

Zealand Animal Protection Act also makes abandonment of any animal a serious offence.

The RSPCA has provided me with a copy of a communication forwarded to it by the Acting Assistant Police Commissioner (Mr H. L. Taylor) in May, 1975. In it appears the following opinion from Senior Inspector W. Connolly of the police law education office:

Mr Calvert's proposal for an additional subsection to section 4 (1), covering abandonment of animals would be a valuable addition to the Western Australian Cruelty to Animals Act. Provision is made in section 21B of the Dog Act whereby it is an offence for any person to abandon a dog. However, no similar provision exists where other animals are abandoned.

I am sure members will agree that the proposed amendment is humane, logical, and necessary to remove the present inadequacy in the Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health).

BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Building Societies Bill.

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), read a first time.

2. Road Traffic Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [5.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 17th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.06 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 11th August, 1976

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (39): ON NOTICE

1. RAILWAYS

Rockingham-Garden Island Line

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that work has begun on the proposed railway line through Rockingham to Garden Island?
- (2) Will he please provide me with a map detailing work to be carried out?
- (3) (a) What is the estimated date of completion;
- (b) what is the estimated cost of construction;
- (c) what is the number of people who will be employed on the project;
- (d) will construction workers from Rockingham be employed on the project;
- (e) is it expected that a passenger service will operate on the line to and from Fremantle;
- (f) what gauge will the line be;
- (g) how much revenue does the department expect to derive from the first two years of operation?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No. Work has not begun on this railway.
 - (2) and (3) The construction of the Mangles Bay Railway line through Rockingham and terminating in the vicinity of the existing causeway to Garden Island is dependent on plans for development of new harbour facilities in the area. The question of extension of this railway over the causeway to Garden Island is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. The State is not aware of any such proposal.
- The railway is a long term proposal and no detailed planning other than preliminary location of the route—which has not yet been finalised—has been carried out. Therefore a map cannot be provided and question 3(a) to (g) cannot be answered at this stage.

2. BALDIVIS SCHOOL

Upgrading

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

Subsequent to the recent deputation from Baldivis Primary School relative to the upgrading of the school, will the Minister please confirm the results of that deputation and the department's plans for the school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

A replacement school is scheduled for Baldiwin Primary School from a future fund allocation.

3. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND CHILD CARE CLINICS

Establishment Grant

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the department grant for the establishment of a pre-school and a child care clinic is \$4 000?
- (2) Is it a fact that this amount was worked out when \$4 000 represented approximately half of the amount needed to erect a pre-school?
- (3) If the answer is "Yes" would the Minister please update the \$4 000 grant to an amount more amenable to today's costs?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The grant of \$4 000 is for a pre-school centre only. (The amount of the grant is \$6 000 for the region north of the 26° parallel.)
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

4. ROCKINGHAM SCHOOL

Resource Centre and Improvements

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to the Minister's reply to my question 23 of Wednesday, 12th November, 1975, has the special task force named completed its inquiry?
- (2) If "Yes" will the Minister inform me when the work on Rockingham Primary School will go ahead?
- (3) If the work is not to go ahead as yet, will the Minister please advise what has happened to the money that was granted for this specific purpose?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The special task force is continuing to review building costs.
- (2) It is anticipated that the proposed works will go out to tender shortly. This news was conveyed to the secretary of the parents and citizens' association, Mrs R. Barritt, by the Hon. Neil McNeill, M.L.C., on Friday, 23rd July, at Rockingham.
- (3) Not applicable.

5. POST SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

Personnel and Staff

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have the personnel and staff required to form and operate the Western Australian Post-Secondary Education Commission been appointed?
- (2) If "No" when is it expected that the Commission will be fully operative?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No. The position of chairman has been advertised extensively in all States, with a closing date of the 11th August, 1976. Consideration is being given to the appointment of members of the commission.
- (2) The date when the commission will be fully operative will depend on the availability of the person appointed as chairman.

6. EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

Stage IV

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

Further to the Minister's answer to question 46 on 7th April, 1976, concerning the commencement of stage IV at Eastern Goldfields Senior High School, now that the loan fund situation for 1976-77 is determined, will he please advise when a commencement will be made and the likely completion date?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The loan fund allocations for 1976-77 have not yet been finally determined.

7. SOUTH KALGOORLIE SCHOOL

Repairs, and Resource Centre

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question 5 of 11th May, 1976, is the Minister now able to state the programme for repair and renovation at South Kalgoorlie Primary School?
- (2) When is it expected that a new resource centre will be constructed at this school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Public Works Department has advised that the proposed repair and renovation works will commence in the near future.

- (2) It is anticipated that the library/resource centre will be completed towards the end of the first term, 1977.

8. **PUBLIC SERVICE**
Geraldton: Officers

Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) How many State Public Service officers are there in Geraldton with a classification of A-1-5 or higher?
- (2) (a) Who are they;
(b) what positions do they hold; and
(c) what are their classifications?
- (3) How many State Public Service officers are there in Geraldton who receive a salary of \$20 157 per annum or higher?
- (4) (a) Who are they;
(b) what positions do they hold; and
(c) what are their salaries?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) There is only one officer employed at Geraldton under the provisions of the Public Service Act, who receives a salary in excess of \$20 157 per annum, and therefore higher than that applying to a classification of A-1-5. This officer is the Harbour Master, Geraldton, who is classified as such under the "Marine Pilots Etc. Award, 1975" at a salary of \$20 433 per annum.

9. **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**
Geraldton: Responsibilities

Mr CARR, to the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development:

- (1) Will he detail what "clearly defined delegated responsibilities for on-the-spot decision making concerning local matters" will be available to the Geraldton regional administrator, as promised in item 13 of his Policy and Performance document?
- (2) Will he please relate this promise to the initial official list of duties which he made available on 5th August and which appears to show only functions of liaison and report?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The member is apparently placing too narrow an interpretation on the wording in the initial list of duties promulgated as a basis for calling applications for the appointment of a regional administrator.

Also—

- (a) He needs to read and appreciate the significance of the whole of the section of the "Policy and Performance" document covered by items 9 to 16, and have regard for the responsibilities of all departmental representatives in the region working in close co-operation with the regional administrator and the regional centre.
- (b) He should re-examine the answers given to earlier questions asked by him on this subject and which refer to the logical development of duties and staff.

10. **TRONADO MACHINE**
Offers of Purchase

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many separate approaches have been made to the Government directed towards the purchase of the Tronado cancer machine?
- (2) Was a communication received from Calgary, Alberta, Canada from a person purporting to be acting on behalf of a group of doctors who were desirous of obtaining the Tronado?
- (3) Was this communication of the nature of an open-ended offer to purchase the Tronado?
- (4) Was this communication received before the report of the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee was published?
- (5) Subsequent to the publication of the report of that committee did Dr M. N. Levant of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, Canada have an interview with the Minister for Health in connection with a desire of a group of doctors in Calgary to acquire the Tronado?
- (6) During the interview did Dr Levant indicate his belief in the efficacy of ultra high frequency radiowaves in the treatment of cancer?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) One.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The communication was in the nature of an inquiry whether the machine was for sale.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Dr Levant indicated his belief that there was laboratory support for the efficiency of ultra high

frequency radio-waves in the treatment of cancer. He outlined details of the research programme which his group proposed to undertake to confirm, if possible, this belief.

11. BUILDING BLOCKS

Lancelin

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How many blocks of land were sold at Lancelin township on 10th June, 1967?
- (2) How many of those blocks then sold have been forfeited?
- (3) How many of those blocks not forfeited have complied rigidly with the conditions as to improvements thereon?
- (4) How many of the blocks sold have structures thereon not in compliance with the by-laws of the Shire of Gingin?
- (5) How many of the blocks sold have been forfeited at a time when substantial improvements had been made thereon?
- (6) How many of the blocks sold are now in the process of being forfeited notwithstanding that substantial improvements have been made thereon?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 18.
- (2) 1.
- (3) 16.
- (4) 2.
- (5) None.
- (6) None.

12. WANDARRA SCHOOL

Replacement

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

What is the progress position as to the replacement of the school buildings at the Wandarra Primary School?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

It is anticipated that the preparation of the tender documents will be commenced in the near future.

13. PEDESTRIAN OVERWAY

Kalgoorlie Street-Scarborough Beach Road

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

When is the actual construction work expected to commence on the pedestrian overpass at/or about the junction of Kalgoorlie Street and Scarborough Beach Road, Mount Hawthorn?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The contractor is about to commence steel work fabrication off site. Work on site should begin about the middle of October, 1976.

14. PEDESTRIAN OVERWAY

Wanneroo Road-Lawley Street

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

When is the actual construction work expected to commence on the pedestrian overpass at or about the intersection of Wanneroo Road and Lawley Street, Tuart Hill?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The contractor is about to commence steel work fabrication off site. Work on site should begin early in November, 1976.

15. GOODS

Cost of Packaging and Advertising

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What action has he taken so far to contain inflation and give relief to the people by reducing the heavy costs of packaging and advertising of goods which in many cases can only be described as being necessities?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

If the member can provide me with specific details of items where he has evidence that "the heavy costs of packaging and advertising of goods which in many cases can only be described as being necessities" is inflating costs unnecessarily, I shall be pleased to arrange for an investigation.

16. LIQUOR ACT

Payments under Section 168

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

How much in each of the last three years has been paid out under each of

- (a) section 168 (1) (a); and
 - (b) section 168 (1) (b),
- of the Liquor Act, 1970?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

No funds have been provided under these provisions in the last three years.

17. **SELF-SERVICE PETROL STATIONS**

Number

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

How many self-service petrol stations are now operating in Western Australia, and where are they?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

There are two outlets providing facilities for self-service petrol sales to motorists—one on the corner of Walter Road and Grand Promenade, Morley, and the other in Canning Highway, Canning Bridge.

18. **GOLDMINING**

State Batteries: Restriction

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) In view of the Federal Government's decision to abolish tax exemption for the goldmining industry will he advise if the State Government has any plans to restrict the activities of State batteries throughout the State?

(2) In the event of the State Government giving consideration to this possibility, would he give an assurance that every endeavour will be made to ensure there is no disruption to this facility which provides such an excellent service to both the small and large goldmining participants?

(3) With a view to assisting the small prospector would the Government give consideration to reducing the current State battery charges?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) and (2) The State Government has no such plans.

(3) No; see my reply to part (4) of question 4 on the 3rd August, 1976.

19. **ALWEST ALUMINA PROJECT**

Commencement

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

Referring to question 17 dated Thursday, 5th August, 1976, will he advise if an announcement concerning the Alwest alumina project can be expected within the next two months?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In replying to question 17 of the 5th August, 1976, I stated that, in view of discussions which are proceeding, it would be premature to comment on the likely commencement of the project.

This is still the position.

20. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES**

Increased Charges: Revenue

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) Resulting from the increases in electricity charges in August, 1974, and January, 1975, will he advise if the additional increased revenue obtained from these increases as at January, 1976, was approximately \$29 million?

(2) Using the same formula what was the total amount of money paid into consolidated revenue as a result of the 3 per cent levy?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) \$870 000.

21.

HEALTH

Family Planning Association

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

What action will the Government take to ensure that the Family Planning Association does not have to limit its activities to those conducted at present?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The Family Planning Association is funded mainly by a health programme grant from the Commonwealth and until the Commonwealth makes clear its intention under the health programme grant scheme, no decision can be made regarding future activities of the Family Planning Association.

22.

MANUFACTURING MILK

Production Controls

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Will production controls be placed on manufacturing milk in Western Australia?

(2) If "Yes"—

(a) what level of reduction on present production levels would be required;

(b) will quotas for the production of manufacturing milk be allocated to dairymen in this State; and

(c) what bases and principles would be used for the allocation of any such quotas?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) The question of production controls for manufacturing milk will be discussed in the general context of the recommendations from

the Industries Assistance Commission to the Commonwealth Government on future marketing of dairy products.

(2) Not applicable.

23. RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Finance

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How much finance has been made available to the Rural Housing Authority for disbursement to applicants?
- (2) How much will the Rural Housing Authority receive in the 1976-77 financial year to make available to applicants?
- (3) (a) How many applications for rural housing have been received by the Rural Housing Authority;
- (b) of these, how many have been successful;
- (c) what has been the average level of loan granted by the authority?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) to (3) The Rural Housing (Assistance) Act, 1976, has not yet been proclaimed and financial arrangements for the 1976-77 financial year have not been finalised.

24. NEW LAND FARMERS

Industries Assistance Commission

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any action been taken to implement the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission, contained in its report on new land farmers?
- (2) If "Yes" will he detail what actions have been taken by the Government?
- (3) If "No" to (1), is it intended to take any action in connection with the recommendations referred to?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) The IAC new land reference arose from the termination of the Phosphate Fertilizer Bounty at the end of 1974 and considered assistance to compensate for the loss of the bounty. To a degree the IAC recommendations have been superseded by bounty reinstatement. However, the report by the IAC demonstrated that some new land farmers needed financial assistance on better than commercial terms for success. The State Government will assist in every possible way and representations have been

made to the Commonwealth Government to clarify new land farmers' eligibility for assistance. The new Rural Reconstruction Authority agreement is to be finalised by 31st December, 1976.

25. NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

Expenditure

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

What was the total amount expended by the National Parks Board on—

- (a) operating costs;
- (b) capital and other expenditure, in each of the years from 1972-73 to 1975-76?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (a) 1972-73, \$364 219.
1973-74, \$477 060.
1974-75, \$602 214.
1975-76, \$826 308.
- (b) 1972-73, \$141 678.
1973-74, \$113 571.
1974-75, \$209 496.
1975-76, \$193 100.

26. UNEMPLOYMENT

Registrations

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

What was the number of unemployed persons registered in each of the following districts in July of each of the years 1972 to 1976 inclusive—

Albany;
Bunbury;
Esperance;
Kalgoorlie;
Kwinana;
Manjimup;
Merredin;
Northam;
Port Hedland;
Metropolitan?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

"Commonwealth Monthly Review of the Employment Situation" shows the following:

UNEMPLOYED—ORIGINAL DATA

End July

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Albany	427	385	331	513	659
Bunbury	629	630	655	906	1 146
Esperance	68	57	82	112	169
Kalgoorlie	327	276	286	463	560
(Medina)					
Kwinana	703	522	515	749	1 057
Manjimup	87	67	97	276	251
Merredin	57	87	65	87	149
Northam	297	337	303	373	427
Port Hedland	268	397	575	1 168	1 553
Metropolitan	9 652	4 893	6 372	11 897	14 910

27. POLICE AND ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Recruits

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Police:

Further to my question 19 of Wednesday, 4th August last, would he please advise of the figures for the police force and Road Traffic Authority separately?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Road Traffic Authority came into being on the 1st June, 1975, with an actual strength of 389 police. Since then the strength has been increased by a further 128 men.

Replacements are supplied from the ranks of the general force.

28. RAILWAYS

Collie Wagon Repair Depot

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he please advise when it is anticipated that the wagon repair depot at Collie will be shifted to the locomotive round house?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Approximately mid-September, 1976.

29. HOUSING

Collie: Programme

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he please advise of the State Housing Commission building programme for Collie?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied: 1976-77 Building Programme:

State Housing, nil;

Aboriginal Housing, 2 units proposed.

As already advised, six units for Aborigines are already under construction and due for completion in November, 1976.

Also under construction are six State Housing pensioner units, which are currently 80 per cent complete.

30. RAILWAYS

Collie Station and Goods Shed

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated that the Collie railway station and the Collie goods shed will be shifted to the west Collie area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Westrail is presently examining rationalisation of the Collie railway facilities involving removal of the station and goods shed to the West Collie area, but the benefits of the shift to Westrail have not yet been established.

Subject to justification being established, the priority of the work will have to be considered in comparison with other capital works.

It appears doubtful at this stage that the project will be commenced before the 1978-79 financial year at the earliest.

31. SHEEP AND LAMBS

Skins and Freezer Capacity

Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is there sufficient skin drying capacity to handle anticipated sheep and lamb slaughterings during this flush season?

(2) Have any sheep and/or lamb skins been dumped over the last month, and if so, for what reasons?

(3) What are the factors that have contributed to the current problem regarding insufficient freezer capacity for slaughtered livestock?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) The trade considers it will be able to handle all skins offered during the flush season.

The matter is however under constant review by a committee which I recently established to monitor skin drying capacity.

(2) No.

(3) Mainly shipping delays and a lack of refrigerated shipping space—aggravated by an abnormal supply situation for this time of the year as a consequence of drought conditions.

There is also port congestion and delays in unloading refrigerated cargo, particularly in the Middle East area.

32. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Used Cars: Backyard Sales

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

(1) Has there been an increase in the sales of used vehicles outside the licensed used vehicle area or commonly called "back yard" sales?

(2) Has he made inquiries to establish the incidence of such sales?

(3) If so, will he advise the result of his inquiries?

- (4) Does he propose any legislative action?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs is of the opinion that there has been an increase in the incidence of "backyard" sales since the introduction of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 1973.
- (2) No inquiry has been held but routine checks of newspaper advertisements are periodically carried out by the Bureau of Consumer Affairs.
- (3) A prosecution is currently pending as a result of Bureau investigations. Investigations are currently being carried out in several other cases of suspected "backyard" operators.
- (4) No. Section 30(1) of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act provides for a penalty of up to \$1 000 for operating as an unlicensed motor vehicle dealer.

33.

MILK

Additional Quotas

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Dairy Industry Authority advised dairy farmers who were recommended for milk quota allocation, but not granted, of their priority for any future quota allocation?
- (2) (a) Would he indicate the number of applicants in each category; and
(b) categorise number of applicants concerned in production area?
- (3) Since the allocation of 31 milk quotas in 1975, would he detail the number, if any, of persons advising the Dairy Industry Authority that they would not accept a milk quota entitlement, and if so, from which allocation of quota?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes. Recommended but unsuccessful applicants were placed in three priority groupings.
- (2) (a) Group (1), 16;
Group (2), 14;
Group (3), 21.
- (b) —

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Total
North of Bunbury	Nil	Nil	1	1
Bunbury, Busselton, Marg; ret River	12	11	12	35
Nannup, Bridgetown	2	2	2	6
Manjimup, Northcliffe	1	1	2	4
South Coast	1	Nil	4	5
Total	16	14	21	51

- (3) No one has declined a market milk quota.

34.

SEMEN

Licences and Imports

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any licences been granted for—
(a) collection of semen;
(b) sale of semen, to other than the Artificial Breeding Board?
- (2) If "Yes" would he give details to whom licences approved or pending each category?
- (3) Does the Artificial Breeding Board operate a semen collection service, and if so, to what extent?
- (4) Would he indicate the value and number of ampoules of all semen imported into Western Australia from—
(a) other Australian States;
(b) other countries, for use by the Artificial Breeding Board and private operators?
- (5) What is the board policy regarding collection and sale of semen when requested to apply in Western Australia?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) (a) Two are pending;
(b) Yes.
- (2) For collection of semen for sale or use—
Westralian Farmers Co-operative Ltd; and
Westralian A.B. Services.
For storage and sale of semen—
Artificial Breeding Board of W.A., Harvey;
Western Breeders, Byford;
Busselton Breeders, Busselton;
W. Dunlop, Green Range;
L. Giglia, North Dandalup—special licence for one bull only;
An application from Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited is currently being considered.
- (3) Yes. This is a custom collection service only, provided on the basis of specific demand for this service.
- (4) For the 1975-76 year—
(a) 35 291 doses;
(b) 78 386 doses. (60 821 doses came directly from the U.K.; and the remainder of the U.K. or New Zealand origin via the other States.)

Approximate values are: \$2.50 per dose from other Australian States, and \$5.00 per dose from overseas.

- (5) Board policy is to provide semen from bulls which are considered to be of superior genetic merit based on production records. Semen from other bulls is supplied if specifically requested. The Board is prepared to provide a custom collection service on demand.

35. FARMERS

Water Supplies: Cost of Upgrading

Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it a fact that, when replacement water lines are being laid to upgrade the service, users are being charged \$150 to connect their properties across a roadway?
- (2) As these farmers have previously paid for connections, how is this charge justified?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No charge is made for a connection which is a replacement for the only service to a property or is a replacement of the original departmental service.
- (2) Any connections paid for by farmers are provided in accordance with the country areas water supply by-laws and are subject to a condition that the necessary maintenance cost be met by the consumer.

36. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fuel Tax Exemption

Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Transport:

As many country shire councils are finding it difficult to meet their financial commitments, will consideration be given to recommending to the Federal Minister that diesel trucks used by shire councils be exempt from fuel tax?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

At the present time the only exemption provided for under the Commonwealth Government's Fuel Administration Tax Act relates to the use of diesel fuel otherwise than in propelling road vehicles on public roads.

As all State Government departments and agencies are liable to pay this tax and the attitude of the Commonwealth Government has in the past not been favourable to amending the Act to provide for further exemptions, it is

not considered that any good purpose would be achieved by writing to the Federal Minister concerned at this time.

37. ROSS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Staff and Opening

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the staff members engaged for Ross Memorial Hospital (question 16, 10th August, 1976) currently undergoing any specialised training?
- (2) If so, can the Minister give details of the programme?
- (3) When is it expected patients will be admitted to the hospital?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Staff are attending a week's intensive course of lectures and demonstrations given by senior officers of the mental deficiency division, Mental Health Services. This will be followed by practice in other existing departmental hostels accommodating profoundly handicapped.
- (3) It is expected to admit the first patients during the week commencing 13th September, 1976.

38. STATE FORESTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Dedication

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Does the Government intend to set aside further areas of State forest or national parks or similar class of reserve?
- (2) If "Yes" when is it proposed to dedicate such areas, and what is the location of each area?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) and (2) The further recommendations from the Environmental Protection Authority relating to national parks and reserves have yet to be considered.

39. TRANSPORT

Pensioners: Medical Treatment

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) What firm arrangements have been made to enable pensioners using travel concessions and attending for medical treatment to have the two hour return concession extended?
- (2) For what period will the concession be extended?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Passengers who are required to attend a frequent hospital appointment may apply to the Department of Community Welfare for a pensioners' destination pass. On presentation of this pass, together with a hospital appointment card, and the 10 or 15 cent bus, rail or ferry ticket purchased while travelling to keep a hospital appointment, the pensioner may travel on the homeward journey on the same day without additional charge, even though the two-hour time limit on the ticket has expired.

This does not apply in the case of 5 cent single trip tickets.

- (2) For the remainder of the day of the hospital visit.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

NORTH-WEST SHELF GAS

Exploration Permits

Mr MENSAROS (Minister for Mines): I wish to add something by way of correction to the reply I gave to a question asked without notice by the member for Clontarf yesterday. His question was—

In connection with the recent announcement inviting applications for exploration permits off the north-west shelf, will he advise whether the provisions of the Act requiring the designated authority to obtain the approval of the Federal Government in relation to its areas of responsibility were adhered to in this and previous instances?

My reply to the question was "Yes". I was answering it in what I believed to be the spirit of the question.

However, when I read the question I discovered there was no provision in the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act for the designated authority to ask for the approval of the Commonwealth; but it has been the custom to inform the Commonwealth, and that has been done.

Usually the Commonwealth indicates its agreement, except during the term of office of the Whitlam Government when no indication of agreement was forthcoming; therefore during that time and during the administration of the member for Clontarf the action to advertise permit areas lapsed. There were two occasions relating to the last three words in the question when

during my administration of the Mines portfolio but still during the time of the Whitlam Government the Commonwealth was informed, and despite the fact that its agreement was not indicated the permits were advertised.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Building Societies Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

2. Road Traffic Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

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

TRONADO MACHINE

Return to Use: Motion

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville) [4.54 p.m.]: I move—

Because there appears to be substantial evidence that Tronado treatment has been of anti-cancer benefit as well as of symptomatic benefit to a number of patients, as claimed by Dr John Holt, and because the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee reported that "conclusive assessment is impossible within the context of a retrospective study such as that which has been undertaken" and has said, "It considers that there is a strong need for an experimental study on the effects of very high frequency radiation using the Tronado machine in solid malignant tumours."

In the opinion of this House, immediate action should be taken to have the Tronado machine, which was purchased by the Tonkin Government and which has remained unused for a very considerable time, brought back into use.

Before I proceed to develop my argument in connection with this matter I want to refer to some answers which were given by the Minister representing the Minister for Health. They were given this afternoon in reply to question 10 on notice. The third part of my question was—

Was this communication of the nature of an open-ended offer to purchase the Tronado?

The reply of the Minister was—

The communication was in the nature of an inquiry whether the machine was for sale.

In connection with that I want to say that I had in my office for 1½ hours last week Dr Levant, one of the group of doctors who are desirous of obtaining the Tronado machine. He told me most definitely that an open-ended offer had been made to purchase the machine. I leave the matter there.

The fourth part of my question was—

Was this communication received before the report of the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee was published?

Dr Levant told me most definitely that the offer was transmitted by a solicitor, a namesake of mine from Calgary, before the report was published. I have information indicating that actually this communication from Calgary was received in the Minister's office on Monday of the same week, before the report was published. The reply of the Minister to the fourth part of my question was "No". I leave the questions and answers for the time being.

I regret that I may have taken a fair amount of time in developing this argument, but as Disraeli once said, and he was born in 1804, "Time is precious but truth is more precious than time." It will take me considerable time this afternoon to tell the truth about this matter. What I propose to do is to recite the facts concerning the reports and the use of the Tronado.

A lot has been said that history repeats itself, and of course it does. Most members will be familiar with what happened to Louis Pasteur when he came forward with his theory about immunisation. The doctors wanted to put him in gaol for suggesting such a thing. It is recorded in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in an article on Louis Pasteur that Pasteur's devotion to scientific research was complete. Despite a stroke which partly paralysed him at the age of 46, he worked with considerable intensity up till his health failed completely.

A masterful debater, Pasteur overcame his opponents by dramatic and convincing demonstrations. While believing strongly in experimental science he also maintained that there existed spiritual values that transcend the scientific approach. It took Louis Pasteur several years to have his ideas on immunisation accepted, as finally they were. Now, of course, it is a matter of general adoption.

Joseph Lister had a similar experience. Again I quote from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*—

He was successful. In 1867 he published "On the Antiseptic Principle in the Practice of Surgery". His method was not rapidly adopted, mainly due to opposition to the germ theory. However, despite the controversy, his successes and his perseverance could not be ignored.

Within a few years, antiseptic surgery put an end to "surgical diseases". It is well we should keep that in mind because we are going through a similar process with regard to microwave ultra high frequency therapy. As I proceed I propose to supply very definite proof of some statements I will make which contradict very strongly some reports issued, and upon which great reliance has been placed.

With regard to the Tronado machine itself, members will know there have been two medical reports; one put out by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the other by a committee set up by the present Government, known as the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee.

In its report the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee said it was impossible to come to a definite conclusion because of certain limitations. However, the committee imposed the limitations upon itself. The members of the committee determined what they would look at and what they would not look at. So, it is somewhat idle talk to state in the report that the committee could not come up with any definite conclusions because of the limitations under which it was operating.

The members of the committee did come to one important conclusion, and that was there was no evidence of any harm which could come from the use of microwave therapy from the Tronado machine. I assume, without knowing whether or not this was a factor in the decision of the board of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to discontinue the use of the Tronado machine, that this did have a bearing and the board took notice of the possibility that some harm could be done. The special evaluation committee stated there was no evidence of any harm from the use of the machine.

It is as well that we should be familiar with what the producer of the machine, Guettner, claimed for it. I will make the very definite statement here and now that his claims were not exaggerated, and they have been substantiated in every way. I have with me the papers which were issued in connection with the application for a patent, and I will quote from page 1. The following are Guettner's comments in connection with the machine—

The invention is concerned with a procedure and the medical-technical instruments for a new cancer therapy which does not require any surgical operation and which, in contrast to other methods of treatment customary until now, is not based on the familiar biological effects of ionizing rays nor on the application of chemical therapeutic mitoticists, but solely on the fact that malign tumors as well as metastases and stray single cancer cells are subjected to special temporary biophysical or, if necessary, biochemical local changes which cause a complete extinction, or at least a lasting stagnation, of the disintegration of cells, by being as sparing as possible of the surrounding normal tissue.

I say most definitely that has been the experience as can be shown. There is no exaggeration in that statement and no extravagant claims at all. As I proceed I will show that the claims have been substantiated.

Let us look at the salient points. The machine certainly is concerned with a new cancer therapy. A surgical operation is not required, and it relies solely on the fact that malign tumours, as well as metastases and stray single cancer cells are subjected to temporary biophysical or, if necessary, biochemical local changes which cause a complete extinction or at least a lasting stagnation of the disintegration of cells by being as sparing as possible of the surrounding normal tissue. It has been shown in a number of cases—and I will quote authorities—that the surrounding normal tissue is not adversely affected by microwave therapy.

In his paper Guettner further states his purpose was—

... to introduce with all the necessary caution an apparently promising new cancer therapy to the scientific experts, which seems suitable to provide with concrete propositions strong impulses stimulating the efforts of the world wide cancer campaign. The intention is to provide the practising physician with newly developed medical technical instruments which are based on familiar, but in their practical significance underestimated, biophysical and biochemical effects.

He said further—

The ray therapy uses the phenomenon that healthy tissue has a distinctly lower sensitivity to ray damage than diseased tissue with a malign cell growth. This difference in the sensitivity to rays is of utmost significance in the treatment of cancer and is an indispensable presupposition for the therapeutic application of rays rich in energy.

Dealing with certain chemical changes, he says—

But quite apart from that, one has to register serious doubts as to the possibility of universal application of the cancer-multistep-therapy, independent of the location of the tumor in the organism. For instance, it would be difficult to treat brain tumors in this way. The same would probably apply to many other carcinomas and sarcomas, which defy such methods of treatment often by their mere location. The most important basic scientific significance of the cancer-multistep-therapy is the discovery that under certain given presuppositions a spontaneous tumor emission can be achieved merely through hyperthermy.

The task at the origin of this invention is to develop a new cancer therapy which would not be charged with the disadvantages of the various previous methods of treatment; which would be universally applicable; which would extinguish, or at least stagnate reliably, the growth of malign tumors

as well as metastases and stray single cancer cells; which would be promising even at a progressed stage of the disease without unduly endangering healthy tissue and without causing too much stress on the heart and the circulation or any other organs. This new cancer therapy is to offer definite prospects of recovery even in those cases where the malign tumor to be treated is situated in barely accessible vital organs, so that any surgery would leave only a slight chance of survival.

This task is met in this invention through the fact that an intensive ray treatment with short waves, ultra short waves, and micro waves is applied on exactly locatable, pathologically changed tissue areas, or on extensive parts of the diseased human body, and in this way such a high diathermic absorption of ray energy is achieved at every individual seat of disease that the increase in temperature caused in tissue already of a higher temperature than the surrounding healthy cells, leads to irreparable damage of the cancer cells, but not of normal cells . . . malign tumors show a distinct increase in temperature in comparison to the surrounding healthy tissue. . . In any case, it is established without doubt that cancer cells, in carcinomas as well as sarcomas has a higher innate temperature than healthy cells of the same kind of tissue. . . Cancer cells are, however, always much more affected than normal cells.

As I proceed I think I will be able to establish that what is claimed has been achieved by those using the microwave therapy.

Following the purchase of the Tronado machine and before it had been in operation for very long, as was to be expected and as occurred in other parts of the world, opposition started to grow up, particularly among university professors and a lot of people who had never treated cancer in their lives but who got busy to work up considerable opposition to the machine.

The first criticism of which one had to take very much notice appeared in a letter to *The West Australian* on the 19th June, 1974. The machine was brought here and started operating in April, 1974. The gentleman who wrote this letter was the Professor of Pathology at the Perth Medical Centre at the University of Western Australia. This is what he said in part—

As a medical scientist with almost 20 years' experience in the investigation, diagnosis and teaching of many fields related to cancer, I believe it necessary to point out a few facts regarding the new form of cancer therapy now being widely canvassed in the media.

The remarkable thing is that this gentleman did not know any facts about the Tronado machine. One statement of his which I think might be taken as a fact appears at the end of his letter, where he says—

Furthermore, the anecdotal reporting of single cases of supposed cure is fallacious and misleading . . .

He finishes up by saying—

I for one will continue to regard any claims for its success as specious.

So before there was any opportunity for him to talk to any of the patients and have a look at their case histories he had made up his mind that if anybody claimed to have received benefit the claim would be specious.

That was the start of this business and it worked up to such a stage that it was decided by the Cancer Council here that it should get a report from the National Health and Medical Research Council in the east.

At this stage I want to recount an experience I had with a certain professor who is on the Cancer Council. I rang him up and said, "Professor, you do not hesitate to use me to get on the radio to induce people to subscribe money to cancer research but you will not provide a dollar for research into the Tronado machine." His immediate reply was, "It is no good." I asked, "How do you know it is no good? Why don't you send somebody down to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to see what is going on and talk to the patients and examine their case histories?" He said, "That is not our business." I asked, "Whose business is it?" He then said to me, "Why don't you come and talk to the council?" I said, "I am prepared to do just that."

The following week I addressed a letter to him, in which I referred to his invitation to me to address the Cancer Council and asked him what was the date of its next meeting and whether I would be welcome. It took him 13 days to answer my letter, which delay he explained subsequently by saying he had contracted influenza. His letter, when I received it, stated he had not invited me to address the Cancer Council and that no good purpose would be served if I did; but he said he was prepared to have a talk with me himself, which in due course he did.

During the discussion I brought up the case of Mrs Lynette Abbott. This woman is known to the Leader of the Country Party, who is the member for Katanning. She is the wife of the postmaster in Katanning. She had a lump in her breast and went to the local doctor who told her it was not anything to worry about, so she did nothing about it. A few months later she developed a nasty skin rash on her face, neck, and chest, and she went to a skin specialist. During the course of his examination he said to her, "You ought to have that lump seen to." She said, "I have

been to the doctor and he told me it was nothing to worry about." The specialist said, "That is too deep-seated to be ordinary lymph gland trouble. Let me make an appointment for you with a doctor."

By a strange coincidence the doctor with whom he had made the appointment was the doctor who told me my first wife had cancer. When Mrs Abbott went to him he had a look at the lump and said, "I don't think it is anything to worry about but for your peace of mind I will take the lump out." He performed a biopsy and the lump was found to contain one cancer cell. So Mrs Lynette Abbott had five weeks of radium treatment.

A few months later she developed a lump in the gland under her left armpit. When she visited her local doctor he did not mess about this time; he sent her straight back to the doctor who had performed the first biopsy. Another biopsy was carried out and through some unexplained circumstance the report came back that the lump was benign. Mrs Abbott said, "Thank God for that." However, within a fortnight she was informed by the local doctor that she should visit him and when she did this he told her that a mistake had been made and the lump was malignant.

She went back to the doctor in Perth and he told her that there was only one thing to do; that was, to have a radical mastectomy. For your information, Mr Speaker, in Western Australia every year more than 1 000 women have a radical mastectomy for cancer of the breast. She said she was not prepared to have her breast removed and that she would rather die. She wanted to know why she could not have more radium treatment but she was told by the doctor that it would not be any good. She said, "Well, I am not going to have my breast off", so he made arrangements for her to see a radiologist. The radiologist told her the same thing: she should have a radical mastectomy. When I asked him, this radiologist confirmed the advice he gave Mrs Abbott. I then inquired the reason that he gave her that advice and he said, "It is standard practice and the safest course to follow."

Mrs Abbott told the radiologist that she was not going to have her breast removed, and fortunately this was at the time the Tronado machine arrived here. When asked whether she would like to go on the machine, she replied that she would and she was treated with it. The machine got rid of the lump under her armpit and she still has her breast.

Because I had been away for a few months, I rang her up last week to see how she was. She was as joyful as it is possible to be and she told me that at each successive checkup she has been told she is free of cancer. Her name had been taken off the list of applicants for adopted

children but it was restored to the list after the treatment on the Tronado machine and she now has an adopted child.

I told the story to a professor from the Cancer Council and in addition I told him something that I have not already told the House and that is, when she had treatment on the machine it also destroyed a cancerous growth in her right thigh. She told me that she had had pain in the thigh for three weeks or so and the machine had got rid of that. When I finished telling the professor her story he said to me, "She is doomed"; so I said, "Is she? Why then was she allowed to adopt the child?" He then said, "Well, she could not have had cancer in the first place." I said to him, "Why did the doctor want to remove her breast?" I also said to him that I would get in touch with the doctor who had wanted to remove her breast and I would ask him to send the professor a slide taken from the biopsy so that he could judge for himself whether or not she had cancer. I did not know then that the professor had already made up his mind and that as soon as he left my office he contacted the doctor concerned and told him not to send the slide. I found this out afterwards.

I telephoned the doctor who had wanted to remove Mrs Abbott's breast and asked him whether he would send the slide to the professor. The doctor agreed to this readily, but a few days later I received a letter from him saying that he had overlooked the fact that he would need to have the patient's permission to do this. I wrote immediately to Mrs Abbott enclosing a copy of the letter from the doctor and I asked for her permission for the slide to be forwarded to the professor. Mrs Abbott replied to me enclosing a copy of the letter she forwarded to the doctor granting her permission.

I allowed a few days to pass and then I telephoned the professor to ask whether he had received the slide of the biopsy. He said, "I am sorry, Mr Tonkin, she is not my patient and I cannot discuss the case with you." I said to him, "All right, if that is the way you want to go about it, I may as well stop wasting my time."

A few days after this incident a young lady journalist came to see me. She wanted to write an article about the Tronado machine and I told her the story of Mrs Abbott and the professor, and his remarks. The journalist published the story in full. In due course this article was read by the professor and he was very upset. He stormed up to Parliament House and marched up and down the corridor outside my office with a copy of the article in his hand. I invited him in to my office and he said, "This newspaper is full of lies." I said to him, "Sit down there and we will go through the article paragraph by paragraph."

I read the first paragraph and I said to him, "What is the lie in that?" He could not find one, so I read the second paragraph. I said, "What is the lie in that?" He could not find one. Then we came to the paragraph where it was reported that he had said the lady was doomed. He said, "I never said that." I said to him, "Professor, if you never made that remark, why did I say to you, 'Why did they allow her to adopt the child?' following which you said to me, 'She could not have had cancer in the first place', and this caused me to say that I would arrange with the doctor to send the slide over to you."

Suddenly the professor said, "Oh I told the doctor not to send it." I said, "Is that the reason he changed his mind and decided he had to have permission?" I then said to the professor, "That sure enough shows that you had made up your mind and you just do not want to know." Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, that seems to be the attitude of those who are opposed to this machine. If we can show them someone who has had the treatment and who is now quite well, they say that person could not have had cancer in the first place. Of course, one is then at some difficulty in endeavouring to establish the facts when these people are not interested in seeing the slides relating to the cases.

The report of the National Health and Medical Research Council concluded with the statement that there was absolutely no benefit to be derived at all from treatment by the Tronado machine. Two specific claims were made in the report, and I propose shortly to quote the expert opinion of three doctors of physics who say in effect that the National Health and Medical Research Council did not know what it was talking about. In order to link up my comments, first of all I must quote from the report.

At page 21 of the report the first claims are made concerning the absorption of ultra high frequency energy in human tissue. The report states—

The following statements are made by Herr Guettner concerning absorption of U.H.F. energy by human tissue:

From Reference (1)—

"The irradiation of partially cancerous tissue with microwaves results in the absorption of diathermic irradiation energy with a highly selective effect whereby the energy absorption in healthy normal cells and in cancer cells is clearly differentiated in the sense that cancer cells reach an above average temperature. Cancer cells in diseased organs reach a maximum temperature of 58.53° C while the surrounding intact normal cells undergo a much lesser and still totally harmless rise in temperature . . . the selective effect derives from the

fact that tumours and secondaries on account of their much higher lactic acid concentration possess considerably more ion-conductivity than normal tissues. Accordingly the transmission loss of microwave energy is much higher in cancer cells than in normal cells. Wave transmission losses, however, are physically identical with the conversion of irradiated electro-magnetic oscillation energy into heat which manifests itself in an exactly definable localised rise in temperature."

The report contains a good deal more on that aspect, but it is not necessary for me to repeat it.

I have a report from Dr L. O. Bowen, who fortunately happened to be in Western Australia on loan for 12 months. Dr Bowen is a senior lecturer in physics at the Institute of Technology of New South Wales. He took it upon himself, without any prompting from anybody, to make a study of the physics in the report. I quote from his letter of the 22nd May, 1975, as follows—

Re: Micro-wave field characteristics of the Tronado S101 apparatus

A study of the radiation physics of certain main aspects of the above apparatus, has allowed me to make an evaluation of the associated measurements and some of the comments embodied in the report of the National Health and Medical Research Council. It should be noted that my position in the University of Western Australia is that of a visiting academic staff-member of the N.S.W. Institute of Technology, where I am employed as a Senior Lecturer in Physics.

The statements made herein, represent my personal and professional opinions, and no responsibility can be assumed in this respect either by the University of Western Australia or the New South Wales Institute of Technology.

The page references quoted herein refer to the above mentioned report unless otherwise stated.

On page 5, paragraph (ii), of his report he says in conclusion—

- (ii) a highly effective mechanism for differential heating of cancerous tissue above the surrounding normal tissue in the human body is a distinct and important possibility with microwave irradiation.

Let us see what he says about this absorption of heat, which the National Health and Medical Research Council would not accept. I quote from page 4 as follows—

Absorption of U.H.F. energy by normal and cancerous tissue (P21, P22, P23)

A considerable importance has been attached in the report on the actual mechanism postulated for achieving differential effects in cancerous and normal tissue.

Two statements made by Guettner appear on page 21—

I have already read one of them. To continue.

—the first one relating to a differential heating while the second statement refers to a coagulation of the cytoplasm of cancer cells.

The first statement is strongly criticised in the report while no further specific reference is made to the second. In regard to the criticism of the first claim by Guettner the report is largely concerned (P23) with statements regarding small differences in attenuation of microwaves to be expected between normal and cancerous tissue.

There appears to be little doubt that human tumour tissue has a slightly higher conductivity than normal tissue found by England (Nature, Sept. 1950) and Mallard (Nature, Jan. 1967). However, what is important in postulating a differential thermal mechanism, is that an initial higher conductivity should exist in the tumour material relative to the normal tissue, even though the actual difference is small. Under such circumstances, it appears to be a distant possibility that a "thermal runaway" of the tumour material under microwave irradiation can occur due to the conductivity of the tumour material increasing more rapidly with temperature than the surrounding tissue.

Evidence for such a "thermal runaway" has been shown by Zimmer et al (I.E.E.E. Trans. Vol. M.T.T.—19 Feb. 1971, p238) to occur in animal tumours enabling differential hypothermia to be achieved. There appears to be no reason in principle why a similar effect cannot be produced in human tissue.

It is extraordinary that no reference was made in any respect to this work, by either the physical or medical scientists of the Committee.

I interpolate here to say it certainly is most extraordinary that, having taken a certain stand, they had no reference to this particular literature which changed what they were saying. To continue—

In regard to such a possible effect, it would seem that if an initial artificial increase of conductivity (e.g. the Tronado "cocktail") in the tumour material could be achieved in some way, an enhancement of the above might occur. It should be pointed out also that if "thermal runaway" does occur, its effectiveness could also

establish a potentially dangerous situation as far as the patient is concerned. However, the importance of such a possible mechanism cannot be underestimated in my opinion.

Now, I did not want to accept just one opinion on that, so I decided to get in touch with a top physicist in Western Australia. I supplied Dr J. R. de Laeter, Dean of Applied Science at the WA Institute of Technology, with a copy of what Dr Bowen had said. I should like to quote from Dr de Laeter's report. On page 2 appears the heading, "Differential Heating Mechanism". Members will notice that he refers to the same authority as did Dr Bowen. His report states—

The work of Zimmer *et al* has shown that differential thermal effects can occur in tumours in mice for micro-waves of frequency 2.45 and 9.05 G Hz. The mechanism of "thermal runaway" is thought to be caused by standing waves being set up in the tumour. Therefore it is possible that a similar mechanism may occur in human beings, although at 433 M Hz this seems unlikely. However I would not rule out the possibility of this or some similar mechanism occurring. Obviously more research is needed in this area.

So, members will see that there are two scientists—to be precise, physicists—who will not accept the finding of the National Health and Medical Research Council with regard to the differential heating which can occur if heat is applied to malignant and healthy tissue.

On the 14th May this year there appeared a very interesting article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. My attention was first drawn to the article by an item I noticed in the American edition of *Time*. Strangely, it did not appear in the Australian edition or in the European edition, which I obtained when I was abroad. However, I have here a photocopy supplied by the United States Information Agency which includes a copy of the *Time* magazine article and also a copy of the article which appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association* five doctors practising at Brooklyn Hospital, New York, made a claim relating to the benefit which had been obtained by radio frequency therapy in tumour eradication. They discussed the response in 21 patients. The article states as follows—

Tumor blood flow, measured by an Isotope dilution technique, is only 2% to 15% of that of the surrounding tissue.

I think we should ponder on that for a moment to show the very big difference between the blood flow in a tumour and in healthy tissue. The article states that the

blood flow in a tumour is only from 2 per cent to 15 per cent of that in healthy tissue. It is this factor which is claimed to cause the tumour to rise to a greater heat than the surrounding tissue. The article continues—

This sluggish circulation differentiates cancer from normal tissue and forms the basis for a new therapy that entails the transfer of radiofrequency (RF) energy for heating tissues locally. The heated tissue is cooled by the circulation of blood, which carries away the heat. Impaired perfusion, as in cancers, impedes cooling. Heating by RF elevated the temperatures of animal and human cancers by 5 to 9.5 C above that of healthy tissue. The heat eradicated the animal cancers without destruction of normal tissue. Radiofrequency therapy produced tissue necrosis or substantial regression of cancer in 21 patients.

Further on it states—

The striking anatomical difference in the vascularity of tumors from that of normal tissue can be exploited as a basis for the treatment of cancer.

An orderly system of arteries and collecting veins is laid down in embryo, but tumor tissue arises de novo after blood vessels and tissue are already in existence.¹ Therefore, as a tumor grows, it does not generate an integrated ramification of vessels, which is present in normal tissue. An expanding tumor displaces adjacent vessels. Although these vessels may occasionally be engulfed by the enlarging tumor, they do not establish an integrated system for the rapid entry and egress of blood.¹ The angiogenesis that takes place in tumors merely creates capillaries whose haphazard growth results in a disorganized and tortuous pathway with a high resistance to flow.

It was this article that I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health to refer to the Tronado Case Evaluation Committee; however, the Minister said he did not propose to do so. I suppose it is a case of, "My mind is made up; do not blind me with facts." A little further on in the article it states—

We measured the blood flow through surgically excised malignant and normal tissue and by the Indicator dilution technique, and we tested the effect of selective heating in an RF field in animals and humans with malignant tumors.

The conclusion of these experiments with the 21 human beings was reported as follows—

The present investigation demonstrates that human cancers are selectively heated by RF radiation, with

consequent tissue destruction. A rational basis for therapy is thus suggested.

That is quite the opposite from what the National Health and Medical Research Council said on this subject.

I do not want to leave that aspect of this issue at this point, because fortunately I am armed with plenty of authority. I should now like to quote from a publication which was printed in Britain in 1972 and headed, "Investigations on the Possibility of a Thermic Tumor Therapy—Short-Wave Treatment of a Transplanted Isologous Mouse Mammary Carcinoma". The article is written by Kristian Overgaard and Jens Overgaard of the Cancer Research Institute of the Danish Cancer Society in Denmark. Starting off it says—

During the past century it has repeatedly been claimed that heat may exert an inhibitory effect on a malignant tumour, or even cure it.

Let us reflect upon that for a moment or two. It says "During the past century". What has been done about it until now? I quote from page 66 of this report—

In recent years, Cavaliere *et al* and Mondovi *et al* have reported a number of cures of human tumours treated with local application of heat.

Further down it says—

The values reported vary to some extent, but nevertheless show an acceptable agreement in view of the variations in the experimental techniques in which the ability to "take", the growth of the tissue culture, the mitotic index or the staining susceptibility are used as criteria for the viability of the tumour tissue.

Heat tolerance is probably somewhat higher in normal tissue than in tumour cells.

Now I refer to heat absorption and again a different opinion from the National Health and Medical Research Council. I quote—

This difference in heat sensitivity was demonstrated very clearly by Chen and Heidelberger [59] in experiments on induced malignant cell transformation: the higher heat sensitivity seems to be an integral part of the characteristics of the malignant cell . . .

Many experiments with heat treatment of transplanted tumours suggest that the possibility of cure exists, but the results vary widely because of the technical difficulties encountered . . .

In many experiments, local treatment of the tumour with h.f. currents has resulted in permanent cures of transplanted tumours without serious damage to the surrounding tissue.

Is not that what has been claimed—that the microwave treatment would get rid of malignancy without damaging surrounding tissue? To continue—

Present Status and Purpose: Several observations—both clinical and experimental—indicate that a moderate influence of heat may inhibit the growth of, or completely destroy, malignant tumour tissue, but although a considerable number of cures of transplanted tumours are on record, we actually know very little about the dose of heat which is necessary to produce such an effect. Our knowledge of the histological reactions in heat-treated tissue is very sparse, and the mechanism of action of the heat applied is still unclarified.

So there is further support for the view that radio frequency can selectively heat tumour tissue and normal tissue, and that is something which the National Health and Medical Research Council would not accept at all.

I want to return to the report of the National Health and Medical Research Council because, as I have already said, it made another claim. This deals with the measuring equipment which it used in order to determine how much heat the Tronado machine was capable of giving. Again I have to refer to the reports of the physicists in order to show what conclusions they came to in connection with it. I refer to page 1 of Dr Bowen's criticism. It refers to page 26 of the report of the National Health and Medical Research Council and is headed, "Field-measuring equipment used". He said—

The electrical probes described, apparently consisted of inductive loops supplying a thermistor power meter via a co-axial cable, the latter embodying a solid copper outer sheath. No actual probe dimensions are stated, and it is not clear from the report, how the copper sheath was oriented with respect to the radiating antennae of the Tronado treatment head, when the field measurements were made.

However, due to the geometry of the Tronado head, it would be impossible to introduce such a probe as described.

We must realise that this man is a doctor of physics and a senior lecturer at the Institute of Technology of New South Wales. He does not mess about and say, "It might be this or it might be that". He makes the very definite statement—

. . . it would be impossible to introduce such a probe as described, without distorting the field patterns of the Tronado antennae. It is also possible that the actual power radiated by some antennae could be affected by the presence of such a probe, since

the radiated power is sensitively dependent upon the load impedance in such a situation.

No attempt was apparently made to check for such a field distortion or any possible alteration of total radiated power caused by the measuring probes used. The figures quoted for the distribution of radiation intensity in air inside the treatment head (P28), must therefore in my opinion, be regarded as suspect.

I shall show later that this opinion is supported by Dr de Laeter. To continue with the letter---

It would seem that some doubts were held in regard to the electrical measurements, as a later attempt (P26) was made to measure the distribution in air inside the treatment head, by utilising a thermal technique and measuring the temperature rise over a known time of water samples, located at various positions in the treatment head. Such measurements would only have validity if the initial rates of heating of the samples were measured and the thermal losses known at each position. No reliance can be placed on such measurements and this was also apparently realised (P26). Such thermal measurements cannot of course be interpreted in any case in terms of the field polarisation (P20).

When the measuring techniques as described above are applied to the phantom load of saline solution (P25, P27), the measurement situation becomes even more questionable. The introduction of a metal sheath in the volume of conducting fluid (saline solution), would almost certainly have caused a significant field distortion, and if the sheath were actually earthed, a major alteration in the actual power radiated by the antennae may also have occurred.

In this respect, it is significant that only relative power measurements are quoted in the report (P28, P29) for points immediately inside the phantom load, i.e. at one radial location only. If a probe calibration were made inside such a phantom load for a single dipole as claimed (P26, P27), why were actual field intensities not measured at various radial locations in the Tronado?

Apart from the questionable nature of the field measurements as stated above, it must be also remarked on, that the paucity of measurements both in regard to the number of locations sampled and the particular field components measured gives an extremely vague and inconsistent picture of the supposed field distribution.

For the reasons detailed, above the conclusions of this particular paragraph, both in regard to actual field distribution and field polarisation, must be regarded as unacceptable without further investigation.

It is claimed in the report that the antennae of the machine are not electrically matched to a patient standing 22 cm away, and hence the actual radiated power is low. However, this statement refers to a test carried out with a single isolated antenna by measuring the power input to the U.H.F. generator. A satisfactory test of the Tronado machine could only be made in this respect with all antennae in position and the power input to the antennae actually measured on load.

While it may well be correct that the Tronado antennae are not matched to a patient standing in the machine, and there may be good reasons for this, the tests mentioned above are considered to be unsatisfactory in respect to a measurement of the total power output.

This is further seen in the test conducted on the total power dissipated in the phantom load (P31) by measuring the temperature rise in a saline sample over a known time. It is claimed that the figure of 350 watts obtained represents the total power radiated into the load by the machine.

If the average field readings are calculated from the fields measured electrically at the front, back and sides of a patient (P29, P30) and the appropriate surface areas of the head, neck and abdomen considered, the total power received by a patient should be about 1200 watts rather than the 350 watts mentioned above!

Allowing for the paucity of measurements and the consequent difficulty of obtaining average fields from the quoted figures, there nevertheless appears to be a clear inconsistency between the electrical and thermal measurements. This can also be seen from the field values measured immediately outside the phantom where the average field is about 60 mw/cm² rather than the alleged 35 mw/cm².

It is of course not surprising that the thermal measurement of 350 watts is incorrect. No allowances were made in this measurement for any type of losses whatsoever! As already pointed out in the case of thermal measurements by distributed water samples above, no validity can be placed on such figures in regard to radiated power.

Incidentally, it might also be pointed out that even assuming the total power absorbed was only 350 watts, the estimated intensity of 35 mw/cm² at the

surface of the phantom assumes a uniform field distribution throughout the load.

This is clearly not the case. It would appear that the average intensity over the patient's body surface is from the electrical measurements taken, much nearer to 100 mw/cm² rather than 35 mw/cm²!

I emphasise that this man is in a responsible position teaching physics, and he places his reputation on the line in the forthright way in which he destroys the case of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Now fortunately there is considerable backing for what he said. Dr de Laeter said the following about that aspect—

Field Measurements

I agree with Dr. Bowen that the NH and MRC measurements of the field strength might be suspect. Any microwave detector will distort the electric field and hence give incorrect values of field strength. The question is that even if the NH and MRC results are inaccurate by a factor of 2, does this affect the conclusions drawn by the NH and MRC report? I do not believe they do, but this is perhaps open to debate.

I referred that report back to Dr Bowen to see what he thought about that aspect. He said—

(1) Field Measurements.

The question is asked whether the field measurement accuracy is significant in regard to the conclusions of the NH and MRC report. This report implied two findings based on the physical measurements:—

- (a) that the Tronado machine was an inefficient apparatus for heating up the human body in an uncertain manner;
- (b) that the machine was potentially dangerous for the treatment of patients in certain areas of the body.

Both findings were based upon the actual field readings and the distribution of such readings, inside the Tronado treatment head, both in air and inside a phantom load representing a human body. The inference in (a) is that the energy transferred to the patient is too small and distributed indiscriminately over the body of the patient. However, statement (b) infers that the energy transferred to the patient is too large at least in certain definite regions of the body.

The findings were to some extent, contradictory, and since they have been based upon the field and power measurements as quoted, the accuracy of these measurements is, I believe, of considerable importance.

We have a further opinion from Dr F. A. Brisbourn. This physicist said—

I have read the Perth Public Library copy of the National Health and Medical Research Council Committee's report on the Tronado S.101 machine. It is my opinion that certain aspects of the physical measurements undertaken are not acceptable and that there exists a certain weakness in the way that some of the statistics have been handled.

This scientist had no knowledge that I had in my possession reports by Dr Bowen and Dr de Laeter. This report was made irrespective of either of those two. Here is a third scientist who questions the measurements from which a very important opinion was expressed by the NHMRC. He goes on to say—

It is a well understood concept that no physical measurement can be undertaken in completely absolute terms. The act of measurement introduces a material modification to the assembly under study such that the quantities obtained refer to the modified version and not the original one. Traditional consideration must therefore be made so that the modifications introduced by the measuring equipment are minimal and insignificant and that the modified assembly is a very close approximation to the true one. This consideration lays down necessary criteria for the design and use of the measuring equipment.

(i) With reference to the equipment used to measure the Tronado fields.

It is my opinion that the above mentioned criteria have not been met. A series of shielded probes using coaxial cable with a solid copper outer sheath were used to measure the Tronado's magnetic field. The disturbance due to this on the field to be measured could not, in all likelihood, be considered 'minimal and insignificant'. And, dependent on the kind of circuitry associated with the above mentioned equipment, energy could be absorbed by it which would lead to an anomalous estimate of the power supplied by the treatment head.

The general principle given in the introduction applies particularly to the testing of the field measuring equipment. This was apparently carried out on a single antenna. This situation is equivalent to the separation of one antenna from the rest of the Tronado assembly and can hardly be considered to be a 'very close approximation to the original version'.

(ii) With reference to the quantity of field measurements taken.

It appears that field measurements inside and outside the phantom were confined each to positions in a single vertical line for two planes.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Before the tea suspension I was quoting from a report by Dr F. A. Brisbourn. To continue that quote—

Though descriptive reference was made to relative assessments in various vertical lines it was not supported by tabulations of actual measurements nor were tables given to show how the field intensities varied over the cross section of the treatment head.

(iii) With respect to the thermal measurements.

It would appear that the measurement of temperature rise in the saline filled phantom consisted of a single estimate taken after some considerable length of time. No plotted results of temperature versus time were given within this period and no reference was made to considerations related to heat loss. For the above reasons the validity of the estimated dissipated power is not assured.

Those three reports from persons qualified in physics show that the basis for the conclusions of the National Health and Medical Research Council could not be accepted. Therefore, it is most remarkable indeed that the board of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital should act in the way it did in banning the use of the machine following the publication of that report.

One of the very bad features of that action was other hospitals followed suit—the Royal Perth Hospital, the St. John of God Hospital, and the Fremantle Hospital. That meant no cancer patient in any of those hospitals was allowed to be treated on the Tronado machine. The only way for some of those people to be treated on the Tronado machine was to take them out of the hospitals and arrange to have them located in certain private hospitals which took a different view. A number of patients were put to considerable additional expense and inconvenience because they were keen to get the treatment and they had to make a change.

To show what a biased attitude the National Health and Medical Research Council took, I propose to quote from the council's opinion of certain patients and leave it to members to judge whether the conclusion was reasonable in the circumstances. My first quotation comes from page 6 of the report from the council, and reads—

Many of the patients who received combined treatment did display some changes in their physical signs but in every one—

I ask members to listen carefully to the following words—

—this could be attributed to the other therapy given.

The council was not prepared to come out and say that the changes must be attributed to other therapy, but that they could be attributed to other therapy. Why could not the changes be attributed to the Tronado machine without proof one way or the other? That is the first example. The next example is as follows—

One patient had massive oedema of the neck two years after high dose radiotherapy given elsewhere for a carcinoma of the pharynx with nodes in the neck. This oedema subsided markedly with treatment on the Tronado alone leaving the nodes in the neck easily palpable. Another reported shrinkage of a swollen arm, which had followed radical mastectomy, radiation, and lymphangitis. These however did not necessarily represent destruction of tumour cells but probably reflected subsidence of infection and an improvement of circulation of the part.

There is an absolute disinclination to put forward the possibility that the improvement could have been due to the Tronado machine. It is stated that the improvement could have been due to something else; no-one was prepared to come out and say that was so and that the improvement definitely was due to something else. At page 7 of the report appears the following—

In this last patient, X-rays of the humerus were equivocal but on the basis of a deflection in the Servogor (see page 16) as it surveyed one arm, activity of Hodgkin's disease in the humerus was diagnosed. Relief of pain followed treatment, but in the opinion of the committee this was probably due to the effect of U.H.F. diathermy from the Tronado machine on the cervical spondylosis which was evident in the X-rays, or occurred spontaneously.

If the members of the committee had done their work properly they would have known what to do in order to say whether or not the effect had occurred spontaneously. That case concerned a patient who had Hodgkin's disease.

In the report to which I referred earlier by Kristian and Jens Overgaard, at page 72 appears the following—

On the other hand, the heat-provoked alterations affect both rapidly and slowly proliferating tumour tissue, and the alterations are electively localized in the tumour cells, whereas the intermingled stroma and vascular cells are not affected.

Very rapid new growth of connective tissue and simultaneous resorption of the tumour cells are also characteristic

of the reaction and differ strongly from the slow growth of connective tissue and resorption which may occur locally around a spontaneous necrosis.

It was claimed, because of the disinclination to give any credit to the Tronado machine, the improvement was probably due to the effect of the UHF diathermy from the Tronado machine which was evident in the X-rays, or occurred spontaneously.

According to Overgaard, all they had to do was look at the histological appearance of the tissue surrounding the malignancy, and that differs strongly where the necrosis is spontaneous. Apparently they did not know anything about that or did not want to see it because they did not want to give credit to the Tronado machine. To continue—

One had a sacral chordoma and reduction to less than half its original size had been claimed. The committee was unable to agree that any improvement at all had occurred.

Another one is—

The histories of all the Institute patients were made available to the radiotherapists on the committee. A random selection of six (carcinomas of the colon, adrenal, lung, stomach (two) and a malignant melanoma) failed to show any objective amelioration—

Listen to this—

—not attributable to other concurrent therapy.

So it pleases them where they see any amelioration of a condition to attribute it to some other cause. It could not possibly be the Tronado; oh, no. Here is another quotation—

In addition the radiotherapists claimed histological proof of a cancericidal effect but in no case were the tumour cells eradicated nor were the changes described other than those which could reasonably be expected in the variable process under treatment by a number of different modalities.

Why could they not have been expected from treatment on the Tronado? They had no proof it was from the other modalities. But of course it did not suit them. In every instance there is a biased judgment.

On page 9 of the report there is resort to the method to which I have already referred; that is, where they cannot get away from the fact that there has been an improvement they say the patient could not have had cancer in the first place. I quote from page 9 of the report—

A woman was being followed up at the Institute for a carcinoma of the breast. She had returned from Melbourne having had bony and soft tissue metastases treated by surgery and deep X-ray. She was placed in the

Tronado and the Servogor was said to show a positive uptake in the head. On the assumption that she had brain metastases she received treatment by a combination of Tronado, deep X-ray and cytotoxics. Subsequently, full neurological examination and investigations showed no evidence of cerebral metastases.

Because they could not find any evidence of cancer they made a statement which led to the conclusion that she could not have had cancer in the first place. Why on earth were people elsewhere treating her for something which did not exist? That apparently does not matter.

Following the action taken by the board of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to ban the machine—and this was followed by the boards of other hospitals, as I have already said—considerable inconvenience and additional expense had to be incurred to get treatment on the Tronado, and some people of course just did not have the treatment at all. While they remained in Sir Charles Gairdner, Royal Perth, Fremantle Hospital, or St. John of God's they could not be treated on the Tronado; they could do without it.

I moved in the House for the appointment of a Select Committee in order that we could go into this report. We could then have looked at the opinions of the physicists. The House did not agree to the appointment of a Select Committee. The Government announced instead that it would appoint a special case advisory committee, which it did, and it invited me to nominate a member. I nominated Dr John Holt. This committee, as I have already said, distinctly limited the nature of the inquiry it could carry out, making it extremely difficult for it to reach any worth-while conclusions. But the committee did determine there was no evidence of any harm. That, of course, is most important.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is as well to have the committee's statement about its inability to come to a conclusion. I quote from page 6 of the report—

The committee agreed that conclusive assessment is impossible within the context of a retrospective study such as that which has been undertaken.

It was the study which they themselves determined to undertake; that is the important point. The report goes on—

It considers that there is a strong need for an experimental study on the effects of very high frequency radiation using the Tronado machine in solid malignant tumours.

This special committee invited the patients who wanted to be examined to say whether they claimed they had received any benefit from treatment on the Tronado.

According to information supplied by the Minister representing the Minister for Health in this House, 27 patients out of 32 who were interviewed by the committee claimed they had benefited from treatment. And, more importantly, the claims of 25 of those 27 patients were supported by the attending radiotherapists. But the committee as a whole was unable to find that any benefit had been achieved by any patient. It seems to me to be absolutely ridiculous that it did not make any impression at all on the committee that 27 out of 32 patients examined claimed they had benefited and went before the committee in order to prove it, and in 25 out of those 27 cases the claims were supported by the attending radiotherapists.

In this regard the best testimony must come from the patients. I had to make a selection from more than 100 references I have but I did not want to keep members here all night; half of the night is sufficient. So I selected 10 people—four of whom have passed away—so that we could make a balanced assessment of the situation.

The first case is that of a doctor who came here from South Australia to be treated himself on the Tronado. He then went back to South Australia and when the committee was set up he came over here again to be interviewed by the committee in order to make his contribution to science. When the committee was disposed to take no notice of him he wrote a letter, of which I have a copy.

I will leave members to judge whether this doctor did not know what he was talking about or whether the committee should have taken notice of him. I refer to Dr Stephen Staska of 23 Catalina Avenue, Parafield Gardens, South Australia. His letter submitted to the committee was given code No. L 007, Male, 39 years. This is Dr Staska's letter, dated the 20th March, 1976—

Further to my being interviewed by the committee I shall try to reiterate as fully as possible, however, please forgive me not being able to supply the exact dates concerned as the research of these would mean a considerable delay to this letter.

Briefly, after a series of operations for recurrent secondary deposits of the melanoma in the left side of my neck I developed one rather large deposit situated deeply and adjacent to the left side of the larynx in September 1974.

Fortunately for my case, this date of September, 1974, falls just within the period of time determined by the committee for examination—from September, 1974, to September, 1975. Anybody treated before September, 1974, or after September, 1975, was out. So the committee limited this

inquiry to a 12-month period and Dr Staska's trouble occurred in September, 1974. The letter continues—

Prior to having this removed I insisted specifically to the Surgeon, who was to perform the operation, that under no circumstances was I prepared to sacrifice my voice. I realize that I tied his hands greatly by this insistence and it was no surprise to me, therefore, when after the operation he advised me that the lump was in fact a tumor, that he had removed most of it, BUT! . . .

Following the operation I was left with a considerable haematoma above the line of incision (despite Redivac drainage) in the left sub-mandibular region. This initially subsided as one would expect but some two or three weeks later I developed a hard non-tender, non fluctuant and non-transilluminable mass in the same area. At first I felt this may be post-operative scar tissue but as the mass continued to rapidly increase in size its real nature became frighteningly obvious. Three weeks after the operation it was the size of a hen-egg, and only one week later the size of a goose egg—some 10 cm in diameter. At this stage I commenced a four day course of intensive Tronado therapy. There was absolutely no other treatment given. During these four days the lump had diminished in size very rapidly and at the end of the four days it was the size of a small hen egg—about 4.5 cm in diameter.

On my return to Adelaide I began a course of block radiation some three days later. This course lasted six weeks and by the end of the therapy the lump had further diminished in size to a very hard woody scar-like mass approximately 3 cm in diameter, it has not changed since.

Firstly, I do agree that there is no absolute proof that the lump in my neck was actually a melanoma because it had not been biopsied. However I have been practicing Medicine long enough to be able to differentiate between a simple fluid cyst and a solid tumor. Furthermore of the Surgeons I approached, after they examined me no-one was prepared to biopsy the lesion and frankly even if they had been prepared to do so, I do not think I would have allowed it for fear of further spreading the melanoma. I am quite certain that had any other been in my place he would have done likewise.

Secondly, I also agree that there were no photographs and proven data in regard to the measurement of the size of the lump before and after the Tronado treatment; however, I have many reliable witnesses including my

Mother, my Brother, who is also a G.P. and his Wife who is a Sister and my Wife who is also a Sister who would be able and I am certain prepared to support my statement. Furthermore you must realize that at the time my main concern was to get the treatment that I considered most likely to help me as quickly as possible, rather than waste time taking photographs for some committee of enquiry which may perhaps eventuate in the future.

I myself consider that while the Tronado machine in itself is not capable of necessarily curing cancers, it certainly represents a very worthwhile forward step in the management of malignancies where used in conjunction with other accepted means of therapy. Most certainly I consider that while the Medical Profession has nothing more positive to offer the unfortunate sufferers of such conditions it should be looking closely at the means of combining the use of this machine in conjunction with other treatment, with an open mind, to try to provide some help rather than be determined to destroy the concept entirely.

And I completely agree with that, Mr Speaker. Here is a doctor who comes over for treatment for himself and in regard to substantiation he refers to two relatives who are Sisters and one who is a general practitioner. But what did the committee think about this case? The committee decided he could not have had cancer in the first place because he did not have the dates and he could not show photographs.

The next case concerns a gentleman who visited Parliament House this morning and I propose to read to the House his letter to the Minister for Health, of which he supplied me with a copy. This man lived at "Routledge", 18 High Peak Place, Lesmurdie, and he wrote this letter to the Minister for Health on the 22nd April, 1975. The letter reads as follows—

Dear Sir,

re Tronado Cancer Machine and Machines used in Conjunction therewith.

I am writing as a cancer patient suffering from Lymphosarcoma with the medical classification of "chronic invalid" under the medical supervision of Dr J. Holt of 21 McCourt Street, Leederville. I hereby make my medical history the property of the public, for the specific use of Cancer Research.

I was referred to Dr Holt by the Stirk Medical Group of Canning Road, Kalamunda nearly three years ago. After hospitalised Pathology tests were taken and the results confirmed as malignant Lymphosarcoma (a type of blood cancer). At this early stage my

local Doctor advised my wife to "tidy up my affairs etc.", as I may not see the next Xmas (about 5/6 months hence).

Under the expert and kind treatment from Dr Holt I have seen three more Christmases come and go, with the fourth hurrying to greet us. The vague "red herring" of Cataracts and Sterility appear to be restrictive thinking, and if this line were followed would Maternity Hospitals be closed because of the occasional death of a mother in child birth? We are all born to die, nothing is more certain, but let we cancer sufferers do it with dignity. The deferment of that event is the democratic right of all our citizens. Sir Charles Court has fought this right, with emotion, so many times for Australia, and Western Australia in particular, please prevail on him to do so again. Medical Controlling Groups have been wrong so many times before in not listening to the voices of dedicated (sometimes almost unknowns) people of science. I am sure you are aware of the great men and women to whom I refer.

I am forwarding a photostat copy of the front page of the *Weekend News* dated 19th April, 1975 relevant to this subject, and if the paper has reported correctly I quote the portion "Dr Billings said that the committee's findings could not in any way be contradicted by the future performance of the machine. He said there was no question about it, the machine was ineffective and undesirable".

This would surely have to be the voice of bigotry and not in keeping with the Oath taken by all Doctors. In effect should the machine (Tronado) prove wholly or partially successful (as it has in my case) Dr Billings would deny the general public the use of the Tronado machine to cancer patients. I am wondering if such an act of professional disregard in Public Health would fall within the scope of "The Restrictive Trades, Practices Act."

At this point I must state that I have been recently treated on this machine, and have the greatest faith and respect for its merits and the Doctors and Radiographers and general staff. They are all deserving of recognition for their dedication.

In conclusion I consider that a biased panel has been appointed to the Council of N. H. & M. R., and suggest that a new panel, consisting of qualified persons specialising in this particular field of medicine and science with up to date reports, be appointed to make this decision.

If this letter appears to be "emotional" please bear in mind that I am fighting for my life.

That letter was signed by John N. Davies. I asked Mr Davies if he received a reply from the Minister, and he said he did. He supplied me with a copy. That letter would be a tremendous comfort to anyone expecting to die in three months, because this is what the Minister said on the 29th April—

Dear Mr Davies,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd April, 1975, concerning the suggested discontinuance of the use of the Tronado Machine.

You may be assured I am considering the situation very closely.

That is full of comfort and full of encouragement, I must say! Mr Davies, to whom I spoke a couple of days ago, subsequently put his wife on the telephone and she spoke to me in very glowing terms and said she was very happy about the improvement which resulted from the treatment on the Tronado. I have already said that Mr Davies came here this morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of supplying me with a copy of the letter he received from the Minister for Health.

The next case I propose to quote concerns a person who lives very close to me—Mr B. J. Ackley of 37 Roberts Road, Attadale. I might say I have the full permission of all these patients, or of their widows in those cases where patients have passed on, to give these details to the House and to the public in the hope that it may result in the Tronado machine becoming available to the people. The following is a letter I received from Mr Ackley, and it is dated the 29th September, 1975—

The Hon. John Tonkin M.L.A.

Dear Sir,

I have taken the liberty of writing you with regard to the Tronado Machine and Cancer as there has been so much publicity given, and, to you personally as being responsible for introducing the Tronado Machine my deepest gratitude.

After numerous pathological tests, my case was proven malignant cancer in the throat.

St. George's Terrace specialist sent me to Dr Holt who placed me under the Tronado Machine plus Radio Therapy.

After four weeks I have been discharged as fully cured (and I feel I am) but have to report for check up in two month's time.

You may use this letter as you wish so that others may be helped, and I am prepared to go before any medical board for examination.

Again Sincerely Thanking You,

B. J. Ackley.

A couple of months after I received that letter, in response to an invitation I went to the trotting ground. I arrived just after the third race when many people were coming down the ramp. Mr Ackley, whom

I had never seen in my life and whom, therefore, I could not recognise, saw me and came up and put his hand on my shoulder. He identified himself to me and said, "I am the chap who had cancer in the throat." He told me that he could not speak or swallow, because of a growth in his throat, but that after treatment on the Tronado machine the growth had disappeared.

Last week I rang him up to see how he was getting on and he said, "I am still the same, there is nothing wrong with me. I had a checkup three days ago and there was no sign of cancer." I asked him whether he was prepared to make a statement to the Press, and he said, "Certainly, I want to go on television and tell it." He asked me to speak to his wife on the phone, and when I mentioned this to her she was a little hesitant. She felt he should not go on television unless he first told Dr Holt of his intention to do so. I saw Dr Holt a couple of days later and asked him whether Mr Ackley had been in touch with him about making a statement. Dr Holt said, "Yes. I told him that so long as he did not advertise me he could say what he liked about it."

There it is. This man is now quite fit and well. He is a man of over 70 years of age who had a tumour in his throat and could not swallow or talk. There was no argument about whether or not he had a cancer, because the specialists who were treating him sent him along for Tronado treatment, and they knew what they were doing.

Now, Mr Speaker, it is frightening to know that in Western Australia more than 1 000 women every year have their breasts removed because of cancer. In one year—I think it was 1974—1 078 women underwent radical mastectomy. What a traumatic experience! I have already mentioned Mrs Lynette Abbott, who is known to the Leader of the Country Party; he knows very well that what I am saying about her is true.

I propose now to quote another case. This lady has given me full permission to give particulars about her case. I refer to Mrs Bridget Lester of 125 Lawler Street, Subiaco. She was being treated by a well-known surgeon who did not want to operate again. So, it was arranged that she should be treated on the Tronado.

In connection with this case, I had a bit of a stir the other day. I put through a telephone call to her residence three times during the day, and I received no answer. As it is wrong to jump to conclusions, I was slowly coming to the conclusion that she might no longer be on this earth. The House happened to be sitting that night, and I left the Chamber when the thought occurred to me, and put through another telephone call at about 8.00 p.m. To my great delight she answered the telephone.

I asked Mrs Lester how she was and she said, "Wonderful. I have been to see my doctor this week and he says he can see no sign of my trouble recurring. Why do you not ring him?" I said that I would like to do that and she gave me his telephone number. She said, "He will be in his surgery now. Why don't you ring him immediately?" This doctor would be well known to the member for Subiaco, because his practice is in Subiaco.

I telephoned the doctor and said, "I have been speaking to Mrs Bridget Lester, who had a cancer in the breast. Do you agree that she had a cancer in the breast? Do you know she went on the Tronado machine and is now healthy?" The doctor replied, "I do; she is wonderful!" There we have the opinion of Mrs Lester and of her doctor.

I should have mentioned previously that Ackley was one of those who went before the special committee. I am not sure whether or not Mrs Lester appeared before the committee; I have an idea that she did.

The next case to which I wish to refer concerns a person to whom I have already referred; namely, Mrs Lynette Abbott, who had a cancer in the breast. I have her photograph with me. She invited me down to lunch, and told me her story. I have here a certificate and a letter which I received from her on the 21st March, 1975. I telephoned her last week to see whether she was still well, and she was bubbling over with joy and excitement. She said, "I am well. I have had a checkup within the last few days and I am still cancer free." The following is the letter she wrote to me—

Dear Mr Tonkin,

I visited the Radiotherapy Centre in Leederville on February 4th for a check-up and x-ray and am pleased to be able to inform you that Dr Nelson and Dr Clubb are quite satisfied about my latest x-ray and have advised that as far as they can see I am quite well.

I also visited . . . (surgeon) who agreed that I am well.

This is the surgeon to whom I referred who carried out the biopsy, discovered that she had cancer and recommended a radical mastectomy, with which Mrs Abbott would not agree. Her letter continues—

Your driver took a photograph at Katanning when you called last November and I would like his address, please so that I may contact him for a copy.

Thanks for your interest in my case and every good wish for success with your efforts in the promotion of the Tronado cancer machine.

Kind regards

Lynette Abbott.

Of course, the National Health and Medical Research Council and this special advisory committee would say, "You cannot take any notice of that. Any improvement she has shown must have been due to something else."

The next case concerns a Mr Matier of 14 Lefroy Road, Beaconsfield. If I remember rightly, he is 75 years of age. I spoke to him on the telephone a couple of days ago, and he informed me he had no worries and was still perfectly well. This is the letter he wrote to me on the 27th January, 1976—

Mr John Tonkin,

Dear Sir,

It was you who unknowingly first introduced me to the Tronado Machine when in an interview on telly you praised its use and so I really owe you an account of my progress on this wonderful machine.

Mr England (Pathologist) performed my Prostate Gland operation in November 1976, told me I had cancer, would probably last five more years if I took three Stilboestrol pills each day for life.

Dr. A. E. Daley and R. T. Mikosza gave me every care and kind attention at this long period and quickly responded (thank God) when I requested an interview with Dr Holt.

After examinations by Dr Holt (who told me the Stilboestrol pills were now useless) he accepted me as a patient on the Tronado at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

In only five weeks, three visits a week I felt so well I was "jumping out of my skin" and still continue to feel so.

I lead a very happy life with my wife and family close by, and also quite an active one.

Before Tronado my symptoms were:—

The member for Subiaco would be able to judge whether these were reasonable symptoms. He continues—

(1) Persistent and practically continuous daily headaches.

(2) On fairly frequent occasions, stifling hard to breathe attacks.

(3) Various pains, especially when urinating.

(4) Loss of body weight.

(5) Embarrassing cancer odour.

All of this is now in the past and I feel really very well, also regained lost weight. I am West Australian born in Suffolk Street, Fremantle, on 7th April, 1901 which makes me 75 years next April.

I hope this letter will in some way help to reinstall the Tronado which I think is a miraculous machine.

I also feel it could help bronchitis and Asthma sufferers.

Sincerely,

R. A. Matier.

Robert Alexander Matier.

P.S. I take no cancer medication of any kind.

This man had cancer in the prostate gland. Are we to tell him he does not know what he is talking about and that he never had cancer in the first place? Or do we tell him he is really not well, and still has cancer? This letter was a completely unsolicited testimonial. Would not he know better than this committee before which he appeared? However, the committee could not see any validity in his case.

The other cases to which I wish to refer concern persons who are deceased. One could quite easily imagine that their widows or relatives might be disposed to say, "The Tronado did not cure him, so it is no good." However, let us see what they actually said. Fortunately, documentary proof exists for some of these cases.

The first one refers to Mr Hall who died about a month ago from a heart attack. He was 85 when he died. According to the information given to me from his son, to whom I spoke during the week, he died of a heart attack. The son lived in Lockhart Street, Como. This letter was written to him by the radiotherapy centre and is dated the 17th April, 1975. It reads—

Dear Mr Hall,

You have asked me to give you a report on your father, Mr James Albert Hall, age 80, who was referred to me in May 1970 with a history of four months hoarseness of the voice. There was no cough but his throat was sore. On examination he was found to have a white area of leukoplakia on the anterior third of the right vocal cord and a biopsy was taken which suggested cancer *in situ*. This means a very early cancer.

It was decided to treat him by radiotherapy on the Linear Accelerator he had a dose of 6 000 rads. over a period of seven weeks. There was satisfactory response and the larynx looked clear. I saw him last in November 1970 when his larynx was normal and there was no signs of any spread of the cancer.

He then was referred to me in November, 1974—

The information I have obtained from the son was that there were four specialists to decide what to do with him and he was confined to bed in the repatriation

hospital. I have checked this information with the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation (Mr Williams). To continue—

—when I saw him in consultation with other doctors and it was apparent that the growth had recurred as a small white growth on the anterior end of the right vocal cord. As he had had extensive radiotherapy previously, a laryngectomy was considered the best theoretical treatment. However this patient was then 81 and was not in very good condition and it was doubtful whether he would have withstood the operation and the post-operative management. This patient declined to have surgery and he was referred to me again in March and I found that the tumour had slightly increased in size but the larynx was quite mobile and the cancer had not extended beyond the larynx. As the only alternative for this patient appeared to be retiring to hospital for morphia until he died, I agreed that he could be tried again with small doses of radiation using the Tronado machine—

It has been found that where it is not possible, when treating patients who have had a large amount of radiotherapy, to give them more radiotherapy, by using Tronado a very small amount of radium treatment is efficient. That is borne out by literature I have in my possession and could read. The letter continues—

—which has been found to have a synergistic effect and enhance the effect of radiation. This meant that although he could not tolerate another cancer course of X-ray therapy, he may be able to be controlled or cured by a much smaller dose of radiation if this was used in conjunction with the Tronado V.H.F radiation.

He has had a first course during which time his voice has improved a great deal and his throat has felt very comfortable. The vocal cord is white and slightly swollen and the tumour has subsided but has not completely disappeared. The cord is inflamed and slightly fixed. He has had only 1,500 rads, which is a small amount of radiation and he has had a number of exposures of V.H.F. I have advised the Repatriation Department that he should rest for three weeks to allow the small amount of radiation reaction to subside so that he may tolerate further treatment.

This man is much better in himself at this stage and it is hoped to be able to control this tumour now for a considerable time by continuing therapy.

Last Christmas this man's son rang me to wish me a merry Christmas, telling me that his father had recovered and left

hospital and was holidaying down in the south-west. He died about a month ago from a heart attack.

The next concerns a deceased person named J. E. Rogers. This letter was written by his widow from 2, Ashurst Drive, Lesmurdie. It is written to the doctor. It reads—

With so much publicity about the Tronado machine my family and myself would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and your staff for the comfort and help my husband received from your treatment.

Without it we could not have kept him at home with us until nineteen hours before he died, also because of it, he was relieved of all pain which meant we were able to have a happy Xmas and New Year.

Two days before he died he did not even have a headache, which meant we were permitted to keep him at home with us for an extra ten weeks.

If there is any way in which I can help please let me know, as the banning of this machine is going to cause so much pain and so much sorrow for so many people.

That is signed by the widow. The next concerns a deceased person named Mr Collier from 18 Bessell Avenue, Como, dated the 18th May, 1975. It is written to me and states—

I lost my Husband on the 25th of March with Cancer. Dr Nicholls removed his right lung 2½ years ago, and hoped he had checked it but in a few months the Cancer had travelled to his groin, and finally to his head. The Doctors told me there was nothing more they could do for him. It was dreadful to see him suffering the pain he said was terrific—although he was on the strongest pain killers. They (the doctors) decided to call in Dr Holt. With my Husband's permission Dr Holt treated his groin, and his head. Within a week the violent head aches he was getting vanished, also the pain in his groin. Before he went on the Tronado machine he could not walk without a walking stick. He threw it away and could walk normally. Although he has passed away (the cancer had taken too much of a hold before he was put on the machine) the Tronado machine extended his life, and made him free of pain. I can't speak too highly of it. I pray that Dr Holt will be allowed to carry on this good work. Please Mr Tonkin don't give up hoping.

As I said earlier, that is just a selection of cases. This is the final one I shall quote. This unfortunate person died on the 28th

June of this year. The date of the letter is the 8th May of last year. It is as follows—

Dear Sir,

I have just been reading this morning's "West". The article "Tonkin obsessed with Tronado". I feel it's time for me to speak up too.

I have just written to Mr Ridge telling him what the Tronado machine, plus cobalt 60 treatment has done for my husband.

I hope my letter will help to change his attitude.

I will not copy out the letter I sent to him, it's too long and emotional. However, I would like to give you the fact of my husband's case.

First of all, my husband is a turned down miner, whose lungs are 65% incapacitated. He has not worked in the mines since December 1964.

He has an annual X-ray in March. He could no longer work and gave up his employment in February 1974.

He had an X-ray on March 6th 1974. No sign of any growth.

His private doctor sent him back for another X-ray in late September or early October 1974. In that time, between X-rays, a large growth had developed.

Dr Nicholls, a specialist in lung surgeon told my husband (after tests and examinations) that the growth was galloping and had to be treated quickly. He also said as my husband's lungs were in such a weak condition, it was too risky to operate.

This was a terrible blow. We have 3 young children, aged 14, 13 and 9 years. My husband is 52 years old.

We had to stand helplessly by while my husband's condition got worse. Then Doctor Holt started treating him on the Tronado Machine and Cobalt 60.

I cannot tell you of the terrible time my husband went through and of the many times my children and I went out the back and cried our hearts out, of the sleepless nights I lay awake listening to hear if my husband was still breathing.

He was practically bedridden. Only able to dress with help, but determined to walk out to the waiting car on his own, to go for his treatment. My friends and family urged me to get my husband to make his will. Not one person who saw my husband thought he'd be still alive at Xmas. My children and I were absolutely heart broken and full of despair. Two days after my husband's treatment was over, he got out of bed, washed, shaved and dressed himself.

He then went to his car and drove himself down to the local hotel and had a couple of drinks with his friends.

He had not been able to drive his car for over two months.

I was so frightened, I could not bear to look as he backed the car out of the garage. I was so sure he'd collapse.

He spent Christmas day, sitting in a lounge chair.

We know he is not cured of cancer. But the growth is now not even a $\frac{1}{2}$ the size it was. The most important thing is he has relief from the crippling pain and doesn't need anywhere near the amount of pain killing tablets he had before.

As far as the children and I are concerned we count our blessings. We not only have our husband and father, but he is well enough to take us for drives in the car, and have a little fun with us. This is something to cherish as before Christmas we thought those little pleasures would no longer be for us. As long as the Tronado machine can give relief from pain, it is doing a mighty job.

As you yourself, Sir, know what it's like to stand helplessly by watching a dearly loved one suffer I know I don't have to go into details of what it's like. Bless you for trying to help. If you had not been the instigator of getting the Tronado Machine to W.A. I would not have been able to say "We now have a complete family" as there would have been a very big gap in ours.

Yours humbly & gratefully,

Mrs. M. E. Munro.

I found out today that Mr Munro died of pneumonia on the 28th June last.

What evidence do we have to produce in order to justify the contention that this machine should be allowed to operate? Guettner produced five Tronados, and there is none available outside of Western Australia for possible purchase. Besides the two here there is one in France, one in Switzerland, and one in Germany. Western Australia is fortunate in having two Tronado machines, although one is idle.

Why do these doctors in Calgary, Canada, suddenly decide to be possessed of our Tronado machine? I shall tell you, Mr Speaker. Some time ago we had a visit from a Dr Hornback who was head of the largest medical school in the USA. He came here specially to see the Tronado.

I quote from *The West Australian* of the 11th April, 1975. Under the heading of "Tronado design for the U.S." the following appeared—

A radiotherapist and a physicist from the United States who have been

studying the Tronado microwave machine and its use in Perth returned home last night with the intention of building three or four similar machines.

They are Dr N. Hornback (44), chief of the department of radiation therapy at the University of Indiana, and a physicist in the department, Dr R. Schupe.

Dr Hornback said they would build microwave therapy machines for the treatment of cancer in animals used for experiments and for the treatment of human cancer.

A study of the Tronado in Perth during their five-day stay had shown its essential design to be based around 12 diathermy units. They would build similar machines with variable frequencies.

Dr Hornback said his university had the biggest medical school in the United States.

He had been engaged in radiation treatment for cancer patients for 12 years.

Amazed

"I have been amazed by what I have seen of some of the patients and case histories of people who have had treatment on the Tronado in Perth," he said.

Is it not remarkable that the members of the National Health and Medical Research Council were not impressed or amazed, and the members of the latest committee were similarly not amazed, but the head of the largest medical school in the USA was amazed?

To carry on the story, Dr Hornback built these machines. He had such tremendous success that he is now collaborating with the group of doctors who want to buy our machine. When Dr Levant was in my office last week his words were, "It is likely that at this very minute Dr Hornback is talking with my colleagues about their programme of research which will be carried on."

Are we to be in the situation that we deny cancer sufferers in Western Australia the use of this machine at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and send it to Canada so that the doctors there can treat cancer sufferers in Canada; and that in due course when the Tronado becomes accepted throughout the world, as it undoubtedly will, we will have to pay a darn sight more to get the same machine than we had to pay initially? How much sense would there be in that?

Now, it is a great thing to know that at last people elsewhere have woken up to the possibilities of this treatment. Western Australia has paved the way, despite the opposition. As a matter of fact, it could

be the opposition has been a blessing in disguise because it stirred up a number of people and encouraged them to have another look.

One of the remarkable features about the situation is that there is no trouble with general practitioners. When they have a patient suffering with cancer they shoot him off for treatment on the Tronado. I could reel off the names of a number of doctors who have referred their patients for treatment on the Tronado and they agree the patients have benefited. It is the other people—the intelligentsia and some university professors—who say that we cannot have this because it does no good and will not do anything. They close their eyes to what is said by the people who claim they benefited. They will not have that at all.

Members will recall the number of names on the petition I presented last year. If I made an appeal to the people of Western Australia to march in this city I guarantee we could raise a march of 10 000 people without the slightest trouble. It is almost impossible to go anywhere in the State today without finding someone who knows about someone else who has benefited.

During the week my wife went into Caris Bros. and a gentleman there said to her, "I see your husband is moving on the Tronado machine again". She said that I was. He said that he knew a horse trainer from up country who had cancer and who had been on the Tronado and was consequently now back training his horses. This is true. I have confirmed it.

I have mentioned many who have benefited. While I have all these letters, I have records of dozens and dozens of telephone calls from people urging me not to give up and indicating the machine must be brought into operation.

My motion asks that it be brought into operation, but not in Western Australia. However, that is what I want because I cannot see the sense in selling it to someone else to do what we can do ourselves here and what we have done with such great success.

My inquiries of the doctors operating the machine here reveal they are fully occupied with the machine and they are giving serious consideration to having a second one built. I put this aspect to members: once we can get the women in the community—those thousands who each year lose a breast—to realise that there is every chance of their getting rid of the cancer if they are treated on the Tronado, there would be such a demand for treatment that we would not have the capacity here to treat them all. It is my belief that we are only a few months off general acceptance.

It has been established now that it has been known for 50 years or more that heat will destroy cancer. All we have to show is that the Tronado machine is

capable of applying the necessary 42 degrees to destroy the malignancy. We can accept what Dr Bowen, Dr de Laeter, and Dr Brisbourn have said. They have stated the measurements used by the National Health and Medical Research Council committee cannot be relied upon and therefore the calculation as to whether the Tronado can produce the heat cannot be relied upon at all.

Consider the 20-year-old girl from up country who had in her stomach a cancer as big as a football. Her mother (Mrs Nottle) brought her to my office and they both sat there talking to me. That cancer which was as big as a football is no longer there. No wonder Mrs Nottle was instrumental in obtaining a large number of signatures of people in country districts asking for the machine to be kept in use!

Surely we have reached the stage where we can be sensible about this and accept the evidence right under our noses.

The other day a most remarkable statement appeared in the paper. I am indebted to Dr Kilgour who must be a man of considerable courage to have said what he did. The article appeared in *The West Australian* on the 9th August, and there can be no argument that he was misquoted because his statement appeared in inverted commas. We must bear in mind that there have been two supposedly expert committees trying to evaluate the Tronado. This is what Dr Kilgour said—

"There has been no proper evaluation of the Tronado machine," he said. "We still don't know what it does."

Surely that cuts the ground completely from under the feet of the NHMRC and the special advisory committee. Dr Kilgour—and no-one is in a better position to know than he—has said that there has been no proper evaluation; and I agree absolutely.

In the face of that how can we allow a situation to continue under which the machine is not being used? After the report of the special evaluation committee was issued and Dr Kilgour was asked whether the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital would do anything about the machine, he said that the hospital's action would depend upon the decision of the Government. Therefore the situation is that all the Government has to do—and in my view it should do it—is to give an indication that this machine should be put back into use and the board will do it. That will mean then that the patients in Sir Charles Gairdner who want treatment on the Tronado, can have it; those patients in Royal Perth Hospital who want treatment on the Tronado, will have it; and those people in St. John of God Hospital and the Fremantle Hospital who want the treatment on the machine will be able to have it also.

Who are we to deny it to them in the face of the testimony of the men themselves who are still alive and the widows

and other relatives of those who have passed on? Surely we could not justify that situation. In view of what Dr Le Veen and his four colleagues claim about the improvement they effected in 21 cancer patients in New York by using microwave therapy, surely to goodness we can realise that we are on the eve of the acceptance of the best cancer therapy known in the world today.

Therefore I trust that as a result of what I have told the House—and I guarantee that what I have said is fully documented and supported scientifically as well as by the testimony of those persons concerned—there will be no difficulty in the minds of members as to what they ought to do when the time comes to vote on the motion.

When Dr Levant was talking to me, as he did for 1½ hours, he showed me two sets of photographs of people who had been treated in Canada with a small section of 434 megahertz diathermy. There are 12 in the Tronado machine. First of all, he showed me a picture of a man who was suffering from cancer of his foot. It was a horrible looking inflamed injury. He then showed me a picture of the same foot taken three weeks later after the man had ultra high frequency treatment and there was no sign of the cancer; not even a scar on the man's foot.

I was then shown a picture of a man who had a cancer under his eye and, again, it was a horrible protuberance. That cancer was treated with ultra frequency therapy and after some weeks of treatment another picture was taken of that man's face which showed no sign of the cancer.

No wonder they are enthusiastic about getting our Tronado machine and taking it to Canada. I told Dr Levant I was not enthusiastic about assisting him to take away the Tronado machine, and I asked him what his programme of research would be if the machine were kept here. He said that would cause a delay of eight months. Canada has \$1 million to spend. It received £150 000 from a person whose name I know to further research into ultra high frequency microwaves. It is proposed to carry out further experiments on animals and also on human beings in collaboration with Dr Hornback who already has had some success.

It is as obvious as a missing tooth that before long this form of treatment will be accepted throughout the world. We have to make up our minds whether we should indicate to the Government that we object to its selling this machine. My information is that a substantial sum has been offered for it; as a matter of fact, I could mention the amount although I have been told by the Government that no offer has been made.

It has to be remembered that as soon as the offer is accepted there will be further publicity in the United States. On

what Dr Levant has said, on behalf of the doctors at Brooklyn, there will be such pressure from cancer sufferers to obtain treatment that we will not be able to cope with it.

Those people have a large sum of money available so let them build their more powerful machine. It will not be any different in principle. It will be an ultra high frequency microwave machine. When Dr Hornback was here he told me that Guettner might have hit upon the correct frequency, but it is possible that by changing the frequency of the microwave a better and quicker result might be obtained. He said that was what he would experiment with.

In the literature which I have with me it is mentioned more than once that it is considered the microwave treatment does not rely on heat alone; there is some other factor which is also present. Dr Levant told me it was his intention to try to discover the other factor, so that would be the main aim of the treatment which will be followed. There is no argument amongst those doctors about the efficacy of heat treatment if the heat can be lifted to the required temperature. The illustrations I have given about tumour tissue being raised to a higher temperature than the healthy tissue indicate there is very little difficulty with regard to that. If it can be discovered that a different frequency from that of the Tronado machine will give a better result, then the fact that the Tronado was brought here in the first place will have made a marvellous contribution, because it is our success which has fixed the attention of the Americans and the Canadians on the possibilities of microwave therapy.

I now leave the matter in the hands of members hoping they will have a balanced judgment on this question. It transcends party politics.

Mr T. J. Burke: Hear, hear!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We are considering what we ought to do to assist people who suffer from one of the most dreadful diseases one can contract and we would find it hard to justify in our consciences if we deny people the right of treatment, more especially as the latest committee has stated there is no evidence of any harm from the treatment. That has been borne out by scientists in other parts of the world. If there is no evidence of harm, and if there is even a possibility of benefit, who are we to tell people that we will not make the machine available for use after its purchase with the taxpayers' money.

[Applause by Opposition members.]

Mr DAVIES: I second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Ridge (Minister for Lands).

SUPPLY BILL*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

EDUCATION*Appointment of Standing Committee:
Motion*

MR. A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [8.59 p.m.]: I move—

In the opinion of this House, a Legislative Assembly standing committee on education should be established forthwith.

I think the time has come when we should question whether there is any point in keeping Parliament going. We have to consider very seriously whether Parliament is worth keeping in its present form. Many people are beginning to question this very fact. It costs a great deal of money to keep Parliament going and we have the spectacle, night after night, of Government back-benchers slumbering on the benches.

Mr Nanovich: While the Opposition is wasting time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Premier knows better than anyone else that this place is a farce, that what he wants will go through this House and the other House, and that this is an expensive rubber stamp.

The Legislative Council sat for 22 minutes last week: 22 minutes! I think the people have a right to question whether in fact they are getting their money's worth. I believe they are not. When we consider the job being done by other Parliaments which have committees trying to grapple with the great and complex problems facing society, the great reports which come out of various Parliaments all over the world, and the lack of serious study by this Parliament, we must question the whole system.

I might say that during the time Mr J. T. Tonkin was Premier, seven Select Committees were working in this Parliament. Since the present Parliament has been in operation under the iron fist of the present Premier there has been one Select Committee, and that resulted from a motion moved by a Labor member—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—and amended by a Country Party member—the member for Moore. It was certainly nothing of which the Liberal Party could claim to be the author in any way. That is a sevenfold disparity between the valuable work which was done in various areas in the life of the 27th Parliament and the work which has been done during the 28th Parliament.

We of the Opposition believe in public involvement. We believe the people have a right to come to Parliament in a formal way to get our ear and make submissions to us, not in the privacy of our offices when what is said may not see the light of day but publicly so that they can attempt to influence the legislators who are supposed to represent them.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In my opinion, the whole of human history shows that Governments cannot be trusted. It is just not good enough for a Government to say, "Don't worry, we are looking after you." George Orwell wrote about the year 1984, the time of "Big Brother". I suggest in Western Australia the time of "Big Brother" has arrived.

It is suggested we should have faith in the experts. When another motion was moved a great deal of evidence was produced to show that experts have made some alarming errors in the field of nuclear power generation—to such an extent that hundreds of experts throughout the world have resigned from the well paid jobs they would otherwise have had for life because they felt they could no longer be responsible for or associated with an industry which was not as safe as one would desire. So it cannot be said we should have faith in the experts when, on speaking to them, the experts themselves admit in all humility they make errors.

We are not saying we should substitute our work for the work of the experts. What we want is to put the experts in touch with Parliament. The experts are in touch with the Ministry. The Cabinet has the best technical expertise available to a Government within the Government service. That expert advice is not available to the Parliament as a whole and we believe it should be so that it is possible for the Parliament, as distinct from the Ministry, to find out what the experts have to say. So we are thinking of two kinds of input: we are thinking of the expert input and the input by the general public.

We believe Parliament should be organised efficiently. It is claimed loudly, especially by conservatives, that they are proud of their British heritage; but in 1889 the House of Commons introduced a system of committees, so we are rapidly becoming 100 years behind the times. This is the only Parliament of which I have knowledge which is without a committee system. I think the lack of activity in this regard by this Parliament is a disgrace.

The Government is increasingly involving itself in more and more activities which are becoming more and more complex, and I believe it is very wrong for us to remain in the horse and buggy days, as we are, or in the pre-Cambrian age as far

as Parliament is concerned, by not attempting to put ourselves in touch with a great deal of the evidence which is available.

The motion before us is related to the education system. There are many areas in the education system which need investigation. Education is a very wide field. The word "education" encompasses pre-school, primary, secondary, and technical education, colleges of advanced education, the universities, special education problems, and so on. It is a very complex field and I would imagine a standing committee on education would choose one particular area to investigate and could with profit to members themselves—because we, too, need education—spend a considerable period of time investigating one particular area.

Mr Thompson: No professional occupation is more heavily represented in this Parliament than education.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: That may be so, and it is a teacher who is moving this motion. I have spoken about this matter to hundreds of teachers, both inside and outside this Parliament, who believe a greater measure of expertise should be shown by legislators. I think the problem is we take our responsibilities far too lightly. Any Bill which comes forward goes through. Not a single Bill has been seriously questioned by this Parliament in the time of the Court Government.

Of course, it would be up to such a standing committee to decide which matters to investigate but one of the matters I suggest it could have a look at is the promotion system as far as teachers are concerned. A great deal of disquiet prevails about that among members of the Teachers' Union, principals, parents, and students. Obviously the system which is operating is not the best. Indeed, I have a letter from the Minister for Education indicating that he is looking at this question. It would be hard to find many people in Western Australia who are satisfied that our promotion system is working.

Special education, remedial education, teacher education, the country hostels system which is not operating at all well—these are a few matters which come to my mind at random, although I make no attempt to suggest the areas which should be investigated or even the most pressing areas.

Let us look at some of the committees which are operating throughout Australia. In the Australian Parliament we have the Senate Standing Committee on Education, Science, and the Arts, which brought down a report on teacher education, and I would say those people are earning their salaries by producing such reports as the Senate reports on air pollution and water pollution, the House of Representatives report on wildlife conservation, and the Senate report on securities and exchange. We also have the House of

Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment, Conservation, and Natural Resources; the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances; and the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Federal Parliament on Public Works. In Victoria there are standing committees on company takeovers, road safety, Statute law revision, and subordinate legislation. In South Australia there are standing committees on subordinate legislation, public works, land settlement, and industrial development.

That is not an exhaustive list of the various committees which exist in Australia but it shows we are lagging. For a State on the move we do not seem to be moving very fast in this direction.

On the 27th November, 1974, the Premier replied to me when I raised the matter of the committee system. This is reported on page 3818 of *Hansard* of that year, and referring to me the Premier said—

... I know he will keep on with it until we do something about it.

There was an admission that there would be action but that the Government would keep putting off what eventually should be done. There was no attempt to show that such a system was undesirable in any way.

I am reminded of the Royal Commission which was set up to inquire into the corridor scheme. That commission was composed of one member of the Liberal Party, one member of the Country Party, and one member of the Labor Party; and the commission suggested unanimously that a standing committee on town planning should be established. The commission considered this to be an area of great involvement and also one of great dissatisfaction. This was a suggestion from three people representing three different political parties.

As I have said before, our incorrect sense of priorities is illustrated in that we have a committee set up to look after the stomachs of members of Parliament, and we do not have committees to inquire into vital areas such as education. It is more important to have a committee to run our dining room and to look after the stomachs of members of Parliament—judging by most of them, they are large enough to look after themselves—than to have a committee to look into the question of education.

The Commonwealth Solicitor-General (Mr Maurice Byers) stated that each State Parliament should have a committee to examine proposed legislation to ensure that it did not grant unnecessarily wide powers. I believe that at the time the Solicitor-General had in mind the fuel and energy legislation passed by this Parliament. However, a Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth believed that legislation is often blindly acceded to by Parliament

and that there need to be committees to look at it to see that powers granted are not too wide.

A former Prime Minister (Mr McMahon) stated that a committee system should be created so that back-benchers could have access to policy makers, and the policy makers to whom he referred—and this is a sad comment on Australian society—were members of the bureaucracy. So there we have a suggestion that back-benchers should have a greater role to play. Apparently the back-benchers of this Parliament do not want to play a meaningful role in the Parliament.

Mr Bertram: Only on the Liquor Act Amendment Bill!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In conclusion I would like to refer to the support I have had for this motion from many sources. In both 1975 and 1976 the Dale District Council of the Parents & Citizens' Association indicated support for this motion.

Mr Davies: Their member would probably vote for it, do you think?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: A councillor of the Kalamunda District Council said that he had canvassed 13 parents and citizens' associations in the district and he found they all agreed with the object of the motion.

Mr Davies: Another guaranteed vote!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Richmond Parents & Citizens' Association agreed with the motion; the Armadale Primary School Parents & Citizens' Association supports the motion; and the East Maylands Parents & Citizens' Association supports it also.

The Parents & Citizens' Association of the Morley Senior High School has indicated that it is in favour of the motion; and the Secondary Teachers' College branch of the Academic Staff Association of WA Teachers' Colleges also has indicated that it supports the establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on education.

The Leederville Parents & Citizens' Association said it was surprised that such a committee was not established already, and it supports the motion. The Subiaco School Council of the Subiaco Primary School supports the motion. I have received letters also from many individual teachers, and I would like to mention one teacher who said, "I am at a loss to know why such a committee was not established long ago."

Finally, I would like to refer to two bodies which between them represent the biggest proportion of educational interests in Western Australia—the State School Teachers' Union and the WA Council of State School Organisations which, as members know, represents all parents and citizens' associations in Western Australia. Both these organisations have indicated

their wholehearted support for the establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on education.

Mr Davies: Do you think the matter becomes any more urgent because of the change in Government in Canberra?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: That is a valid point. I believe we will see a downgrading of education from conservatives who have always feared it. Therefore, we will need someone to speak up on behalf of the educationists in Western Australia.

In conclusion I would like to remind the House that representatives of all the parents and citizens' associations in Western Australia and representatives of all the State school teachers in Western Australia support the motion. I have no reason to believe that the union representing teachers in private schools would not support it, although I do not know its views.

I would like to remind members that we sit here as representatives of the people to make the laws of the land, and if we do not see to it that we are legislating from knowledge, then we are not discharging our duties responsibly—in fact, we are legislating from ignorance. I believe that the public is not getting its money's worth from this Parliament. Just think of the work which could have been accomplished last week by a committee composed of Legislative Council members when members in another place sat for 22 minutes only. Just imagine the work that could have been done during the parliamentary recess which lasted for some months.

Mr Thompson: We were on holidays!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Information could have been sought during this period. For example, last night the member for Balga suggested the establishment of a Select Committee to inquire into building societies. The comment from the Minister was, "Good heavens—you have had this since May. What do you want any further time for?"

The parliamentary recess could have been used to inquire into legislation rather than members using it to iron out their golf swings. I do not believe the recess should be used in that way—it should be used to investigate matters so that we can legislate from a basis of knowledge.

Mr Sodeman: You should not be disparaging like that about your colleagues.

Several members interjected.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: This hits members on the raw. People might wake up—

Mr Young: How many on your side do that?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Government members sit there and when the Premier says, "Jump", they jump. They accept any legislation which is introduced into this place and of course they are now writhing in agony because someone is daring to say something about what goes on in this place.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I reiterate: We should either discharge our duties properly or we should close Parliament down, because it is becoming quite clear that Parliament, in its present form, has outlived its usefulness.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I know Government members are trying to silence me.

Mr Bertram: They have no hope.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: It is like the jungle at moonrise, Mr Speaker. I believe we should either do our job properly or close this place down because as it is presently constituted it is of no further use.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) (9.20 p.m.): May I say that if the member for Morley continues as he has—

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I will be asked outside again.

Mr GRAYDEN: —that might well happen, too—he will gain for himself a very firm reputation as being the Don Quixote of this Parliament.

Mr Nanovich: Hear, hear!

Mr GRAYDEN: He seems to travel endlessly and aimlessly about this State tilting at windmills. But I would say this: When he criticises the parliamentary institution of this State or the parliamentary institution of Australia, or the Westminster system of government, he has never been on less firm ground. He does this constantly. I jotted down some of the comments he made. He said it is a question of whether it is desirable to keep Parliament going. He talked in terms of Parliament being an expensive rubber stamp, and he went on to denigrate it to the greatest extent possible. He constantly denigrates our parliamentary system.

I wonder what he would put in its place. Does the member for Morley want to replace our Parliament with the type of administration found in Soviet Russia? Is that what he seeks? He is constantly denigrating the Westminster system of government, and in so doing he is supported by other members opposite.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I find it exceedingly offensive for the Minister to say I denigrated the Westminster system. As a matter of fact, I held it up as a paragon of

virtue in my speech. I request that the Minister withdraw the untruth that I denigrated the Westminster system.

The SPEAKER: I must ask the Minister to withdraw the offending remark.

Mr GRAYDEN: If the member finds that offensive, I am happy to withdraw it.

Debate Resumed

Mr GRAYDEN: However, I am also happy to find the member putting himself on record as being one who does not denigrate the Westminster system.

I am delighted to see that we now have a statement recorded in *Hansard* by the member for Morley expressing that particular viewpoint, because the member went out of his way to denigrate this particular Parliament. He has done that constantly in the past, and he does so, it would seem, because he loathes the type of Parliament we have in this country. I find it extremely offensive that anyone in this House should have views of that kind.

To get back to the point I was making, I wonder what the member for Morley would seek to replace this institution with. Is it not the type of government found in Soviet Russia?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: A decent kind of Parliament; you know that.

Mr GRAYDEN: Is that a decent Parliament, elected on the basis of there being only one candidate for whom the people can vote?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: That is not so. What about a bit of honesty?

Mr GRAYDEN: What is the alternative to the Parliament we have in this State? Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRAYDEN: The alternative, as the member for Mt. Hawthorn knows only too well, is the Soviet type of government.

Mr Davies: Are you sober?

Mr GRAYDEN: It would appear that is what members opposite would support, because that is the only alternative.

Point of Order

Mr A. R. TONKIN: It is offensive to me for the Minister to suggest that we should have in this place a one-party type of government. The Minister knows only too well that I said I believed in the Westminster system, and I would like to see it introduced here; and that is not the Soviet system—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. There is a cleavage of opinion that has been expressed. The member has not asked for a withdrawal, so I ask the Minister to continue.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I might not have made myself clear, Mr Speaker. I request that the remark be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: What remark?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: That I am in favour of a Soviet type system.

Mr GRAYDEN: I did not say that.

The SPEAKER: This is one of those occasions when one member denies that he made a certain remark. I heard mention made of supporting the Soviet form of government. The member for Morley has asked for a withdrawal of that offending remark. Will the Minister withdraw the statement?

Mr GRAYDEN: Mr Speaker, the statement I made—

The SPEAKER: Do you wish to make an explanation?

Mr GRAYDEN: Yes, Sir. I said it would appear that the member would support that type of government, because that is the alternative. That is a very different thing.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Under the circumstances it would appear that, as the Minister has stated what he said, the remark does not have to be withdrawn.

Debate Resumed

Mr GRAYDEN: Thank you, Sir. The member for Morley very deliberately made reference to the period another place sat during the last week.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: It was 22 minutes.

Mr GRAYDEN: The member knows perfectly well that there is a reason. This session has just resumed, and the Legislative Council is waiting on legislation from this House.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: There is plenty to do.

Mr GRAYDEN: That is the situation, and the member knows it perfectly well; yet he attempted to distort the position.

Mr O'Connor: Some members opposite might not have sat for 22 minutes either.

Mr GRAYDEN: The member also said that this House does nothing. Let us look at the legislative record for last year alone.

Mr B. T. Burke: The fuel and energy Bill!

Mr GRAYDEN: We find that in the Legislative Council 18 Bills were introduced.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: How many were rejected?

Mr GRAYDEN: I will come to that in a moment. In the Legislative Assembly 109 Bills were introduced, making a total of 127 Bills introduced in that year.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Rubber stamped.

Mr GRAYDEN: There was a total of 127 Bills introduced, and the member for Morley talks in terms of this Parliament

being a rubber stamp. Of those 127 Bills, one was discharged in the Legislative Assembly, only one was defeated in the Legislative Council, two were defeated in the Legislative Assembly, one lapsed in the Legislative Council, eight lapsed in the Legislative Assembly, and 114 passed both Houses. Yet the member for Morley would give the impression that this Parliament does absolutely nothing.

Mr T. H. Jones: Tell us how many hours they sat.

Mr GRAYDEN: Perhaps the member for Morley might do some work in his electorate, but it is quite obvious he does nothing in this Parliament.

Mr T. H. Jones: How many hours did the Council sit as compared with the Assembly?

Mr O'Connor: You tell us.

Mr T. H. Jones: He is telling the story.

Mr GRAYDEN: I have told the member exactly how many Bills were introduced. The fact that the Legislative Council may not be sitting long hours can be attributed directly to the Opposition, because the Opposition is there to query and debate Government legislation.

Mr Bertram: What is the use of doing that?

Mr GRAYDEN: If Labor members will not sit in the Legislative Council and will not sit in this Chamber and debate Bills at length, they cannot subsequently accuse the Government of not sitting for additional time. I do not think any member of this House would complain that the Chamber sits for too short a period; the opposite would be the case.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: What about effective sitting times?

Mr GRAYDEN: Sometimes we sit until 1.00 and 2.00 a.m., and sometimes we sit through the night. Therefore it is arrant nonsense for the member for Morley to speak in that fashion. He is certainly not deceiving anyone in this House.

He did not spend very long dealing with this motion because he knows he has no facts on which to justify the introduction of a standing committee on education. Had the member for Morley been able to show that there is a continuing interest in various aspects of education; had he been able to show that members are concerned with this matter; and had he been able to show that members opposite are not able to obtain adequate information in respect of various aspects of education, there would be some justification for considering the appointment of a standing committee.

However, he would not have been able to say that because there are no matters of continuing interest; no matters relating to education which are of concern or about

which members of this House cannot obtain adequate information. In those circumstances, there is simply no justification for a standing committee on education.

The member for Morley referred to the Federal Parliament and to the fact that that Parliament had a standing committee system. But that Parliament is a very different Parliament from ours. For instance, there are 127 members in the House of Representatives, whereas the Legislative Assembly has only 51 members.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: The Senate has 60 members, and it has a good committee system. Is that number so different from 51?

Mr GRAYDEN: I do not know what the member for Morley is talking about; I am referring to the House of Representatives. The Senate contains not 60 members but 64 members, while our Legislative Council contains only 30 members. Therefore, the two Parliaments cannot be compared.

In addition, we must bear in mind that Federal members are drawn from throughout the Commonwealth. They fly to Canberra and remain there a relatively short time and get out of the place as quickly as they can in order to return to their home States. In those circumstances, in order to transact the business of the Federal Parliament, it is imperative that they have standing committees.

However, that situation does not apply here because when this House is out of session, members can meet within the subcommittees of their own parties and achieve everything they could achieve without the necessity to establish a standing committee on education. I assume that the Labor Party Caucus would have subcommittees dealing with most issues, such as education, agriculture and mining. I can assure the member for Morley that my party has established such subcommittees, and I am sure the National Country Party has set up similar committees. We have a series of subcommittees and we certainly have a subcommittee on education.

It is my opinion that the Labor Party is remiss indeed if it simply sends its members to this House and makes no attempt within its own ranks to form subcommittees to deal with these important issues. In addition, members opposite are obviously as remiss out of the Chamber as they are within it. I suggest to members opposite that if they feel they are having difficulty in obtaining information in respect of education, they should immediately form a subcommittee within their own party to deal with education, just as other parties have done. This will achieve everything the member for Morley wants.

The second point I should like to make is that there is not a single member of this House who has the slightest difficulty in obtaining all the information he or she wishes in respect of education. Members

can ask questions in this House; they can write to the Minister for Education; they can telephone the Minister for Education; they can meet the Minister for Education in the corridors; they can form deputations to visit the Minister; or, they can avail themselves of the research facilities at the Parliamentary Library. There is endless scope for them to obtain the information they require in respect of education, and it is absolutely nonsensical for anyone to suggest this information is not readily available. However, if they feel they cannot obtain the information through all those sources, of which they should be aware, I suggest they contact me, and I will be happy to obtain the information for them—because the information certainly is available.

Any member of this Parliament who is doing his job should know how to obtain such information. In these circumstances, how ridiculous it is to talk in terms of establishing a standing committee on education. It has been mentioned that local government authorities commonly establish standing committees. But this is for a very good reason. Councillors are not paid and most councils meet either fortnightly or once a month. In the meantime, the business of the local authority must go on and in those circumstances standing committees are imperative, which is why they figure so prominently in local government.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: What about the Westminster system?

Mr GRAYDEN: That is a different set-up altogether. How could a House containing 640 members, as does the House of Commons, function without standing committees? Surely the member for Morley is not suggesting we can compare that situation with the one which exists in Western Australia.

I repeat that the member for Morley has advanced no good case in support of his motion to establish a standing committee on education. The Government has complete confidence in the Education Department and the Minister for Education. It is confident that every member of Parliament has access to all the information he may require. In those circumstances, I have no alternative but to oppose the motion.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [9.37 p.m.]: The Minister for Labour and Industry, who represents the Minister for Education in this place, took umbrage at the manner in which the member for Morley approached the subject of his motion. He seems to have all sorts of fanciful, funny and rather ludicrous ideas as to what really is meant by a subcommittee of a particular political party. Far be it for me, after only a short time in this House, to attempt to tell the Minister he does not understand the system.

However, I am afraid I cannot accept the validity of a comparison between party subcommittees dealing with education or other matters and a proper, standing committee of this House. The Minister made such a comparison, and said that the subcommittees could fulfill all the wishes of the member for Morley. I believe that to be a ridiculous statement.

Of course we on this side have a subcommittee on education! We have a shadow Minister for Education who has a committee behind him which deals with matters relating to education. However, we do not believe that is the complete answer in the field of education or in any other field, simply because a subcommittee of an Opposition party holds no legal weight at all.

The Minister's suggestion that members should enlighten themselves on the subject of education is a matter which is very close to my heart, and I should like to inform members of the ways in which I have endeavoured to educate myself in the field of education as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

For instance, I refer to the annual conference of the Australian Teachers' Federation held in Perth between the 6th and the 9th January this year. I have also endeavoured to educate myself in regard to the thinking of people dealing with the training of teachers who were about to go out into the teaching world to instruct our children. I consider it an honour to have become a member of the board of the College of Advanced Education at Mt. Lawley. Further to educate myself in the matter of education, I undertook the responsibility which was carried out by my predecessor, Mr Brady, in the field of technical education.

The Minister asked whether any member of this House could show that he has been denied the right to seek information. I shall shortly disabuse the Minister's mind: the right has been taken away from me, as a former representative of the Midland Technical School. I intend to ask some searching questions of the Minister for Education about that school.

When the Minister makes an obvious attempt to play politics he should remember that he speaks for the Minister for Education and he apparently does not know the Minister has denied me the opportunity to assist the Midland Technical School as well as to further my own interests in the field of education. On its own that would be sufficient grounds for me to support the establishment of a standing committee on education.

The Minister has challenged members on this side of the House to produce evidence that there is something wrong with the education system and to prove that all is not well. All is not well with the education system. We have some problems with pre-school education and the Teacher's

Union has appointed a research officer. The document I have in my hand was prepared by the Education Department and is headed, "Evaluation of pre-primary centres". I assume that that presents the Government's point of view. I wonder whether in our wisdom we should simply accept that as the gospel on pre-school education. I certainly do not. I have read it with some interest but I am not convinced that that is the document I am prepared to accept as the best means of education in this State, particularly in regard to pre-school education.

I seek knowledge and I have not been able to find it. I am supposed to sit here when Bills come before this House to amend the Education Act or any other legislation to do with education. I am supposed to act responsibly towards parents and children who are going to be educated and I am not too certain exactly what I ought to be doing.

I have been on a technical school committee and I have been interested in the question of teacher training for quite some time, having personal experience of bringing up a son who is now a member of the teaching fraternity.

The Minister mentioned the House of Representatives. I mention that because it is a great pity we cannot have a more enlightened contribution to the debate from the Minister representing an Education Minister.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: If ever we needed an educated person!

Mr SKIDMORE: If ever we needed an educated person to put forward the point of view of a Minister, we certainly do here, because I have never heard such ridiculous nonsense as that which poured out of the mouth of the Minister tonight. Of course the Minister is aided and abetted by the present Minister for Agriculture who has just started cackling merrily although he does not even know what I am going to say.

Mr Cowan: Do you know what you are going to say?

Mr Old: It will be funny, whatever you say.

Mr SKIDMORE: I certainly know what I am going to say. I raise the matter of the numbers game that the Minister used in regard to the House of Representatives. He cited all sorts of figures which roughly equate to this: there are about 50 per cent more members in the House of Representatives than in this Assembly and there are about 50 per cent more senators than Legislative Councillors in this State. Big deal! Pull marks! That is powerful stuff and we should have more of it. What does it all mean? In essence the Minister said that because those members fly backwards and forwards to Canberra and stay for only a few days, they have to have committees.

As I understand it, the committees consist of members. They are the people who after the Parliament has risen stay back for weekend after weekend and day after day to make responsible contributions to the running of this country. From what the Minister said one would almost suppose that other people were going to sit on the committees, that lawyers or solicitors sat on the committees. Certainly they are called in but basically the committees are run by the members. They are the Parliament, they are part of the system; they are not divorced from it. The members do not leave Canberra and leave the committees to operate. The Minister knows that as well as I do.

If he did not know, he does now because I have told him. In answer to the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, that is what I was going to say and I think it is a valid point. I do not think members can quarrel with it because that is precisely what takes place.

When we talk about committees we are not talking about party committees. We have a very good education committee but that is not the totality of our party's search for knowledge. The Minister said that he can always give advice to us if we seek answers to questions on education.

I wanted to go a little further than that and to educate myself with regard to the Partridge report which was a very far-reaching report on where education is heading, particularly in regard to colleges of advanced education, tertiary institutions and the like. Again for the Minister's information, I bothered to become a delegate from the Mt. Lawley College of Advanced Education at a State conference which was held in Bunbury. The theme of the seminar was post-secondary education in Western Australia and it was run by the Australian College of Education, Western Australian Chapter. There were many fine speakers on that occasion. The main speakers were those people who could obviously make a great contribution on the question of education. The first session was introduced by a Dr A. N. Stewart and all other speakers are noted for their expertise in education.

What did the seminar achieve? I have spoken about this in this place on a previous occasion. It provoked a great degree of thinking amongst people who went there. No finality arose out of it and there were no massive recommendations as to what educators should do, but it was thought provoking. It allowed each of us to ask ourselves, on analysing the seminar, "What have I achieved in this regard? What have I been provoked into thinking about education?"

I might say that I made my small contribution. I was always a little hesitant, having achieved only a junior standard of education, of speaking at a seminar where I was surrounded by people with degrees in all sorts of subjects such as science,

mathematics and economics. With the temerity of one who felt that if he did not speak he had failed in the exercise of attending the seminar, I did say a few words which would have taken perhaps two or three minutes.

Mr Watt: Did you hold your own?

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not know that I had to hold my own. I do not really know that it was my intention to be able to out-speak anybody else. I went along and listened. If the member for Albany had half as much fortitude as I had to become educated he might have gone along and been educated also. On looking through the attendance list I would imagine his name would be notable by its absence.

Mr Blaikie interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: The member who has just interjected is one of those people who is so thoroughly educated that he does not wish to enlighten himself about what is going on in the community! He would be one of those who would accept that a parliamentary standing committee on education has nothing to offer. The brains of the honourable member are about as addled as the scrambled eggs served to me in the morning. All the interjections from members opposite indicate their complete lack of understanding of the motion before us. Their very behaviour reveals a degree of irresponsibility in respect of education.

It is lamentable that when the Minister got up to speak on this motion he said that members on the Government side could form a valid opinion on education and that he got inane utterances from members on this side. I hope members who consider themselves qualified to speak on this subject will look at their contributions in *Hansard*. They should remember that their contributions in the record will stand for all time for people to look at. In fact, their contributions to this debate have been as puerile as their other contributions usually are.

Mr Sibson: The education seminar held in Bunbury was a very good one.

Mr SKIDMORE: I agree. I was concerned about the possibility of the recommendations in the Partridge report being adopted to remove from the teachers' colleges their autonomy. Under that report Churchlands and Mt. Lawley are mentioned, and Graylands is to be phased out, and a new college is to be built south of the river. I felt it was a great tragedy that the autonomy of the colleges should be challenged after having experienced such a short gestation period along that line of thinking. This was a rather revolutionary change in the education scene, designed to give the opportunity to members of the community to participate in the activities of colleges of education.

I am not the only one who shares the disregard for the old system as it operated. It was a narrow-minded, parochial attitude of the educators who had grown up under a system that was insular. They did not really grasp the problems within education that the community wanted to have resolved; I am not talking so much about the teachers or educators, but what the members of the community wanted.

Some alarm was expressed by the Australian Teachers' Federation Conference on the question of education in schools and other institutions. That conference prepared 12 recommendations on the question of community involvement in education. For members who wish to become knowledgeable of what the Australian Teachers' Federation Conference of 1976 felt about this matter, I suggest they procure from the Teachers' Union a copy of *The Western Teacher* of Thursday, the 1st April, 1976. It contains an evaluation of pre-school centres. What did the conference say about community involvement on the question of education? In a report in that publication the conference made the following recommendation—

1. That ATF, recognising that the involvement of the community in the school is best achieved by an evolutionary process which allows for differing individual needs to be catered for, therefore recommends to affiliates that they assume a leadership role in stimulating moves for community involvement.

I think it is a very good recommendation, and I believe all the people support it.

What does it need to make it really effective? How will we obtain the objectivity in the very worth-while ideals contained in the first recommendation? One cannot achieve that in this Parliament, because the system does not allow us to debate this matter in full. I as a member have 45 minutes to speak to the second reading of a Bill in the House, and in the Committee stage I am allowed a total of 40 minutes. Unless I am the lead speaker in a debate I am limited in my effort to put forward a point of view that is valid and that makes sense—one that will be readily understood by people outside. We are not allowed sufficient leave to be that objective.

Looking at the other questions that have been raised, there is an obvious need for a committee system to evaluate the 12 recommendations of the Australian Teachers' Federation. I have quoted only the first recommendation which is very far-reaching in its intent. There are others. For instance, recommendation No. 5 on community involvement is as follows—

5. That ATF recommend to teachers that, as they assume greater control over the educational policies of their schools, they consult more

closely with parent and community groups, and seek to involve them in the formulation of educational policy in an advisory capacity.

Again that is very thought provoking. I, as a legislator, consider there is something remiss in education, and we seem to have missed the boat.

How do we effect a change? We have followed the narrow ways of the past operating under a system which is impossible to understand. This is set out in the Education Act. Even the educators are alarmed at the number of regulations that have been formulated. We on this side of the House say that the education system should be evaluated—a system which contains faults and disadvantages. All the Minister can say to us is, "You do not know what you are talking about. It is a system we have operated under effectively, because as members of Parliament we have been successful." I say that if success is what we find in the present educational system then heaven help us in the future if we are not prepared to broaden our horizons on the subject of education.

The ATF conference expressed the view that the professional needs of beginning teachers may be stated as—

1. The need to develop self confidence.
2. The need to develop self awareness.
3. The need to develop competence.
4. The ability to motivate students.
5. The ability to develop discipline among students.
6. The ability to maintain staff relationships.
7. The ability to evaluate student progress.
8. The ability to refine curriculum and to develop syllabus.

It also states that beginning teachers are accepted as professionals by their school colleagues and are an integral part of their teaching team, etc.

What does it all mean? It means we are facing a very big problem of trying to understand the existing education system. In this House where all the opportunity we get is to express our views in the second reading debate when the Education Act is being amended we are limited. We do not understand what the Act or the system is all about. We are not able to reach the people.

I have gone out of my way to make myself knowledgeable on education matters, and my contributions worth while in this field. I find myself unable to agree that the argument put up by the Minister tonight against the appointment of a standing committee on education was really valid, or conducive to overcoming

the existing educational problem. In fact, in kindness to the Minister I would say he was ill-prepared for his contribution to the debate and he did not know very much about what he should say. All he did was to attack the member for Morley who moved the motion, and he attacked him by saying that the member for Morley denigrated the Westminster system of government. That was the greatest contribution the Minister could make in response to the motion moved by the member for Morley.

I find that the matters raised in the Partridge report are of far-reaching importance. It is not just a matter of the colleges of advanced education that are under consideration; it is also the taking away of technical education from the education scene itself. In other words it is proposed that the technical education division will have its own autonomy free from control by the Minister for Education. This is a good thing.

I now come back to the point that earlier I said I would raise concerning a field of endeavour in education which I believe I am pretty well equipped to undertake; that is, the field of technical education. Mr J. J. Brady, my predecessor for many years, was an exceptional member on the committee of the Midland Technical School. Without question his contribution was tremendous because he gave a considerable amount not only of personal support, but also by way of rewards to students at the end of terms and courses. He supplied a perpetual trophy and other trophies as well.

When I became the new member for Swan the Midland Technical School saw fit to appoint me to the committee. I conceded that it was an honour because I had been one of the members who had attended a meeting when Mr Ward, who was then with the State Department of Labour, discussed with the trade union movement the establishment of apprenticeship training. This occurred many years ago, as the Minister would recall. I was on the council which formulated the early policy for the apprenticeship training. I thought I could make a contribution to the technical school not only by helping the students with their studies, but also in my humble way by imparting some of the knowledge I have.

Mr Thompson: When did the technical school start?

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not know, but it was a considerable time ago.

What is the present situation with regard to the committee? I will not dwell on the subject at this time; I merely raise it to indicate to the House, and particularly to the Minister, what a legislator was told when he attempted to make a contribution to the technical education scene.

A list was sent to the Minister containing the names of those it was felt would make a worth-while contribution to the advisory committee of the Midland Technical School for appointment by the Minister. A letter was sent by Mr Lynch, the principal of the technical school, to me, and reads as follows—

Dear Mr Skidmore,

The Hon. Minister for Education has rejected the nominations of Mr J. Skidmore, M.L.A., and the Hon. Lyla Elliott, M.L.C., for continued membership of the Midland Technical School Advisory Committee.

The membership is now as listed on the attached letter from the Director of Technical Education.

My whole life has been dedicated to the technical scene in an endeavour to assist apprentices and others in the technical world in order that they might be able to obtain a good job. My dedication would be difficult to better, but I was brutally removed from the committee simply because the Minister for Education and I fell out over an issue concerning a person in Busselton. It was purely a political move. I was held to ransom because I had raised an issue which was substantially truthful. Yet the Minister says that we do not know what we are talking about.

The question I raise on this issue is simplicity itself. I am unable to accept the Minister's advice that as a legislator I am able to obtain the assistance and guidance of the Minister for Education.

Mr Grayden: You have all the facilities these days to obtain information. A few years ago you had no offices. Now you have an office and a research centre and you can get all the information you need. You do not need the services of a standing committee. Once upon a time, yes; but not now.

Mr SKIDMORE: I accept what the Minister has said. I do not quarrel with it. I do have the facilities, and I use them. I obtain the assistance of the research officer quite often. What I am saying is that the Minister said because we are legislators we should become knowledgeable and assist education. I endeavour to do just that and, for my pains, I get my neck chopped off. I am not allowed to be a member of the committee. The Minister said that I do not play my part.

Let us be fair dinkum. The step taken to remove me from the committee was purely a political stunt. To give further proof of my statement, let me remind members that provision is made for 15 members on the committee and the suggested list of nominees contained no more than 15 names, and included those of Miss Elliott and myself.

However the committee at present comprises only 10 members, one of whom is the member for Mundaring but not myself or Miss Elliott.

Mr Grayden: Why were you appointed in the first place?

Mr SKIDMORE: In answer to that query I would say that I like to believe that the committee felt I could make a contribution to it on several counts. I was asked about the situation and I said I believed I could help. I am a licensed electrician with the necessary SEC licence as a fitter and installer. I have been concerned with the apprenticeship scene for 15 years in the trade union movement. I have been on four boards which dealt with apprenticeships in a wide field of endeavour; that is, pastry cooking, baking, electrical fitting, and electrical installing. I believe that in these circumstances I have the knowledge to enable me to make a worth-while contribution. I was interested in the establishment of a separate council to run the affairs of apprentices. Such a council was established a few years ago and my name is included among those who submitted their proposals.

With all humility I would suggest that these were the reasons the committee felt I could assist in some way in the education of these people. I am quite sure that Mr Lynch and others would have been aware of the situation.

Is it not passing strange that when I was appointed to the committee, the appointment was approved by the Minister for Education at that time, and I do not think there has been a change of Minister since that time? Consequently I am somewhat surprised that I have not been accepted on this occasion.

Mr Grayden: You do not know the reason you were not reappointed?

Mr SKIDMORE: That raises an issue I will take up with the Minister at another time. I will not delve into it now because that concerns a different matter altogether.

In the short time available to me I can say with a degree of surety that the gymnastic verbosity—if I can put it that way—of the Minister representing the Minister for Education is similar to that of the clown who dances in the circus ring. The Minister displayed his usual performance in such a manner as to suggest that he has a great comradeship with us and is really concerned, but all the time he is saying nothing whatever about the issue before the House. He is a past master at this sort of behaviour.

Tonight's example was a classic and his contribution should go down as a remarkable performance of a Minister saying nothing in a short time, but denigrating a legislator who has sought to make a worth-while contribution to education in this State.

I simply conclude by saying that in fairness to the education system and to those members of Parliament who take an interest in the education scheme we should have a standing committee. It would be a wonderful contribution that we in the

27th Parliament could make to the education scene in Western Australia. I therefore commend the motion to the House.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [10.10 p.m.]: I enter this debate to illustrate the absolute hypocrisy again displayed by the Minister for Labour and Industry—who is also the member for South Perth. He displayed the same attitude last week during another debate and tonight we have seen the same sort of hypocrisy and humbug to which we are becoming accustomed in this House. The attitude of the Minister absolutely astounds me and other members in this place.

The whole of the argument presented by the Minister for Labour and Industry tonight was that it was not necessary to have any sort of standing committee on education because members were able to find out what was happening for themselves. If members wanted to organise political standing committees associated with their own parties they could do so and find out exactly what was happening.

I want to refer back to 1957 when the member for South Perth moved for the appointment of a Select Committee in order to obtain some information.

Mr Grayden: Goodness gracious me.

Mr HARMAN: He wanted to find out what was happening to the Aborigines in Western Australia.

Mr Grayden: Go back 20 years to ascertain that!

Mr HARMAN: What has changed in 20 years?

Mr Grayden: You are talking about the appointment of a standing committee, not a Select Committee.

Mr HARMAN: In 1957 the member for South Perth moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the plight of Aborigines in Western Australia.

Sir Charles Court: It was a once only inquiry; it was not a standing committee.

Mr HARMAN: There have been many inquiries since then.

Sir Charles Court: It was not a standing committee.

Mr HARMAN: It means the same thing.

Sir Charles Court: That does not become you.

Mr HARMAN: What is the difference between the two types of committee?

Sir Charles Court: A standing committee continues all the time.

Mr HARMAN: And a Select Committee?

Sir Charles Court: A Select Committee deals with a specific subject and then reports to Parliament.

Mr HARMAN: Would the Premier be in favour of a Select Committee or an alternative?

Sir Charles Court: It would depend on the reason for its appointment.

Mr HARMAN: The Premier has never supported any motion put forward by the Opposition since I have been in this Parliament.

Sir Charles Court: You want to be careful and not go back over a period of 23 years.

Mr HARMAN: I know where the Premier stands. He does not want members of Parliament inquiring into the activities of this Government.

Sir Charles Court: It does not worry me at all; I do not want to see people wasting their time.

Mr HARMAN: The Premier would like the people not to be informed.

Sir Charles Court: Whose fault is that?

Mr HARMAN: It is the fault of the Premier.

Sir Charles Court: Do you want me to hold classes on Saturday mornings?

Mr HARMAN: The Liberal Party in Victoria has standing committees on at least six facets of Government administration in that State.

Sir Charles Court: Perhaps we should have school classes on Mondays and Fridays!

Mr HARMAN: The Premier does not want the members of this Parliament to form a committee to inquire into administrative matters. However, I do not want to be sidetracked.

The second point raised by the Minister for Labour and Industry tonight was that he believed members of Parliament could form themselves into committees within their own political parties and make appropriate inquiries. I want to quote what the member for South Perth said in 1957 about that sort of approach. On the 23rd October, 1957, at page 2473 of *Hansard* the member for South Perth is reported as saying—

Members of political parties will not have the task of estimating what is required, because they are always politically suspect, no matter what they do.

Mr Grayden: Goodness gracious me.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister has argued tonight that standing committees within political parties should be able to make any necessary investigations, but in 1957 he said that inquiries made by political parties would always be suspect.

Mr Grayden: In certain instances that would be the case.

Mr HARMAN: That would apply now. If we set up a committee within a political party, to make inquiries, that would be interpreted as being suspect.

Mr Grayden: Any decision arrived at could be put to the House for its approval.

Mr HARMAN: It would be a far better proposition to have a standing committee comprising representatives of the political parties in this Chamber. We have had some very good examples of parliamentary Select Committees and I refer particularly to one which inquired into hire-purchase legislation in this State some years ago. That committee comprised members of Parliament from both sides of this House and it brought forward a number of recommendations which were presented to the Government. The Tonkin Labor Government acted upon those recommendations very soon after receiving the report of the Select Committee.

Mr May: We also had a very good beef committee!

Mr HARMAN: As a result of the committee which inquired into hire purchase we were able to make a number of changes to our consumer credit legislation well ahead of similar changes still being contemplated by the other States. That was as the result of the work of a Select Committee.

The objective of a standing committee is that the members of Parliament comprising it would meet regularly and would be able to take evidence from departmental officers, people within the community, and people with particular propositions which they wanted to place before the Government. A committee would be able to examine such representations and make recommendations to the Government. To me, that represents some sort of participation by all the people in the community.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr HARMAN: The appointment of standing committees would mean that instead of the Government dictating to the people, as the present Government does, the people would have an opportunity to present their points of view. That opportunity should be extended to the people in any democracy—which we do not seem to have at present. The opportunity for the people to present their views is not available at the present time in this State despite the fact that in some of the more enlightened States of Australia—and certainly in the States of Canada—there are standing committees which enable the people to participate in the decision-making process. However, that principle is absolutely abhorrent to the Liberal Party in this State and the Liberal Party of Australia.

The Minister for Labour and Industry has said that the Government does not want to have anything to do with parliamentary standing committees. He said the Government does not want people to be involved in government, and have an

opportunity to put their points of view to parliamentary standing committees. He believes the Government is doing everything possible and should not be subjected to any sort of criticism or have to accept any other point of view.

The Minister for Labour and Industry really made the position clear tonight. In 1957 he moved for the appointment of a Select Committee which is really the same as a standing committee. The principle is the same. People are provided with an opportunity to come forward and present their points of view to a parliamentary committee. He argued for the appointment of a committee in 1957 because he believed then that committees within political parties would not be seen to be real committees without bias in the reports they brought down.

Mr Grayden: You do not understand the difference between a Select Committee and a standing committee.

Mr HARMAN: We have previously seen examples of the hypocrisy of the Minister for Labour and Industry. We have seen them again tonight and I am sure we will see them again in the future.

MR MOILER (Mundaring) [10.20 p.m.]: In the policy presented by the Premier prior to the last election he said—

Education is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government.

I assume the State Government includes all the members sitting on the back benches on the Government side of the House; not only the Premier and the 11 yes-men with whom he has surrounded himself, but every member on the Government side of the House. If, as in every session of this Parliament, they continue to sit there dumbly, accepting what the Premier is prepared to give them—

Mr Thompson: How many speeches did you make between 1971 and 1974?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Many more than you have made during this Parliament.

Mr May: And on his feet, too.

Mr MOILER: I have not made so many speeches on this side of the House as the honourable member who has interjected made when he was on this side of the House. He made many speeches and many obviously ridiculous statements at that time, but since he has been on the Government benches he has become completely dumb.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: In the last Parliament the member for Mundaring was a member of such a committee.

Mr MOILER: During the term of the Tonkin Government I was a member of a committee formed by that Government to study the possibility of establishing standing committees for this Parliament, and the committee's majority decision to

establish standing committees was supported by all members of the Government at that time. It was members of the Opposition whose minority vote was against the establishment of such committees.

Mr Stephens: Had the Government made a decision on it?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: It was presented two months before the Parliament rose. Come up with something better than that. And that Parliament sat longer hours than this Parliament does.

Mr MOILER: The only contribution members on the back benches on the Government side are allowed to make in this Parliament is by way of interjection. They are not allowed to stand up and make a contribution to a debate.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: All they do is snipe.

Mr MOILER: Their very muteness and silence makes the Premier look what he is.

Mr Sibson: A great man.

Mr MOILER: It is the very people of his party surrounding the Premier who make him look what he is.

Mr Blaikie: We have all been elevated.

Mr MOILER: The motion moved by the member for Morley calls for the establishment of a standing committee on education, not only to help us strive for a better educational system in the State but also in order that members of Parliament may be better informed and may ensure that education for the benefit of students throughout the State is being achieved in the best possible way without any political influence being brought to bear on the decisions of the department for political purposes only, in the hope of benefiting in some way the party which is in Government.

I will give an illustration of the statements which are being made by the Minister for Education—not the Minister in this place who tries to cover for the actions of the Minister for Education. Some 12 months ago when attending the Eastern Hills High School the Minister for Education made the statement that the facilities there were very much better than the facilities which existed when he was going to school and for that reason they must be acceptable. That is an example of the mentality of the gentleman this Government has appointed as Minister for Education; a man who is a laughing stock among the education fraternity.

Mr Grayden: The contrary is the case, of course. He is extraordinarily highly regarded throughout the education system.

Mr May: Another case of hypocrisy.

Mr MOILER: He is recognised undoubtedly as having a thick hide and a thick head.

Mr Nanovich: Have you ever spoken to him personally and told him that?

Mr MOILER: Not only have I told him but I have also put it in writing that I believe he would sink to the very depths for political purposes, to the detriment of children attending schools in this State.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: It is a disgrace and a shame.

Mr MOILER: I have here a Darlington P & C Association parent newsletter dated the 9th August, 1976, which demonstrates the political influence which the present Minister can bring to bear on a school policy. Children from the Darlington School at present attend the Eastern Hills High School, which was upgraded to a five-year high school two years ago for the sole purpose, as announced by the Minister, of obviating the necessity to go ahead with the development of the Swan View High School. The newsletter from the Darlington P & C Association reads—

High School Intake:

A news item in last Thursday's 'Darling Advertiser' stated that children from Darlington, Glen Forrest and Helena Valley areas will now be allowed to attend the new Swan View High School.

That high school is being developed some three years later than a Labor Government would have developed it. The newsletter goes on—

A letter has subsequently been received from Mr. Gordon Masters, M.L.C. regarding the matter. The text of this letter reads:

"Parents of children attending the Darlington Primary School and Glen Forrest Primary School have approached me expressing concern that pupils ex Year 7 would not be able to attend the new Swan View High School upon its completion, and would have to travel long distances to the Eastern Hills High School.

Incidentally, they have been doing that for 15 years or more.

Mr Thompson: And incidentally, you said it was unfair for them to have to go to Swan View.

Mr MOILER: If I should attempt to sit down before I clarify that point, I hope the honourable member will remind me of it. I will explain where I stand, and my explanation will serve only to show the degrading depths to which the honourable member and the Minister will go for political purposes, while disregarding the interests of school children.

Mr May: You might get him up on his feet.

Mr MOILER: Not before he checks with the Premier first, I am sure of that.

This is the paragraph I would like members to take note of, and I point out that the "I" referred to is Mr Masters. It reads—

I made representation to the Minister for Education, the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon, M.L.C., who has advised that the decision has been taken that pupils ex Year 7 from your school—

I interpolate here to say that "your school" refers to the Darlington Primary School. The paragraph continues—

—will be directed to attend Swan View High School from 1977.

This decision was made on nothing more than the approach of the member for Kalamunda and the member for West Province who expressed the view of an absolute minority of the people living in the area.

Mr Thompson: You should have checked the outcome of that survey before you started bleating.

Mr MOILER: That is quite all right. On the approach of these two members of Parliament, the Minister, without checking with the WA Council of State School Organisations—representing all parents and citizens' associations—and without any reference to the parents and citizens' associations of the area, made a decision and instructed his department that children from Glen Forrest and Darlington were to be directed to the Swan View High School.

Mr May: Shame!

Mr SPEAKER: Will the member relate this to the motion?

Mr MOILER: Yes, Mr Speaker, I intend to relate this to the motion because I believe a standing committee would study such matters and Ministers would not be prepared to take action detrimental to the wish of the department.

Mr Thompson: The committee would be set up to decide where the boundaries should go between high schools.

Mr Davies: What about making your speech later?

Mr MOILER: The Minister would then act responsibly. I suggest that if we had a standing committee on education, it would be an influence to prevent future Governments from using, for political purposes, students and schools to the detriment of the children.

In his policy speech the Premier used the phrase, "community involvement in the development of schools." The present Minister for Education has used this phrase also. Where was the community involvement in the issue I have just raised? No community group advised the member for Kalamunda or the member for West Province that it would be better for the children from Darlington and Glen Forrest to go to the Swan View High School. The Minister did not seek the view of

the community. He did not circularise the parents and say, "Where would you like your children to go?"

There was no community involvement in the establishment of the Swan View High School which these children will be attending and to which the Minister is directing them. Once the school is built the community will be told that, with the agreement of the headmaster or principal of the school, they will be allowed to use certain facilities. However, this has been the case for many years. The parents were not asked about the facilities they thought should be provided in the area. This is another instance of the Premier and his Ministers uttering phrases which sound very nice but on which we never see any action.

I believe a standing committee on education would be an excellent move. Such a committee could study the area of conflict which has arisen in regard to pre-primary and pre-school centres.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: They would not want that!

Mr MOILER: Why should it be that the parents of children attending pre-school centres where they have direct contact and direct influence on policy are required to pay fees whereas the parents who have accepted the bribe put up by this Government of free pre-primary education are not required to pay fees? I think a committee could look at this matter to see whether there is any good reason for the parents of a five-year-old child attending a pre-school centre to have to pay fees while the parents of a child attending a pre-primary centre need not.

Mr Rushton: You should understand that position without having a committee. Surely you can understand that situation.

Mr MOILER: No I cannot. Can the Minister explain to me why his Government is continuing such a situation?

Mr Rushton: You can read—surely you can understand it.

Mr Thompson: Your speech could influence a vote against the proposition.

Mr MOILER: I hope at election time these two interjectors will come forward and explain to the parents of all children attending pre-schools why it is that because parents wish to retain some involvement in the education of their children they should be penalised by having to pay a fee.

Finally, I would like to add some remarks to those made by the member for Swan in his very understandable outburst against the Minister. The member for Swan and the member for the North-East Metropolitan Province were removed from the Midland Technical School Committee. This was a shocking act. Over the past three or four years that I have been a member of it I would say the committee meets on an average of three times a year. It has done a remarkably good job for

the school concerned, and I think the members to whom I have referred have attended at those meetings as frequently as any other members of the committee. Since he was appointed, and to the best of my knowledge, the member for Swan has attended every meeting; and I think the obvious reason for his dismissal from the committee is that he is a member of the Opposition party in this Parliament.

As he has stated, the school is entitled to a committee of 15 members. The committee is now composed of fewer than 15 members and it does not appear that there are other people capable and willing to serve the community in the way the honourable member has done. However, the Minister saw fit to remove both Labor members of Parliament from the committee. As I have said before and I will say again, this demonstrates the depths to which this Minister will sink.

Mr Watt: Did you say you were on it too?

Mr MOILER: I am on it.

Mr Watt: Did they leave you on it?

Mr MOILER: Yes, and I cannot imagine why.

Mr Watt: Does not that defeat your argument that the Minister wanted to get rid of Labor politicians?

Mr Skidmore: That was not the reason he got rid of me—it was one of the reasons. The Minister happens to hate my guts.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mundaring.

Mr MOILER: Possibly the Minister considers I am the most ineffective member of the committee. Whether or not that is the case does not particularly perturb me, because whilst the Minister may not have a great impression of me, I can assure him the feeling is mutual.

Mr Jamieson: The Minister thought he got rid of the only woman on the committee, but he didn't know the councillor happened to be a woman. He addressed a letter to her as "Mr So-and-so"; that is all he knew about it.

Mr MOILER: That is entirely right. The point is that there was no need to remove the two members. The committee sent a list of recommended members to the Minister, and the Minister removed two members even though the number allowed under the Act had not been met.

Those are just a few of the points a standing committee could study, along with hundreds of other issues that arise in the matter of education. Along with the Premier, I believe that education is the constitutional right of everyone. We should ensure that every child has the opportunity to avail himself of the greatest amount of education possible. Educational opportunities should not depend on whether the child happens to live in a Labor or a Liberal-held electorate.

It has been demonstrated time and time again during the term of the present Government that the Minister for Education is prepared to disregard the best interests of children for political purposes. He will stoop to any depth. If a standing committee is appointed I believe it will restrict considerably the steps the Minister might otherwise venture to take in such matters. I certainly hope members opposite will support this motion, because whilst they are in Government at the moment they will not be there for long, and such a standing committee would be continued when Labor takes office in the near future.

Mr Shalders: Hope springs eternal.

Mr MOILER: Then members opposite would be able to have access to more information on education, and would be able to be more deeply involved than they are at the moment.

Mr Thompson: Before you sit down, tell us how the Eastern Hills High School has suddenly moved closer to Darlington than it was previously.

Mr MOILER: Thank you; I will. First let me relate the history of this matter since the Minister took office. Just prior to this Government taking office the Tonkin Government decided that the Swan View Senior High School would be established in the following year. It called tenders, and spent \$30 000 on plans and specifications for the school. Swan View Senior High School was being established because of the gross overcrowding at Governor Stirling Senior High School. Immediately the present Government came to office moves were made to defer the Swan View Senior High School and to develop instead the Forrestfield High School, which is in the electorate of the member for Kalamunda.

Mr Thompson: They were to be constructed simultaneously.

Mr MOILER: That is right.

Mr Thompson: But tenders were about 50 per cent higher than was estimated.

Mr MOILER: The member is completely right.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member resume his seat. I am inclined to think that the question asked by the member for Kalamunda, which is being replied to by the member for Mundaring, tends to lead away from the central core of the motion before the House. I was not quick enough to pick up the interjection of the member for Kalamunda. I ask the member for Mundaring, in his reply to that interjection, to try to be brief and, if possible, to relate it to the subject before us.

Mr MOILER: Thank you, Sir; I will endeavour to be brief and to relate it to the motion. I believe what has occurred—and what the Minister now proposes—would not have occurred if there had

been a standing committee on education. The Eastern Hills High School used to be a three-year high school, but it was upgraded to senior status by adding fourth and fifth years. Before that fourth and fifth-year students went to Governor Stirling.

The year in which the Eastern Hills High School was extended to a fourth-year high school was the year in which the Forrestfield High School went ahead and the Swan View Senior High School was deferred. In that year an additional 60 children would have had to attend Governor Stirling Senior High School, which could not accommodate them; so the Swan View Senior High School would have had to be established. However, in order that the balance could be weighted in favour of Forrestfield High School—in a Liberal electorate—the Eastern Hills High School was, in name, upgraded to a senior high school. It was called a senior high school and 60 children remained there with no additional facilities rather than attend Governor Stirling High School and create further overcrowding. Eastern Hills was called a senior high school so that Governor Stirling would not have to accommodate those children, and so that Forrestfield could go ahead while Swan View was deferred.

Swan View has now been established. For his own expediency, the Minister has decided that the children who were compelled to attend Eastern Hills in previous years can now go to Swan View, so the Eastern Hills High School can now be downgraded.

Mr Thompson: Who said that?

Mr MOILER: It will be downgraded.

Mr Thompson: How was that worked out?

Mr MOILER: Mr Speaker, I appreciate your position, and I advise I will be happy to continue this discussion in the grievance debate next Wednesday.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park) [10.49 p.m.]: I do not exactly share the view of the member who has just resumed his seat in relation to the Minister for Education; nor do I share the views generally expressed by the Minister for Labour and Industry in this House. However, it is fairly apparent to me that both the member for Mundaring and the Minister for Labour and Industry have scant regard for the opinions of the Minister for Education.

My reason for saying that is this: the member for Morley moved a very succinct motion. He took only about 20 minutes to enunciate clearly the very valid reasons that we should have the committee system operating in this House far more than it operates at the moment. He was also at pains to support the system which operates at Westminster and in other countries.

I am sure the Premier must be glad to have the Minister for Labour and Industry on his team, because he can say the most outrageous things and have people believe them. Unless someone is able to stand and object, as was the case on this occasion tonight, usually we find that the Minister is quoted in the next morning's newspaper, and something which is not entirely true has been stated as a fact, and is believed to be a fact because it has come out of the mouth of the Minister.

Mr Grayden: That is absolute nonsense. It is a straightout lie, and you know it.

Withdrawal of remark

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw the word "lie".

Mr GRAYDEN: I am happy to withdraw, Mr Speaker, but I would ask the member to withdraw his remark.

The SPEAKER: Order! I just wish the Minister to withdraw his remark. I have ruled that the word "lie" is unparliamentary, and it must be withdrawn, no matter who says it.

Mr GRAYDEN: I withdraw, but it is a straightout untruth.

Debate Resumed

Mr DAVIES: Mr Speaker, if I had used the word "lie" I would have withdrawn it. I must admit that I could not hear the interjection for the speaker—that is, myself. The point I was making is that apparently both the Minister for Labour and Industry and the member for Mundaring have the same opinion of the Minister for Education. The Minister for Labour and Industry did not do the Minister for Education the courtesy of referring to him the content of the motion moved by the member for Morley. That would have been the kindest thing for him to do.

Mr Speaker, on occasions you have said that we cannot ask questions of Ministers representing Ministers in this House because they do not have the knowledge at their fingertips and it is not fair for us to suppose that they can reply to questions because they are only acting in this place.

But that is exactly what has happened tonight. The Minister for Labour and Industry stood in his place and, probably with the full approbation of the Government—so far, he is the only speaker from the Government side—he said, "We are not interested in a standing committee on education." So, he is only treating the Minister for Education as a complete fool, as apparently does the member for Mundaring, if he is not prepared to take the case to him and say, "Will you please comment or, if you do not wish to comment, will you please get one of your departmental officers to comment?" Such

an action is an affront to this House and to the way the Parliament is supposed to operate.

I believe that even at this stage, the Government should seek to adjourn the debate and take the facts which have been so succinctly and excellently put before the House by the member for Morley to the Minister for Education to obtain his views. Then, let us have a Minister in this place who is prepared to deal with fact, and not with pure fiction as has been the disgraceful exhibition once again in this House tonight on the part of the Minister for Labour and Industry.

There are very good reasons that we should establish a standing committee on education, and I do not intend to pursue them all; at this late hour, I am sure members know them as well as I. Of course, whether or not one acknowledges those reasons depends on which side of the House one is sitting. I believe it behoves us to ensure that the work we do on behalf of the people of Western Australia is examined as far as it is humanly possible to do so. However, it is very difficult in many instances to make such an examination. The member for Mundaring related a particular case only a few moments ago. The Minister for Labour and Industry says that it is quite easy to obtain any information one wants from the department or the Government, at any time.

Let me quote a case in point which makes a mockery of this statement. Since about the end of 1972, there has been a move to sell the East Victoria Park Primary School site to a project developer. I have asked a series of questions on the matter which are contained in *Hansard* for those members who wish to read them. I have written to the Government. In fact, I wrote letters on this subject when I was a Minister, and I received replies as to what was happening.

Mr Rushton: You should have known all about it. You were the one who held it up.

Mr DAVIES: Since the change of Government, I have continued to seek information on the project, and have been told that the matter "has been shelved for the time being", is "being examined", and is "being looked at". However, I can never find out whether it is really the intention of the Government to go on with the proposal.

Quite recently, the site was sold for a considerable sum. There was a great flurry of excitement, with people running about everywhere. Rumours were rife. In June, I wrote to the Minister for Education to ascertain the position. More rumours came to me, so I telephoned the Minister, but he was not available. I telephoned him again, but he was in the country.

I thought I would try his secretary, but he was not available because he was taking the day off. I left a message and finally a reply came back to me that the matter "was under consideration"! That is something I have been told several times since the end of 1972. I knew the site had been sold, I knew who had purchased it, and I knew the purchase price, but no-one would tell me. Were they not game to tell me, or did they not know what was going on?

The Minister for Labour and Industry says that we often see the Minister for Education walking around the corridors of this place. I ran into the Minister in the corridors recently. He was just moving into his tomato soup, and I had finished mine. I asked the Minister what he knew about the matter, and whether the site had been sold and he said, "Yes—no—I am not sure—I think so—yes!"

Mr Rushton: It is a fine thing for you to talk in this manner. You were the Minister who delayed the proposal.

Mr Grayden: That is your story.

Mr DAVIES: That is exactly what I said. The Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning is getting all upset; his hair is turning greyer and his face is getting whiter. Mr Speaker, I can see that you are getting quite edgy about the course the debate is taking so I will ignore further interjections because even they are not factual.

I finally established that afternoon that the site had been sold but that the Public Works Department had not signed the contract. After something like three years of trying to find out what was going on, I still had to go to the back door to get the answers to my questions. And even then, there was a second letter waiting in the Minister's office for reply.

That is the kind of situation which arises and which we are up against; it is one of the very minor circumstances which we would like to avoid. The House should know just what is going on in the various fields. We have a Public Accounts Committee, which has done some very excellent work, although I have not seen any reports from it lately.

Mr Grayden: Most members know what is going on; if you do not, that is your fault.

Mr Rushton: This is lovely to hear; you were the Minister responsible.

Mr DAVIES: I have just indicated to the Minister how I endeavoured to obtain the answers to my questions. Once again, I hear the stuck record of the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning. The Minister is giggling like the young girl he sometimes gives one the impression of being, and if he wants to go on in this manner, we will be glad to debate this matter at any time, and place the files on the Table of the House.

The fact remains that I have quoted a specific case where I had the greatest difficulty in obtaining answers. Time was wasted when it need not have been, because the Government did not want to release the information, probably because it did not want a row on its hands from the parents of students at the East Victoria Park Primary School. It was only after the matter was a *fait accompli* that a meeting was called with the parents to inform them of something they should have known long before.

I took all steps possible and open to me to find the answers to my questions. I asked the Minister for Labour and Industry, I asked the Minister for Education, and I wrote to the Minister for Education. I cannot do very much more than that. One would have expected some kind of response.

As I said, the Public Accounts Committee has done some excellent work and there is no reason that a standing committee on education or even on other matters such as health, or the environment should not work very effectively. There are people who are prepared to work on these committees and investigate the various aspects that are worrying them.

Does the Government believe in sharing its responsibilities? I believe it does only when it suits it. For example, within the primary and secondary schools the Government now is encouraging the establishment of committees to deal with the running of the schools. Probably, this is a policy of divide and conquer. When there are a lot of little committees everywhere, the Government does not have to worry too much about them getting together and being a force.

A standing committee on education could tell the Government when it thought it was doing something wrong; and this is all we want it to do. We could refer to the committee anything about which we are worried or about which we cannot get information. This is exactly what happens with regard to the Public Accounts Committee. We can refer a matter to it and the committee can decide whether it will investigate it. If the committee does not decide to investigate, the matter can be brought back and we can find out the reasons for the committee's decision.

This matter concerns only the distribution of information. We do not want to dictate to such committees. We do not want to do any more than educate ourselves. We know that the Government is afraid to establish these committees because there might be too many searching inquiries.

It is true that some members might find it difficult to sit on committees. No-one will be forced to take a seat on such a committee. Anyone who was on the committee would have to cut down the number of consulting hours spent in the office, but

the fact remains that there are people who are interested enough and who are prepared to do it, especially when they have a specialised knowledge of and interest in a particular subject. Are we not entitled to that? That is all I am asking.

I congratulate the member for Morley on the way he introduced the motion. The Minister for Labour and Industry derided him for not taking long enough to do it. The same man has derided the member for Morley because he has taken too long to introduce a motion. There was not a wasted word in this House until the Minister for Labour and Industry spoke. I congratulate and support the member for Morley.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Carr.

House adjourned at 11.02 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 12th August, 1976

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Postponement

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): For the information of the House I have to advise that questions will be taken at a later stage of the sitting.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Forests Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced and read a first time by Mr Ridge (Morley Forests), and read a first time.
2. Settlements Control Bill.
Bill introduced and read a first time by Mr O'Neill (Morley Works), and read a first time.
3. Long Services Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced and read a first time by Mr Harman, and read a first time.

VETERINARY PREPARATIONS AND ANIMAL FEEDING STUFFS BILL Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Since 1953, all veterinary medicines available for open sale to the general public have had to be registered under the provisions of the Veterinary Medicines Act. This Act lays down conditions governing the registration of such products in respect

of labelling, conformation to stated formulation, sale, description, and storage. The Act also provides for an advisory committee to consider the acceptability of products for which registration is sought.

The registration of feeding stuffs for sale as stock food under the provisions of the Feeding Stuffs Act dates back to 1928. This Act enables standards to be set in relation to the composition of stock foods offered for sale, and lays down requirements for chemical analyses, registration, labelling, and sale of feeding stuffs. It also provides for inspectors to enforce the requirements of the Act.

These two Acts have in the main operated independently although interactions have become increasingly frequent in recent years; and as some veterinary medicines are also used as feed additives, primary dealers have had no option but to register such products under both Acts. This changing situation was the basis of the initial impetus that led to the proposal to amalgamate the two Acts.

The Bill provides therefore for—

The repeal of the Veterinary Medicines Act, 1953-1963, and the Feeding Stuffs Act, 1928-1951, and the updating of the legislation in these Acts in relation to veterinary medicines and animal feeding stuffs;

The inclusion in the registration process of all veterinary preparations whether these are for open sale or for sale only by veterinarians or by prescription through chemists;

The evaluation of each veterinary medicine or feeding stuff in respect of possible harmful effects particularly in relation to adulterants, additives, impurities, and pesticides that may be present as contaminants;

The registration of premises where registrable products are produced as a means of safeguarding against the contamination of these products and of ensuring that a product is as effective, potent, and safe as it is claimed to be;

The establishment of an advisory committee, with industry representation, to advise the Minister on all matters relating to the control, registration, sale and production of veterinary preparations and feeding stuffs;

The appointment of a registrar responsible to the Director of Agriculture for implementing the detailed requirements of the legislation;

The appointment of inspectors; and the setting of standards for packaging, labelling, advertising, and warranty in respect of veterinary preparations and feeding stuffs;

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Skidmore.