

A publication such as the "Sex Review" could never hope to be free from attack under a Government which deals in fascism and stand-over tactics.

If Mr. Willis and his ilk have their way, the people of New South Wales will never read anything more daring than Grimm's Fairy Tales.

Where will your vote go next time?

The Hon. J. Dolan: I should point out that the Willis mentioned is not related to our Mr. Willesee.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I would ask members to look at these three publications in their own time, and to consider whether or not they are pornographic. It is high time we looked into the position which appears to be getting worse.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: It appears to be worse in the other States.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: These publications come from other States.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Obviously the Chief Secretary of New South Wales has taken some action.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Apparently so. There is much more I can talk about in this debate, but as the hour is rather late I will conclude my remarks by indicating my support of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police).

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

(No. 2)

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police), read a first time.

*House adjourned at 12.11 a.m.
(Wednesday).*

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 8th August, 1972

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

HANSARD

Availability

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) [4.31 p.m.]: I mention to members that *Hansard* will not be available for general distribution until tomorrow afternoon. This is due to the excessive work with which the Government Printer is faced. Should any member require a copy for a special purpose there is a limited number within the House.

HIRE-PURCHASE AND OTHER AGREEMENTS

Honorary Royal Commission: Report Presented

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [4.33 p.m.]: I present the report of the Honorary Royal Commission appointed to inquire into hire-purchase and other agreements.

The report was tabled.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [4.34 p.m.]: I present to the House the fourth report of the Public Accounts Committee. I move—

That the report be received.

Question put and passed.

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [4.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the report be printed.

By way of explanation, I would like to say that on the 15th March the Public Accounts Committee presented report No. 2. This report concerned itself with criticisms made by the Auditor-General in his report for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1971.

In accordance with a practice adopted by other Public Accounts Committees in Australia, the committee referred report No. 2 to the Treasurer for his comments. The Treasurer has returned his comments and these are now tabled as report No. 4.

Question put and passed.

The report was tabled.

QUESTIONS (50): ON NOTICE

1.

HOUSING

Electricity Meter Charge

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Housing:

(1) In regard to my unanswered letter to him dated 21st June, 1972 regarding the newly suggested \$10 electricity meter charge that is proposed for all State Housing Commission tenants of apartments and units, will he advise whether pensioners, people on fixed incomes and unemployed will be exempted as I have requested?

(2) Does he agree that the proposed \$10 meter charge for people who have been living a way of life under the former S.H.C. scheme is an unnecessary and harsh imposition on these people, particularly

as less than one year ago they were, with all metropolitan consumers, faced with a 21% increase in electricity charges?

- (3) If not, how does he justify this imposition?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Further consideration has been given to the question and the State Electricity Commission on taking over the accounts will now charge deposits as under:—

- (a) Tenants in occupation prior to 1st April, 1972 will be required to pay a deposit of \$2.00.
(b) Tenants occupying from 1st April will be required to pay a deposit of \$10.00 being the increased charge applicable to all new consumers from that date.

The question of exemptions is a policy one for consideration by the State Electricity Commission but would need to be applied to all such consumers, not only State Housing Commission tenants.

- (2) The deposit is refundable, and applies to all customers of the State Electricity Commission.
(3) Answered by (2).

2. WILSON INLET

Sand Bar

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the department received any objections to the opening of the bar between Wilson Inlet, Denmark and the ocean along the cliffs to the west of the bar?
(2) Is the department to be responsible for opening of the channel this year?
(3) Where is the channel to be opened this year?
(4) Is it intended to take a dredge to the Denmark bar next year to dredge a channel on the eastern side of the bar?
(5) Will he let me have any information relevant to the administration of the opening of the Denmark bar in the future?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) No.
(3) To be determined by the Denmark Shire Council.
(4) No.

- (5) In October, 1970, the Public Works Department agreed to a proposal by the Denmark Shire Council that the council accept the responsibility for the future opening of the ocean beach sand bar for a trial period of 5 years, subject to the bar being opened when the water level in the Inlet reached a level specified by the Public Works Department.

3. EMPLOYMENT BROKERS

Legislation

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is legislation proposed this session dealing with employment brokers and similar organisations?
(2) Is this legislation intended to include consultants involved in higher appointments, and, if so, why?
(3) Has thought been given to a special category for people in this field where special professional qualifications and higher appointments in corporations, etc., are involved, as distinct from the more traditional field of employment brokers?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) The legislation is to apply to every person who charges a fee or receives remuneration for or in connection with the hiring of any employee as is the case with the present Act.

The inclusion of all persons whose activities in any way involve the engagement of workers for a fee in any industry which is the subject of an award or agreement made under the State Industrial Arbitration Act is essential.

Section 178 of that Act prescribes that it is an offence for any person acting on behalf of an employer or worker to ask, demand, or receive any premium, payment, or reward in respect of any worker in any industry which is the subject of an award or industrial agreement unless the engagement is made through the agency of an employment broker acting under the provisions of the Employment Brokers' Act.

- (3) To be in a special category a person acting as an agent in procuring employees or effecting engagements would have to confine his activities to personnel who are not in an industry covered by an award or agreement.

4. NATURAL GAS

Use in Murchison and Eastern Goldfields

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Fuel:

- (1) What progress has been made in study of—
 - (a) feasibility of bringing natural gas from central Australia and/or South Australia to service Murchison and eastern goldfields' existing and potential communities and industries and other potential developments in these regions;
 - (b) feasibility of bringing natural gas from our north-west shelf to the areas mentioned in (a)?
- (2) Can he indicate the comparable costs and economics of the alternatives mentioned in (1)?
- (3) (a) What discussions have taken place with the Commonwealth, South Australian Government and companies concerned to reserve part of the central Australian and/or South Australian natural gas resources for use in Western Australia if needed;
- (b) what was the result of these discussions?
- (4) What understanding has been reached with the Commonwealth about export of Western Australian, central Australian and South Australian natural gas in relation to potential needs in Australia?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) (a) Market studies and approximate costing of pipelines have been carried out departmentally. Proving the extent of the field calls for further drilling.
- (b) An evaluation of the north-west shelf natural gas including possible supply to the north and potential southern markets, is being carried out by B.O.C. of Australia Ltd. Close liaison exists between the Government and the company which advises that the evaluation will take a further six to nine months to complete.
- (2) Not at this stage.
- (3) (a) and (b) Close liaison exists between the State and the Commonwealth both at Ministerial and officer level.
- (4) The understanding is that the Commonwealth will confer and take due cognizance of Western Australia's needs before making a decision on an application to export natural gas.

5. WATER SUPPLIES

Murchison and Eastern Goldfields: Estimate of Needs

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Have estimates been made of the industrial and community water needs in Murchison, eastern goldfields and nearby regions in—
 - (a) 1975;
 - (b) 1980;
 - (c) 1985?
- (2) (a) If so, what are they and how are the estimates arrived at;
- (b) what sources of supply are under study;
- (c) what is the stage and result of those studies;
- (d) what discussions have taken place with the Commonwealth for financial and other assistance and with what result?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Based on estimated world nickel demands and Western Australia's fraction of this demand, the Department of Development and Decentralisation has estimated the following water requirements:—
 - In 1975—6.69 million gallons per day.
 - In 1980—10.85 million gallons per day.
 - In 1985—19.66 million gallons per day.
- (b) (i) Underground water over 41,500 square miles in the East Murchison.
- (ii) Surface storages on the Ashburton and Murchison Rivers.
- (c) An underground water investigation is being undertaken on a regional basis and is made up of six sub-regional investigations. This work which has been under way in some areas for over two years is at various stages of completion in each of the six areas. The present stage may be summarised as follows:—
 - Windarra area—The investigation is at an advanced stage of testing with a likely source located.
 - Agnew area—The investigation stage virtually complete and satisfactory source located.

Mt. Keith—Considerable investigation carried out and useful quantities of water located but further work required.

Yellirrie—Preliminary investigations commenced.

Barrambie—Preliminary investigations commenced.

Mt. Clifford—Preliminary investigations about to commence.

Surface storage proposals—Preliminary engineering and geological investigations have been carried out on the Ashburton River and a river gauging station has been established. A preliminary reconnaissance has been made of the Murchison River.

- (d) No discussions have taken place.

6. CENSORSHIP

Decisions at Ministers' Conference

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

What requests and/or decisions have been made by the Ministers responsible for censorship at the conference in Sydney on or about 12th May this year for legislative or executive actions by the States regarding—

- (a) sex shops;
- (b) Commonwealth/States uniform agreement on censorship of literature;
- (c) uniform censorship;
- (d) any other matter?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (a) Sex shops—The Commonwealth would seek legislation to control importation of sex aids; State Government would introduce legislation to control through registered pharmacists, the distribution and sale of sex aids on a prescription supplied by a medical practitioner.

This State will examine State legislation when Commonwealth legislation is enacted.

- (b) Commonwealth/States uniform agreement on censorship of literature—Ministers agreed that the 1967 uniform censorship agreement of literature censorship be amended to provide for the release on a restricted classification of books which the National Literature Board of Review recommended as being suitable for release in Australia, but

unsuitable for distribution to persons under the age of 18 years.

State Government would be asked to adopt the amended agreement and if necessary, would introduce legislation to control the advertising, distribution, and sale of books which the Board recommended as being suitable for restricted release.

The States have yet to receive the amended agreement in draft form.

- (c) Uniform censorship—The Commonwealth and State Ministers agreed that steps be taken at departmental level to endeavour to reach a more uniform standard in the censorship of books without merit either imported or locally produced.

Amending legislation to the Indecent Publications Act in this State is being prepared in an endeavour to meet the needs of uniformity in some areas.

- (d) Any other matter—Discussions were held on ways and means of controlling the importation, distribution and sale of undesirable books directed at children.

It was felt that amending State legislation to provide for restricted classification of books could be used to restrict the sale of books directed at children which may otherwise be considered undesirable though not prohibitable.

If this were done sale would be restricted to adults. Parents would, therefore, have the responsibility of deciding whether or not to allow their children access to such books.

The amendments mentioned in (c) above have considered this matter.

7.

ELECTORAL

Rolls: Printing

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) When were the electoral rolls first printed for the new electoral districts after the redistribution following the 1965 general election?
- (2) When is it anticipated that the rolls will be printed for the new electoral districts as announced in June this year?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The electoral rolls for forty-six of the new electoral districts were printed under date of 30th June, 1967, and those for the remaining five electoral districts were printed under date of 30th September, 1967.
- (2) Approximately June, 1973.

8.

RAILWAYS

Employees: Number

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

What were the number of W.A.G.R. employees at—

- (a) 30th June, 1970;
- (b) 30th June, 1971;
- (c) 30th June, 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

Year ended 30th June—

- | | | |
|----------|------|--------|
| (a) 1970 | .... | 10,875 |
| (b) 1971 | .... | 10,413 |
| (c) 1972 | .... | 10,436 |

9.

RAILWAYS

Employees: Annual and Long Service Leave

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will the Minister advise the amount of annual and long service leave due to W.A.G.R. employees at—

- (a) 30th June, 1970;
- (b) 30th June, 1971;
- (c) 30th June, 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

	Year ended 30th June	Annual leave (weeks)	Long service leave (terms)
(a) 1970		9,516	2,450
(b) 1971		10,201	2,602
(c) 1972		9,699	2,531

10.

DARRYL BEAMISH

Location

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

Will the Minister advise the present location of Darryl Beamish?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

Fremantle prison.

11.

TAXES AND CHARGES

Increases

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Treasurer:

Will he list the increases in State taxes and charges since March, 1970 and the percentage increase in each case?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Details of new taxes and charges from 1959 to 1971 were given in answer to a question in the Legislative Council on 5th October, 1971. Increases since 20th February, 1971, were supplied in answer to questions in the Legislative Assembly on 12th, 18th and 19th April, 1972.

Increases since 19th April, 1972 are:—

Fremantle Port Authority—

Charges were increased on the average from 1st July as follows:—

Handling charges	23%
Pilotage charges	10%
Mooring charges	12%
Tonnage rates	4%

Land Department—

Rentals for pastoral properties in the Kimberleys were re-assessed with effect from 1st July. These increases represented a trebling of the rates over all.

Midland Abattoir Board—

From 1st July saleryard fees were increased by 18 cents per head for cattle, 3 cents for sheep and lambs and 6 cents for pigs.

Slaughtering fees and internal service charges were raised from 1st July as follows:—

Cattle	26%
Pigs	45%
Sheep	12%
Lambs	27%

W.A. Meat Export Works—

Processing charges were increased from 2nd August as follows:—

	Approximately
Mutton and lambs	50%
Cattle	32%
Pigs	47%

12.

RAILWAYS

Losses: Anticipated

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

In view of the future railway loss indicated by the Director-General of Transport—

- (1) Does the Minister agree with these views?
- (2) If so, what action does he intend taking to curb this trend?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) and (2) It is agreed that under present conditions an increase in the railway loss must be expected. The Government

is not unmindful of the position and will be giving it appropriate consideration when finalising the budget for 1972-73.

It will be appreciated that railway revenue is dependent on traffic tonnage carried. The figures in the report of the Director General of Transport anticipate only normal growth in traffic. These figures would change dramatically in the event that large mining projects involving rail haulage are developed in the next five years.

13. RAILWAYS

Losses: 1967 to 1971

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will the Minister advise the loss incurred by the W.A.G.R. for the years ended 30th June, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971?

Mr. MAY replied:

Year ended 30th June—

		\$
1967	....	4,458,811
1968	....	4,800,023
1969	....	10,051,797
1970	....	9,573,433
1971	....	10,705,331.

14. HOUSING

Completions 1969 to 1972

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he advise the number of State Housing Commission homes completed in the years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

1969-70	....	1,852
1970-71	....	3,046
1971-72	....	2,249.

15. RAILWAYS

Midland Workshops: Employees

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

What number of people were employed at the Midland workshops as at 30th June, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

Year ended 30th June—

1969	....	2,269
1970	....	2,276
1971	....	2,218
1972	....	2,236.

These figures include salaried staff.

16.

RAILWAYS

Losses: Road Services

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will the Minister advise the profit or loss incurred by the railway road services and trucking operations for the financial years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72?

Mr. MAY replied:

Including depreciation and interest, the information sought is as follows:—

Year ended 30th June—

		\$
1970	....	126,828 loss
1971	....	179,964 loss
1972	....	Details are not available but will be provided as soon as possible.

17. INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION

Replacement

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Labour:

Is it the Government's policy to support the expressed and/or implied endeavour of many industrial unions to replace the arbitration system with collective bargaining in this State, or will the Government in its policy adhere to the proven system of arbitration?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

The Government is proposing to introduce amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act this session to effect improvements so that the proven system of arbitration will continue to have value to, and assist the Unions and the Employers. However, almost 90% of all industrial awards and agreements are already negotiated outside the commission by the respective parties and are subsequently ratified by the Industrial Commission.

It is therefore obvious that the present system is one both of direct negotiation, but within the industrial commission by virtue of its powers of ratification.

As a point of interest, almost all Government, Government instrumentalities employees' salaries and wages are, and have been over the years, negotiated directly with the appropriate association or union.

18. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

Staff, Applications, and Approvals

Mr. REID, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Has he any plans to increase the staff of the Rural Reconstruction Authority?

- (2) How many applications have been received to date for rural reconstruction loans for—
 - (a) farm build-up;
 - (b) debt reconstruction,
 and what was the number of approvals in each category?
- (3) What are the respective sums of money approved for—
 - (a) farm build-up;
 - (b) debt reconstruction,
 and what total sum was actually paid out in each category?
- (4) What is the Commonwealth Government's allocation to Western Australia for the period ending 30th June, 1973?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) 221 applications, 87 approved.
(b) 1172 applications, 379 approved.
- (3) (a) \$2,671,772 approved.
(b) \$8,690,487 approved.
(Division not yet available, but total advanced is \$6,232,384.)
- (4) \$8,130,000.

19. **SURF LIFE SAVING ASSOCIATION**
Government Grant

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Treasurer: Because of the continued vital and honorary service given by the members, clubs and the State centre of the surf life saving association to the public of Western Australia and because of the increasing financial pressures placed on the clubs and the State centre for improved club rooms, equipment and administration, will he consider increasing the annual grant from \$10,000 to at least \$20,000?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

A submission made by the association is currently under consideration.

20. **COTTESLOE SCHOOL**
Safety Fence and Footbridge

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Works:

In view of the increasing traffic hazards to children attending the Cottesloe primary school which fronts on to Stirling Highway and because on several occasions recently cars actually crashed through the school fence, will he take the necessary action—

- (a) to have erected as soon as possible on both sides of the road in the vicinity of the

school strong metal protective railings to protect children in a manner already adopted at others schools;

- (b) to implement the construction of a footbridge over the highway?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) The Main Roads Department over the last two years recorded only one reported accident involving the school fence. The erection of barrier rails is not considered appropriate in this situation.
- (b) A proposal will be submitted to the local authority to extend the railway footbridge over Stirling Highway.

21. **PORT OF ALBANY**
Deployment of Labour

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) On what date did the Director-General of Transport draw his department's attention to problems at the port of Albany in relation to the deployment of labour, etc., as mentioned in his annual report for 1972?
- (2) Is he able to give an indication of action taken or proposed to be taken in an endeavour to overcome these problems?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) The Director General of Transport referred the matter of wool shipments from the port of Albany, and the use of the facilities of our outports to my department in February, 1972. Since that date there have been a number of discussions on the subject between my officers and the Director General of Transport.
- (2) Not at this stage because of the complexities of the issue.

22. **MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PENSIONERS**
Free Transport

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Premier:

As there is free transport in the city for pensioners will he consider granting free transport for pensioners living in the country who have to travel to Perth to receive medical attention?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Where it is essential for a social service pensioner to travel to Perth for medical attention, the Department of Community Welfare provides free transport.

23. ELECTRICITY CHARGES

Specific Accounts

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Electricity:

Would he give the electricity charges for the quarters ended April 1970, 1971 and 1972 for accounts—

E.R. 1190, E.R. 3670, E.R. 3850,
E.R. 3600, E.S. 7890, E.S. 8050,
E.R. 1180, E.R. 3630, E.R. 1300—
showing domestic and commercial
usage separately?

Mr. MAY replied:

The details, as required, are as follows:—

Account No.	Date	Lighting		Commercial Power		Domestic Power		Total	
		Units	Cost \$	Units	Cost \$	Units	Cost \$	Units	Cost \$
ER1190	March, 1970	240	13.20	2,780	71.90	700	13.30	3,720	98.40
	March, 1971	300	16.50	2,170	56.65	810	15.30	3,280	88.54
	March, 1972	110	6.60	6,160	181.02	900	21.00	7,190	209.62
ER3670	March, 1970	....	....	4,650	123.65	....	....	4,650	123.65
	March, 1971	....	....	5,480	139.40	....	....	5,480	139.40
	March, 1972	....	....	6,910	202.19	....	....	6,910	202.19
ER3850 ... (old a/c. No. ES8050)	March, 1970	80	4.40	5,300	134.90	620	11.78	6,000	151.08
	March, 1971	80	4.40	7,890	199.65	710	13.49	8,680	217.54
	March, 1972	140	8.40	13,140	382.86	310	7.13	13,590	398.39
ER3600	March, 1970	20	1.10	24,000	570.90	....	....	24,020	572.00
	March, 1971	10	0.55	21,100	508.55	....	....	21,110	509.10
	March, 1972	20	1.20	25,840	696.96	....	....	25,960	698.16
ER3450 (old a/c. No. ES7890)	March, 1970	70	3.85	5,160	131.40	1,370	26.03	6,600	161.28
	March, 1971	60	2.75	8,740	220.90	1,390	26.41	10,180	250.06
	March, 1972	50	3.00	7,560	221.04*	7,270	167.21*	14,880	391.25
ER1180	March, 1970	....	....	4,480	113.90	....	....	4,480	113.90
	March, 1971	....	....	4,240	108.40	....	....	4,240	108.40
	March, 1972	....	....	3,690	108.81	....	....	3,690	108.81
ER3630	March, 1970	....	....	14,560	366.40	....	....	14,560	366.40
	March, 1971	....	....	13,220	332.90	....	....	13,220	332.90
	March, 1972	....	....	16,080	484.32	....	....	16,080	484.32
ER1300	March, 1970	20	1.10	3,020	77.90	1,170	23.23	4,210	102.23
	March, 1971	20	1.10	3,570	91.65	1,250	24.75	4,840	117.50
	March, 1972	40	2.40	5,260	154.05	2,090	49.27	7,390	205.72

* Due to meter changes it is not possible to itemize completely domestic and commercial usage during this quarter. The total usage is correct.

It should be noted that two of the accounts referred to have been renumbered and E.R. 3850 and E.S. 8050 refer to the one property.

24. ROLEYSTONE SCHOOL

Ground Development

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When did the Roleystone parents and citizens' association make application for development of their school recreational oval?
- (2) Has the department approved this urgently needed facility?
- (3) If not, what actions are necessary to obtain the departmental approval?
- (4) When will the association be reimbursed for the applicable portion of development costs expended by the association to date?
- (5) Has this project a high priority on departmental estimates this year?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 14th March, 1972.
- (2) At this stage only provisional approval has been given.
- (3) The parents and citizens' association has been requested to submit a plan showing full details of the proposed development.
- (4) No payments can be made until the whole project is completed and a final accounting has been made.
- (5) It does not have a high priority as there are many projects which received prior approval and are therefore ahead of it on the list.

25. ROLEYSTONE SCHOOL

Enrolments and Additions

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the number of students at Roleystone school—
(a) at present;
(b) estimated to enrol in February, 1973?
- (2) When will additions in the form of a cluster-type school be provided to accommodate the children in the demountable classroom and anticipated new enrolments?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) (a) 232 at 1st August, 1972.
(b) Approximately 250.

- (2) A cluster type addition will not be required until the enrolment is approximately 320 students.

26.

BP REFINERY

Wharfage Charges

Mr. JONES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the British Petroleum company at Kwinana required to pay wharfage charges?
- (2) If not,
 - (a) what agreement or Act exempts the company from the charges;
 - (b) when did the agreement commence to operate?
- (3) What annual amounts of revenue have been lost to the State because of the operation of the exemption from wharfage charges?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Goods owned by the company when shipped over the oil refinery jetty are exempt from the payment of wharfage.
- (2) (a) Oil Refinery Industry (Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. Ltd.) Act 1952-59.
(b) 1st February, 1955.

	\$
(3) 1955	1,273,039.50
1956	3,744,206.30
1957	4,149,793.30
1958	4,881,542.75
1959	4,690,060.70
1960	4,922,494.80
1961	6,640,076.80
1962	6,385,695.55
1963	6,292,196.95
1964	6,720,341.55
1965	5,909,743.65
1966	5,932,943.65
1967	5,169,994.50
1968	5,039,660.05
1969	5,212,426.25
1970	5,696,879.90
1971	6,374,993.50
1972	5,895,842.60

Total 94,930,932.30

This amount has been calculated on the wharfage rates currently applying to like cargo shipped through the inner harbour.

Imports per ton	Exports per ton
Intrastate 40c.	Intrastate 20c.
Interstate	Interstate}
Overseas \$1.35	Overseas }80c.
	Bunkers 50c.

It is unlikely that these rates could be charged against BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty. Ltd., as the company provided the jetty over which the cargo is shipped. Other industries in the outer harbour

which have provided their own jetties have been granted substantially reduced wharfage rates on company-owned cargo.

27.

MIDLAND ABATTOIR

Effluent Disposal

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Further to question (31) on Wednesday, 2nd August—
 - (a) have tenders been called for the construction of treatment plant for disposal of effluent at Midland abattoirs;
 - (b) what is the closing date of tenders;
 - (c) when is it anticipated the job will start;
 - (d) if tenders have closed, how many firms participated and what was the price tendered by each firm?
- (2) Has the existing system shown any change in effectiveness since some water from the works was recycled?
- (3) What was the B.O.D. count of water discharged from the system at Ridgehill Road for each month of the last year?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) (a) No.
(b) Answered by (a).
(c) Tenders will be called as soon as the final design has been approved by the board.
(d) Answered by (a).
- (2) Yes.
- (3) B.O.D. counts are not taken monthly. The last analysis was taken in June, 1972, and was 440 p.p.m.

28.

KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Armada-Kelmscott Route

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has the S.E.C. 330 kV transmission route through the Shire of Armadale-Kelmscott been determined?
- (2) If so, will he let me have a copy of the approved plan?
- (3) Will he have the route sited along the undeveloped Allen Road reserve and adjacent undeveloped area to the north, instead of the intensively developed residential blocks and farms?

- (4) If not, will he give the supporting reasons for declining to act in the interests of families already living on this land?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Yes, in the area to which the member refers in question (3).
 (2) Yes.
 (3) There is in fact no Allen Road reserve in the area referred to by the member. One line already is located in Gosnells Shire adjacent to Allen Road.
 (4) It is not believed that the decision is against the interests of families living on this land. One householder was desirous of quitting his property and the commission is in the process of purchasing it.

It is considered that the route which in this section traverses the boundaries of Armadale-Kelmscott and Gosnells represents the best compromise between the conflicting interests of the shires and those they represent.

These matters were discussed at the deputation of the shires before me at which the member for Dale and the Hon. C. Griffiths, M.L.C. were present.

I might mention, for the information of the honourable member, that at this deputation I requested both the Shire of Gosnells and the Shire of Kelmscott to provide details of what they considered was a compromise situation, but they were unable to do so. Therefore, I provided a plan of the compromise which we felt would be suitable to both shires, and when the deputation left my office both the shire presidents, the member for Dale, and the member for the South-East Metropolitan Province (The Hon. Clive Griffiths), indicated their gratitude for the manner in which the commission had endeavoured to resolve this matter.

29. PUBLIC SERVICE

Departmental Heads: Grading

Dr. DADOUR, to the Premier:

What criteria are used by the Public Service Board to grade the administrative head of one department as against the administrative head of another department?

Mr J. T. TONKIN replied:

The classification of the head of a department depends upon an assessment of the full range of the duties and responsibilities of the position and the qualifications required.

30. ALUMINA REFINERIES

Red Mud Disposal

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) With regard to red mud from alumina refineries—
- (a) are there any alternative methods of disposal other than ponding;
 - (b) are there any re-cycling processes which can be used to utilise the metal or mineral content of the red mud?
- (2) If so, would he explain the—
- (a) alternatives;
 - (b) processes;
 - (c) economics,
- in each case?
- (3) Of the refineries operating in Western Australia and those proposed, what is the approximate or expected percentage content of—
- (a) iron oxides;
 - (b) titanium dioxide;
 - (c) silica;
 - (d) caustic;
 - (e) any other usable material of significance,
- which is or will be found in red mud?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) (a) It is understood that a French alumina refinery discharges its red mud into deep submarine canyons. No other alternative disposal systems are known.
 (b) Expert consultants consider that there is no economical method of reclaiming metal or mineral from red mud but research is continuing.
- (2) (a) and (b) Answered by (1) (a) and (b).
 (c) Dumping of red mud at sea as in (1) (a) could be cheaper than disposal by ponding on land but there are unknown environmental factors about this procedure.
- (3) Approximate percentage content of red mud at present is—

	%
(a) iron oxide	30
(b) titanium dioxide	3
(c) silica	35
(d) caustic	2
(e) alumina	15

31. ABATTOIRS

Stock Inspections

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Health:

What were the numbers of—

- (a) sheep;
- (b) cattle;
- (c) lambs;
- (d) calves;
- (e) pigs,

inspected by—

- (i) State health inspectors;
- (ii) Department of Primary Industry inspectors

at—

- (1) metropolitan abattoirs;
 - (2) country abattoirs,
- in each division of the State during 1971-72?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

As the department's statistical figures are based on a calendar year (January-December) it is not possible to answer the member's question.

The last complete figures available were conveyed to the member on Wednesday, 29th March, 1972—question 20.

32. ABATTOIRS

Output

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What numbers of—

- (a) cattle;
- (b) sheep;
- (c) lambs;
- (d) calves;
- (e) pigs,

were slaughtered during 1971-72 at the following abattoirs—

- (i) metropolitan export works;
- (ii) export works in country areas;
- (iii) north-west abattoirs;
- (iv) non-export works in the metropolitan and country areas?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Animals Slaughtered 1971-72

	Cattle & Calves	Sheep	Lambs	Pigs
Metropolitan export works	141,270	2,570,310	1,242,869	241,446
Export works in country areas	116,697	769,307	117,635	5,733
North-west abattoirs	79,042	....	....	....
Non-export works in the metropolitan and country areas	62,171	627,896	578,303	123,062

33. SCHOOLS

Oleander Plants: Banning

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that the shrub oleander is toxic to humans?
- (2) How many State schools in this State have these shrubs growing in the grounds?
- (3) Will he instruct his officers to—
 - (a) ensure that no oleanders are planted in school grounds in future;
 - (b) take steps to have all existing oleander shrubs in school grounds replaced by plants which do not pose a threat to the health of children at the schools?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The number is not known.
- (3) (a) Oleanders are no longer recommended for inclusion in primary school landscape plans.
- (b) The cost of such a step would be prohibitive and, as the plant is so common in both public and private gardens, little purpose would be achieved by their removal. A large number of other plants used in landscape schemes are also toxic, e.g. daffodils and poinsettias.

34. BEACHES

Mandurah: Erosion

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the current situation as regards beach erosion in the Mandurah area?
- (2) To what extent is the department involved in counteracting the present beach encroachment by the sea?
- (3) What plans has the department for future protection of the area?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Recent sea storm action at the Mandurah ocean beaches has taken beach sand into the immediate offshore area. It is anticipated that the intermittent periods of normal swell sea will return this material to the beaches. The foreshore dune has not been reduced beyond the line established prior to recent beach sand renourishment in the major erosion zone.

- (2) The Public Works Department is continuing to provide engineering advice to mitigate the adverse effects of land encroachment by the sea.
- (3) Further beach sand renourishment is being planned to encourage the establishment of a more stable beach regime in recently eroded areas.

35. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Land Acquisitions by Authority

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Since 9th February, 1972, what land has been acquired by the Industrial Lands Development Authority, in what centres has land been acquired, and what was the area and cost in each case?
- (2) How much of this land has been—
 - (a) purchased on the open market;
 - (b) resumed?
- (3) What acreage is under negotiation at present?
- (4) What incentives will be used to attract industry to use this land?
- (5) Who will be responsible for the cost of subdivision and services to this land?
- (6) How much of these costs will be included in the price of land when sold to industry?
- (7) Is this land to be used only for new industries in these or future centres, or will it also be available for present businesses to re-establish?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) 14 lots from seven owners at Kwinana, comprising a total area of 3 acres, 1 rood, 32.1 perches, at a total cost of \$39,277.

One lot of 510 acres at Bunbury from one owner, at a cost of \$432,000.

Five lots at Baldivis from two owners, comprising an area of 163 acres, for a total of \$134,335.

- (2) (a) The whole.
- (b) None.
- (3) None.
- (4) This land has been acquired for special uses in connection with future port requirements at Kwinana and Bunbury, and abattoir use at Baldivis. No consideration has been given to the question of incentives. These will depend upon the circumstances of each case.

- (5) It is not known at this stage who will be responsible for the cost of subdivision and services for the port oriented land at Kwinana and Bunbury. The Industrial Lands Development Authority will be responsible for the Baldivis land.

- (6) The whole.

- (7) All applications for land from new or established industries will be considered on their merits.

36. DECENTRALISATION OF INDUSTRY

Freight Concessions, Financial Assistance, and Subsidised Interest

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

What criterion is used for approval of the following assistance to country industries—

- (a) freight concessions up to 30%;
- (b) 75% financial assistance;
- (c) 100% financial assistance;
- (d) subsidy of 5% per annum interest on loans?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

No specific criteria have been set for the allowance of these inducements, but each proposal for the establishment or expansion of industries in the country will be treated on its merits and assistance given appropriate to its needs.

37. BANKRUPTCIES

Number

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware how many bankruptcies occurred in Western Australia in the financial years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72?
- (2) If so, can he give the figures and show separately how many in each year were transport operators?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) and (2) 1969-70—229, including 43 transport operators.
1970-71—291, including 45 transport operators.
1971-72—408, including 35 transport operators.

38. BEACHES

Sand Drift and Erosion: Committee

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Has the committee which was set up by the Government to study sand drift and beach erosion along the Western Australian coast taken up its duties?

- (2) Who are the members of the committee?
- (3) Will the study include recommendations to the Government for the protection of the coastline?
- (4) (a) What will be the committee's terms of reference; and
(b) will local authorities involved be consulted?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Mr. N. R. Hiller, Town Planning Department;
Mr. B. K. Bowen, Department of Fisheries and Fauna;
Mr. J. L. Butcher, Public Works Department;
Mr. C. P. Hutchison, Department of Lands and Surveys;
Mr. G. W. Spencer, Department of Agriculture;
Mr. J. L. McMullan, Department of Environmental Protection;
Mr. A. Cheetham, Local Government Association.
- (3) The committee will make recommendations to the Government departments concerned on any coastal development or subdivision which is referred to it. It will also make recommendations to the appropriate authority if it considers that any changes in policy or legislation are necessary to combat erosion dangers.
- (4) (a) The terms of reference are—
 - (i) The desirability of reaffirming the principle of community ownership of beaches and foreshore lands as far as practicable;
 - (ii) To examine in detail the problems of dune and beach movements and initiate necessary scientific studies;
 - (iii) To examine the effects of different forms of development and activity on the foreshore—permanent urban development, holiday accommodation, recreation uses, mining and agriculture;
 - (iv) To collate and analyse existing and desired data in order to make recommendations to the Minister for Town Planning on—
 - the desirable criteria for the setback of development for the ocean; safe and unsafe procedures in the development of

foreshore land; and responsibility and techniques in the maintenance of foreshore land;

- (v) To consider and make recommendations on matters relating to coastal developments referred to it by any Government authority.
 - (b) Local authorities are invited by the Town Planning Board to comment on all proposals to subdivide land in their areas, and are expected to make appropriate recommendations in the light of local knowledge where they believe that a subdivision will be affected by erosion. The Board will refer such recommendations to the committee.
Local authorities that control development in their areas through town planning schemes may seek the advice of the committee through the Town Planning Department in appropriate cases.
Local authorities requiring advice on the mechanics of erosion control should, as in the past, refer directly to the Public Works Department, where sea erosion is involved, and to the Department of Agriculture where sand drift is involved. Those departments may refer appropriate cases to the committee.
The committee may from time to time advise local authorities on aspects of erosion control by letter or by circular.
Local authorities are represented on the committee through a nominee of the Local Government Association.
- Finally, it would appear this question might more appropriately have been addressed to the Minister for Town Planning.

39.

TOWN PLANNING

Beach Roads and Blocks

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What is the present requirement by the Town Planning Board for—
 - (a) roads to be set back from the shore line;
 - (b) residential subdivision lots to be set back from the coastline?
- (2) Is there any change in this regard being considered?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

(1) The Town Planning Board has no set requirements for the setback from high water mark of either road reserves or subdivided lots. Each case is treated on its merits and the setback is related to—

- (a) the known history of coastal erosion in the area;
- (b) reasoned estimates of coastal erosion where the history of the area is not known;
- (c) the stability of coastal dunes in the area;
- (d) all other known relevant factors.

(2) The present policy has been followed for approximately two years. Prior to that time setbacks tended to be standardised but they proved inadequate in many cases. Although the natural forces at work are fairly well understood it is very difficult to quantify their effects. It is also difficult to quantify the effects on the erosion pattern of development near the coast. As knowledge of local conditions accumulates it should be possible to predict the effects of erosion with increasing accuracy.

40.

HOUSING

Purchase and Rental Homes: Applications

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants had the State Housing Commission at 30th June, 1972 for—

- (a) purchase accommodation;
- (b) rental accommodation?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

Application position as at 30th June, 1972 is as follows:—

(1) Outstanding applications at 30th June, 1971—

Purchase	7,318	
*Rental	7,034	14,352

(2) Received during 1971-72—

Purchase	1,814	
*Rental	7,017	8,831

23,183

(3) Withdrawn during 1971-72—

Purchase	1,979	
*Rental	4,952	6,931

16,252

(4) Allocated accommodation during 1971-72—

Purchase	670	
*†Rental	3,892	4,562

11,690

(5) Outstanding applications at 30th June, 1972—

Purchase	6,483	
*Rental	5,207	11,690

(6) Less duplication (being applications lodged for both purchase and rental)

958

10,732

(7) Less estimated wastage

6,931	10,732	
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5,183

14,352 × 1

Estimated real demand 5,549

*Excludes single unit, aged and single working women 1,526 (1,395 single unit pensioners and 131 single unit working women) outstanding at 30th June, 1972. Exmouth and Koolyanobbing Housing.

†Excludes allocations to armed services and single unit aged and single working women.

41.

TIMBER

Road Transport Permits

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any permits been granted to operators of country timber mills to allow road transport of timber to the metropolitan area?
- (2) If so, will he give details of permits granted?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Permits have been granted to the following—

McLean Sawmills, Pty. Ltd. Owing to distance from rail and lack of marketing facilities in the metropolitan area the company's mills at Kent River and Denmark were in danger of closing down.

Whittakers, Ltd., who were in a similar position as regards closure of their mill at Denmark.

K. D. Power Sawmilling Company who were contemplating dismissal of staff at the mill near Busseton through inability to find an outlet for their timber in the metropolitan area at a price sufficient to cover the costs of transport and handling at both ends of the rail journey.

42. **RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT**

Commonwealth Assistance

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

- (1) Further to question 40 on 2nd August, is there any requirement regarding who shall offer employment under the assistance provided by the Commonwealth to assist rural unemployment?
- (2) In areas where assistance has been granted would he detail the shire areas concerned, the individual amount of grants allocated, and the number of personnel advantaged in each area, and in each month since inception?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Persons have to be employed on Government, semi-Government or local authority works.
- (2) *The answer was tabled.*

43. **TOWN PLANNING**

Ritter Plan, and Corridor Plan Implementation

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Does the expressed view of the Director General of Transport that the Ritter plan is not compatible with the type of regional transport system adopted by the Government help him or the Government towards making a positive decision on the basic planning form to meet Perth's expansion?
- (2) Does he not consider it necessary that before a regional transport system (including the Perth regional railway concept covered by the legislation currently before Parliament) can be proceeded with in a logical and sensible manner a decision must be made on the basic structural planning form for the metropolitan region?
- (3) Although he stated in reply to question (7) on Tuesday, 1st August, that the corridor plan "is a long range strategic plan" does he not agree that an early decision must be made?
- (4) Will he please give some indication when a decision is likely to be made?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, and I am confident that a decision on the planning form for the metropolitan region will have been taken long before any direct administrative action is called for to proceed with the regional transport system or the railway concept.
- (3) Yes.

- (4) Not at this stage. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report on the corridor plan for Perth, its report on Mr. P. Ritter's analytical study, and the report of the Honorary Royal Commission on the corridor plan have yet to be published.

44.

TRANSPORT

Armadale-Kelmscott Area

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

- (1) What has been the percentage increase in each of the last four years of people using—
 - (a) the W.A.G.R.;
 - (b) the M.T.T.;
 - (c) private transport, to and from and beyond the Armadale-Kelmscott shire area?
- (2) What are the—
 - (a) short term;
 - (b) long term plans for improving the public transport services to this area?
- (3) Has the Department considered establishing a train stopover between Armadale and Kelmscott to cater for the large and growing adjacent residential suburbs?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), what is the decision and what are the reasons for reaching its conclusion?
- (5) Is the plan for a freeway between Mitchell Freeway and Armadale still part of forward planning?
- (6) If "Yes" to (5), how far has the provision for this road system progressed, and when is this freeway to be developed?
- (7) If "No" to (5), what short and long term upgrading of Albany Highway and additional routes is being planned to meet the increasing traffic from Armadale to the city?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) (a) Due to the use of ticket issuing machines on trains, details of ticket sales covering travel to and from the area concerned are not recorded, and accordingly, it is not possible to provide the information requested.
- (b) Approximately 20% increase per annum in school children. Adults a slight increase, percentage unknown.
- (c) Firm data are not available but forecasts by the Perth Regional Transport Study for the whole region suggest that private motor vehicle trips

will increase from 731,000 per day in 1986 to 2,161,900 per day in 1989. Vehicle trips per person per day will increase from about 1.30 to 1.40. The rate of increase to, from and beyond the shire area is probably greater than the average reflected in these figures.

- (2) (a) In the short term extensions of the M.T.T. services in the Westfield area and a revision of Perth-Armadale timetables.
- (b) In the long term the electrification of the Perth-Armadale line to tie in with the construction of the underground.

(3) Yes.

(4) Under diesel operation justification for at least one stopping place is recognised on the basis of potential patronage from the developed areas along the railway. This may not be the case under electric operation.

(5) No.

(6) Answered by (5).

(7) In the current financial year it is planned to duplicate the Canning River bridge at Gosnells, reconstruct the Narrogin Inn junction, and channelise certain other intersections. Traffic control signals will be installed at the Royal Street intersection. A start will be made on the proposed improvements at the eastern end of the Causeway. Plans for a bridge over the railway at Stokely are being developed for future construction. Building set backs are in force to provide for a 90 ft. wide reservation in which further road improvements can be accommodated. No alternative route is currently being planned.

45. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Distribution of Power

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What were the considerations which led the S.E.C. to generate power at Kwinana in order to distribute it through Balga via Cannington?
- (2) In the year 1971 was it a fact that the bulk of the power distributed through Balga was transmitted from Muja-Bunbury?
- (3) In 1978 when 800 mW is to be distributed through Balga from Kwinana, where will the projected 240 mW from Muja-Bunbury be fed in?

(4) What is the projected in-feed to the Perth urban system through Balga for the years 1978, 1985 and 1992?

(5) What is the reason why generators Nos. 5 and 6 of 200 mW each are to be installed at Kwinana instead of at Wanneroo?

(6) For the year 1992, what is the projected system of distribution of the Perth urban load, i.e., how many distribution points will be operating, where are they sited, and what load will pass through each?

(7) Will he table the documents on which the decision was made to choose the voltage of 330 kV for the Kwinana-Balga lines?

(8) Will he explain how the 330 kV power lines will be compatible with the power distribution scheme which is forecast as being necessary in 1992?

Mr. MAY replied:

(1) The considerations which led the commission to generate power at Kwinana were:—

- (a) An increased demand requiring more generating plant.
- (b) Proximity to an economic source of fuel.
- (c) An adequate and safe source of cooling water.
- (d) Lowest capital outlay of the alternatives.

The considerations which led the commission to distribute power through northern terminal were:—

- (a) The terminal is well sited to supply to metropolitan loads north of the river and to the country.
- (b) The terminal is also well sited in respect to possible future development of a northern generating station site.

(2) Yes. In the year 1971, Muja-Bunbury was the major source of generation for the system.

(3) The figure of 800 mW is not accepted as correct. The output of Muja-Bunbury will be fed into the interconnected system then as it is now. The system supplies from Albany to Northampton and Perth to Koolyanobbing.

(4) See reply by the then Minister, to a similar question asked by the member for Darling Range, pages 792 and 793 *Hansard*, Wednesday 18th August, 1971. No further figures are available.

(5) See (1) (a) to (d) above. There is no economic fuel currently available at Wanneroo. Kwinana has room for the extension and the fuel is available.

(6) Plans for extension of the distribution system are reviewed frequently in the light of growth patterns revealed by continuous review of distribution outlet loadings. Long term detailed planning is not necessary in this matter and projections for 1992 are not available.

(7) The documents relating to the decision in favour of 330kV are in the form of internal studies and reports. Explanation is necessary for proper understanding. I will refer again to this in the answer to the next question.

(8) An explanation of the compatibility of the 330kV lines with the distribution system would not be meaningful within the scope of a reasonably brief answer, apart from the statement that there is complete compatibility.

I therefore repeat the invitation previously extended to the Member for Darling Range by the then Minister and accepted, that he discuss these matters with the Commission's engineers. The documents relating to choice of 330kV are relevant to both aspects raised by the Member for Darling Range and will be produced at the discussion.

46. WOOL CARTAGE

Offenders: Apprehension

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to question 42 on 2nd August relating to farmers carting wool to Albany and Fremantle, in how many instances were offenders apprehended but not prosecuted in each of the years 1970-71 and 1971-72?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

The following numbers of farmers were apprehended, warned as first offenders, and required to pay a temporary licence fee for transporting wool by road:—

	1970-71	1971-72
(a) To Albany	12	5
(b) To Fremantle	16	18
TOTAL	28	23

47. ABATTOIRS

Midland and Robb Jetty: Output

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What were the numbers of—

- (a) cattle;
- (b) calves;

- (c) sheep;
 - (d) lambs;
 - (e) pigs,
- slaughtered at—
- (i) Midland abattoirs;
 - (ii) Robb Jetty abattoirs,
- for the years 1970-71 and 1971-72?

(2) What were the livestock yardings in 1971-72 at Midland abattoirs for—

- (a) cattle;
- (b) sheep;
- (c) lambs;
- (d) pigs?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

	1970-71		1971-72	
	Midland	Robb	Midland	Robb
(a)	60,071	44,951	65,939	56,419
(b)	1,226	548	784	395
(c)	824,344	641,443	1,528,025	614,242
(d)	379,463	385,397	561,684	628,988
(e)	104,148	19,152	122,708	27,617
(2)				
(a)	125,900			
(b) and (c)	3,507,207			
(d)	155,010			

48. PASTORAL LEASES

Kimberley: Rentals

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will he advise if the re-assessed rental on Kimberley pastoral properties will result in a 300% increase to all leases, regardless of the state of the development of the property, the physical features of land within the lease and the ability of the lessee to pay the extra rent and other charges which might accrue as a direct result of the reappraisalment?
- (2) Will all of the properties which are subject to pay the increased rentals visited by members of the Pastoral Appraisalment Board in the two years prior to them recommending a 600% increase in rentals?
- (3) Does he share the expressed view of the board that increased rentals will result in more competent use of the land?
- (4) What justification is there for making the increases retrospective to 1st July, 1969 part of the period for which his Government was not even in office?
- (5) What right of appeal is open to lessees who are dissatisfied with the new rentals?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The average of the reappraised rentals for the Kimberley Division will be about three times existing

rentals but individual station rentals are not necessarily being trebled. Section 98 of the Land Act defines the criteria to be considered in reappraisalment.

- (2) No.
 (3) Yes.
 (4) Section 98 of the Land Act states reappraisalment shall be "as on and from" the 1st July, 1969.
 (5) The rights of review of the periodical reassessment of rental are set out in section 98 and 100 of the Land Act.

49. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Introduction of Means Test

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In view of the special financial statement and answers to my question without notice on 3rd August does this mean the State Government now intends to introduce a means test re payment of road maintenance tax?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

The confidential statement is provided to allow an opportunity for operators in distressed financial circumstances to set out their position if they so desire. This enables an assessment to be made of their ability to meet their commitments either immediately or on a time payment basis.

50. HOUSING

Programme: Lag

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he advise the House why the State Housing Commission programme is three months behind, and how this position arose?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

For 1971-72, the State Housing Commission's building programme was planned to be:—

	Call tenders	Completions
Metropolitan region	1,991	2,200
Country—		
South of 26th parallel	113	85
North of 26th parallel	189	147
	<u>2,243</u>	<u>2,432</u>

Normally, this would be timetabled to provide for tenders being called at a fairly even monthly rate, having in mind that contract periods for dwellings is dominantly of six months duration. However, in the interests of employment in the building and building supplies industries, the programme was accelerated to provide for a higher

rate of calling tenders in the first three months of the year. A tender programme was, therefore, organised as follows:—

	Metropolitan	Country South 26th Parallel	North 26th Parallel	Totals
July	233	11	26	270
August	226	14	10	250
September	210	10	—	220
	<u>669</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>740</u>

For the balance of the year, the metropolitan programme was to be spread as evenly as weather and other factors permitted. The country and north-west programme was to be organised for the balance of the year to take into account the availability of contractors and other tenders to be organised at the direction of client Commonwealth or State, and local government departments and authorities, which advise as to programme requirements after Commonwealth and State loan funds have been finalised.

Mr. O'Connor: I hope the Minister will eventually answer the question.

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes, the question is answered. I usually hand in a reply of this type but I thought the member for Mt. Lawley might enjoy the occasion more if I read out the information. I have taken this step because of the way the question is worded. To continue with the reply—

The actual results obtained by the commission up to 28th July, 1972 were:—

Tenders called	264
Tenders accepted by commission	121
Contracts signed	247
Dwellings under construction	1,567
Dwellings completed as from 1st July, 1972	105

As none of the foregoing figures cover housing for Aborigines in view of the fact that neither the Commonwealth or State funds available for such purpose are yet known to the commission, it will be seen that there are no grounds for the question asked by the Member.

ALUMINA REFINERY BILLS

Escalation Formula: Tabling of Example

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta—Minister for Development and Decentralisation) [5.20 p.m.]: When I introduced the Alumina Refinery Agreement Act Amendment Bill and the Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra)

Agreement Act Amendment Bill last week the Leader of the Opposition asked for some figures and an example using the escalation formula set out in both measures.

I have had an example worked out in accordance with the actual figures and I ask permission to lay this on the Table of the House for the information of any member who may be interested in the complicated figures.

Sir Charles Court: Thank you.

The example was tabled.

QUESTIONS (9): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. PREMIER EXPORTS PTY. LTD.

Operations of Company: Inquiry

Mr. NALDER, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it correct that an ex-principal of Wool Exporters, whose company was involved in a Royal Commission in 1969-70, is now involved in a company named Premier Exports Pty. Ltd.?
- (2) Is it correct that Premier Exports Pty. Ltd. have ceased business operations and a large sum of money has been lost on the buying and selling of wool in Western Australia?
- (3) Can he inform the House whether—
 - (a) farmers,
 - (b) wool exporting firms,
 - (c) associated agents,
 - (d) financial institutions,
 - (e) overseas buyers
 are involved in the loss?
- (4) Have any complaints been made to the Police Department concerning the activities of Premier Exports Pty. Ltd.?
- (5) In the public interest will he confer with the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police and initiate an immediate inquiry into the operations of the company?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (5) I regret that as I was given inadequate notice of this question I am obliged to ask the Leader of the Country Party to put it on the notice paper.

2. DAYLIGHT SAVING

Introduction of Legislation

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) When does the Premier propose to introduce legislation dealing with daylight saving?
- (2) Does he propose to introduce the legislation in the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council on this occasion?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Shortly.
- (2) The Legislative Assembly.

3.

ORCHARDS

Tree-Pull Scheme

Mr. REID, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Following the Agricultural Council's conference in Queensland, will the horticultural tree-pull scheme in Western Australia be limited to the 1972-73 season only?
- (2) If not, over what period will it range?
- (3) What is the eligibility requirement for assistance under this scheme?
- (4) Will there be a quota allocation of funds to Western Australia?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

I thank the honourable member for the notice he gave me of this question. The reply is as follows:—

The understanding received from the Minister for Primary Industry is that—

- (1) and (2) Applications be received from the 14th July, 1972, to the 30th June, 1973.
- (3) A grower is eligible to apply for assistance under the proposals if the authority is satisfied that the number of trees which the grower has, of the kind to be removed with assistance, constitutes a commercial operation and either—
 - (a) he is predominantly a horticulturist who is in substantial financial difficulties and intends to clear-fell his orchard and leave the fruitgrowing industry; or
 - (b) he does not have adequate resources to withstand the short-term effects on his economic viability of removing the trees without assistance, production of the horticultural commodity concerned

is in surplus supply in the light of market prospects and is threatening the long-term viability of his property, and in the opinion of the administering authority his enterprise has sound prospects of long-term commercial viability after removal of the surplus trees, and taking into account other potential use of the land.

Companies will not be eligible for assistance unless the authority, having considered the shareholdings and being satisfied that the shareholders are *bona fide* primary producers relying primarily on the income from the company for their livelihood, and that the shareholders are in the financial position described in (3) (a) or (3) (b) above, considers it appropriate to provide assistance.

- (4) There will be no specific State allocations.

4. PASTORAL LESSEES

Kimberley: Interest Charges

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Lands:

Will the Minister give an assurance that interest charges will not be debited to Kimberley pastoral lessees for retrospective property rental increases which are not paid prior to the 30th June, 1977?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:
The department does not charge interest on rentals.

5. HOUSING

Programme: Lag

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

In view of the answer given to question 50 on today's notice paper in which the Minister said there were no grounds for the question asked, I ask the Minister: If, in view of the fact that the Minister for Labour during the debate on Thursday last advised us that the State Housing Commission programme was three months in arrears, can we take it for granted that that statement was inaccurate?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

I do not believe in considering any question or statement which is made in this House as being inaccurate until I have studied the actual statement. In answer, I think the broad reply to the honourable member provides adequate information. If he studies the reply I have given he will find it contains adequate information to provide the answer he requires.

6. KOSCOT INTERPLANETARY (U.K.) LIMITED

Connection with Koscot Kosmetics

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is he aware that Koscot Interplanetary (U.K.) Limited has been compulsorily wound up in the High Court of the United Kingdom and described as a "swindle of a far reaching nature" by the presiding judge?
- (2) Is there any connection between this company and the company selling or known as Koscot Kosmetics which is advertising in the local Press for ladies to sell goods?
- (3) What initiatives are open to the Government to take such action as will protect the people of Western Australia?
- (4) If the answer to (2) is "Yes," what action does the Minister intend to take?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

I thank the honourable member for adequate notice of the question. The answer is as follows:—

- (1) I am aware that recent Press reports have indicated that this is so.
- (2) A search at the Companies Office has failed to reveal any connection between Koscot Interplanetary (U.K.) Limited and Koscot Kosmetics. A firm listed as Koscot (Australia) Limited was registered at the Western Australian Companies Office on the 1st June, 1972. Registration particulars indicate that there is one agent in Western Australia and that the principal of the company resides in New South Wales. The type of business is listed as wholesale and resale marketing of cosmetics.
- (3) Depending on the nature of any complaints received, it should be possible for the Consumer Affairs Council and the Consumer Protection Bureau to investigate and, if necessary, protect the interests of consumers in Western Australia.
- (4) Answered by (2).

7.

HOUSING

Electricity Meter Charge

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Housing:

Arising out of his answer to question 1 on today's notice paper—

- (1) When were the tenants of State Housing Commission apartments and units informed that the unfair \$10 electricity meter charge had been reduced to \$2?
- (2) Will he now reply to my letter or will I take the answer to this question as his reply?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) I think the initial letter that went out informed the tenants that no action would be taken until they received a second letter giving them full details in connection with this matter. To the best of my knowledge, that letter went out yesterday, but the tenants were told in the initial letter that no action would be required on their behalf until they received the follow-up correspondence.
- (2) Regarding the reply to the honourable member's letter, if he does not think the answer to his question adequately replies to his letter I will send another reply to him.

8.

HOUSING

Electricity Meter Charge

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Housing:

Does he not think it would have been courteous to reply to me before this general reply was given?

Sir Charles Court: Particularly in view of the Premier's attitude towards Mr. Chamberlain and Gary Cook.

Mr. Bickerton: Is the Leader of the Opposition asking a question also?

Sir Charles Court: I am making a pertinent observation about the reasons advanced by the Premier for informing Mr. Chamberlain before informing the public.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

I prefer to reply to the member for Cottesloe. I think he has a point. Something similar occurred to me on numerous occasions, but on this occasion there was no reason for a reply not being sent to him. I think he will find his reply was sent out at the same time as the second letter to the various tenants giving them the

details. The reply to the honourable member could not have been sent prior to that because the policy had not been decided.

9.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Proceedings for Nonpayment

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

Is it the intention to proceed against large companies which do not pay road maintenance tax; and will this policy also apply to operators who do not have the ability to pay?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Yes, if the circumstances justify such action.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. T. D. Evans (Attorney-General) and read a first time.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

(No. 2)

Third Reading

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara—Minister for Housing) [5.34 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley) [5.35 p.m.]: It was rather disconcerting to find that the Minister replied to the second reading debate on this Bill in about 10 minutes, despite the fact that members spent many hours debating and discussing the measure in this House.

We have become accustomed to the Government disregarding anything said by the Opposition, disregarding questions, and not giving answers asked for during debate. This is a shame. I believe members of Parliament who represent the public are entitled to receive answers, but we are not receiving them.

The Minister has indicated either his lack of understanding of the position or his inability to absorb what was said by members on this side of the House. Approximately 20 members spoke to this Bill, and the Minister replied in less than 10 minutes, virtually giving no detail and not replying to anything that was said during the debate. I will read a few lines from the Minister's reply in order to show the type of answer we received. The Minister said—

The debate on this Bill has been quite a marathon. It is customary when a Minister replies to a debate to thank all members who have made a contribution to it. I do not wish to make an exception in this case, but I

would also like to show my gratitude to those who did not say anything at all!

That indicates that the Minister is prepared to ignore what has been said in connection with this Bill, as he has done with so many other Bills during this session.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: He is just expressing his gratitude for the consideration given.

Mr. O'CONNOR: The Premier may read between the lines if he wishes. This Bill is important to Western Australia.

Mr. Bickerton: You started off supporting it and finished up opposing it after the Country Party had expressed its views. That is how important you thought it was.

Mr. O'CONNOR: That shows the Minister's lack of appreciation. When I spoke to the Bill I gave full details and stuck by what I said right throughout. No Country Party member spoke before I had finished. This is another case of the Minister not knowing who was speaking. In his reply the Minister went on to say—

To be realistic the point we have to decide is whether we should adopt uniformity of traffic control, or whether we should retain the hotch-potch system whereby in some areas local authorities exercise traffic control and in others the police exercise this control.

He completely forgot a third system which we put up and spent many hours outlining in this House; that is, one authority not controlled by the police.

Mr. Bickerton: The one the Liberal Party rejected. The Liberal Party rejected the proposition of having a central authority.

Mr. O'CONNOR: It did not. The proposition put forward by members on this side of the House was for a separate authority, and I hope the Minister will have the courtesy to reply in some detail to that proposition.

Mr. Bickerton: It is a matter of party philosophies, as the Leader of the Opposition said the other night.

Mr. O'CONNOR: My time is limited and I hope I will have the opportunity to use it properly, without the noisy interjections from the other side of the House. I hope that when I have finished the Minister will have the courtesy to get to his feet and spend some time giving a detailed reply to this matter. We put up a proposition of an authority separate from the Police Department, because in his second reading speech the Minister said the police would be employed part-time on traffic work and part-time on police work. We believe that traffic is so important that one authority should control it. We think specialists in this field should be authorised to handle the traffic throughout the

State. We suggested the setting up of an authority operating from Perth and using computers for licensing. I think it is a shame the Minister has completely disregarded this proposition. It shows his contempt for the Opposition, the people represented by members on this side of the House, and the public generally.

In his reply the Minister also said—

From inquiries I have made the Police Department does not consider this as a desirable circumstance at this stage.

That is understandable. If one went to the Main Roads Department and said, "We want to take something away from you and give it to another organisation," what would be the reply? Could the Police Department be expected to say, "Yes, take it away; give it to another authority that would be more competent and more satisfactory as far as traffic operations are concerned"? Generally speaking, I think the Police Department would want to retain the work. I would have thought the Minister would give his own views and not those of the Police Department.

Mr. O'Neill: I think the Premier goes along with this. He has appointed a Minister for Traffic Safety.

Mr. O'CONNOR: That is right. Apparently he does not have any confidence in the Minister for Police. If that is to be quoted as the reason for this Bill coming to us, I think it is a very poor reason. The Government itself should make the decision, and the Bill should be debated in the House on that basis rather than on the view of someone from a department. That view was probably given by one individual in a department. In his reply to the debate the Minister also said—

I might agree at this stage that some people could be placed in a position of becoming unemployed and I think they should be looked after. Admittedly, I do not think they should be wiped completely. It is not my job, but the policy of the Government generally, and the matter is being investigated.

Many traffic inspectors over the age of 45 have seen a letter from the Commissioner of Police advising them they will not be employed. Others have been advised that they will be put at the bottom of the list, regardless of the fact that they might have had 20 or 25 years' service in the department. If anyone in this House had been employed in a job for 20 or 25 years, how would he feel if he were relegated to the bottom of the list while a rookie was put above him?

Mr. Bickerton: I do not remember your crying when that happened to some employees at the State Building Supplies. I do not remember your crocodile tears.

Mr. O'CONNOR: At least at that time there were not many people out of work, as there are today. Through our actions at that time we improved the employment position in Western Australia. I know I am getting a little out of line but I thought I should reply to the Minister's interjection.

I believe we must show some concern for the numerous inspectors who will be out of a job following advice from the Commissioner of Police that no-one over the age of 45 years would be re-employed and that anyone who was re-employed would go down to the bottom of the list.

I hope that even at this late stage the Government will give further consideration to the views we have expressed and the type of operation we have suggested. I believe there should be one authority in the State to deal with traffic matters, and that the inspectors employed by the Traffic Department should have the proper qualifications and devote their full time to traffic work. In this way we will have the best possible operation in this State. They should not be part-time policemen and part-time traffic inspectors, because the human element could enter into it, whereby someone might look outside and say, "It is a wet day so I think I had better work inside today." It is in wet weather that most accidents occur.

I am sorry the Minister did not show some concern. He just skirted around what was said by the Opposition. He ignored the views of the Opposition and the country shire councils. I hope he will give some consideration to our views when replying to the third reading debate.

MR. NALDER (Katanning) (5.44 p.m.): I want to voice my objection to the attitude adopted in this matter by the Government, through the Minister. As a matter of fact, when the Minister was replying he went to a good deal of trouble to indicate that he had noted many of the points that had been made and he would ensure that replies were given. I quote from the Minister's speech on Thursday, the 1st June, 1972, at page 1915 of the current *Hansard* wherein he said—

I make special reference to the Leader of the Country Party and I assure him that the matters he brought forward will be looked into. If we do not have an opportunity to debate them I will supply the answers to the member concerned.

That was the last I heard of it. I have heard nothing since, which indicates that the Minister is not interested in taking note of what was said during that debate. Perhaps, then, it is necessary for me briefly to repeat the point I made—and I think it is an important point.

In the Minister's second reading speech he said the cost to the Government of this changeover would be some \$2,000,000, and that expenditure of a further \$1,000,000 each year would be incurred—for how long I do not know; but I presume it would increase each year.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation.

Mr. NALDER: All through his introductory speech the Minister said that the reason for the measure was to try to reduce the incidence of road fatalities; that appears to be the argument the Government is putting forward on this occasion. It believes that as a result of the introduction and passing of this Bill road accident fatalities will be automatically reduced in Western Australia.

I obtained figures from every State in the Commonwealth and I tried to indicate to the House that in every other State the control of traffic is under the jurisdiction of the police. I indicated that the figures showed quite clearly that the important factor in relation to traffic fatalities is not who has control of traffic, but that some other factors contribute to this.

This situation is brought to our notice continually. The point I made is this: I believe some money should be set aside for research in this State. It is obvious that no matter who controls traffic we will still have road fatalities; so I believe the Government should immediately set up a research committee, or something of that nature, to conduct research into the problem. The Minister accepted the suggestion and said he would look into the facts and reply to me. As I said, I have heard nothing about it since. I thought probably the Government reported progress in the Committee stage so that it could at least look at the proposals and suggestions put forward from this side of the House and reply to them in due course.

I think for the Minister to ignore completely everything that was said displays discourtesy and disregard for the efforts of members during the second reading debate.

Mr. Bickerton: I expected to have an opportunity to reply in the Committee stage, but the Opposition was quite happy to see the measure go through.

Mr. NALDER: The Opposition expected the Minister to make a contribution, but he took no action at all.

Mr. Bickerton: I simply followed Standing Orders and moved the necessary motion. Obviously the Opposition was satisfied because members did not even get to their feet in the Committee stage.

Mr. NALDER: Well, the Minister will have the opportunity to reply to this debate.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: There is no need to.

Mr. NALDER: In my view it is regrettable that it is necessary for members on this side of the House to take part in the debate on the third reading in order again to remind the Government of its responsibilities in this matter.

Mr. Bickerton: You obviously did your own research and were satisfied in the Committee stage, otherwise you would have risen to your feet.

Mr. NALDER: Why did not the Minister follow up his statement that he would look into the suggestion later?

Mr. Bickerton: Don't you think it would be an idea for me to wait and hear you on the third reading debate before replying?

Mr. O'Connor: If it is as bad as the rest it will not be worth listening to.

Mr. NALDER: I indicate my complete opposition to this Bill. In this debate I have an opportunity to bring forward a point which has been made in the Press and to which I think serious consideration must be given. In the past the problem of drunken drivers has been mentioned in this House and action has been taken by the Parliament to try to reduce the incidence of drunken driving; but it appears that it has had very little effect.

We have only to look at the reports which appear in the Press almost daily to understand the incidence of this problem. Even in this morning's paper we saw that seven or eight people were apprehended, taken before the courts, and fined for drunken driving. So it appears that our legislation has not had the desired effect.

I do not say that we should increase the fines or introduce gaol penalties. I believe a tremendous amount of information is required in order to see whether or not the co-operation of the general public can be obtained. This is where I feel much research is needed. We read in the Press on the 29th July that the Victorian Government appointed a research officer and he has said that many drivers involved in accidents had high alcohol levels. During the research carried out by that Government post mortems were conducted on 171 drivers killed on Victorian roads, and tests indicated that at least half of those drivers had twice the permitted level of alcohol in their blood. The 171 subjects were selected at random, and in one case the subject had between eight and 10 times the permitted level of alcohol in his blood. The article stated that a high percentage of the subjects were under the age of 25.

I am not blaming this Government in this regard because I believe every responsible person must sit down and give serious thought to this matter. To illustrate the point I am making: If a hole developed in the Narrows Bridge today and a motorcar fell through the hole into the water, killing

the driver, and the same thing happened tomorrow and again the next day, there would be a public outcry because something was not done to correct the position. Yet the public of this country are closing their eyes to a situation which has been demonstrated time and time again. Attention has been focused on it in the Press day after day. In this morning's paper a headline stated that a doctor predicts random tests.

I believe it is necessary to tackle this problem with the co-operation of the public; otherwise we will stand condemned for accepting the situation which has developed without taking any real action to see whether or not we can eliminate at least some of the problems facing us today. This is a critical and urgent situation. I believe that not only the public of Western Australia but the public of Australia as a whole are crying out—screaming out—for something to be done.

Yet we already know what is the cause of about 50 per cent. of our road fatalities. As a matter of fact, one of the officers of our Police Department, who retired two years ago, indicated that the position in Western Australia is that more than half of the road fatalities are caused by excessive drinking. Yet we just seem to go on and on and on—are we hoping that something will happen?

Mr. Graham: It went on and on for 12 years.

Mr. NALDER: I am not blaming the Government. I repeat that I believe the public of this country are demanding that something be done.

Mr. Fletcher: And we are attempting it.

Mr. NALDER: "We are attempting it"! The member for Fremantle has been asleep for six months, judging by that statement.

Mr. Fletcher: This legislation is an attempt to do something.

Mr. NALDER: I have proved by figures I gave to the House in June that police or other control of traffic has nothing to do with this problem. The same thing is happening in other States. Why has the Victorian Government set up a research officer to inquire into this problem? He produced the same information as an officer of our Police Department who was quoted in *The Sunday Times* two years ago.

I believe a research section should be established in this State. It may be possible to co-operate with other States in this regard and for all States to work together to see what can be done to overcome the problem. I repeat: It is not a matter of police control of country traffic.

One can instance the situation in the north of our State. A number of local authorities in the north have handed over traffic control to the police, but what is the position? We read in the Press quite often

—as a matter of fact, it is quite regular reading—that fatalities have occurred in the north in areas where control of traffic is carried out by the police.

Mr. Bickerton: Think how much worse it would be had the police not taken over. That is the sort of thing you used to say to me.

Mr. NALDER: That is absolute rubbish. The facts from the Eastern States indicate that this is not the answer. I know the Minister has not even thought about this matter since we last discussed it in the early part of this session.

Mr. Bickerton: I have taken note of every word of wisdom you have dropped.

Mr. NALDER: Had the Minister given any thought to the matter probably I would have had the courtesy of a letter replying to the suggestion I made in the House. The Government intends to spend \$2,000,000 on this changeover—quite unnecessarily, in my view—and this will be a continuing expense. Let us spend a portion of that upon the establishment of a research section which would try to find the answer. I would like to think that the public may say that in 1972 we tried to do something and to tackle the problem, which is growing at an ever-increasing rate in this country. I am thoroughly disappointed at the inaction of the Minister in not doing anything about what was suggested during the second reading debate. I strongly oppose the third reading of the measure.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [5.57 p.m.]: During the second reading debate time prevented me from summing up my speech on this subject. I take the opportunity to do so now. At that time unfortunately I was unable to shout above the undignified, undemocratic, organised Country Party effort to ensure that I was not heard.

Mr. Thompson: Is this a bushranger speech?

Mr. FLETCHER: That was done on the pretence that I rather favour interjections. I do not mind intelligent interjections; nor do I mind interjections made in friendly banter or to elicit information. I am only too pleased to reply in that vein. However, as I say, I do object to an organised campaign to ensure I am not heard.

Mr. O'Neil: Seeing that you don't mind interjections, there is no truth in the rumour that you are the patron of the traffic inspectors' association, is there?

Mr. FLETCHER: Do not waste my time, Mr. Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I do not wish—nor do I think the House would wish—to hear the hullabaloo which occurred last time, which sounded like a country district football match rather than an attempt to debate a serious matter in

this House. However, the *Hansard* reporters, to their credit, captured most of my comments.

I wish to emphasise the Minister's reply to the questions regarding the fact that the discovery by police of faulty vehicles in the Lake Grace area could also apply to other areas. In my second reading speech I wished to emphasise that this could also apply in other country districts.

Further, there were 138 more fatalities in country areas between 1967 and 1971. I will address these remarks to the Leader of the Country Party.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member will do that through the Chair.

Mr. FLETCHER: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the Leader of the Country Party that I did give him a good hearing. He mentioned certain statistics, and so did I in my second reading speech. There were 138 more fatalities in country areas in the period I have mentioned, despite the fact that there were 2½ times as many motor vehicles in the metropolitan area as there were in the country.

Mr. Stephens: Can you tell us—

Mr. FLETCHER: I have only 20 minutes in which to make my contribution, and I do not want to be side-tracked by inane remarks from the Country Party members. If the Country Party continues to adopt its present attitude, and if it wishes to retain the *status quo*, then it will be responsible for continuing the slaughter on the roads. The arguments of members opposite are biased to that end.

Mr. Williams: Quite a number of country traffic accidents involve city drivers.

Mr. FLETCHER: I would point out to the House that we as a Government have a mandate to do what we are doing. What I am about to say is important to my contribution, and it is also important for the edification of members opposite. I will refer to the platform of our party. On page 38 of the A.L.P. platform there is reference to traffic safety, and item 4 states "The Police Department to be the authority to control traffic throughout the State, but so as not to disadvantage financially local government authorities."

I will tell the House who put item 4 and the proviso "but so as not to disadvantage financially local government authorities" into our platform; it was myself, the member for Fremantle, and I am proud of having done that. That was done to ensure that people in the country would not be disadvantaged as a consequence of the police taking over the control of traffic in country areas.

Mr. O'Neil: Why are there two Ministers in the present Government dealing with traffic—one the Minister for Traffic, and the other the Minister for Traffic Safety?

Mr. FLETCHER: License fees, registration fees, and other fees will be reimbursed to country areas. With police control of traffic in the country areas there will not be fines for some and immunity for others in some country districts. Members opposite know what that means. Whether it is true or false, the allegation exists that this happens in certain country areas. However, with traffic being placed under the control of the police the Police Code will apply throughout. I cannot think of a Code which will be of greater advantage to the country people.

Where a country local authority employs an additional typist, the unfortunate traffic inspector now has to go out and work harder to drag in additional offending motorists, so that the fines imposed will meet the wage of the typist.

I understand what caused some animosity was my previous reference to bush-rangers. I qualify that remark by saying that perhaps it was a case of mistaken identity. The original species rode horses and approached from the front to extract their toll; but their present-day counterparts drive motorcars and hide in the bush, and they approach from the rear.

I can recall, and I am sure many other members also can recall, what one Wanneroo-type of traffic inspector did; this inspector shifted the miles-per-hour post.

Mr. Lewis: He was an ex-policeman.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am not surprised he was an ex-policeman. He shifted the post to improve his catch. At the time the Press commented on the actions of this inspector, but some members find it convenient to forget such incidents. I have the impression that the same type of thing was repeated in other areas.

I know of the case of one traffic inspector who hung a pair of handcuffs from his belt. When examined the handcuffs were found to be a toy. He did this simply because he wanted to improve his image. Another traffic inspector used to wear leg-gings.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: They should have been jackboots.

Mr. FLETCHER: He wore them like some Nazi officers wore their jackboots. I know that some of these inspectors were the ex-servicemen type, yearning for the past when they could dictate to those who were subservient in rank to them. They still wish to retain that right to dictate to the community in general. That was the attitude they adopted. All such incidents will disappear when the police take over the control of traffic in the country, and I am sure the members of the Police Force will show absolute impartiality in the exercise of their duties. There will not then be fines for some and immunity for others.

Mr. Nalder: That is a reflection on decent citizens.

Mr. FLETCHER: Some members opposite say we should not worry about these facts. They merely want to retain their prejudices. The Leader of the Country Party said, "Let us have some research." I ask him whether the existing country shire inspectors are capable of undertaking this research? Over the years the police have undertaken research; its members still undertake research, and I am sure they will continue to do so in the future to the advantage of the State.

Mr. Nalder: Where is the result of all that?

Mr. FLETCHER: The Leader of the Country Party should not say, "Let us have random testing." I know what will be the reaction of many members of the public if a traffic inspector wanted to indulge in random testing.

Mr. Nalder: I did not say that.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do know that under police control of traffic—

Point of Order

Mr. NALDER: On a point of order I would ask the honourable member to retract the statement he made about something I did not say; that is, his reference to random testing. I did not advocate that in my speech previously, or on the present occasion.

Mr. FLETCHER: I have been asked to withdraw my comment. My comment was that the honourable member was alluding to a Press report which stated there should be random testing.

Mr. Nalder: I was only commenting on a Press report.

Mr. FLETCHER: I cut out the same Press report and put it into my file. I think the report is worthy of comment. The honourable member made reference to it, and he gave me the impression that he supported random testing.

Mr. Nalder: Will you withdraw your remark?

Mr. FLETCHER: I will not withdraw what I have said. I apologise if I got the wrong impression of what the Leader of the Country Party has said. If he takes exception and says I have got the wrong impression then I withdraw my impression of what he has said. The Leader of the Country Party asserts there should be research into this question.

Mr. O'NEIL: In reference to the point of order raised, it is my understanding that if a member requests that a certain accusation or statement be withdrawn, the member making it is required to withdraw it.

The **SPEAKER**: I understand from what the member for Fremantle has said that if his impression is incorrect then he apologises, but he said he did get the impression from the Leader of the Country Party that the latter supported random testing.

Mr. O'Neil: The member for Fremantle has refused to withdraw the remark.

Mr. **FLETCHER**: I used the word "apologise." I said I would apologise if I misunderstood the Leader of the Country Party. Does the honourable member want me to crawl across the passageway?

Debate Resumed

Mr. **FLETCHER**: As I was saying in respect of research, the only authority that can do this adequately is the Police Force, including the traffic section. Its members will be able to undertake research to far greater effect than can the country shires or the country traffic inspectors. I continue to support the Bill.

Mr. **BICKERTON** (Pilbara — Minister for Housing) [6.10 p.m.]: This has been a rather controversial Bill, but as I mentioned earlier the debate started off very peacefully. I got the impression from the speech of the member for Mt. Lawley that he would support the measure. However, that attitude from the Opposition side of the House changed as the debate progressed.

I have been taken to task for saying that I would look into the matters that had been raised by various members, and for not making a reply in accordance with that statement. That does not mean I have not looked into the matters raised. This Bill has been held over from the first part of the present session of Parliament. One would have expected—and I think reasonably so—that when the Committee stage was resumed we would have heard something from the Opposition side in respect of the queries raised. When there was not a speaker from the Opposition one could only assume that all members were quite satisfied, and that after they had a second look at the matter during the parliamentary recess they reached the conclusion that what the Government was attempting to do was the correct thing to do. That is a reasonable assumption.

I was in the Opposition for some 12 years, and I always felt it to be my duty when I wanted to prolong a debate or to obtain some information on a certain matter to do something to achieve that aim. It is not the duty of the Minister to prolong a debate. I believe that on the particular morning when the debate was in progress on the previous occasion members might have been a little drowsy; and to give them full credit they had every reason to be drowsy in view of the treatment they received the night before. That

might have been the reason they allowed the debate to slip through. These things happen in Parliament. On moving the third reading, some member asked about my explanation. Surely it is reasonable for a Minister who has moved the third reading of a Bill to wait and see whether any further information is brought forward before he replies.

Mr. O'Neil: You get seven marks out of 10 for trying.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: This is precisely what has happened. However, I want to reply to some of the remarks that have been made. Apart from giving an undertaking to the Leader of the Country Party that I would look into certain matters, I think the general statement I made in the second reading debate covers the situation fairly well. In respect of one remark made by the member for Dale I felt that I should reply to it by interjection.

Mr. Rushton: You undertook to give us a report.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: If the honourable member will be quiet he will be able to hear my views. Some of the matters raised in the debate went along these lines: there should be one statutory authority. The Government proposes that the Police Department should be the statutory authority, and that is our policy.

Mr. O'Neil: But this is a traffic controlling authority.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: The other evening we heard from members opposite and from the Leader of the Opposition some reference to party philosophies. The police control of traffic in country areas is one of our philosophies. The Government gave an undertaking in its policy speech that traffic would be placed under the control of the Police Department; and that is precisely what we are doing.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: One of the other points raised by speakers was that this suggested separate body—which was to be a permanent executive body—should be designated a traffic control authority and headed by a chairman; and one speaker talked about it being under a Minister for traffic and road safety.

The present amendment provides for a permanent body to control traffic throughout the State, and the Police Department, an experienced body under the present Minister, we believe, is quite capable of carrying out these duties. This is what I said initially.

Mr. Rushton: You do not seem to have taken any notice of one of your colleagues who went to Sweden.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: I take notice of a lot of people, but this is the Government's policy. The people of the State were

told by the Premier in his policy speech that the control of traffic was to come under the Police Department.

Mr. O'Connor: Do you not think traffic is important enough to come under a separate body?

Mr. BICKERTON: We do not think it should be separate, because of the geography of the State and its enormous size. It is possible that such a system might be an asset in a comparatively small State such as Victoria. We believe, however, that in Western Australia traffic control should not be under a separate entity; it should come under one body—and we think that body should be the Police Force.

Whilst the Police Department is controlling the traffic aspect the men will also be available for other duties which normally befall policemen. So instead of having a man who does nothing but traffic work we will have people who can be put onto other duties. We do not believe that there should be a division in our Police Force; we feel it would not be good at all.

Another point raised was that the traffic control authority should be responsible for employment and discipline. To our way of thinking the Police Department already provides for this aspect.

A further point referred to the question of licensing and the authority necessary for this purpose. The Police Department will act as the licensing authority, as it does in the metropolitan area. This is already the case where the police have taken over local authorities and there is no necessity for a separate authority in regard to this matter of licensing.

One member suggested that there should be an inspection of vehicles prior to the issue of a license. The question of the examination of vehicles at appropriate intervals is already being considered. It is a very important part of the present Government's policy. Vehicles are already examined by the Police Department prior to the issue of licenses. These are many of the points that were raised and a number of them were answered by way of interjection at the time.

The aspect of the reimbursement to be agreed to between the authorities concerned was also mentioned. Those areas which have already relinquished traffic control have made satisfactory arrangements in the matter of reimbursement with the authorities involved. I know the local authorities in my area have voluntarily decided to come under the control of the police. To date, at any rate, I have received no objection from them, nor have I received any complaints as to the arrangements made between them regarding the financial side.

It is true that they may not get the revenue they did previously, but it is equally true that they will not be up for

the outlay for which they were in the past in the areas concerned, because of the high cost of accommodation and so on.

Mr. O'Connor: Do you guarantee jobs for those who have served a certain period as inspectors?

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not think this can be guaranteed. There are certain conditions which are applied to employment in the Police Force. As the honourable member knows, there is the question of height, physical fitness, age, and so on which must be taken into consideration.

As I said in my second reading speech, I have no doubt that this is possibly one of the things that none of us particularly likes; we do not relish the thought of someone losing his job; I certainly do not. From the police point of view, however, a guarantee cannot be given that the people concerned will be automatically employed, regardless of age, physical fitness, height, and so on, just to overcome a situation. The department cannot be blamed for not doing that.

The question of the identity of plates was raised; we were told that certain areas would lose their identity. The question of local identification has already been considered by the party, and I think I displayed here a plate which had the name of an area written on it.

If someone feels he would like to be associated with Busselton or Port Hedland, such plates could be obtained from various organisations. I do not know, however, whether the lettering identification explains to the average person where a particular car comes from; it certainly would not convey the information that would be conveyed by a name plate, because it is not everyone who knows what particular letters stand for. It might be helpful for a country driver who happens to drive in the opposite direction in a one-way street and is pulled up by a policeman. Apart from that it is not a matter that should be given overriding consideration when the police take over the control of traffic, particularly when one knows the difficulties that can be experienced with computerising records, and so on.

A further point raised suggested that traffic control authorities should use existing facilities where desirable and suitable. Such facilities are already being used without sacrificing efficiency. A separate authority would probably embody a new department altogether with separate personnel, buildings, and so on. If in some years hence when the authority has been operating under the Police Force and the situation arises, because of increased population and so on, it may be found that a separate body is acceptable.

But let us get this centralised control first rather than have a number of separate bodies carrying out this work. All these measures are amendable from time

to time and any member has a right to move an amendment to any piece of legislation.

Mr. McPharlin: The Shire Councils' Association opposed the police takeover.

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not know whether the honourable member is right or wrong in saying that.

Mr. O'Connor: You should know.

Mr. O'Neill: It is a conference decision.

Mr. BICKERTON: There is proof that a number of local authorities would not care very much because they have already relinquished their control.

Mr. O'Connor: Do you not take any notice of what the local authorities desire?

Mr. BICKERTON: Did the honourable member take notice of everything that was put forward by the country shires when his party was in Government?

Mr. O'Connor: We certainly knew the resolutions they passed.

Mr. O'Neill: You said you did not know.

Mr. BICKERTON: I feel sure that Governments throughout the years have not always agreed with resolutions passed by shire councils. At least this Government does believe in the control of traffic throughout the State and so, obviously, in this matter we do not agree with the shire councils. There is also the question of setting up a separate authority. This, of course, would necessitate the provision of separate buildings, finance, and training facilities for personnel on a scale similar to that which exists at the present time at Maylands for the Police Department. This would be necessary if a separate organisation were set up, whereas at the present time training is received by the personnel through the normal police processes. I feel that is far preferable to another authority; certainly at this stage.

The Leader of the Country Party indulged in the use of many statistics, and endeavoured to prove by using those statistics that country drivers were, in effect, perhaps better drivers than those in the city. I do not know how one proves these theories by means of statistics because, for example, it will not be known where the accident has occurred on the country road; whether it was a metropolitan driver involved, or a country driver; whether or not the accident occurred in the city, and whether the driver was a country driver; whether the driver concerned lived in a place like Kalgoorlie, which has conditions similar to those which apply in the metropolitan area or whether such a driver would be classified as a country driver or a city driver.

It is possible to go on *ad infinitum* and produce figures in an attempt to prove these theories. I pointed out in my second reading speech, however, that our policy

was well and truly the police control of traffic throughout the State. This is what we are endeavouring to achieve and this is what the Bill does.

At the risk of repeating myself I may say that if it is found at a later stage that some other method is desirable it will, no doubt, be put into operation. But this initial move is, I think, essential so far as uniformity is concerned.

I mentioned in my second reading speech, and I repeat, I am not here to criticise traffic inspectors. That is not my job. I have no doubt that some traffic inspectors are more efficient than others, just as some policemen are more efficient than others. I have no doubt that there are some who are not quite so efficient and this possibly may also apply to policemen. But we can argue that all night and completely get away from the purpose of the Bill, which is uniformity of traffic control.

While going through the speeches of the various members I have picked out what I consider to be the main points mentioned by them. I appreciate that those country members who have operated under local government control of traffic for a long time will not feel particularly happy about this move; they naturally will be upset about the police taking over.

I have no doubt that some authorities do control their traffic quite well, but many authorities simply cannot afford to supply the necessary number of traffic inspectors, the accommodation they need, vehicles for them to travel in, and this kind of thing. They do not have the finances available. Consequently, we finish up with a hotch-potch system whereby one local authority has an efficient method of traffic control and another has hardly any at all.

As all of us know, in the past this role was left to the shire clerk in many of the smaller towns throughout Western Australia. He was the traffic inspector and many of the shires—or road boards as they were then called—did not have an assistant shire clerk. We can imagine the time that person could afford to spend on traffic work. He simply could not spend the necessary time. Consequently revenue was being received by the local authority without the actual job being done as efficiently as it could have been.

Mr. McPharlin: You say "many local authorities."

Mr. BICKERTON: To go back 10 years or so, I suppose there was not a traffic inspector north of the 26th parallel, with the possible exception of Carnarvon.

Mr. Thompson: What about now?

Mr. BICKERTON: The duties were carried out, in the main, by the shire clerk and I have no doubts that this applied in many of the smaller shires as well. I am

not criticising that angle of it. I have said previously, and I say again, it is the Government's belief that uniformity of traffic control is one step towards cutting down the road toll. I know this has to be proven by time. Many measures are introduced to Parliament for this purpose and the previous Government when in office introduced many Bills which it said would reduce the road toll. At one stage when legislation relating to the breathalyser was being introduced it was said this would overcome practically all our troubles. However that has been like everything else introduced with the object of cutting down the road toll. After a period of years the experts go to work on the figures and prove that they have not altered a great deal. Others argue, "Think how much worse it would have been had this not been introduced."

We can never come to an absolute conclusion on these matters, but the Government believes uniformity of traffic control throughout the State is one step forward and could well reduce the road toll.

Mr. McPharlin: Before you sit down, do you subscribe to the views expressed by the Deputy Premier that elected representatives on shire councils do not really represent the people?

Mr. BICKERTON: The member for Mt. Marshall is introducing an entirely different subject.

Mr. McPharlin: It has a bearing on it.

Mr. BICKERTON: The honourable member is introducing it by way of a baited hook in the hope that I will take the bait, and he can then say, "This fellow does not agree that people elected to local government really represent local government." This is what the honourable member is hoping I will say and, instead, I say that in some instances they do not and in other instances they do.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—21

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bertram	Mr. Jones
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brady	Mr. May
Mr. Bryce	Mr. McIver
Mr. Burke	Mr. Moller
Mr. Cook	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Davies	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. A. R. Tonkin
Mr. Graham	Mr. Harman
Mr. Hartrey	

(Teller 1)

Noes—21

Mr. Blakie	Mr. Reid
Sir David Brand	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Coyne	Mr. Runciman
Dr. Dadour	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Stephens
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Thompson
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. Williams
Mr. McPharlin	Mr. R. L. Young
Mr. Mensaros	Mr. W. G. Young
Mr. O'Connor	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. O'Neill	

(Teller 2)

Ayes	Pairs	Noes
Mr. H. D. Evans		Mr. Gayfer
Mr. T. D. Evans		Mr. Nalder
Mr. J. T. Tonkin		Sir Charles Court
Mr. Brown		Mr. Grayden

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

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES BILL

Second Reading

MR. MAY (Clontarf—Minister for Fuel) [7.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will recall that during the previous session of Parliament my predecessor introduced a Fuel and Power Bill. When moving the second reading he dealt with the circumstances leading to the decision to introduce the Bill in which provision was made for the formation of the Fuel and Power Commission of Western Australia together with its duties, functions, and powers.

During the recess discussions on details of the Bill have been held with representatives of industry who work in the field of fuel, energy, and power. Bearing in mind these discussions and the fact that a number of fuels in which the State will be vitally interested are of world significance and will involve overseas capital for their development, amendments to the administrative details of the Fuel and Power Bill were deemed desirable for purposes of clarification. These amendments are such that it has been deemed appropriate to withdraw the Fuel and Power Bill and introduce the present Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Bill.

In the view of the Government, this is a Bill of tremendous importance to the future growth of the State. The full development of our mineral resources, including the optimum amount of processing, will be the means to make the State industrially a stronger and more virile community with appropriate influence in our geographic region. This in turn calls for the development of fuel resources and power under conditions which will take due cognisance of the environment and economic factors which will permit the export of our processed minerals together with the development of associated and other secondary industries.

It is not my intention to weary the House by repeating the reasons advanced by my predecessor for the formation of the Fuel and Power Commission of Western Australia which are, of course, considered to be still valid. Rather do I wish to elaborate on matters which have arisen

during the aforementioned discussions and now appear in the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Bill.

I wish to say at the outset that the discussions have been held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and it is considered that the detailed provisions of the Bill will ensure co-operation between industry and the commission to the optimum advantage of the people of Western Australia.

Because of the fact that the supply of fuel is vital to the affairs of the State Electricity Commission, provision is made for the Minister for Fuel also to administer certain Acts stipulated in the first schedule to this Act; that is—

Electricity Act, 1945;
State Electricity Commission Act, 1945;
Liquid Petroleum Gas Act, 1956;
Gas (Standards) Act, 1947;
Gas Undertakings Act, 1947.

Membership of the Fuel and Power Commission of Western Australia is provided to be a commissioner and three other members appointed by the Governor of whom—

- (a) one shall be a representative of the State Electricity Commission;
- (b) one shall be a representative of the department of the Public Service known as the Department of Development and Decentralisation; and
- (c) one shall be a representative of the department of the Public Service known as the Department of Mines.

Members will appreciate that the Department of Mines and the Department of Development and Decentralisation, together with the State Electricity Commission, are vitally concerned with various aspects of fuel and power and this is the fundamental reason for the provisions which have been made.

The duty of the commission is covered in clause 7 and the essential aspect is that the Minister, having obtained the advice of the commission, determines matters of major policy and the commission is then responsible for the implementation of such approved policy.

In the discharge of its duties, the maximum effectiveness of the commission can only be obtained by close collaboration with both State and Commonwealth departments at both ministerial and officer level, and also with the fuel and power advisory council, provision for which is made in clause 6.

It may be necessary to look outside the State to obtain the services of a suitable commissioner who will need to be highly qualified and possessed of a wide variety of other essential attributes.

It is envisaged that some time in the future it may be necessary for the commission to carry out or cause to be carried out works which will need capital finance and provision is made for this together with making the commission a body corporate.

Some amendments have been made to the functions of the commission as set out in the Fuel and Power Bill in order to meet various aspects raised during discussions with the representatives of private industry. In essence, reference to control and prices which were never intended to have any ulterior meaning, have been deleted or amended as appropriate.

Otherwise it is not the wish of the Government, at this stage, unduly to restrict the functions of the commission which is, of course, subject to the Minister in any event.

In addition to providing for the establishment and functions of the Fuel and Power Commission of Western Australia, the Bill makes similar provisions for a fuel and power advisory council. Neither the commission nor the Government is bound to adopt the recommendations of the council but it is hoped that a close relationship will be established and maintained when dealing with matters of such vital importance to the future of the State.

Members will note that provision is made for the council to consist of—

- (a) the commissioner or other person nominated to preside;
- (b) permanent members;
- (c) representative members; and
- (d) co-opted members.

The council is a fluid body without a fixed number of members and appointments are made, subject to certain stipulated procedures, by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The reason for desiring that membership be fluid is that subjects on which advice may be sought by the commission may cover a number of different fuel and power matters which involve the competitive commercial interests of private enterprise. In addition, a member who is experienced in one particular fuel may have little to contribute on another.

In order that the commission can satisfactorily discharge its duties and carry out its functions, it will be necessary to obtain information from private industry and other sources. Subject to the right of objection to the Minister in the case of trade secrets, provision is made for obtaining such information with penalties for breach of secrecy.

I commend the Bill which now appears before members because I feel it will be the means of coping with a major problem which the future holds for Western Australia and which is currently evident in both the United States and Japan. I

feel the provisions can be dealt with more effectively in Committee without further discussion at this stage.

Debate adjourned for one week, on motion by Mr. O'Neil (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from the 3rd August. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Bateman) in the Chair; Mr. Taylor (Minister for Labour) in charge of the Bill.

Progress was reported after clause 2 had been agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 11 put and passed.

New clause 2—

Mr. TAYLOR: I move—

Page 2—Insert after clause 1 the following new clause to stand as clause 2:—

Commence- 2. This Act shall come into ment. operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

That is a hope, not a promise.

New clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with an amendment.

PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS BILL

Second Reading

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [8.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of the Public and Bank Holidays Bill is proposed for a number of reasons.

In December, 1971, the Western Australian Industrial Commission made important changes in the "Public Holidays" clause in several awards which was then to be the standard for all awards of the commission.

It meant also some change in the concept that public holidays should be observed on the day on which they fell to the concept that 10 public holidays without loss of pay be given to workers under awards. The commission determined that when Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, and Anzac Day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on the following Monday. Boxing Day is to be observed on a Tuesday when Christmas Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

This decision applied only to workers embraced by the amended awards, and to ensure that public holidays are uniformly

observed it is desirable to provide for parallel holidays by legislation to cover persons not included in State awards.

As well, in many cases, workers covered by Commonwealth awards are given holidays of the State in which they work.

The proposed Act will enable the determinations of the arbitral authority—which heard evidence from unions of employees and employers—to be placed into legislation and thus cause other wage and salary workers, not included in industrial awards of the commission, to have the standard 10 public holidays applied to them.

Importantly, the new Act will also combine the common holiday provisions of the Anzac Day Act, 1919, the Anniversary of the Birthday of the Reigning Sovereign Act, 1937, and the Bank Holidays Act, 1970.

It will also allow the administration of the Act to be placed under one authority, the Minister for Labour.

By making provision for the Governor to proclaim a public holiday for a special occasion—such as a Royal Visit—it will also avoid the necessity of having to pass a special Act for an occurrence of special significance.

A complementary amendment to the Interpretation Act will be necessary so that the definition of "Public Holiday" and "Bank Holiday" can be changed to conform to the new Public and Bank Holidays Act.

In addition an amendment will be required to the Factories and Shops Act to relate "Public Holidays" defined therein to the new Act.

Clause 9 of the proposed Act will cause the Act to prevail over an industrial award, order, or agreement, only for the purpose of making a holiday mandatory when it is one proclaimed as a special holiday by the Governor, or the day appointed is altered to another day.

However, it is not intended to derogate the powers of the Western Australian Industrial Commission in respect of including in awards, for the purpose of the award, conditions relating to public holidays such as payment; that is, a holiday to be observed without deduction of pay, and applications to casual workers, and the like.

Amendments to the Factories and Shops Act will make holidays prescribed in the second schedule to the new Act or otherwise proclaimed thereunder to be applicable to factories, shops, and warehouses.

The closing of shops on public holidays will still be covered by the relevant sections of the Factories and Shops Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Neil (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Postponement

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta—Deputy Premier) [8.10 p.m.]: I move—

That orders of the day Nos. 4 and 5 be deferred until after consideration of order of the day No. 7.

Mr. Speaker, if I may explain the reason for this, orders of the day Nos. 5 and 7 are complementary to the measure contained in order of the day No. 3, with which we have just dealt.

Mr. O'Neil: Message received and understood.

Question put and passed.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [8.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amending Bill is designed to bring the holiday provisions of the Factories and Shops Act into conformity with those prescribed in the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

It also modifies the qualification requirements for a person to be eligible to be appointed as an inspector, simplifies the definition and classification of "Exempted Shops," clarifies the position concerning prohibited statements in regard to trading hours, and allows of some interchange of inspectorial functions between the Factories and Shops Act and the two other safety Acts administered by the Department of Labour.

In the Factories and Shops Act at present, public holidays are nominated and provisions made for substitution of days upon which holidays are observed and proclamation of days or half days on special local occasions, such as agricultural shows.

These proclamations are limited in their effect—that of closing shops—and do not authorise a general holiday but usually correspond to holidays proclaimed or authorised under the present Bank Holidays Act for the same occasions.

The Bill is designed to amend the Act so that all the public holiday provisions will be dependent on those prescribed or proclaimed under the Public and Bank Holidays Bill.

Section 12 of the Factories and Shops Act at present limits the appointment of inspectors to persons who have passed the prescribed examination. The amendment proposed to this section will allow suitably qualified professional or technical persons to be appointed in addition to those who have passed the prescribed examination

and to enable the position of chief inspector to be filled by a person such as a graduate engineer as is the practice in other States.

This same amendment will also allow suitably qualified inspectors, appointed under the Inspection of Machinery Act and the Construction Safety Act, to be appointed for specific purposes under the Factories and Shops Act.

Section 86 of the Factories and Shops Act lists a series of categories of shops which in themselves or in combination comprise what are described as "Exempted Shops" and as such can trade uncontrolled hours. Confusion has arisen due to variations of opinion as to what precise stock is appropriate to a particular class of shop, and in addition, to extend or alter the variety of exempted shops at any time requires amendment to the Act.

Re-enactment of the section as proposed in the Bill will provide that exempted shops are those which confine their stock to a range of goods to be prescribed by regulation as exempted goods. In addition to clarifying the position for shopkeepers, it will allow greater flexibility. The corresponding Act in Queensland was amended in 1964 to enable exempted goods to be prescribed.

Amendment to section 92 of the Act will allow shops which sell motor requisites and therefore may remain open for longer hours than normal, also to stock and sell exempted goods.

The proposed re-enactment of section 93C is designed to correct some weaknesses in regard to the promotion of sales of goods outside permitted trading hours.

Difficulty has been experienced in establishing the person responsible for publicising advertisements which indicate that shops are open for business outside normal hours. As it is now, the shopkeeper, the agent, or the medium which actually presents the announcement to the public could be liable.

Amended as proposed, the new section will make the shopkeeper of the shop specified in the advertisement responsible for any published statement which implies or suggests that a shop will be open or that orders will be taken anywhere at times when the shop is required by the Act to be closed.

To minimise duplicate inspection and permit greater flexibility in the Inspectorate of the Department of Labour it is proposed to re-enact section 118 to allow of inspectors under the Factories and Shops Act to be authorised, if necessary, to exercise certain powers under the Inspection of Machinery Act and the Construction Safety Act.

Conversely, in conjunction with the amendment to section 12, section 118, as proposed, will allow of inspectors appointed

under these other two Acts to exercise powers to an extent as may be authorised under the Factories and Shops Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Neill (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

INTERPRETATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [8.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments proposed to the Interpretation Act are consequential on the Public and Bank Holidays Bill and will come into operation at the same time as the latter.

The definition of "Bank Holiday" is amended as it referred to the Bank Holidays Act which is repealed by the Public and Bank Holidays Bill which provides for bank holidays and bank half holidays.

The definition of "Public Holiday" which listed various days as holidays is similarly amended to conform to the public holidays and public half holidays explained in the proposed new Act and shown in its second schedule. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Neill (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

LAND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont—Minister for Works) [8.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before members seeking to amend the Land Drainage Act of 1925 covers a number of matters.

Firstly, it increases the value of minor works which can be carried out without meeting the formalities properly associated with major works, which include making available to the public the plans, advertising in the Press a description of the proposed works, and obtaining an Order-in-Council before commencement of construction. The second amendment deletes a section which, when recently studied in detail following a court decision, was found to be meaningless as it is impracticable to meet the obligations imposed by it.

The third matter refers to claims for compensation arising out of the construction and use of a drain and provides that in considering a claim there shall be allowed, as an offset against any claim for damages, the benefits derived from that drain. That is the Bill in broad terms. I will now explain it in detail.

Clause 1 is self-explanatory.

Clause 2 seeks to amend subsection (2) of section 60 of the principal Act and deals with two of the matters I have mentioned. Paragraph (a) seeks to increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the amount which may be spent on construction of minor works. Having regard for the inflation which has taken place since 1941 when the \$1,000 exemption was inserted in the Act, the proposed \$5,000 limit is reasonable.

Paragraph (b) is a machinery one consequent on the deletion of subsection (2) (c) of section 60. Paragraph (c) seeks to delete subsection (2) (c) which imposes an obligation on any drainage board and the Minister to obtain a certificate from the engineer-in-chief that the proposed works will be of sufficient capacity to carry off all waters which may reasonably be expected to flow into such works from the catchment area and that a reasonably sufficient outlet to the sea has been provided.

It was this subsection which moved a judge of the Supreme Court to award damages against the Minister for Water Supplies following the flooding of the Harvey River in 1964. Even though the section has been part of the Act since it was originally passed, no certificate has ever been obtained from the engineer-in-chief as provided for, and it is considered that no engineer would be prepared to give the certificate unless allowance was made for abnormal flooding which may occur only once in a thousand-year cycle.

If the requirements of the Act as now laid down were met, the cost of drainage works would increase significantly without any real benefit to the public or the department. It has been the practice to design drainage works having regard for the damage that will result from overtopping for flows with recurrence intervals of from two to 50 years, and this has proved to be adequate except in very isolated instances.

Clause 3 contains a new section 65A which requires any compensation for damages payable to any person to be reduced by the amount by which the property has been enhanced in value by the drainage works and the value of any benefit arising out of the construction, use, and maintenance of the drainage works. I believe members will agree that this proposition is fair and reasonable. The principle is the same as that incorporated in the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act.

Clause 4 has been drafted to regularise the situation arising out of the practice in the past of not obtaining certificates from engineers-in-chief, as provided for by section 60 (2) (c), which it is now proposed to delete. I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Thompson.

WHEAT PRODUCTS (PRICES FIXATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [8.26 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In January, 1972, the Wheat Products Prices Committee was constituted under the provisions of section 6 of the Wheat Products (Prices Fixation) Act. The Auditor-General was appointed chairman; Mr. G. E. Ledger and Mr. D. W. Cooley being the other two members.

The committee, as the result of an approach by the bread manufacturers in the metropolitan area, investigated the price of bread in February this year, and as a result of its recommendation a price increase of 1c a loaf was granted in the case of five varieties of bread.

A further application was made in June by the bread manufacturers for an increase in the price of one variety of loaf, but was not recommended. It is considered that in order to assess fully the costs and make recommendations regarding the price of bread, the price of its basic ingredient—namely, flour—should also be examined. At present, although flour is defined in the Act as a wheat product, valid recommendation can be made only in respect of bread, bran, and pollard. The reason for this is that in section 15 of the Act it is prescribed that, in spite of any recommendation which the committee may make, the price of flour must not be fixed below a minimum of £11, or \$22 a ton, or above a maximum of £13 10s., or \$27 a ton.

The present-day price of flour used in the baking trade is \$102.50 a ton. It is ridiculous that an Act which is designed to allow of investigations into the cost of production of wheat products with a view to fixing their prices, should have written into it a static price range for one of those commodities which was appropriate in 1938 but is completely out of step with present-day prices.

The amending Bill is designed to delete the minimum and maximum prices at present nominated in section 15 (2) (a) and (b) and substitute for them in each case the words "the prescribed price" which will allow of the flexibility necessary to keep the section in line with changing times and values by means of regulation.

This measure is considered to be much more sensible than the alternative one of constantly amending the Act to relate the maximum and minimum price limits to changing costs of flour production. Flour is the main ingredient of bread and the Bill will restore the authority of the committee to extend its investigations into the production of this commodity and assess a

fair price for it. It can then base its recommendations concerning the price at which bread can be sold on the costs of all factors involved in its production. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. McPharlin.

HAIRDRESSERS REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [8.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendment proposed in the Bill is a simple one, yet it is important. The Bill seeks to provide for deputies to the chairman and to the members of the board.

The board is constituted by a chairman appointed by the Governor and four other persons of whom each shall be a person who has had at least three years' experience either as a principal or employee in the practising of hairdressing. One of the four persons shall be nominated by the Master Gentlemen's Hairdressing Association, one from the Metropolitan Ladies' Hairdressing Association, and two from the union—one representing male employees and the other female employees. There is no provision for deputies.

Recently the chairman had to attend a conference overseas and more recently two members of the board have had serious illness and the work of the board is seriously hampered by not having deputies who can take the place of either an absent chairman or an absent member. The Bill proposes to rectify the situation and provide that the board reimburse any deputy for fees in a similar manner to a member. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Williams.

PREVENTION OF EXCESSIVE PRICES BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 27th April.

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.31 p.m.]: It was my understanding that this Bill would not be proceeded with until Thursday of this week because tomorrow the Commissioner of Consumer Protection is to be appointed.

Mr. Taylor: In explanation, I would agree with you. You are quite right that that was the intention.

Mr. O'NEIL: I am not objecting.

Mr. Taylor: But I want to apologise to that extent.

Mr. O'NEIL: I am not objecting, but this is what we understood. However, because of the situation of the notice paper and the absence of some Ministers, it has been decided to proceed with this Bill this evening.

I want to say at the outset that this is the most outrageous piece of legislation with which it has ever been my responsibility to deal. I would not care whether this Bill was designed to regulate the size of back fences, toe nails, or a person's ears, the way in which it goes about controlling what it is supposed to control is the epitome of the "Big Brother" philosophy of socialist Governments. This Bill tells people that either they do what Big Brother thinks is best for them or the Government will come down on them like a ton of bricks.

Mr. Davies: They have nothing to fear if they play the game.

Mr. O'NEIL: Here is the hidden threat again. I wish the Government would keep making interjections like this and I wish the Press would report them! They have nothing to fear if they play the game—and if they do not they will have no game to play.

Mr. Davies: The processes of the law will deal with them if they do not do so.

Mr. Williams: Who makes the rules?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. O'NEIL: The processes of the law will deal with them unless road maintenance tax is involved, and then they will get an exemption from the Government.

The Government might say it has a mandate for this monstrosity. As a matter of the fact this morning's issue of *The West Australian* contains a report which uses only the word "Taylor." It says, "Taylor: We have prices control mandate."

Mr. Taylor: Incidentally it was on television tonight on two channels—exactly the same statement.

Mr. O'NEIL: That the Government has a prices mandate?

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. O'NEIL: The Government has endeavoured to ice this obnoxious cake by saying it is introducing selective price control. I have some questions which, unfortunately, will not be on the notice paper until tomorrow. I had hoped they would be answered in time for me to use the information in this debate. In the *Daily News* on the 7th August the Minister is reported as follows:—

But the aim of the bill was to examine and, if necessary, set rates on selective items only—primarily those goods and services in general demand by the public.

The question I have asked the Minister, and I hope he will answer it tomorrow, although it will be then too late for me to use the information is, "What are the selective items the Government desires to control?" What are they? What are these goods and services in general demand by the public? Can the Minister by interjection tell me what specific items, prices, and costs of services he proposes to control?

Mr. Taylor: No.

Mr. O'NEIL: I thank the Minister.

Mr. Taylor: But I will give a list of those goods in general demand which could be.

Mr. O'NEIL: This Bill is produced in such a form that in my belief the Government does not want it passed, and then it will be able to say that Parliament rejected another one of its ill-considered election promises.

Mr. May: Is this the line of action every time there is a possibility of the Council rejecting a Bill?

Mr. O'NEIL: I have been accused by the Press and some members in another place of having said that another Bill before the Chamber would not be passed in another place. If members examined my speech very carefully, as I have done, they would find I did not say that.

Mr. Jamieson: You had to examine it to make sure, though.

Several members interjected.

Mr. O'NEIL: We are talking about another Bill. Only limited copies of last week's *Hansard* are available and I happen to have one. In fact when the Minister for Housing said that I had stated that that Bill would be rejected in another place, I denied it. I suggested that the Minister check my speech thoroughly and I even offered to supply him with an uncorrected copy and told him he would find that that was not so.

Mr. Bickerton: Let us say you did not say you guaranteed the Legislative Council would pass it.

Mr. O'NEIL: I said that it was my opinion that if it acted as a responsible Chamber it would act in that way and the Bill would be thrown out except for the full stop. That is different from giving the Government an undertaking about the Bill.

Mr. Graham: You said the Council would throw it out.

Mr. O'NEIL: I said that if the members in another place acted as fully elected and responsible citizens they would throw it out.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. O'NEIL: The Minister knows that the Opposition consists of members of the Liberal Party and members of the Country

Party; and the members of the Country Party do not meet with us at party meetings. It is up to the Country Party to determine its attitude.

Mr. Graham: You have them fairly well trained, too. They will dance to your tune.

Mr. O'NEIL: This Bill is designed in such a manner as to ensure its defeat. I am sure many members on the Government side can recall that one of the basic reasons for the defeat of the Hawke Government in 1959 was another monstrous piece of legislation referred to, I think, as the Unfair Trading Practices Act, or something like that and citizens far and wide and industry and business far and wide reacted to that vicious Bill.

Mr. Davies: Reacted to the whipped up hysteria—

Mr. O'NEIL: It does not matter whether or how it was whipped up, it brought about the defeat of the Hawke Government. Either this Government is committing political suicide with this monstrosity of a Bill—which I hope it is—or the Government believes the Bill is designed in such a way that it has no hope of passing.

By interjection in other debates I have suggested to members like the member for Boulder-Dundas that they read this Bill thoroughly. I suggest they forget what it is proposing to do and read the way the Bill proposes to achieve its objective. Two new members in the Chamber—the member for Mirrabooka and the member for Ascot—keep telling us about one of the philosophies of the Labor Government; that is, one vote one value. Let them read the Bill and see whether that political principle has been thrown overboard.

Members should read the Bill. I will explain some of the points as I go along. Just as the history of the State Government Insurance Office should be compulsory reading, so should this Bill be for the back-benchers of the Labor Party who purport to support it. It is no more a piece of selective price control legislation than is my foot. It is as broad and wide as it can be. It makes no distinction between persons and classes of persons, goods, or parts of the State. It is a total price control Bill and has nothing to do with selective price control or prices justification which is the new policy of the Federal Labor Party, which wants a prices justification board or something of that ilk and has thrown away price control as such.

Mr. Taylor: Would you not say the committee as set out in the Bill requires prices justification?

Mr. O'NEIL: I will come to that in a moment. The committees are a complete and utter farce. In essence they consist of one man—the chairman—and I will prove to members that this is so.

So many things have been said about price control in general and in principle. Fortunately the only experience we have had of it was during wartime, and the Minister referred to an advertisement in the weekend papers. He said it was deceitful because it referred only to wartime control. What other time can we mention? If the Minister says that was deceitful let me point out that prices were no lower then—in fact they were probably higher—than they are under a situation with no price control. It is true that as a matter of national emergency during wartime, price control was introduced in order to ensure that goods in short supply would not command extremely high prices; and that is the only possible reason one could envisage for its introduction. It is no good controlling the price of goods when there is an abundance of supply because the force of competition will maintain a reasonable level.

Mr. Jamieson: Like petrol or something like that?

Mr. O'NEIL: I have been waiting for someone to raise that issue. The price of one commodity that is controlled by the Prices Commissioner in South Australia is the price of petrol; but all the other States adopt the price set by the South Australian Prices Commissioner. Some differences relative to freight rates and so on are evident, but basically the price of petrol is controlled, nation-wide, by the commissioner in South Australia. Yet, in recent months, members must have seen reports of the massive arguments that petrol can be sold at 5 to 6c below the present price. That is the price control the Minister mentioned!

Mr. Taylor: Did you know that another prices commissioner sets the price of petrol?

Mr. O'NEIL: No I did not.

Mr. Taylor: There is one in New South Wales.

Mr. O'NEIL: He no doubt uses the rubber-stamp price set by South Australia. I have a question for tomorrow's notice paper relative to something the Minister said which was that South Australia had a prices commissioner with strong powers kept in reserve in case they were needed. There is that socialistic threat again. He went on to say that the present Labor Government in South Australia has not seen fit to add a single item to the list made up by the former Liberal Government. I want to know what is on that list. Can the Minister tell me what items are controlled by the South Australian Prices Commissioner?

Mr. Taylor: You may recall that today I myself wanted to put a question on tomorrow's notice paper, but you, Sir, disallowed it and so I had to ask another member to do this for me. The answer will be supplied tomorrow. A list of prices and items will be on the table tomorrow.

Mr. O'NEIL: The Minister made a statement that the present Labor Government in South Australia has not seen fit to add a single item to the list made by the previous Liberal Government.

Mr. Taylor: As I understand it that is quite correct.

Mr. O'NEIL: I am asking what is on the list. The Minister may be right. I doubt whether anything else is on the list.

Mr. Taylor: There will be 32 more on the table tomorrow.

Mr. O'NEIL: Fair enough. It is perhaps a little unfortunate for the Minister but fortunate for me that the Minister could not answer the question today or, alternatively, that this debate had not been proceeded with tomorrow instead of today.

Mr. Hutchinson: If he asks himself a question he should get a fair answer.

Mr. Taylor: I thought it would be more honest to do it that way, but I was not allowed to do so.

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not believe the Government has a mandate for this rubbish. I would have said from what the Labor Party indicated in its policy speech, that the Government had a mandate to study price control. I think if we read in the Premier's policy speech the section relative to price control we would find that the Labor Party said it would support a nationwide referendum on the desirability of price control. Nowhere under the heading "Price Control" is a statement that the Labor Party would introduce a price control Bill. I must admit that somewhere in the midst of the body of the speech under the heading "Consumer Protection" it was stated that if all else fails, "We will go it alone." The Government has gone it alone, all right, and it has gone as far as it can ever possibly go.

Mr. Taylor: You will find in the Premier's policy speech a statement to the effect that there will be legislation on excessive prices.

Mr. O'NEIL: If all else fails! I read it fairly carefully; it is compulsory reading for me. However, I do not believe the Government has a mandate. Let us assume that the Government imagines it has a mandate; anyone who reads and understands the method proposed to be used in respect of controlling excessive prices will see that it is simply not acceptable. As I have said, this Bill crosses every "i" and dots every "i"; there is not a loophole in it.

Mr. Hartrey: Do you want some?

Mr. O'NEIL: I think an article published in *The West Australian* stated that if we had our way all that would be left of this Bill would be the staples. However, the Government has the numbers.

I am sure the member for Boulder-Dundas will be interested enough to examine some parts of the Bill which I

will refer to him. Many of us—not all of us—had some experience with price control legislation during the wartime. Perhaps it could be said that because of the national emergency there was some justification for price control at that time. However, we all know that one of the principal evils of price control is blackmarketing. I know the Bill will make blackmarketing an offence, but murder is an offence and robbery is an offence, and the provision of penalties under the law does not stop murder or robberies. As a matter of fact, price control can make blackmarketing far more attractive.

I have had other experiences in respect of price control; perhaps not as much experience as my leader who, I understand, was on a price control committee. However, I have had some experience because relatives of mine happened to manage a food manufacturing concern in the immediate post-war era when I returned home from war service. I saw what a laughable operation price control was.

In the manufacture of canned foodstuffs it was simply a matter of indicating the price of every commodity, adding a percentage of the price, and telling the prices commissioner that that was the price of the article. The prices commissioner would then put a rubber stamp on the article and the moment that was done the price was set for that commodity. If the article was in demand, and there was a reasonably short supply, any other manufacturer who produced an equivalent article would immediately lift the price to that of his competitor, despite the fact that he might be able to sell it cheaper.

Price control stabilises prices at the maximum which the market can pay; it does not produce lower prices. Price control has never produced lower prices. It has produced a stabilised price at a higher mark-up than that which would apply were ordinary competitive operations allowed to function.

Mr. Davies: You are decrying capitalism.

Mr. O'NEIL: No, I am decrying price control because it does not produce lower prices.

Mr. Taylor: Do you believe this happens with the price fixation relative to bread?

Mr. O'NEIL: I have a question on the notice paper. I did ask the Minister on how many occasions the price of bread had increased since he appointed the committee.

Mr. Taylor: It has risen once, and it was declined once.

Mr. O'NEIL: Right, and how long has the committee been in existence? On how many occasions prior to this has the price of bread increased? I think it will be found,

once again, that the Wheat Products Prices Committee is simply reviewing the situation.

Mr. Taylor: I understand the old committee had not reviewed the situation regarding bread since wartime; certainly not in your time.

Mr. O'NEIL: I can recall the time when Mr. Perkins was Minister for Labour—when we were in Government—and he was taken to task by the then Opposition for not setting up a committee. That was one of the last remnants of price control which we could get rid of, and we promised to do so. There were accusations that we, as a Government, were not abiding by the letter of the law because the Act stated that a committee “shall” be established. We amended the Act so that it stated, “may” be established.

We did not require the committee because we had an undertaking from the master bakers to the effect that they would not increase the price of bread or bread products without discussing the matter with the Government of the day. They frequently came to me with their cost accountant and showed me—as they would show a price fixing commissioner—the items which had increased in price and had gone into the making of the new price. Frankly, what could I do? I was not a cost accountant. I saw that they had a reasonable argument and that they had met their commitment. I told them that I knew I could not prevail on them not to increase the price of bread because they had observed their side of the bargain. I am sure this has happened to the present Minister.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, and significantly the only time that an increase in bread prices has been declined has been under the committee. We both allowed the price to increase because we were not geared to look into bread prices.

Mr. O'NEIL: I can tell the Minister that on the next occasion the case will be better prepared and the committee will have little alternative but to rubber stamp the recommendation of the master bakers.

When the matter of price control was given an airing, following the election, I saw some very interesting interviews conducted by television reporters with people in the streets. I think the main problem was that the reporters did not know how to ask questions. For example, almost every housewife imagined that with the introduction of price control she would obtain cheaper goods. There were complaints that in store A an article was being sold for 1c more than the price in store B, and 2c more than the price in store C. That was considered to be a bad thing. I wonder what price the customer would have preferred! I would say, naturally, the lower price.

The Bill now before us does not fix the price of the same commodity in every store. There is provision for differential price fixing and, to give an example—and not comparing the city with the country—I will mention the small corner store and the large supermarket. Let us consider a commodity such as a tin of jam. The large supermarket has a throughput which would probably run into thousands of tins of jam a week while the small corner store might have a throughput of only 10 tins a week. The overhead relevant to any particular tin of jam sold at the corner store is much higher per tin than that which applies at the large supermarket. Quite frequently the small corner store could not sell the same commodity at the same price as the supermarket because it simply could not afford to do so. This would apply to a whole range of items. Stores which we used to call “mum and dad stores,” which are now able to operate practically 24 hours a day, provide a service mainly to those people who have forgotten to buy something at the supermarket. These stores are already struggling and if the prices commissioner states that the price for a certain tin of jam, in the metropolitan area, must be that charged by the supermarkets then the little stores will go out of business or will sell at a loss and be forced out of business.

The commissioner will have to have regard for the overhead and throughput of the business concerned when he fixes a price. That is virtually impossible.

Mr. Taylor: That is dead right. That is what we have to have in mind.

Mr. O'NEIL: I wonder what sort of argument will back up the prices commissioner. What sort of argument was necessary during wartime, and in the immediate post-war period? Provisions in this Bill indicate that one cannot offer, in respect of services or an article which has a controlled price, any other matters which are related to it. Otherwise, one commits an offence. I do not know how to get over that.

Some members will recall that during wartime secondhand motor vehicles were controlled. I have heard stories—I did not experience it personally—concerning people who would buy used motor vehicles which were usually rather old and dilapidated towards the end of the war. A car could be bought for a couple of hundred pounds, plus £50 for each of the tyres. That was not an uncommon practice. In other words, the law was circumvented by various ways and means. This measure endeavours to cover that situation but it was covered by previous price control legislation without success. About the only thing not covered was the air in the tyres and the holes in the roofs.

The previous legislation did not work and any member who remembers price control during the war would have to admit

that it did not work. All it did was to stabilise prices at a higher level than otherwise would have obtained.

The Government, because of its election promises, received a fair amount of support in regard to price control, mainly from the housewives. I know my wife thinks it would be a good idea to have cheaper groceries, and this is the area of appeal to most of the ordinary housewives who are obliged to live on whatever their husbands give them.

Mr. Hartrey: Do you think it is a good idea to have cheaper groceries?

Mr. O'NEIL: Yes, as cheap as possible. I will now refer to an advertisement which was sent around to grocery shops so that it could be placed in their windows. This occurred some time ago when there was some criticism about the price of groceries. The figures were taken from the consumer price index and the main theme of the story was that groceries were a bargain. It was aimed at those people who criticised the price of groceries.

The advertisement purports to compare what happened in respect of prices and wages, according to the consumer price index, between December, 1963, and June, 1971. Average weekly earnings rose by 66 per cent. in that period. Over the same period the consumer price index shows that newspapers and magazines rose by 68 per cent., and local government rates and charges—which I do not think would be subject to control under this legislation—rose by 66 per cent.; precisely the same percentage as the weekly earnings. Motor services and charges, in an area where we do have an item under control—petrol—rose by 61 per cent.

Mr. Hartrey: By what amount did rents rise?

Mr. O'NEIL: Fares on public transport rose by 58 per cent. Here again, that item will not be subject to control under this legislation; it is specifically exempted. Postal and telegraph charges rose by 48 per cent., and, of course, groceries rose by 18 per cent.

Mr. Hartrey: What about rents?

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not know whether the Minister proposes to control rents. He has not been able to tell me what goods and services he proposes to control.

Mr. Taylor: Do not put words into my mouth.

Mr. O'NEIL: I have a question on the notice paper asking what goods and services it is proposed to control in the public interest. We will see what answer is supplied.

I will now deal with the more objectionable clauses of this Bill, and I will refer first of all to the *modus operandi*. The

Minister said that this Bill is designed to select certain areas where the department would demand price control. Committees will be set up to investigate matters and make recommendations and the commissioner will do certain things. However, irrespective of anything contained in this Bill, the Minister in his own right has the power to declare the price of any goods and services anywhere in the State. If one takes everything else away from it, that is what it says.

Mr. Hartrey: Why not?

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not think that is right. If the Minister wants to declare the price of a service, and if he has the power to do so, he should at least have the advice of somebody. Under this Bill, he does not need it.

Mr. Taylor: Under the Milk Act the price is recommended. The Minister can consent to it but there may be occasions when the price is not accepted.

Mr. O'NEIL: The Minister went to some pains to pour some icing on this obnoxious cake by referring to prices advisory committees. The Bill states that the Governor may establish prices advisory committees—one or more. If he does not, and this Bill passes, the Minister will have total control. If the Governor does establish the committees, and this Bill passes, the Minister will still have total control, but at least there will be a prices advisory committee.

On reading this Bill one might imagine that initially there would be one committee which would examine the prices of various goods and services, and perhaps change them. Perhaps it would operate sometimes and not at other times. But on reading the functions and role of the committee, one will find that is not so. There should be several committees and they should be permanent. Let us see what the Bill says. Clause 6 (2) reads—

A prices advisory committee may be established in respect of all goods and services—

That is one committee which we may have, and that will do the lot. It continues—

—in respect of a particular class, range, or description of goods and services—

That is one committee for a class and one for a range or description. To continue—

—or in respect of all goods and services other than those coming within a particular class, range, or description.

The committees are required to be set up—

Mr. Taylor: One moment. You are surely referring to one committee there.

Mr. O'NEIL: I will go on. If I have misinterpreted here there is certainly further evidence to indicate the permanence and variety of these committees, because any consumer may complain to a committee about the price of any services. There must be a committee to deal with each complaint about any goods and services.

Mr. Hartrey: Why? Cannot one committee handle a variety of goods and services?

Mr. O'NEIL: It would not be effective, and I will point out why. The committee is required to be made up of a chairman and equal numbers respectively of trade representatives and consumer representatives: all nice and cosy, all fair and above-board. No meeting may be held unless the chairman, one of the trade representatives, and one of the consumer representatives are present. That also sounds nice and cosy—equal representation.

The chairman does not have a deliberative vote; he has only a casting vote. He may decide the issue or defer it for further consideration. It sounds all very well until we have a look at this particular provision—and I wish the member for Mirrabooka and the member for Ascot were present. Clause 6(6) reads—

Without limiting the operation of subsection (5) of this section—

That is the part about which I have been talking. It continues—

—where a vote is taken on any matter before a meeting and all the trade representatives present vote in a certain way and all the consumer representatives present vote in the opposite way, the votes for and against that matter shall, for the purposes of that subsection, be deemed to be equal.

If that is not a complete and utter denial of the Labor Party's policy of every vote having equal value, I do not know what is.

Let me assume a position where there are equal numbers of traders and consumers present. As the complaint will invariably come from a consumer, can members imagine any situation where the vote would not be split down the centre with the traders on one side and the consumers on the other? Can members imagine it? Of course they cannot. Therefore, it is the chairman's casting vote that makes the decision. Why have the committee?

According to the provision I have just read, if there were six trader representatives present, and one consumer representative—because at least one of them must be present—and the six traders voted one way and the consumer voted the other way, the voting would be equal and the chairman would have the casting vote.

Mr. Taylor: It works the other way around, too.

Mr. O'NEIL: I am saying this is a complete and utter denial of the Labor Party's policy of every vote having equal value. For the edification of members I will read it again, and if there were a way of having it put in block letters in *Hansard* I would have it done. Clause 6(6) reads—

(6) Without limiting the operation of subsection (5) of this section, where a vote is taken on any matter before a meeting and all the trade representatives present vote in a certain way and all the consumers' representatives present vote in the opposite way, the votes for and against that matter shall, for the purposes of that subsection, be deemed to be equal.

On every occasion the chairman will decide the issue, and nobody can deny that.

I will go back to my previous example, in which there were equal numbers of traders and consumers present. This being a matter of price control legislation, the complaints will certainly come from consumers. A consumer will complain that the prices are too high. If this matter is to be debated, is it thought the traders would agree? Of course they will not. Therefore, on every occasion when there are equal numbers present in these committees, the vote will be split down the centre and the chairman will decide the issue. If they vote according to class, irrespective of numbers, that vote is deemed to be equal and the chairman decides. So the whole committee system is farcical. Why have a committee? I think members will agree that the chairman is the only one who makes the decision.

Mr. Hartrey: He has other functions besides that, though.

Mr. O'NEIL: Let us go on.

Mr. Taylor: Under the Milk Act and the Marketing of Eggs Act, where the numbers of consumers and producers on the committees are fairly even the chairman presumably sets the price. You do not object to that sort of committee. This is a similar sort of thing with producers on one side and consumers on the other side.

Mr. O'NEIL: More than two classes are represented and there is provision that if the voting is uneven it is deemed to be even, provided they vote according to class.

Mr. Taylor: No.

Mr. O'NEIL: Surely the Minister agrees that makes the committee system a farce. The Minister is caught on the hop. I will wait with bated breath for his reply.

For the information of the member for Boulder-Dundas, the committees' functions are covered in clause 8 of the Bill. Committees cannot set prices; only the commissioner can do that, and the Minister can do it without any advice. Clause 8 reads—

8. (1) A committee shall advise the Commissioner—

(a) as to whether maximum prices or rates should be fixed and declared or continue in force under this Act in respect of any of the goods or services with respect to which it is established;

This brings me back to the point that it is not just one prices advisory committee, because it implies that the committee can advise the commissioner with respect to the goods and services in respect of which that committee is established. If a committee were to look at everything, it would be a 36-hour-day job. We will have many committees. Clause 8 continues—

(b) on any other matter that the Commissioner may refer to it . . .

That is not too bad. These committees to which individuals may complain or which may investigate matters upon request by either the Minister or the commissioner must have some semblance of permanency.

It is not much good saying one can complain about the price of tea if no committee has been set up in regard to the price of tea. It is no good having *ad hoc* committees because the committees must be set up by the Governor. We will see a proliferation of committees. If the Minister told us which goods and services he desires to control, it would help us, but as this Bill covers almost everything we will have an infinite number of committees.

Mr. Taylor: Do you know how many committees there are in Queensland?

Mr. O'NEIL: No.

Mr. Taylor: One committee of three people to decide everything.

Mr. O'NEIL: How many goods and services do they control?

Mr. Taylor: The Queensland Act is as wide as ours is. Do you want to see a copy of it?

Mr. O'NEIL: This one sickened me enough. I do not want to see any others.

Mr. Taylor: You will hear about some others.

Mr. Williams: What about this one?

Mr. O'NEIL: Another part of this particular clause reinforces my opinion that we will have many committees. Subclause (2) reads—

(2) A committee shall, at the request of the Minister, and may, on its own motion or on receipt of representations made to it by any person, in-

vestigate any matter relating to the supply of goods or services with respect to which it is established.

There is the inbuilt offer to the public at large. No matter what one wants to complain about—it does not need to be the price of goods; it can be any matter relating to the supply of goods or services—the committee which is established should carry out the appropriate investigations. We must therefore have committees for everything from pins to anchors. If I want to complain about the price of safety pins and there is not a committee, what do I do?

Mr. Hartrey: Why cannot the one committee cover pins and anchors?

Mr. O'NEIL: One committee would have a 36-hour-day job, and I do not think that is Labor Party policy, either.

There is a rather obnoxious provision with respect to the powers of the committee. Subclause (3) of clause 8 reads—

(3) Where a committee conducts an investigation under subsection (2) of this section, it shall, if requested to do so by the Minister, and may, if it considers it desirable in the public interest to do so, submit to the Minister a report on the results of its investigation with such recommendations in connection therewith as it considers necessary or desirable.

That also sounds cosy. But what about this particular provision—

(4) On the receipt by the Minister of a report made to him under this section he shall cause a copy thereof to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after he receives the report.

Irrespective of whether or not the complaint is founded, if a committee, as a result of a request by an irate consumer, decides to investigate the operations of Mr. Bloggs in selling shoes, and the committee carries out the investigation and makes a report to the Minister, the Minister has no option other than to table it in Parliament after receiving it and before he has even made a decision about it. The fact that Mr. Bloggs' shoe store was examined and criticised, and so on, is spread to the public large and wide, despite the fact that Mr. Bloggs may be as innocent as I usually am.

Mr. Hartrey: Cannot the Minister exculpate him?

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not think there is any need for this sort of thing.

Mr. Taylor: You cannot have it both ways. You cannot have the Minister all-powerful—

Mr. O'NEIL: We can have it no way. We can abolish this ridiculous type of inquisition.

Mr. Williams: What about the fellow's competitors who can come and read the report which has been tabled, if they wish to?

Mr. Rushton: It is ridiculous.

Mr. O'NEIL: Here is another massive power given to these committees. Just imagine how acceptable this would be to most of us as individuals! Clause 9(2) states—

A committee may in respect of any investigation that it is authorized to conduct under this Act—

Remember that the committee may conduct an investigation on its own motion; it is not necessary to receive a complaint. It may be requested by the Minister to conduct an investigation, it may be in receipt of a complaint from a person, or it may conduct an investigation on its own motion. Subclause (2) continues—

(a) direct any one or more of its members to conduct that investigation, —

It could name one of its members; and do not forget that he probably would be either a consumer or a businessman, and not a public servant. Continuing—

—to hear or receive any evidence or representations given in connection therewith, or to conduct any other proceedings of the investigation, and where anything is done in accordance with such a direction, the fact that any members of the committee were not present at, or did not take part in, the doing of that thing does not invalidate any report, recommendation, or other thing done consequent upon the conduct of the investigation.

Therefore, a committee may direct one of its members to carry out an investigation. Let us get back to Mr. Bloggs' shoe shop. If the committee is considering a matter related to, say, the price of shoes, one would imagine—because the Minister is ever so fair—that there would be a number of shoe traders and a number of shoe consumers on the committee. The committee may determine that shoe trader A is to be designated as the person to investigate the price of the shoes sold by Mr. Bloggs. So that man, a trader in his own right, is fully authorised by this legislation to examine the costing of an opposition shoe store.

Is that fair? Does the Minister think another shoe trader should be permitted by law to examine the costing facilities and arrangements and the economies of a competitor's business?

Mr. Fletcher: Are you sure you are not deliberately putting that interpretation upon it?

Mr. O'NEIL: It is in the Bill.

Mr. Fletcher: That is what you are reading into it, but would it apply?

Mr. O'NEIL: Ah, there is the rub. I have mentioned that this piece of legislation is the epitome of the "Big Brother" philosophy. Every "t" is crossed and every "i" is dotted. We are saying to the people, "Don't worry about it; we can slaughter you with this, but if you are good boys we will not do so." Surely that is not the right attitude for a Government to adopt. Yet the present Government has done this on so many occasions.

Mr. Davies: Any exploiter deserves worse treatment than you are making out he will receive.

Mr. O'NEIL: How does one determine that a man is an exploiter?

Mr. Davies: There are many ways.

Mr. O'NEIL: In the eyes of every person who buys a tin of jam, a loaf of bread, a pint of milk, or a pair of shoes, and finds that the article may be obtained cheaper elsewhere, the person from whom the article was purchased is an exploiter.

Mr. Taylor: Does this mean the Minister will set up a committee every time he receives a complaint?

Mr. O'NEIL: I believe that if we must have a committee to which an individual can complain, we must have a committee to investigate everything that we imagine people will complain about.

Mr. Taylor: That is not so.

Mr. O'NEIL: I am very sorry, Mr. Minister, but the Bill says so. It says in clause 8 (1)—

8. (1) A committee shall advise the Commissioner—

(a) as to whether maximum prices or rates should be fixed and declared or continue in force under this Act in respect of any of the goods or services with respect to which it is established;

And again in clause 8 (2)—

(2) A committee shall, at the request of the Minister, and may, on its own motion or on receipt of representations made to it by any person, investigate any matter relating to the supply of goods or services with respect to which it is established.

Mr. Taylor: "Investigate." But only the Minister can set up the committee, and only the Minister may set the price.

Mr. O'NEIL: Well, what if somebody wishes to complain about the price of shoes and there is no shoe prices committee? To whom does that person complain if he cannot complain to a committee set up for the purpose?

Mr. Taylor: If a dozen shops in Perth are selling shoes I would tell that person in choice language what to do.

Mr. O'NEIL: How can the Minister say to the public, "This Act says that the committee may, on its own motion, or on receipt of representations made to it by any person, investigate any matter relating to the supply of goods or services with respect to which it is established"? Suppose I wish to complain about the price of nail files.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Carry it through to its logical conclusion.

Mr. O'NEIL: To its illogical conclusion. I am entitled under the law to complain to the committee.

Mr. Taylor: Who set up that committee?

Mr. O'NEIL: The Minister.

Mr. Taylor: Oh no, he didn't. You have jumped ahead. He has not set up any committee for nail files.

Mr. O'NEIL: That is the very point I am making.

Mr. Taylor: All right. It is selective prices control.

Mr. O'NEIL: The Minister has told the public that they may complain to any committee set up in respect of the things about which they have a complaint. But what if there is not a committee? How can they complain?

Mr. Hartrey: They cannot.

Mr. O'NEIL: Of course they cannot. Why hoodwink the public?

Mr. Taylor: We have consumer protection to protect people, but only when they have a legitimate complaint.

Mr. O'NEIL: That is right; but the Minister has a consumer affairs bureau which is entitled to make investigations, and here he is setting up advisory committees—

Mr. Taylor: Only when the Minister thinks fit.

Mr. O'NEIL: —to which people may make representations.

Mr. R. L. Young: Upon what are you going to base your assessment as to whether a committee should be set up?

Mr. Taylor: A *prima facie* case.

Mr. R. L. Young: A *prima facie* case! That is not good enough, you know.

Mr. O'NEIL: I presume I can continue with my interjections. This Bill implies the establishment of yet another department. We on this side of the House did not object to the establishment of the consumer affairs bureau. I think the Government named it the Consumer Protection Bureau. I would much prefer that it be called the consumer affairs commission. However, we did not object to this. As a

matter of fact, this was a common item in the policy speeches of Sir David Brand, as the leader of the Liberal Party, and the present Premier. So that Bill was passed with the general blessing of the Parliament because both parties agreed with it. But surely that is enough. How many wailing walls does this Government want?

We already have the Parliamentary Commissioner and the Consumer Protection Bureau. Now we have this thing covered with the title of "excessive prices control." These sorts of definitions simply indicate that we have a Government which imagines that people cannot look after themselves.

Sir David Brand: We should control legal fees.

Mr. O'NEIL: We are not allowed to as far as private practitioners are concerned, but I understand there are some amendments on the notice paper which show that at least some members will be subject to prices control.

Mr. Bertram: We have had price control for many years.

Mr. O'NEIL: By Statute?

Mr. Bertram: Of course by Statute.

Mr. O'NEIL: A very interesting case was raised, and I am pleased that it was. We were given the example of the control of petrol, and it has been stated frequently that the price of petrol is about 5c or 6c per gallon above what it should be. How often have I heard the prices charged by legal practitioners criticised!

Mr. Bertram: Doctors also have prices control.

Mr. O'NEIL: Of course. But if their prices are controlled, why are they not lower? The general public imagines that price control means low prices. The honourable member has just given me an example where it does not.

The Bill sets out to create yet another department. It provides authority to appoint such officers subject to the Public Service Act as are required, and so on. I do not know just how many people were involved in trying to control prices during wartime. Possibly someone here may know something about this.

However, as I understand the position a bevy of price controllers were shooting all around the country with monotonous regularity. I would not know what they did, but I understand there were plenty of them. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, if we have any extension of that type of price control we will have another bevy of inspectors. Maybe this is the Government's answer to the unemployment problem. The Government can rest assured that if it creates an establishment to control prices—bearing in mind the investigations the

commissioner may be required to conduct—it will be necessary to have about 1,000 accountants. Some of the matters which the commissioner may take into account when fixing prices under this Bill will require the use of several computers and a couple of cost accountants thrown in.

Mr. Fletcher: Wartime was the only time when prices were stable; and the horse has bolted from the stable since.

Mr. O'NEIL: Where was the member for Fremantle during wartime?

Mr. Fletcher: I was not here to pay the prices, but history has recorded them.

Mr. O'NEIL: Nor was I here. However, I would refer the honourable member to the advertisement which appeared in *The West Australian* last Saturday, which both the Minister concerned and the Premier said was deceitful. Yet when one considers the price variations in the pre-war period without price control, in the war period with price control, and in the post-war period without price control, one finds that prices were not stable during wartime, as stated by the member for Fremantle.

Mr. Fletcher: The history books are written.

Mr. O'NEIL: Perhaps the member for Fremantle and I should get together and write our own history books.

Mr. Fletcher: We are now trying to protect those people who receive lower salaries than we receive.

Mr. O'NEIL: Protect them from what?

Mr. Fletcher: From increased inflation.

Mr. O'NEIL: Perhaps the member for Fremantle could tell me the goods and services for which he desires price control.

Mr. Fletcher: It is the under-privileged we are looking after, in the main.

Mr. O'NEIL: But for which goods and services?

Mr. R. L. Young: Such as bread.

Mr. O'NEIL: Yes, bread is already covered and it is exempted from this Bill.

Mr. R. L. Young: Milk and eggs.

Mr. O'NEIL: Again milk and eggs are not subject to this legislation because they are already controlled. So are potatoes. What else does the Government need to control? We have just heard about the poor lawyers who are controlled.

Mr. Williams: If that is the sort of price control we need let us not have it at all.

Mr. O'NEIL: What about the price of electricity? We have had a recent increase in the price of electricity; but it is exempted from this Bill, not because the price is controlled under the State Electricity Commission Act, but because the price is declared under that Act.

Mr. Taylor: But the State Electricity Commission has consumers on the board. I think from memory there are about three consumers.

Mr. Williams: Out of how many members?

Mr. Taylor: Out of about seven members. I have the Act in my drawer. Perhaps you would like to read it.

Mr. O'NEIL: Let us now consider what the commissioner is to be required to do by publication in the *Government Gazette*. This is included in part III of the Bill at page 9, and I will read it in detail. Clause 12 (1) states—

12. (1) The Commissioner may by order published in the *Gazette* fix and declare the maximum price or rate at which any goods may be sold or any service may be supplied, either generally throughout the State or in any specified part of the State.

Does that give members a hint of selective price control?

Mr. Hartrey: It is selective enough.

Mr. O'NEIL: It is selective all right! It applies only to Western Australia, but it applies to everything in Western Australia. Subclause (2) of clause 12 states—

(2) Without limiting the generality of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the Commissioner, in the exercise of his powers under that subsection, may fix and declare maximum prices or rates—

(a) differentially, according to differences in the quality or description of goods, or in the quantity, description, or volume of the service supplied, or in respect of different forms, modes, stages conditions, terms, or localities of trade, commerce, sale or supply;

That is what he has to do. I imagine he will need a fairly big staff to advise him. That is only in respect of paragraph (a), but this proposed subsection extends to paragraph (h). The clause goes on to provide—

(b) for the whole or different parts of the State and differentially for different parts of the State;

(c) on a sliding scale;

(d) on and subject to any condition or conditions;

(e) for cash, delivery, or otherwise, or on terms, and in any such case inclusive or exclusive of the cost of packing or delivery;

(f) on landed cost, or other cost, together with a percentage thereon, or a specified amount, or both;

So the commissioner can simply put on a profit margin either as a percentage or in a lump sum. To continue with the clause—

(g) according to, or upon, any principle or method of calculation specified by the Commissioner;

In other words, the commissioner can determine the formulas according to or upon any principle or method of calculation specified by him.

Mr. Taylor: Have you read subclause (4) of that clause?

Mr. O'NEIL: I have placed three question marks after the limitations. In addition to all those things under which the Minister can operate a selective price control policy he can also set the maximum prices or rates as follows:—

(h) relative to such standards of measurement, weight, capacity, or otherwise as he thinks proper, or relative to prices or rates charged by individual traders or suppliers on any date specified by the Commissioner, with such variations (if any) as in the special circumstances of the case the Commissioner thinks fit, or so that such prices or rates will vary in accordance with a standard, or time, or other circumstance or will vary with profits or wages or with such costs as are determined by the Commissioner.

So he is completely uninhibited and unlimited as to the manner in which he determines prices and the considerations he adopts; and he is free to use his own formulas for his calculations. There is only one other person who appeared to have the powers that the commissioner is to have, and unfortunately we all know what happened to him.

Mr. Fletcher: That was because he interfered with private enterprise!

Mr. O'NEIL: To add insult to injury there is reference in the Bill to orders made under the Act, they being essentially the orders to set prices. Clause 12 (3) states—

(3) An order under this section may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as are necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order.

As though the rest of the Bill does not contain all the variations and requirements, just to make sure the last nail is put into the coffin a dragnet provision has been included.

Mr. Hartrey: That is good legislation.

Mr. O'NEIL: This is typically "Big Brother" legislation. It does not miss a beat. That is why I say we cannot be convinced that the Government is not introducing this measure solely for the purpose of having it defeated.

Mr. Taylor: An amendment which will appear on tomorrow's notice paper will change paragraph (c) to (a); and (b) to (b) (i); and (a) (i) to (b) (ii). Does that help?

Mr. O'NEIL: I appreciate the Minister will need to discuss this Bill further.

Mr. Taylor: I could not persuade the Parliamentary Draftsman, and in the end I had to direct him.

Mr. O'NEIL: If the Minister does not want me to refer to the limitations then I refer to what appears in clause 12 (4) which states—

(4) The Commissioner shall not fix and declare the maximum price or rate at which any goods or service may be sold or supplied unless—

(a) the goods or the service are or have been the subject of an order previously made under this section;

What does that mean?

Mr. Taylor: Will you start with paragraph (c) which now becomes paragraph (a)?

Mr. O'NEIL: I think I had better stick to the Bill as printed. The Minister is assuming his amendments will be accepted by the Committee. It seems that the limitation section does not matter.

I mentioned this at the beginning of my contribution; I said this Bill, stripped of all the frills and niceties which I think I have ridiculed sufficiently, simply states that the Minister may fix the price of any goods or service anywhere in the State.

Mr. Hartrey: That is the object of the Bill.

Mr. O'NEIL: What I am referring to appears on page 11 of the Bill. Clause 12 (4) goes on to provide—

(c) the Minister has, by notice published in the *Gazette*, specified those goods or that service to be goods or a service in respect of which the Commissioner may fix and declare a maximum price or rate.

I was probably technically wrong when I said the Minister would be empowered to declare a price. However, the commissioner is to be given that power. The Minister will have the power to designate a service, an article, or a range of goods in respect of which the commissioner shall fix a price. Without reference to anybody the commissioner will have the undoubted and the total power to fix the price.

Mr. Taylor: You will have to read that provision in conjunction with that which appears immediately above it on page 11.

Mr. O'NEIL: This clause states that the commissioner shall not fix and declare the maximum price or rate of any goods

or services unless the goods or services have been the subject of a previous order. In other words, he can vary the rate or price if the goods are already subject to price control; and further, the commissioner shall not fix the maximum price unless the Minister has by notice published in the *Government Gazette* specified the goods to be goods in respect of which a maximum price shall be fixed.

Mr. Taylor: I agree with your interpretation, but that is not what we want.

Mr. O'NEIL: The law is not concerned with what we want; it is concerned with the interpretation.

Mr. Taylor: I am telling you what is coming up.

Mr. O'NEIL: This Bill gives the Minister complete power to direct the commissioner to fix the price of any goods and services anywhere in the State.

Mr. Taylor: That is the way it reads now.

Mr. O'NEIL: That is correct. A rather strange provision appears in the Bill. As the measure stands, it specifically excludes from the definition of "services" those services provided by an employee in his capacity as such to his employer. In other words, it specifically excludes the setting of maximum wages.

Mr. Hartrey: That is a job for the Arbitration Court.

Mr. O'NEIL: No. The Arbitration Court sets minimum wages, but this Bill is designed to set maximum prices. If that is not so then why is there all the argument about over-award payments? Let us not be confused by the fallacious argument that a worker has to go before the court to get a fair return for his labour. The court merely sets minimum wages, but this Bill fixes the maximum prices.

Mr. Bertram: Many industrial awards set the maximum.

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not think that any of them set the maximum, they only set the minimum. This Bill is rather peculiar in that it specifically excludes the payment for labour and it sets the maximum price of labour. In clause 15 the following provision appears:—

15. (1) The powers of the Commissioner of or in relation to fixing and declaring—

(a) the maximum price at which any goods may be sold; and

(b) the maximum rate at which any service may be supplied,

shall extend to and in relation to the fixing and declaring of the maximum remuneration for the sale of any goods and the supply of any service.

It goes on to refer to an undivided remuneration, etc.

I am wondering whether the Minister can give me more advice on this provision. Does it mean that the commissioner may fix the commissions payable to an agent? In other words, can he fix the commission payable to a person who is receiving remuneration for services rendered, whether it be for services in the promotion of the sale of certain articles or in selling vacuum cleaners? Is there power for the commissioner to fix the rate of remuneration for such services? My interpretation is that he has that power; but anyone who is subject to an industrial award or any agreement under that award is not subject to the powers of the commissioner to fix a maximum wage. However, in the case of a person operating on his own behalf as an agent or salesman there is power for the commissioner to fix what that person shall charge for his services. Maybe I am wrong in my interpretation, but I doubt it. There seems to be an indication that a person offering his services and working on his own behalf may have his remuneration controlled.

Mr. Hartrey: I think you are right in your interpretation.

Mr. O'NEIL: Does the honourable member think such a provision is fair?

Mr. Hartrey: Yes. The middle man has been getting the world for years.

Mr. O'NEIL: It is not fair for the prices commissioner to fix the maximum price of labour for, say, a farmer; but he is given the right to fix the remuneration of a person who, through his own persuasiveness, makes a business of selling pancakes.

Mr. Fletcher: They are selling vacuum cleaners to pensioners, and some members of your party have taken exception to that.

Mr. O'NEIL: There might be a few immoral vacuum cleaner salesmen, but there are some good ones.

Mr. Fletcher: Do you not think we need legislation like this to control them?

Mr. O'NEIL: At last we are hearing from the back bench of the Government outlining to the Minister the sorts of things which need to be controlled; but the Minister does not seem to know himself. We will see whether the vacuum cleaner salesman is one category to come under control when the Bill goes through.

As I said before, this Bill does not miss a beat. Even the after-sales services of some articles come under the control of this piece of legislation, because on page 12 the following paragraph appears under clause 15(3)(a):—

(a) the sale of any goods shall be deemed to include the supply in connection with the sale (whether or not for a separate remuneration) of any service customarily

supplied by vendors in connection with such a sale without any separate remuneration; and

Even the after-sales services one would expect to receive after buying a piece of equipment—this service is not free and nobody is fooled by it, because it is part of the consideration in the price of the goods—are subject to control.

Mr. Bertram: Do you say nobody is fooled by it?

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not think anyone is. Is the honourable member?

Mr. Bertram: Nobody would agree with you.

Mr. O'NEIL: After the proposed committee has made any sort of order in respect of the control of goods and services, it cannot be put into effect without the consent of the Minister. The relevant provision appears on page 13 of the Bill. Clause 16(2) provides as follows:—

(2) During the period for which the operation of an order or part of an order is suspended by notice published under subsection (1) of this section—

- (a) the maximum price or rate (if any) that prevailed immediately before the coming into operation of such order or part of an order applies; and
- (b) the Commissioner shall not, without the consent of the Minister, make any further order under section 12 in respect of any goods or service the subject of that notice.

I do not disagree with this but there is always the power of the Minister to intervene. However, I do object to the fact that the Minister has, in fact, total and undisputed power. There is no right of appeal; there is no prices appeal tribunal. Not on your life; there is no such thing!

Mr. Hartrey: We are the Government of the country.

Mr. O'NEIL: Does not the member for Boulder-Dundas believe in the right of the citizen to have access to appeal in these certain areas? I think the member for Boulder-Dundas was shocked by the lack of appeal when a certain inquiry was being carried out because of a complaint made to a Minister. Details of an inquiry could be exposed to public view, whether a person was innocent or guilty. I suggest there are areas in this Bill where the onus of proof rests upon the defendant.

Mr. Hartrey: It does not say that in the Bill.

Mr. O'NEIL: I suggest the member for Boulder-Dundas read it again. It is right through the Bill. Wherever an offence is committed the person is deemed to be

guilty. It is stated that it shall be a defence if the person did not know that what he was doing was an offence.

Mr. Hartrey: Have a look at clause 19.

Mr. O'NEIL: Very well, I will. There are only 38 clauses in the Bill and we have plenty of time. Clause 18 sets out that the maximum price will become the normal price. It accepts the principle of wartime price control. As was the case under wartime price control, we will have one price, and that is the maximum. Subclause (2) of clause 18 sets out that this will be the case. Subclause (3) of clause 18 reads as follows:—

(3) For the purpose of this section, a person on whose behalf, or at whose place of business, any controlled goods are sold or offered for sale or any controlled service is supplied or offered, at a greater price or rate than the maximum price or rate fixed under this Act for the sale of those goods or the supply of that service, whether the goods are sold or offered for sale or the service is supplied or offered contrary to the instructions of that person or not, shall be deemed to have contravened the provisions of this section, unless the court is satisfied that the sale, supply, or offering took place without his knowledge and that he has systematically used all due diligence to secure observance of the provisions of this Act.

Mr. Hartrey: Is that not exactly the same as the licensee of a hotel allowing betting to take place on his premises?

Mr. O'NEIL: The onus of proof is on the person complained against. Does the member for Boulder-Dundas think this ought to be so? There are provisions right through the Bill to combat black-marketing. Clause 19 of the Bill states that a person shall not, in any way, knowingly pay for or offer to pay for, or hold himself out as willing to pay for any controlled goods.

I am now dealing with blackmarketing. Any person who knowingly enters into any scheme—which has the general definition of blackmarketing—faces a penalty of \$500. I know there is no good in my saying that blackmarketing is illegal and that it is an offence. There are many offences under the law which carry penalties and are illegal, but that does not stop the offences. Anyone who thinks that blackmarketing will be stamped out by the imposition of penalties does not know what he is talking about. Blackmarketing will not exist without price control.

I think that if members read the clauses dealing with offences they will find that in the majority of cases the onus of proof is on the defendant. It is an offence unless the defendant proves so-and-so. That appears right through the Bill in respect

of various provisions. One is guilty until proven innocent. *Ab initio* one is guilty all the way through the Bill, and I did not think the Government agreed with that philosophy.

A dragnet clause appears on page 17 of the Bill which is included in case something is forgotten. Clause 23 gives power to the commissioner to prohibit certain transactions. This is also a rather extraordinary provision. There is a requirement upon the trader to sell any goods he has at his disposal at the price fixed.

Clause 24, on page 18 of the Bill, is as follows:—

24. (1) A person who has in his custody or under his control any controlled goods for sale shall not refuse or fail—

(a) on demand for a quantity of the goods; and

(b) on tender of payment at the price fixed under this Act for that quantity of the goods,

to sell those goods in the quantity demanded.

Mr. Hartrey: Fair enough. How do you get price fixing without that provision?

Mr. O'NEIL: What would happen in the event of a person coming to me and offering to buy goods which I had in my control, when I happen to know that the fellow does not have a penny with which to bless himself.

Mr. Hartrey: He has to have the cash to pay for the goods.

Mr. O'NEIL: Where does the Bill state that?

Mr. Hartrey: Paragraph (b) states that the person has to tender payment. The tender could be cash; no cheques.

Mr. O'NEIL: Let us concede the point because there are plenty of other matters to worry about. If the supplier refuses to supply the goods he commits an offence and, once again, the onus of proof is on the person who does not supply the goods.

Mr. Hartrey: The Bill does not state that.

Mr. O'NEIL: Subclause (2) of clause 24, in part, reads as follows:—

(2) In proceedings in respect of an offence against this section it is a defence to show that, on the occasion in question—

(a) the defendant supplied a reasonable quantity of the controlled goods demanded or, after making reasonable provision for private consumption or use, had not a sufficient quantity of the goods in his custody.

Mr. Hartrey: But that is only in certain cases.

Mr. O'NEIL: The member for Boulder-Dundas will be able to make a fortune out of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Hartrey: The honourable member is putting up the proposition that these defences are additional to the person's rights as a citizen.

Mr. O'NEIL: I would like to hear the member for Boulder-Dundas speak on the Bill—in all seriousness—and I would like him to tell the House about some of the points on which he agrees with me.

The Bill contains a whole batch of offences. I do not see any penalties less than \$500. There may be some, but I cannot find them. A fine of \$500 seems to be the standard penalty for a breach of the proposed Act.

Mr. Hartrey: Fair enough; but someone has first of all to commit an offence.

Mr. O'NEIL: The commissioner is given certain powers to carry out investigation and, under price fixing legislation, he has to have such power to obtain information. However, there are many aspects of this provision about which I am querulous. One particular provision, which is a matter of curiosity from my point of view, is contained in subclause (2) of clause 28. This provision appears in many other Statutes but I have never been able to determine why it should be included. The subclause reads as follows:—

(2) Before entering any premises pursuant to this section the Commissioner or a person authorised in accordance with section 33 by the Commissioner so to do shall display to the person, if any, affording him entry—

This is the interesting part—

(a) in the case of the Commissioner, a document signed by the Minister and certifying that he is the Commissioner; and

So the Minister has to identify the commissioner. The commissioner cannot, in his own right, undertake to enter into a place unless he is certified.

Mr. Hartrey: He is authorised by the Minister.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(b) in the case of an authorized person, a document signed by the Commissioner and certifying that that person is an authorized person.

Mr. Hartrey: That is right. If I presented a statement to any ordinary citizen signed by myself he would not take any notice of me.

Mr. O'NEIL: He might; the honourable member is a man of stature!

Mr. Taylor: Is not this provision in the Factories and Shops Act also?

Mr. O'NEIL: It is. It also exists in many other Acts. Whether I am too querulous, I do not know.

Mr. Taylor: You put up with it for a long while.

Mr. O'NEIL: The Bill also contains provision for the commissioner to require that returns be furnished.

Mr. Hartrey: That is not unusual.

Mr. O'NEIL: Of course, when one sets up a department in this manner, quite frankly, one can see the growth of a great monolith. Information has to be obtained in order to determine prices, and to be able to control them. Irrespective of whether the goods and services are controlled under the provisions of this proposed Act returns will have to be submitted quarterly, monthly, or even weekly showing what prices are being charged.

In respect of any controlled goods the commissioner may, by notice in writing, require any person to furnish him within a specified time and in a specified form a return setting forth all the business relating to the costs of the goods and services involved. We can see a massive monolithic department being set up in order to obtain that information.

Of course there are the usual provisions for secrecy and I think they are important. However, they do not get away from the incident I mentioned earlier. A prices advisory committee may delegate one of its members to investigate the price of goods manufactured and sold by one of that particular person's competitors. This, of course, we find extremely objectionable.

I have skipped many of the matters contained in this Bill. I think the Minister will appreciate that many more speeches will be made from this side of the House. In order to discount finally the idea that this legislation is designed for selective price control I will refer to clause 38 of the Bill. The Minister made no reference whatsoever to the miscellaneous provisions contained in the Bill.

I have spoken about the dragnet clauses contained in the measure, but the miscellaneous provisions can leave nobody in doubt as to the nonselectivity of this price control legislation. I will read out clause 38, slowly. It is as follows:—

38. Any order or notice authorized to be made or given under this Act may be made or given so as to apply, according to its tenor, to—

(a) persons generally;

Mr. Hartrey: Just stop for a moment. That is not selective, but every other one is.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(b) all or any persons included in a class of persons;

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: It is selective according to class.

Mr. Hartrey: Of course.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(c) all or any persons in any area;

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(d) any particular person;

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: Is there any person at all in the State over which an order cannot be made in respect of the prices of goods or services?

Mr. Hartrey: All of these are selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: To make sure we do not miss any, I refer to paragraphs (b), (c), and (d).

Mr. Hartrey: They are all selective. They are all particular bodies.

Mr. O'NEIL: Right. They refer to the classes of persons, traders, or professional people whose services and costs can be controlled. The clause goes on to refer to the goods, as follows:—

(e) the sale of goods or supply of a service or of services to a particular person by a particular person;

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: It is selective, all right. If the member for Boulder-Dundas and I wanted to enter into a contract for the exchange of goods or services and one of us complained, the contract between us could be subject to an order under this legislation.

Mr. Hartrey: That is right.

Mr. O'NEIL: Consequently, the Minister can determine the price I would pay the member for Boulder-Dundas for a particular service or article which he offered me.

Mr. Hartrey: So it says.

Mr. O'NEIL: So it says. There is no doubt about it. The clause goes on—

(f) goods or services generally;

Mr. Hartrey: That is general.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(g) any class of goods or any class or services;

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: To continue—

(h) all or any goods or services in any area; or

Mr. Hartrey: That is selective.

Mr. O'NEIL: Finally—

(i) specified goods or a specified service.

Mr. Hartrey: They are all selective except (a) and (e).

Mr. O'NEIL: Surely it boils down to what I said in the beginning: This Bill is nonsense in respect of carrying out a policy of selective price control. Stripped of all the niceties, it gives the Minister of the day power to ask the commissioner to declare the price of any goods or services in the State—goods or services supplied by any person to any person. It is total and complete power to have total and complete price control.

I should add, this excepts goods and services offered by the Government. There is no control on those prices. I refer, for example, to water and power. They are not controlled. The Government can do what it likes and no-one else can do anything about it.

Mr. Bertram: How do you work that out?

Mr. O'NEIL: They are excluded.

Mr. Bertram: There is such a thing as a ballot box.

Mr. O'NEIL: There is such a thing as a ballot box if anyone is charging too much for milk.

Mr. Taylor: In all sections of the State?

Mr. O'NEIL: Milk probably comes under orderly marketing, and the price is controlled from the calf to the can. The measure will control only the price of goods produced by an individual by his own effort and initiative.

Mr. Taylor: This Bill—

Mr. O'NEIL: The Government will be able to control the price of anything under this Bill.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, if we investigate it.

Mr. O'NEIL: Members will have gathered that we on this side of the House do not think the Bill is worth the paper it is printed on and we cannot see any justification for it. We certainly cannot see any merit in it. We oppose the measure.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

House adjourned at 10.04 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1972

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

ABATTOIRS

Establishment

The HON. T. O. PERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is it a fact that an agreement has been signed or is about to be signed whereby the Government

guarantees or provides large sums of money for the establishment of abattoirs?

(2) If so—

- (a) What is the amount to be contributed by the Government?
- (b) With whom is the agreement and what financial contribution is that party or parties making?
- (c) What are the major matters of the agreement, such as sites, capacity, etc?
- (d) Is there any provision in the agreement for payment of so much per pound of stock killed to be paid to the parties to the agreement?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

The honourable member was kind enough to give me prior advice of this question, and I have obtained a written reply as follows:—

- (1) On the assumption that the question refers to a proposal submitted by the United Farmers and Graziers Association in conjunction with the Trades and Labor Council, no agreement has been signed or is about to be signed whereby the Government guarantees large sums of money for the establishment of abattoirs.

- (2) See answer to (1).

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

DAIRYING

Production Control

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is it correct that the Federal Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Sinclair) has made a statement that measures for production control in the Dairy Industry have been agreed upon at the Agricultural Council meeting?
- (2) If production control is to be implemented, what is the basis on which such control will be imposed in Western Australia?
- (3) Did the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture concur in the decision to impose production control?
- (4) Will the Minister Table the submission made to the Agricultural Council by the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture on the State of the Dairy Industry in Western Australia?