchase contracts for motor vehicles and other consumable goods before they have learnt to

handle their money correctly, frugally, and responsibly.

Having bought these cars and having time on their hands some young people spend their time driving around our towns and cities into all hours of the night and over the weekends. When they get bored they commence drinking.

We have made it possible for young people to earn high wages before they have the responsibilities of home and family. As a result this age group spends a great deal on consumer goods and products with little thought for their future investment or their future livelihood.

We have allowed sexual freedoms for this age group and many are not emotionally ready to handle them. The result is a great deal of irresponsibility.

Mr Pearce: What about "we have allowed it?"

Mr GREWAR: Everything is easy and free and it does not train young people for a secure and stable marriage in later life.

Mr Bertram: Who is "we"?

Mr GREWAR: We as custodians of the society.

Mr Pearce: We in Parliament? What have we done about sexual freedom?

Mr GREWAR: We have given these young people monetary security.

Mr Bertram: You are blaming yourself.

Mr GREWAR: There is no great insistence that these young people should obtain work because they easily obtain unemployment benefits. They can group together and live at a reasonable standard. In such a state, they are hardly motivated to find work and fill a useful place in our society.

Mr Bryce: Where is the work?

Mr GREWAR: As parents and members of the Government we are custodians of our social system and we must take a hard look at the problems which have developed.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GREWAR: We must demand some responsibility for the freedoms we have allowed our young. There is a lack of discipline today. We must extend the basic disciplines of the home to the school system so that children do not run their classes, as is the case with weak teachers at the moment.

Mr Pearce: Rubbish!

Mr GREWAR: We have brought on ourselves many of these problems by encouraging children to question the system and authority.

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: A platform for fascism.

Mr GREWAR: I do not object to young people questioning our system, provided it is constructive criticism.

There is a lack of school uniforms at schools, therefore there is no sense of belonging, no pride, no team spirit.

Mr Davies: There is a strong trend back to school uniforms.

Mr GREWAR: We have been lax in the work place with reduced working hours. This section of the community which is allowed more leisure time does not know how to handle it.

We do not expect our unemployed people to travel to find work. Maybe we should make it an obligation for parents to meet their children's costs. Then, I am sure we would not have the unemployment we have today. Parents would insist that their children work or find work, wherever it may be. If this were not the case then I would like to see a civil or national service implemented. It would cost a great deal of money but there would be many benefits flowing from it.

Mr Bryce: Give them guns and put them in uniforms. Is that your solution to the problem?

Mr GREWAR: Civil or national service would make useful citizens of many of these people and it would give them a sense of purpose as well as providing them with new skills they may not have learnt otherwise. It would give them some national pride.

Mr Tonkin: In other words, we need another war.

Mr Bryce: Big profits for gun manufacturers.

Mr GREWAR: Maybe we experienced some difficulty in our younger days. Many of us experienced a depression and a war and many of us are determined that our children should not have quite as hard a life as we did. However, I believe we have been a little soft and made things a little too easy.

Several members interjected.

Mr GREWAR: Our kids are soft today and Governments and parents have a responsibility to ensure that the generation to follow is responsible.

Mr Pearce: What an incredible set of clichés. Have you got them on loan from the Premier?

Mr GREWAR: I have mentioned previously the developments occurring in the Esperance area for the exploration for coal. Without disclosing

any confidence, I believe our source is gigantic. Exploration is being carried out by four or five mining companies. The boundaries of the deposits have not been fully determined yet. The coal is contained in former estuaries and rivers which during wetter times traversed these south-east areas. One of the main seams covers approximately 300 square kilometres to a depth of 50 feet. The tributaries have not been fully investigated and the full extent of the main deposit cannot be determined as yet.

However, work carried out for the Main Roads Department by a drilling contractor has shown that coal does exist almost as far as Norseman. If the seam does continue as far as it is thought it does, there is a chance that the coal seam has a length of 100 kilometres.

This would make it extremely large, even by world standards. Even now, proven reserves of coal in my area show that we have sufficient potential in terms of energy resources to make the North-West Shelf gas supply look small. Having said that, let me point out that our coal material does have problems, as no doubt most coals do. It is low grade material of 3 500 to 4 000 BTUs, compared with 8 000 BTUs for Collie coal.

Mr T. H. Jones: Come on! Come up a bit.

Mr GREWAR: It would not be much higher than that.

Mr T. H. Jones: It is 9 000-plus.

Mr GREWAR: Well, our coal is 3 500 to 4 000 BTUs, and it is roughly equivalent to Yallourn coal in quality. The coal seams occur in saline subsoils, and this has a big influence on their salt content. Unfortunately the salts cause problems in respect of the corrosion that occurs to metals in the burning process. Hopefully modern technology will correct this problem and we will find our product is suitable for power generation. As yet no-one has carried out investigations or knows whether our coal can be liquefied into a synfuel. However, Yallourn coal can be liquefied, and it is likely our product can be as well.

I was interested to read that the cost of Collie coal is about \$20 a tonne delivered to the power house, whereas Eastern States coal costs about \$11 a tonne. On the other hand, Yallourn coal costs only \$2 a tonne. It is easy to imagine that Esperance coal would be much the same price as Yallourn coal because the ratio of overburden to coal is 1:1 as is the case at Yallourn. This means our coal could be one quarter the price of Collie coal after taking into account the different heat values.

The State Energy Commission is contemplating taking electricity to Kalgoorlie, and a

transmission line has been planned from Muja via Merredin to Kalgoorlie. I propose an alternate route via the south coast taking it down to Esperance then on to Norseman and Kambalda. My proposed route is 33 1/3 per cent longer, but it has advantages in both the short and the long term. It would bring power to the south eastern agricultural areas and perhaps eventually to the mining development at Forestania. In addition it could provide power to Norseman and Kambalda and obviate the need for oil burning power stations at Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Hopetoun, and Esperance.

Should Esperance coal prove feasible for power generation, it could easily be plugged into that system. My belief is that Collie coal should be reserved for use on the west coast. Collie has not a large deposit by world standards and my proposition would considerably reduce the demand on Collie coal for proposed power supplies in the goldfields. Certainly if Collie coal was used for the goldfields the life of the deposit would be restricted.

A small power generating facility, initially catering for Kalgoorlie, but ultimately catering for other centres in the eastern goldfields, including Yeelirrie, Teutonic Bore, and Agnew, could be built at Esperance. A small power house would employ 500 people, taking into consideration the mining operation also. A larger power house could employ 1 200 people, and this would have a dramatic effect on the population of Esperance which could ultimately increase to up to 20 000. Even on that basis the present reserves of coal would be sufficient to fire a large power station for between 100 and 200 years.

The power generation facility and the mining operation also could lead to the establishment of smelting industries and to the production of synthetic fuels. I am told that synthetic fuels could well be a requirement within 20 years. Such a project would benefit Western Australia and Australia and be of immense importance.

I have not mentioned the possibility that underneath the coal seams the shales may contain oil. Such is the case in other places, and we hope it is a possibility at Esperance. The fact that we have oil shale at Rollos near Kalgoorlie indicates that my belief could have a basis in fact.

The Esperance community and the farmers are concerned about the environmental impact of mining. However, with our current knowledge and modern technology I believe the impact could be reduced very considerably. Mining may destroy the land and the farming systems; but with the replacement of spoils after the operation farms

possibly could be regenerated with some care. In fact as the area in which the coal exists is particularly saline and the groundwater is very close to the surface, mining the area could provide an effective drainage system for it, which would lead to an improvement in the soil.

Mr T. H. Jones: What about fresh water for the power house?

Mr GREWAR: We have vast quantities of it.

Mr T. H. Jones: How vast?

Mr GREWAR: I asked a question about it today. Maybe the member for Collie can check on it for himself.

My final subject is one which, quite frankly, I am amazed has not been debated before. I refer to photo drivers' licences. A McNair-Anderson survey showed that 85 per cent of Australians favour the introduction of photo drivers' licences. The survey sample covered 2 055 people, and 70 per cent were strongly in favour, 15 per cent were slightly in favour, 5 per cent were opposed, and 10 per cent could not make up their minds about the proposition. The result was highly positive. The article I have states that the exceptional results indicate that photo licences have a strong emotional appeal.

Mr Pearce: Are you quoting the Polaroid document?

Mr GREWAR: It goes on to say that people see them as tangible examples of their distinctive individuality. They are not anonymous pieces of paper, but unique, personalised articles. In the survey 50 per cent of the people said photo licences would minimise fraud. Other people said they would provide a good form of identification at stores and banks.

Mr Pearce: Is this a paid commercial?

Mr GREWAR: It is important that country people have a means of identification when they come to the city. The 5 per cent of people who opposed photo drivers' licences gave reasons such as it is an invasion of privacy, is not worth the trouble, and is too costly. Some people gave the reason that they would not be able to borrow someone else's licence. It is important to note that 19 per cent of people aged 18 to 24 gave that as an answer. That may suggest the borrowing of drivers' licences is a common practice.

Photo drivers' licences are a positive means of identification and are impossible to fake. The system has been adopted and found most suitable in 44 States in America. A spokesman in the United States said photo licences have dramatically reduced the number of drivers using counterfeit and borrowed licences. He said the

reduction was up to 60 per cent. They would be of advantage also to publicans in respect of ascertaining whether people are of the age of 18 years. I hope the Minister will consider this concept and initiate actions to implement the introduction of photo licences.

I support the motion.

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

Continued on page 737.

AIR TRANSPORT

Commonwealth Government Policy: Standing Orders Suspension

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [5.00 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of Standing Orders as are necessary be suspended to enable a motion dealing with air fares and the Holcroft Report to be dealt with before the completion of the Address-in-Reply debate.

It may be that the Address-in-Reply debate will be completed before we are able to debate this question tomorrow. The matter to which I referred in my motion to suspend Standing Orders is the motion of which I gave notice this afternoon. There are copies of that motion available for members, but most certainly it will be printed on the notice paper tomorrow.

That motion relates to the fact that decisions are being made in Canberra at present which will affect widely all air fares in Australia, but particularly it will have a deleterious effect on air fares to and from Western Australia. I believe that what this Parliament thinks about what has taken place within Australia, and particularly within the Federal Parliament during the last several weeks, should be made known forcibly and as quickly as possible to the authorities in Canberra. That is why I am taking this action and asking that this motion be debated before the Address-in-Reply is concluded.

We have to register our concern at what has happened. We have to register our absolute disgust at the offhand manner in which not only the Federal parliamentarians but also the people of Western Australia have been treated by the Federal Government. We have to act quickly, and we have to act positively. As the Premier said last week, when we were dealing with another motion, this is one method of conveying to the authorities what we think of the actions they have taken.

I acknowledged that the State Government has taken action to express its concern and its disgust. I acknowledge that the Confederation of Western Australian Industry, and other organisations

including the Opposition, have each represented their opinions to Canberra; and in each case those opinions have indicated that we are most unhappy at what has gone on.

We have to tell the authorities in Canberra that we are completely dissatisfied with the cuts in air fares that have been made. I want to head off any irrelevant debate. I can see that the whole question is developing into a debate on deregulation, and other associated matters. The question of the cost of air fares will be ignored completely.

The two-airline agreement will go before the Federal Parliament before very long. We should make our feelings felt on that matter. The Federal Government should know our view. The Federal members should know our view; and I mean not only the Federal members from this State, but all Federal members should know what we think of the situation before the legislation is considered.

We have no control over the legislative programme in the Federal House. I do not know whether the Premier has had any discussions with the Prime Minister as to the likely programme for this legislation; but in the absence of any information, I can think only that it is a matter of urgency because it affects so many people in Western Australia.

We need to know urgently the composition and powers of the independent tribunal which has been set up to make decisions on air fare charges and policies. I know the Government has expressed a need for this information, also as a matter of urgency.

On 3 April this year, in a Press release, the Minister for Transport said that he was seeking information from Canberra about the structuring of air fares; and he wanted that information by last week. Because of the secrecy that has surrounded the Government machinations on the fares, I doubt very much whether the Minister has received that information. I doubt that his request has been acknowledged. It may have been acknowledged; but it would not have been acceded to. Therefore, we have to tell the Federal Government that we state quite unequivocally that this matter is of the greatest and gravest concern to the people of this State. The fact that the Minister has not received the information he requested does not mean that we do not need the information.

We have to register our massive concern at the "con job" which has been perpetrated on the people of Western Australia, and indeed on the Parliament of Australia, by the Government's turning the question into a number of side issues.

As I said, it looks like developing into a debate on deregulation and other matters, to the exclusion of the question of air fares.

I do not want to develop the motion much further, because I know that on both sides of the House there is a great deal of unanimity, and certainly a great deal of understanding. I could not criticise the stand that the State Government has taken. That is why we have to join together to advise the Federal Government exactly what we feel about the situation.

There seems to be a propensity for introducing side issues. That is not unknown in the political world; but these side issues could have a great effect on the people of Western Australia.

There is a proposal to hold an inquiry into deregulation. Goodness knows why we want another inquiry! We have had two inquiries into air transport in the past four years. There was the Domestic Air Transport Policy Review Committee, which sat in 1976 and continued for a number of years. There was the Holcroft inquiry; and we all know that the work of that inquiry was aborted. That was a matter for great regret because at least that inquiry had the initiative and the scope to do a good job as far as the people of Western Australia were concerned.

Although the Holcroft inquiry was aborted, it still brought down some very excellent recommendations which have met with general agreement on both sides of the House. We have already had two inquiries in something like four years; and if we are to have an inquiry into deregulation, the lead time for which will be something like five years, it is hardly likely that such an inquiry would be completed in five years. So that would put the question of air fares effectively under wraps for at least two Federal elections.

I do not know what could happen in those five years; but I have to admit I was surprised that the Prime Minister agreed to an inquiry into deregulation. On consideration, it is fairly easy to realise that he did it because it has taken the heat off the question concerning us most—the question of air fares.

We should indicate to the Federal Parliament that we are not gullible enough to fall for the political acrobatics of the Federal Ministers. Although this matter could have been brought on by way of motion perhaps next Wednesday, it is urgent enough, even acknowledging and appreciating what the Government has done, for us to stop whatever we are doing and to arrive at some kind of consensus within this Parliament.

Yesterday the National Party moved to suspend Standing Orders to deal with the question

as a matter of urgency. I have to admit that the National Party took the initiative from me. As a result of a party meeting yesterday afternoon, I had decided on the action we were going to take. Unfortunately I was held up with a delegation of visiting Japanese young people; and I was not able to complete the formalities necessary to present the matter to this House.

I thought that the way we were going to do it was a better way; but I was pleased to go along with the National Party yesterday. As members know, the Opposition voted for the suspension on that occasion. However, we were unable to conclude our deliberations then because of the way the vote went. However, I have proceeded to do what I was anticipating doing. I am seeking the suspension of Standing Orders so that we can deal with this as a matter of urgency, so we can advise the Federal Parliament quite clearly that we are sick of the acrobatics of the Federal Ministers.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.10 p.m.]: I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that the Government has no objection to the present motion, for a number of reasons. We have made fairly good progress with the Address-in-Reply, and we should have no problems in dealing with it comfortably within the first half of the present session. Therefore, I felt no good purpose could be served in letting this matter run on when it could be debated on the basis worked out by the Deputy Premier with either the Leader of the Opposition or his representative.

The understanding given to me by the Deputy Premier before he went to an urgent meeting in Canberra was that there would be three speakers for 20 minutes each from each side, if that was the wish of each side. If the Opposition or the Government does not want to use its time, that is its business. That agreement meant that there would not be an undue inroad into the time that was normally available for the Address-in-Reply and the other business of the House.

In agreeing to the suspension of Standing Orders, I should indicate to the House that the understanding with the Leader of the Opposition is that the motion will be debated tomorrow. It might be appropriate to bring it on straight after the luncheon suspension; and that should fit in reasonably comfortably with the time available.

I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that the fact we are agreeing to the suspension does not necessarily mean that we are agreeing to the motion in its present form. Quite frankly, I have not had a chance to read the

motion, although the Leader of the Opposition gave notice of it today.

It has been acknowledged by the Opposition and others that the Government had been very active on this issue. It has been going on now for a long time. It is not even a matter of months. It is almost a matter of years. We have always been very disgruntled with the present arrangement. It has been very inequitable.

I have raised the matter at Premiers' Conferences; and I have raised the matter privately with the Prime Minister. I have beseeched him, because of the high fares, to tell his Ministers and, through his Ministers, his officers to convene fewer Federal conferences. The Federal Government convenes conferences at the drop of a hanky. Ministers from other States can have breakfast at home and be in Canberra or one of the eastern capitals at 9.00 or 10.00 o'clock. They can then conclude their business in the mid-afternoon or the late afternoon, and still be home for dinner. I become very upset that it is the Western Australians who live the furthest away who usually arrive first because they generally have to arrive the night before.

That means that not only is there the extra cost of flying, but also there is the extra cost of accommodation. I always find that it is the Eastern Staters who are becoming "toey" at about 3.00 o'clock because they are booked on planes at 4.00 o'clock and they want to "get home to Mum". We generally find that we have to stay overnight because we cannot take a plane home on the night of the conference. There have been times when I have said at a Premiers' Conference, "What are we in a hurry for? We can finish the proceedings by working tonight." It is amazing how quickly the agenda is cleaned up so that people can catch planes; and I do not like matters to be dealt with in that way.

I have been trying over the years to remonstrate with the Federal Ministers and, through the Prime Minister, with their officers, about this question of cost. They are always screaming blue murder about the way the States are not keeping their costs down; and yet they insist on convening endless conferences. Sometimes one wonders why they did not hold the conference by telephone or by telex.

It is acknowledged that the Government has been very active on the issue. The Minister for Transport has done a tremendous lot of work; and there has been a lot of very good work by his officers. Not only has the Minister been working in connection with submissions to inquiries, but also he has made personal representations to the

airlines and to the Federal Ministers. Therefore, the Government's views and activities are very well known; the effectiveness of its activities is very well known.

In my opinion the Commonwealth could have saved itself a lot of this trouble had it handled the situation more boldly. It has gone about the matter back to front. The information we have been given is that it struck the present level of reductions on the long haul fares on the basis that there would be a review, I think, in July. I argued that it should have gone about the reduction in fares the other way round. It should have pitched in with something more in line with what we thought we were entitled to have and after it had time to review the situation, if it found that the reduction was too great and it could prove this, the fares could be adjusted the other way. I have to be blunt about this although I might sound a little cynical, but it would be an extraordinary and most unusual experience if, come July after the Commonwealth has had time to review the matter, it doubles or trebles the reduction we have already received. On the contrary, it is more likely to find reasons in its eyes that we are not being treated badly after all.

The argument can be made that the reductions are much greater than we think they are, because when we consider them we have to allow for the fact that there is an overall increase which must be reflected in the total fare structure. We have to share our part in the reductions, after considering the overall increase made.

We are not happy with the reductions we have received and we have made our position quite clear to the Prime Minister, the Federal Minister for Transport, and the public. Therefore, the motion does not really have all the urgency attached to it that might be indicated, because everyone knows what we think about the situation—certainly all those people on this side of the continent. In the main we have been supported by all the Federal members of the Commonwealth Parliament representing Western Australia. The Government supports the motion.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [5.18 p.m.]: Of course, we in the National Party support this motion. We moved a motion such as this yesterday, but without success. I hope when the time comes to debate the motion you, Mr Speaker, will allow not only three members from the Opposition and Government parties to speak but also a representative of the National Party, because we do sit on the cross benches. On a previous occasion you have allowed us to express our point of view in similar circumstances.

We were very surprised the Government did not accept the opportunity yesterday to debate this issue. Quite naturally, everyone is aware that the Government has been working quite hard to ensure the Federal Government is made well aware of this State's attitude towards internal air fares. We assumed the Government would have leapt at the opportunity to have the Parliament reinforce its feelings and actions, which was certainly the case with the jarrah class action. Last week the Government's actions and intentions were made very clear. On that occasion the Government thought it was a matter of urgency and that the Parliament should reinforce the Government's views. I see no reason at all that the Government should not have done the same thing yesterday when presented with the opportunity to do so by the National Party.

There is one point I should mention in relation to the motion moved yesterday by my colleague, the member for Stirling. I was rather disgusted to discover that the Premier found that it was more important yesterday to speak to the Press on this issue than to give an explanation to the House why he, as the Leader of the Government, was not prepared to accept a motion moved without notice. Once again we see an example of the Premier's attitude to Parliament and the Government domination of the Parliament. I was disappointed when I read in page 13 of this morning's edition of *The West Australian*, that the reason the Premier rejected our motion was that no notice had been given.

The Premier would be well aware that we cannot give notice of a motion without notice. We can certainly warn the Premier that it may be coming forward, but that would be no warning to the House and in fact there is no requirement that the House be warned. I am disappointed that the Premier did not extend the courtesy to the House of explaining why he would not accept the motion without notice and yet be able to see fit to talk to the Press and explain his reasons. I think the reaction resulting from the motion without notice moved yesterday by the National Party is perhaps the greatest reason that this present motion is before the House.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [5.21 p.m.]: I thank the Premier and the Leader of the National Party for their support of the motion. Let me clear up the question of speaking time. Firstly, I did not speak with the Deputy Premier at any time about speaking times. Unfortunately he is not here to deny that statement, but I can assure the Premier that if he were here he would agree with what I have said. Usually when a motion is before the House that

the House do now adjourn, that is the time when the Premier suggests that two or three speakers from each side can speak for no more than 20 minutes on the motion before the House. As with the arrangements for the motion similar to this which was debated in this House last week, there was no agreement made on speaking times. I feel we can quickly get a motion acceptable to the entire House and perhaps we can have just one speaker from each side. Perhaps this would overcome the difficulty. We may not need to have three speakers with 20 minutes each. I want the House to understand that if we do need additional speakers tomorrow, I have not reneged on any agreement.

Sir Charles Court: The Deputy Premier was quite emphatic about this matter last night; he said that was the arrangement. I indicated if that was the case he could tell the Opposition the motion could go ahead and we could debate it at whatever time was convenient, which I think was to be some time on Thursday.

Mr DAVIES: I regret that the Deputy Premier is not here because he certainly did not make any arrangement with me and I do not think he made any arrangement with any of my colleagues. He may have misunderstood the procedures inasmuch as he was thinking of a motion that the House do now adjourn rather than the procedure we are following now. It is not a matter of great importance as I am sure we can find common ground.

Sir Charles Court: I will be speaking with him tonight, so I can clarify the situation with him.

Mr DAVIES: He will be able to assure the Premier that he did not make any such arrangement with me. I thank the Premier for his support of the motion.

The SPEAKER: Before I put the question I indicate that it comes as something of a surprise that there was a suggestion of an arrangement between the two sides of the House as to how the motion would be dealt with. We have before us a substantive motion which is to be moved under the Standing Orders. The mover of such a motion has unlimited time, the principal spokesman for the other side has unlimited time, and all other speakers have 45 minutes. I have no authority to deny anyone the right to speak unless the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders or some other motion dictates that Standing Orders are not to be followed. If there is an arrangement it is something the House will have to control because I have no authority other than to give unlimited time to the principal spokesmen and 45 minutes to

other speakers. All members are entitled to speak unless someone successfully moves the gag.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR NANOVIICH (Whitford) [5.25 p.m.]: I extend my sincere congratulations to the Governor on his first opening of Parliament. I am very happy with the selection of Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge. I am sure both he and his wife will be well accepted by the public of Western Australia. I wish them both well.

The Address-in-Reply is a very funny type of debate.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

MR NANOVIICH: I do not refer to the Governor's Speech because that is of tremendous benefit to Parliament; I refer to the speeches that follow it. I want to make it quite clear that what I am about to say is not a personal attack on the person concerned; however, I do have some criticism of the Leader of the Opposition. A check of *Hansard* will reveal that his speech covered 14 pages. He read most of his speech and I thought his contribution might have been a little more effective than it was. Instead, he set about the task of attacking the Premier on a personal and discriminatory basis in every direction.

Several members interjected.

MR NANOVIICH: The Leader of the Opposition attempted to embarrass the Governor; he tried to denigrate the system and all that the Governor stands for. He denigrated the opening of Parliament and insulted those who were effective in organising all that occurred on the day.

MR DAVIES: We cannot afford it.

MR NANOVIICH: He said that the RTA had better things to do on the roads, where he felt its members should have been. He even criticised the fish balls, which shows how far down the ladder he went. It seems it is quite okay for the Leader of the Opposition to espouse the idea that when he talks on the steps of Parliament with his union fellows and representatives of other organisations who come to demonstrate and to hold rallies it is acceptable that members of the Police Force and RTA should be in attendance to see that law and order is maintained.

MR PEARCE: It is a Government requirement.

Several members interjected.

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

MR NANOVIICH: The Government is faced with a number of difficult situations, but it has the policies, the leadership, and the capabilities to see that those policies are carried out in the best interests of the people of Western Australia.

Whilst there is nothing wrong with criticism if it is constructive, I believe the Leader of the Opposition should have offered alternatives to the mistakes he claims this Government is making. After going through those 14 pages of his speech I did not find one instance of his offering an alternative course of action which would remedy the so-called mistakes made by the Government.

I congratulate the member for Clontarf for moving the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and for the remarks he made during his speech.

Opposition members interjected.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The House will come to order!

MR NANOVIICH: I repeat that I congratulate the member for Clontarf for the comments he made during his speech. I draw the attention of the House to his concluding remarks. He said—

...this State is set to enjoy a sound development programme of greater magnitude than at any time before and including the exciting 1960s. It will take all sections of the community, all sections of the labour movement, and all sections of industry to make this a reality. The gavel is in our hands. With good management and strong Government, and above all, common sense, this goal will be achieved.

Opposition members interjected.

MR NANOVIICH: They are the four or five points he raised at the conclusion of the speech. They are points vital to this State and the rest of Australia because I believe we are on the threshold of a tremendous development programme.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The member will resume his seat. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. If I chose to I could tune in to something like five conversations, a situation which is totally unacceptable.

MR HARMAN: They might make better sense.

MR NANOVIICH: To ensure that the goals which the member outlined in his speech are achieved, the State and Federal Governments must bring in stronger laws to control some of the deliberate attempts to destroy the system—the democratic system—that we in Australia have enjoyed for many years.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NANOVIH: Stronger legislation should be brought forward in an endeavour to stop the damaging effect those attempts are having on our economy. I draw the attention of the House to an article in *The West Australian* of 6 April this year. The headline states "Softer Line Move Fails" and the article states—

The ALP in WA has rejected moves within the party for a softer line on Labor's socialist policies.

Mr Pearce: The ABC said softer lines have been implemented. I would not believe the newspaper.

Mr NANOVIH: Members of the Labor Party, particularly Mr Kim Beazley, claim that the Labor Party will lose support within the community if it does not soften its ways.

Mr Parker: You are talking about another issue entirely.

Mr NANOVIH: The article states that Mr Latter had something to do with the recommendation—

Point of Order

Mr BRYCE: I raise a point of order. Mr Speaker, would you accept a request from me—to demonstrate the palpable mistruth that is being perpetrated by the member for Whitford—that the article from which the member is quoting be incorporated in his speech? I am not asking that it be tabled but that it be incorporated in his speech.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The only person who has the authority to request material be incorporated in a speech is the person in fact delivering that speech. It is within the prerogative of a member to ask that any document from which a member quotes be laid on the Table of the House. I cannot accede to the request of the member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: I would like at this point to make a further request, Sir, so that members of this Legislative Assembly can see the extent to which this point is being totally and wilfully distorted. I ask that the document from which the member is quoting be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER: At the conclusion of the speech by the member for Whitford I will ask that member to lay the paper from which he is quoting and, probably, will continue to quote, on the Table of the House.

Mr Pearce: Ask for the incorporation yourself.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gosnells will desist from interjecting. I call the member for Whitford.

Debate Resumed

Mr NANOVIH: I will adhere to the Speaker's request. I respect this institution and its Speaker. I am prepared at any time to show this document to members opposite. What is on it is what was printed by the newspaper.

Mr Bertram: You are misleading the people.

Mr NANOVIH: I am not misleading the people.

Mr Bryce: You are misleading this House.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order! I ask the member for Whitford not to answer interjections and to deliver his speech to me.

Mr NANOVIH: I do not think I received a fair go from the other side of the House. I am willing to table this paper.

Mr Pearce: Put it in *Hansard*.

Mr NANOVIH: What I have stated is on the document I have.

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! There has been a continual barrage of interjections from one particular quarter. If that continues I will take some action.

Mr NANOVIH: So much for that point.

Mr T. H. Jones: Nothing in it.

Mr NANOVIH: I can see the dangers lurking before us in our attempts to achieve the solid future to which the member for Clontarf referred in his speech and which the Premier has advocated time and time again. I think that solid future outlined by the Premier and the member for Clontarf is what this State needs.

Mr Harman: More foreign ownership!

Mr NANOVIH: The benefits of a sound development programme will benefit the community in general. I support the Premier wholeheartedly when he uses such words. He has been so right.

Mr Harman: He wants to bring the multinationals in.

Mr NANOVIH: It was quite all right for the member for Morley to rise in this place and criticise the Liberal philosophy and make derogatory remarks about the Premier. All the Opposition members were clapping their hands. I

now ask them to give me a little bit of peace and quiet.

Mr Pearce: You gave the member for Morley no peace at all.

Mr NANOVIK: This is the place to put forward a member's view—

Mr Pearce interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Gosnells I will name him if he continues to interject.

Mr NANOVIK: I draw the attention of the House to the little ALP booklet which I have in front of me. It reads "Anyone can join the ALP".

Mr Bertram: Anyone can.

Mr NANOVIK: At the bottom of the second last page there is a membership form. It states—

I hereby make application to become a member of the Australian Labor Party, and in doing so I accept the pledge of the ALP as appended hereto.

The booklet tells the reader what the pledge is all about.

Mr Parker: We have not had the pledge for about six years. We abolished it in, I think, 1972.

Mr NANOVIK: The Labor Party believes in it so strongly when someone tries to—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr NANOVIK: They believe in it so strongly, but when someone tries to bring that to their attention they make out they are not part of it.

Mr Parker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order! I ask the member for Fremantle to desist from interjecting.

Mr NANOVIK: I would like to say—

Mr McIver: Don't you talk about the Labor Party. You take people like Martyr and anybody else off the street.

Mr NANOVIK: I have not started on the member for Avon.

Mr McIver interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr NANOVIK: I did not know it irritated the member for Avon so much.

Mr McIver: It doesn't irritate. You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr Bateman: Bring yourself up to date with ALP policy.

Mr NANOVIK: The booklet put out by the ALP—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr McIver: You get it from the gutter!

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Avon and the member for Canning to desist from interjecting.

Mr McIver: It is very difficult, Mr Speaker.

Mr NANOVIK: I accept it is quite difficult for the member for Avon.

Mr B. T. Burke: Why did you hand out cards for Harry Webb? You handed out cards for Harry Webb! Your father would turn over in his grave.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the interjections continue there is absolutely no doubt I will take some action. I do not want to do that. The member for Whitford is a person who generally attracts some attention from the other side; however, it is totally unacceptable to have his speech continually punctuated by interjections, and that applies to a speech by any member of this House. I ask members to give the member for Whitford the opportunity to continue his speech without interjections.

Mr Bateman interjected.

Mr NANOVIK: The matter to which I will refer now was generated after a meeting on 30 September 1974.

Mr Bryce interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NANOVIK: This was at the time when the Government introduced the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Bill into this place.

Mr Bertram: We all know about that.

Mr NANOVIK: The Opposition very quickly organised little pressure meetings throughout the communities of Western Australia in an endeavour to attack the Government.

Mr Tonkin: It is called the democratic process.

Mr NANOVIK: The Opposition said it wanted to inform the people about the Bill, and it acted fairly quickly. I will quote to the House what occurred at a meeting in the Balga area. One of the people present—

Point of Order

Mr PEARCE: I have made a rough guess at the type of quotation we are about to hear and I ask that the document be tabled.

The SPEAKER: I am unaware the member was quoting from a document.

Mr NANOVICH: I was about to quote.

The SPEAKER: The request has been made that the document the member for Whitford was about to quote be tabled. I ask him to do that at the end of his speech.

Mr NANOVICH: Yes.

Debate Resumed

Mr NANOVICH: One of the people at the meeting rigged by the Opposition was a person by the name of Frank Bastow—

Mr T. H. Jones: Who was he then?

Mr NANOVICH: He was the secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union. He made his attitude very clear as to whether he considered his union should stand above the law as it applies to every citizen. It was his very emphatic reply that his union should.

Mr Parker: Who wrote that letter?

Mr NANOVICH: I will not quote from the rest of the letter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NANOVICH: It said how lopsided and undemocratic the meeting was.

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Point of Order

Mr DAVIES: I raise a point of order. I wonder whether the member is able to guarantee the accuracy of these Press reports. Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to rulings of previous Speakers to the effect that it is the responsibility of all members to check the accuracy of reports from newspapers when they quote them. At page 474 of *Hansard* on Thursday, 27 August 1970, the then Speaker said—

Before you go any further. You have read a newspaper report of what is supposed to be an official report. I trust you have verified that it is a correct and factual account of the official report. That is your responsibility.

Mr Young: That is the end of the Opposition.

Mr DAVIES: On page 3186 of *Hansard* of Wednesday, 15 April 1970 the Speaker said—

The honourable member is under an obligation to check that the report which he quotes is accurate. If he has not done so he cannot quote the report of a meeting at which he was not present.

As I believe the member for Whitford was not present at the Australian Labor Party Conference at the weekend, is he able to vouch for the authenticity of the Press report? I was at the conference for some of the time, and I would have a better chance of knowing whether it was correct or not, and I say that the Press report is incorrect.

Mr Young: But you blokes cannot even verify what you say, let alone what you quote.

Mr B. T. Burke: I did not do a bad job. I thought it was pretty reasonable.

The SPEAKER: As it is now time to take the questions, I suggest to the member for Whitford that he should seek leave to continue his speech after the tea suspension. In the meantime I will study the matter, and when this debate continues I will give a ruling on the point of order.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr NANOVICH: I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at a later stage of the sitting.

Motion put and passed.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Point of Order: Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: I would like to deal with the point of order mentioned earlier by the Leader of the Opposition and I thank him for raising this very important matter.

I remind the House of the two statements made by Speaker Guthrie on 15 April and 27 August 1970. They were referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, and perhaps could be summarised by saying that a member quoting from a newspaper is responsible for the accuracy of the extract.

That attitude taken by Speaker Guthrie is, as has been stated, based on usage in this House and House of Commons practice. It is not a matter provided for in Standing Orders.

The usage in this House is quite clear and is well established. Reference to articles in newspapers is very common and brief quotations are permitted. However, the overall rule is that a member makes his own speech and, in doing so, is completely responsible for everything he says.

Reference to May's *Parliamentary Practice* reveals, in the chapter dealing with the privilege of the freedom of speech, a quotation from Anson's *Parliament*, volume 1, which reads as follows—

Restraint on Speech in Parliament.—“Speech and action in Parliament may thus be said to be unquestioned and free. But this freedom from external influence or interference does not involve any unrestrained licence of speech within the walls of the House”

May goes on to say—

The cases in which Members have been called to account and punished by the House for offensive words spoken before the House are too numerous to mention.

I feel it important to emphasise this second side to the privilege of the freedom of speech; namely, the vital responsibility never wilfully to mislead the House.

I decline to rule against the member for Whitford making reference to a newspaper cutting, but I emphasise that its accuracy is the member's responsibility and that the House is always able to exercise its own discipline if it finds that it has been misled.

Points of Order

Mr H. D. EVANS: In that case, as you, Sir, have pointed out quite rightly, you are consistent with your predecessor's ruling that the onus of veracity rests with the member for Whitford. Therefore, could he be called upon now to indicate whether he has ascertained, as the Leader of the Opposition required originally, that the report from which he quoted is in fact truthful and factual? That was the whole crux of the original point of order.

The SPEAKER: It is not my intention to make that request of the member for Whitford and I point out that almost without exception members of this House from time to time quote from newspaper articles. Indeed, one member who served in this House during the time I have been here would not have made a speech, had he been denied the right to quote from newspaper articles.

Therefore, the practice is clear, but, as is the case with any part of the member's speech, the member is responsible for what he says.

I do not intend to sit here and require a member to announce that he accepts responsibility for what he says, either when he quotes from something or when he is speaking on

his own behalf, because that, in my view, is not my role.

If the House believes it has been misled either because a member has quoted an article which is inaccurate or has said something which is inaccurate, then the House has the opportunity to take action against the member.

Mr H. D. EVANS: On a further point of order, I should like briefly to clarify the situation. If, as the Leader of the Opposition maintained, the member for Whitford was not factual in the way in which he delivered his account of a newspaper report and if he had distorted it, redress could be taken by means of a formal motion; or would it be possible to ask the member for Whitford by way of interjection whether he had indeed troubled himself to find out whether the material he was quoting was true?

The SPEAKER: The remedy is for a motion to be moved to establish that in fact the member has misled the House. That, in my view, is the only way the House can determine whether it has been misled.

It would be quite inappropriate for a member of the House by way of interjection to call upon a person addressing the House to announce the material being referred to was factual.

We must assume that, as we are all responsible people and are abiding by the principles and practices of the House, we make our speeches in accordance with the customs and standards which have been laid down and one of those customs is that it is incumbent upon us to accept responsibility for that which is said.

If the member disputes the accuracy of something another has said, then the remedy is for that member who takes offence to move a substantive motion and have the House decide whether or not it has been misled.

Mr CLARKO: I think the point you, Sir, have raised is a most important one. You referred to the fact that Speaker Guthrie had said it was the responsibility of the speaker to determine whether or not a matter was true.

Mr Pearce: Is this a point of order or a speech?

Mr CLARKO: It is a point of order. The member for Warren posed the question that the member for Whitford should determine whether what he said was the truth. The quintessence of what Speaker Guthrie said was that it was the responsibility of the member to determine that the document from which he quoted was in fact correct.

Mr Pearce: What is the point of order?

Mr CLARKO: I ask the member for Gosnells to keep quiet. I am speaking and it has nothing to do with him.

Mr Pearce: What is your point of order?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat and I say to the member for Gosnells he should desist from interjecting. It is hard enough for me to concentrate as it is without having to listen to interjections as well.

Mr CLARKO: As I said, it appears Speaker Guthrie's ruling was that it is incumbent on the speaker to determine the accuracy and truth of the document from which he quotes.

The SPEAKER: Could I just ascertain your meaning there? You said that it is the speaker's responsibility; do you mean it is the responsibility of the person who is addressing the House rather than the Speaker?

Mr CLARKO: I meant the speaker with a small "s".

I put it to you, Sir, that that is a totally impossible situation. A member cannot ascertain the truth of all documents to which he refers. I could have the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in front of me and could make a statement which I had taken from it. In all common sense, that statement would be regarded as being made on rather good authority. However, I cannot be certain that what is said in the encyclopaedia about redback spiders is the truth, because I do not know anything about them. We get into an impossible situation—

Mr B. T. Burke: The member for Whitford has not mentioned redback spiders.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The next member who interjects while I am listening to this point of order shall be named.

Mr CLARKO: It is obvious that members of this House and of all Parliaments in the world refer to reports of committees which have been set up to inquire into various matters. How can a member who refers to what is printed in a report know that it is in fact correct? If he tried to establish that, he would never have enough time to be present in the House.

I put it to you, Sir, that you must be very careful about establishing any sort of firm ruling to the effect that all members who refer to documents in this House must know without any question of doubt that what was quoted in the document was the unadulterated truth.

The SPEAKER: I am not establishing the particular practice. It was established by Speaker Guthrie and I am simply reiterating that which

was said. Indeed, if we care to analyse it very closely, we can see mine is a more liberal interpretation of what was said.

Mr Pearce: It depends on which interpretation of "liberal" you use.

The SPEAKER: I am referring to small "l" liberal. My interpretation is more liberal than Speaker Guthrie's stand on the matter. I think it would be inappropriate for it to be made more difficult for members to quote from newspapers or other documents. The debates in this place and the Parliament function much better if people can relate to the House matters that are reported in the newspapers.

A member has the sombre responsibility to the House, to ensure that he does not wilfully mislead the House. That is the situation as I see it and I do not think it would be possible for me to rule in any other way.

Debate Resumed

MR NANOVICH (Whitford) [7.46 p.m.]: In the light of the Speaker's ruling, I will proceed to my next item—

Mr Pearce: What about telling us the truth on the last item?

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. Before this debate continues, I wish to say to members of the House that it is not my intention to allow the member for Whitford, or any other member, to be subjected to a continual barrage of interjections. In my opinion, the passage of the debate before the tea suspension was quite disgraceful; there were too many interjections and the member for Whitford was subjected to a great deal of unnecessary obstruction while he was attempting to make his speech.

I say to the member for Whitford, and I remind all other members of the House, that his remarks should be addressed to the Chair and he should not become involved in an exchange with other members.

If the member who has the call engages in a cross-fire with members who are interjecting, then he will only make it more difficult for order to be retained. Having said that, I wish to give the warning that if the interjections continue at the same level as they were prior to the tea suspension, I will take action.

Mr NANOVICH: Prior to my seeking leave to continue my speech I was endeavouring to outline, as it is my entitlement to do, my thoughts and express my concern about what lies ahead for us in our endeavours to promote programmes which will benefit our State most generously.

I regret the fact that some of the points I have raised were called into question by some members; there are groups which are endeavouring to break up the support for these projects. Because I made the point of referring to several quotations, some members on the opposite side of the House were offended. However, that does not concern me at all.

I was in the Eastern States at the time of the Qantas strike and a series of events which involved the unions concerned me greatly. The actions of unions in this State are only mild at the present time but the situation could become just as bad in the near future.

It was terrible to see members of other unions poking their noses into the affairs of Qantas and its employees. We all know how unions stick together like glue and try to destroy the concept of a fair and decent means of settling a dispute.

I quote from an article in *The Sun* on Tuesday 17 February under the heading "Qantas strike out until Friday" as follows—

5 000 Qantas employees today voted unanimously to stay on strike.

Mr Pearce: I hope the member is not urging that there is any accuracy in that quotation. I ask that it be tabled at the end of his speech.

The SPEAKER: Will the member table the quote at the end of his speech?

Mr NANOVIK: I will adhere to your request, Mr Speaker.

I know the statement in that newspaper is not a fact because I spoke with some people who were employed by Qantas. In fact, four people of the same family were employed by Qantas and their wages combined were approximately \$1 000. Those people had to go without their pay for three weeks and had to borrow money to survive.

As a result of the strike people were stranded all over Australia and in places overseas. People had to sleep on floors and sofas at airports. Qantas had to fly in fuel, using other aircraft, in order to refuel their planes which were standing on the tarmacs.

Mr Bateman: Communists! Communist pilots and hostesses.

Several members interjected.

Mr Bateman: Have a brain, you dope.

The SPEAKER: I say to the member for Canning that at the outset of the continuation of this Address-in-Reply debate, I said I would take action if there were a continuation of the barrage

of interjections that were in evidence prior to the tea suspension.

Mr NANOVIK: I have mentioned the disastrous situations in which people were left in airports in Australia and in other parts of the world.

Why should oil company employed refuellers make demands and seek assurances from Qantas that staff labour would not be used to do the refuellers' work during industrial disputes? It had nothing to do with them but their big "bods" were there trying to destroy the system. The unionists said they were fighting for their democratic rights but I can see nothing democratic about their actions which inconvenienced so many people.

Mr Bateman: Those Communist hostesses!

Mr NANOVIK: The funds people contribute to unions are being channelled overseas. That is how large the cancer has become and it concerns me greatly because it is a socialist attitude which has crept into Australia. Their aim is to destroy the system. I wish to make my point by quoting a statement made by a Mr Ethell on 18 February 1981. Mr Ethell made this statement when referring to the Australian Teachers' Federation. I understand that federation is one of the most leftist and militant groups in Australia. That group promised to raise aid to the tune of \$15 000 to be sent to a Chilean organisation.

Mr B. T. Burke: Austcare does that too.

Mr NANOVIK: It was reported that the federation was attempting to raise that money to send to the organisation in Chile. We all know there was a leftist Government in Chile previously but it is not the case now.

Mr Jamieson: What happened?

Mr NANOVIK: In this report I wish to quote it stated—

Two members of the New South Wales executive were in Chile recently. Since returning, they have induced the NSW Teachers' Federation to make an initial donation of \$2 000 and promise to round up another \$5 000.

Teachers have every right to refuse to contribute to funds if they suspect they could be used for subversive purposes in another country.

Union funds all over Australia are being drained off for these purposes.

It does not finish there because these organisations are aiming to destroy the democracy.

Mr Harman: Who said that?

Mr NANOVIK: I am telling the member that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Harman: I am trying to get some information.

Mr NANOVIK: What concerns me is that there are many people who do not know what is happening behind the curtain.

Mr Bateman: What curtain?

Mr NANOVIK: Let us get the facts and realise what is happening.

Mr B. T. Burke: You sound like a poor man's Joe McCarthy.

Mr NANOVIK: The member for Balcatta is fond of interjecting and denigrating people. The member should let me get on with my speech.

When some members work during a strike they are referred to as scabs.

One editorial in a newspaper asked who the scabs were: The workers or the strikers? Only last week we had a situation where men were sacked for refusing to work at a Perth meatworks. Those people refused to work with non-unionists. I ask: Why should not someone, who does not belong to a union, be able to work with someone who is a member of a union? It is a free country.

Mr B. T. Burke: They were dismissed.

Mr NANOVIK: The union was seeking reinstatement of the sacked workers and an assurance that they would not be required to work beside non-unionists. That was disgraceful.

The SPEAKER: I ask the member to tell us the source of the quotes he made previously. It was obvious they were quotes from a newspaper.

Mr NANOVIK: I apologise, Sir. The quote was from the *St. George and Sutherland Shire Leader* of 18 February 1981 and the article which referred to the men being sacked for work refusal was in *The West Australian* of 1 April 1981. I apologise for that.

Mr Harman: What about the editorial before that one?

Mr NANOVIK: I will give that to *Hansard* later; it was from a leader in the Press on Wednesday 25 February 1981.

Mr Harman: From which newspaper?

Mr NANOVIK: A New South Wales paper.

I know members opposite will howl me down in respect of political representation in local government, but they might as well get that right out of their heads. Members of the ALP are trying to get into local government. They are trying to make their wheel a little larger and to

make local government part of their propaganda machine. They want to use local government as a means of pushing their views rather than representing ratepayers. They would use local government as a means to carry out the duties and instructions of the Labor Party.

I had a good look around Sydney and I found many of the local authorities there admit that party politics are involved.

Mr Bryce: They admit it, but you blokes don't.

Mr NANOVIK: Alderman and councillors have their party affiliation published after their names in the Press. They are quoted as "Liberal", "Labor" or "Independent".

Mr B. T. Burke: Keep politics out of Parliament.

Mr NANOVIK: Members of the ALP are trying to do the same here. They have destroyed the fundamentals of local government in New South Wales, and now they want to start here. The Marrickville council is a glaring example of what has occurred in New South Wales. It was destroyed by party politics. Now that the Labor Party has destroyed local government in the east it is going to try to do the same here.

Mr B. T. Burke: Wanneroo was lucky; you have to admit that.

Mr Young: Yes, while he was the president.

Mr NANOVIK: The most glaring recent example was the sacking of the Melbourne City Council. One of the reasons given in the Minister's speech was that a sum of \$65 000 was spent by the council on a media campaign against the Government. Many other reasons were involved; that was not the only one.

Mr Harman: Do you agree with that?

Mr NANOVIK: The council should not have spent the ratepayers' money in that manner.

Mr Harman: How much did you spend opposing the Salvado plan?

Mr NANOVIK: I did not spend anything.

Mr Harman: Yes you did.

Mr NANOVIK: How much did I spend?

Mr Harman: I don't know, but you spent money. I saw the advertising.

Mr NANOVIK: In the Press?

Mr Harman: Yes.

Mr NANOVIK: That was not a campaign against the Government. We disagreed with the proposal because the Shire of Wanneroo had a lot to lose.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr NANOVIICH: So that is another area of concern to me. I certainly hope the ratepayers take note of the propaganda deliberately put forward by the ALP in its endeavours to gain more representation in local government. The members of the ALP do not see the work of councillors as being in the best interests of the ratepayers; they see it only as a means of adding further to their propaganda machine.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr Sodeman: Why don't you give him a go? You told him to get up, and now you howl him down.

Mr NANOVIICH: We have heard a great deal about small businesses and what members opposite would do for the small businessman. Let me tell the House that some time ago I attended a function and I heard a member of the ALP talking about private enterprise.

Mr Pearce: Who was it?

Mr NANOVIICH: It was the member's former leader. I can assure him it was a very interesting speech, but it did not give anyone any impression of how private enterprise should operate.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that probably the building industry is the industry most affected by unions, and it has been for quite some time. I know the member for Balcatta is a great one for getting up in this House and criticising the Government for its lack of support for the building industry, but let us look at what the Labor Party would do. I have an extract from the *South Western Times* of 26 June 1973 which illustrates what the Labor Party would do to the building industry; and I will table it if necessary. The article states—

The Building Workers' Industrial Union will enforce a State-wide closed shop policy from July 1.

State secretary Mr R. Clohessy has advised master builders in Bunbury that non-unionists would be barred from jobs.

In a hard-line approach he said that contractors would be excluded from future State Government contracts if they failed to observe the compulsory membership requisite.

He told the *Times* that his union had a reciprocal agreement with the Transport Workers' Union to achieve its aims.

Building trades workers would not use materials delivered by people who were not members of the TWU and TWU members

would not deliver to non-unionist building sites.

Mr Clohessy said that his union had the backing of the State Government.

At that time it was the Tonkin Government. The article continues—

Earlier this year Works Minister Jamieson—

He is the present member for Welshpool. To continue—

—ruled that State Housing Commission and Public Works Department contracts be allocated only to operators who employed union labour.

On private contracts it would use usual industrial methods to bring pressure to bear on non-unionists and employers of non-union labour.

The union membership drive was aimed at what Mr Clohessy described as "labour only sub-contractors". The distinction would be made between an employer who supplied all the requisites for a job, including materials and labour, and a builder who sub-contracted on a labour basis only.

That is what the Opposition would do to the building industry; that is what it would do to aid small businessmen. The Opposition would cut the throat of small businessmen. I am sure no-one would ever have an opportunity to build up a small business if pressures like that were implemented by any Government. I know the present Government would not do anything like that, but if ever the Opposition should become the Government—and I do not think it will—the danger will be there.

Mr Speaker, I regret that your job has been made somewhat difficult tonight. I do not think it was my fault. However, I wished to comment on the aims expressed by the member for Clontarf when moving the Address-in-Reply. I have tried to point out to the House the dangers which face this State in respect of which we should introduce legislation to curb those people who aim to destroy us entirely.

Tabling of Documents

Mr PEARCE: Mr Speaker, would you please ensure that the member tables the documents from which he misquoted earlier in the evening?

The SPEAKER: I ask the member to hand to the attendants those documents from which he quoted and then asked that they be laid on the Table of the House. They will be laid on the

Table of the House for the information of members for the balance of this sitting.

Debate Resumed

MR WILSON (Dianella) [8.10 p.m.]: I want to begin my reply to the Governor's address by drawing attention to what I consider to be two notable omissions. In the first place, I think it would have been most proper had some mention been made of the passing from this community of a most notable community leader during the course of the parliamentary recess. I refer, of course, to the death of the Most Reverend Geoffrey Sambell, the late Anglican Archbishop of Perth. I believe the parliamentary *Hansard* should have some record of the appreciation of the community of Western Australia for the very great work of that person. He was a person who was humble and modest and who kept a low public profile; but his modesty and humility belied his deep personal passion and concern for the under-privileged and for the great issues of social justice. I believe that will stand as a great memorial to him and to his work in Perth and Western Australia generally during his 12 years as archbishop.

Another notable omission from the Governor's Speech concerns the failure to recognise the conditions which are increasingly of concern and increasingly affecting a very significant section of the community of Western Australia. We have seen a number of reports over the past 12 months, one of them emanating from the Institute of Economic Research at the Melbourne University, which have indicated that the level of poverty in Australia and Western Australia is in the order of one person in every seven.

There is great difficulty, of course, in the majority of people, including members of Parliament, being able to recognise the gravity of the problem because they prefer either through ignorance or for their own reasons deliberately to ignore that it exists. Only a week ago I quoted in an address one of the reasons that in a superficially affluent community like Australia and Western Australia the poor can so easily go unrecognised and unnoticed.

A very good example of the way in which we fail to recognise the real needs of the poor emerged in that debate. The member for Karrinyup—and I do not intend to victimise him unnecessarily about this—

Mr Pearce: Go ahead, get stuck into him.

Mr WILSON: —I suppose because he did not check his facts sufficiently, went on record as saying that assistance in respect of school books

was available to people earning \$160 a week or less. He did that without any recognition of the fact that in these times it might be a very high level, and it might exclude from assistance a very large number of the people in our community. Unfortunately that is symptomatic of the attitudes of the majority of the community, and certainly the majority of members of the Government.

We do not have to look very far to see some concrete evidence of this situation in our own midst. I refer to the annual report of the Distressed Persons Relief Trust for the year ended 31 December 1979. It is in the area of emergency relief that many members on this side of the House see the symptoms and the results of the growing poverty amongst a significant sector of Western Australian people. In that report, which was tabled in the Parliament, there is reference to intensive and constant pressures from agencies in the human service sector, describing the administrative experience of this trust over the past year. It goes on to relate that as unemployment and inflation affect the unskilled and low-income groups in the community, increasing numbers of people are failing to meet commitments that have been within their means in the past; and many people do not have sufficient resources or reserves to relieve their families in times of crisis.

The report goes on to mention that in 1979 the Distressed Persons Relief Trust had again been concerned with the problems of rising needs, dwindling resources, and higher administrative costs. The report says—

It is predicted that 1980 will see legislation—

We note that this has happened. It continues—

—which will effectively eliminate the union exemption fees which at present augment our working capital by some \$5 000 per annum. An application to the State Government to increase its grant to the Trust and to have it indexed met with refusal.

The record shows that that refusal was repeated in the last year also.

At a later stage, the report refers to representations from the trust to the State Energy Commission, asking if a method of payment similar to that in Telecom could be adopted to enable people to budget for their energy needs. These approaches were to no avail. The trust indicated in support of its approach that approximately 50 per cent of total relief payments are made to the State Housing Commission and the State Energy Commission.

The report went on to underline the fact that trusts such as the Distressed Persons Relief Trust had the ability to meet arrears, which is a facility that is denied to State and Commonwealth welfare organisations. This is a critically important factor in allowing low-income families back into low-rental accommodation if for some reason they have an old accumulation of rental arrears. There is no added liability; and there is some doubt whether some of these charges are justified.

It is my experience in dealing with cases of Housing Commission tenants, and I think it is the experience of other members on this side, that many items ought to be classed as fair wear and tear and paid for by the commission, and only those classed as wilful damage should be left to the tenant. In many of these situations, there are very dubious cases where the tenants are forced to pay for items of vacant possession maintenance which could only be described as fair wear and tear after a period of time.

Finally, the report refers to the fact that originally the concept of this trust as a once-only agency for help may have been a realistic bridge in the crisis period, given the economic pattern of the early 1970s when it was set up by the Tonkin Government. The following appears in the report—

Trustees preferred to give relief to those persons whose economic prognosis were good. However, in the battle for survival today, where many individuals and families on limited incomes lead a hand-to-mouth existence and often face not one crisis but two or three, where juggling of income and spending can lead to a complex of interwoven financial and social difficulty, where the best counselling is needed for rehabilitation to occur, it is clearly impossible to operate using the same criteria.

They are the same criteria as those which applied in the early 1970s when this trust was established.

It is significant that, as I have already mentioned, the trust was established as a result of the initiative of the former Premier (Mr Tonkin). It was set up initially as a result of returns to the Government; and those returns provided for the allocation of \$29 000 to the trust for a period of 10 years. In the time since the inauguration of the trust, the present Government has not seen fit to augment those funds directly, although the Act establishing the trust allows for that augmentation. In other words, the same \$29 000 has been available to the trust for all that time since its inauguration, in spite of inflation and in

spite of the increasing needs of those requiring emergency relief.

That factor alone is a measure of hard core poverty in our community, and of the seriousness of the situation affecting many people on low incomes. Of course, that does not include people on pensions only, or people who are unemployed. It includes large numbers of families in which there is only one income earner, and in which the income earner brings in something like \$150 a week or less to provide for a family of husband, wife, and three children—and in some cases, more children.

The problems affecting those families were mentioned by a member of the Government, albeit a rather unique member of the Government, in the person of the member for Subiaco. He referred to the difficulties of families on low incomes having to meet high health insurance payments and, at the same time, when they were dependent on expensive medicines, having to pay large amounts per week or per month for expensive medical treatment for which they could receive no subsidy. The position of people in these income brackets is indeed grave; and it cannot be overstated in order to make more people aware of their predicament.

Therefore it is rather sad, when we hear people in positions such as that of the Premier who are not prepared to see their way clear to making more funds available for emergency relief. The Premier, in answer to questions by me, has made the point that social services and social security are the preserve and the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. However, he admitted he has not seen fit to make any special representations to the Commonwealth Government on behalf of those Western Australians for whom his Government is responsible and who find themselves in these very serious positions of deprivation and hardship.

We have to applaud the speedy action of the State Government when it gives to farmers affected by drought or other natural disasters the amounts of money that the Government has seen fit to devote to relief measures for people in rural areas in those situations. The disaster which is affecting an increasing portion of our community in terms of financial deprivation and intense hardship is no less a disaster than those disasters. It is not a natural disaster, however, because unlike those people who would follow the philosophy that the poor are always with us, and that we cannot do anything with them—

Mr B. T. Burke: That we need them, in fact.

Mr WILSON: Yes. Perhaps we need them to show how worse off we might be.

Mr Grewar: The farmers are only given a loan. They have to pay it back.

Mr WILSON: The people to whom I am referring receive nothing at all from the State. They do not even receive a loan from the State to alleviate their position. If the member for Roe doubts that such people exist, he can say so. I am saying that they do exist, and that they are in a crisis situation of hardship. The facts show that the State Government is shrugging off the problem.

A lot has been said about the potential of the energy boom and the North-West Shelf prospects for Western Australians. The Premier is on record as having said that there is no doubt that the benefits of this boom will be shared by all Western Australians—

Mr Young: He never said it was a boom. He said it was an on-going growth of the economy.

Mr WILSON: We will accept the euphemism of the Minister for Health.

Mr Young: Booms bust; this one will not.

Mr WILSON: The Premier can use what words he likes, because he is only dealing in words, after all. If I am misquoting the Premier I stand corrected by him. However, he is on record as having said that the results of these developments will certainly be shared by all Western Australians. The fact is that the current situation facing a significant number of families in Western Australia shows that those families are certainly not benefiting from any over-spill of prosperity at the present time. In fact, there is a growing gap in our community between the haves and the have-nots and between the affluent and the poor. The prospects are that this gap is likely to grow greater as these developments occur.

We have the position where this is true in the case of those families faced by particular crises and who are in need of emergency assistance. It probably would be a shock to many people in Western Australia to know that there is a clergyman in my electorate who every day goes to several bakeries to collect bread to take around to underprivileged families in that electorate. Those families are at starvation level; they are at a level where they cannot manage without that kind of hand-out assistance, without that kind of charity, the need for which one would have thought had disappeared from our community last century except, unfortunately, during the time of the great Depression. Unfortunately that is the situation which still exists in parts of Western Australia. It is a situation we should not be proud of.

Quite often the Australian Labor Party is criticised because of its opponents' wont to emphasise what they see to be the negative aspects of what they call socialism. The same people are the ones who are always to the fore in what they call the greed of certain segments of our society, the greed of those people who are asking for a 35-hour week, the greed of people who either justly or unjustly are seeking an increase in their wages, and the greed of other sections of the community other than themselves for some demand they might be making.

In that connection I was very impressed by a short letter to the editor in last Saturday's edition of *The West Australian*. The letter was headed "On Greed" and I quote as follows—

As we all know, the basic ingredient of the capitalist system is greed. The success of the system relies on the fact that the vast majority are not greedy.

Those that are most greedy find their way to the top and secure positions that enable them to prevent others from satisfying their greed.

I have never heard a more succinct statement about the philosophies of this Government—

Mr Watt: Is that accurate?

Mr WILSON: —and the policies on which it takes action.

Mr Watt: Can you clarify the accuracy of that statement?

Mr WILSON: What we hear the Government saying is that although these developments in our community are unfortunate, nothing can be done about them; that market forces must be left to work themselves out, that there is no way of controlling the situation to ensure that these areas of need—these tragic areas of neglect—are dealt with, that funds are limited. We often hear that funds are limited but we do not hear mention of priorities—only of limitations. Funds are limited and there are some people who, even if they are in this situation, just have to wait.

In thinking about this matter I looked back to something I could remember from the acceptance speech given by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1942 when he was elected for the first time as President of the United States of America on a great wave of support. He spoke about a new deal for the people in those depressed days. He referred to the Administration in power at the time—a Republican Administration—and he likened it to the fourth horseman of the Apocalypse. He referred to it as the horseman of despair. I quote as follows—

Bringing up the rear is the fourth Horseman—the Horseman of Despair. He tells you that our government has no control over conditions that are handled from overseas. He tells you that economic conditions must work themselves out. He tries to close the door of hope in your face.

There is no doubt the Government takes the view it does even though there may be segments of our community which are suffering deprivation and great need and hardship. Funds are limited, which means these people must rely on charity handed out by voluntary agencies and churches. There is a very close parallel between the situation faced by the American people at that time with that kind of Government and the situation faced by a lot of people in Western Australia at the moment with the kind of Government under which they suffer.

The question of poverty and deprivation is also evident in the area of housing. Only today in the North Suburban News section of *The West Australian* the following article can be found—

Housing approvals for the Shire of Wanneroo have fallen about 15 per cent during the past two months.

In February this year 334 building permits were issued by the council for buildings with a total value of \$5 885 186.

In February last year 460 permits were issued with a total value of \$7 190 021.

The shire's building surveyor, Mr Graham Compson, said that expected receipts for building fees were down about \$12 000 for the year, reflecting the general state of the economy and recent rises in interest rates.

"When interest rates went up it added to the monthly burden of repayments, but more importantly it also meant that new home buyers could not borrow as much as they could before the increase.

"This effectively means that people at the lower end of the housing market, who usually borrow as much as possible and buy as cheaply as they can, are now unable to buy at all."

Mr Compson said building rates for areas closer to the city had not dropped because land in those areas was more expensive and people with higher incomes could afford to build there.

It had also been found that many people were having trouble filling the "deposit gap" between the amount they could borrow and the total cost of a house.

There is no doubt about that. The numbers of people being forced to sell their homes as a result of increased interest rates over the past few months is most marked in outlying areas of the metropolitan area, areas where lower and moderate-income families have been the ones taking up land and building homes. These are the people who are hit first. There are other figures here which I shall quote and which appeared in the *Weekend News* of 21 February this year. I quote as follows—

Figures from one building society showed that a \$28,000 loan taken out at 11 per cent two years ago over a 25-year period meant monthly repayments of \$280 with a total payout of \$84,000.

The society's current interest rate has taken the monthly repayments to \$306 with a total payout of \$91,000.

If the borrower wanted to stay on the original repayments his loan period would have to be extended to 40 years with an eventual payout of a staggering \$130,000.

A spokesman for the R&I Bank said a \$25,000 loan taken out two years ago at 9.5 per cent over 25 years would never be paid back if the borrower extended his loan period to retain the original repayments.

What is the State Government doing about the situation? We had the Honorary Minister for Housing making a statement some time ago trying to talk up the market by saying that in the New Year there were reasons to believe interest rates would drop. A lot of consolation that is to people who are now having to sell their homes as a result of increased interest rates.

Mr B. T. Burke: When they rose he blamed us.

Mr WILSON: That is right. A lot of consolation that is to those people who have had to sell their houses this year if in the unlikely event interest rates do come down next year. They have had to move into State Housing Commission flats and it would be of no consolation to them at that stage to know that the interest rates had come down.

What do we have happening elsewhere? I shall quote now from the *Australian Financial Review* dated 24 March indicating that the New South Wales Minister for Housing has put forward proposals which include the following points—

The reduction of the term of new \$30,000 loans from 31 years to about 20 years, with initial loan repayments calculated as if loans were for 31 years but increasing by \$10 a

month each year for 10 years and \$20 a month each year thereafter.

The introduction of a new maximum loan of \$35,000 for applicants in the "neediest" category, as determined on the loan request list, to be repaid over 22 years but with initial repayments at the 31 year rate. Thereafter monthly repayments would be increased as in the first proposal.

And third, the introduction of a new maximum of \$35,000 for "even needier" people to be repaid over 24 years, with escalating repayments as already outlined, but with initial repayments in the first year being only sufficient to cover the interest charged.

Is it beyond the imagination, initiative, and resources of this Government and this Honorary Minister to come forward with similar positive proposals to help the people who are suffering? Is it beyond the initiative of the Government to implement the proposals put forward by the member for Balcatta to give immediate relief so that people may retain their homes and retain the very precious values that people attach to home ownership?

On the other side of the scale it is interesting to learn about a great new development in East Perth covering 2.43 hectares, a project that has the all-up price tag of \$24 million to provide 300 strata title home units. Prices are to range from \$74 000 to \$109 000. Do not tell me that is not a perfect example of the way the wealth of this community is so unevenly distributed to cement poverty, to cement inequality, and to cement discrimination against the less advantaged members of this community. Do not tell me it is beyond the resources of this Government to see that the great wealth which it predicts is going to pour into the coffers of this State is more evenly distributed to ensure a better standard of living for those people at the lower end of the economic scale. I have no great hope that that will be the case. I have no great faith in the capacity of this Government to come to that sort of arrangement. I do not think anyone on this side of the House has any hope or faith in those possibilities.

Mr Sibson: What do you think about the situation in 1973-1975 when the same thing happened and the then Federal Government brought on unemployment?

Mr WILSON: In 1974 a Liberal Government was in power in Western Australia. I ask the member for Bunbury what his Government did for unemployment.

Mr Sibson: But what about the situation with the Labor Government?

Mr WILSON: I could go on talking about the period between 1974 and 1975 if the member for Bunbury so desired, but that would not enable a solution to be reached in regard to what is happening now to the people in need in our community. If the member has something to say about what can be done now for those people I would like to hear him say so when he has the proper opportunity. Until now I have not heard him on that point. I will wait with great expectation to hear his next speech, and hopefully I will hear about a policy to relieve the anxiety at present felt by many people in our community.

Mr Sibson: I have.

Mr WILSON: I was here during the member's last speech and I did not hear any positive proposal.

Mr Jamieson: I couldn't hear it either.

Mr WILSON: Many problems affect low-income earners in regard to housing because of the policies of the State Housing Commission. I am not casting any reflection upon the officers of the commission who have to work within increasingly restrictive constraints. I can only say that the policies of the commission are tending to provide a situation in which its services are being denigrated. An increasing number of low-income families are doomed to spend many years in units, flats, or multiple townhouse-units. They yearn to be able to have their own homes.

Recently the Minister for Housing indicated that the State Housing Commission intends to reintroduce a system of home purchasing directly administered by the commission. He indicated this cannot be introduced until the present waiting lists have been satisfied. We have no indication from him of when that will be; so, we have no indication from him as to how long people must wait hoping for the opportunity to have a home of their own. It is not good enough that people are told they are adequately housed.

I received an answer to a further question I asked the other day. The answer was rather general in regard to the commission's use of the term "adequately housed". A man, his wife, and four children living in a three-bedroomed townhouse or unit may be adequately housed in some respects; in many respects, from the human and compassionate point of view, one can only say that the prospects for such a family as the children grow and develop are not nearly as great as those for many others in our community.

I spoke earlier about the allocation and distribution of resources, and I referred to the

conditions facing people in those types of units and the length of time they must spend in those units. I could not help but reflect on the way in which resources are used and distributed with respect to the provision of housing in our community. I reflected on the operative use of, say, a batch of resources including labour and materials to build, say, 10 small houses for 10 ordinary families. I compared that with an alternative use of those resources by building five, six, or seven houses to accommodate five, six, or seven slightly better off families. In fact, that situation is reflected in our community. I went further and considered how we have the case of, perhaps, one very successful person who could use all those resources to build one house—a 50-square mansion on some classy hilltop block with a heated pool. It would have plenty of bedrooms and a cocktail bar. Of course, he would be the richest and could pay the most for the resources. Therefore, he would obtain those resources to build the mansion, and 10 other households would do without what they might have had.

Mr Sibson: Are you saying take one house from somebody and give it to somebody else?

Mr WILSON: The member for Bunbury cannot understand what I am talking about. The chap in the mansion probably would do less than ever for himself; he would push more buttons and burn more power and have a servant or two, and, anyway, he would be out of the house a lot. If we consider that situation in the light of orthodox economic theory, and thought that is currently put forward, we might come to the conclusion that between the possibility of building 10 houses and the possibility of building the mansion, the latter is more beneficial. The mansion consumes consumable goods and, if the goods really are productive, some people would say the mansion must represent the most productive use of the resources because it can bid highest for them. People would say the mansion does more for economic growth. The servants' wages would be counted into the national income, and all the maintenance would likely be done by paid tradesmen, and that would count as more growth. However, the housework and maintenance and the child rearing that the 10 families may do for themselves would be regarded as worthless because the labour would not be paid for.

Mr Watt: What are you referring to?

Mr WILSON: I am referring to a number of Boyer lectures.

Mr Sibson: Genesis 123.

Mr WILSON: That is a measure of the member's lack of concern.

Mr Watt: Where did the document come from?

Mr WILSON: It is from Boyer lectures on housing and Government in Australia by Professor Stretton.

Mr Young: In Australia!

Mr WILSON: Is not Western Australia part of Australia?

Mr Young: I am a little concerned about this. You mentioned, or the person who wrote that document mentioned, a number of times the number of servants someone might have in a mansion. I do not know of any family that has servants.

Mr WILSON: An increasing number of families employ domestic labour. Such people can be put into the category of servants, certainly, when one considers the wages being paid. In any case, the point I am trying to make is that the sort of situation we have at the moment is a Government with a philosophy prepared to accept that there should be no control over the very uneven distribution of resources. This sad unequal distribution of resources is growing and will be exacerbated by the development boom. Unfortunately we can look forward only to an increasing gap between people at the bottom of the scale—

Sir Charles Court: Good heavens!

Mr WILSON: —and people like the Premier and the Minister for Lands who live in mansions at Peppermint Grove.

Sir Charles Court: Heaven help us if you get control of the economy.

Mr WILSON: The Government is doing nothing for people at the bottom of the scale.

Sir Charles Court: We are trying to bring them up, but you would bring everyone else down. It is the same old story.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [8.51 p.m.]: In my remarks during this Address-in-Reply I would first like to take up matters concerning the previous Governor, matters which I raised with the Premier on opening day. They relate to the \$6 000 that was paid for repairs to Sir Wallace Kyle's English mansion. Damage was reputedly caused by water and, possibly, natural causes while he was away from his mansion. I am not particularly worried about the amount involved; I suppose we can put that down to experience. I am concerned when the member for Vasse and other members use such a situation as a basis for denigration of the Opposition.

I attempted to question the matters surrounding the situation. Mr Speaker, you will recall as a result of those questions that the

Premier made an on-the-spot reply. He was not too sure about the situation because one of the questions dealt with the statement that Sir Wallace Kyle had said that the provision of repairs was a condition of his coming to the country as Governor. Indeed, that seems to be a rather strange condition for any person to place on his appointment as Governor. When I again raised this matter with the Premier he said he did not know but was quite prepared to search the records if I could give him an indication of from where the statement came. So, I went to my office in Parliament House, obtained the information and supplied him with a reference from the *Western Mail*. I have heard nothing since.

Sir Charles Court: I promised I would follow it up. Once I received the information I wrote to Sir Wallace and said "This is the statement made". I gather a report has not been supplied from the man in England. I asked for the Governor's comments and told him why.

Mr JAMIESON: I do not know until this day what the situation is, but evidently the Premier also does not know. There is nothing on file to indicate that such a condition was made. One is entitled to follow up this matter to see whether any such agreement was made.

Sir Charles Court: It wasn't.

Mr JAMIESON: It appears that is at least something we know now. As members of this Parliament we are entitled to know whether such an agreement was made. The member for Vasse in his opening remarks had a few words to say about the Leader of the Opposition's support for the monarchy system.

Mr Blaikie: That is my prerogative—

Mr JAMIESON: I am a bit tired of people like the member for Vasse denigrating millions of people in this world because of their choice. He denigrated some 23 republics involved in the British Commonwealth. Are they any less responsible for making their choice?

Mr Herzfeld: You are not suggesting the Leader of the Opposition represents 23 republics are you?

Mr JAMIESON: I am not trying to convince the member for Mundaring of anything. That is beyond my capabilities which, as I realise, are limited. However, the member for Mundaring does not realise his capabilities.

Mr H. D. Evans: Or lack of.

Mr JAMIESON: The situation is very clear. There are 23 republics within the British Commonwealth—

Mr Blaikie: Australia is not a republic.

Mr JAMIESON: That is right.

Mr Blaikie: If you had your way it would be.

Mr JAMIESON: It would be if I had my way and I will tell the member for Vasse why.

Mr Blaikie: You go out on the streets and tell the people why because I believe you are wrong.

Mr JAMIESON: Maybe the member believes I am wrong, but let us unfold this matter a little further. Just a few years ago we entered into the Vietnam war. People who committed brave acts during the course of that war were recommended for awards from Her Majesty. Her Majesty the Queen is also subservient to the ministerial heads of the time. One may say that the monarchs have some titular power, but they are not really above the Government elected by the people. The British Government did not believe in the Vietnam war, but nevertheless, Her Majesty was faced with the position, on the recommendation of another Government, of having to agree to granting Imperial awards to people involved in that war. It was an absurd position. We must accept responsibility for our own acts. We are not being disrespectful to the British monarch. Her prime responsibility is to the United Kingdom. We cannot serve two masters, especially when each master adopts a different line of action.

Mr Blaikie: Did it not arise, and I say this advisedly, because of the embitterment Labor members felt after the action of Kerr?

Mr JAMIESON: No, this arose a long while before that action. We do not want to be associated with the complicated system of having joint heads of state.

It is interesting that 23 of these 43 sovereign countries chose to become republics. Those 23 all take equal part in discussions when the heads of state meet together, as they will in Australia later in the year. Fifteen nations still accept Queen Elizabeth as the head of state, and they have Governors General. The remaining countries have their own interpretation of what should happen.

Mr Blaikie: Could we say in the main they would be the newly emerging nations?

Mr JAMIESON: Maybe they are and maybe they are not. Canada has its own attitude to this question. For some considerable number of years Canada has had no Imperial awards, with the exception of Queen's Counsel. Canada will not appoint a titled person as its Governor General. I admit that as a nation it has more problems than we do because of the French background of many of its citizens. There is no reason for the member to complicate the situation by referring to the problems there. In the main I do not think the

Canadian people are any more loyal or disloyal to the British Commonwealth than are the Australian people.

Mr Hassell: But you admit they have more problems because they are a divided nation.

Mr JAMIESON: The nation is divided because of the two languages spoken in the various provinces. I just finished saying that I would not become involved in an argument over that matter. We all know the inherent problem which Canada has. The same problem arises to a lesser extent in other places where different languages are spoken.

Mr Blaikie: Surely the division in the Canadian provinces is a division of loyalties in that nation, and does that not emphasise that we do not have it?

Mr JAMIESON: If the member knew as much about this State as he says he knows, he would understand the situation. Let him go to visit one of the ethnic clubs around the city such as the Slav club or the Italian Club.

Mr Pearce: Just let him go anywhere!

Mr JAMIESON: These clubs do not believe they are subservient to the Queen of the United Kingdom.

Mr Herzfeld: That is nonsense. They have her picture hanging up everywhere. They are very loyal to her.

Mr JAMIESON: In that respect they accept the protocol.

Mr Hassell: People from divided European nations who have left the conflict of Europe behind are some of the most loyal people in Australia because they recognise the value of our system.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course they are loyal to Australia, as they should be.

Mr Hassell: And to the Queen of Australia.

Mr JAMIESON: I have always been an advocate of a republic. The Premier is not; he is a subservient being, and he always will be subservient to the United Kingdom. He came from there, and he should go back there. Probably he will do so eventually. His prime loyalty is to Great Britain and not to Australia.

Sir Charles Court: Don't talk rot.

Mr Hassell: We will soo Mr Grassby on to you.

Mr JAMIESON: Do that—it will not be the first time I have had dealings with Mr Grassby. I would be more prepared to front up to Mr Grassby than would the Minister.

To return to the 43 countries I mentioned, many of them have their own monarchs but they are still loyal.

Mr Blaikie: What about Western Samoa?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, Western Samoa is amongst them, as well as Tonga, Swaziland, and Botswana. They all have their own monarchs within the secondary monarchy system.

Mr Blaikie: They are doing rather well.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course they are, and that is the point I am making. The member insists the only system that is any good is the one he likes. He will not have a bar of any other system. He said he believed that is what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to do, and that probably all members of the Opposition would like to see a republic of Australia. The Opposition members said "Hear, hear." There is another point of view, and people holding this view are just as loyal as the Minister tries to make out he is.

Mr Hassell: Is it a good point of view?

Mr JAMIESON: People who hold that point of view should not be denigrated by the member for Vasse because of it.

Mr Blaikie: Not denigrated—exposed. You are only trying to vindicate your own situation following the decision at your conference last week.

Mr JAMIESON: Nonsense. Even the Premier will admit I have held the same point of view on this matter since I first came to this place.

Mr Blaikie: You did not get much support last week at your own conference.

Mr JAMIESON: The member does not know what he is talking about now.

Mr Blaikie: I have been reading newspapers.

Mr Hassell: When are you going to tell us this question?

Mr JAMIESON: I know the \$64 one: How would a head of state be provided?

Mr Hassell: There is a symbol of national unity which is important to all of us.

Mr JAMIESON: I do not know how at this juncture we would elect such a person. Perhaps it would be possible through the electoral college system of Parliament and all members throughout Australia voting to appoint a Governor General. The appointment of a State Governor could be through an election of members at large. That is a finer point that we could argue for a long time.

Mr Hassell: It is not a finer point; it is central to the issue.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course it is, and there could be many different answers to that point. In the United States of America the top being has some power above the properly-elected Government. That is not democracy in its true form. The American Constitution gives a power of veto to a person supreme, and that does not make for true democracy. True democracy is the right of the people to elect a government to govern.

In regard to a head of state, it may be that the South Africans have the right idea. They elect to this position a person such as a senior parliamentarian of long experience. Probably some of our best Governors General had this sort of experience, and I refer to people such as Sir Paul Hasluck and Sir Isaac Isaacs. These men had long experience in legislative chambers before taking on that position.

That is the type of person we should have in the top position.

Mr Herzfeld: Before you leave that subject, could you tell us what you would do with the States under this idea of a republic Australia? Will they pay the Governor under your system?

Mr JAMIESON: I have just said I do not know how it would operate. Obviously the honourable member was not listening a moment or so ago.

Mr Herzfeld: I was listening intently.

Mr JAMIESON: Clearly the member was not. This is no great problem; we could find some way to overcome it.

Mr Herzfeld: You missed the point. If you had your way and we set up a republic Australia, what would happen to the States?

Mr JAMIESON: I told the member that. Mr Speaker, it is better that I talk to you. Certainly you told us to do that earlier tonight. When we talk to duffers we finish up being duffers ourselves. If the member reads my speech it will dawn on him eventually that I was discussing States under that format and he missed out on it.

I would like to refer to the Fremantle Prison—a prison which has been with us since shortly after the inception of the colony. Somewhere in the 1890s an inquiry was conducted into it, and it was found to be unfit for human habitation.

Mr Hassell: They have had a couple of inquiries since then.

Mr JAMIESON: But that was the first inquiry. It is close to 90 years since that inquiry, so it is high time we took some action directed at getting rid of this monstrosity. When I asked the Chief Secretary had the Government made a decision yet on the complete phasing out of the

Fremantle Prison, and if so, when is it expected to be completed, the Chief Secretary replied that he is continuing to hold discussions with the department as to the possibility of phasing out the prison, and that the phasing out is subject to the availability of funds for future institutions under future loan programmes.

Back in the days of the Tonkin Government it was planned that the new complex at Canning Vale would phase out the Fremantle Prison. We are now further behind the eight-ball in getting rid of the prison. The Government has not been able to say that in the next 10 years, for example, it will be phased out completely. There was a proposed schedule that as soon as the full security block was built at Canning Vale, the Fremantle Prison would be phased out.

Mr Hassell: Can I say genuinely that I am as keen as you are to phase out Fremantle Prison, and I am particularly keen that we should not end up with the new Canning Vale complex and then still have Fremantle Prison by filling up those places so that in effect the size of the prison population is increased. What I probably had to say to you in the answer to those questions was that we have not yet got to the point where we have sufficient of a programme at Canning Vale to be able to name the day for closing the Fremantle Prison, but the sooner the better.

Mr JAMIESON: The sooner the better, as far as I am concerned.

I wish to refer now to the joint sitting of both Houses for the election of a person to fill a casual Senate vacancy. I was somewhat concerned at the *pro forma* sheet issued to members setting out the procedure for the joint sitting on Wednesday 25 March. It stated as follows—

1. Members of both Houses assemble in the Legislative Council Chamber.
2. The President and Mr Speaker, followed by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Clerks, enter the Chamber. The Usher of the Black Rod calls members to order.
3. The President makes an announcement concerning the Joint Sitting.
4. The President calls for nominations to fill the vacancy in the Senate.
5. The candidate is proposed.
6. The President calls for a Seconder.
7. The President asks for further nominations.
8. If there are no further nominations the President declares the candidate elected.
9. The President announces that the Joint Sitting is concluded and leaves the Chair.

If that is to be the case at joint sittings, I suggest we should never have them. When this provision was first placed in the Federal Constitution it was left to each State to set its own Standing Orders in regard to the conduct of the joint meeting. As I understand it, they all differ somewhat. I wish to draw members' attention to the following Standing Order relating to joint sittings of the Western Australian Parliament—

4. On any debate arising, the same shall be conducted according to the Standing Orders and practice of the Legislative Assembly. On all points of order the ruling of the President shall be absolute and final.

That is all very well, but where in the *pro forma* sheet is there provision for a debate to occur? Surely if we are sitting as a combined body to determine the election of a new senator, the matter should be open to some form of debate, whoever that person may be; we should be allowed to discuss that person's traits, his record of service, and so on; otherwise, it is ludicrous even to bother to go down to the Legislative Council Chamber.

I say to you, Mr Speaker, if this is not to take place in the future, the Standing Order should be amended, because the *pro forma* sheet makes no provision for a debate whilst the Standing Order leaves open the possibility for a debate to occur. The joint sitting of both Houses is for one purpose; namely, to elect a new senator, and debate should be able to ensue.

The *pro forma* sheet states that the candidate is "proposed". As a matter of fact, when reading the *Hansard* report of the joint sitting I came across the words "I move" by the Premier. No motion was actually moved; in fact, the Premier said, "I propose" and the *Hansard* record was corrected.

As to the new senator, I think a few of us would be entitled to have a few words to say about proselytes and other people being given positions for services rendered. Many people in the Liberal Party have some respect for members of the Opposition as, no doubt, many members of the Opposition have respect for some Government members. Certainly, however, we should have been entitled to have a few words to say about the new senator, chosen to represent Western Australia.

I turn now to some parish pump matters. I deal first with a case involving the Road Traffic Authority. Sometimes, I wonder whether the public clearly understand the intention of the road traffic code. I wish to recount to members an incident which occurred, and which prompted me

on behalf of a constituent to write to the Minister for Police and Traffic on 17 February.

About 6.30 p.m. on 16 December last, a traffic patrolman took over the responsibility of directing traffic at the eastern end of the Causeway, an ambulance being due at any moment. As is usual, the patrolman took over the traffic to allow the ambulance speedy passage. The patrolman had parked his van on the verge. He did not have a key to turn off the traffic lights, so he left them running. He stationed himself in a proper position and began signalling traffic from the Great Eastern Highway direction onto the Causeway access road.

What transpired was that a girl who was a probationary driver and had held her licence for only three months, was travelling along the Causeway from Perth. She saw the light was green and, in her inexperience—as the Minister for Police and Traffic described it—proceeded through the intersection. Meanwhile, a young fellow who also was a probationary driver, had been motioned through the intersection, against the traffic lights. He was struck amidsthips by the vehicle going through the intersection on the green light.

I took up this matter on behalf of the young chap. Apparently, he was driving his fiancée's motor vehicle and, being under-age, was required to pay the excess demanded by the insurance company. The Road Traffic Authority took no action. When I checked the matter out, I was told, "Yes, it is true; everything you say is right and the Minister has confirmed by letter that a young fellow was motioned through an intersection by a traffic patrolman. However, the traffic code distinctly states that when a patrolman is in charge of traffic, he overrides any other signals which may be at that position." In other words, the public are obliged to follow the direction of the traffic patrolman.

Having obeyed the direction of the traffic patrolman, this young fellow finds himself having to dip into his own pocket as a result. Members should listen to these pearls of wisdom from the Minister for Police and Traffic. His letter states as follows—

Dear Mr. Jamieson

I refer to your letter of February 17, regarding a traffic accident involving Glen Michael Peachey and Nichol Marie Grant, on December 16, 1980.

From the information supplied to me, it is evident that Mr. Peachey proceeded whilst obeying the signal of a Police Officer performing point duty, to facilitate the

progress of an urgent ambulance escort and came into collision with Miss Grant, who disobeyed the Pointsman's signal.

Miss Grant was not prosecuted, as a lenient view was taken due to her inexperience in road craft, having only held a Motor Driver's Licence for under three months at the time.

The Road Traffic Code makes provision for a Police Officer to assume control over signals and signs and for a motorist to obey a Pointsman.

Although a police prosecution has not been undertaken, this is not a bar to civil litigation between the two parties and I am not prepared to intercede or make a recommendation on behalf of Mr. Peachey or Miss Grant.

The fellow had obeyed the law and now finds he must dip into his own pocket and will not be assisted by the Government for upholding the law. How ridiculous can the Government get? What should have occurred under those circumstances is quite clear: If the Government felt some leniency was due to Miss Grant, it should have found some way of meeting the costs of the fellow who obeyed the law.

Such actions serve only to confuse the public. What happens if we get a repetition of this sort of case? The traffic code is quite clear, and there is no doubt as to what transpired on this occasion, but the result was that a person who obeyed the law has been advised by the Minister to take civil litigation.

Mr Hassell: People obey the law every day and get hit for their troubles. The Government cannot guarantee people in each case simply because they have obeyed the law.

Mr Grill: He is right; it happens 100 times a day.

Mr JAMIESON: That may be so, but both of these people were involved in an excess payment; neither can get out of it.

Mr Hassell: He could get it from Miss Grant.

Mr JAMIESON: The Minister says that Mr Peachey can become involved in civil litigation.

Mr Grill: Leniency by the Crown does not mean to say Mr Peachey cannot become involved in civil litigation.

Mr JAMIESON: What sort of expenses will Mr Peachey be faced with should something go wrong during the course of litigation? He will be worse off than ever. Whether or not members want to argue this from a legal point of view, the Government has a clear moral responsibility to do

the right thing by a young fellow who has obeyed the law.

Mr Hassell: I do not agree with you.

Mr Grill: You have it wrong.

Mr JAMIESON: The legal men say that I have it wrong. They must remember that people obeying the law are not all legal men; in fact, most are not, thank goodness!

More consideration should be given to such occasions, when a patrolman takes over the direction of traffic. The RTA should have prosecuted the offender, which would have clarified the entire position for the purposes of insurance and so on.

I move on now to a matter I dealt with extensively during the course of last year's Budget debate and on which I was assured by the Deputy Premier that some action would be taken. Members may recall I raised the case of a young person who, at the age of 15½ years, was found guilty of attempted rape. He is now in his 23rd year, and he is still in gaol, lamenting his position.

I believe I deserve some better action on the part of Ministers than I have received to date. The matter needed to go before Cabinet. Indeed, the Deputy Premier assured me something was being done, and I was quite satisfied. I do not know whether I am quite satisfied with what has been done because a little while after I raised this issue, this prisoner was transferred from Fremantle Prison to Bunbury Prison for a week, after which he was returned to Fremantle Prison; now, he is back again at Bunbury Prison. There is not a great deal of satisfaction in that situation for this young man.

The latest I hear is that after all this time, it has been suggested he undergo surgical cosmetic treatment, which is listed for about October; so, his immediate future is not too bright. He has also been told recently that he must appear before the Parole Board and tell them why he thinks they should let him out. The reason they should let him out is that he has been in gaol for so long! Much older people—bear in mind he was only 15½ years old when sentenced—have been gaoled for far more heinous crimes than his, yet have been released much sooner.

Mr Hassell: They have worked out a programme for him, have they not?

Mr JAMIESON: They have not yet worked out a programme. I have not heard from the Attorney General since the letter I received on 12 August 1980. In the last paragraph of the letter the Attorney General said that he had asked the two officers concerned if they would place before

him a detailed plan in relation to the future of the person whose name I will not give, whereupon the case would be considered further. How long will it take for that to happen? It is a scandal.

Mr Hassell: I cannot recall the precise details, but I think you will find the case has been further considered and a plan has been worked out.

Mr JAMIESON: As far as I am aware, the only action taken by the Cabinet was to the effect that it changed the committal of this man from one which required him to remain in Fremantle Prison to one which allowed him to be detained in other prisons.

Mr Hassell: That is the first step.

Mr JAMIESON: I do not know what good that will do. The relatives of this man live in the metropolitan area, therefore, his transfer to Bunbury has not helped them to visit him. Bunbury was also the location of the original crime, so I do not believe any good has been achieved by sending this man back there.

Mr Hassell: If you will give me that letter, I will refer the matter back to the Attorney General and obtain a further report for you.

Mr JAMIESON: It has gone beyond the pale when, after all this time, no real move has been made to deal with this particular case.

During the balance of the time at my disposal, I should like to refer to the Perth Airport. In several shopping centres recently a video demonstration has been conducted, together with the display of some plans and information, regarding the location of the new international terminal at the Perth Airport.

The State and Commonwealth Governments were associated with a joint Government advisory committee which examined the future needs of Perth Airport. This inquiry took place over a number of years during the late 1970s and decisions were finally arrived at.

After the decision was made that the present Perth Airport would be retained, maps depicting alternative arrangements were drawn up. It was agreed another airport site should be investigated for after the year 2005 and a number of other recommendations were made.

Among the recommendations were four which favoured the placement of the new terminal a short distance from what will be the Beechboro-Gosnells highway. Any members who are familiar with the area will realise the highway feeds into Hardey Road, Belmont, at the present time and ultimately it will join up with the Great Eastern Highway, so direct access from the northern suburbs will be provided. The foothills highway

which is under construction at the present time will give the area from Midland Junction through to Armadale direct access to this proposed amenity when one bears in mind the location also of the Beechboro-Gosnells highway.

However, what do we find? There was a rather obscure recommendation in the report which proposed the new terminal should be built some distance north of the present terminal building. The new road which will lead off Brearley Avenue will be approximately a kilometre long and it will lead to the area behind the many machinery salesrooms situated on Great Eastern Highway. This will cause further traffic problems in the area of the limited access provided now.

This situation could have been avoided and the traffic could have been dispersed by means of the arterial road system designed for that purpose. However, this limited improvement to the situation has been proposed.

Today when I asked the Minister about the situation, he did not seem to have any idea that such plans were in hand, despite the fact that his predecessor was responsible for the Government's association with the joint Government advisory committee.

We have argued long and often as to the future location of the Perth Airport. If we are to have an airport in this location, surely we should ensure good access is provided. Members who have visited Perth Airport in recent times would be aware of the difficulties which arise during peak hours. It seems advisable to separate the international and domestic terminals and the alternative recommendation I mentioned would have achieved that.

However, it appears that, once again, the Commonwealth Government has opted for the cheapest and nastiest solution to the problem and this State has been downgraded.

The peripheral area to the north of the present terminal could be leased to people who are involved in airport support industries. Such people frequently require accommodation close to the airport and single storey buildings for that purpose proliferate on the outskirts of all airports around the world. This would have been an ideal use for the area, because it is not necessary for it to be kept under security watch.

In approximately 1985 the main runway will be duplicated, so the area between the two runways will come under strict surveillance by the new control tower which will be positioned at an equal distance from each runway.

An area of approximately one square kilometre will be left between the two runways for security

purposes and it seems a logical use for such an area would have been to construct the terminal building on it. Indeed, four of the five recommendations made that suggestion. However, once again, we have been left with the worst choice when one looks at the Government's determination in this regard.

I asked the Minister whether, in view of the other four options, he would be interested in making representations on the matter, but he did not appear to be impressed with that suggestion. Before it is too late, the Premier, or one of his Ministers, should look at the matter to ensure that the correct decision is made.

Any improvement in international airport facilities should be based on the accessibility of such facilities to Fremantle, Armadale, Midland, and the northern suburbs. It should be borne in mind that a new terminal building will have to serve the needs of the future travelling public.

It is essential that we protest to the Commonwealth Government if we believe the decision which has been made will not be to the best advantage of all.

In the last few moments available to me I should like to refer to the staff of the Public Works Department. At the present time six senior officers of that department are working in an

acting capacity. This situation has obtained for a considerable period of time. Some months ago I attended the farewell for the Under Secretary of the PWD (Mr Lewis) and about the same time the principal architect (Mr Cann) retired also. Since that time officers who have filled those positions have been working in an acting capacity.

I do not know how the Government expects civil servants to work to the best of their abilities when it plays around with the reformation of a department for months on end while nobody knows what will ultimately happen. I asked the Minister whether the present situation was detrimental to the smooth working of the PWD and he said "No; that is a lot of nonsense."

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Shalders.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: JARRAH CLASS ACTION

Assembly's Resolution: Council's Concurrence

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had concurred in the Assembly's resolution.

House adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Station: Ord River

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

Have the Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments completed negotiations on a proposed 60 MW hydroelectric power station at the Ord River?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No. An internal memorandum of understanding was agreed upon, which has been subject to some recent adjustments, and is currently still the subject of consideration by the Government.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Stations: Cost and Construction

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

- (1) At current prices what is the cost of—
 - (a) 200 MW generating power unit;
 - (b) 350 MW generating power unit;
 - (c) 500 MW generating power unit?
- (2) On current production when is it proposed to construct further units after the completion of the eighth unit by July 1985?
- (3) If the next unit is—
 - (a) a 350 MW unit;
 - (b) a 500 MW unit;
 when would units be expected to be ready for production?
- (4) By how much would—
 - (a) a 350 MW unit;
 - (b) a 500 MW unit;
 accelerate the growth rate of power generation after they came into production?
- (5) Can he provide information on the expected use of coal resources on upgrading of 200 MW units to 350 MW units or 500 MW units?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) It is not possible to give specific answers in each case. However, on the Bunbury site, 350

MW units are currently estimated to cost \$625/kW at current prices. The capital cost per kW generally falls by about 15 per cent for each doubling of unit size.

- (2) and (3) Planning is proceeding to enable the first unit of the next coal fired development to be on line in mid-1986.
- (4) (a) and (b) It is estimated that by 1986 a 350 MW unit will be approximately 16 per cent of installed capacity, and a 500 MW unit approximately 22 per cent.
- (5) It is not meaningful to provide such information, since the quantity of coal required to fuel a given generating unit depends on the overall growth of the electrical demand, and the way in which the total system is operated. By way of indication, the proposed 1400MW development at Bunbury is expected to require approximately five million tonnes of Collie coal per year when completed.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Stations: Foreign Ownership

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

- (1) With whom have initial talks been held over the prospect of the next power station to be built in Western Australia being owned by a foreign consortium?
- (2) Have talks been held with Australian financiers about this prospect?

Mr P. V. JONES:

- (1) and (2) Discussions have been held with many potential equipment suppliers and financiers for the proposed Bunbury power station. These have been on an informal basis so far, and the formal process of registration of interest has now begun.

373 and 374. *These questions were postponed.*

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport

375. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have all the appropriate State Government departments been adequately consulted regarding the

Commonwealth Government's recently announced plans to upgrade facilities at Perth Airport?

- (2) Are the plans which have been recently announced final, or are they open to further negotiation, particularly with regard to the location of the proposed new international terminal?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The locating of the proposed new international terminal at Perth Airport is primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. I am advised that they consider the recently announced location as final.

HEALTH

Birth Deformities

376. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What statistics are kept on birth deformities and their causes in Western Australia?
- (2) How are the statistics recorded and when were the records first commenced?
- (3) What has been the major causes of birth deformities since 1975?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The first State-wide congenital malformations register in Australia has been established in Perth. This is located at the University of Western Australia in the National Health and Medical Research Council's research unit in epidemiology and preventative medicine, under the direction of Dr Fiona Stanley. Administratively this register operates under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Medical Services.
- (2) The register's information is derived from a variety of sources, the principal being midwives' notification forms and perinatal death certificates. The register commenced operation on 1 January, 1980. Prior to the establishment of this register, specific studies had been undertaken with regard to certain deformities.

- (3) The major causes of deformities are known at this stage, as it is recognised that a multitude of factors is involved. It has been postulated that a major contributing factor are causes of genetic origin. Work to date indicates that the incidence of congenital malformations is approximately three per 100 births. This compares very favourably to other low incidence areas of the world. The five major deformities are—neural tube defects—spina bifida and anencephaly—Down's syndrome—cleft lip and palate, club foot, and congenital heart disease.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Swan River

377. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's answer to question 234 of 1981 concerning action by the State Government to combat erosion of the Swan River foreshore, how many complaints were received by the Swan River Management Authority during 1979 and 1980?
- (2) Will the Minister provide details of the programme for the reconstruction of the banks of the Swan River?
- (3) How much money was made available for this purpose in financial years 1978-79 and 1980-81?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 20.
- (2) On 5 November 1979 reconstruction work commenced on Kings Meadow, Guildford. Programme is being carried out from there both up and down river with three main methods of reconstruction being used—
 - (a) Repair and extension of existing timber walling;
 - (b) battering of banks and inputting of coarse dredge sand to form beach and
 - (c) stabilisation of localised areas of foreshore with rushes planted in sandy medium and protected from wave action by a line of sandbags.

- (3) The Public Works' Swan River foreshore treatment Guildford area status report of June 1980 states that \$52 963 was spent in the financial year 1979-80 and the sum of \$127 000 has been allocated for the financial year 1980-81.

HEALTH: DRUGS

Trafficking: Schools

378. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many cases of drug taking and drug trafficking were reported involving Western Australian schools during 1979 and 1980?
- (2) How many juveniles and adults were arrested and/or convicted as in (1) above?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Statistics of this nature are not kept.
- (2) Answered by (1).

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Corporal Punishment

379. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the current guidelines for the implementation of corporal punishment—
 - (a) in Government primary schools;
 - (b) in Government secondary schools?
- (2) How many students in Western Australian secondary schools were—
 - (a) expelled;
 - (b) suspended;during 1979 and 1980?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Regulations 33 and 34 set out the guidelines for the implementation of corporal punishment.
- (2) (a) Nil;
(b) 1979—256;
1980—249.

380. *This question was postponed.*

SUICIDES

Number

381. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many unemployed persons attempted and/or committed suicide during each of the years—
 - (a) 1977;
 - (b) 1978;
 - (c) 1979; and
 - (d) 1980?
- (2) How many unemployed persons were convicted for criminal offences during each of the abovementioned years?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) (a) to (d) Statistics are not kept.
- (2) Answered by (1).

POLICE

Non-British Applicants

382. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

What restrictions, if any, are placed on other than British subjects who wish to enter the Police Force in Western Australia?

Mr HASSELL replied:

All applicants for entry into the Police Force are required to be British subjects, which includes Australian and naturalised Australian citizens.

TRAFFIC

Pedestrian Crossings: Number and Cost

383. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many pedestrian crossings were erected during 1979-80?
- (2) How many pedestrian crossings are to be or have been installed during 1980-81?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of providing such crossings?
- (4) How is the cost of pedestrian crossings financed?
- (5) Will he provide details of the criteria currently employed by his department to determine whether or not a crosswalk is installed?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) None.
- (3) Depending on the site, \$1 500 which includes flood lighting.
- (4) For roads under the control of the Main Roads Department, from funds available to the Commissioner; and on local authority roads on a shared basis between the Main Roads Department and the local authority.
- (5) In the metropolitan area, for each of every two hours on an average weekday—

the number of pedestrians crossing close to the site exceed 60 per hour;

the number of vehicles passing the site that pedestrians need to cross in one go exceed 600 per hour;

the product $P \times V$ exceeds 90 000.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Overseas Trips

384. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Which Ministers have been overseas since February 1980?
- (2) What was the purpose of each trip?
- (3) Who accompanied each Minister on such trip?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) This information is being collated and I will advise the member in due course. However, I have previously advised the member the information sought requires a considerable amount of research and I am reluctant to divert staff to undertake such research. If the member has any reason to believe that travel of an unauthorised and unnecessary nature is being undertaken by Ministers of the Government in the conduct of legitimate Government business, then I suggest he let me have the grounds for his beliefs and I shall have them investigated.

It has always been my expressed view that overseas travel be undertaken in a responsible manner, and this policy will continue.

I think it is fair to say that overseas ministerial visits by Western Australia Ministers are undertaken with proper control and sensible limitation of staff members. In fact, from personal observation, it would appear we keep numbers and expenditure below that of most States.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Employees: Overtime

385. Mr BRYCE, to the Deputy Premier:

During 1980, how many State Government employees were forced to take time off in lieu of overtime worked and what was the number of hours in each department?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Leave records of Government employees are not centrally maintained and there would therefore be an inordinate amount of work involved to collate the information sought. I am not prepared to authorise such a project.

NOISE

Complaints and Prosecutions

386. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many complaints were received during 1979 and 1980 under the Noise Abatement Act, from householders in—
 - (a) the metropolitan area;
 - (b) outside the metropolitan area?
- (2) How many prosecutions were initiated against—
 - (a) neighbours;
 - (b) industries?
- (3) How many prosecutions were successful against—
 - (a) neighbours;
 - (b) industries?
- (4) What was the total amount of fines imposed during 1979 and 1980 respectively?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (4) Due to the involvement of local authorities with noise abatement under the Noise Abatement Act 1972, most of the complaints under this Act are directed straight to the local authorities and as such details of total numbers of complaints and the action resulting from these complaints cannot be readily or easily obtained.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Staff

387. Mr BRYCE, to the Speaker:

- (1) How many people are employed in Parliament House in permanent, temporary, and casual employment?
- (2) What are their respective positions and responsibilities?
- (3) By whom is each member of the staff employed and to whom are they responsible?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) to (3) The following particulars are supplied in respect of employees of the Legislative Assembly, the Joint Printing Committee, and the Joint Library Committee. The question will be referred to the President, seeking his assistance in supplying information concerning employees of the Legislative Council and the Joint House Committee.

Employing Authority	Positions	Responsibilities
Legislative Assembly	Clerk of the Assembly Clerk Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Clerk of Records Asst. Clerk of Records Secretary-Stenographer	To provide the facilities and formal organisation necessary to the normal function of the Legislative Assembly.
Joint Printing Committee	Chief Hansard Reporter Deputy Chief Reporter Senr. Hansard Reporter Eight Hansard Reporters Six Typists Trainee Reporter Clerk	To provide a record of parliamentary debates and, where practicable, a record of proceedings of certain parliamentary committees.
Joint Library Committee	Parliamentary Librarian Librarian Library Assistant Clerk Typist	To provide a library and information service to the Parliament

WATER RESOURCES

Dams: Capacity and Consumption

388. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What is the capacity of each reservoir in Western Australia?
- (2) What was the water consumption from each reservoir for 1979 and 1980?
- (3) What was the estimated consumption of scheme, underground water in the metropolitan area during 1979 and 1980?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) As far as the Metropolitan Water Board is concerned—

	million m3
South Dandalup	208.2
Serpentine Pipehead	2.6
Serpentine Main Dam	184.9
Churchmans	2.1
Canning	93.4
Wungong	60.0
Victoria	0.8

In respect to country water supply storages, this information is detailed in the engineering returns and statistics published in conjunction with the Public Works Department's annual report, copies of which are tabled.

- (2) Re Metropolitan Water Board—

	Output million m3	
	1979	1980
South Dandalup	12.0	16.7
Serpentine	3.6	28.0
Churchmans	2.6	1.9
Canning	18.7	22.7
Wungong	0.3	2.8
Victoria	0.7	2.8
North Dandalup pipehead	5.3	10.4

Details of the consumption from each country reservoir are not readily available, but the engineering returns and statistics include full details of the water consumed in each country water supply scheme.

- (3)

	million m3	
	1979	1980
Total scheme output from all sources	129.0	143.3
Groundwater output portion of this	52.8	57.9

The report was tabled (see paper No. 139).

LIQUOR

Beer: Low Alcohol

389. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What price increases have recently occurred with low alcohol beer?
- (2) How do these price alterations compare with other beer?
- (3) What proportion of hotels selling low alcohol beer do so "on tap"?
- (4) Is a "corkage fee" normally charged in hotels where low alcohol beer is only available over the counter in bottled form?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The wholesale price of all packaged beer increased by 12c per carton on 23 February 1981.
- (2) There is no wholesale price differential between low alcohol beer and other beer.
- (3) Very few hotels dispense low alcohol beer "on tap".
- (4) A corkage fee is normally charged when low alcohol bottled beer is sold and dispensed at the bar counter. This applies to any other packaged drink.

LIQUOR

Beer: Low Alcohol

390. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

In an endeavour to encourage people to consume low alcohol beer, is his Government prepared to make the necessary representations to the Federal Government to reduce the excise and thereby reduce the price of low alcohol beer?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As to whether the Federal Government would be able within its revenue considerations to make a substantial reduction such as would materially reduce the price of low alcohol beer is a matter which only that Government can determine.

However, if I felt a reduction in alcohol intake would result I would make representations to the Commonwealth, but there is also a question as to the overall effectiveness of promoting the sale of low alcohol beer. Heavy drinkers tend to consume more and reach the same level of alcohol consumption. The interdepartmental committee which

reported to the Government in February 1981 saw some benefit, but also identified the speculative nature of assumptions as to those benefits.

The issue will be further considered in the context of preparation of legislation dealing with the recommendations of the liquor inquiry and the interdepartmental committee on road safety measures.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Languages: Japanese and Chinese

391. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the estimated number of primary and secondary school students in Western Australia who are currently studying the—
 - (a) Japanese language;
 - (b) Chinese language?
- (2) How many school teachers in Western Australia are qualified to teach—
 - (a) the Japanese language;
 - (b) the Chinese language?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) Approximately 500 primary and 118 secondary;
- (b) nil primary and 222 secondary.
- (2) (a) 14 teachers currently employed;
- (b) three teachers currently employed.

N.B. Answers to (2) relates to Government school figures only, not technical education or non-Government schools.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Australian Equity

392. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

How much progress has his Government made since it was elected to office in 1974 towards implementing his undertaking of "increasing Australia's equity in resource development projects"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In the *Statement of Liberal Policy 1974-1977* an undertaking was made to "negotiate for majority Australian ownership... wherever Australians are willing or able to contribute the funds". It was indicated at the time that this would be achieved through "sensible negotiation and not by statutory or arbitrary direction".

Since 1974 major growth demands resulting from the high level of activity in resource developments have led to significant requirements being imposed on Australian shareholders to increase their level of investment in projects in Western Australia. In a number of important areas significant increases in Australian participation have resulted. In a great majority of remaining cases, levels of Australian equity have been maintained despite major increases in productive capacity.

Natural Gas

The purchase of Burmah Oil's share in the North-West Shelf gas project by BHP led to a major increase in Australian ownership in this project. The subsequent success of the joint venturers leading to the final investment decision has been a major achievement for the Australian interests involved.

Iron Ore

Major increases in production capacity have been achieved in this period and large beneficiating plants have been constructed by Mt. Newman Mining and Hamersley Iron. The purchase by CRA of a major interest in the Hamersley Iron project previously owned by Kaiser Steel has resulted in increased Australian ownership in this venture.

Bauxite Alumina

Substantial new investment has taken place by Alcoa at Pinjarra and Wagerup without dilution of Australian ownership. BHP has been persuaded to take a significant share.

Nickel

Major increases in the capacity of the Hampton nickel smelter have been sustained by Western Mining Corporation. Mt. Isa Mines has made a considerable investment in the Agnew nickel project and the adjacent Teutonic Bore copper project.

Uranium

Western Mining Corporation has been able to mount a major uranium venture in partnership with overseas interests. Majority ownership and management control of the venture has been retained in Australian hands.

Salt

The increased involvement by CRA through the Dampier Salt project and the purchase of the Lake McLeod project, and the sale of Sumitomo's interest in the Lake Lefroy project, has resulted in significant increases in Australian participation in the salt industry.

Mineral Sands

Recent announcements by Consolidated Goldfields of Australia to restructure its interests in Australia, including the mineral sands producer Associated Minerals Consolidated, will have important implications for Australian participation in this industry.

Coal

Major investment has taken place in the coal industry in Western Australia in recent years without any reduction in Australian ownership. The restructuring of CGFA referred to above will have important benefits with respect to coal interests of this group at Eneabba.

Gold

Major investment has been initiated in this industry by predominantly Australian companies.

Diamonds

Changes in the structure of the Ashton joint venture have resulted in increased Australian ownership in this project which will become a major producer of diamonds in the future.

Vanadium

A vanadium project has been established by the local Agnew Clough group at Wundowie and investigations are proceeding into the development of a major silicon metal venture.

Service Industry

Aside from the direct participation of Australian interests in resource based industries, major opportunities have been created by the development programme for local consultants, contractors and service industries.

This list is far from exhaustive but sets out some important examples of the type of thing being achieved within a total concept of seeking every opportunity to achieve a higher degree of Australian ownership without unacceptable statutory or arbitrary direction and at the same time maintaining our economic momentum.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

State Library: Computer

393. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What type of computer system will be installed in the new State Library building?
- (2) What long-term plans have been catered for in the design of the system?
- (3) What number and classification of staff will be required to operate the system?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Library Board has recently completed an automation feasibility study. Incorporated in the recommendations is the implementation of a fully integrated system, including the process of acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation. The equipment is dependent on the system to be selected and the selection of the system is yet to be made.
- (2) Ultimately it is hoped to encompass all public libraries throughout the State and to establish a regional library network as a joint venture with the other major institutional libraries in the State.
- (3) At this stage it is not possible to determine prior requirements but it is anticipated that the implementation will result in only minimal additional specialised staff and it is expected to operate within the present staff structure.

HEALTH

*Health and Medical Services Department:
Aboriginal Employees*

394. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With reference to his news release of 16 March in which he stated "more than 180 Aboriginal people were employed in health services to outback areas", would he detail—
 - (a) the locations at which Aboriginal people are employed; and
 - (b) how many Aborigines are employed at each of these locations?
- (2) What is the job classification of each Aboriginal employed?

- (3) What is the total amount of salaries paid to Aboriginal employees in the Health and Medical Services Department in Western Australia?
- (4) What amount of Federal funding did the State receive from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs allocation for health for the financial year 1980-81?
- (5) What amount of this funding has been allocated to salaries within the Health and Medical Services Department?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) For Community and Child Health Services branch—

Kimberley region	8
Pilbara region	4
Northern region	2
Eastern goldfields region	1
South-west region	1
HQ and metropolitan	1
TOTAL	18

These are identifiable because of the nature of employment. The Department of Health and Medical Services employ many other Aborigines, but no separate identification is kept.

- (2) For Community and Child Health Services branch—

Trained nurses	
Registered nurse aides	
Health workers	6
Camp nurses	8
Cleaners-gardeners	1
Administration and clerical	

TOTAL **18**

- (3) For Community and Child Health Services branch—

1979-80	\$820 66
To 31 March 1980-81	\$699 37

- (4) \$6 257 000.
- (5) \$4 764 000.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Intrastate: Charter Operators

395. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the Government's policy regarding safeguarding the interests of Western Australian-based charter

aircraft operators in the north-west to ensure that existing services will be maintained to residents and to prevent job losses?

(2) Is the Government aware that a contract for aerial surveillance formerly held by the Western Australian-based company Trans West Airlines Pty. Ltd has just been awarded by the Federal Government to the Melbourne based company, H. C. Sleigh Ltd?

(3) Does the Government, through the Transport Commission, intend to exercise control over the issue of charter aircraft licences if it considers that the interests of Western Australia are at risk?

(4) Will the Government consider not licensing Eastern States-based operators when they only seek profitable contracts without providing services to residents at the expense of local operators who are willing to continue their more unprofitable services providing they can be balanced against profitable contracts?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Existing policy regarding the issue of aircraft charter licences is for automatic approval provided the aircraft is correctly licensed with the Department of Transport, and section 45 of the Transport Act is complied with. As such, there has been no control of entry into this sector of the aviation industry either of a general nature or of the specific type mentioned in the question. It should be noted that protection of existing jobs would also involve excluding other Western Australian charter operators from a particular area, not simply operators from other States.

(2) The Government is aware of the awarding of the coastal surveillance contract to H. C. Sleigh Ltd. and has protested to the Commonwealth on this matter.

(3) As explained in the answer to (1), current policy does not allow for restriction of issue of charter licences. The question of future policy on charter licences is being addressed by the current air review; however past experience in this area suggests that control of entry in the air charter industry is possibly not in the best interests of users.

(4) With reference to the specific case raised, under the State Transport Act, a licence from the State is not required for coastal surveillance purposes and the Government therefore cannot withhold approval. However, the general question of regulation and licensing of air services is being addressed in the air review and the issues raised will be considered.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport

396. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Will he table a copy of the five basic alternatives which have been considered by the intergovernmental working party, concerning the future development of Perth Airport?

(2) Does the Western Australian Government favour the construction of an additional wide-space runway at Perth Airport, to cope with international traffic?

(3) What is the average daily arrival and departure rate for—

- (a) aircraft;
- (b) passengers;

at Perth Airport?

(4) What are the projected figures referred to in (c) above for—

- (a) 1985;
- (b) 1990;
- (c) 1995;
- (d) 2000?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) The Commonwealth-State advisory committee to study Western Australia's airport requirements, in reporting on the aviation requirements of the Perth region, evaluated five locations for possible civil airport development options. These were existing Perth and Jandakot Airports, Maganup, Karnup, and Berry Brow.

- (2) The Commonwealth-State advisory committee considered that the existing runways at Perth Airport appear to have sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast air traffic within the study period—1975-2004—and that the early construction of a second parallel runway could not be economically justified at the present time.
- (3) The Department of Transport Australia has supplied the following statistics for 1979—the latest year for which there is final data—

- (a) Average daily aircraft movements 66
- (b) average daily revenue paying passenger movements 3 208

- (4) (a) to (d) The Commonwealth-State advisory committee made some forecasts in respect of Perth's primary airport. These showed—

AVIATION FORECASTS (Primary Airport)

	Annual Passengers (000)	Annual Scheduled Aircraft Movements (000)	Annual Non Scheduled Aircraft Movements (000)	Total Annual Aircraft Movements (000)	
1973	646.6	13.0	22.4	35.4	(actual)
1980	1170	16.1	46.2	62.3	
1984	1510	17.9	62.3	80.2	
1994	2605	22.3	111.0	133.3	
2004	3990	25.7	173.8	199.5	

TRANSPORT: AIR

Western Australian Airfields Committee

397. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that recommendation 4.7 of the report of Commonwealth-State advisory committee on WA airfields, published by the Department of Transport in December 1979, urged the establishment of a "Western Australian Airfields Committee"?
- (2) Is he also aware that such committees have been formed in other States and perform a most valuable role?
- (3) Will he explain why such a committee has never been established in Western Australia?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware that such committees exist in other States.

- (3) The establishment of the committee was proposed by the Commonwealth to facilitate compatible land use planning for areas adjacent to existing and future airport locations. However, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has statutory responsibility for land use planning in the region. It is appropriate that the MRPA, or its transportation committee, carry out the role envisaged for the WA airfield committee.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport

398. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) (a) Have studies been conducted by his department or its Commonwealth counterpart concerning the "environmental impact" of the noise levels associated with recently published plans for the expansion of Perth Airport;

- (b) if so, will the Minister provide details of studies?

- (2) Will a proper environmental impact study be conducted and published in respect of proposals to extend Perth Airport?
- (3) Do people and organisations have the right to object to the current proposals to extend Perth Airport?
- (4) Will public hearings be conducted to ascertain the viewpoint of people most directly and readily affected by plans to expand the airport?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) Yes. Studies have been undertaken by Transport Australia.
- (b) Transport Australia has made a detailed study of the noise levels associated with both the new

terminal building to the north-west of the airport and the extension, by 300M, of the southern runway. The results show that there will be no significant change to the noise levels now experienced around the airport. This is due to the fact that the new building will, to some extent, have a shielding effect and the Qantas aircraft that will use the extended runway will be fitted with the quieter RB211 engines. The Department of Conservation and Environment has had close contact with Transport Australia during this process, and in addition has commenced survey of noise levels associated with the present operation of the airport.

- (2) No. The expansion of the airport is a Commonwealth proposal and a formal environmental impact study has not been requested by the Commonwealth Minister. No need is seen for an environmental review and management programme.
- (3) Yes. Objections can be lodged with Transport Australia.
- (4) At this stage there are no plans to hold public meetings. However, 22 000 pamphlets outlining the proposal have been circulated to households in the vicinity of the airport. In addition, a film on the expansion is being screened at the appropriate suburban shopping centres.

TRANSPORT: AIR *Perth Airport*

399. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Assuming the Perth Airport will be re-developed to cope with demand for regional air traffic until the year 2005, what steps have been taken by his Government to select the site for Perth's next airport?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The provision of airport facilities for Perth is, under present circumstances, the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government subject, of course, to proper consultation with the State Government. Whilst the Commonwealth-State advisory committee did not forecast air traffic beyond the year 2005, I am advised that the Commonwealth is in the process of acquiring land to the east of the present airport to accommodate long-term demands.

This is independent of the sites for airports like Jandakot and which have been announced.

BOATS

Certificates of Registration

400. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Transport:

Adverting to questions 224 and 228 of 1981 relevant to boats and boat trailer registration, as there appear to be approximately some 10 000 boat trailers and power boats currently licensed separately by the responsible authorities, would he investigate the feasibility of a combined licence that would, on the surface, appear to provide an avenue for considerable savings both to the licensing authority and owners through halving---

- (a) postage costs;
- (b) stationery costs;
- (c) administration costs?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Yes.

I will advise the member of the results of the investigation in due course.

401 and 402. *These questions were postponed.*

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Nornalup and Walpole Inlets

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

- (1) Are the waters of the Nornalup and Walpole Inlets included in the national park?
- (2) If "No", what status do the waters of these inlets have at the present time?
- (3) (a) Is it intended to have these waters included in the national park; and
(b) if so, when will this be done?
- (4) If there are no powers to designate these inlets as national park, is it intended to establish them as some kind of reserve, and if so—
(a) what class of reserve is it proposed to make them;
(b) when will this be done?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The member should be well aware of the position as a result of a letter addressed to him on 3 April 1981, from the Minister for Lands. However, in reply to the question now asked—

- (1) to (3) Although the waters of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets were shown on departmental plans and included in the area originally gazetted as a national park in 1972, the matter has since been reviewed in the light of legal argument advanced. The definition of "Crown Lands" in the Land Act does not permit the reservation of lands covered by tidal waters below low water for national park or any other purpose. It would appear therefore that the waters of the inlets below low water mark would simply have the status of tidal waters which cannot be reserved under the provisions of the Land Act. The Department of Lands and Surveys proposes to correct the position in the near future.

- (4) (a) and (b) The Government's position concerning the control of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets has been published previously in the Environmental Protection Authority's recommendations for the area, particularly recommendation 2.3 (7), which received Cabinet approval. This recommendation requires that the Fisheries Act be employed to protect the inlets and that the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife be made responsible until legislation is enacted to allow conservation reserves to include submarine lands. The Government is currently examining the ramifications of permitting submerged lands to be declared conservation reserves and determining how this proposal could best be achieved. At this stage, no final decisions have yet been taken. In the meantime, however, it is understood that co-operation between the National Parks Authority and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the control and management of the inlets already exists.

LAND

Agricultural: Release

404. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Did the Department of Agriculture make a submission to the rural and allied industries council land committee regarding releases of further Crown land for agriculture?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1), will he table a copy of the department's submission?
- (3) Does the Department of Agriculture agree with the conclusions contained in the rural and allied industries council land committee's report?
- (4) If "No" to (3), with what specific aspects of the report does the department disagree?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) As the Department of Agriculture does not come under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, I would ask that the member refer this question to the relevant Minister.

405 and 406. *These questions were postponed.*

LAND

Agricultural: Release

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

- (1) Does the Government intend to formulate environmental safeguards for the release of land for agricultural purposes?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) have these safeguards been drawn up and, if so, will he table a copy;
 - (b) if such safeguards are not drawn up, when is it expected that they will be;
 - (c) who will be responsible for drawing up such safeguards?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government's current policy is to release only land adjacent to existing rural areas, where agriculture is proved to be environmentally acceptable. Furthermore, as indicated in the answer to question 126, the working group on land releases receives the considered advice from representatives of the Departments of Conservation and the Environment, Fisheries and Wildlife, Agriculture, and any other appropriate body or individual and makes recommendations for the release of land accordingly.

FISHERIES

Salmon

408. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Are salmon being caught in set nets which are ostensibly laid for herring on the south coast?
- (2) What quantity of salmon have been taken in this way in the present season?
- (3) How many prosecutions have been made relevant to the catching of salmon in set nets?
- (4) (a) Does the Government intend to take any action in this matter; and
(b) if so, what action?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No evidence is to hand that this has happened, but it is understood that salmon can be caught unintentionally in herring set nets.
- (2) Not known.
- (3) None.
- (4) (a) and (b) The use of herring set nets during the salmon season has been discussed by the general fisheries advisory committee. The committee proposes to hold discussions with salmon fishermen with the objective of rationalising the use of herring set nets.

MINING

National Park: Fitzgerald River

409. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are there any applications for mineral claims on any part of the Fitzgerald River National Park lodged at the present time?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) how many applications have been lodged;
 - (b) what area do they cover;
 - (c) will he table a map to show the precise locality?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Two applications for mineral claims 74/1803 and 70/19323;
(b) areas of 18 and 7.5 hectares respectively;
(c) maps tabled.

The maps were tabled (see paper No. 138).

410. *This question was postponed.*

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Children's Institution at Forrestfield

411. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) With reference to my question 319 of 1981, since no mention was made of relocating the Walridge Village but

rather to request the relocating of the proposed housing development of the juvenile detention centre, will he now therefore consider the request of the Walridge Village residents, that is to relocate the juvenile detention centre to another site where it will not cause concern to anyone?

(2) If not, why not?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Not applicable.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

Liquid Natural: North-West Shelf

412. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) Is there any formal contract between the State Energy Commission and Alcoa of Australia Ltd. to purchase liquid natural gas from the North-West Shelf?

(2) If so, what initial amount will be purchased in terms of cubic metres per day?

(3) If so, what are the arrangements concerning the initial purchase price by Alcoa and the details of any escalation pricing arrangements?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) No. However, Alcoa of Australia and the State Energy Commission have signed a formal memorandum of understanding in 1978.

(2) and (3) The memorandum of understanding provides that Alcoa will purchase 4.4 million cubic metres per day. The pricing and escalation arrangements are confidential to the contract parties.

ALUMINA REFINERY

Alwest Pty. Ltd.: Worsley

413. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

In respect of the amount of \$7.1 million approved for borrowing for the Worsley rail and water project under the infrastructure borrowing programme for 1980-81, will he advise—

(a) which authority or department is negotiating this loan; and

(b) how much of this amount will be recouped from the company and under what arrangements?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(a) Westrail, in respect of rail facilities needed to haul alumina from the refinery to the port. However, the company has recently advised that Government funding for the railway and rail wagons is no longer required and that they will directly meet the costs involved.

Final arrangements for the water supply have not yet been concluded with the company and therefore no decisions have yet been made in respect of this part of the borrowings.

The decision by the company to install a conveyor belt at its own cost instead of utilising a railway from the mine site to the refinery will mean a reduction in the infrastructure borrowings needed for this project.

(b) The company will be required to meet the total cost of the facilities provided on its behalf, whether by way of a direct capital contribution and/or a recoup of all costs involved through appropriate user charges.

STATE FINANCE

Borrowings Programme: Infrastructure

414. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

(1) In respect of the infrastructure borrowings programme have the amounts to be borrowed in 1981-82 been approved?

(2) If so, what are the details?

(3) If not, when will such decision be made?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) and (2) No. Under existing arrangements the infrastructure borrowing programme for any year is generally formally approved at the preceding June meeting of Loan Council.

- (3) The matter will be discussed at a Loan Council meeting in May, although it is envisaged that the final decision will be made at the June meeting.

It should be noted, however, that Loan Council approval has been obtained for the whole of the projects approved under the infrastructure programme. The approvals of the amount for each financial year are to allow for adjustments which may occur through cost revisions, alterations in the timing of the project or variations in arrangements between the project developer and the State Government or other financial decisions, such as leasing, which might affect the amount of borrowing required.

415. *This question was postponed.*

STATE FINANCE

Borrowings Programme: SEC

416. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Adverting to question 71 of 1981 relevant to the State Energy Commission and referring to the \$30.2 million loan raised by the commission, will he advise if the discounted issue price is in the nature of a fee in connection with the private placement?
- (2) If so, to whom was the fee payable?
- (3) Were any commissions paid with respect to this loan?
- (4) If so, to whom?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) No, a discount on the issue price of securities represents an increase in the yield to investors.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

Liquid Petroleum: Motor Vehicles

417. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Adverting to question 72 of 1981 concerning the use of liquid petroleum gas in Government vehicles, will he advise—

- (a) how many State Energy Commission vehicles are using liquid petroleum gas;
- (b) when did testing commence; and
- (c) when will testing conclude?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (a) The State Energy Commission has a total of 21 vehicles using liquid petroleum gas as a fuel, consisting of—
10 only 2½ tonne Dodge trucks
10 only Holden Utilities
one only Holden Gemini Sedan—dual fuel;
- (b) the testing programme commenced in September 1979;
- (c) the testing programme is an ongoing exercise and, at this stage, no date for conclusion has been determined.

PEEL INLET

Septic Tanks

418. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Peel Inlet Management Authority management programme says "No more septic tanks on new developments"?
- (2) When was this section of the management programme first advised to the Government?
- (3) (a) How many new developments have been approved in the area since the date in (2); and
(b) what are they?
- (4) Will she please detail how many lots are involved in (3)?
- (5) Will she please provide plans showing details of the developments approved?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) I am advised that the Peel Inlet Management Authority may make a recommendation to that effect for certain areas.
- (2) A copy of the document was received by the then Minister for Conservation and the Environment in December 1979.
- (3) (a) Details of development in the area are held by the respective local authorities;
(b) see (a) above.

- (4) This involves considerable research and the information cannot be obtained in the time available.
- (5) See (3)(a) above.

PEEL INLET

Septic Tanks

419. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Are any reports available from the CSIRO which comment on the movement of septic tank effluent and the recent build-up of algae levels in Peel Inlet?
- (2) (a) When did the reports become available to the department; and
(b) will the Minister please provide me with copies of same?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No. However the CSIRO land resources management division has undertaken studies on the movement of phosphate and nitrogen from septic tank effluent in sandy soils in the Perth metropolitan region. This work is relevant when considering the installation of septic tanks adjacent to Peel Inlet.
- (2) (a) The CSIRO work was presented at the Australian Water Resources Council, Groundwater Pollution Conference which was held in Perth on 19-23 February 1979.
(b) a copy of the paper referred to in 2(a) has been forwarded to the member direct by the Minister.

PEEL INLET

Septic Tanks

420. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it a fact that 280 septic tanks will be installed in low lying ground bordering Peel Inlet in the Pleasant Grove development?
- (2) (a) What studies have been done in specific reference to this problem; and
(b) are the results of these studies available to me?

- (3) When is it proposed that the printed copies of the Peel Inlet study will be available to the public?
- (4) Does the report reveal that no new development should take place on the banks of Peel Inlet until a waste water treatment plant can be installed, probably on the western shores of the estuary?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 277 lots have been approved for the Pleasant Grove development. Development conditions allow for the installation of a septic tank per lot, with septic tanks to be installed in accordance with public health regulations.
- (2) (a) and (b) Studies have not been undertaken specific to this area. However, the Department of Conservation and Environment has provided financial support during the period 1979-80 to the Department of Microbiology, University of WA, to examine the microbiological processes of septic tanks in the Perth metropolitan region.
- (3) The Environmental Protection Authority is expected to forward its report on the study to the Minister within the next few weeks when a decision will be made as to its release.
- (4) As indicated by (3) above, the Government has not yet received the final study report.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Eutrophication

421. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Would the Minister list actions taken by his Government to—

- (a) isolate the reasons for the eutrophication of the Peel and Harvey Inlets;
- (b) the amount of money spent so far in isolating the reasons;
- (c) the amount of money and actions taken to stop or reduce the eutrophication?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Since 1976, a team of some 20 scientists from tertiary institutions and several Government departments, under the direction of the Environmental Protection Authority's estuarine and marine advisory committee, have been investigating all aspects of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system to determine the cause of the algal problem and to provide the basis for management decisions;
- (b) approximately \$500 000 has been allocated to the study referred to in (a).
- (c) for the period 1977-March 1981 a sum of \$221 500 has been spent by the Waterways Commission to alleviate weed accumulating mainly in the Coodanup, Novara, and Cadadup areas. The Waterways Commission has recently purchased an additional tractor—at a cost of \$50 000 over five years—to extend this weed-clearing work; action to be taken to reduce eutrophication will be determined on receipt of the Environmental Protection Authority's report of the study referred to in (a).

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Land Ownership

422. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How much land surrounding Peel and Harvey Inlets in the form of wetlands is in public ownership?
- (2) Would the Minister please provide plans showing the details?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Public plans depicting land tenure surrounding Peel and Hardy Inlets are available for inspection at the Lands Department public counter. The department has no readily available plans of wetland boundaries.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Wetlands

423. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) How much land surrounding the Peel and Harvey estuaries is in the form of wetlands?

- (2) Would the Minister please provide plans or maps of same showing details?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Using the definition of "wetlands" as outlined in the Department of Conservation and Environment's bulletin No. 79 "Guide lines for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands in WA", it has been estimated that the area is approximately 110 square kilometres.
- (2) A map showing the areas is tabled.

The map was tabled (see paper No. 140).

TOWN PLANNING

Halls Head

424. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) In respect of the proposed \$100 million development at Halls Head and with particular reference to the canal development, what measures will be adopted to ensure that a flow through of water takes place?
- (2) What guarantees are available to ensure this flow through of water?
- (3) What measures have been or will be insisted on to ensure that no runoff will enter the estuary from septic tank effluent?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) No canal development has been approved at Halls Head. Technical advice from various agencies, including Public Works Department and conservation and environment, would be sought to determine the need for a flow-through of water or the means by which it would be achieved if required.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

TOWN PLANNING

Pleasant Grove

425. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it a fact that in respect of the Pleasant Grove development at least two submissions were submitted by the

Department of Conservation and Environment relating to sewerage disposal?

- (2) What were the recommendations in these proposals?
- (3) Which of the recommendations, if any, were adopted by the Town Planning Department in the conditions laid down for adoption by the developers?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) That the subdivision should be served by deep sewerage.
- (3) It is the Town Planning Board that accepts, rejects, or modifies recommendations from other agencies relating to subdivisions. It did not impose a "sewerage" condition as the lots were 4 000m² in extent and sewerage was not available.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Fishermen

426. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) How many professional fishermen are licensed to fish in Peel Inlet and Harvey estuary?
- (2) How many actually fish there?
- (3) What is the annual tonnage of fish taken by professionals and what types of fish are taken?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 65.
- (2) 65.
- (3) The total tonnage of fish taken by professional fishermen within the Peel Inlet-Harvey estuary for the 1979-80 financial year was 669.6 tonnes. This catch comprised of 195.8 tonnes of sea mullet, 214.9 tonnes of yellow eye mullet, 163.8 tonnes of cobbler, 21.6 tonnes of crabs, and 26.7 tonnes of prawns with the remainder consisting of minor species.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Birds

427. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Would the Minister please provide a list of all birds known to use the Peel-Harvey estuarine system as a breeding ground?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The following is a list of all water birds known to use the Peel-Harvey estuarine system as a breeding ground—

1. Australian Pelican
2. Black Cormorant
3. Little Black Cormorant
4. Little Pied Cormorant
5. Darter
6. Hoary-headed Grebe
7. White-faced Heron
8. White Egret
9. Rufus Night Heron
10. Black Swan
11. Mountain Duck
12. Black Duck
13. Grey Teal
14. Coot
15. Red-capped Dotterel
16. White-headed Stilt
17. White-fronted Chat
18. Little Grass-bird
19. Whistling Kite.

Not included in this list are other birds which may breed on the banks. The list above is of those birds which rely on the estuarine system as a breeding ground.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Fish Breeding Grounds

428. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Would the Minister please provide a list of all fish and crustaceans that are known to use the Peel and Harvey estuarine system as a breeding and nursery ground?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As the list is quite large and will take time to compile, the Minister is arranging for the information to be sent to the member.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Peel-Preston Planning Study

429. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What areas of land referred to in the Peel-Preston planning study are regarded as "critical"; i.e., page 1 item 6?
- (2) Which of these has been added to the reserves system as recommended?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Specific areas recommended for adding to the reserves system are listed in Appendix 11 on page 39 of the study report. Land between Lake Preston and the ocean is also recommended for addition to the reserves system.
- (2) Of these areas, the northern half of location 742—now Murray location 1671 of reserve 12189—and locations 3910, 2398, and 122 have been added to Yalgorup National Park.

PETITIONS

Reading to House

430. Mr BARNETT, to the Speaker:

Would he please tell me how long after a petition has been read to the House can a like petition also be read to the House?

The SPEAKER replied:

It is not in order to seek a ruling from the Speaker by way of a Parliamentary question. The member is referred to my statements on 28 November 1978, *Hansard* p.5770 and 2 September 1980, *Hansard* p.838.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Mandurah

431. Mr BARNETT, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Tourism:

Is the Minister aware of any proposal to zone land bounded by the Old Coast Road, McLarty Road, Leighton Road,

and Dalrymple Terrace, Mandurah, to suitably retain it in its present form as an area of historical, recreational, and educational significance?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

No.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Mandurah

432. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs and Recreation:

Is he aware of any proposal to zone land bounded by the Old Coast Road, McLarty Road, Leighton Road, and Dalrymple Terrace, Mandurah, to suitably retain it in its present form as an area of historical, recreational, and educational significance?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

No, but information will be sought on the matter.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Estuary Heights Development

433. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Was a complaint lodged on or about 5 January 1981 by the Peel-Preston preservation group about alleged misleading advertising by the developers of Estuary Heights?
- (2) Has this complaint been investigated, and with what result?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. It was considered that the complaint was outside the bureau's jurisdiction.

PEEL AND HARVEY INLETS

Developments

434. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Would she please provide plans showing date of approval of all developments approved during the last three years along the shores of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The question is not specific. If "developments" refers to building approvals, they are granted by the local authorities concerned and the information is not readily available. If the reference is to "subdivisions", this would involve considerable departmental research.

TOWN PLANNING

Pleasant Grove

435. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it a fact that in 1974 town planning consultants T. S. Martin and Associates advised the Government that the land contained in the Pleasant Grove subdivision was suitable for urban development?
- (2) Who are—
 - (a) the applicants; and
 - (b) the owners;
 of the current Pleasant Grove submission?
- (3) Is it a fact that numerous studies since, have disproved the 1974 advice?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) T. S. Martin & Associates, as consultants to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, advised on the urban and open space potential of the site. Prior to conditions of subdivision being imposed by the Town Planning Board, the views of various Government agencies were sought on the matter.
- (2) (a) T. S. Martin & Associates.
(b) Pleasant Grove Pty. Ltd.
- (3) No.

MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

Dealings with Private Investigator

436. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Does he know, or has he any knowledge of a Melbourne man named Erickson who was or is a private investigator?
- (2) If "Yes", will he please provide details of any dealings or knowledge with or of this person?

The SPEAKER replied:

Question 436 asks for information which does not appear to come within the ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Labour and Industry.

The question is not in order.

GAMBLING

Illegal Operations

437. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

How many illegal gambling operations are there currently in Perth?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Currently, there are six premises in Perth where illegal gambling is known to have taken place. These premises have been subject to a number of prosecutions.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Tenants: Eviction

438. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many—
 - (a) notices to quit;
 - (b) eviction orders;
 have been served on—
 - (i) Aboriginal tenants;
 - (ii) white Australian tenants;
 in—
 - (A) the metropolitan area;
 - (B) country areas;
 in each of the last three years?
- (2) In each category, how many evictions occurred?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(1) and (2) Notices to quit

	1978	1979	1980
Aboriginal—			
Metropolitan	291	353	386
Country	486	541	617
Total	777	894	1 003
Others—			
Metropolitan	1 130	1 284	1 335
Country	413	537	536
Total	1 543	1 821	1 871

Court orders obtained/writs of summons served	1978	1979	1980
Aboriginal—			
Metropolitan	20	41	62
Country	44	50	91
Total	64	91	153
Others—			
Metropolitan	107	95	122
Country	26	40	30
Total	133	135	152
Evictions			
Aboriginal—			
Metropolitan	7	8	8
Country	10	17	16
Total	17	25	24
Others—			
Metropolitan	25	13	6
Country	9	5	4
Total	34	18	10

HOUSING

Aborigines: Applications

439. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Aboriginal applicants are currently on State Housing Commission waiting lists?
- (2) How many Aboriginal applicants owe the commission money for—
 - (a) rental arrears;
 - (b) tenant's liability on vacation?
- (3) What is the average amount owed in each category?
- (4) Are applicants in arrears retained on the waiting list or are they required to lodge a fresh application?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) There were 811 Aboriginal applicants for "grant" housing as at 28 February 1981.
Statistics are not retained for Aboriginal applicants for Commonwealth-State rental properties.

- (2) It is not possible to state the number of Aboriginal applicants who owe the commission money for rental arrears and tenants liability because—

(a) no separate figures are kept for Aboriginal applicants for Commonwealth-State rental properties; and

(b) no separate break up is kept for rental and tenants' liability arrears.

- (3) Currently, there are 151 ex-tenants of Aboriginal grant properties with arrears, including rent, tenants' liability, and legal costs, totalling \$83 945 at an average of \$556 per ex-tenant. This does not include—

(a) ex-Aboriginal tenants of Commonwealth-State rental properties;

(b) substantial numbers of arrears written off to bad debts.

- (4) When an applicant with arrears, lodges an application, the application is not accepted—i.e. not retained on the waiting list—until the applicant has cleared or satisfactorily reduced the arrears, or made an arrangement to reduce and proven his intent to repay by performance over a reasonable period.

WATER RESOURCES: UNDERGROUND

Bores: Spearwood

440. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it a fact that some market gardeners in the Spearwood area have found that bores which previously produced potable water are now producing salt water?
- (2) If "Yes", will he please provide full details?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) All groundwater abstracted in the Spearwood area is for private use. It is outside the Jandakot public water supply area and is not affected by Water Board activities.

In this coastal area, it is not surprising if some bores with high pumping rates during dry seasons should show signs of salt water intrusion. Reference was made to this possibility in the Acting Minister's press statement published by *The West Australian* on 26 March, 1981.

HOUSING

New Units: Approvals

441. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware of the decline in approvals for new detached homes during February and January of this year compared with the same period of last year?
- (2) What specific policies can the Government implement to boost the home building industry?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There has been a trend to buying established homes and the number of renovations has increased. These trends are expected to reverse during this year. Specific policies which have been pursued by the Government to boost the new home building market are—
 - (a) Requests to banks and building societies to give preference to loans for new homes;
 - (b) funds made available through terminating building societies for low-income earners;
 - (c) a strong case has been taken to the Federal Government for taxation concessions on mortgage interest payments; this case has the support of all other States;
 - (d) representations have also been made to the Federal Government for early payment of the home savings grant;
 - (e) discussions are ensuing with mortgage insurers with regard to capitalising stamp duty and establishment costs.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Applicants: Rejection of Offers

442. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants refused the first offer of rental accommodation made to them by the State Housing Commission in each of the past four years?
- (2) In how many cases were the reasons for rejection accepted as valid?
- (3) In how many cases were offers subsequently assisted?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) to (3) This information is not readily available and I am therefore not prepared to commit the State Housing Commission to the costs involved in extensive research.

HOUSING

Granny Flats

443. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission given any further consideration to the provision of transportable granny flats to tenants and others who wish to house aged parents close to their family?
- (2) If "Yes", what are the details of such consideration?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A scheme to assist families to house their aged relatives is currently being prepared. Details are currently being discussed with the Ministers for Health and Local Government.

HOUSING

Pensioners: Family Units

444. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many family-type State Housing Commission housing units are occupied by pensioners?
- (2) How many pensioners;
 - (a) were initially required to pay the \$5 rental surcharge to remain in their present accommodation;

- (b) were subsequently exempted from the surcharge and allowed to remain in the accommodation they occupied;

- (c) transferred to alternative accommodation?

- (3) On what grounds were exemptions granted?
- (4) When was the rental surcharge scheme adopted, and was its implementation delayed for any reason in any area?
- (5) If "Yes", what was the reason?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) to (5) The information sought by the member will take some time to research and therefore I will reply by letter.

HOUSING

SHC Management Fee

445. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many people are liable to pay the State Housing Commission's management fee?
- (2) How many of these have paid less than the correct amount of the fee to date?
- (3) How many have paid nothing?
- (4) What action has the commission taken—or is it contemplating taking—against people who have not paid any—or the full amount due—of the fee?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

As at 31 March 1981—

- (1) 9 366.
- (2) 3 682.
- (3) 360.
- (4) (a) Issue of arrears notices;
- (b) Withhold the consent of the commission for any additional loans by the borrower against his equity in the property;
- (c) Require the borrower to bring the management fee up to date in discharging his liability in respect of the property.

IMMIGRANTS

Number and Source

446. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) How many migrants arrived in Western Australia under all schemes in each of the past five years?
- (2) In each case, what number came from—
- (a) the United Kingdom;
- (b) other sources?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2)

Year	United Kingdom	Other Sources	Total
1976-77	4 994	3 691	8 685
1977-78	4 699	5 157	9 856
1978-79	2 624	4 773	7 397
1979-80	3 415	5 162	8 577
1980-81	3 801	3 847	7 648

Note: All figures shown are for period July to June except in the case of 1980-81 when figures are to January 1981—last available figures.

Source: Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Australian Bureau of Statistics.

HEALTH

Local Government Immunisation Clinics

447. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Government has withdrawn the services of community health sisters from assisting in local government immunisation clinics?
- (2) If "Yes", how many local government authorities have lost the services of a community health sister?
- (3) If answer to (1) is "Yes", what is the reason for this action and is it the Government's intention to provide financial assistance to local government authorities to enable them to employ qualified sisters?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No, however, there was a temporary withdrawal starting in the third week of December 1980 in one local government immunisation clinic because of temporary staffing problems—area involved Cockburn Shire.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Not applicable.

NOISE

Traffic: Kwinana Freeway

448. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Transport:

Has the Main Roads Department taken tests or completed any studies to enable them to be able to predict the likely noise levels and their effect on residents when the new freeway extensions in Manning open?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Yes. Tests were carried out which resulted in an internal report being prepared for the Main Roads Department to assist with the design stage of the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway. It is anticipated that the noise levels will be similar to other major roads in the Perth region carrying similar volumes of traffic.

NOISE

Traffic: Kwinana Freeway

449. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Has the Public Health Department taken tests or completed any studies to enable them to be able to predict the likely noise levels and their effect on residents when the new freeway extensions in Manning open?

Mr YOUNG replied:

No.

HOSPITAL

Sir Charles Gairdner: Podium and Ward Block

450. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What was the original estimated cost of construction of the new podium and ward block at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital?
- (2) What is the present estimate of the final cost of construction of the new podium and ward block?
- (3) If there has been an increase in the estimated cost of completing the project, please provide details of the reasons for the increase?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The original estimate for the ward and podium block in 1976-77, excluding fees, associated works and furniture, was \$68.3 million.

- (2) The current estimated final cost, excluding fees, associated works and furniture, is \$74 million.

An amount of \$12.7 million must be added to allow for fees, associated works and furniture, giving an anticipated final end cost of approximately \$86.7 million.

- (3) Major and minor variations to the project in over four years of construction account for the differential of \$5.7 million.

The podium and ward block foundations and structure up to the ground floor were commenced and built to a design conceived in the late 1960s.

During the early stages of construction the design of the outside shell of the building was substantially changed on two occasions.

Firstly, the length and height of the podium were increased, the height of the tower block reduced and both the width and length of the building increased. Later a floor was removed from the tower block.

The rebriefing went well beyond what might be expected from the removal of a single floor. Nearly every department in the hospital requested significant changes.

A decision was taken in June 1979, to relocate accident and emergency services and to transfer admissions from the front of the ground floor to a new admissions centre at the rear of the building.

The project is currently one year behind schedule, the delays being caused by the previously mentioned modifications together with delays caused by industrial disputes—81 days—and inclement weather—46 days.

The expected date of completion is September 1981. Commissioning and occupation of the building will then take place.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

Prosecutions

451. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Since the introduction of the Noise Abatement Act 1972, how many

successful prosecutions have occurred for breaches of—

- (a) section 27;
- (b) section 28;
- (c) section 37;
- (d) section 39;
- (e) section 41?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) to (e) To my knowledge, there have been two successful prosecutions under section 27 of the Act. Since prosecutions are usually taken by local authorities, I have no precise information. Again, to the best of my knowledge, there have been no prosecutions under sections 28, 37, 39, and 41.

STOCK

Movement along Roads

452. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General finished his examination of a road traffic regulation which allegedly can prevent farmers from moving stock along roads?
- (2) If so, what are the results of the examination?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when will it be completed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Certain preliminary work has been completed and discussions are taking place with relevant authorities.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is anticipated that the Attorney General will be reporting back to Cabinet in the near future.

LIQUOR ACT

Amendment

453. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

Does the State Government intend to amend the Liquor Act to prevent publicans from not serving persons in specific areas of licensed premises, as a result of a recent court case involving a Mullewa publican?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The court decision is under consideration by the Government.

LAND

Tax

454. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

For what reasons has his Government demanded that land tax bills be paid earlier this year than in previous years?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The demand for payment this year has been no different from previous years.

As a matter of fact, the issue of assessments was later this year as a result of amendments to the legislation to grant further relief to taxpayers.

SURVEILLANCE CRAFT

P150

455. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the State Government made representations to the Federal Government seeking the use of the prototype surveillance craft P150?
- (2) If so, what were the results of the representations?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The representations are currently under consideration.

TOURISM

Cheyne's Beach Whaling Station

456. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has he made a formal approach to the Federal Government requesting their contribution of up to \$1 million to upgrade the Cheynes Beach Whaling station as a tourist attraction?
- (2) Has the Federal Government replied?
- (3) If so, will he outline the nature of the reply?
- (4) If "No" to (2), will he advise the results of his representations when they are received?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) Negotiations are continuing.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Credit Ratings: Accuracy

457. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Further to question 244 of 1981 concerning a suggestion by the Consumer Affairs Council that legislation be introduced to allow people to check the accuracy of their credit rating, has he seen section (f) on page 13 of the Consumer Affairs Council annual report for 1979-80, which was submitted to him?
- (2) Is he aware that this section of the report advises that the Consumer Affairs Council recommended amendments to be introduced to clear the way for the establishment of a voluntary consumer credit checking agreement by credit reference bureaux?
- (3) Is he also aware that the Consumer Affairs Council considered that interim legislation was desirable for the introduction of uniform defamation laws and made a further approach to the Minister?
- (4) Does he still believe his answer to question 244 which states that the Consumer Affairs Council has not in fact recommended legislation in this field, is correct?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Consumer Affairs Council has not recommended legislation to set up a system of credit checking which has been carried out in other States. A voluntary system, however, requires amendment to the defamation laws. Accordingly the answer given to question 244 is correct.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Victoria Park

458. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How is it proposed to incorporate in the Victoria Park Primary School the adjoining property in Cargill Street which has been purchased by the Education Department?
- (2) When will the work be done?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Land adjacent to the Victoria Park Primary School has been added to the school reserve to increase the playing space available to the children. If the old house on the extra land is of no use to the school, without departmental expenditure, it will be demolished. The Public Works Department has been asked to improve the boundary fence between the recently acquired land and the adjoining private land.

BOATS

Fremantle Sailing Club (Inc.)

459. Mr PARKER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Referring to my question 799 of 1980 relevant to the Fremantle Sailing Club, has the Minister now received a submission from the Fremantle Sailing Club (Inc.) in regard to expansion of its facilities?
- (2) If "Yes", will the Minister table a copy of the submission or provide details of the expansion sought?
- (3) Has the Minister considered—
 - (a) the submission;
 - (b) the Fremantle City Council resolution referred to in my previous question?
- (4) What is the outcome of that consideration in each case?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Answered by (1)

BOATS

Fremantle Sailing Club (Inc.)

460. Mr PARKER, to the Treasurer:

- (1) With reference to my question on notice No. 798 of 1980 relevant to the Fremantle Sailing Club—
 - (a) has the Fremantle Sailing Club asked for any additional assistance for any purpose since that question was answered;
 - (b) if so, what assistance; and
 - (c) for what purpose?
- (2) Has any further assistance been granted to it?

(3) Have there been any changes in the nature of the financial relationship between the club and the Government since then, and if so, what?

(4) (a) What financial obligations does the club have to the Government;
(b) has it honoured them by the due dates;
(c) if "No" to (b), in what way has it not?

(5) Having regard to recent reports that the club intends to double the pen accommodation now available, is it the intention of the Government to contribute by way of—

- (a) grants;
- (b) loans;
- (c) guarantees;
- (d) any other way;

to the proposed expansion?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) To repay the loans under guarantee;
(b) yes;
(c) answered by (b).
- (5) (a) to (d) No. Press reports indicate that the additional facilities will be funded from premiums on the additional berths provided.

BOATS

Fremantle Sailing Club (Inc.)

461. Mr PARKER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) On what date did the Fremantle Sailing Club effectively take possession of the site it now occupies on the west side of Marine Terrace, Fremantle?
- (2) Has a formal lease agreement been executed in relation to the site and, if so, when?
- (3) If not, what is the situation regarding the club's tenancy of the land in question?
- (4) If there is a lease, what is its term?
- (5) What rental or other charges in the club required to pay to the Government with respect to this land?

(6) Will he table a copy of the lease or any exchange of letters constituting an agreement between the club and the Government?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) On 27 April 1978, agreement was given to construction commencing on 1 June 1978. However, the lease will date from 2 November 1979, the date of excision of the lease area from the Fremantle outer harbour.
- (2) No.
- (3) A draft lease is in the hands of the club and negotiations are in progress as to its terms.
- (4) to (6) Not applicable.

WATER RESOURCES

Catchment Areas: Clearing Bans

462. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Further to information supplied by his office and reported in the *Western Farmer* of 22 January 1981, with respect to the Warren, Kent, Wellington and Mundaring catchment areas, what was the respective area of virgin and cleared land which has been the subject of compensation?
- (2) In each of the above cases what was the respective amount paid for virgin land and cleared land?
- (3) Who are the members of the compensation guideline committee and what positions, if any, do they hold?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The information is being collated and will be supplied to the member as soon as possible.
- (3) G. D. Maisey, Pastoralists & Graziers Association—convener;
J. S. Groves, Primary Industry Association;
G. D. Oliver, Department of Agriculture;
D. F. Jones, Valuer General's Department;
E. E. Shelton, Public Works Department.

RAILWAYS

Burning-off

463. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Transport:

Further to question 312 of 1981 relevant to burning-off policy by Westrail, will he outline the amendments made by the commissioner?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The amendments made by Westrail relate only to procedures to be followed for communal burns and are—

- (1) Permits will now be issued by the local fire control officer in the name of Westrail where the rail reserve only is to be burnt and in joint names of Westrail and property owners where other land is to be burnt.
- (2) Whereas previously, to carry out co-operative burns the shire had to rely on Westrail to apply to the Bush Fires Board to obtain suspensions in prohibited burning times, these can now be arranged direct between the shire and the board.

This arrangement places the shire in a more advantageous position to control the burning operations.

FISHERIES

Tuna: Processors

464. Mr STEPHENS, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that the two companies involved in processing of tuna in Western Australia have recently taken action which, in effect, virtually stops tuna fishermen from operating?
- (2) Is he also aware that processors in the Eastern States are continuing to receive tuna from their operators?
- (3) As it therefore appears that the problem locally is one of marketing and/or liquidity, will he make available finance to enable the processors to continue the receipt of tuna?
- (4) If "No" will he initiate moves to enable affected fishermen to avail themselves of financial assistance similar to that provided to farmers under rural reconstruction?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, although limited amounts are still being purchased.
- (2) Yes, but their seasons are finished in New South Wales and about to finish in South Australia.
- (3) Making finance available to purchase tuna would not solve the problem, but the solution lies in being able to market the end product. The problem has been caused by—
 - (i) an accumulation of canned produce on the shelf and in store;
 - (ii) raw fish in frozen storage;
 - (iii) high catches in each Australian tuna fishery.
- (4) Preliminary discussions between State and Commonwealth officers have already been held with a view to including the fishing industry generally under rural reconstruction provisions.

MINING

Seltrust Mining Corporation Pty. Ltd.

465. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware that Seltrust Mining Corporation Pty. Ltd. has obtained a permit to enter 71H/81 Portion of Avon location R District Crown grant S and Crown grant R for the purpose of searching out mineral claims?
- (2) Can an explanation be given as to why the owners were not consulted or given notice before the permit was issued?
- (3) Were the locations referred to, alienated in fee simple from the Crown prior to 1 January 1899?
- (4) If "Yes", why was the permit issued?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Consultation prior to issue of permit not required under Mining Act 1904. However, permittee must serve a copy of the permit on the owner-occupier of the land.
- (3) Not known.
- (4) Permits to enter private land contain the following provision—

Provided that this Permit shall be of no force or effect if the said locations were alienated in fee simple from the Crown prior to the 1st January, 1899.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Trade Training Programme

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

- (1) What is the number of persons currently in training under the Commonwealth-State special trade training programme in—

- (a) the mature age training programme;
(b) the training programme for persons under 21 years?

- (2) How many withdrawals have there been from either stream of training since their inception?

- (3) How many from the last intake into the programme have yet to be placed with employers?

- (4) When is the next intake due?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 480 apprentices are in training under the Commonwealth-State special trade training programme and the breakdown is as follows—

- (a) Mature age 339
(b) under 21 years 141

- (2) 32 withdrawals of which 21 were mature age apprentices; the remainder were apprentices under 21 years.

- (3) Nine apprentices were retrenched on 3 April at the completion of their 12-week technical college training because their employer was not permitted to take these apprentices on the construction sites because of unionists' objections to the apprentices being trained "on site".

In addition, three other apprentices who have completed their college training and part of their on-the-job component have had their apprenticeships terminated through lack of work.

Every endeavour is being made to relocate these 12 apprentices within their trades.

- (4) 8 June 1981—Kalgoorlie;
29 June 1981—metropolitan.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Research Reports

467. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many research reports other than "discussion papers" were issued by the department in 1980?

- (2) What were the titles of these reports?

- (3) How many copies of each report were printed and what was the total publishing and distribution cost of these reports?

- (4) Is it intended to publish further such reports in 1981?

- (5) If "Yes", how many are to be published and what is the estimated costs of publishing and distributing these reports?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Five.

- (2) (a) "Rural schools in their communities";
(b) "country school leavers";
(c) "the TAFE project";
(d) "do schools care?";
(e) "the Martin report".

- (3) No. Published Cost
(a) 1 510 \$2 560
(b) 1 510 \$2 169
(c) 1 210 \$3 510
(d) 1 510 \$2 405
(e) 4 000 \$6 317.

- (4) Yes.

- (5) Unknown at this time.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Discussion Papers

468. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many "discussion papers" were issued by his department in 1980?

- (2) What were the titles of each of these "discussion papers"?

- (3) How many copies of each "discussion paper" were printed and what was the total publishing and distribution cost of these "discussion papers"?

- (4) Is it intended to publish further "discussion papers" in 1981?

- (5) If "Yes", how many are to be published and what is the estimated cost of publishing and distributing these papers?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Three.

- (2) (a) "The Advisory Teacher Service in WA";
(b) "testing and assessment";
(c) "preparing young people for the workforce".

(3)	No. Published	Cost
	(a) 3 750	\$5 106
	(b) 3 750	\$3 044
	(c) 4 000	\$2 260

- (4) Yes.
(5) Unknown at this stage.

EDUCATION

"Education" Publication

469. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How often is the publication *Education* issued by his department?
- (2) How many copies of this publication were printed in each issue in 1980?
- (3) What were the publication and distribution costs of this journal in 1980?
- (4) What is the purpose of this journal and how does its purpose differ from that of *WA Education News*?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) *Education* is produced four times a year.
- (2) Issue No. 1 15 000
Issue No. 2 15 650
Issue No. 3 15 000
Issue No. 4 15 300.
- (3) Publication costs—
Issue No. 1 \$7 697
Issue No. 2 \$7 140
Issue No. 3 \$9 244
Issue No. 4 \$9 223.

Distribution costs are minimal as *Education* is included with other material being sent out to schools.

- (4) *Education* is a professional journal through which teachers and other educationists can express their viewpoint on educational issues. *WA Education News* is a newspaper which reports on events as distinct from a journal.

EDUCATION

"WA Education News"

470. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the \$35 000 budgeted for the publication and distribution of *WA Education News* in the current financial year include the salary of the editor?
- (2) If "Yes", what proportion has been budgeted for this purpose?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes. It includes his salary from the date of appointment on 16 February 1981 until 30 June 1981.
- (2) 24 per cent.

HOSPITAL

Sir Charles Gairdner: Traffic Accident Victim

471. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he concerned about the series of events associated with apparent premature discharge from hospital of the patient referred to in my question 288 of 1 April 1981?
- (2) What action, if any, has he taken regarding this series of events?
- (3) What steps has he taken to assure himself that patients are not being discharged prematurely from hospitals due to a shortage of beds and that any such occurrences are not the result of Government imposed restrictions on hospital funding?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. I am concerned if it is proved that any patient is discharged prematurely.
- (2) The hospital has provided me with a report.
- (3) In the opinion of the attending doctors the patient was sufficiently recovered to allow discharge home. Fractures of the small wrist bones are often difficult to diagnose from sprains and occasionally become obvious clinically only some days after the original injury. I do not accept that this unfortunate episode is in any way related to the requirement of hospitals that they operate within their allocated budgets.

472. *This question was postponed.*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Beach Road-Mirraboooka Avenue Intersection

473. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

How many accidents have occurred at the Beach Road-Mirraboooka Avenue intersection in the first three months of 1981?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Reported accidents between 1 January 81 and 31 March 81 number five.

MR R. LINCOLN

Request to Minister for Transport

474. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

Can he say when he will be replying to a written request from Mr R. Lincoln of Morley, forwarded to him on 14 February 1981, and to my subsequent representation on Mr Lincoln's behalf of 20 March 1981?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Both letters have been replied to.

ANIMALS

Dog Act

175. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will organisations and bodies other than Government departments be represented on the committee she proposes to appoint to examine possible amendments to the Dog Act?
- (2) If "Yes", which outside organisations and bodies will be represented?
- (3) Will the committee include any local government authority officers directly involved in the day to day administration of the provisions of the Act?
- (4) (a) Will the committee be calling for public submissions or further submissions from local government authorities on amendments to the Act; and
(b) if not, why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Local Government Association; Country Shire Councils' Association; Australian Veterinary Association; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Institute of Municipal Administration; and the Canine Association will shortly be invited to nominate representatives to the committee.

(3) Yes.

(4) (a) No.

(b) I do not consider a complete review of the Act to be necessary. The committee will be asked to examine certain specific problems that have been identified.

WATER RESOURCES

Reservoir: Koondoola

476. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Metropolitan Water Board received any complaints about youths and children swimming in the board's reservoir in Koondoola?
- (2) What measures are taken to ensure against such incidents?
- (3) In view of reports from residents that a band of 10 youths wearing bathers and with towels was seen leaving the reservoir site on the afternoon of Sunday, 5 April, will he undertake to investigate these reports and the need for improved security at this reservoir?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Not in recent months; however, in December 1980 board employees apprehended children and warned the parents.
- (2) The site is surrounded by a standard 1.9 metre mesh security fence which is checked weekly. The reservoir site is visited by board staff at least twice daily including weekends. This is considered to be a reasonable level of security.
- (3) If details of the alleged incident are made available to the Metropolitan Water Board, investigations will be made.

HOSPITALS

Royal Perth and Sir Charles Gairdner: Scanners

477. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital have—
(a) a body scanner;
(b) a head scanner;
as part of its equipment?

- (2) Is the body scanner at Royal Perth Hospital the only one in a teaching hospital?
- (3) Is it a fact that a committee was appointed in 1975 comprising officers of the Medical Department and representatives from teaching hospitals to decide the placement of expensive equipment and ascertain that unwarranted duplication did not take place?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital has a head scanner.
- (2) A body scanner has been ordered for Royal Perth Hospital. When it is commissioned it will be the only body scanner in a teaching hospital.
- (3) Yes. The committee established in 1975 comprised officers of the department and representatives of Royal Perth and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospitals. This committee has now been absorbed into the executive co-ordinating committee, which comprises representatives of the department and all the teaching hospitals.

FUEL AND ENERGY: SEC

Accounts

478. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) With reference to State Energy Commission account number STN000110016 forwarded to the Shackleton Post Office agency can he verify it as a genuine SEC account?
- (2) In view of the amount of money due, will he allow time to pay?
- (3) If "Yes", can he give an assurance the supply will not be disconnected after the due date and the Shackleton street lights switched off?
- (4) In order to reduce the postage and accounting costs of the SEC will he ensure no further accounts for \$00.00 are posted?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) The account produced relates to street lights in Shackleton, and is only created for internal record purposes.

Unfortunately, due to a human error on this account was posted, although controls have been implemented to eliminate the possibility of this situation occurring.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Buildings

479. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

What are the criteria used by the department for establishing priority for replacement of primary school buildings?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

School buildings are listed for replacement under the following conditions—

- (a) The student population has moved to a nearby location;
- (b) The Public Works Department advises that the building is reaching the end of its economical life.

First priority is given to the provision of classrooms in new and developing areas. Schools which have a number of temporary classrooms in use and a long term need for permanent rooms are proven also have a high priority.

Other projects, such as replacement of existing schools, are then considered on the number to be undertaken each year depends on funds remaining. Priority for any one project are also influenced by the number of similar jobs with prior listing.

EDUCATION

Transport Subsidies

480. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What transport subsidies are available for schools when buses are required to transport students to sporting events?
- (2) Does the level of subsidy vary for more isolated schools?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) An educational tours subsidy—which covers transport to sporting events—is paid direct to the MTT on a basis of 1

per kilometre for all MTT bus excursions by schools in the metropolitan area. As such a scheme is not possible outside the metropolitan area, funds are made available to country regional offices and individual applications are made from schools and to the regional director and are subsidised on a needs basis as determined by the regional director.

- (2) Regional directors give special consideration to the needs of the more isolated schools in the provision of assistance.

481. *This question was postponed.*

HOUSING

Midland and Midvale

482. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Would he table a map showing the State Housing Commission owned properties within the postal localities of Midland and Midvale?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

No. It has been a long-standing policy of the commission not to publicly identify commission housing.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport

483. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that the joint Governments advisory committee in only one of its options considered the proposed site for the new international terminal as suitable?
- (2) In view of the fact that the other four options placed the terminal off the Beechborough-Gosnells Highway, which would have given optimum access from northern, eastern, and southern suburbs of Perth, will he at this stage make the necessary representations to the Commonwealth Government to resite this proposed terminal?

(3) As proposals as to the need after the year 2005 would require an alternate airport for Perth, what progress has been made on the selection of a suitable site as suggested by the joint Governments committee?

(4) Will he lay on the Table of the House a copy of the joint Governments committee report?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) The recommendations of the Commonwealth-State advisory committee to study Western Australia's airport requirements, in reporting on the aviation requirements of the Perth region, related to the "location" of airports and not the "layout" of airports.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) The committee made no recommendations for the period after 2005.

(4) Yes.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 144).

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Stations: Water Requirements

484. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) What would be the fresh water requirements for—

- (a) a small;
- (b) medium;
- (c) large;

power generating facility, assuming that sea water could be used for such operations as cooling, etc.?

(2) In a coal liquefaction process, what quantity of fresh water would be required in approximate terms to convert one tonne of brown coal to a synthetic fuel product?

(3) Could he provide the latest cost of production figures per litre of synthetic liquid fuel from a coal of the Yallourn type, utilising the most efficient techniques?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) (a) and (b) About 2.5 cubic metres per megawatt per day for plants up to 200 megawatts.

(c) About 3 cubic metres per megawatt per day for plants of 300 megawatts and larger.

(2) About 2 500 litres.

- (3) Unrefined crude oil produced from Yallourn-type coal is estimated to cost about \$50 per barrel, compared with current conventional crude oil prices of about \$30 to \$35 per barrel.

WATER RESOURCES

Esperance

485. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Have any further determinations been made on the water potential that is possible from the Esperance aquifer?
 (2) If so, what is the annual yield that could be drawn from this aquifer without overly exploiting it?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) Extensive investigations have been made in the early 1970s when the availability of adequate water for Esperance town water supply was established.

There has been no need or justification since to have new investigations.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Tuart Hill

486. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he list the technical colleges which are situated in the metropolitan area?
 (2) How many adults and young people above normal school leaving age are currently unable to return to full-time or part-time studies because of the inadequate number of technical colleges?
 (3) How many additional technical colleges are now required?
 (4) What was the Tuart Hill Senior High School's population for each of the last 10 years and what is that school's efficient population now?
 (5) What is the expected school population for the next five years?
 (6) (a) Will he provide all of the evidence upon which it is said that schools neighbouring Tuart Hill Senior High School are now, or will be, substantially under used;
 (b) which schools are these?

- (7) When Tuart Hill Senior High School closed what school or schools will be the regular secondary school which students will attend?

- (8) What are the respective populations of the neighbouring high schools to which Tuart Hill Senior High School students will be sent?

- (9) Who will bear the additional cost of transporting students to their new high schools?

- (10) Does Tuart Hill Senior High School have any special classes—e.g., for "movement and dance"—and, otherwise—if so, what are they and what facilities will be provided for students in these special areas to enable them to continue their studies in those areas?

- (11) Is it contended that the sum of \$15 million will be saved by the closing of Tuart Hill and Bentley High Schools?

- (12) (a) Has this \$15 million been budgeted for;

(b) if "No", why;

(c) if "Yes", what will this money now be used for?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Balga, Bentley, Carine, Carlisle, Claremont, Fremantle, Leederville, Midland, Mt. Lawley, Perth, Rockingham, Technical Extension Service, Thornlie, and Wembley Technical Colleges.

- (2) Records of the kind of information requested about students who cannot be accommodated in technical colleges are not kept.

- (3) Three additional technical colleges, but in stages over a number of years, are planned.

(4)	1971	1 281	1976	1 014
	1972	1 271	1977	985
	1973	1 183	1978	895
	1974	1 146	1979	819
	1975	1 121	1980	761
			1981 March	770

- (5) 1982 750
 1983 730
 1984 705
 1985 685

By 1988 the anticipated enrolment was expected to be 595 and the decline would continue.

- (6) (a) and (b) Enrolment changes at high schools in the vicinity of Tuart Hill compared with that school have been and are expected to be as follows—

	Peak	1981	1986	1988
Tuart Hill	1 676	770	640	595
Mirrabooka	1 182	793	655	550
Balga	1 344	1 058	910	765
Perth Modern	1 497	851	685	690
Mount Lawley	1 549	1 225	1 235	1 240

The Mt. Lawley Senior High School enrolments would show a similar trend to the other schools if its intake was limited to its designated intake area.

- (7) Students from the Tuart Hill Senior High School intake area will be able to attend one of the following schools according to a re-arrangement of school boundaries—

Mirrabooka Senior High School
Perth Modern Senior High School
Mt. Lawley Senior High School

- (8) See (6). The Mt. Lawley year eight intake in 1982 will give preference to students at neighbouring primary schools, now feeding to Tuart Hill and Mirrabooka, before it can admit students from other areas.
- (9) Many of these children are already using public transport to reach school and for others the cost will be no greater than for other children in the metropolitan area who use public transport to reach a high school.
- (10) Yes, facilities will be provided at Mirrabooka to carry on specialist activities now centred at the Tuart Hill Senior High School.
- (11) and (12) The estimated cost of replacing Tuart Hill and Bentley Senior High Schools with new facilities to cope with increasing technical college enrolments is \$15 million. This has been saved as a result of reprogramming the use of these two high schools.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Children's Institution at Forrestfield

18. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

My question relates to the proposed detention centre which was to have been located in Forrestfield. According to this evening's Press, that decision has now been rescinded. Can the Chief Secretary tell us whether there are firm plans for

the resiting of the centre in any other locality, or what is the situation now?

By way of explanation I would like to tell him that I have received a number of calls at my office from concerned people who will no doubt be delighted with the article in tonight's Press. However, if the institution is to be put somewhere else, no doubt we will receive calls from people in other areas.

Mr HASSELL replied:

I am sure the Leader of the Opposition has not had as many calls or letters about this subject as I. We have been attempting to deal with the matter as expeditiously as possible, and as satisfactorily to all parties as possible. A great deal of work has been undertaken on it.

The history of the situation is this: The Department for Community Welfare has held a reserve of land on the corner of Bougainvillea Avenue and Dawson Avenue since 1967. I have visited this site twice myself. All the maps since that time have shown quite clearly that the land is reserved for the Department for Community Welfare. Any inquiry made to the department during that period would have elicited the answer that some institution would be located on the site. Very few, if any, such inquiries were ever made.

The land remained as it was, and housing development took place all around it. Last year a request was made to the Department for Community Welfare to relinquish that land to enable a primary school which was needed for the area to be established there rather than on the site reserved for it next to the high school. For a number of reasons, including the traffic flow on the road outside the high school, this land was considered unsuitable.

I required my department to consider the request properly in view of the fact that the Education Department had made it and the reserve was wanted for a community reason. I did not want my department to feel that as it had been a reserve for a long time, it should sit on it. Therefore, after some considerable discussion, it was agreed to exchange the sites and that the Department for Community Welfare institution would

be established on the Education Department land and the primary school established on the Department for Community Welfare land.

The agreement was subject to approval by the local authority of the use of the land adjacent to the high school for the construction of the Department for Community Welfare institution. That approval was given. Subsequently, when public concern was aroused and the people expressed their objection to having the institution located next to the high school, the issue was considered further. I discussed it with the Minister for Education, and despite my earlier visit to the site when the matter first arose, I went there again with the Minister for Education. We reached the conclusion in all the circumstances it would not be appropriate for the Department for Community Welfare institution to be established next to the high school. That left us to consider whether we should revert automatically to the existing site on the corner of Bougainvillea and Dawson Avenues for the institution. As I said, this land has been reserved since 1967 for that purpose.

The Education Department remains anxious to establish a primary school on that site. At the same time I have a responsibility to ensure that the Department for Community Welfare institution has land available for its construction in the near future because planning for the institution is advanced and the site will be required quite soon.

Notwithstanding that, because of the Education Department's request, and because of the concern of the local community about the siting of the primary school, we are continuing our investigations at an urgent pace—particularly in view of the necessity to commence the primary school—to ascertain an alternative site for the institution.

POLICE

Telephone Tapping

119. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (i) Is the Minister aware that the Listening Devices Act provides that the Minister for Police and Traffic shall be entitled,

as a right, to be informed by the Commissioner of Police of the particulars of any listening device use by members of the Police Force?

- (2) In view of this entitlement as a right will the Minister reveal to the House—

- (1) The number of telephone taps instituted by the Western Australian Police Force in the last 10 years?

- (2) The procedure adopted to authorise these telephone taps? and

- (3) The reasons for the use of telephone tapping?

- (3) If the Minister is not prepared to reveal that detail to the House, will he please confirm or deny that telephone tapping is practised by the Western Australia police?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes. I do not have the legislation in front of me. I understand that the Minister for Police is entitled to request the information.

Mr B. T. Burke: No, that is wrong.

Mr HASSELL: That may be right. The answer is "Yes".

- (2) and (3) No I will not.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Bibra Lake

120. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

What actions are being taken by the Department of Conservation and Environment to assess the impact of Edgley International's plans to set up a \$15 million entertainment development in the Bibra Lake area?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Department of Conservation and Environment is seeking details of the proposals.

POLICE

Telephone Tapping

121. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Is the Minister aware that in the ABC programme "Nationwide" on Monday, 6 April 1981, Mr Ian Temby, Vice President of the Law Society, during an interview said—

....I can see that in certain circumstances to give State police the right to tap telephones may be justified—

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear! I agree.

Mr Pearce: He said many other things too, like that the Minister should know whether the lines are being tapped or not.

Mr HASSELL replied:

Yes, I did note that comment from Mr Temby amongst others by him. I have also noted that Mr Temby is a member of the Australian Labor Party and convenor of a significant committee of the State executive of that Party.

Mr B. T. Burke: Don't you agree there is a difference between rational people agreeing to it and wanting to know that proper procedures will be followed?

The SPEAKER: Order! If the interjections persist I shall terminate questions without notice.

HEALTH: DRUG

Depo-provera

122. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

I wish to address a seven-part question to the Minister and I have given him some notice of it. It is as follows—

- (1) Is it a fact that some patients in Graylands Mental Hospital are being injected with the drug Depo-provera?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes", how many patients are being given the drug and when was its use commenced?
- (3) Is it considered that patients at Graylands Mental Hospital are capable of giving informed consent for the use of Depo-provera?

- (4) How much a dose does the State Government pay for Depo-provera?
- (5) What monitoring and follow-up of women injected with Depo-provera is organised by State health authorities?
- (6) Is Depo-provera approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council for use in Australia as a contraceptive?
- (7) Is it a fact that Depo-provera is not recommended by its manufacturers, Upjohn Pty. Ltd. for use as a contraceptive?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question, the reply to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) One patient who is very promiscuous, retarded, and autistic; commenced on 21 November 1980.
- (3) Not in this case.
- (4) \$5.90 per dose.
- (5) None. The follow-up of any person on any drug is the responsibility of the patient's medical practitioner. However, the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee monitors adverse reactions to drugs and disseminates such information to medical practitioners.
- (6) The National Health and Medical Research Council makes no specific recommendation.
- (7) Yes, but the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee recognises that it may be used as a contraceptive when the doctor considers it the most appropriate treatment and informed consent is obtained. This appears to have been accepted as a valid source of reference by the Family Planning Association and the Aboriginal Medical Service which, I understand, has said it has used the drug on many occasions over a number of years. Of course, that is not a State Government service. The manufacturers, in their specifications, state as follows—

The use of Depo-provera for contraception is not an improved indication and such

use is investigational since there are unresolved questions relating to its safety for this indication.

In other words, the manufacturers do not state specifically that it is not acceptable for use as a contraceptive, but they more or less write a caveat in respect of it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL

One-man-one-vote Principle

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

I noticed this afternoon when the Minister introduced a Bill to amend the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act she said—

The principle of one-man-one-vote has been incorporated.

In view of the fact that my understanding is that the principle of one-man-one-vote certainly has not been incorporated, would the Minister mind giving the House her definition of that principle?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Having made that comment in my second reading speech, I then went on to elaborate on the provisions contained in the Bill. I believe that is sufficient acknowledgment at this stage for the member for Geraldton.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

Liquid Natural: North-West Shelf

124. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

My question is supplementary to question 412. I ask the Minister—

- (1) As Alcoa and the State Energy Commission have no formal contract between them for Alcoa to purchase liquid natural gas from the North-West Shelf, can I assume that negotiations towards a formal contract are proceeding?
- (2) Will he advise whether the formal memorandum of understanding signed in 1978 contained a number of conditions as to certain things occurring, which may mean Alcoa is not committed to purchase LNG?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) For the benefit of the member for Maylands, we are not talking about liquefied natural gas. Very simply, and adding to the answers I have already given the honourable member, discussions have been proceeding to add to the memorandum which has already been drawn up and to which I referred in my answer. The signing of a contract involves various other factors regarding the kind of delivery, contents, quality of gas, and things of that nature and the discussions which must occur between the initial memorandum relative to quantity and the final details relating to pricing, escalation, and so on take some time. We have made no secret of the fact there has been a slow down in the process due to the class action which has been instituted.

Mr Harman: That is not the only reason.

Mr P. V. JONES: That is the only reason I know of.

Mr Harman: You were less than truthful in this place before.

Mr P. V. JONES: There is no reason to add to the information I have already provided.

EDUCATION

Teachers: Technical Colleges

125. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

Since I drew the Minister's attention to this House on Wednesday 1 April to the fact that technical teachers employed part time at night classes in the Technical Education Division had not been paid and the Minister undertook to investigate the situation, and considering those teachers still have not been paid can he inform the House of the result of his investigations and particularly, when it is likely they may be paid?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I have been unable to obtain any information along those lines. No-one has made representations either to me or to the Education Department. If the member for Gosnells would provide me with the information, I would be glad to pursue the matter.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Tuart Hill

126. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Education:

Has he and the Cabinet recently made a decision touching on the Tuart Hill Senior High School? If "Yes", did he, the Premier, or any member of the Cabinet first confer with or advise—

- (a) the member for Mt. Hawthorn;
- (b) any other parliamentary member; if so, which one;
- (c) the Tuart Hill Senior High School Parents and Citizens' Association;
- (d) any other State school organisation or council; if so, which ones?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) to (d) Certainly, no attempt was made to confer with the member for Mt. Hawthorn or his colleagues; there was no point in doing that. What we did do—quite contrary to what appeared in the Press and to what Mr Negus said on television—was to take the union into our confidence a week prior to the decision being made. We explained the position in full. However, notwithstanding that the matter was still confidential, the union immediately called a meeting. I do not know who attended the meeting but arising from it, all sorts of opposition was engendered. The Government made a decision, and had the opposition not been stirred up, we would have had the opportunity to advise the parties to whom the member for Mt. Hawthorn has referred.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn referred to the parents and citizens' organisation; we did not have the opportunity to confer with that organisation for the reason I have given. I remind the honourable member that no decision was made to demolish the building, or anything of that nature. The changeover will not be effected for another 10 months or so, therefore there is adequate time to discuss the matter with the P & C association.

I have written to every parent explaining the decision. I have also written to the President of the Tuart Hill Senior High School Parents and Citizens' Association and officers of the department will be meeting members of the P & C

association next week. Senior officers of the department have also met the teachers concerned and I am assured there are no problems. I can foresee no problems in respect of the P & C association, because both schools will require governing councils and I hope the P & C association will continue to function.

Mr Pearce: Their children will be somewhere else.

Mr GRAYDEN: If their children are somewhere else, the members of the P & C association can follow them to the new school. Similarly, if the P & C association at the Tuart Hill Senior High School has equipment, and the children go to the Mirrabooka school, obviously it will be possible to transfer that equipment to Mirrabooka.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about the swimming pool?

Mr GRAYDEN: There is a swimming pool at the Tuart Hill Senior High School. However, I remind members that the Mirrabooka school has a swimming pool. I assure the House that we will be negotiating with the P & C association in an effort to ensure the public in the vicinity has access to the swimming pool at Tuart Hill. I do not see any problems at all. I repeat that we have 10 months in which to iron out any problems which may occur. I conclude by saying there will be tremendous educational advantages for all concerned in the proposed changeover and, economically, the State will benefit by millions of dollars.

PORT

Fremantle

127. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister—or the Fremantle Port Authority—decided to lease numbers 4 and 5 berths to a private consortium, or is the matter under consideration?
- (2) Of whom does the consortium consist?
- (3) What will be the effect on—
 - (a) the operations of the port including its profitability;

- (b) employment of Fremantle Port Authority or other employees;
- (c) equipment owned by the Fremantle Port Authority?

- (4) Who will pay for the \$4 million or \$5 million upgrading of the berths just completed?
- (5) What is the reason for any decision?
- (6) Will the Minister make a statement to the House on this matter under the Standing Orders newly created for this purpose?

Mr Blaikie: Why don't you put that sort of question on notice?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (6) The member did give me some moment's notice but not enough for me to be able to gather the information for him. I would be pleased if he would put it on notice so I can give him a considered answer.

Mr Davies: Has it happened or not?

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Drug Trafficking

128. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

I preface my question with the statement that there is a growing number of parents in the community who are concerned about the spread of drug taking and drug trafficking involving the juvenile element of our community. I ask—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that both he and the Minister for Police and Traffic have now stated that statistics are not kept in respect of offences concerning cases of drug taking and drug trafficking in Western Australian schools?
- (2) In view of the serious nature of this issue, and the genuine concern of many people, will he take steps to see that the situation is rectified?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The member knows that we do not keep separate statistics; but in view of the fact that he has raised the issue, certainly I will pursue it and advise him of the outcome.

HOUSING

Sewer Blockages

129. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Adverting to his answer to my question 289 of last Wednesday regarding delay in the response to requests for urgent maintenance by a pensioner tenant, Girrawheen, in which he advised that the first record of complaint was received by the commission at 2.46 p.m. on Sunday, 29 March, in view of the fact that the tenant concerned has not signed a statutory declaration to the effect that a number of complaints concerning the same problem were made to the commission prior to the time quoted in his answer, will he ensure that the matter is investigated further, with a view to ascertaining the reason for the undue delay in dealing with the request for urgent maintenance?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

I wish to point out that the details were given completely in the answer I gave on Wednesday, 1 April. If he has further information that he would like to give me about the case, I would be only too happy to look at it.

The sort of maintenance problem mentioned is one that normally is handled on an emergency basis. There are some difficult times; and I point out that this happened on a Sunday afternoon. Even so, there are emergency procedures to deal with that sort of problem.

The commission has a maintenance budget of \$10 million a year; and obviously tries to keep up with all of the problems. Certainly, if it is a sewerage or drainage problem, it is dealt with straight away.

If the member has details other than the ones I have mentioned to him, I would like him to give them to me.

EDUCATION

Teachers: Travelling Expenses

130. Mr SODEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of delays in reimbursing Christmas travelling expenses for some Pilbara teachers?

- (2) If not, would he endeavour to have the payment of such expenses speeded up?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) No, I am not aware of any delays. However, in view of the fact that he has raised the matter, I will make investigations into it. The question of travelling expenses for young teachers, particularly those who are operating in the remote areas of Western Australia, is an important one. If there have been delays, I am surprised to hear of them. I shall certainly pursue the problem, and I will rectify the matter.

ROYAL WEDDING

Gift

31. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Government propose to make a presentation to Prince Charles and Lady Diana on the occasion of their wedding?
(2) If so, what is the gift proposed to be?

Mr Tonkin: And where is the money coming from?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) It was intended that at the appropriate time a presentation would be made. I have already made an announcement about that. The nature of the gift has yet to be determined. I understand that suggestions are being received by one of the newspapers from a fairly wide range of people. However, there is no necessity to make a decision at this time.

The people of this State would expect us to make some suitable presentation on this very important and historic occasion.

POLICE

Telephone Tapping

132. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware that many people both inside the Labor Party and outside the Labor Party would concede that in the pursuit of certain criminals telephone tapping would seem to be a necessary part of the Police Department's equipment?
(2) Can he appreciate that separate from that concession is the assurance that those same people would require that the practice be followed according to a settled and proper procedure, and that its practice does not constitute a breach of the law?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) I am delighted to hear the assurance of the member for Balcatta that there are some members of the Labor Party—

Mr B. T. Burke: Well, I am one.

Mr HASSELL: —who acknowledge that the use of telephone tapping is necessary on some occasions, and appropriate in law enforcement.

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HASSELL: That was not the attitude adopted by the member for Balcatta yesterday.

Mr B. T. Burke: Look at the question.

Opposition members interjected.