

However, I approve of the present system where a leader can elect the Cabinet with which he must work because as members opposite would know, under secret voting systems it is possible that a group of ambitious men and women will get together and vote out the better candidates in order to get themselves in.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I think that this happened recently in the Liberal Party at Federal level, did it not?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I think members opposite all know that this has happened under the secret ballot system for office bearers. I do not point the finger at any particular party; I will let members opposite make their own judgment on that.

I agree with some points made by Mr Dellar concerning charges in this State. He is quite right in saying that some of the charges which are imposed are a bit rough on the people. But I should also like to point out that the Federal Government said the State Premiers could increase their charges if they wished to finance their State operations because they were not going to receive any increase in allocation from the Federal Government. So, of course, the Treasurer was put in a rather unfortunate position and members who heard my comments in this Chamber recently would know my feelings on this matter. I have pointed out by way of interjection that if anybody in this House claims that this House is undemocratically elected—I do not believe it is—he must also admit that the other House is undemocratically elected because we operate under the same franchise.

In closing, I should like to express thanks to the Minister for Justice, on behalf of my constituents, for appointing a magistrate to the Port Hedland area. This is long overdue and as members would know, I have been seeking such an appointment since I have been in this House. On behalf of the people of Marble Bar I also thank the Minister for Mines, the Minister for Works and the Treasurer, who adopted my suggestion that the water supply should go into the Marble Bar battery.

I should also like to thank the Minister for Education, on behalf of the people of the North Province and other remote areas, for taking the unprecedented action of recognising the difference between the running costs of hostels in various areas. He has doubled the subsidy for city hostels and trebled the subsidy for the hostel in the Port Hedland region, which is the most expensive hostel to run in the State and for this I thank him. I know that the Government is also considering other ways of helping isolated students. I should like to personally congratulate the Hon. Margaret McAleer for the fine example of

decorum and commonsense she displayed in her maiden speech yesterday. It is a sample of what I think should exist in this House of Review. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf.

*House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 8th August, 1974

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

### QUESTIONS (50): ON NOTICE

#### 1. POLICE

##### *Plans to Deal with Incidents*

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

In view of the fact that acting Police Commissioner Sims advised me through the Minister for Police on 29th March that plans for dealing with future "police" incidents have been prepared and it is believed they would be effective, would he advise me of the new measures introduced?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The reserve task force has been organised, equipment has been supplied, and further equipment is being acquired.

#### 2. FISHERIES

##### *Nurseries: Dumping of Cars and Tyres*

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) Is he aware of the disposal problem of dumped used cars and tyres—see *The West Australian*, page 3, of 11th May, 1973?
- (2) If so, with a view to the advantageous disposal of same and in view of the fact that Cockburn Sound, for example, is a diminishing fish nursery, will he give consideration to—
  - (a) making sure that old vehicles are free of oil and grease or other contamination before then sinking them at selected locations in the Sound or elsewhere; and
  - (b) suitably weighting tyres by pumping cement or concrete into the area of tyres usually occupied by rims and inner tubes prior to disposal in the manner suggested in

(a), with a view to creating a haven or environment for the regeneration of the fish population on our coast?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) and (b) Dumping at sea may not be undertaken without the approval of the Harbour and Light Department and the Department of Shipping and Transport, and in the case of Cockburn Sound also the Fremantle Port Authority.

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna would be consulted should proposals be put forward to dump materials at sea, including materials for an artificial reef. The department would not agree to any proposal which would have a deleterious effect on either fish life or fishing grounds.

### 3. POTATOES

#### *Rejections by Board*

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

- (1) What quantity of reject potatoes have been extracted from consignments received from growers by the W.A. Potato Marketing Board in the last 12 months?
- (2) Who is responsible for the disposal of such potatoes as are extracted by the inspectors?
- (3) To whom are such potatoes disposed?
- (4) Is there any evidence to suggest that such potatoes are being sold in a peeled and prepared state for human consumption, and if so, would he give details?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

The Western Australian Potato Marketing Board has supplied the following answers—

- (1) Approximately 343 tonnes.
- (2) Growers' potatoes rejected as grade 1 by Department of Agriculture Inspectors are re-graded by Western Australian Potato Marketing Board staff or the grower himself—and brought up to grade 1 standard. The board is responsible for disposal.
- (3) and (4) The majority of reject potatoes are disposed of to a number of individuals as stock food. In some cases, suitable reject potatoes are again re-graded and sold as No. 2 grade to a canning company which manufactures

mixes. In other instances, potatoes are sometimes sold to potato processors, but these are taken from No. 1 grade consignments which have been re-packed for north-west or overseas orders, then re-graded, and classified as No. 2 grade. These are normally used as fresh chipped or peeled potatoes.

Some No. 2 grade potatoes are sold to both of these sources direct by growers.

4.

### MILK QUOTAS

#### *Negotiability*

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

Will the details of any decision regarding the negotiability of milk quotas have to be published in the *Government Gazette*, or can they become operative under the authority of the Minister or Dairy Industry Authority?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

The Act does not provide for gazettal but the bases or principles for negotiability of quotas must be submitted to the Minister, who shall furnish the authority with directions with which the authority shall comply.

5.

### GRAIN

#### *Weevil Infestation*

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

- (1) Arising from an item in the rural news of the ABC on 6th August, 1974, will he indicate what inspections and investigations were carried out into the activities and incidence of grain weevils in Western Australia before and during the last wheat harvest?
- (2) Has there been any increase in the incidence of grain weevils in stored wheat between the last two harvests, and, if so, to what extent?
- (3) Is it proposed to introduce measures to control weevil infestation in wheat during the present session of Parliament and, if so, what measures are contemplated and will they include measures on farm inspection of farm storages and machinery?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) The department continually monitors grain storages for malathion resistant insects. 482 resistance tests have been made since grain deliveries commenced from the last harvest.

A survey of growers' late deliveries of farm-stored grain was carried out by the department in co-operation with Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. A total of 339 loads selected on a statistical basis throughout the wheatbelt was examined to determine the importance of this source of infestation. 77 were infested.

An investigation into the use of underground storage for the control of insects is being undertaken.

- (2) An attempt has not been made to assess the overall incidence of infestation of stored grain insects. Malathion resistance insects have been found in CBH storages at 26 locations during the first six months of the present delivery season compared with 17 during the same period of the previous season.
- (3) This matter is still under consideration.

## 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### *Allocation of \$6.6 Million*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) From what source was the amount of \$6.6 million obtained and set aside to form a fund for specific road programmes?
- (2) On what date or dates was the amount so set aside?
- (3) When was the decision made to give grants to councils to help them with their financial difficulties?
- (4) If funds being used are not part of funds made available for road purposes by the Australian Government, but have been available from this State's own resources, why did he not decide earlier to help the country councils, before, instead of after, some of them had issued dismissal notices to some of their employees?
- (5) Was the announcement made in Canberra on Friday of last week that more than \$4 million had been sent to the Western Australian Government as an interim payment pending the passage through Parliament of a Bill which would give Western Australia \$49 million in Commonwealth Road Funds this year, in accordance with fact?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) The \$6.7 million approx. grant announced by me at the annual conference of the Country Shire Councils' Association last

Tuesday is part of the Main Roads Department programme of works for 1974-75.

Normally, local authorities are advised of these allocations by the beginning of July, but because of the uncertainty of Commonwealth legislation to replace the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, it has not yet been possible to finalise the whole Main Roads Department programme.

However, because of hardship caused to some local authorities by a lack of funds, it was decided to prepare separately that portion of the programme related to the construction and maintenance of developmental roads and some important secondary roads where the work is to be carried out by the local authorities.

The funds are at least \$5.7 million from State road funds, although some are from an advance of Commonwealth funds in anticipation of the proposed Roads Grants Act.

The schedule of allocation was submitted by the Commissioner of Main Roads on 5th August and approved by the Minister on 6th August.

- (4) The Government had previously taken action to assist local authorities by making a grant of more than \$½ million.

A grant has already been paid to rural local authorities for July, and a further grant will be paid on the 15th August as part of the local authority statutory grant scheme.

- (5) Yes.

7.

## EDUCATION

### *School Canteens: Subsidy*

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

- (1) In view of the price increase in building materials over the past few years, is the \$1 for \$1 subsidy granted by the Education Department to parents and citizens associations to a maximum of \$5 000 for construction of canteens being reviewed?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If "Yes" what is the anticipated increase?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (3) The matter is presently under review but no assurances can be given on the question of increase.

## 8. BUILDING INDUSTRY

*Licensing and Training Authority*

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to create a construction industry licensing and training authority as recommended by C. H. Smith, Q.C., as a result of his inquiry earlier this year into the building industry of Western Australia?
- (2) Has any action been taken as a result of a further recommendation that on all building contracts of more than \$20 000 tenders shall specify the names of sub-contractors and contracts shall contain provisions to provide sub-contractors with the same financial protection as contractors?
- (3) Is the Government proposing to legislate for compulsory insurance to protect home building owners?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (3) The Government currently has under consideration the report of Mr C. H. Smith, Q.C., into the building industry and is in course of receiving comments from all interested parties on the recommendations contained therein.
- (2) (a) The Government has advised the Master Plumbers' Association that it is not prepared to adopt a system wherein tenderers will be required to name sub-contractors.
- (b) The Law Reform Commission is at present studying the desirability or otherwise of introducing a form of liens legislation into Western Australia.

## 9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Meat Inspection: Financial Losses*

Mr MOILER, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to provide financial relief to local authorities who incur a loss through having to provide a meat inspection service at abattoirs within their shire?
- (2) If "Yes" on what basis will the Government decide the amount of assistance to be provided to the various shires?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The economics of meat inspection services throughout the

State are currently under review by the Public Health Department and the Treasury.

The question of assistance to shires which have incurred losses, will be determined upon the completion of that review.

## 10. LAND COMMISSION

*Negotiations with Commonwealth*

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is the State Government at present negotiating terms of agreement with the Australian Government with a view to establishing a land commission in Western Australia?
- (2) If "Yes" what stage have negotiations reached and when is it anticipated the agreement will be finalised?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) I have had discussions with Commonwealth Government officials concerning the various programmes for urban lands assistance.
- (2) The Commonwealth Government is to set out the terms under which it is now prepared to provide financial assistance to Western Australia and that advice is awaited. It is not possible to predict when agreement might be reached or the form it might take.

## 11. RESERVE No. 10020, MT. HELENA

*Firebreak*

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Lands:

In reference to Crown land reserve No. 10020 location 257 Johnston Street, Mt Helena—

- (a) when was the original firebreak constructed around the lot and who constructed it;
- (b) how many times has the firebreak been upgraded;
- (c) when was the last occasion the firebreak was upgraded;
- (d) what was the cost and to whom was the contract let?

Mr Grayden (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (a) March 1973. Shipton Rural Contractors, Hascombe Way, Morley.
- (b) Once.
- (c) December 1973.
- (d) \$45—R. M. Hitchens, Stirling Highway, Nedlands.

12. **MESSAGE PARLOURS AND ESCORT AGENCIES**

*Use as Brothels*

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

- (1) Has he any reports to suggest that massage parlours and escort agencies are being used in Western Australia as a cover up for brothels and prostitution?
- (2) If "Yes" what action does he intend taking in connection with these activities?
- (3) If "No" will he have immediate inquiries made in connection with the activities of massage parlours in Western Australia and table the report in Parliament?
- (4) If he is already in possession of a report will he please have it tabled?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Action has been and will continue to be taken. Between 1st July, 1973 and 30th June 1974, a total of 63 females and 11 males have been prosecuted for offences relating to prostitution. Suspected premises are kept under surveillance and if evidence can be obtained that the premises are being used for the purpose of prostitution, those involved are prosecuted.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) No. However, the Member may peruse the report in my office if he so desires.

13. **MASSEURS**

*Registration*

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

- (1) Is he aware of the New Zealand legislation which registers masseurs?
- (2) Will he introduce legislation to protect and recognise the genuine masseurs who operate in Western Australia with a view to eliminating pseudo massage parlours in Western Australia?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This is at present under consideration.

14. **ROADS**

*Commonwealth Grants*

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

- (1) Will he advise what Commonwealth road grants have been paid to the State and were these moneys included in the grant re-

ferred to by the Premier as reported in the *Daily News* of Tuesday, 6th August, 1974, wherein he stated that \$6.6 million had been set aside for specific road programmes?

- (2) Will he advise if the State has been notified by the Commonwealth of the level of road grants to be paid to Western Australia under the new formula?
- (3) If "Yes" will he advise of the terms of the formula?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No Commonwealth road grants have been paid to the State this financial year. However, an amount of \$4 083 000 has been added for July and August to the financial assistance grant from the Commonwealth. Part of this money is included in the grants of \$6.6 million referred to.  
I might add, as was pointed out by the Premier, a minimal amount of this sum is Commonwealth funds.
- (2) The State has been notified that three Bills have been introduced to the Federal Parliament. These Bills propose grants to the State totalling \$49 million in 1974-75, \$50 million in 1975-76 and \$51 million in 1976-77.
- (3) No fixed formula is proposed in the Bills.

15.

**RAILWAYS**

*Derailments*

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

- (1) On the 2nd August, 1974 he advised me by letter that there had been 62 main line derailments in 1974. Will he advise the sections where the derailments have occurred?
- (2) Will he also table the departmental reports referred to in his letter to me?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Sect. of r/way No. of de-railments
 

Avon to Albany	2
Avon to Merredin	4
Brunswick Junction to Narrogin	1
Burekin to Bonnie Rock	1
Claisebrook to Bunbury	3
Donnybrook to Boyup Brook	1
Boyup Brook to Katanning	4
Goomalling to Wyalkatchem	3

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Wyalkatchem to Merredin        | 3 |
| Goomalling to Mullewa          | 2 |
| Fremantle to Cockburn East     | 2 |
| Fremantle to Midland           | 2 |
| Katanning to Nyabing           | 1 |
| Lake Grace to Hyden            | 1 |
| Merredin to Kalgoorlie         | 4 |
| Midland to Avon                | 2 |
| Millendon Junction to Watheroo | 2 |
| Watheroo to Narngulu           | 4 |
| Mullewa to Yalgoo              | 1 |
| Yalgoo to Cue                  | 1 |
| Cue to Tuckanarra              | 1 |
| Tuckanarra to Meekatharra      | 4 |
| Narrogin to Merredin           | 4 |
| Picton Junction to Northcliffe | 1 |
| Pinjarra to Dwellingup         | 1 |
| Robb Jetty to Bibra Lake       | 1 |
| Spearwood to Soundcem          | 1 |
| Spring Hill to Wundowie        | 1 |
| West Toodyay to Miling         | 1 |
| Woodbridge to Kwinana          | 2 |
| Wyalkatchem to Mukinbudin      | 1 |
- (2) No. This information is confidential but I would have no objection to the Member perusing these reports in my office.

#### 16. KENT STREET HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Police Lecture: Complaints*

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

- (1) Did the Commissioner of Police receive a letter dated 3rd July, 1974 from a teacher at the Kent Street Senior High School, where she listed complaints over the subject matter of a police lecture at the high school?
- (2) Will he advise what action has been taken and will he table the report?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The matter was investigated and a visit was made by a commissioned officer to the teacher concerned.
- (b) No, I do not propose to table the report.

#### 17. GAMBLING

##### *Royal Commission Report*

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Chief Secretary:

Will he advise when the report of the Royal Commission into gambling will be available?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

I am unable to ascertain the firm date for completion of the report at this stage.

#### 18. EASTERN GOLDFIELDS TRANSPORT BOARD

##### *Employees' Representative*

Mr HARTREY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did he at or about the beginning of May 1974 receive from the Minister for Labour and Industry a letter addressed by me to the lastmentioned Minister under date 30th April, 1974?
- (2) Was not the subject of said letter a request for a short amendment to the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board Act, 1946-1970, to enable the appointment to the board of one representative of the employees?
- (3) Did the Minister before refusing such request consult—
  - (a) the board; and
  - (b) the employees' union?
- (4) If (3) (a) is affirmative and (3) (b) negative, why did he not observe the well known principle "hear both sides"?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) The board was invited to comment.
- (b) No. The union's view was already given in the letter mentioned in question (1).
- (4) The views of "both sides" were considered.

#### 19. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

##### *Cockburn Sound: Air Pollution Study*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Has the Cockburn Air Pollution Study (CAPS) been completed?

- (2) If so, will he table a copy of the report?
- (3) If not, when will the matter be finalised?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Although the study has been completed the report is being proof read for the final time. This requires a considerable degree of care because of the number of tables, figures and other complex data involved.  
An interim draft report is being studied by a cabinet sub-committee but on the clear understanding that it is an interim draft.
- (3) At the earliest possible date.

## 20. MENTAL HEALTH

### *Rest Homes: Subsidy*

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

- (1) What State subsidy is payable to rest homes which care for patients discharged from mental health hospitals?
- (2) When was it last increased?
- (3) Is the subsidy under review?
- (4) If so, when can a decision be expected?
- (5) Does he know of any such homes which have had to close recently, and if so, what are particulars?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) \$1 per day.
- (2) 1969.
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) No homes have closed.

## 21. HEALTH

### *Drugs and Implements: Shortage*

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

- (1) Was the report in *The West Australian* of 1st July, 1974 regarding shortage of drugs, containers, plastic syringes, etc., correct?
- (2) Do the shortages still apply and, if so, in what areas?
- (3) What action has been taken to expedite supplies?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Correct in part, in as much that most shortages were of a temporary nature only.
- (2) A shortage of penicillamine for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis still exists.

The Director-General of Health, Canberra, Dr. Gwyn Howells, has asked that hospitals be requested

to limit the use of penicillamine to the treatment of approved indications, acute heavy metal intoxication; cystinosis; cystinuria with calculus formation; paroxysmal cold haemoglobinuria; Wilson's disease.

- (3) The Inter-Hospital Pharmacists' Advisory and Liaison Committee has been contacted and the matter of shortages will be discussed at its next meeting.

The secretary has circulated requests to all chief pharmacists to notify him of any difficulty in supply, and he has undertaken to relay this information to the Chief Pharmacist, Public Health Department.

Any notifications received are promptly passed to the Cabinet sub-committee on shortages.

## 22. POLICE

### *Drunken Driving: Campaign*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware of the "SLOB" campaign conducted by the New South Wales State Government and associated with drinking and driving?
- (2) If so, will he examine the possibility of mounting a similar campaign here?
- (3) If not, will he have the matter investigated?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) It is understood that the campaign to which the Member refers is a controlled programme being carried out by the New South Wales Department of motor transport to improve people's knowledge of facts of alcohol intake and public attitude to drinking/driving.
- (2) When the results of the campaign have been evaluated.
- (3) Answered by (2). If the Member has further information on the subject, I would be pleased to receive it.

## 23. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

### *Enrolments and Quotas*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What are the latest enrolment figures for each State electoral district and for each electoral province?
- (2) What are the current quotas for each area specified under the Electoral Districts Act?
- (3) Which electoral districts deviate by more than one-fifth from the current quota?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The undermentioned were the enrolment figures for each of the Legislative Assembly Districts and Legislative Council Provinces as at 5th August 1974.

a) Assembly Districts—

Metropolitan Area—

Ararat	15 765
Balga	16 334
Canning	23 334
Clontarf	17 113
Cockburn	18 128
Cottesloe	16 398
East Melville	17 746
Floreat	17 181
Fremantle	17 137
Karrinyup	21 829
Maylands	17 077
Melville	16 387
Morley	19 445
Mount Hawthorn	16 178
Mount Lawley	16 810
Nedlands	16 076
Perth	15 547
Scarborough	16 697
South Perth	15 701
Subiaco	15 607
Swan	17 437
Victoria Park	16 082
Welshpool	17 527

398 496

Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Area

Albany	8 080
Avon	7 892
Boulder-Dundas	7 904
Bunbury	8 288
Collie	7 819
Dale	11 527
Geraldton	8 351
Greenough	7 470
Kalamunda	10 175
Kalgoorlie	7 428
Katanning	7 698
Merredin-Yilgarn	7 456
Moore	7 460
Mount Marshall	6 875
Mundaring	9 138
Murray	8 841
Narrogin	7 971
Rockingham	9 493
Roe	8 233
Sirling	7 969
Toodyay	18 354
Vasse	8 021
Warren	7 562
Wellington	8 604

209 209

North-West-Murchison-Eyre area—

Gascoyne	4 021
Kimberley	4 716
Murchison-Eyre	2 338
Pilbara	10 192

21 267

628 672

Total

(b) Council Provinces :—

Metropolitan area—

Metropolitan	80 809
North Metropolitan	87 848
North-East Metropolitan	60 774
South Metropolitan	60 398
South-East Metropolitan	90 667

398 496

Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Area—

Central	22 738
Lower Central	23 070
Lower West	20 861
South	24 282
South-East	22 788
South-West	23 513
Upper West	23 281
West	37 667

209 209

North-West-Murchison-Eyre area—

Lower North	6 359
North	14 908

21 267

628 672

Total

- (2) On the aggregate enrolment figures for the undermentioned areas as at that date the quotas calculated in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Electoral Districts Act, 1947-1965, would be—

(a) Metropolitan area .... 17 325

(b) Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral area .... 8 717

- (3) On the quotas shown under (2) they would be—

Canning,  
Karrinyup,  
Dale,  
Mount Marshall,  
Toodyay.

24.

COASTAL HIGHWAY,  
SWANBOURNE

Consultant Advice

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Has a consultant been appointed to advise the Government on the Swanbourne coastal highway?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the name of the consultant?
- (3) What is the expected cost of such advice?
- (4) What are the terms of reference of the review?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) This is subject to current review.
- (4) Preliminary terms of reference were published in *The West Australian* on 3rd and 10th July, 1974 and are being refined. They will certainly be made public after all comments are received from concerned authorities.

25. This question was postponed.

26.

HEALTH

Hormones: Livestock Feed Additives

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are there any limitations on the use of stilboestrol, hexoestrol, dienestrol, dianisyl hexene or other hormones as livestock food additives?
- (2) Is there any limitation on the use of thyroid stimulants as livestock food additives?
- (3) If either of the answers is in the affirmative, what are the details of such restrictions and upon which animals and hormones are there no restrictions?



Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No hormones are permitted in livestock food additives in this State.
- (2) Thyroid stimulants are strictly prohibited from livestock food additives.
- (3) Both answers in the negative.

27. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

*Impact Statements: New Industries*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

Will impact statements prepared for the Government upon proposed new industries be public documents?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

There is no State or Federal statutory requirement for preparation of impact statements. However, the Government is fully prepared to make available, in the public reading room of the Department of Environmental Protection, environmental reports on proposed new industries provided these reports do not intrude upon trade industry secrets and the confidential nature of financial negotiations.

28. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

*Impact Statements: Guidelines*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Has the Australian Environmental Council adopted guide lines for the preparation of environmental impact statements?
- (2) If "Yes" what are these guide lines?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

29. **HEALTH**

*School Children: Smoking Habits*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the survey undertaken by the National Health and Medical Research Council into the smoking habits of Australian school children been made available to the State Government?
- (2) If "No" when will the result be made available?
- (3) Will the results be available for public consumption?
- (4) Was Western Australia included in the survey?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Copies are available from the Health Education Council.
- (4) Yes.

30. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

*Synthetic Rutile Plant, and Mineral Sands Mining*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Has the Environmental Protection Authority been asked to advise on the likely environmental effects of the proposed synthetic rutile plant to be established by Lennard Oil NL and Westralian Sands Ltd.?
- (2) Has there been consultation between the authority and the proposed developers on the environmental impact of the mineral sands mining?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

31. **HEALTH**

*Fish: Toxicity Tests*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) With reference to question 38 of 6th August, part (4) on the subject of testing fish samples, when will the report referred to in that answer be available?
- (2) When it is available, will the Minister table the results?
- (3) Why cannot the House be informed of the preliminary results of the analyses, considering that some of the tests were made as long as 18 months ago and also considering that this is a matter of vital public concern?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Within three months.
- (2) A decision will be made when the report is completed.
- (3) The report will include an assessment of the significance of the results and suggest future action. Since the survey is a pilot study only, publication of the results now without this assessment would serve no purpose.

32. **HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Dianella*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) With reference to question 53 of 1st August, what has caused the apparent diminution in the demand for a high school in

Dianella as revealed by the discrepancy between the answer to the above question and the answer to my question 9 of 24th October, 1973?

- (2) As the predicted total enrolment for 1975 for the Balga, Morley, Mirrabooka, John Forrest and Mt. Lawley Senior High Schools is in the vicinity of 600 over that for 1973, how can it be claimed that there is no need for a Dianella high school?
- (3) Does the fact that the Court Government does not see the need for such a high school in contrast to the clear intention of the Tonkin Government to build one, indicate that the needs of education are being downgraded?
- (4) How is the decision to increase the enrolments at the Balga, Morley, Mirrabooka, John Forrest and Mt. Lawley Senior High Schools, rather than ease the burden by building a high school at Dianella, consistent with the Government's stated aim to ensure that high schools have a maximum of 1 000 students and senior high schools a maximum of only 400 students?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The discrepancy arises from the fact that different sets of senior high schools were involved in the two questions. Question No. 9 of 24th October, 1973, referred to Balga, Morley, Mirrabooka, John Forrest and Mount Lawley, while question No. 53 of 1st August, 1974, was concerned with Morley, Mirrabooka, John Forrest and Tuart Hill.
- (2) Of the schools under consideration in the 1973 question, Mount Lawley's enrolment is declining, Balga and John Forrest's enrolments are stabilising, and Mirrabooka and Morley's enrolments are rising gradually. The combined increase for all five schools between the actual enrolments of 1973 and the current predictions for 1975 is 200 students. In addition, Tuart Hill must not be excluded from the calculation because one of its contributory primary schools, Yokine, would necessarily be diverted to a new Dianella High School, and Tuart Hill numbers are already declining.
- (3) No.
- (4) No decisions have been made to increase enrolments in the schools under discussion, nor should it be overlooked that, as pointed out in answer to question No. 9 of 24th October, 1973, no site exists for a Dianella high school.

33.

## HEALTH

### *Human Tissues: Register*

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

- (1) Is there any tissue register kept in this State for the purpose of establishing compatibility of a potential donor as to a transplant recipient?
- (2) If not, will the Minister consider the establishment of one with samples to be made available by volunteers among hospital patients and public-spirited people like blood donors?
- (3) If registers exist in other States will the Minister have this State join in an Australian-wide tissue register?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of an article on page 30 of *The West Australian* of 3rd July, 1974, which states that bone marrow transplants for leukemia and other fatal blood disorders among children are being carried out with some success in America, Britain and West Germany, and further that tissue compatibility of donor as to patient is a critical factor in success?
- (5) Is the procedure, which is alleged in the Press article mentioned to be as simple as a blood transfusion, carried out in this State, particularly for juvenile or adult patients?
- (6) If not, or in any case, will the Minister encourage one or more specialists in this State to visit America, Britain, West Germany or other country, to acquire the latest knowledge and techniques associated with this procedure?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes, there is a tissue typing register in W.A.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Registries of a similar type exist in other States of Australia and there is communication between the various units.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Bone marrow transplants have been carried out in Perth but only in the case of a twin donating bone marrow to an identical twin. There are particular difficulties in this procedure which is not as simple as blood transfusion.
- (6) Scientists in Perth and elsewhere in Australia are keeping in touch with world developments and little would be gained at this stage by overseas visits.

34 and 35. *These questions were postponed.*

### 36. ABATTOIRS

#### *Meat Inspection Charges*

Mrs CRAIG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the increased scale of charges for meat inspectors at abattoirs introduced by the Tonkin Government in February 1973 is still in operation?
- (2) (a) Was a decision made by the present Government to reduce these charges;  
(b) if so, what were the proposed charges and when will they become effective?
- (3) In the event of the amount paid for meat inspection by abattoirs to local shires being greater than the actual cost to the shire of this service, has the shire concerned any discretion in the amount charged?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) The charges introduced by the Tonkin Government are not in operation.
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) The Member is referred to new scales of charges which were published in the *Government Gazette* on 3rd May, 1974 and became effective on 4th May, 1974.
- (3) Yes.

### 37. CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU

#### *Renaming*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Will he explain the reasons why the Consumer Protection Bureau has been renamed the Bureau for Consumer Affairs?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Consumer Protection Bureau has not yet been re-named. The Ministerial portfolio has been changed from Consumer Protection to Consumer Affairs for the reason that the concept of the word "affairs" has a much wider connotation and is not as restrictive as "protection".

38. *This question was postponed.*

### 39. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

#### *Chairman: Retirement*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What is the retirement date of the present chairman of the State Electricity Commission?

- (2) Has his replacement been appointed?
- (3) Is it the Minister's intention to recommend a reconstruction of the present composition of the Commission?
- (4) When is it intended to introduce legislation for the purpose of eliminating the portfolio of Electricity?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 28th September, 1974.
- (2) Not yet.
- (3) Not at present.
- (4) Legislation will be introduced by the Minister for Justice during the present Session to facilitate the alteration of the style and title of Ministers of the Crown. This legislation will have the effect that a Minister without the specific designation of Electricity will be in charge of administering the State Electricity Commission Act.

### 40. WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

#### *Sale*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When is it anticipated that the feasibility study regarding possible integration of the Wundowie industry with Agnew Clough Ltd's vanadium project near Wundowie will be completed?
- (2) Is it expected that the Wundowie industry will make a profit this year?
- (3) Is the Government investigating the possibility of selling the works to the company?
- (4) If in the affirmative, will Parliament be given the opportunity to debate such a move?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Owing to its complexity it is hard to be specific but it is hoped it will be in the very near future.
- (2) The 1973-1974 accounts have not been finalised but it is expected that on account of the presently favourable marketing situation the industry will virtually break even, possibly making a small profit. A similar position is forecast for the 1974-1975 financial year.
- (3) The current study is primarily aimed at rendering a labour intensive and decentralised industry more secure over an extended lifespan, economically more viable, and of lesser or no burden to the taxpayer.

The form of any possible change in ownership will not be considered until the studies are completed.

- (4) Parliament can debate any question within the provisions of the Standing Orders.

#### 41. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

##### *Mining in Wanneroo Lake Area*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

Since whilst in opposition the present Government was most insistent that proposed mining operations such as envisaged in the Wanneroo Lake area should receive thorough investigation by the Department of Environmental Protection, why then in answer to question 50 of Wednesday, 31st July, 1974 was the House advised that proposed mining operations in the Wanneroo Lake area were not subjected to close scrutiny by the Department of Environmental Protection?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

The member will be appreciative of the fact that there are many demands on the relatively small staff of the Department of Environmental Protection. I am advised that the only approval for mining operations in the area has been granted for Lake Gnangara. The Environmental Protection Authority and departmental officers investigated this matter and are satisfied that the conditions that have been imposed adequately protect the environment. The member will be aware of the details of these conditions in the response to question 14 of Tuesday, 30th July, 1974.

#### 42. NUCLEAR AND SOLAR ENERGY

##### *Technological Training*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware on 14th April, 1974 the *Sunday Independent* newspaper quoted the Premier as saying "I hope to be able to take early action to ensure we have a strong cadre of young men and women to grow up with new technology—both in respect to nuclear and solar energy"?
- (2) If the Premier agrees with the article will he advise particulars of the *modus operandi* regarding the setting up of a "cadre of young men and women"?

- (3) Will this new "set up" have a separate charter to that which is currently provided in the existing fuel and power legislation?
- (4) What action has already been taken to implement this proposed move?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A cadre—which is intended to be a nucleus of trained personnel capable of assuming control and training others at the appropriate time—is envisaged as part of a research programme.

This programme could be undertaken at more than one of our tertiary education establishments and could mean some of the people involved being attached to overseas research and operating installations for specific periods.

Inquiries are being made about the possible availability of research funds overseas which might be available for approved programmes in our country as part of this great international search for the answers to the future harnessing and use of nuclear and solar energy.

Regardless of overseas funds, we plan to survey all local facilities and research potential, to ensure they are properly marshalled to work to the desired end.

- (3) Not expected to be necessary.
- (4) Discussions have been initiated within the Government and overtures made overseas to assess the possibility of international co-operation.

#### 43. NATURAL GAS

##### *Pipelines*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Has the feasibility study into the proposed routes for the natural gas pipelines from the north-west shelf been completed?
- (2) Will the Dampier-Perth section be given priority?
- (3) Has the diameter of the pipe been determined?
- (4) Will the pipeline be duplicated from Dongara south to Perth?
- (5) What stage has been reached regarding the price structure?
- (6) When can it be expected that the overall situation concerning north-west shelf development will be made public?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) to (6) The answers to these questions can only be known with certainty after the policies of the Commonwealth Government and results of legal challenges are known.

The Member is well aware of the prevailing situation and the detrimental consequences to Western Australia of the fact that the Commonwealth Government consistently refuses to give even an indication of its design and policies.

This is in spite of the efforts of the State Government and its concern to avoid any delays in the development and use of the gas from the north-west shelf. The Government will continue to press to have a pipeline constructed to bring gas from Dampier to Perth as soon as it is brought ashore.

From the State's viewpoint, it is considered that a pipe diameter of about 26 in. would be appropriate for the line between Dampier and Perth. There would need to be a new pipeline additional to that now existing between Dongara and Perth. It is envisaged, however, that there would be interconnections between the new line and the existing facilities, and any possible economies would be effected.

#### 44. IRON ORE AND STEEL PLANT

##### *Robe River-Northern Mining Agreement*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is he aware that Robe River Ltd. and Northern Mining Corp. have entered into an agreement regarding an iron ore and steel plant development programme in Western Australia?
- (2) Did either of these companies approach the State Government prior to entering into an agreement?
- (3) If so, what tangible assistance will be given by the Government to the proposed venture?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The companies notified the State Government of their conditional agreement.
- (3) The Government will give consideration to joint venturers' proposals when the parties decide to proceed with feasibility studies.

#### 45. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Additional Block*

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

Is the Minister prepared to state in this House his reasons for reversing the decision of the Education Department to build an upper school block for the Rockingham high school?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The decision of the Education Department with regard to Rockingham High School was not reversed. (See answer to Question 4 of Wednesday 7th July in answer to the Hon. I. G. Pratt, M.L.C.) Escalation of building costs prevented the work proceeding because the Rockingham High School did not have a sufficiently high priority on the Education Department's preliminary building schedule.

No change in priorities has been made by the present Government.

#### 46. SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

##### *Enrolment Figures*

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

Would the Minister provide a list of all senior high schools, their enrolment figures for the commencement of the 1974 school year, and their present enrolment numbers?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The Education Department compiles enrolment figures as at 1st March and 1st August each year. The senior high school enrolments at 1st March, 1974, are appended. The August figures are currently being processed and will be available within a few weeks.

Albany	....	....	1 267
Applecross	....	....	1 410
Armadale	....	....	1 302
Balcatta	....	....	1 488
Balga	....	....	1 344
Belmont	....	....	1 296
Bentley	....	....	1 167
Bunbury	....	....	753
Busselton	..	....	632
Cannington	....	....	937
Carnarvon	....	....	465
Central Midlands	....	....	233
Churchlands	....	....	1 402
City Beach	....	....	845
Collie	....	....	459
Como	....	....	747
Cyril Jackson	....	....	1 041
East Goldfields	....	....	1 100
Esperance	....	....	575
Geraldton	....	....	1 337

Governor Stirling	1 542
Hamilton	1 204
Hampton	1 426
Hedland	487
Hollywood	776
John Curtin	1 114
John Forrest	1 384
Kalamunda	1 380
Karratha	344
Katanning	555
Kent Street	1 056
Kewdale	1 309
Kwinana	1 204
Manjimup	473
Melville	1 347
Merredin	596
Mirrabeeka	1 118
Morley	1 129
Mount Lawley	1 393
Narrogin Agricultural	865
Newton Moore	826
Northam	823
Perth Modern	1 247
Pinjarra	707
Rockingham	948
Rossmoyne	1 356
Scarborough	1 327
South Fremantle	1 184
Swanbourne	654
Thornlie	1 311
Tuart Hill	1 155

47. This question was postponed.

#### 48. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

##### *Upgrading*

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

Which three year high schools are being upgraded to include fourth year studies during 1975?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Eastern Hills, Mount Barker and Harvey.

#### 49. WHOLE-MILK LICENSES

##### *Sale of Quotas*

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

- (1) How many dairy farmers in Western Australia possess a license to produce whole milk for the liquid milk trade?
- (2) Of this number how many have—
  - (a) received their total quota from the Milk Board or Dairy Industry Authority without cost;
  - (b) purchased their quota with farm as an on-going business;
  - (c) received portion of their existing quota from the Milk Board or Dairy Industry Authority and increased their gallonage through purchase?
- (3) In the past five years how many sales of properties with quota have been effected?

(4) How many sales have there been in the last five years in which the property and quota were sold, with the land alone reverting to the original seller after the transaction?

(5) Does he know if the Taxation Department includes the value of a liquid milk quota in determining the probate of an estate where this is applicable, and, if so, at what amount per gallon of quota is the valuation fixed?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

(1) 588.

(2) The information sought is not available. The extraction of same would necessitate individual examination of the available records of all the above licensees, some licensed since 1933. Since 1964, 180 new dairymen have been issued with dairyman's licenses and granted initial quotas or contract quantities ranging from 47 to 62 gallons.

(3) —

Year ended 30th June	Sold WIWO to new licensee	Sold WIWO for conduct in combination with existing dairy business
1970	10	12
1971	8	14
1972	8	11
1973	16	16
1974	49	19
	—	72
	—	—

Total: 121.

(4) Previous legislation did not provide for negotiability of contract quantities or quotas, other than as part of a licensed dairy business. Approval could not be given for the land content of a licensed dairy to revert to the original owner after the sale of that dairy business.

(5) Not known.

#### 50. ABATTOIRS

##### *Killing Charges: Differentiation*

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

- (1) Is there any differentiation in the killing charges in Government abattoirs made for cattle destined for export markets and those destined for local markets?
- (2) If so, will he explain the reason for this, and indicate the amounts involved?
- (3) Does he know if any such difference exists in privately owned abattoirs?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

(1) and (2) Yes.

The cattle slaughtering fees at Midland Abattoir are—

- (a) for local consumption (per head):
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
|  | \$    |
| of any weight not exceeding 90.5 Kg ....                                   | 13.88 |
| of any weight exceeding 90.5 Kg but not exceeding 125 Kg ....              | 14.34 |
| of any weight exceeding 125 Kg plus 3 c for every Kg exceeding 125 Kg .... | 14.34 |
- (b) for export (per head):
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| of any weight not exceeding 90.5 Kg ....                                     | 14.10 |
| of any weight exceeding 90.5 Kg but not exceeding 150 Kg ....                | 14.56 |
| of any weight exceeding 150 Kg plus 2.5 c for every Kg exceeding 150 Kg .... | 14.56 |

The slaughtering fee for local cattle contains a Public Health Department meat inspection fee component of 38c a head.

As the majority of export cattle fall into the heaviest category, the resulting slaughtering fee is generally lower for export cattle than for local cattle.

The average weight for export cattle slaughtered at Midland during 1973-74 was 197 Kg. The slaughtering fee for this weight is \$15.74. The equivalent slaughtering fee for a local animal of the same weight is \$16.50.

The average weight for local cattle slaughtered at Midland during 1973-74 was 165 Kg. The slaughtering fee for this weight is \$15.54 whereas the equivalent fee for an export animal of the same weight is \$14.95.

Additional labour is required to handle local cattle and costs are therefore greater.

- (3) Details of internal costing at privately-owned abattoirs are not available.

## QUESTIONS (9): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### *Whisky: Price Increase*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Did he read in the *Daily News*, dated the 24th July, 1974, and headed, "A.H.A. 3 Cents Nip Increase False Figure"? In view of

the disparity between the Australian Hotels Association and the Australian Government over the exact amount of the rise in a nip of whisky, will he explain the current position and price?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving prior notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

Yes I read the news item in the *Daily News* dated the 24th July, 1974, headed "A.H.A. 3 Cents Nip Increase False Figure" and it was essentially correct. The excise charged on spirits is based on the "potable spirit" content. The potable spirit content in Western Australian spirits is, by law, higher than that in the Eastern States. Therefore, the increase in excise paid per bottle is higher in Western Australia. The 3c per nip increase quoted by the Federal Government applied to the old British measure whereas now spirits are sold in Western Australia by metric measure. The 30 ml nip is bigger than the old nip. Additionally, hoteliers have to pay sales tax and licensing court fees on the increased excise. The Commissioner for Consumer Protection has had discussions with the Australian Hotels Association regarding the increases and is satisfied that the 6c per nip increase for Scotch is reasonable. The Australian Hotels Association has added a much lower gross margin than its norm to cushion the cost effect on the consumer.

2.

## DOG ACT

### *Amending Legislation*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) It is the intention of the Government to introduce amendments to the Dog Act this session?
- (2) If so, could he indicate when notice of the amendments can be expected?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The answer was given yesterday or the day before to the member for Mundaring. It was indicated that the amendments are under consideration but, with the magnitude of the task, I am sure members will acknowledge that I am unable to give a definite time when the amendments can be expected.

## 3. LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

*Determination*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

He will be aware that the Tonkin Government made a decision that the Labour Day holiday would be held on the first Monday in May in 1975. That was a firm decision made by the Government after it listened to an approach by the members of the Trades and Labor Council which advocated a change of holiday. After all it is their holiday.

Mr O'Neil: It is a public holiday.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member must ask the Minister whether he is aware of that fact. I have allowed him some latitude, but he must ask the question.

Mr HARMAN: Is he also aware of the the statements made in the Liberal Party manifesto wherein, on an unnumbered page, it states—

Mr O'Connor: What is the question?

Mr HARMAN: The manifesto states—  
We believe in unions and will endeavour to assist and encourage unions with responsible policies to fulfil their role.

Is he also aware of his own statements that he issued indicating he would associate himself with the union movement to assist it? Does he agree that the action he has taken to reverse a previous decision made by the Tonkin Government has been provocative and that it will produce a breakdown in relations?

Mr Grayden: I would think not.

The SPEAKER: I have allowed the honourable member considerable latitude, as he will probably appreciate. Explanatory information given when asking a question, whether on or without notice, is not really legitimate unless it is given briefly in the context of the question. The honourable member's question was not well asked.

Mr O'Neil: Not a bad speech though.

The SPEAKER: I suggest that under the circumstances the honourable member might like to put his question on the notice paper where he can legitimise it.

Mr May: You have to explain things to this Government though, Mr Speaker.

## 4.

## HEALTH

*Venereal Disease: Cases*

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Yesterday I requested the Minister to supply details in relation to venereal disease for the years 1964 to 1974 inclusive. Is he able to give that information to me today?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for Collie for giving some prior notice of the question the answer to which is as follows—

The number of cases of venereal disease notified to the Public Health Department from 1964 to 1974, to the 31st July, were—

1964—403
1965—462
1966—710
1967—839
1968—779
1969—1 028
1970—1 328
1971—1 493
1972—1 728
1973—1 952
1974 to 31st July—1 488.
Estimated total for 1974— 2 600.

## 5.

## IMMIGRATION

*Building Company Nomination Scheme*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the State Government is giving official backing to Landalls Pty. Ltd., under the development company nomination scheme, which allows Landalls to continue to bring migrants into this country and sell them houses which in some cases involves up to three mortgages and that this situation is still being allowed to continue when Landalls' shares at a par value of 50c are currently being sold on the share market for 25c?
- (2) Does the Minister agree that when a company's shares are being sold at such a low level, it would appear that that company is in severe financial straits?
- (3) As Landalls has a responsibility to the migrants it has already sold houses to, and it would appear a strong possibility that the company is close to collapse, is the Minister prepared to initiate an investigation into this company and its activities in association with the State Government?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) I thank the honourable member for giving me two hours'



notice of this question. The allegations are completely false and this is just another vicious, slanderous attack on a nationally operating Western Australian company.

The question is just about an all-time political low from a member of a party whose muck-raking behind the facade of parliamentary privilege is discrediting the whole parliamentary system.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr May: Who wrote that?

Mr GRAYDEN: The member's colleague, the member for Ascot, adopted the same tactic several days ago concerning matters allegedly occurring six years ago and in that case not only slandered that company, but a private individual as well.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ascot.

Mr GRAYDEN: Now that his allegations have proved false he is apparently encouraging the new member for Rockingham to continue his vicious and unwarranted attacks.

Mr May: Who wrote that?

Mr GRAYDEN: As regards migrants sponsored by building companies, applications are firstly approved by both the Commonwealth and State departments and one of the conditions is that they must have sufficient capital to purchase a house in Australia.

Mr Barnett: Two bob!

Mr GRAYDEN: Most have considerably more than the minimum and are able to purchase their homes far more readily than most Australians.

If the honourable member had any idea of economics and the stock market he would be well aware that share prices are the lowest for eight years following the disastrous economic policies of the Australian Labor Party in Canberra. If he applies his reasoning to other companies then just about every public company in the country should be investigated. For example, the share price of the largest homebuilder in Australia—A. V. Jennings—has fallen 200 per cent in 1974, and, on his standards, BHP and the Bank of New South Wales are on the verge of collapse.

Mr Young: That is right.

Mr GRAYDEN: There appears to be a wicked, spiteful campaign against this company for some obscure political reason and I only hope the public will see through this sham.

In conclusion I must say that I have been here since 1947 and I have never before heard such a scurrilous question from any member.

Mr May: You say that every year.

Mr GRAYDEN: It is another manifestation of the industrial sabotage we have in Western Australia put into practice by members of the Opposition.

Mr May: You said that last year about the Mining Bill.

## 6. TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

### *Parking Prosecutions*

Mr NANOVIČ, to the Premier:

In reference to the statement made by the Secretary of the Transport Workers' Union (Mr R. Cowles) in the *Daily News* on the 1st August, 1974, whereby he made threats that if the Perth City Council proceeded to prosecute the 55 members of the union who were issued with parking tickets outside Leederville Oval, the addresses of all councillors with businesses near the oval would be published in the union magazine and would be boycotted—

If the Perth City Council continues to prosecute the 55 offenders, what authority does Mr Cowles have to threaten to jeopardise any councillor's livelihood?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Mr Cowles has no authority, and it would depend on the action taken to jeopardise any of the councillors' businesses and livelihood, whether it constituted a criminal offence.

However, it could well be that he would be rendering himself liable to civil action by the persons affected.

## 7. PROSTITUTION

### *Brothel: Moore Street*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police:

Is one of the suspected brothels situated in Moore Street, East Perth? If yes—

(a) What number is it?

Mr O'Neil: We will give you the phone number if you want it!

Mr BERTRAM: I further ask—

(b) Who is the registered proprietor of the land situated there?

Sir Charles Court: You are showing an amazing interest.

Mr Coyne: That is classified information.

Mr BERTRAM: Further—

(c) Who is the present tenant and who were each of the tenants for the past 12 months?

(d) How long had these premises been suspected?

(e) How long is it expected that they will continue to be suspected?

Mr O'Neil: Ask the member for Ascot—he will find out all this for you.

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I have had insufficient time to give this matter detailed consideration and I ask that it be placed on the notice paper.

## 8. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO SPEAKER

### *Procedure*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Speaker:

I wish to address a question to you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the Leader of the Opposition, or any member, wishes to direct a question to the Speaker, such member must put the question on the notice paper for the following day.

## 9. LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

### *Determination*

Mr OLD, to the Minister for Labour: Could he inform the House of the reasons for not declaring the Labour Day holiday in May?

### *Point of Order*

Mr HARMAN: Mr Speaker, you recommended that I place a similar question on the notice paper.

Mr O'Connor: You never asked your question.

Mr HARMAN: This question is a Dorothy-Dixer from the member for Katanning.

Mr Young: You never asked the question.

Mr O'Neil: Stop squirming and learn to take it.

Mr T. J. Burke: When will that happen?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! When the Speaker is on his feet I would ask members to be quiet because if not it destroys the dignity and decorum of the House. This sort of thing is not merely upsetting to the person speaking but it contributes to the destruction of the decorum and dignity of the House. I have already dealt with the question the member for Maylands wished to ask, and he appreciates the reasons for my asking him to place it on the notice paper. The question before the House is not phrased in a similar manner. The Dorothy Dix type of question has been asked in the past by many people but whether this is such a question I have no knowledge.

Has the member for Katanning finished asking his question?

### *Question (without notice) Resumed*

Mr OLD: Yes, Mr Speaker. I ask: Could the Minister give us the reasons for not declaring the Labour Day holiday in May?

Mr Harman: This is a Liberal Party attempt to undermine your authority, Sir.

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I want to assure the member for Maylands that this question is not a Dorothy-Dixer. When the matter first came before the Government, the Government felt it had an obligation to obtain a cross-section of opinion as to whether the public felt that the holiday should be changed from March to May. To do this we sent a circular to the sporting organisations throughout Western Australia and all save one such organisation wrote back most vehemently affirming that they wanted the holiday to remain in March.

The SPEAKER: I would ask the Minister to keep his reply as brief as possible.

Mr GRAYDEN: Very well, Sir. In the circumstances the Government feels that if it changed the holiday from March to May it would inconvenience the people of Western Australia. There is only one other State in Australia which has the Labour Day holiday in May. One of the States has it in October while others have it in March. There is no uniformity. In those circumstances the Government feels it would be penalising the public were it to change the holiday as requested by the TLC.

# DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

## Second Reading

**MR STEPHENS** (Stirling—Chief Secretary) [3.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill, which is in three parts, provides for a single period of daylight saving, namely between the 27th October, 1974, and the 2nd March, 1975, to be followed by a referendum to decide whether or not daylight saving should become a permanent fixture in Western Australia.

During the last State election campaign a promise was made by the present Premier that if elected to office there would be a trial period of daylight saving before the holding of a referendum.

Under the Bill it will be possible to select any day for the taking of the referendum except on the day of a general election or of any by-election.

As is the case with all Bills for referendums, great care must be taken because the electoral and voting provisions are somewhat complex. This has been attended to in the present Bill and it is considered that the electoral provisions are entirely satisfactory.

At this stage I must make it clear that not all members on the Government side are necessarily in favour of daylight saving. However, if a majority of members in both Houses feels that it should be put to the vote of the people, we are adamant that a trial period, be held before the referendum in order that people will really know what they are voting for.

**Mr T. D. Evans:** Will the Minister indicate how he intends to vote?

**Mr O'Neill:** You might persuade him to change his mind, whatever his intention is at the moment.

**Mr STEPHENS:** I hope that when issues are debated in this House members come in with open minds so that they might be persuaded by the debate which ensues.

**Mr T. D. Evans:** This Bill is, in essence, the same as that introduced last year.

**Mr O'Neill:** Your Government did not know what we proposed last year. When it found out, it was most apologetic.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chief Secretary.

**Mr STEPHENS:** During the various debates on the question of daylight saving which have been held in this Chamber or in another place, both supporters and opponents of daylight saving have produced vast amounts of evidence to support their claims, but unfortunately an amount of this evidence is purely theory and of a type that has not been the subject of practical test.

It is not my intention to elaborate on the merits or demerits of daylight saving but it is interesting to mention a few of the findings of a committee set up in 1972 to inquire into the question of daylight saving in Western Australia. Findings opposed to the scheme included—

- (1) Inconveniences would be suffered by some sections of the rural industry if daylight saving were introduced.
- (2) The cinema industry would probably suffer financial and employment loss if daylight saving were introduced.

In support it was found—

- (1) A case had been established that, on balance, daylight saving should benefit the health of Western Australians.
- (2) The majority of manufacturing concerns were in favour of daylight saving chiefly because of their desire to maintain a two-hour time difference with General Standard Time.

Additionally, it has been advanced that with daylight saving—

- (i) Children find it hard to get to sleep before darkness and, with rising at the usual clock time, suffer a loss of sleep.
- (ii) Country school children have to travel long distances home in the heat of the day.
- (iii) Western Australia enjoys "daylight" saving of up to 28 minutes all the year round.
- (iv) There is more leisure time in the afternoon for such activities as sport and gardening.
- (v) There will be a saving in electricity; and
- (vi) A drop in the number of pedestrians and pedal cyclists killed on the roads.

Members of this House are representative of all parts of this vast State, and daylight saving or the lack of daylight saving has different effects on different parts of the State. As a result, members must have varied views on the subject and I trust that all members of this House will be given the opportunity to vote on non-party lines.

I commend the Bill to the deliberation of the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr T. J. Burke.

## Message: Appropriations

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

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 7th August, on the following motion by Mrs Craig—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

**MR COYNE** (Murchison-Eyre) [3.14 p.m.]: I wish to take the opportunity this debate affords me to mention some of the shortcomings and other matters relating to the electorate of Murchison-Eyre.

Before doing so, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on attaining the high office of Speaker of this House. I am sure you will carry out your office with dignity and impartiality.

I would like also to congratulate all the new members. Their contributions up to date indicate that we can expect a measure of lifting in the standard of the debates to take place in the future. The prospects of my reaching the front bench have receded since the advent of the new crop of members in this House, but I will carry on nevertheless.

The Murchison-Eyre electorate is different from the areas which were referred to earlier this week, which were mainly concerned with agricultural pursuits. There are only two major industries in my vast electorate; that is, the mining and pastoral industries. There is not much opportunity to diversify into other activities. So it is important for me to bring to the notice of the House some of the good and not so good things that are happening in the area at the present time, and I intend to take up a fair amount of time in doing so.

The first matter upon which I would like to comment was dealt with in the remarks made by the member for Geraldton in relation to the imbalance existing between the electorate of Murchison-Eyre and other electorates. I think it can be fairly said this imbalance occurs generally between electorates. The reason Murchison-Eyre is picked on so frequently is that it is the smallest in numbers.

I think there is a fair argument for the existence of the Murchison-Eyre electorate in its present form. It has not always been as it is today. My predecessor fought his first election when the population numbered something like 5 000, and I am quite confident that number will be reached again.

In doing a little research on the matter, I went back over a number of years to the time when the population was the greatest ever in the towns I represent, from Menzies to Yalgoo. In 1912 there were something like 10 000 people in the area. For instance, Daydawn—a town which does not exist at the present time—had a population of 1 000, and the town of Cue, just three miles away, also had a population of 1 000. Nannine had a population of 500, and Gwalia, a town a few miles away from Leonora, had a population of something like 1 000. Other towns like Kookynie also had fairly large populations. Developments are taking place in Murchison-Eyre at the present time which I hope will see the restoration of the population of some of the towns to former levels.

To return to the crux of the matter, I think the representation of the Murchison-Eyre electorate requires to be looked at because of its vastness. It would be very good if all electorates could have basically the same number of people in an area of 10 or 12 square miles, as at Geraldton. It would be very easy for a member to service such an area. I am wondering whether the member for Geraldton would have brought up this matter had my opponent in the last campaign been elected. I do not really think he would have.

I draw an analogy with the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie, which covers such a large area, extending to Wyndham, Karratha, Derby, and Broome, that obviously the people in it do not have any kind of contact with their member. It is impossible for him to service the entire area; it is beyond his capacity to do so. I therefore think an area such as the Murchison, which embraces something like nine shire councils, as well as numerous settlements, and extends as far east as the trans-line, needs some kind of representation.

It is my aim to represent those people as fully and as conscientiously as I am able to do. This lead was given to me by my predecessor—the previous member for Murchison-Eyre—who served the area very well and received great recognition from the people in the electorate for the actions he took to represent them. I am carrying on his tradition.

I leave legislative procedures in this House to those more qualified and experienced than I am effectively to do the research that is required and to take an active part in such procedures. The requirements of my electorate do not allow me to devote time to that. I think only one other member in this House—the member for Pilbara—works in a pattern similar to mine; that is, he maintains mobility by keeping a vehicle in his electorate at all times. The member for Pilbara is probably in a situation a little more difficult than mine because he has greater distance to cover. However, I service my area by

maintaining a vehicle in it, and I am quite happy to use this method of representing my electors adequately.

Another matter brought up by the member for Geraldton was his stated intention to endeavour to have the Geraldton area recognised as a regional centre. In that context I thought he would have mentioned a very important aspect of the growth of Geraldton; and that is the completion of a black sealed road from Geraldton into the Murchison. To my mind that is a prime requisite for the growth of Geraldton because its development must depend on the growth and development that takes place in the Murchison region.

Mr Davies: Have you done it the other way around? Have you made representations?

Mr COYNE: I have, on a number of occasions.

Mr Davies: Have you had any luck?

Mr COYNE: I have taken up this matter fairly frequently. It is one which is raised frequently in my electorate because apart from the industrial development which could occur in the Geraldton region, one of the greatest factors which could assist Geraldton is the promotion of the tourist trade.

In the school holidays every May and August we see great streams of caravans going to those areas; and this year we will see a greater cavalcade than ever before because we are about to experience in the Murchison region one of the best wildflower seasons in living memory. Good rainfalls which have been experienced will ensure that it is so. I anticipate a great amount of activity in the area; that is, provided the TWU will allow people to get enough petrol to go there.

Mr Davies: What is the reason for the lack of interest? It sounds like a good deal to me.

Mr COYNE: Does the member mean the lack of interest on the part of the member for Geraldton?

Mr Davies: No, the lack of results from your representations.

Mr COYNE: The present Government has been in office for a few months only.

Mr Davies: I am not having a shot at you; I am trying to find out why they will not do it.

Mr COYNE: Quite a deal has already been done. The formation of the road has been upgraded. However, there is still a stretch of about 110 miles which isolates the town of Pindar; then there is a short stretch of sealed road to Wurarga; and then it is all gravel to Mt. Magnet. If this road was sealed it would enable people to travel up the Midland road to Geraldton, across to Meekatharra, and then return down the Wongan line. That would

be a pleasant circuit and not only would the Geraldton tourist trade be assisted, but also the tourist trade in the Murchison and the eastern goldfields because people could go on to Wiluna and down to the Kalgoorlie area, so making a complete circuit. I think it is a vital necessity for both the Geraldton and Murchison regions to have those 110 miles of road sealed.

Another factor which would help Geraldton a great deal is the development of the mining industry. At present some projects are attempting to get off the ground.

When we consider projects even as far afield as the Perseverance and Agnew operations we find they are just as close to the Geraldton port as they are to the Kalgoorlie-Esperance outlet. The distance to Geraldton would be much shorter than down through Kalgoorlie to Esperance. The Northern Mining operation is another project which could bring great benefits to Geraldton. Therefore I believe the development of the Murchison region will be of great significance to Geraldton, and the people of Geraldton should be anxiously looking at this and trying to promote their town to attract these developments to use their port.

Another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the House is the state of the mining industry. I shall refer in the first instance to the goldmining industry. I was very pleased this morning to see in the news that the restriction on overseas capital has been reduced to a 5 per cent deposit. I know that restriction has been bugging the goldmining and other mining industries since it was introduced. Now it has been greatly reduced and I think this will allow much more progress to take place in mining areas.

However investors in and promoters of mining enterprises are still faced with a certain amount of uncertainty because the taxation concessions have not been completely and permanently restored. If the Federal Government took steps to ensure that the full concessions were permanently restored the mining industry throughout the regions to which I referred would receive quite a lift. I cannot see why taxation concessions should be removed from the goldmining industry because it involves very high risk ventures. At present as a result of the lack of action in goldmining areas, the Federal Government is not receiving anything in the way of taxation, so even if the concessions were restored permanently that Government would not lose anything. However, the flow-on to people employed in the industry would be a great boost to the Federal Treasury.

One of the aspects of goldmining that should not be forgotten is that it was the finding of gold which precipitated the growth of Western Australia into a State of importance in 1890. Thousands of

people streamed into the goldfields from overseas and other States. The population increased from 35 000 in 1885 to 101 000 in 1895. That era saw great developments occur in the eastern goldfields, such as the completion of the railway line to Kalgoorlie; and it laid the foundation for the extension of the trans-Australian railway. Later, in 1902 or 1903, the pipeline to Kalgoorlie was completed.

The thousands of people who streamed into the goldfields did a great deal of good for the whole of Western Australia because as the goldmining industry receded they were employed in other pursuits such as agriculture; and pioneers went into the Murchison area and opened up pastoral properties.

That did a tremendous amount of good for the State. It also did a tremendous amount of good for the metropolitan area, because in that year great improvements were effected to the Fremantle Harbour, the south-west railway line was constructed and, generally, this development proved to be of great consequence to the growth of Western Australia, which should not be lost sight of today.

I believe similar development could occur again and large numbers of people could be employed in the mining areas. The only mine of any consequence that is in operation in my electorate at the moment is Hill 50 Gold NL. It has issued a prospectus to the public seeking \$1.8 million to develop what it considers to be very encouraging ore deposits in the deep part of that mine.

Mr Jamieson: Are there not some mines still operating at Paynes Find?

Mr COYNE: I am talking about large mines. There are no mines of any consequence in my electorate operating at the moment, apart from the Hill 50 goldmine. For some time it has been known that something like 400 000 tonnes of 5.8 per cent dwt. gold exists in the deeper levels of the Hill 50 goldmine. After conducting some research on the subject I find that these resources have increased to 600 000 tonnes and the drilling programme in recent weeks has indicated a horizon of over 59 feet, showing 9.7 dwts to the ton.

Mr May: They told me that last year; what are you talking about?

Mr COYNE: I am probably 12 months behind with my figures.

Mr Jamieson: That is not unusual.

Mr COYNE: Anyway, the prospects for the Hill 50 goldmine are very good indeed. I was made aware of that in the last prospectus issued by the company, but this recent development would enhance the prospects of the mine and I wish it well in its efforts to obtain the \$1.8 million it is seeking. I understand that it has been fairly successful to date and has obtained about half the amount required.

Apart from finance, the company is faced with other problems in relation to the development of the mine. It is having difficulty in acquiring skilled labour. Today skilled labour is an extremely scarce commodity, particularly key men; that is, the machine miners. This problem has been aggravated by the fact that many machine miners have gravitated to the more glamorous areas in the mining fields, such as the centres of Kambalda and Scotlia. As a result it will be difficult to attract them back to other areas.

Not only does the company have to develop the mine, but also it has to develop the town. It plans to install closed circuit television, to upgrade housing in the area and effect other improvements to living conditions. Nevertheless I still think the company will have difficulty in recruiting the men it needs to develop the mine. Recently I asked the Minister for Immigration how the company was faring in its efforts to recruit labour by endeavouring to attract skilled miners to this State from overseas. Apparently its programme is not proceeding as well as was expected.

I can recall, in the late 1930s, when I was working at the Lancefield goldmine at Lancefield, and with the help of other experiences I had had with goldmining, that the best migrants to bring to this State are Yugoslavs and Italians from northern Italy. The northern Italians were fairly skilled in hard-rock mining because of the great experience they gained in constructing tunnels in northern Italy. The same could be said about the southern Yugoslavs. These migrants integrate into our society very readily. After one generation they all become "dinkum Aussies". Therefore I would like to see efforts made to attract nationals such as these to our mining areas. However, I am not sure whether the best way to do this is to ask them to work in the remote areas of the State. I think any overseas country would resent another country seeking to interview its nationals with a view to encouraging them to migrate. It is only natural that the country that was to lose such people would place some obstacles in the way of the country that was seeking to recruit them.

The recruiting of such men should be done in a more surreptitious way, and there are means by which this can be done. For instance, in the contest for labour in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area, and also in view of the competition that is growing in the Windarra area and which is beginning to be felt, I consider that the recruiting of skilled men should be left to people who have some sort of relationship with them. For example, it would be possible, after having a few drinks together in a hotel, to influence skilled miners to transfer themselves from the place at which they are now working by holding out the prospect of better conditions. But, of course, this method, also, may be frowned upon

by the companies which are employing those men at the moment because they would stand to lose them.

On the other hand, there is a move by which nationals of, say, Italian origin could take unto themselves some sort of responsibility to attract migrants to come to this State and to work in a mining area. Of course, such people would have to be provided with houses and be guaranteed conditions that would be attractive to them. There is one difficulty, however: the Mining Act provides that any underground worker has to speak the English language. Nevertheless, I do not think this would be such a great obstacle to overcome, because on the goldfields we already have migrants who have been in the country for many years who could be used as foremen in charge of the newly-arrived migrants.

Mr Hartrey: If they could not speak English it would be difficult to ensure that conditions of safety were observed.

Mr COYNE: I do not think that would matter a great deal if the shift boss belonged to the same country from whence they came.

Mr Hartrey: An underground worker does not see the shift boss very often.

Mr COYNE: Other steps could be taken, of course. Schools could be started so that the newly-arrived migrants could learn the language. It would be an obligation on their part to learn to speak English.

Mr Hartrey: I would not like to take the risk of working in any mine alongside a man who could not speak English.

Mr COYNE: In these times working underground is quite safe; it is just like walking into a building. The modern methods of mining that are employed now ensure that the conditions are not so hazardous as they were in the past. For example, machine miners do not have to work right up at the face. Today they use jumbo machines to which are attached hoses 60 and 70 feet in length and as a result the men are in no danger from any falls of rock that may take place. Accidents such as that do not occur so often now. The methods employed to drill the shafts these days are completely different from those of the past. At one time miners used to sink a shaft from the ground level, but now the shaft is developed from the bottom. The companies use a large drill studded with diamonds and the dirt is taken out as if it were coming out of a big Hume pipe. Therefore, the physical dangers, to a great extent, have been removed.

I will move away from the goldmining industry for the present so that I may refer to the nickel areas. Recently there was an announcement of the amalgamation of the Mt. Isa Mining Company, the Mining Selection Trust, and the Perseverance Mining Company in an operation at

Agnew. This operation will prove to be of great consequence to this State. This joint venture intends to spend about \$300 million in the area. When we consider that approximately \$50 million has already been spent at Windarra, one can readily imagine what a great enterprise this will be. It will be many years before the company gets off the ground, but the very fact that an announcement has been made regarding the participation of these companies in this venture indicates something of great consequence.

We can look forward to the area providing many amenities for the people who live in that section of the country—the no-man's-land between the Murchison and the north-eastern goldfields.

I will now turn to the operation of Mt. Windarra which is due to go on stream sometime in September. I have watched this project with great interest because I first visited it when it was just a number of drill holes. I have watched it taking shape and it is an inspiring sight today. I know a number of members have visited the area and it is a great and thrilling sight to see all the equipment and the various stages of development.

I have watched the development right through from the provision of the turrets, the internal shafts, to the crushing of the material, and the construction of the power house. It is a great monument to private enterprise and I am pleased to have been able to observe something taking place in the eastern-most portion of my electorate. I have taken great pleasure in watching it grow.

The road which will be used to convey the material from Windarra to Malcolm is completed. The transit operation centre for Malcolm is also nearing completion and it is expected that the flow of material will commence sometime in September.

The associated town of Laverton, which houses the work force, is growing after some setback, particularly with the administration centre and the town shopping centre. Many of the housewives in the area are disadvantaged when they have to hang out their washing alongside a great scraper or a bulldozer. It is surprising to me that we have not received more complaints.

The community of Laverton is developing well with a modern concept. The centre of the town is completely free of traffic because of the ring road system. I am looking forward to a happy community in that town.

It is a pity that the road connecting Windarra and Malcolm cannot be sealed. It will be a hazardous section of road because of the big ore carriers which will be shuttling back and forth with concentrate. However, it is obvious that road funds will not be available to enable that project to be completed before 1976, or even 1978, at least.

I will now leave mining and turn to other matters. The other industry which is responsible for a great export income from the Murchison-Eyre electorate is the pastoral industry. Not long ago I moved an urgency motion in this House setting out that some sort of relief ought to be given to the drought-stricken pastoralists. Since then we have had rains, and they are continuing. As a result, the north-eastern goldfields and the Murchison area have never been more bountiful. However, the people in those districts still have problems. The Federal Government has removed some taxation concessions.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.02 p.m.*

Mr COYNE: Just prior to the afternoon tea suspension I referred to the difficulties in the pastoral industry. I said that we have just had a bountiful season, perhaps the best for many years. The woolgrowers report very successful lambing with greatly increased stock numbers—sometimes up to a 100 per cent increase. However, one difficulty the woolgrowers are facing at the present time is the price of wool. It sounds very good to be paid 300c per clean kilo, but the actual price is not as good as that. The wool from the backs and bellies of the sheep does not fetch top prices, and with a certain percentage of greasy wool, the actual payment is about 105c per kilo. This does not give the woolgrowers much margin.

As well as increased fuel prices, telephone charges, and shearing wages, the woolgrowers face a shrinking margin between payments in and the cost of operation. Some of the experienced and efficient pastoralists to whom I have spoken estimate that the cost of shearing at \$1 per head and the total cost of production works out at something between \$4.50 and \$5 per sheep. This cuts down considerably the profit margin.

I do not know what will happen if again we have a season such as we had a few years ago. Another drought will mean that many more pastoralists will walk off the land. These people will not be able to continue to operate unless the world price for wool is increased or the AWC pays a guaranteed price. This is the only hope of survival in the industry for many of the woolgrowers.

I would like now to turn to some other matters of great consequence to the scattered communities. Firstly, I would refer to the subsidy on transport. At the present time the community at Laverton is suffering badly with prices increasing all the time. The same pattern is evident at Meekatharra and Wiluna, and the main concern is the high cost of transport. I wonder whether we could look at some form of subsidy to enable these people to enjoy better and cheaper living. It seems to me that those who live in these regions suffer very great disadvantages.

I think it was about 1963 that my predecessor (Mr Burt) put forward the idea that instead of using the 26th parallel as the dividing line for Government subsidies, we should use a system based on mileage, say 500 miles. His idea gained a good deal of support, but eventually difficulties arose which precluded its operation. However, attention should be given to offering some concession to people living in these areas.

Another matter which is frequently discussed amongst my constituents is the differentiation between the A and B standards of taxation. This matter was raised again at our recent conference, and it was pointed out that the two standards of taxation are set out in the Federal Constitution and many difficulties arise when a solution is sought. However, members will agree that the situation is quite inequitable and is becoming more and more imbalanced as time goes by.

In towns such as Carnarvon and Karrahta, the residents are enjoying the benefits of television and other amenities of life and also are still receiving taxation concessions. However, people living to the east of Kalgoorlie and to the north of Geraldton do not receive these concessions. Surely it is possible to alter this delineation, perhaps following a system such as I have just outlined based on mileages. We could use a line about 200 miles north of Geraldton—Shark Bay—and down in a south-easterly direction to just north of Menzies, then to the east and follow that line down to the coast. This would be about the 123rd meridian, and all areas east of that line as well as people in areas above the 26th parallel would benefit from taxation concessions.

Just before entering the Chamber, I had an opportunity to speak to my predecessor (Mr Burt) and I asked him about this proposal. He told me that a committee investigated the matter and visited the area with him. Whilst the committee appreciated the difficulties of the isolated communities, one point which inhibited the adoption of this procedure was that a Federal decision would be necessary and other areas of the Commonwealth, such as the outback of New South Wales and Queensland, and the Northern Territory, would be affected. The problem is a difficult one.

I do not have a great deal of time left, but I would like to mention one or two other matters briefly. A big problem to people in isolated areas is the provision of adequate medical facilities. The Meekatharra region badly needs a resident medical practitioner. Meekatharra is about 500 miles from Perth, and at the present time Dr Harold Dick, of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, visits there every Saturday morning. His wife, Robyn, is a trained nurse, and she helps him look after the surgery. This couple are doing a very fine job, but the area is a large one and anything could arise from one week to the



next. When the doctor is not there, the matron has to take great responsibility. Also, the cost of flying patients up and down to Perth must be considerable.

We must make some effort to induce a doctor to set up practice there, and I make the suggestion that we should endeavour to obtain the services of someone like Dr Wilczynski. This Polish doctor is well known in the area as he served the town for the last 10 or 12 years—in fact, our difficulties arose when he left the area. When Dr Wilczynski migrated here he was prohibited from entering a medical practice for some reason or other. He laid carpets for a while, and eventually he was permitted to practise in Meekatharra as an employee of the Medical Department. We found out just how good this doctor was when he left. I believe he is now doing a very efficient job in Carnarvon or Exmouth. In my opinion he is one of the best doctors for a town such as this—we could always locate him. He would be either in his surgery or at the golf course. He was a golf fanatic and he was on the golf course at every opportunity. He was always available when he was required, although sometimes he did not like to be disturbed during his round of golf. The people of the area now know what a wonderful man he is.

He was followed by a Dr Vilivnas who had similar problems in the recognition of his qualifications. For this reason he subsequently left to practise in New South Wales where the limitations on his right to practise were not so evident. He is in private practice now.

A new development is taking place in Meekatharra—Westside Talc. Apparently this talc has wonderful properties and it is used in high-grade cosmetics. It is unique to the area but the product is gaining wide recognition in areas such as Japan. The last Government advanced some funds to get the project off the ground. I believe the company is faced with many difficulties at the moment—markets, money, and the necessary treatment for the product. Recently I flew to Meekatharra with one of the directors. He told me that the company brings the material in to the town for transport to the metropolitan region to have it treated at the treatment plant in the Fremantle area. Unfortunately, the pad on which the material is dumped is not very good, and some of it has been polluted with gravel and other impurities. The talc must be kept very clean, and any pollution renders it useless. That, Mr Speaker, covers all the points I wished to raise.

**MR MAY** (Clontarf) [4.14 p.m.]: I join with other members in this Chamber, Mr Speaker, in congratulating you on your elevation to your high position. I wish you well during your term of office. I would

like to congratulate the new members, and also to make two suggestions to them. I suggest that they keep in touch with their electorates, and also that they keep in touch with their bank managers. These are very important points.

Over the past few years, we have been subjected to quite a number of statements made by the present Premier through the media. He has made statements about various matters, and whilst I appreciate the capacity, either effectively or otherwise, of the Premier, I feel some of his statements need further investigation. Quite obviously he is not fully aware of the facts in certain instances.

I should like to refer to an article written by the Premier which appeared in the political notes of *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 8th February, 1973. I cannot be accused of misquoting the Premier because the article was written by himself. As Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier had this to say—

Recent references to the possibility of the world running out of fuel warrant comment. It is important that there should be no panic or crisis approach regarding future sources of fuel and energy. But neither should there be a "she'll be right" attitude.

Top-level decision-making must be strong and realistic enough to influence exploration and advanced research programmes in the fuel and energy fields.

This was a political article which appeared in *The West Australian* in which the now Premier indicated that there should be no panic. My speech this afternoon will traverse the entire fuel situation over a number of years.

To indicate how ridiculous was the statement of the Premier that there should be no panic, I should like to refer him back to 1960, when the Brand-Court Government was in power. On the 24th December, 1960, the day before Christmas—what a lovely Christmas present—600 coalminers at Collie received their retrenchment notices; and shortly after that approximately 300 homes fell vacant in Collie, business houses closed down, and the youth were leaving the district because there was no possibility of any jobs in Collie. As a consequence, we see a situation now where the coal industry is crying out for trained young persons to work in the mines. This situation was created in 1960, when there was supposed to be no panic. There certainly was panic—panic by the Government!

It was as late as 1971 that Sir David Brand in his policy speech prior to the 1971 election had this to say—

Future development will make us mainly dependent on imported fuels. Small local sources of coal, oil and gas are not adequate in the long term.

What a shocking *laissez-faire* approach! This Government purports to be a Government which looks after private enterprise, and yet it refused to allow companies mining for coal to conduct an organised drilling and exploration programme. As a matter of fact, the Government of the day did everything to prevent these companies conducting such a programme. During the period the Tonkin Government was in power, we had a chance to examine some of the proposals put forward by the companies in Collie during the term of the Brand Government. It was quite obvious that, even though from time to time approaches were made by the companies to the Brand Government seeking the granting of extra leases, they were continually rejected, despite the fact that the companies stated that they required extra leases in order to increase their proved reserves and to ensure that sufficient deposits of coal existed for the long term. I am not saying something that is not factual; it can be proved because it is in the files. I am quite sure that the present Government knows all about this situation.

One of the matters which disturbed me when we took office in 1971 was the fact that the Western Collieries had built a hot-mix road from the Western 5 mine at Collie to the Muja power house over an area for which the company had no lease. The Government of the day would not grant a lease. I forget the actual distance of the road, but it was of hot-mix construction and cost in the vicinity of \$50 000 to \$60 000. The company constructed the road to ensure that maintenance to its vehicles would be reduced, for the comfort of its employees, and to enable the quick transport of coal from the mine to the Muja power house. Because of its requirements under taxation legislation, the company asked the Government whether it would be possible for leases to be granted to it encompassing the area traversed by the road so that it could claim a taxation deduction. There is no coal under or anywhere near this land; it has a granite base.

However, the Government decided that it would not grant these leases to the coal-mining companies in Collie. That is just one indication of the type of thinking of the Government of the day. It would not encourage the private companies in Collie to claim taxation deductions and would not grant additional leases so that the companies could increase their exploration programmes in order to increase their proved reserves of coal in Collie. I might add that these programmes would not have involved the Government in any expenditure. The companies were quite prepared to carry out the drilling programmes to ensure that not only would there be continuity of supply but also adequate proven deposits of coal for the future of the State.

Following the defeat of the Brand Government in 1971, the Tonkin Government immediately arranged for the price of oil to be made public. This has been a contentious subject for many years. The present member for Collie and also the previous member for that electorate time and time again asked questions in this Chamber seeking the price of oil used at the Kwinana power station, but every time the question was asked a veil of secrecy was drawn over the matter and the Government would not release the information.

Immediately the Tonkin Government came into power, the price of oil was made public. This is just one of the things done by the Tonkin Government immediately it came into office.

Another matter considered by that Government concerned the applications by the coalmining companies for additional leases, to which I have just referred, and which were necessary to ensure not only continuity of supplies to the State Electricity Commission but also to enable the export of coal to take place. Western Collieries and Peabody put a proposition to the Government involving capital expenditure of approximately \$270 000 on a drilling programme in Collie, and asked the Government to grant additional leases. The Government examined the situation closely, because at that time the SEC was using approximately 98 per cent of the coal mined at Collie and consequently the Government wanted to ensure that there was no break in the continuity of supplies and that sufficient reserves of coal existed to supply the requirements of the SEC on a long-term basis.

The officers of the SEC and the Department of Industrial Development met and set down the conditions which were to be written into the leases at the time they were granted; and, provided these conditions were adhered to, the Government was prepared to grant additional leases to the companies. What transpired following the granting of the leases to Western Collieries is history. The company was able to prove in excess of 282 million tons of extractable coal. The reports I received indicated that coal reserves considered suitable for economic extraction by either open-cut or deep mining were assessed by the Director of Geological Surveys at some 282 million tons, comprising 187 million tons by open-cut method and 95 million tons by deep mining method.

This was the situation when Western Collieries completed its drilling programme in Collie and, of course, these reserves are expected to increase in the future following improved mining techniques. Also, the overseas fuel-oil situation will bring about an increase in the cost of fuel and will make coal previously thought to be uneconomical to extract an economic proposition. On a very conservative basis at the

moment, there would be at least 300 million tons of coal available at Collie for the use not only of the SEC but also of other companies in Western Australia which have seen fit, because of their confidence in coal, to transfer from oil to coal. I think members will appreciate that over the last few months, quite a number of companies have indicated their intention to revert to our indigenous fuel rather than to rely on overseas oil with its price fluctuations and disruptions in continuity of supply.

The Tonkin Government was not the only organisation concerned about Collie because in 1964 a leader in *The West Australian* stated—

In planning the Kwinana power station the State Government is turning its back on Collie coal with inadequate knowledge of either its economical reserves or the water resources in close proximity to it. The Government's motives are conjectural but it seems to be looking for reasons for not using W.A. coal and accepting pessimistic estimates of Collie reserves to justify the use of oil.

Apart from the great value of maintaining a flourishing community at Collie and aiding decentralisation, the economic factors in power generation in W.A. can only be judged with knowledge of the price of fuel oil. Electricity Minister Nalder's excuse for not divulging the price was lame. Public tender is the only proper method of buying Government fuel and publicity is of the essence of the tender system.

The Government will have only itself to blame if in its handling of these two issues it leaves the public confused and in doubt about its motives.

Those words have certainly proved to be correct because if ever there was confusion it was during the 12 years the previous Government was in power when it refused to offer any incentive to the coal industry. In fact, rather than offer incentives, the previous Government did the reverse and got rid of 600 miners—causing over 300 homes to become vacant in Collie, businesses to close down, and the youth to leave the district. Yet the now Premier said at the time there was no panic. I will say there was no panic!

There was a *laissez-faire* attitude on the part of the then Government. What is happening today? Oil prices are increasing at a great rate. We have a fair indication of what oil prices will be in the near future because of the lack of foresight on the part of the Brand Government. It is a shocking indictment of that Administration which will go down in history as one of the worst Governments in terms of considering the future fuel position in West-

ern Australia. Let us examine another situation. When we came into power—

Sir Charles Court: We provided cheaper power to the people.

Mr T. H. Jones: Your Government put people out of work.

Sir Charles Court: Who put the people out of work before the Brand Government took office? Tell us about how the Hawke Government dismissed the workers. The biggest exodus from Collie took place at that time, and you know it.

Mr MAY: In its wisdom, the Tonkin Government could see that there would be a desperate fuel situation in the future. Immediately it came into office it introduced legislation to establish the Fuel and Power Commission. It will go down on record that even the present Premier, who was Leader of the Opposition at that time, lauded the move and said it was good legislation.

The Brand Government was 12 years in office and did not make a move to establish the Fuel and Power Commission.

Sir Charles Court: That it not correct. We did all the ground work for you and set it up for your Government.

Mr MAY: It was left to a Government which had been in power for only 12 months to introduce legislation to establish the Fuel and Power Commission.

It is well known that the Fuel and Power Commission in Western Australia is recognised not only throughout Australia, but also overseas, for the work it is doing in the investigation of solar, tidal, nuclear, and various other types of energy sources. This commission was established by the Tonkin Government and we are pleased to note that it has been encouraged by the present Government. I trust that no stone will be left unturned to ensure that every type of energy available in this State is investigated.

Sir Charles Court: Your leader roundly criticised our efforts to get the tidal power study.

Mr MAY: Not only did we set up the Fuel and Power Commission in Western Australia, but prior to the development of the Middle East situation the Western Australian Government, through the commission, established what we called the Emergency Buffer Fuel Committee. Incidentally, it was the first emergency fuel committee to be established in Australia, and just for the record, the Government decided that it should have representatives of private enterprise and Government organisations on the committee, because it felt that the private enterprise people would have the best idea of the requirements involving transportable and non-transportable fuels.

The committee comprised the Manager of the BP Refinery, the Power Production

Engineer of the State Electricity Commission, the Manager of Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas Pty. Ltd., the Controller of Stores of the Railways Department, the Senior Operations Officer of the Civil Defence Emergency Service, and the Executive Officer of the Fuel and Power Commission. Because of the possibility of a crisis concerning overseas fuel at that time, the committee met for the first time in October, 1973, and met frequently thereafter.

The Tonkin Government also decided to draft legislation to provide for an emergency if the fuel situation in the Middle East deteriorated. Although the legislation was never introduced, it was drafted ready for introduction should the situation deteriorate to such an extent that we considered the introduction of the legislation was necessary. I believe the draft is now in the hands of the present Government, but the situation has eased considerably and will ease a great deal more with the upgrading of the Muja power house which has a capacity of 240 MW at present. The Tonkin Government agreed to upgrade the capacity by another two units of 200 MW, or a total of 400 MW, to make 640 MW in all. We hoped to bring that into the grid system by the winter of 1979. Originally it was to be 1980, but because of the fuel situation it was decided to see whether the State Electricity Commission and the Fuel and Power Commission could bring the programme forward another year.

So we hope by 1979 the Muja power house will be on stream at 650 MW which will ease the present situation. I feel confident that not only will the Muja power house be extended to 640 MW, but that eventually it will be extended far in excess of 1000 MW. That power house carries the base load for Western Australia and it will continue to do so. It is situated where the deposits of coal are and I am sure that the capacity of the power house will be increased as the years go by.

I wish once more to deal with action by this Government led by the "Premier of no panic". When we left office in March of this year the recommendation had been made that the Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.—there are only two of these companies at Collie; that is, Western Collieries Ltd. and Griffin—be given the same concessions granted to Western Collieries. In other words, provided Griffin implemented a programme of controlled drilling in Collie, leases should be made available to it on the same basis as they were made available to Western Collieries. This was thought desirable in order that sufficient coal reserves might be retained for the use of the State Electricity Commission. This was the recommendation in the hands of the Tonkin Government at the time of the election.

Following the election nothing was made known about the recommendation of the Tonkin Government, and on a

number of occasions I was approached by representatives of the Griffin company asking me if I had heard anything about the application for leases because they had received no word. I therefore made a few inquiries. In May I rang the Mines Department and was put in touch with the senior officer there. I told him who I was and asked him whether he could pass my message on to the present Minister for Mines. I was advised subsequently that the recommendation had gone on to the Minister in practically the same terms as the recommendation made by the Tonkin Government. I thought that this was fair enough and that it would not be long before we heard something.

So in June I rang the department and asked about the decision which had been made in connection with the application. I was told that it was still in the hands of the Minister. That was in June. Then at the end of June or the beginning of July, I was told that the matter had gone on to the Premier. Again I thought that was fair enough because evidently the present Minister for Mines was not in a position to make a decision and the matter had to go to the Premier.

So I waited another week or two and then rang the Premier's office. I was then advised that the application was on his table, but that he was too busy to get onto it. Too busy! This is a fuel situation. "No panic" says the Premier.

Sir Charles Court: That does not happen to be true.

Mr MAY: This company wants to spend money to ensure that we have long-term reserves in Collie, but the Premier leaves the application on his table because he does not have time to deal with it.

Mr Mensaros: Did the company complain to you?

Mr MAY: Then at the end of July I rang again.

Mr Mensaros: No answer to my question.

Mr MAY: I was told that the matter had gone to Cabinet. So the Premier could not make a decision. I rang again in another week and was told the matter had been placed back in the hands of the Mines Department for consideration by officers to see whether they could come up with something to safeguard the interests of coal supplies to the State Electricity Commission and for other purposes.

That is fair enough, but goodness me! From March until August and still the company has not been given any indication that it will get the leases.

Mr Mensaros: That is not so. Did the company say that recently?

Sir Charles Court: If so it is being completely untrue.

Mr MAY: The company advises that it has not been given the leases.

Sir Charles Court: That is different.

Mr Mensaros: Did it complain?

Sir Charles Court: Were the representatives unhappy?

Mr MAY: Here we have a situation whereby in March a recommendation was made to the present Government.

Sir Charles Court: You have put your foot in it now.

Mr MAY: But there is no panic. Of course there is no panic. There was no panic between 1960 and 1971 and now we are in a similar situation. The other day I asked the Minister whether we were to revert to the veil of secrecy which was apparent earlier. Quite rightly, of course, the Minister is not in a position to say very much because he has to report to the Premier to find out what he is allowed to say; and so far, like the companies, we are under a veil of secrecy.

Mr Mensaros: There is no complaint by the companies. They know what is going on. They cannot say anything to the contrary.

Mr MAY: The situation is that we must know the full extent of the reserves at Collie. Here is a company which wants to expend money—not the Government's money but money of its own—to prove the reserves; but six months have gone by and the Government has not made a decision. If that is not an indictment of the Government I do not know what is. The Premier can smile. He is red in the face because he knows he is wrong. He always goes red in the face when he knows he is wrong.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: Does that apply to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as well?

Mr Rushton: What about the Mining Bill you sat on for three years?

Mr MAY: This is a Government which is supposed to look after private enterprise and industries of Western Australia. It had every opportunity from 1960 to 1971 to be able to prove the situation in Collie. Had it done that, the State Electricity Commission would not be in the position of having to increase charges. I will develop this subject further during the debate on the Estimates, but just now I would like to say that the SEC would not be in its present situation if the Brand-Court Government between 1960 and 1971 had done something about it. There is no need for the Government to worry about finance, because the company wants to spend its own.

Sir Charles Court: We put the price of power down three times.

Mr MAY: The Premier says there is no panic. Of course there is not. What did we do? We encouraged companies to drill. We put stability back into Collie so that the people have confidence in the town. It is not possible now to obtain a house in Collie. I am quite sure the Minister for Housing is pleased with the situation there because the majority of the houses are occupied. I am sure the member for Collie is pleased because citizens want to live in Collie and work there, and be part of the town.

The situation was different on Christmas Eve in 1960, because on that day 600 miners received retrenchment notices from the Government because the then Premier said there was not enough coal in the long term. What does he call the long term? There were 300 million tons of coal, but he said there was not enough in the long term.

Sir Charles Court: The coalminers' union did not agree at that time.

Mr MAY: The situation—

Sir Charles Court: You said we had over-estimated on the coal.

Mr T. H. Jones: All you wanted to do—

Sir Charles Court: The member for Collie should keep quiet. He should bow his head in shame.

Mr T. H. Jones: All you wanted to do was wreck the miners' union and you know it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MAY: A recommendation was made in March of this year and it is now the 8th August. Quite a time has elapsed since this Government came into office and yet no decision has been made to grant leases to the Griffin company.

Sir Charles Court: Are they unhappy?

Mr MAY: No decision has been announced in regard to the granting of leases. I sincerely trust the present Government does not have any thoughts in mind about bringing a further company into the Collie coalfield because it is quite obvious that it is only a two-company field. There is no doubt about that. If the present Government has any idea—I sincerely hope it does not—of bringing companies into Collie, I trust the members on this side of the House will voice their opinions in opposition to the proposal. There is a deathly silence over there for a change. I certainly hope that the Government is not looking for another company to come into the area.

Sir Charles Court: We will make an appropriate decision in the correct manner at the right time.

Mr MAY: The right time! That is a fallacious statement.

Sir Charles Court: Is the company annoyed?

Mr MAY: A Liberal-Country Party Government was in office for 12 years and there was never any right time.

Sir Charles Court: What about the retrenchments during the Hawke Government's regime?

Mr MAY: The Premier gets into a corner and cannot get out of it so he brings in extraneous matters.

Sir Charles Court: What extraneous matters?

Mr MAY: The Premier is not prepared to stand up and say, "Yes, our Government"—the present Government—"did not do the right thing."

Sir Charles Court: Why not talk about the retrenchments under the Hawke Government?

Mr MAY: Did the previous Liberal-Country Party Government underestimate the coal reserves at Collie? Will the Premier answer "Yes" or "No"?

Sir Charles Court: Wait a minute.

Mr MAY: I will not wait a minute. I have only a few moments left. Either answer "Yes" or "No" or do not answer at all.

Sir Charles Court: The Collie coalminers said we had overestimated the reserves.

Mr T. H. Jones: That was only Marshall's idea. He came over for two days and went back east.

Sir Charles Court: They did not want to overcut because they said we had overestimated.

Mr MAY: In order to ease things, I will get onto fuel and power.

Mr T. H. Jones: He flew over and back and you fell for it.

Sir Charles Court: Don't you—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Clontarf is on another subject.

Mr MAY: I would like now to pass on to a few other matters and say that when the Tonkin Government was in power it requested the Fuel and Power Commission to look into a number of questions. I think the present Minister for Electricity is going along in the same vein and trying to carry out what we endeavoured to do; namely, to have a look at the situation in terms of the eastern goldfields and its power requirements.

There has been a considerable amount of advice in regard to the piping of natural gas from Dampier to Perth. Members may recall there were three routes—one was from Dampier to the Eastern States

via Palm Valley; the second was from Palm Valley via the eastern goldfields to Perth, and the third was from Dampier to Perth.

When this was announced by the Australian Government the Fuel and Power Commission—Mr Parker, Mr Kirkwood, Mr Gillies, and a number of other officers—put up a submission to the Tonkin Government indicating it would be in the best interests of Western Australia if the initial pipeline were built off the north-west shelf of Dampier, and thence taken from Dampier to Perth. This submission was very comprehensive.

I visited Canberra and took with me Mr Parker, Mr Kirkwood and, I think Mr Cooper, as Under-Secretary for Mines. We were told by the Minister for Minerals and Energy—who is still the Minister for that portfolio, and whom members opposite are not too happy about—that he was convinced, Western Australia had a particularly good case because of the urgency of the fuel situation in Western Australia. He indicated that the first priority should be given to a pipeline from Dampier to Perth.

Mr Mensaros: Was this given in writing?

Mr MAY: Yes, it was definitely in writing.

Mr Mensaros: It was not given in a positive manner.

Mr MAY: This was announced in front of the senior officers; there is no doubt about that. The Commonwealth Minister agreed we had first priority in terms of natural gas, and that ultimately when the national grid system came about the link from the eastern goldfields to Palm Valley could be negotiated.

This was the Tonkin Government's philosophy in terms of the natural gas situation and after a submission was made to the Commonwealth Government it agreed. As members know I have been asking questions of the Minister seeking information as to whether there has been any further word in connection with this pipeline from Dampier to Perth; because Mr McGee, General Manager of WAPET, prior to leaving Western Australia indicated that it would not be before 1980 that natural gas would arrive in Perth. The sooner we get natural gas from the north-west shelf the better it will be. Even allowing for the upgrading of the Collie power house, we could use natural gas and the coal we will be getting from Collie.

A feasibility study was conducted into the question of the routes, and another feasibility study was undertaken by our own commission. I believe the diameter of the pipe envisaged was 32 inches, which would have cost in the vicinity of \$300 million. Our Fuel and Power Commission had

a look at the matter and considered the expense and the possibility of other areas of gas being discovered off the south-west coast and felt this would not warrant a pipe of 32 inches. Accordingly the commission suggested a pipe with a diameter of 26 inches be investigated; and this would, of course, reduce the cost of the pipeline.

That was the situation when the Tonkin Government went out of office. At this point of time, however, I am not too sure how this has progressed.

We had a very good rapport with the Woodside Burmah Company which was keen to get on with the development of its deposits on the north-west shelf. I am sure it will not be long before the company will be able to get on with the job. I certainly hope it will not be too long because we need oil very badly. We have no real worry about natural gas; there is plenty of that. The question of natural gas in terms of the Pilbara concept is still under study and I believe the results of the study will be announced in September. The Commonwealth Government and Woodside Burmah know there is oil on the north-west shelf and they know it can be used in the long term. I hope the companies which are spending a great deal of risk capital on the north-west shelf will be successful in their endeavours, because they certainly deserve to be successful.

This applies especially to WAPET which was the first company to find oil in Western Australia, and is responsible for the 275-mile pipeline from Dongara to Perth.

Sir Charles Court: They are getting no encouragement from the Commonwealth.

Mr MAY: The Premier is developing a "Commonwealth Charlie" complex.

Sir Charles Court: You complained about the Commonwealth because they confiscated everything at the wellhead.

Mr MAY: The Commonwealth has eased the situation in terms of the variable deposit. The Premier goes on television and says that a wonderful job is being done but that something more should be done. How does he think we operated for three years?

The Tonkin Government will go down in history as one of the best Governments that ever governed Western Australia; and it governed under conditions which were far more onerous than was the case during the years of the Brand-Court Government which had a virile economic climate.

Sir Charles Court: We created it.

Mr MAY: While I was overseas the majority of the large companies told me that had the Federal Government of the day lifted the embargo on iron ore exports

before 1959 Western Australia would have been on the top in terms of industrial development, long before the time when the then Minister for Industrial Development—the present Premier—was in office.

Sir Charles Court: As late as the 7th August the Commonwealth Government confirmed the takeover of gas at the wellhead—the thing that you complained about and we complained about.

Mr MAY: We had the situation at the Mau Field, which is offshore, where the New Zealand Government paid the company \$30 million to bring gas from the wellhead to the beach after which it is to be reticulated by the New Zealand Government throughout New Zealand. This shows what can be done if Governments and private enterprises work together. Here we have the Government of New Zealand and the company concerned working in conjunction with each other.

The New Zealand Government is still involved in the exploration of natural gas in New Zealand, and is co-operating with the company. It is common for Governments overseas to take a greater interest in the development of the resources available.

Sir Charles Court: The Commonwealth Government as late as the 7th August said it would take over the gas at the wellhead—full stop. There is no question of bringing it in or having it refined by the company.

Mr MAY: I spoke to the principals of Woodside Burmah and they were pleased that the Government was going to pipe the gas from the wellhead.

Sir Charles Court: I bet they were not.

Mr MAY: They certainly were.

Sir Charles Court: They want to be involved in more sophisticated process.

Mr MAY: Because of the tides and the currents in the north-west it will be necessary to have a dual system of pipes from the north-west shelf and one can imagine how much the companies will save if the Commonwealth Government takes over the pipeline and the natural gas at the wellhead.

Sir Charles Court: Power stations are the most natural users of gas.

Mr MAY: Nobody denies that. But, as I have said repeatedly, we do not want to burn natural gas for that purpose if we can possibly avoid doing so.

Sir Charles Court: You have only talked about natural gas for power to date—this is the most uneconomic use. I thought you were going to talk about fuel energy in its major concept.

Mr MAY: The Premier would not be in a position to talk about it.

Sir Charles Court: I think I would back my judgment against yours.

Mr MAY: That may be so, but our judgment was sound when we came into office in 1971.

Mr Rushton: Was it?

Mr MAY: It is all right for the Minister for Local Government to interject; but I suggest it would be far better if he looked after his own department.

The judgment of the Tonkin Government was proved to be correct, when the State Electricity Commission decided at the time that it did not want to allocate leases to the company at Collie; but the Tonkin Government went against the State Electricity Commission and granted the leases to one company at Collie. Even the State Electricity Commission admitted that it had underestimated the amount of coal at Collie. We did have the foresight to look into the question and it is just as well we did.

Mr Rushton: You had quick foresight.

Mr MAY: It is just as well we did look into the matter, because one can imagine what the price of fuel in Western Australia would have been if this Government had its way.

I only hope the Fuel and Power Commission will be given every opportunity to expand its operations in Western Australia. It was operating on a shoestring and trying to appoint experienced men to the commission. I am sure the present Minister is in accord with the operation of the Fuel and Power Commission.

When the matter of electricity charges comes up during the debate on the Estimates I shall have something more to say, because I think once again the people of Western Australia must be told. Even *The West Australian* newspaper has referred to the shortsightedness of the Brand-Court Government in connection with its actions in Collie.

The Government must tell the people what it proposes to do and what they are likely to be up for. It is of no use the Premier saying that he has to put up the charges because of the action of the Commonwealth Government. The charges are being increased only because of the ineptitude of the Brand-Court Government prior to 1971.

MR CRANE (Moore) [4.58 p.m.]: As I rise to my feet on what will be a memorable occasion for me I feel very humble indeed. I have been schooled lately in the problems of making a maiden speech, and after a thorough analysis of what I have been told it would seem there is nothing to be really worried about because nobody bothers to listen anyway!

Besides this feeling of humility I do feel a great sense of responsibility to the people of Moore who elected me; and I thank them sincerely for the trust they have placed in me. I pledge I will always serve them to the best of my ability.

Before continuing I feel I should, as previous members have done, congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your high office. You have shown us this afternoon that you bring to this office the dignity and decorum that is necessary.

I thank those members who have welcomed the new members to this Chamber; and I, too, would like to congratulate the other members who have been elected to Parliament. While I am in the process of thanking everybody I feel that I should on behalf of the electors of Moore thank my predecessor (Mr Edgar Lewis) who faithfully served the electorate of Moore for a period of some 16 years. I hope he enjoys his retirement. As with all members of Parliament, it was probably not possible for him to be popular with everyone. This of course also applies to all of us. I do know, however, from my travels through the electorate of Moore that Edgar Lewis gained many friends. I also know that while he was here he gained the respect of members on both sides of the House.

I will start my address by explaining the composition of the electorate of Moore. It is made up of eight families—the shires of Goomalling, Victoria Plains, Wongan-Ballidu, Dalwallinu, Coorow, Dandaragan, Gingin, and Moora.

On behalf of the people of Moore, I would like in this House to thank the officers of these shires, and particularly the shire presidents and councillors, for the valuable work they do. They are the people who really give us our democratic form of government. It is the government that is closest to the people. The councillors serve on their shire councils without any thought of reward except the satisfaction of having served their community well. They come in for a great deal of criticism, particularly at ratepayers' meetings, and that is when we know how close this type of government is to the people.

The electorate of Moore, while a rural electorate, is made up of people from all walks of life. They are not only farmers—perhaps farmers are least in number in rural areas. There are people backing the rural areas who work in motor garages, shops, and offices; school teachers, and so on. They come from all walks of life. The industries I represent are quite varied. For instance, on the west coast we have the fishing industry, which adds a great deal to the export-earning capacity of this State. This industry is backed by people who work in the processing factories.



Further east, we go through the grazing areas which have made their valuable contribution. I hope they are able to continue to do so but I wonder and worry very much about the escalating costs, particularly when the superphosphate subsidy is to be taken away and other costs are to be increased. Moving further east in my electorate through the grazing areas, we come to the wheatbelt. Everyone knows the contribution the wheatgrower has made to Australia.

I do not think there is any need for me to tell members how important the wheat industry is. There has been an outcry lately about the deferment of the wheat payment. While some people do not seem to worry about it, I point out that the wheat producer does not hold that money in his hot little hand for long. It passes on to the rest of the community of Australia. Therefore, no-one should be fooled into thinking it is not an industry that is worth preserving. It is worth preserving.

Many problems are experienced in the rural industry, and as I am one of the last speakers for rural electorates I suppose members have heard about the problems before. But on behalf of the people of Moore I must reiterate them.

One can start with any one of the problems but I will take education first. This is a problem of paramount importance. It appeals to the emotions of people who are trying to put their particular problem relative to the work they are doing in government. However, it is important to us people in the rural areas. It is an expensive pastime—if that is the word—to send one's children away to the city where they can receive better education. I believe—and I hope I can convince members of it—that it is of paramount importance that secondary education in country areas and the establishment of school hostels be complementary to each other. It has always been a problem to obtain a better education in rural areas. In my electorate we do not yet have a senior high school. One will be completed in a few months' time, and we are very appreciative of that; but we expected to have it three years ago.

In education in country areas there is also a problem for those people who are unfortunate enough to have handicapped children. This is a problem wherever one lives but it is exaggerated in rural areas and I feel a compassionate Government must take it into consideration.

We have other problems in regard to doctors. I have a problem in the House, with a doctor alongside me—the member for Subiaco—who keeps digging me in the ribs; but I wish everyone in the country had a doctor as close to him as I have. Some people in country areas, particularly in my electorate, must travel 70 miles to see a doctor.

All our problems are interrelated, and perhaps I will be castigated for what I am about to say. However, a disproportionate increase in license fees for heavy vehicles was recently introduced. I remind members that in the country a heavy vehicle is not a luxury but, in many cases, a necessity. I have never yet seen a Minister of the Crown do a trip in the country in a Mini Minor.

Water is, of course, one of the prime necessities of life. I hope that through the good offices of the members of this House the comprehensive water scheme will be encouraged and that we will persuade the Commonwealth Government to make additional grants available so that the scheme may be extended to people who require water, which is not a luxury but a necessity. Electricity is considered by some people to be a luxury but it is also a necessity, and I support the remarks of the member for Katanning yesterday when he said he hoped the State Electricity Commission would extend its services.

The matter of telephones is a running sore in rural communities. I have in my file correspondence from people in my electorate going back to 1968. The file was handed to me by the member for Mt. Marshall because part of my electorate was in his area. These people keep asking the same questions and getting the same replies, and I wonder whether our priorities are right.

While speaking about priorities, I refer to television. When watching television in outer areas, one of the prerequisites is to put on a "beanie" and snow shoes because all one will see is snow, and at least one feels at home. Yet members who say they have the interests of people at heart support the introduction of colour television when the country areas are not being served adequately by black and white television and, more importantly, they are not even getting an adequate telephone service. I believe our priorities are not right, and I feel very strongly on that point.

The rural industry is, of course, the backbone of rural areas; but it is augmented and supported by the other people from all walks of life whom I have mentioned. Unfortunately, in the last few years there has been an exodus of people from rural areas. This has been brought about by many factors—sometimes by unfulfilled promises and sometimes by lack of action on the part of people in responsible places.

I suppose one of the most important features of the rural industry is marketing. Here again, we find we run up against a brick wall in trying to find a satisfactory solution to the problem. Unfortunately, in the two organisations which represent the rural industry in Western Australia, we

very often find, to the detriment of the industry, that while the philosophies of the organisations are different they apparently spend a great deal of time in empire building within their organisations rather than being concerned about the industry itself.

I say this without fear of contradiction because that is the impression I get as I move around the electorate. I have mentioned the matter to the presidents of both organisations. I do not blame them—I believe they are honourable men—but I consider the executives of the organisations could spend a great deal more time concerning themselves with the industry itself rather than with their own empire building.

Two forms of marketing are usually propagated by these organisations. One is the free enterprise system, which many have supported over the years and which has in some instances stood the test of time. The other form is statutory marketing, which some people believe to be the panacea for all our problems. I do not align myself completely with either side because we must have an opportunity to apply the best of both.

Only last week I was at a meeting in Watheroo where the growers of a new commodity in Western Australia—lupins—were hoping to devise a scheme whereby they could have the freedom to choose between both marketing systems. No doubt some will take sides in this instance, but I urge members of this House at least to give it an opportunity, have a good look at it, and see whether we can make it work. We can put men on the moon, so surely we can do anything else we want to do.

I move on to some other problems which affect the rural industry. I keep mentioning the rural industry because that is where the greatest part of the wealth of this country comes from. Rural people have the heaviest end of the log to lift and the least number of people to lift it, and someone has to speak for them. Unfortunately, many of the problems about which people tell me as I move through the electorate cannot easily be solved by the State Government because they emanate from policies which are set in Canberra. I do not wish or intend to point the bone at anybody because I believe we here have to do some serious soul-searching; but I must say some of the policies frighten me a little.

It must be remembered that I speak as a farmer. The joys and sorrows that farmers know are my familiar friends because I have experienced them. There is an old bush saying that one does not know what it is to be stung by a bull ant until one has been stung, and when it comes to farming I believe I have been stung by most of the problems. With my

wife, I pitched a tent, and we carved our farm from the virgin bush, so I know what the problems are. I am proud of my family and of the family farm, of which they are also proud. It is not easy to do these things and when obstacles are put in our way the task is made so much more difficult.

I firmly believe that the land we develop does not really belong to us; it is only on loan to us for as long as we live. It is a priceless heritage which must be handed on to those who follow. We should hand it on in at least as good condition as it was in when we took it over, and probably in better condition; but under some of the policies of today that is not possible.

The encroachment of salt over our country is something we must come to grips with. One of the easiest cures for this problem is to fence off the affected areas. This is one of the methods we all used. I said "used", in the past tense, because the taxation concessions for most kinds of fencing have been taken away from us and the incentive is gone. This country of ours, Australia, is to be handed on to future generations, and it is our responsibility, and the responsibility of those elected to all Houses of Parliament, to ensure it is handed on in a better condition than it was in when we took it over.

Another problem which emanates from Canberra is, of course, that of water. We know that Australia can be practically described as a waterless continent. Water is a priceless commodity that should be conserved at all costs. Every drop of water that falls on our land should be conserved; yet here we find again that the incentives we had to conserve water have been taken away from us.

I am not pleading this case on behalf of the farmers. They will survive because they have the courage to survive; they would not be there if they did not. I am speaking on behalf of the people of Australia, because they are the ones who will benefit most from policies which are streamlined to help overcome this serious matter of the conservation of water in this semi-waterless continent.

There is another problem which faces Australia, and it faces us all because it discriminates once more against the primary producer. I refer to the problem of high taxation. As you know, Sir, under the system we have if one has a good season one knows that high taxation will follow like a tidal wave; and if that good season is followed up by a bad season one is in a serious situation indeed. That is why I commend the suggestion that a system, such as the use of taxation prosperity bonds, be implemented to alleviate this problem.

Probate, of course, is a hardy annual, but I must mention it because it is true that it is an iniquitous tax which discriminates against those who would build, and develop and I do not believe they should be discriminated against. If I were a bricklayer or a carpenter my tools of trade would be a trowel and plumb-bob, or a hammer and saw; and I could earn a living from those tools as a tradesman. I am not a bricklayer, nor am I a carpenter; I am a farmer and my tools of trade are my farm. The money that I earned from farms by myself and others is a contribution to the wealth of this nation. One of the things I would ask on behalf of all primary producers is that they be given the opportunity to an equal share at the table of the wealth of the nation.

The farmers are a very conscientious group: they have never failed us yet. Industrial strife is unknown in this industry, and it is the wish of those in the industry to produce for themselves and for the world at large. This is an honourable task for anyone to undertake.

I intend to mention now the superphosphate subsidy which has been taken away from the farmers. Many people say that this subsidy was not in the interests of Australia. I believe it was. Food is one of the fundamentals of life and it is the responsibility of us all to ensure that food is produced as cheaply as possible for the masses. It is not the farmer who will benefit mainly from a super subsidy; and this can be proved, but I do not believe it is my responsibility to prove it at this time. It is the people themselves who in paying more for their food will pay the price for this thoughtless deed.

The price of petrol in rural and country areas is another problem with which we are faced today. This problem was foisted upon us recently, and I have already explained that some people merely to visit their doctor must travel 70 miles. I am sure the removal of this concession must add to their costs and their concern. Again, hospitals are facilities that we must have and I hope we can encourage the development of regional hospitals in rural areas.

My concern in outlining these policies which are directed at the rural industries is that, to coin an old phrase, I am afraid that if these policies are persisted with we might find we will strangle the goose that lays the golden egg. That would be a tragedy for us all.

We also have other problems facing us; they are the problems of the States and individual State rights, and the problems of local government. The problems of local government worry those in rural areas because we rely so heavily upon that form of Government. I would say here

and now—and I make no excuse for saying it—that I firmly believe the course towards centralist policies was charted long ago, but it is only recently that the engines have been put to full speed ahead.

The Constitution as it is framed is there to preserve the rights of the States. I believe it was designed by very wise people for a very real purpose, and it must be defended just as strenuously as our individual rights must be defended.

Something that worries me—and we see this not only in the country, but right throughout Australia now—is the tendency to inculcate in people the notion that they should receive rewards for laziness. I refer, of course, to handouts to those who are not prepared to work. Work is one of the necessities of life; it is a healthy occupation and it is not a dirty word. I believe that work and the rewards which come from honest work must be encouraged by us all.

A problem worrying all of us in the rural areas at present is the division that seems to be encouraged between people who live in urban areas and those who live in country areas. I would say that the leader of any nation has a tremendous responsibility to keep together the people of that nation and not to divide them. I just question whether this is always being done because we hear phrases such as “never had it so good” directed at farmers.

I would conclude so far as farmers are concerned on this note: Whilst it may be true that this year we experienced a summer of optimism we face now the winter of despair.

When I speak of the problems brought about by the policies foisted upon us I think of inflation. This problem is moving across Australia like an insidious cancerous growth. Have we honestly tried to come to grips with it? Have we all dedicated ourselves to its destruction or to the halting of it? I doubt that we have. I am sure that with the other new members of Parliament, I enter this political arena at a moment of critical importance in our history. I would remind you, Sir, that some such moments have in the past been the prelude to disaster; but they can also be the turning point towards prosperity.

It behoves us to co-operate to do this for the country we love so much. Dunkirk, when those brave little boats went out and their occupants faced and defeated almost impossible odds, was for Britain such a moment; but of no more paramount importance to us than the critical stage we have reached today. We stand at the crossroads and I believe that it is we, the elected representatives of the people, who will always have the responsibility to show leadership, to show co-operation, and to guide the people away from this terrible stage that we are reaching.

The moral fibre of our nation is decaying. We are faced with pollution of two kinds. We know of the pollution of the environment, but there is another one far worse, I believe; that is, the pollution of our minds. We see the filth that is presented to us and we seem to be powerless before it. I believe we must take a stand and make people realise where their responsibility really lies, and I am sure we will do it. As I have said, we are the people who are looked upon to give this lead in society.

We will have to compromise with each other a great deal; we will have to be prepared to exchange servility for fortitude; to exchange our buck-passing tactics for responsibility; and to exchange our vote-catching efforts for statesmanship. The challenge is ours; are we big enough to take it up? I would hope that we are and I am sure if we do take it up then, by the examples we set, the dignity of our democratic parliamentary system will be lifted and preserved. To do this it will be necessary for us all to be honest with ourselves. I put this thought forward because it was said to me many times as I moved throughout my electorate during my election campaign. People are a little tired of the manner in which those who represent them sometimes behave. It was said to me on more than one occasion: "Please be honest with yourself because if you cannot be honest with yourself you most certainly will not be honest with anybody else."

I suggest that spirit was best summed up by Shakespeare in his inimitable way in the concluding passage of the message of Polonius to his son: "This above all: to thine own self be true; And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

I thank you, Mr Speaker, and members of the House for listening to me on the first and only occasion I suppose that I will enjoy immunity from being heckled. I have been told that this House tames lions. That does not worry me very much because I am not a lion. But I do hope that members here do not pull tail feathers, because I am a "Crane"!

I sincerely meant what I said about my service to my electorate and about the responsibility I believe we in this Parliament all have when we undertake the duties that are before us today.

**MR SHALDERS (Murray)** [5.27 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, before speaking to the motion moved by the member for Wellington, may I firstly add my congratulations to those of other members to her on her election as the only lady member of the Legislative Assembly in the Twenty-eighth Parliament. May I also, Sir, add to the many congratulations you have received

my own congratulations to you on your election to such high office in this Parliament. I am not so young that I do not remember you in your time as a sportsman in this State. I believe you were well respected by your opponents for your fairness and good sportsmanship, and I think members of both sides of the House know that you will bring the same fairness to the office you now hold.

I also congratulate the Premier and Ministers of the Government on his election and their appointment to those positions. I congratulate also the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy on their appointments.

I think it is appropriate at this time to thank members from both sides of the House—and I do so sincerely—for the encouragement and assistance they have given me since I was elected. They have all gone out of their way to make this trying time one of easiness for me. It is also appropriate to thank the officers, the attendants, and the staff of this House for the help they have given me.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank the electors and the people of the Murray electorate for the confidence and faith they have shown in me by electing me to represent them. I am conscious that I represent the electorate of a former Premier of Western Australia. I refer to the late Hon. Sir Ross McLarty who served Murray for a period of 32 years and during that time earned the respect of all members.

I wish also to pay tribute to the last member for Murray (Mr Ewart Runciman), who retired at the end of the Twenty-seventh Parliament. He served his electorate and his State with honour and dignity.

The tributes that were paid to him at a function held in the electorate upon his retirement reflected the esteem and respect in which he was held by those he represented.

Turning now to affairs concerning my electorate, I wish to say, firstly, that I regard it a privilege to represent such an electorate as Murray. Because it has such a diversity of natural attractions and a variety of industries and occupations I will be afforded the opportunity to become vitally interested in, and play a part in, much of the business that will come before this House during this Parliament.

Initially I would like to mention the waters of the Peel Inlet and its tributaries. These waters are a tremendous natural asset and, in a number of ways, are almost unique. However, currently they are at risk, mainly due to an increase in the growth of weed and algae. There is a possibility that they will be subjected still further, in the future, to other forms of pollution. The reason for this increased

growth of weed and algae is not clear and has not been well established. It is possible, however, that the reduction in the water flow over the years is partly responsible for the problem, together with the increased amounts of fertiliser that are being carried into the estuary as a result of the run-off of water from the various farms in the area. This may have contributed to the problem. Whatever the causes are, the problem is creating a good deal of annoyance and causing a great deal of trouble to the professional fishermen who earn their livelihood from these waters.

Apart from the fishermen, the thousands of local residents and tourists who visit the area to indulge in the many leisure activities that are offering there, such as fishing, crabbing, prawning, and boating, are subjected to a great deal of inconvenience. The problem is also inconveniencing those who have homes bordering the area, because when this weed begins to rot the stench that emanates from it has to be smelt to be believed.

I think the former Minister for Health will agree with me when I say that because he visited the area just prior to the election. I am sure that brought the problem home to him in view of the rapid action he took at the time in an endeavour to solve it.

I wish to compliment the Peel Inlet Advisory Committee for its work in the past and in the present. The members of that committee have performed a great service and have already achieved much. I welcome the commitment by the Premier, to create a statutory body, with its own powers, to exercise control over these waters and associated areas.

Mandurah is also the centre for boats that are used by fishermen engaged in the rock lobster industry. In the past these fishermen have been faced with a problem in trying to gain exit through the entrance to the estuary so that they may engage in deep sea fishing. That problem has now been largely overcome by the building of training walls to prevent the building up of the sand. However I believe it is possible that the provision of these training walls have created another problem; that of erosion.

I am sure every member of this Parliament, and indeed every person in Western Australia, is familiar with the problem of erosion now being experienced by those people residing in the Ormsby Terrace area of my electorate. I can assure the House that I am concerned about this problem. I know the Government is concerned and I have made the Government aware of the concern of the people in my electorate. The Mandurah Shire Council is also concerned about the erosion, and again I have made the Government aware of the concern that is felt by that council.

At this point I congratulate the Government on its initiative in extending its understanding and assistance to the shire. Previously the shire was offered a subsidy of \$2 to \$1, but the Government has now increased its offer to \$3 to \$1. I believe this shows that the Government fully realises that shire councils have difficulties with their finances at the moment. The local shire is currently considering the Government's proposal and I hope its determinations will lead to the start of some operations that will afford relief in the near future.

I also applaud Cabinet's approval of the formation of a subcommittee to deal with erosion problems in all areas of the State. I hope that that committee will meet with all the success possible.

I turn now to mention another natural asset of my electorate; that is, the large tract of State forest in the Dwellingup area. Unfortunately the dieback disease has already claimed 40 000 acres of forest. This is causing grave concern. At present experiments and research are being carried out on reforestation, but to date only a small area of approximately 200 to 300 acres of State forest has been replanted with trees. It is hoped that successful replanting of alternative species with commercial value can be accelerated. I say "commercial value" because the livelihood of those employed in the timber industry at Dwellingup is at stake.

Although, to me, Dwellingup is probably the most politically unkind area in my electorate, I assure the House and the people residing there that I intend to work unstintingly in an endeavour to achieve some form of stability for the timber industry and to assure the people employed in it that their livelihood will not be placed in jeopardy.

Within the Murray electorate there is a great diversity of primary industries. Dairy farming is carried on from North Dandalup, in the north of the electorate, through to Pinjarra, Coolup, Waroona, and Wagerup at the southern extremity of the electorate. Those engaged in the dairying industry are hoping that the recently created single dairy authority will cater better for their interests than the bodies it replaced. Those people will be watching with great interest and concern the early period of the operation of that authority.

The production of beef and sheep, pig raising, and fruit growing are other primary industries carried on in my electorate. All those engaged in these industries are concerned at the rising cost of items which are necessary for their industry. I could mention superphosphate, fuel, and labour as only a few of the items which have rapidly risen in price in the past few months. In contrast to that, in some cases, the returns are diminishing. This is causing a drastic state of affairs and

the people involved are looking to the Government for ways and means to alleviate these difficulties and they are seeking advice so that they may find ways to achieve better and more efficient marketing—an aspect which is so important in these days of intense competition.

Members are no doubt aware of the bauxite mining operations of Alcoa near Pinjarra. The establishment of this project, with its expansion, and its daily operations, have led to a population explosion in Mandurah and the development of a satellite town at Carcoola, or North Pinjarra. The company is well aware of its responsibility to protect the environment wherever possible and it is making strenuous efforts to replant trees in those areas affected by mining operations. To date, its mining operations have been carried on largely in forest areas which have been affected by the dieback disease, so any successful reforestation can only be to the long term benefit of the area.

The company has also accepted the responsibility of participating in community affairs by making generous donations to local organisations and, indeed to the Government. I can well recall the former Minister for Health in the Tonkin Government congratulating the company on its participation in, and its contributions to, the extensions to the Pinjarra Hospital by meeting over half the cost of \$500 000.

I hope that smaller industries will be encouraged and offered incentives to decentralise and that some of them might see fit to select my area as a centre or sub-centre for their operations.

The people in the Murray electorate work in the many and varied industries I have described. They are also employed in the shops, offices, businesses, and schools that are necessary to meet the daily wants of the residents. I wish to make special mention of the large number of pensioners residing in my electorate. Being on a fixed income, in today's world of rising costs for every commodity, they have been hard hit. I have already made representations to both the Premier, as Treasurer of this State, and to the Federal Treasurer, to try to provide some relief for these people. In particular I have called upon the Federal Treasurer to provide greater concessions in respect of telephones which I consider to be vital and necessary to these people who are more likely to be in need of essential medical and hospital services than perhaps citizens of other age groups, because they are less able to avail themselves of alternative methods to contact those services.

I have suggested to the Federal Treasurer that he might consider reducing the telephone installation and rental costs to pensioners. I have also suggested that he may consider allowing pensioners to pay the initial connection fee for a telephone

installation, and the first rental charge, on a fortnightly basis. This would overcome the difficulty of pensioners having to find such a large amount in a lump sum.

I am also keenly aware of the impact on pensioners of the proposed increases of vehicle registration fees which have been announced by the Government, and indeed of the impact of the increased cost of commodities that have also been announced. Nevertheless, I think the Leader of the Opposition would be less than frank if he did not admit that had his Government been re-elected it would have had to take many of the same measures that have been taken by my Government to date.

I suggest, and I am in the process of communicating my suggestion to the Federal Treasurer, that in view of the tremendous increase in revenue collected by that Government through the medium of income tax, that it offer the State Government an amount equivalent to that which would be lost to the State Government if it waived vehicle registration fees to pensioners, and, at the same time, provide matching money to the State Government to meet the amount it would have collected from pensioners in vehicle license fees.

I hope, during the time I have been speaking, I have communicated to the members of this House some of the background of the natural attractions, industries, problems, and hopes existing among the people in my electorate at the time of my election to this House as their representative.

I thank members for their indulgence on the occasion of this, my first speech in the House, and conclude with the hope that I may emulate my predecessors in the service given by them as representatives of the Murray electorate.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Moller.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Speaker, if I may, with your indulgence, I would like to explain that in view of the important Premiers' Conference called for next Tuesday to consider ways and means of combating inflation at the national level, both the Deputy Premier and myself will not be present in the Chamber on that day.

I have explained the position to the Leader of the Opposition. The Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and Housing will be Acting Premier in our absence.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.*