Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 25 March 1981

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

ROAD

Paraburdoo-Tom Price: Petition

MR SODEMAN (Pilbara) [2.16 p.m.]: I have a petition from the residents of Paraburdoo and Tom Price. It reads as follows—

> The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.
>
> We the undersigned, protest that the promise made by your Government in 1979 and repeated just prior to the 1980 Western Australian State election, that the blacktopping of the Tom Price to Paraburdoo road would be completed by December 1980, will not be fulfilled.
>
> Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 727 signatures and I have certified that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No.7.)

LONG SERVICE LEAVE ACT

Amendment: Petition

MR NANOVICH (Whitford) [2.17 p.m.]: I have a petition from the Australian Bank Employees' Union and it reads as follows—

> The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in the Parliament assembled.
>
> We, the undersigned hereby petition that the Long Service Leave Act be changed to allow for the entitlement to an amount of long service leave as follows:—
>
> (a) in respect of ten (10) years, thirteen weeks
> (b) in respect of each seven (7) years continuous employment so completed after such ten years, thirteen weeks,
>
> also that changes be made in the legislation to provide for pro-rata leave after 7 years, on the basis of 13 weeks for 10 years.
>
> Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 1 084 signatures and I have certified that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 8.)

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [2.18 p.m.]: I desire to present a petition couched in the following terms—

> TO—THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:
>
> We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia shall continue to support the effective measures being used by the Road Traffic Authority to reduce the carnage on our roads.
>
> Further that they will introduce necessary legislation to reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.08 to 0.05 as now applying in Victoria and New South Wales, and require compulsory alcohol tests for all traffic victims admitted to hospital.
>
> Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

I have certified that the petition bears 77 signatures and that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 9.)

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

MR SPRIGGS (Darling Range) [2.19 p.m.]: I have a petition to present and it reads as follows—

> We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that

Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia shall continue to support the effective measures being used by the Road Traffic Authority to reduce the carnage on out roads.

Further that they will introduce necessary legislation to reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.08 to 0.05 as now applying in Victoria and New South Wales, and require compulsory alcohol tests for all traffic victims admitted to hospital.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

This petition bears the signatures of 49 citizens and I have certified that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 10.)

"DIGEST OF THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA"

Tabling

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I have for tabling the *Digest of the Parliament of Western Australia* for 1980.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 104).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cottesloe Town: Speaker's Ruling

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I draw to the attention of members question 115 appearing on today's notice paper. I have been advised that the matter referred to in this question is the subject of a legal challenge; indeed, a writ has been issued out of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, and the subject matter is, therefore, *sub judice* and the question is ruled inadmissible.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Grain Marketing Amendment Bill.
2. Dried Fruits Amendment Bill.

   Bills introduced, on motions by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and read a first time.
3. Mining Amendment Bill.

   Bill introduced, on motion by Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.
4. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Subsidy Amendment Bill.

   Bill introduced, on motion by Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Fuel and Energy), and read a first time.

MINING AND PETROLEUM RESEARCH BILL

Second Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Mines) [2.28 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Some three years ago the Government created the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia—SERIWA. As members are aware, this has flourished and grown to an extent that it is now financing some 45 solar energy research projects in this State.

We have been conscious of the need to develop research within this State for the mining and petroleum industries. Much of the research required for these industries is now done interstate or overseas, and there may well be duplication and overlap of effort, and, also, the use of sophisticated equipment.

The Government has decided to establish the Western Australian Mining and Petroleum Research Institute—WAMPRI—in the same successful pattern as used for SERIWA; that is to say, the new institute will be essentially a funding and co-ordinating institute to assist the Government with its aim to promote and co-ordinate research and expertise into all aspects of the mining and petroleum industries.

Initially, emphasis is being placed on processing because, although Western Australia has become a world-recognised source of minerals, in the 1980s we must develop new technologies and methods through bold, imaginative and practical research in order to process more of our minerals before export. This would provide more employment, and contribute increasingly to our State's economy.

Research is required also in this State into the methods of locating and testing concealed deposits of minerals and energy resources.

In its role of co-ordinating research, the institute will encourage the industry to do more research to improve the efficiency of its operations through the research facilities available within Western Australia. These facilities are quite diverse; there is much sophisticated research equipment not fully utilised due to lack of research funds or projects.

The funding of projects will no doubt create employment for some of our post-graduate research workers, and prevent the necessity of many of them having to move away from the State for suitable employment. This will, in turn, create employment for technicians and less skilled persons.

A detailed survey inventory has been made of research facilities available in our post-secondary institutes and in some private laboratories within the State. Also a survey has been made of research of the proposed type in other States, but it is clear that Western Australia will be a leader in this field, as it was in the solar energy research field. The only other similar research organisation in Australia is the Australian Minerals Industry Research Association.

All those with whom discussions were held are enthusiastic about the concept and are willing to co-operate. The most appealing benefit to the research workers will be having an institute which will co-ordinate research activity without interfering with their own autonomy, or *modus operandi*.

At present there is, in some areas, a communications gap between the researchers and industry, and many see the proposed institute as providing the necessary catalyst and link between them.

The main features of the Mining and Petroleum Research Bill are very similar to the Solar Research Act. The Western Australian Mining and Petroleum Research Institute will be a statutory corporation with the normal powers and responsibilities of a body corporate.

Although it must be a statutory body, the intention is that its development and operation will be as far removed as possible from the Government's influence, and that it will work in conjunction with industries and scientific institutions.

The functions of the institute are to encourage the development of the mining and petroleum industry within Western Australia by fostering and promoting all aspects of mining and petroleum research; to undertake research projects in its own right, or in conjunction with other persons; to co-ordinate, where appropriate, mining and petroleum research projects in Western Australia; to receive funds from Government, industry, sponsors or other sources, and allocate such funds to approved research projects undertaken by outside organisations; to monitor and evaluate all mining and petroleum research; and to promote a public awareness of matters relating to mining and petroleum research. In performing its functions, the institute would be subject to the Minister.

The directors shall be appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister. The Minister will appoint one of the directors as chairman, and there are the usual provisions for the appointment of acting directors and acting chairman, and provision for the remuneration of directors.

Clauses 18 to 24 establish the mining and petroleum advisory committee, and set down its functions. As advisors to the board, it will have representatives from The Confederation of Western Australian Industry, Chamber of Mines, Australian Petroleum Exploration Association, University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Western Australian Institute of Technology, CSIRO, and the Department of Resources Developments, as well as other persons, if any, as the Minister may consider appropriate.

This advisory committee should contain the best current active operators in industry and research, who will be able to advise the board on research goals, funding policy, assessment of proposed research projects, and any other activity of the institute.

The Government is aware that in the field of research it is easy to spend money without deriving full benefit from it. This has been recognised, and to ensure that this situation does not arise, provisions have been made for the institute—

(a) to be subject to effective control and management;
(b) to be subject to scrutiny by numerous outside bodies through the advisory committee;
(c) for financial statements and accounting to be the subject of examination and report by the Auditor General.

It is the Government's policy that as high a percentage as possible of the institute's funds should be directed towards research and not administrative and overhead expenses. SERIWA has set a fine example in maintaining its administrative expenditure at a very low level, and WAMPRI should follow its example.

In consequence the Mines Department, in a similar manner to the State Energy Commission, will provide the bulk of the administrative and other support required by the institute, particularly in the formative period.

The Government has already indicated that it will support the institute with an initial funding allocation. It is hoped that this will attract matching funds from the industries, sponsors and

other sources of funds, such as the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council, Australian Water Resources Council, Australian Research Grants Commission, and the Australian Minerals Industry Research Association. The first objective would be to obtain support from these sources to match the Government contribution dollar for dollar.

In the last financial year SERIWA was funded for $800 000 by the Government, which attracted $225 000 from other sources, together with the use of many facilities and expertise which has not been costed into the projects, but probably could be equivalent at least to the amount of money distributed.

It is not proposed for the institute to establish its own laboratories, but instead to channel research funds where the facilities are available in Western Australia. The laboratories at the University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Western Australian Institute of Technology, Western Australian School of Mines, CSIRO, Government departments and many private operators are capable of doing a large amount of research, given the necessary funds.

If equipment for a particular type of research is not available in any of these laboratories, the institute would consider establishing the equipment in one of them, provided there would be use for it in the long term.

The institute, through its board and advisory committee, would keep in touch with mining and petroleum research throughout the world, and so ensure that the institute did not duplicate or overlap with research being done elsewhere. Also, it could keep industry advised of any progress elsewhere which may be beneficial to this State.

It is not the intention of the institute to establish its own library, as it would be housed with the Mines Department in Perth, where excellent libraries exist and are available to the public. The institute would supplement these libraries with publications and its own reports as considered necessary.

It is proposed to move quickly to set up the board and advisory committee, so that applications may be called for funding of the research projects to commence as soon as possible. Applications may be submitted by research workers in tertiary institutes, Government research organisations, private companies, or individual persons. Such applications will be referred to the advisory committee by the board for assessment before allocating funds to suitable projects.

In it unfortunate that research in the mining and petroleum industries has been neglected for so long when compared with research funds being used in wheat, wool, and forestry industries. For this reason, the Government has decided to set an example by initiating and providing funds for this research institute.

In conclusion, this Bill establishes a funding institute which should assist all phases of our mining and petroleum industries. With an emphasis on processing, it could open the way for treatment of our minerals before export, leading to industrial development and the improvement of the economy of this State. All persons involved in research and industry have reacted favourably to the proposal, and I am sure we have the exertise available to develop the concept to the ultimate benefit of all.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 24 march.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balcatta) [2.36 p.m.]: The matters I wish to draw to the attention of the House are of a varied nature and perhaps are not matters which will be of momentous importance; nevertheless, to some of my constituents they were important enough to provoke them to contact me.

With regard to the first matter, as most members know, 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons and we have heard the Government's various Ministers making a great deal of noise about what they will do to support what is a very worth-while cause and what changes they will bring about to pay tribute to the importance they see attached to the need to take special care of disabled people.

However, there is absolutely no provision whatsoever for disabled people who wish to come to Parliament House from time to time. If we consider the different entrances to the House, we will note that they vary from being extremely difficult for disabled people to use to well nigh impossible for them to use. It would be as difficult to negotiate the front entrance of the building as is the case with the entrance from the side of the building leading up to the public gallery. As the Premier is absent from the Chamber at the present time, I will seek some assurance from the Deputy Premier that the problem of access to Parliament House will be considered.

It seems clear that no-one would disagree with making every attempt, as far as possible, to

ensure that disabled people have the same access to the Parliament as do other people with all their abilities.

Another matter I wish to draw to the attention of the House concerns the serious decline which has occurred in the services offered by the Bureau of Consumer Affairs to the people in this State.

I am on record as having said—and I will say it again—that the situation has deteriorated to the degree where employees of the department are now working overtime, with no pay whatsoever, in order to—in their words—ensure that the public receive some kind of service.

Mr O'Connor: Who told you that?

Mr B. T. BURKE: I have been told by responsible employees of the department.

Mr O'Connor: Just name them!

Mr B. T. BURKE: If the employees of that department were not prepared to work without pay, they would have no hope whatsoever of dealing, in any appropriate fashion, with many of the complaints that come before them.

Mr O'Connor: Can you tell me who one of them was?

Mr B. T. BURKE: Of course I am not prepared to tell the Minister who one of them was. The Minister would carry on a witch hunt as is his normal practice, and people who have a conscience about the way in which they do their jobs would no longer have a job to do.

Mr O'Connor: Not so at all.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The truth of the matter has not been denied when it has been stated previously that employees of the Bureau of Consumer Affairs are having to work without pay in order to ensure that the public receive a minimum of service.

Members of this House will know from their own dealings with the Bureau of Consumer Affairs that the inclination of the bureau to refer things to the Small Claims Tribunal has reached almost epidemic proportions. In my experience the bureau is not prepared to proceed past the most superficial of investigations. At the drop of a hat it refers things to the Small Claims Tribunal, and that begs the question about the facilities available to the Bureau of Consumer Affairs.

As far as the Opposition is concerned, it has been demonstrated time and time again that the bureau is diminishing in its ability to fulfil adequately the responsibilities thrust on it.

As part of the same general criticism of what is occurring in this State in regard to consumer protection, I want to point out to the House that manufacturers of electric lamps, with the connivance of the Government which has knowledge of the problem, are selling electric light bulbs and ripping off Western Australian consumers to the tune of millions of dollars each year. It is a situation of which the Deputy Premier has personal knowledge, and it is a situation about which he has seen fit to do nothing.

Not only are electric bulb manufacturers ripping off the public of this State to the tune of millions of dollars, but also those manufacturers are now seeking protection through the IAC in the form of higher tariffs to prevent the importation of bulbs that would provide the proper service sought by the public. I am referring specifically to the situation in which 85 per cent of the electric light bulbs sold to the public in this State are rated between 240 and 250 volts. With that rating they provide a lifetime that is approximately half of that which they claim. In other words, the bulb with the rating of 1 000 hours is lasting for just 500 hours. At the same time, 260 volt bulbs which are providing the lifetime for which they are rated comprise only 15 per cent of the sales made in this State.

There has been no move by the Government to require manufacturers to identify the voltage in the advertising that refers to the lamps they are selling. There has been no move by this Government to require that the voltage of lamps sold in this State will provide the rated lifetime that is claimed for them with our fluctuating electricity supplies. In that situation the Government stands convicted of complete ignorance in its pretensions to care for the consumers of this State. I would like to hear the Minister for Consumer Affairs say that he does not have knowledge of this problem. Of course he is silent because he has the knowledge of which I have spoken. Having that knowledge I would like to ask the Minister whether it concerns him—

Mr O'Connor: I will reply in due course.

Mr B. T. BURKE: —that electric bulb manufacturers not only provide electric bulbs that last for only half the time for which they are rated, but also that they are seeking protection from manufacturers who are providing bulbs of the correct voltage and which last for their rated lives.

The Minister says he will reply in due course. It is difficult to see how there can be a reply to the problem, apart from a promise that something will be done about it.

So that members of the House do not fall into the belief that the problem is one that is unknown

to the manufacturers, and so members do not believe that we have manufacturers who are doing the wrong thing unwittingly, let me produce, for the benefit of members, the following data sheet provided by those manufacturers who are providing currently bulbs of the voltage of 240 to 250. Amongst the information provided under the heading, "Effective voltage variation on performance characteristics", it says—

> The lamp is designed for 240 volt operation and the supply voltage is 252 volts.

From the figures contained on the sheet we can determine the expected performance of the lamp. The first point made, when talking of the expected performance, is that the life will be reduced by approximately 50 per cent of the rated life.

So the people selling lamps know that the lamps they sell will last for half as long as the period for which they are rated. The Minister knows they are being sold and the Minister knows that the manufacturers who sell these lamps are now seeking protection from competition. The Minister has yet to do anything about that situation.

The situation is compounded further by the fact that supermarkets and other retailers, in their thrust to obtain consumer dollars, are in some cases stocking only those bulbs that will last for the shorter period. They are not even giving consumers a choice. The Minister is not demanding that the retailers should give the public a choice; he is not demanding that the manufacturers should advertise the defects or the advantages of the bulbs they sell. Certainly he is not telling the consumers anything about the defects in the lamps that are being supplied.

Mr O'Connor: This has not been in the Press? It has not been aired here at all?

Mr B. T. BURKE: To my knowledge it has not been in the Press, but I know that the Minister has been contacted about it.

Mr O'Connor: Yes, and it has been in the Press also.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Whether or not it has been in the Press does not diminish the Minister's responsibility to do something about it.

Mr O'Connor: Except that you are saying we are not telling the public.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I am not aware of the change in the regulations.

Mr O'Connor: That is not what you said a minute ago.

Mr B. T. BURKE: What I said was that the Minister had failed to inform the market of the differences in the products put forward by competing manufacturers. If the Government has supplied any information, it has been remarkably ineffective, or it has been something that does not bear much resemblance to the truth.

Mr O'Connor: The Press has not displayed this.

Mr B. T. BURKE: It would be better for the Minister to ensure that manufacturers who are selling bulbs that will last for half the rated lifetime display this fact in advertisements in which they encourage people to buy electric light bulbs. That is not very difficult; it is not dishonest and it is not immoral. It is sensible and it is fair.

I would urge the Minister also to take a particularly strong stand against the efforts being made to obtain tariff protection to minimise competition from people selling bulbs rated at 260 volts which will last for the rated lifetime. Without all the other peripheral nonsense, just let us hear the Minister give some sort of undertaking on those points. They are not magnificently political, and they are not terribly embarrassing. They are just sensible steps to take by any Government which has knowledge of a situation. They are sensible steps which the Government has not taken as yet.

I would now like to talk about what I would term one of the sharemarket scandals of the 20th century—a sharemarket transaction that was uncommented upon and unchallenged by this Government, although it has cost the public of this State hundreds of thousands of dollars. As far as this State is concerned, it can be repeated again and again simply because the Government lacks either the gumption or the will to do anything about it. I am talking about the Cliffminex NL experience, when we saw a principal of one of the companies buying, on his own behalf and on his own part, a certain interest in a mining tenement, and then selling it to the company in which he had a continuing majority interest.

I am absolutely amazed that the members of this Government—with the exception of the member for East Melville who is the heir apparent to Claude de Bernales and his watered down mines scandal—can allow that sort of thing to happen. What will happen in the future? We will have a person with a major interest in a company going out and purchasing a particular mining tenement wearing one hat, and then selling it to a second party which will sell it to a third party which will sell it to a fourth party, which will eventually sell it to another company in which the original purchaser has a major interest;

and at each stage of the process we will see hundreds of thousands of dollars being made.

Has not the Government some sort of responsibility to protect the public from that sort of dealing?

Sir Charles Court: Didn't the Stock Exchange take some action and hold up the matter? Didn't it delist the company until it satisfied itself about the conduct of the persons concerned?

Mr B. T. BURKE: Two things need to be said about that. Firstly, the Premier displays a lamentable lack of knowledge about the delisting which occurred pending the production of the annual report of the company. Secondly, it ill behoves the Premier to think that he can sit back and allow the Stock Exchange to take that sort of minimal action in a situation in which so many people were financially disadvantaged.

Sir Charles Court: I don't think it was minimal action. They took the absolute action of delisting the company, if my memory serves me correctly.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Stock Exchange temporarily suspended trading in the stock of the company.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr B. T. BURKE: That does not appear to me to be major action. Good God, that is what the Stock Exchange did to Elders recently in the light of the attempted take-over by Robert Holmes a Court.

Mr O'Connor: What should it have done?

Mr B. T. BURKE: It should have delisted the company until some sort of inquiry had occurred at the highest judicial level and until the public were able to be assured in unequivocal terms that no underhand dealing had occurred. Who knows that the company did not scoop money off the top as it went along at every stage? Should the original discoverer sell the lease to a man who owns a majority interest in one company and, if not a majority interest, then at least a substantial interest in another company involved in the deal? It is a case of buying the leases and selling them to one's own company and making fantastic profits at the same time; and the Government is quite happy to have nothing done about that. I say it is one of the major mining scandals of the 20th century. It certainly involves the Government through the Government's lack of any definite pledge to do something to prevent it happening again in the future.

Mr Bertram: Who are the directors of the company?

Sir Charles Court: If my understanding of the matter is correct—and I am not trying to condone anybody's actions—the public shareholders of the company met and a full disclosure was made by the persons concerned; and it was endorsed by the meeting.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The majority shareholding of the company was held by the person about whom I have been talking; and the Premier is displaying a complete ignorance of what actually happened. If he refers back to the details of what occurred he will remember or reveal to himself that the shareholders certainly were not happy; he will find that in the case of Amber, they voted against the matter.

In fact, the shareholders reduced the directors' fees and reduced the amount of equity the company was going to take in the discovery which had been bought in its name.

I will say once more that as far as I am concerned that was a very sad and tragic episode in the history of the Stock Exchange and the securities industry in this State. If there is anything that is designed to destroy confidence in the future more precisely and concisely than that, I do not know what it is.

A moment or two ago we heard a Minister introducing the second reading of a Bill involving the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia. From the way in which he was talking about the institute one would think he was revealing details about something as admirable as the Spastic Welfare Association or the Ford Foundation. In listening to him I found only a very unfair minded man would find any objection to what he was saying. However, when we look more closely at the thing about which the Minister was speaking we find a massive waste of taxpayers' money is occurring.

If you will bear with me, Sir, I propose to read portions of a letter so that the House may make its own judgment about the performance of the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia, and its own judgment about the Government's plans to expand the work of the institute. I received the letter from a constituent, whose details I will give to the Minister later if he has any interest in them, and that is something I doubt. My informant worked with the members of the institute for a few months but found he could not tolerate the faults in technique they were implementing as part of their work.

In his letter he says the work is divided mainly into solar cell tests, solar collector tests, and system monitoring. He pointed out to the institute that all the work done on solar cells had used a meter switched into and out of the circuit, which ignored the internal resistance of the meter,

resulting in an error of 100 per cent at one end of the graph and 0.02 per cent at the other end.

In respect of the second area of work, my informant had this to say—

> Solar Cell testing uses Pyrheliometers to measure the solar radiation. The manufacturers say the silica gell (dehydrator) should be checked each day, as otherwise the moisture on the lenses would give false results. No-one even seemed to know what to check, and I found that the crystals had all turned pink instead of the blue that shows they are working. The project supervisor once told us to use a non-standard way of measuring Gross Aperture Area, in order to make the results look better.

What is going on at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia?

Mr Sibson: Why don't you go and visit them?

Mr B. T. BURKE: That would be a good idea.

In any case, if I could revert from the diversion of the member for Bunbury, I think it is legitimate for the Opposition to ask what is going on at this institute. If what my informant says is true, the money that we are spending on the institute is being wasted to a large extent. If these things are true, we certainly should not give the Minister *carte blanche* as he seems to be seeking in respect of the Bill he introduced a short time ago to expand the work of the institute. The Minister praised the institute as being one of the field leaders within the whole country in this sphere.

The third division of the work which I described earlier involves system monitoring, and my informant writes as follows—

> Systems (such as the air conditioning system at Kounis Metals) are monitored by dataloggers on up to 39 test points. Tapes from the dataloggers are then analysed by computer.
>
> 11 Monitor Labs Dataloggers are used. The manual says that calibration of temperature measurements depends on the thermocouple used and gives details of calibration. SERIWA fondly imagined that they were taking readings to the nearest 0.1°C but, as no calibration had been done I found errors of several degrees. As temperature differences of as little as 1°C are involved, these measurements were worthless. As a representative of Kounis Metals said, "You have been monitoring for 2 years without any meaningful results."

The manufacturer also says that the datalogger is unreliable in industrial environments unless isolated from mains transients. The manufacturer recommends that isolating transformers is not enough but that electronic AC stabilisers should be used. No such stabilisers are used on any of the dataloggers at the institute.

The suggestions conveyed to me by my constituent are these: A physicist should be put in charge who already has led a team researching thermodynamics. He should also have a good knowledge of light and electronics and, as such, should not find it necessary to "bodgie-up" the results in order to improve them and make them look better.

It defies my understanding, limited though it is, how any Government can allow an institute of this sort, which is gobbling up taxpayers' funds, to change its results just to make them look better.

My informant's second suggestion is that results of research should be published so that the money used by the institute benefits the people it is supposed to benefit.

I cannot see anything wrong with either of those two suggestions; however, I am not qualified, as is my constituent, to comment in detail on them. I am qualified to say that if these matters are correct and the claims are true, the Government's window dressing in the area of solar energy compares with its window dressing in so many other areas. Certainly, it seems to me there is enough reason to be looking very seriously into the matters my constituent has raised.

There are a couple of other matters about which I wish to ask the Premier and some of his Ministers in this time of grave financial crisis. We have all seen evidence of the Premier's frugal nature as it is applied to nurses wanting an increase or to anybody else who dares to say a decision of the Industrial Commission should be applied to them. When that happens, all of a sudden the Premier has no money for any purpose whatever.

Let us look at a couple of things that are going on in his Government—this frugal Government. For example, do members know that the Government's Director of Public Relations used a Government-owned vehicle to take his family on a holiday in the south-west over the Christmas-New Year period? Do they know that in these times of hardship, the Government's Director of Public Relations was able to shoot off in a Government car and take his family on a holiday through the bush?

Mr Davies: Is that the propaganda supremo?

Mr B. T. BURKE: It would seem the propaganda supremo has access to a Government car whenever he wants one. If nurses cannot be granted an extra $1 a week, why should we have this "super-scribe" carting his family off into the bush for a holiday?

Mr Davies: Do not forget he is only new to this State.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Premier does not deny that this took place.

Sir Charles Court: I would not know, and neither should I.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The man who is in control of this Government says that he would not know!

Mr Young: He does not know where the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition go, either.

Mr B. T. BURKE: If we were in government, we would not be saying to nurses, "You can leave your Government-provided- accommodation and you cannot have the increase in salary awarded to you through the due process of the industrial system."

Mr Young: And you would not be trying to balance your budget, either

Mr B. T. BURKE: We will have a word to say about that matter, too.

Sir Charles Court: Would you know where every Government vehicle was at any given time? Of course you would not.

Mr B. T. BURKE: No, but I would issue instructions as to their use and if they were misused, somebody would answer for it.

Sir Charles Court: Government servants at present are answerable to any misuse of Government vehicles, if they are found out.

Mr B. T. BURKE: But the Premier would not know; they could go to Darwin and back, for all he would know. I have asked the Premier about his Director of Public Relations. Does the Premier not know whether or not he is in his office?

Mr Old: You just said the same thing; namely, you would not know, but you would issue instructions.

Sir Charles Court: You have laid a complaint. It will be followed up to ascertain the true position.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The other matter in which I am interested is the Premier's blithe dismissal yesterday of my question regarding the allocation of the penthouse to Government Ministers, specifically for Cabinet functions.

Sir Charles Court: Who said it was for Government Ministers?

Mr B. T. BURKE: I asked a question on the matter yesterday.

Sir Charles Court: We said that there was no extension of the Cabinet area, full stop. Instead of the area being wasted and treated only as storage space; it is to be converted to something which can be used for meetings and receptions.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Premier really experiences a great deal of trouble crossing his "t's" and dotting his "i's" whenever people find him out.

Sir Charles Court: This is nothing new; this was made public months ago, just as the matter relating to electric light globes was made public months ago.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I am pleased the Premier has raised that matter; perhaps he can now tell us what he did about it.

Sir Charles Court: It was commented on by the Chairman of the State Energy Commission, if I remember correctly. He explained the technical situation.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Does the Government intend to take any action, apart from commenting on the situation, to ensure there is an adequate supply of the proper voltage light globes available in our stores?

Sir Charles Court: The Chairman of the SEC made the position very clear; no attempt was made by him or anyone else to hide the true situation.

Mr B. T. BURKE: If that is the case, is the Premier also aware that the manufacturers of the lower voltage bulbs are now seeking protection as a result of the IAC inquiry?

Sir Charles Court: I do not know whether that is the case.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I would not expect the Premier to know, but I am telling him that it is true.

Sir Charles Court: You are not telling the House something that is brand new. You are not making public some startling news; it has been public knowledge for months.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The only thing that would be startling is if the Premier's Government took action on the matter. It is like drawing teeth, extracting from the Premier what role his Government is playing in this matter.

Sir Charles Court: The penthouse matter was made public months ago. There is no secrecy involved; in fact, any information you require would be freely provided.

Mr B. T. BURKE: All I am saying now is that the Premier should know that tariff protection is being sought by the manufacturers of these bulbs that last for half as long as they should last and, in my view, it is his responsibility to take a position on that request for tariff protection. It is up to the Premier if he wishes to interpret that statement as the member for Balcatta claiming he is making a startling revelation on a matter of which the Premier has no knowledge. We want some recognition—some sign—that the Government is aware of what is going on.

In regard to the use of the penthouse by Cabinet Ministers, I simply make a request on behalf of the Opposition that we be provided with some sort of assurance during these times of financial stringency that it would not have been cheaper, and more economical and frugal to have abandoned the construction of the penthouse which was included in the original plans for the court building.

Sir Charles Court: I can tell you only what we have been advised, and we were told it would not. It was part of the contract which had already gone to tender. The building was already under construction and there was nothing to be saved at that stage by excluding construction of the penthouse.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Who is responsible for constructing buildings in this State that are of no use? The Premier said last night that the original plan included a penthouse.

Sir Charles Court: We found out about the penthouse when the building was well under way. I do not intend to criticise the architect who carried out the work; I am sure he is a very competent man.

Mr B. T. BURKE: We are criticising the Premier and his Government.

Mr Davies: You are not allowed to criticise Government Ministers because they cannot answer questions.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Government discovered between the time the plans were drawn up and the tenders were called that the plans included a fabulously expensive but unnecessary penthouse and it decided to use the penthouse by knocking a hole through a wall to gain access.

Sir Charles Court: That is not correct; we did not find out about the penthouse between the time of design and the calling of tenders. The building was well under construction before the Public Works Department informed the Government.

Mr B. T. BURKE: So, between the time the plans were drawn up and the tenders were called, and construction commenced, the Government discovered that an unnecessary and expensive penthouse was included in the plans.

Sir Charles Court: Construction was well under way, you smart aleck. You assume that no-one should ever make a mistake.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Premier should not call me a smart aleck; he is a silly old man.

Sir Charles Court: You think there is something new in what you are saying.

Mr Bryce: You can never admit it when you have made a blue. It is always the architects, or the doctors, or somebody else, but never the supreme egotist at the head of the Government, who have to take the blame.

Mr B. T. BURKE: It is sufficient for me to ask the Premier, not doubting his bona fides, if he inquired whether it would be possible, firstly, and less expensive, secondly, to delete the penthouse from the design that was "well under construction".

Sir Charles Court: When you are in Government, you have to take the advice of competent, professional people; and the advice to the Government was that instead of just letting it be finished and used as a storehouse, it should be put to some alternative use. We explained that to the public.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Did the Premier ask whether it would have been cheaper to delete it?

Mr Davies: Do not ask him to answer that.

Sir Charles Court: Why should I, when you are told that is the best use to make of it?

Mr B. T. BURKE: I would not think there would be any reason not to ask how to save money.

Sir Charles Court: Of course; and we saved a lot because we are vigilant on these things.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The next matter involves my making very clear my personal position on these repeated claims by the Government, by the Ministers, by the Premier, and by "little Sir Echo", in whatever portfolio he holds these days, about the resources boom.

As the resources boom has developed to date, it is nothing but pie in the sky. It is nothing but a gigantic fraud perpetrated by this Government for political reasons.

Sir Charles Court: The 1960s all over again.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Government is about to feel the cold wind of change in public opinion, because the general public are realising that the resources boom means nothing but hardship to them—nothing but hardship in terms of

Government taxes and charges, in terms of rentals charged by the Government housing authority, in terms of interest rates, in terms of the whole range—

Sir Charles Court: And it means work for them, and careers.

Mr B. T. BURKE: It means the whole range of burdens it is possible for any Government to place in varying degrees on the shoulders of the public. It is a gigantic fraud. The Government's defence is to say that the Opposition is anti-development.

Sir Charles Court: Well, so you are.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Opposition stands by its often-stated claim that it supports orderly development that benefits the people of this State. We can see from the experience of this Government, when its colleagues of the same complexion last expired in 1971, that it cannot handle development when it tries to translate that development into benefits for the public.

Mr Young: Your predecessor as the member for Balcatta said all of this in 1961 and 1962.

Sir Charles Court: Pie in the sky!

Mr B. T. BURKE: Let us consider what this shoddy Minister's reponsibility has meant to the health services in this State as a result of the resources boom. If the resources boom is bringing so much benefit, why is he closing hospital beds? Why is he refusing to give increases to nurses when they are granted by the industrial system? Why are we retrenching people, when the resources boom is the wand that waves magic in the economy?

Members on the other side of the House are starting to wake up and realise that the resources boom has meant absolutely nothing in terms of benefits for the people in this State.

Sir Charles Court: Well, I have news for you. This does not happen to be a boom. It happens to be a tremendous growth in the economy that is going to go on for the next 20 years at least. Now, get used to it, and get with it!

Mr B. T. BURKE: Quite frankly, the Opposition could not cope with the sort of "boom" we are having if it is going to continue for another 20 years. Where will interest rates stop? Twenty years of rises will mean a dramatic change in the lifestyle of this State. We will all be living in high-rise tenements if the Government allows State Housing Commission rents to continue to rise. If this is the boom we are going to have for the next 20 years, when will electricity charges find a level?

Sir Charles Court: Well, you tell the people you are going to stop all this.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I am about to tell the people how we would stop it in one particular area.

Mr Sibson interjected.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I will say, in the eight minutes left to me, unless I have to tolerate the troglodyte from Bunbury, what our proposal is. It will be extremely difficult for me to go through all of the suggestions we could put forward; but if the Government would like to move an extension of time, I will stay here all day, and talk into the night.

Government members interjected.

Mr B. T. BURKE: In respect of the home building industry in particular, a valid case can be made for action to insulate that industry from, or compensate it for, the worst effects of economic strategy. Owning a home in which one can live with one's family cannot be compared with expenditure on luxury items such as, for example, the gigantic Mercedes which the member for East Melville likes to drive, or fur coats.

Amongst the essentials of family life is a roof over the heads of the family; and there is nothing as traumatic as being evicted from one's home, or being forced to sell the home because one cannot maintain the repayments. Embryonic as the situation may be now, it is developing rapidly into a real worry. People are having significant problems in maintaining their homes. We should disregard what the Premier said last night when he claimed that the increase in the Australian savings bond rate would not affect home lending rates, and disregard the fact that this morning the Premier was contradicted by the general manager of the Perth Building Society, the third largest building society in this country, who had the temerity to say that the Premier was not quite right, and that interest rates would rise regardless of what the Premier said.

The Opposition says a valid argument can be made out and maintained for the proposition that the home building industry could be insulated from the worst effects of the economic strategy. Firstly, I propose the establishment, on a State basis, if necessary, but preferably funded by the Commonwealth—

Mr Sodeman: Nationalise!

Mr B. T. BURKE: —of a fund of low interest Government money which could be provided to people—

Mr Sodeman: Gough all over again!

Mr B. T. BURKE: —to ameliorate the worst effects of rising interest rates.

The member for Pilbara has never played much part in this House, apart from his silence. He has

now come to the conclusion that it is better to interject than to listen; so I will repeat it for his benefit.

I propose the provision of low interest funds to supplement the loans held by people who are having difficulty in meeting their repayments in times of increasing interest rates. For example, if a home owner has a mortgage of $35 000, and the repayments on that mortgage become intolerable, the proposition we put forward is that a certain percentage of that mortgage should be taken over and refinanced using the lower interest Government funds. We are not talking about great amounts of money; and we are not talking about the application of this proposal to every case. We are saying that in cases where hardship can be demonstrated, there should be a facility on the part of the Government to relieve that hardship to some limited degree. That could involve the refinancing of 10 per cent or 20 per cent of the total mortgage. Now, that is not exceptionally difficult; and it is not world shattering.

Mr Blaikie: It is nation shattering. It is nationalisation.

Mr Sibson interjected:

Mr B. T. BURKE: I have not time to deal with the member for Bunbury. I will move on to my second point, which is based on the proposition that the middle class in this country is ceasing to exist. As result of the quite massive redistribution of wealth we have seen in the past four years, the middle class has now all but lost its identity.

At one end of the scale, in so far as housing is concerned, we have people who are able to finance their housing requirements because they are eligible for low interest Government loans. At the other end of the scale we have people who have sufficient resources of their own to buy the home they need.

Mr Bryce: Like Wordsworth.

Mr B. T. BURKE: In the middle we have people who are between the devil and the deep blue sea; people whose income is marginally above the eligibility criteria but who have no hope of, firstly, bridging the deposit gap necessary for them to buy a home or, secondly, meeting the commitment involved in purchasing the home they need. Unless the Government pays some heed to the plight of these people it will find that because these people have traditionally of late supported Governments of its political colour, its support will diminish rapidly. The middle class in this country is ceasing to exist.

Perhaps the second last point I wish to make if I have time—

Mr Sodeman: Labour rates.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The real share of the gross national product that has gone to the labour force in the past four years has fallen steadily. That should be enough for the member to realise that with plateau indexation, with wage indexation itself, and sometimes without any indexation at all, the increases given to wage and salary earners have not kept pace with inflation and the cost of living.

The final point I want to make is this: it is long past the time that the public of this State, and the Opposition in particular, should have been able to expect from this Government a coherent and intelligent housing policy. In the five or six years I have been Opposition spokesman for housing I have never seen a coherent or intelligent policy presented by this Minister or any of his predecessors.

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [3.24 p.m.]: Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Watt), you will note I have moved down one seat and it will not be long before I will be on the front bench. In my maiden speech 11 years ago I warned the Parliament, as I did in later years, that we were creating a monster with our health costs and I indicated that these would eventually become too big a burden on our expenditure. Approximately 20 per cent of our total State Budget was spent on health 15 years ago, and today that figure is nearly 30 per cent. That is quite a rise for one area to receive. A greater percentage of the total Budget directed to health expenditure means that other areas have been denied money.

What I said 11 years ago was treated with suspicion by many people. They attempted to refute my arguments, and most people, including politicians and hospital administrators, totally ignored what I had to say. My words affected the hospital administrators because they were the people I put on the mat.

If we consider the health costs in this State over the last 15 years we will see that the costs have increased by over 100 per cent in any given three consecutive years. This is over and above inflation. I have never been able to accept this fact and I have been unable to understand how the situation could get so much out of control. It seems there has always been a bottomless pit for hospitals to draw on whenever they wished to do so. They have run their establishments from the State purse.

Now for the first time the State Government is trying to curtail any increase in spending, for obvious reasons. The Government has reached the point where it cannot afford to pay any more. The

amount involved is small if one analyses the savings if the hospitals are stopped from spending these extra millions on top of the $539 million budgeted for hospitals and health services.

The hospital administrators were asked to cut back in areas of very low priority and in areas where health delivery would not be affected. This was not unreasonable considering the expenditure in these establishments is so high. Surely they would have big areas where cutbacks would not interfere in any way with the running of those hospitals. But one has only to look at what areas have been chosen. The administrators and the hospital boards chose areas which were politically loaded, emotive areas. This was done for obvious reasons, because for once in their lives they had been told by the Government to co-operate and to try to contain their spending within the amounts allocated. I think that is more than reasonable because it is the first time it has been tried. However, the hospitals have reacted irresponsibly and have chosen to bite the hand which has fed them; indeed, they have attempted to choke the goose which laid the golden egg. The Government has taken a firm stand and I sincerely hope the Minister will continue in this way. The hospitals have shown a singular lack of decency.

The one mistake that Governments over the last 15 years have made is that they have been far too generous. We have given these people an open go; it has been open slather for them.

The hospitals have made submissions to have various areas expanded but I will not name the areas, because the people involved will only come back and attack me and try to justify themselves as they did before the Public Service Board. There is no rhyme nor reason that these areas should have been given the green light to expand—but it happened. We find that our major teaching hospitals have unnecessary duplication of services. The Government is trying to contain this.

I believe our hospitals are, adminstratively, too top-heavy. Hospital boards often are made up of political appointments, and these people do not have a clue how to run a hospital. Often the boards are composed of people who are representatives of councils and—

Mr Parker: That is hardly surprising, from a Government which does not know how to run the State.

Dr DADOUR: The rivalry between our teaching hospitals has cost the taxpayers many millions of dollars in unnecessary expenditure. We have bunglings of great enormity. For instance, we have three or four scanning machines in Perth when one would be more than sufficient for the total population of this State. Whether we like it or not, this situation leads to over-investigation. The machines have to be paid for—those in private areas—and so anyone who goes along gets a complete scanning and many thousands of dollars are spent in this way. For each scan of an organ the cost is around $250 and if a person returns the procedure is normally repeated in case there has been a mistake. Members can imagine how money has been wasted.

Where are the controls? Who is advising the Government, and who has advised the Government in the past? The people must be incompetent or they are scoundrels. They must be. They know what they are doing. They are doctors and administrators and they must know they are putting a very unnecessary burden on the State.

My cry all along has been that Governments have been too generous. They have obeyed the law of not interfering with the running of hospitals. They relied upon hospital boards and administrators to do the right thing by the State.

Of course, this is a joke, and now we are paying the penalty. We do not often find this sort of thing occurring, but the Premier visited the Royal Perth Hospital last week and I have no doubt that the way in which he was accosted was engineered very carefully. I do not know exactly what was said to him, but I have a fairly good idea of the way in which he was accosted. It was most unfair, because the Government has been very generous—indeed, it has been too generous—and it has not interfered with the running of those establishments.

Therefore, whoever engineered this situation—whether it was the administrator or one of his underlings—was not behaving correctly, because the Government does not interfere with the running of that hospital. We leave the running of the Royal Perth Hospital to the administrator and the doctors. Therefore, that was an extremely poor show.

A few years ago a very competent doctor was put in charge of a medical department and he became the Director of Hospital Services. However, before he was able to take up the position, by some means or other it was emasculated very neatly. The activities of this competent doctor were castrated and frustrated and only a few days ago I read in the paper that he has had a testicular graft and he was able to get a little more strength back into his department. It is to be hoped that we see a little more action in this area so that the Government has greater control over the hospitals.

I believe the Government must be in control of the hospitals, either directly or indirectly. It must have control over the doctors and the Department of Health and Medical Services.

Mr Blaikie: Would that be a type of cosmetic surgery.?

Dr DADOUR: I guess it could be described in that manner, but there is no necessity for it.

When I made my maiden speech in this House I well remember my criticism of the administration of the Royal Perth Hospital. I should like to point out that the criticism I levelled at the hospital at that time was as true then as it is today, but now most people in this State believe what I said. However, it gives me little pleasure to say, "I told you so."

When the Whitlam Government introduced Medibank I spoke of the complications which would occur, but I did not visualise the degree of the enormity of the difficulties which would arise. I do not blame the Whitlam Government for all that occurred, because I believe the Fraser Government has compounded those problems to the nth degree.

Mr B. T. Burke: It couldn't have!

Dr DADOUR: The situation has deteriorated to the stage where medical insurance has become so unattractive that many people have opted out. Indeed, a number of people cannot afford to take out medical insurance. A family man who earns $150 per week after tax cannot afford to have medical insurance. There are a number of people in that position. If such a man wished to have medical insurance cover for himself and his family, he would have to work an extra four weeks a year to pay for it; that is, one-thirteenth of his total net income would be required to pay for medical insurance cover, because it is not tax deductible.

However, be that as it may, we are confronted now with the situation in which many people are seeking public hospital treatment. Only last week we heard the facilities of the Royal Perth Hospital were overloaded, because they have a bed occupancy rate of over 90 per cent. We expect that hospital to have a bed occupancy rate of over 90 per cent! That hospital is running at a loss of over $1 million a week. Therefore, one would expect the Royal Perth Hospital to have a bed occupancy rate of 100 per cent or even more, because we are paying for it.

Mr B. T. Burke: I don't know how you can run at more than 100 per cent!

Dr DADOUR: There are ways and means of doing this. The hospital can discharge a man at 10.00 a.m. and place someone else in the bed he has vacated. By those means it is possible to have a bed occupancy rate of 110 per cent, because extra days may be gained in that way. It is very easy to do this if the situation is juggled a little.

It has been said that patients are kept waiting in the corridor for some hours prior to being admitted. That is nothing new. The same situation obtained when I worked in the hospital. The person who is in charge of admissions is probably playing a game of snooker or billiards and he takes his time about it. He ambles down to the office when approximately 10 people are waiting and admits them all at the same time. This is nothing new and it is only a ruse to say it is. For years hospital staff have been taking patients out of their beds, discharging them, changing their sheets and admitting new patients.

We have been led to believe that all our teaching hospitals are running at full occupancy, but that is not correct. On Saturday night Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital had 77 empty beds; so who is taking whom for a ride?

Mr Blaikie: Would you repeat that?

Dr DADOUR: On Saturday, 21 March, there were 77 empty beds in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in the evening.

Mr Blaikie: That is contrary to what we have been led believe.

Dr DADOUR: That situation is somewhat different from what was said by the medical superintendent on television on Friday night; but that does not matter. Certain circumstances could have prevailed and perhaps the patients were not very sick and were sent home for the weekend.

Mr Skidmore: Was there adequate staff to look after the patients?

Dr DADOUR: Staff were available, but there were empty beds.

Mr Skidmore: It is all very well to have empty beds if the level of staffing is not adequate.

Dr DADOUR: They were not closed wards; they were empty beds.

Mr Skidmore: There was no staff for them!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order! There is too much cross-Chamber conversation and I suggest the member on his feet address his remarks to the Chair.

Dr DADOUR: I have been doing that all the time. I do not know how you, Sir, can say that when the interjection was directed at my right ear.

There are a number of anomalies in this situation. However, I can say honestly that for the

first time since I have been a member of Parliament a Minister for Health has tried to rectify the problems. The problems have been compounded by past Ministers for Health who have served during the time I have been a member.

There has been a cutback in the number of new beds made available in teaching hospitals. These beds have not been made available for a very good reason and that is that we do not need them. We asked the teaching hospitals to contain their spending within their budgets in areas of low priority, which are basically those in which we can dispense with certain types of medicine.

I do not like to mention particulars, however, I believe it is necessary to do so. We have suddenly been faced with the situation in which ward pharmacists have been appointed. There are already pharmacists working in pharmacies, and that is where they should stay; but we have also an extra pharmacist in the ward. I will never know how that appointment was accepted by the Public Service Board, because such pharamacists do not contribute anything.

The sister is in charge of the ward and she is the one who obtains the tablets for the patients and explains the nature of them. Why do we have to have a pharmacist involved in this area when the sister in charge of the ward is responsible for it? That is an extra category.

Why do we have an increase in the number of dieticians in hospitals? Why are they in the wards? I thought a dietician should be down in the kitchen. Let us look at some of the other paramedical areas where staff numbers have been increased to the nth degree. We have occupational therapists and physiotherapists. There are many areas where cuts could be made. Indeed, I believe the hospitals would run better with less staff and this has been my cry from the very beginning.

There is one super-specialty and that is cardiac surgery. The cardiac units are doing very fine work and, of course, the necessity for this type of treatment is increasing rapidly which is as it should be, because relief is provided for people with heart conditions.

However, it appears the administration of the Royal Perth Hospital has decided to curtail its activities in this very emotive area and it has made it look as if the Government has been responsible for a person failing to be admitted quickly enough for surgery. Surely that is not the problem of the Government. The Government does not tell the administration how to run the hospitals. I would like to be able to tell the hospital administrators how to run their activities, because if I did so they would be dead scared. I know what they are doing. They would be too scared and would run for cover because I know exactly what they are up to and are about.

Mr Parker: It is a pity the Premier didn't appoint you as Minister for Health.

Dr DADOUR: I have completed the praise I intended to give and will now return to being my old self! Under the present Administration, the Court Government, I have noticed that many Government departments and semi-Government departments have expanded their administrations at an alarming rate. Contrary to the belief of some people, such moves do not lead to more efficiency—but lead to more inefficiency.

I will move onto another matter and possibly give praise to the Opposition. The matter relates to the north block of Royal Perth Hospital which has been referred to in recent news articles. In 1974 my leader gave me his word that the north block extension would never go ahead while he was in charge.

Mr Parker: It has been sitting there doing nothing for two years.

Dr DADOUR: I extracted the promise for a good reason. We, the people of Western Australia, should never have been asked to pay for that $100 million venture because it will not give us one more bed; it will only give us better facilities for the people on the pay roll of the Royal Perth Hospital. I did not say the people who work there, but the people on the pay-roll.

Mr Hodge: He only went ahead with the venture to spite you.

Dr DADOUR: I do not think so; however, its construction is blatant empire-building. It went ahead against the wishes of the Town Planning Department, the Main Roads Department and the Perth City Council, and it took me seven months to learn that fact. Members will know that in 1977 when the extension was approved by Cabinet minute not one word was heard from the news media.

A project involving $10 normally is reported on the front page of the newspapers, but in regard to this project there was silence. We now have the terrible problem of determining what to do with it. It looks like a car park, and that is what I think it should be so that we can make money out of it instead of running it at a loss.

I made a comment about some people on the pay-roll of the hospital. I believe many people on the pay-roll of our public hospitals are employed merely to give them employment and not for them to provide a service. Under the cost-sharing

agreement between the State and the Commonwealth it is obvious that the State saw how to reduce the unemployment figures at only half cost to the State.

Another point I wish to raise concerns the ability of full-time Government employees to charge a patient they have seen in the course of their duties another fee, and this has always been a bone of contention with me. What right do they have to do that, yet they have the blessing of the Government to do so. I could go along with such a practice if these employees had expertise that was unavailable in private enterprise; however, the present practice has gone beyond that. These people are allowed to earn an amount equivalent to 25 per cent of their salaries which start at $33 500 a year. If they earn any more than that 25 per cent in one year the money is put into a fund from which they can draw money if they want to go to a convention or take their wives and families for a holiday. This practice is very wrong; it is an abuse of hospital benefits.

Another point I wish to make, about which I learnt only a few weeks ago, concerns the fact that if a person is hospitalised in a public hospital he is not charged because of the conditions of the cost-sharing agreement between the State and the Commonwealth. However, I found that if a person is insured he has to pay $50 for each bed day. It is all right to say the money does not come out of a patient's pocket directly, but it does come out of the money he contributes to hospital benefits—his insurance.

This practice has the effect of increasing insurance premiums and keeping them at their present high rate. It is immoral and should not be allowed. The State and the Commonwealth have an agreement but the State is not sticking to it. I reiterate that it is immoral and dishonest for hospitals to charge that $50 a day when we already have the cost-sharing agreement under which there should be *no* charge.

I think we should forget all our political differences in regard to these matters. I know that is very hard to do, but we have great problems on our hands. We must maintain decency and cohesion in regard ot health services. As soon as the Minister tries to do something positive he is attacked from all sides; political strings are pulled and political dirt is thrown. I would not say he is always on the right track, but on many occasions he is. We have to curtail the empire-building.

The Minister has been able to do a good job in regard to decreasing the number of teaching-hospital beds, but unfortunately we now have more than double the number we need. The cost of a teaching-hospital bed is between $200 and $250 a day, but if we converted those beds into "A"-class beds the cost would be approximately $100 a day. The number of staff required for each teaching hospital bed is between five and seven; for an "A"-class bed such as the ones at the Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital, the Swan District Hospital, the Northam Hospital and others the number of staff required is between 1.2 and 1.5 per bed. Surely members can see where money is being wasted, and understand the great cost of our having teaching-hospital beds which are beds of a *par excellence* standard for the teaching of medicine. That definition was given by the Jamison report, a definition which was the first and only one that I could find for teaching hospitals.

If we were to halve the number of teaching-hospital beds by making them "A"-class beds the public would still receive the same top-class treatment and we would save $50 million in the first year of such an operation. However, we have found that if we try to change one teaching-hospital bed over to an "A-class bed there is a furore created within the community. If we consider the situation in our peer States, particularly in Victoria, we will realise that they have half the number of teaching-hospital beds we have in proportion to their populations. Why do we have to have the most beds? If we did not we would have $50 million available in the first year to use in other areas of high priority, and in so doing the people who would lose their jobs in the teaching hospitals would be re-employed in those other areas. I am not advocating people should lose jobs, but am relating my remarks to matters of priority. I wonder where the increased expenditure in recent years has gone and what areas have been denuded of finance because of the high number of teaching-hospital beds. However, I do not have enough time or know-how to go into that matter further.

This growth has been permitted to occur under our very noses. It is easy to let things go along and it is easy to take no notice, as administrators take more and more money to run their hospitals.

The bureaucrats will in no way diminish their empires; they have no intention of doing so. The empires will only grow and this must be stopped because we can ill-afford this increasing malignant cost.

If we look at the hard planning that has occurred with our mineral development—I think the royalties are approximately $88 million this year - and compare it with the cost of health care in this State, which is $539 million, we note that this $88 million is a little bit of cream for this

State to further develop. When we look at the monster programme for hospitals, we see that more and more money is being absorbed into these areas. It grieves me to see this occurring. Somehow this cream has soured.

We have to stop this money-consuming monster. We have to cost out health programmes without emotion and with clear control, for example by doing what pertains in other States. We must use those States as our peers in regard to our teaching hospital beds. We must promote the private hospital sector by encouraging people to take out hospital insurance. This can be done and must be done. I am appalled to note that things have become so out of hand and that there is so much duping of the Government by people in these areas, particularly the teaching hospitals.

I feel we are probably paying for the dreams of Mr Horrie Smith who has now retired. Mr Smith was the chief administrative officer for health in this State and he had a dream of more and more beds. I believe the damage has been done and has been magnified by the fact that we have had many millions of dollars spent on unnecessary duplication.

With the staffing of these hospitals and the malignant growth in the administrative areas which are hell-bent on making establishments larger and larger, the Government has been let down. The Government asked the administrators not to exceed their budgets. At one hospital a confrontation was staged during the Premier's visit. I believe that was extremely unfair and this is what we have had to endure for some time. Surely, the Government and the Opposition must be a wake up to what is occurring and what has occurred. We must contain these costs.

I believe that Dr Roberts, the Director of Hospital Services, may succeed in curtailing the number of staff in a short time. He is a very knowledgeable doctor who knows his work, he is a good surgeon and a good administrator. However, if he cannot do this we must form a health or hospitals commission which is answerable to the Minister and the Minister alone, not to the Department of Health and Medical Services. We must have honest people appointed to this commission. I believe this is the only way we can keep the costs of health care down to an efficient level while giving the best possible health delivery we can in this State.

MR McIVER (Avon) [3.55 p.m.]: I always welcome the opportunity to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate because one can range far and wide and cover many fields without having to adhere too much to the regulations and Standing Orders and without being brought into line by the Speaker.

Today, several members of this House had the privilege of taking a train trip to Herne Hill to view the operations being carried out with the re-railing and sleepering by John Holland Constructions. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Minister for arranging that trip and also to commend the senior officers of Westrail for giving their time today to explain to members of Parliament, from both parties, what is being spent and what is occurring as far as the rehabilitation of the Koolyanobbing-Kwinana line is concerned. We also had the privilege to travel on the *Prospector*.

Perhaps it was the first time for some members to have the privilege and opportunity to travel on that train and to view just how luxurious it is and what a fine service it provides. The only constructive piece of criticism I can make is that there are not enough *Prospectors* in Western Australia. I hope I live to see the time when there will be more in this State and that they will travel to regional centres, not just the goldfields.

I should like to pay a tribute to one of the senior officers of Westrail, Mr Bob Hunter, who is the Chief Traffic Manager. From time to time we make mention in this House of our senior officers and the services they give, irrespective of their departments.

I wish to pay a tribute to the wonderful contribution Mr Hunter has made as Chief Traffic Manager at Westrail. Mr Hunter joined Westrail as a young railway officer and came up through the ranks. He came up in a hard school and attained his position because of his own initiative. He made the railways his life and sat for the various departmental examinations and achieved one of the highest positions in Westrail.

I am sure that I express the sentiments of past railwaymen, members of Parliament, all those who work in Westrail, and all those who have the privilege of knowing him, when I wish him a happy retirement, and I trust that for many years to come we will benefit from his work through the advancement of Westrail and consequently the progress of Western Australia.

That was the good news, and I am afraid it is as far as I can go with good news. I now get down to realities.

Unfortunately there are not many Ministers in the House this afternoon, and the first criticism I wish to make applies to all of them for their complete disregard of correspondence from members of Parliament. It is a disgraceful situation, and it is time the Ministers took a look

at themselves. It is time that the Premier gave them a bit of a shock and woke them up to the fact that members of Parliament expect answers to their problems within a reasonable period. At least we are entitled to an acknowledgment of our letters. We do not write to Ministers for fun; we write to them because we represent the people of the State.

It is not good enough for Ministers to think that they do not have to worry about letters from other members. That is detracting from the democracy of our system. As I said before, it is a pity there are not more Ministers present in the House, but the Deputy Premier is here, and I hope he will raise this matter in the Cabinet. It is just not good enough.

Irrespective of the party to which a member belongs, he is entitled to a reply to his queries. It takes only a few seconds to arrange for an acknowledgment of a letter. Sometimes we wait very long periods for replies on important matters, we then send out a reminder, a further reminder, and finally telephone the Minister's secretary.

Mr O'Connor; If you have cases of undue delay, I will look into them for you.

Mr McIVER: I hope the Deputy Premier will inform the other Ministers that we are entitled to a reply. We do not expect to receive what we ask for, but when we write to a Minister of the Crown we write on behalf of our constituents or on behalf of some organisation. If the Ministers are so arrogant that they do not believe we are entitled to acknowledgment of our letters, let us hear them say it. We will not stay on this side of the House forever; some time in the future we will be on the other side. If Ministers want to dish out treatment such as this, we will be able to return it. However, that is not good enough for the State.

The first issue I wish to raise concerns the Minister for Police and Traffic. I wish to put to him a proposal concerning those who lose their licences for drink-related offences. In no way do I believe that people who drink and drive should be protected. I have had a little experience in this field, and I admit that it is nothing to be proud of. However, I would like some assistance for people who are employed in the transport industry. I would like to point out that people who are convicted of drink-related offences are not criminals because they have broken the law.

My proposal is that we introduce a dual licence for a person who has lost his licence because of a conviction of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 per cent. I suggest that such a person should still be permitted to drive a vehicle for his employer. I can refer to instances in the last few years where the people who drive large rigs for companies such as TNT Transport System, Bellway Pty. Ltd. and other companies, have lost their jobs as well as their licences because of such offences.

Some people might say: Why defend them when they have broken the law? However, we should keep this matter in perspective and we should have a little compassion. When a driver loses his licence, it is up to his employer to decide whether he can be employed in some other capacity. Many of these companies do not have any other avenue of employment. So the person concerned loses his job, his seniority, and other benefits.

I realise that there must be an increased fee for such a licence, and I expect opposition to my idea from those who believe that people who are convicted of such an offence are criminals and should be guillotined.

To try to keep some perspective, let us consider the case of a man who has been employed as a driver for 40 years. Perhaps this man attended a social function, and on the way home he was picked up by the RTA and convicted subsequently of a drink-related offence. Surely we should give such a person some consideration, and the way to do this would be by issuing a licence to enable him to drive his company's vehicle. Such a person would still be deprived of his right to drive his own car, but it would not interfere with his livelihood.

Mr Hassell: Is not that situation now covered by the extraordinary licence?

Mr McIVER: It is, but I would like to point out to the Minister that it is a long process to obtain an extraordinary licence. First of all, a person convicted of an offence must wait three weeks before he can apply for an extraordinary licence. It is then up to the magistrate to say whether such a licence should be granted. I am not saying that there should be open slather for such people; I am referring to people who rely solely on driving a vehicle for their livelihood. For instance, a person who is employed by a Government instrumentality could be given work in some other field. Although such a person's income may be reduced, he would still be employed.

Let us consider the operations of a transport company. It could be that after one weekend three of the drivers are not able to drive for three months. That could have a detrimental effect on the economy of the company, and on the drivers who work for it.

Mr Hassell: How serious are you about drinking and driving? There is worldwide

recognition that at 0.08 blood alcohol level the capacity of a person to drive is seriously affected. The interdepartmental committee reported recently and recommended more stringent measures against second and subsequent offenders. Your suggestion would apply only to first offenders. Do you think we should be softer on second and subsequent offenders also?

Mr McIVER: No, I do not. Do not detract from what I am saying. I am suggesting that a person who has been driving for 20 or 30 years and has never been convicted of an offence should not be penalised too harshly if he has a few drinks on the occasion of a send-off for a friend. In my humble opinion that person is not a danger on the road after the offence; he has merely on one occasion broken the law by being 0.08. His past record proves he is not a danger on the road. If he could obtain a dual licence so that he does not lose his livelihood, court fees would be saved and he would still be punished because he would not be able to drive the family car. I am sure machinery could be introduced to do that.

Mr Hassell: What you are advocating is a change of conditions under which they obtain an extraordinary licence. You are saying it should be restricted to the employer's vehicle and it should be able to be obtained straightaway, instead of within 24 hours.

Mr McIVER: Do not put words in my mouth. I am not talking about an extraordinary licence; I am talking about employees who have been with a firm for many, many years but because of a 0.08 offence are seriously affected in the pursuit of their livelihood.

Mr Hassell: Should it apply only to the first offence, or to subsequent offences as well?

Mr McIVER: No, only to first offence drivers.

Mr Nanovich: You have been talking about drivers employed for 25 or 30 years. What if a person has been employed with a firm for only two or three years?

Mr McIVER: I would say it should apply to him, too; because a person would not be employed as a driver unless he meets the criteria of the company concerned. I am talking about big, well-known companies in the transport field; I am not talking about the little, tinpot shows. I am talking about people who rely on driving a vehicle for their livelihood, people who do not know how to do anything else. This is a matter which should receive strong consideration and I trust the Minister will give some thought to it. I know it is a contentious issue and again I emphasise the fact that I do not condone drinking and driving. However, the list of persons suspended grows longer and longer each month and surely responsible people must be included amongst them.

As you know, Sir, I am the Opposition spokesman on transport—

Mr Parker: And a very good one too.

Mr McIVER: —and I want to raise a matter in respect of which the Opposition and the Government can find common ground. The formula laid down by the Federal Government in respect of the allocation of funds for the maintenance and construction of national highways is nothing but madness. Members might not be aware that under the formula of the Federal Government all work on the construction and maintenance of national highways must go to private tender. This is absolutely ridiculous, and if the formula is adhered to rigidly it will have a drastic effect not only on the Main Roads Department, but also on Western Australia, generally.

Mr Rushton: We have sought flexibility in that regard and are pushing for it.

Mr McIVER: I am raising the issue in this Parliament so that we may work together and squash the formula. As the Minister well knows, the situation is that the Federal Government is insisting on this formula. I do not know the reason for that. It is insisting on the new formula even though we have had a formula which has operated successfully in Western Australia and every other State for many years. No doubt this change has come out of the new federalism madness of Uncle Malcolm and his bandits; and it will have a big effect on regional centres such as Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie, and also the wonderful regional centre of Northam.

This is a matter upon which I need not elaborate to the Minister because it is apparent from his interjection that he is aware of the situation. The criterion laid down by Mr Hunt that such works must go to tender must be challenged with all the strength we can muster. Let me take Northam as an example, because I know it. The Main Roads Department has a work force of 25 there. Amongst that personnel we have grader drivers, roller drivers, truck drivers, and the like; all men who are accomplished in their respective fields. The same would apply to the other regional centres I mentioned.

Consider the highways of Western Australia. Without question they are the best in Australia. Most members have been on a caravaning or motoring holiday in the Eastern States and they will be aware that the first thing one says when one comes back is how wonderful are the roads in

Western Australia, because they are better than the roads anywhere else. How many times have we heard that? That is the way we want to keep the situation.

If this Government is serious about decentralisation it must lodge the strongest possible protest about this formula, just as it has done in the past about the lack of allocation of funds for national highways and transport, generally, in Western Australia.

Mr Rushton: I have already taken positive action; in fact a release will be made shortly about it. I made a special trip to Canberra in respect of this and other items.

Mr McIVER: I am delighted to hear that; however, it is a matter I want to air in the Parliament because it is apparent many members are not aware of the position.

We had the ridiculous situation in which just after the Carnarvon cyclone Main Roads Department employees were sent to Sandfire while a Carnarvon contract was let to private enterprise.

Mr Rushton: I would not agree with you on that.

Mr McIVER: The same thing will happen throughout the State if we agree to this formula. It is a ludicrous situation.

Mr Rushton: Wait until you get your answer.

Mr McIVER: The same situation will occur again.

Let us consider the decentralisation aspect. We have all the people to whom I have referred working in Northam; they are a stable work force, and very good men trained in their respective fields. In spite of that outsiders will be brought in to do the work—people who will spend nothing in the town. The town will gain nothing from the exercise and will be left with a job which probably Main Roads Department employees will have to fix up because the private enterprise companies will be concerned only with making a quick dollar.

The reason that Mr Hunt is insisting on this formula is beyond my comprehension. I am delighted to hear the Minister has already made representations to the Federal Government because the present situation is absolutely ridiculous.

Mr Rushton: Mr Hunt has already indicated to me that he will seek flexibility. After we made the representation he was going to seek flexibility in respect of what he proposed to do.

Mr McIVER: I trust the Minister will be given flexibility over a broad field. It is only common sense that if the works are to go to private tender, the Government will not stand by and allow men in Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Northam, and Kalgoorlie to sit back and do nothing; naturally, those workers would have to be retrenched. Already, men are being separated from their families. I know of truck drivers who have spent thousands of dollars purchasing trucks and who have been forced to accept temporary transfer to places as remote as Tom Price to enable them to keep up the payments on their trucks. I do not wish to dwell too long on the social aspect of such a policy, but it is a fact that the prolonged absence of a husband and father can have a detrimental effect on his family.

Mr Rushton: One can never guarantee there will always be employment in one particular place.

Mr McIVER: I refer the Minister for Transport to the situation at Northam. They have plenty to do on their roads programme for the next five years. Millions of dollars worth of work in widening and reconstructing our national highways is to take place. However, the work force of Northam want to do this work. We have an adequate day-labour force in the area which has proved itself over a long period. We do not want blow-ins coming in from outside to do this work. The expertise is present in the town; the local workers are well able to carry out this work. The proof of this statement is in our highways; one can travel east, west, north, and south in our State and travel on first-class roads.

However, because of a policy adopted by the Federal Government that these works must go to tender, the Main Roads Department will have people coming in from outside the area to do the work. It is time we dug in our heels and took just as strong a stand on this matter as we have taken on the allocation by the Federal Government of funds to Western Australia. We are being starved of money.

I sincerely hope this Government shows a bit of guts and fortitude and stands up to Fraser and Howard and informs them that what they are attempting to do is disastrous, not only for Western Australia but also for employees of the Main Roads Department. The record of the Main Roads Department is supreme in this State. I trust the matter will be taken further. I give the Minister for Transport fair warning that, over the next few weeks, I will be following up this matter by directing questions to the Minister and to the Government. I am sure the Minister would agree that I would be failing in my duty and responsibility if I did not do so.

The Minister for Transport will recall that, at the end of last session, I expressed vigorous opposition to the transfer of the Central Arcade ticket office to the Westrail centre. I stated then that the Government would find in the first six months of operation that ticket sales to the Eastern States would be down considerably as a result of this transfer. I have done a little homework on the matter and I am amazed at the downturn in ticket sales since the ticket centre was transferred to the Westrail centre.

As a result of the collapse of West Trade Centre Ltd. we now have a golden opportunity to return the ticket office to its rightful location. Perhaps I am being a little unkind to that company; however, I think members will recall the Opposition said at its inception that the business would be unlikely to succeed. I believe the ticket office should be returned to the central station in Wellington Street. It would not cost the Government one cent; no money is involved. I am sure such a move would result in increased ticket sales. As I mentioned in my speech last year, nobody likes to go out to the Westrail centre simply to buy a ticket. When the Minister for Transport examines the figures he will see for himself that my prediction last year was absolutely correct; if I am mistaken, I stand corrected. However, I have done my homework on this matter and I know I am speaking factually.

Finally, I have a few words for the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing.

Mr Laurance: I would be disappointed if you did not.

Mr McIVER: I listened with interest last night to the Honorary Minister's speech on the matter of interest rates. I do not intend to canvass that subject. However, I hope the Honorary Minister takes his portfolio far more seriously than when he replied to the member for Balcatta, who doubtless carried out a great deal of research into the matter, and had his facts spot on. I hope the Honorary Minister will give serious consideration to the appalling housing situation in this State.

I have mentioned on many occasions in this Parliament the maintenance situation in towns like Northam. I know I am speaking on behalf of my colleagues, the member for Collie, the member for Kalgoorlie, and the member for Geraldton when I say there should be a greater allocation of funds to the area of maintenance.

Mr Watt: Probably even the Honorary Minister would agree with that statement.

Mr McIVER: Yes, but I believe that if the Honorary Minister were to examine this issue, he would agree to adopting a different fomula in the disbursement of available funds.

I wish to refer particularly to tenders received from people who, in my opinion, are not qualified to carry out the work for which they are tendering. Some of these people have never been painters in their lives. They go to country areas wearing white overalls and carrying paint brushes, and that represents their entire qualifications. They probably have a couple of corned beef sandwiches in their pockets to last them a few days, and that represents their complete outfit. They tender for and are awarded these contracts, yet they could not paint a house as well as a kindergarten child. These are the people the State Housing Commission is employing.

Mr Laurance: Are you referring to regular maintenance? We do let regular, two-yearly contracts for maintenance.

Mr McIVER: I would not use the word "regular", because it is far from that.

Mr Laurance: They have a regular contract, and we usually know who they are.

Mr McIVER: This is a matter on which the Honorary Minister must be quite firm; he should show more tenacity and insist that only properly qualified tradesmen are employed on these jobs. In the long run, they would be less costly and would carry out the work more efficiently. It is all very well on paper to accept the lowest tender; it is often quite a different matter when it comes to actually doing the job.

Mr Bertram: The commission should check their qualifications.

Mr McIVER: As my colleague, the member for Mt. Hawthorn interjects, their qualifications should be thoroughly checked. Because of the unemployment situation, we are getting a lot of rabble in the country areas, and the State Housing Commission seems to be the bunny. This situation applies not only to painting but also to general renovation work. It takes these people weeks and weeks to do a job. The State Housing Commission gives them every opportunity to complete their contracts, and very often, in the end, the commission is forced to cancel their contracts and re-call tenders. In the meantime, the tenants become very frustrated at the inordinate delays. I call on the Honorary Minister to have a close look at the situation.

I would like it if we could squeeze out a few more dollars so that the State Housing Commission could make its houses in country areas a little more presentable.

Mr Laurance: Is this happening in Northam?

Mr McIVER: Yes, it is. I make a further appeal to the Minister with respect to the Wundowie charcoal iron furnace operation which is about to close and which will mean an exodus of people from the area. I do not want these homes to become an Aboriginal ghetto. I do not want Aborigines to pour in there because housing is available. At present we are having difficulties with some Aborigines. On two occasions the police have had to call at the local club and ask for citizens of the town to help them because police officers have been taken to by Aborigines. In one case a young constable was seriously injured.

I do not want to make a big issue of this, but with the houses becoming vacant I do trust that all people will be given the privilege of applying for them and that they are not going to be let by the State Housing Commission only to Aboriginal families. I know the allocation of houses to Aborigines is a complex problem but I hope that all the homeless Aborigines are not to be housed in Wundowie. We must share them around and assimilate them in the proper manner; the commission should not use Wundowie as a dumping ground. If it does the Minister will hear a lot more from me at another time; I will be very vocal.

Mr Laurance: You are not going to be racist, are you?

Mr McIVER: No, but I do not want Wundowie to become a dumping ground for Aborigines. There will always be a Wundowie, irrespective of the rubbish we read in the Press indicating that the town will die. It will remain a long time after I have gone.

Mr Laurance: An amount of $10 million is going into maintenance this year. Any more money spent in that area cuts down on money for new houses. You get a coat of paint but fewer houses.

Mr McIVER: I have only a few more minutes remaining and I shall direct my remarks now to the Deputy Premier in his capacity as Minister for Consumer Affairs. Earlier today the member for Balcatta strongly criticised the Deputy Premier's department for its lack of action and I can guarantee that what he said was absolutely correct. Officers of that department are working without pay because of the backlog. I do not know whether that is because they are not receiving enough State finance or because they are waiting on Federal finance.

Mr O'Connor: Ar you saying this applies now?

Mr McIVER: Yes. One of the departments involved when I made criticism of Ministers in my opening remarks—one of the worst departments—is the Bureau of Consumer Affairs. It needs a shake up. No doubt its officers are trying to do their job most conscientiously, but when members of Parliament write to them after receiving a submission from a person they represent they should be given top priority, more so than people who write to them from the community. If a constituent complains through the medium of his representative he should get top priority. A member of Parliament should not have to write two or three times to get a response.

Mr O'Connor: Have you any specific cases where you have written to me?

Mr McIVER: Yes, but I do not have time to itemise them; I shall generalise.

Mr O'Connor: Give me one instance.

Mr McIVER: There was an instance where a Perth firm came to Northam to reroof a house. The job it did was most unsatisfactory so I put the matter into the hands of the bureau.

Mr O'Connor: I said give me an instance where you had written to me, because you are accusing Ministers of not answering.

Mr McIVER: I do accuse Ministers of not answering correspondence promptly and the same applies to the Bureau of Consumer Affairs. All the bureau need do is write and advise me that it has received my letter of a certain date and that the matter is being investigated. Surely this can be done. The complaint I mentioned was lodged 12 months ago but we have received no satisfaction. The bureau said it would send an officer to investigate, but that was six months ago and we have not seen him. This is not good enough. It shows a lack of direction in the bureau. I have nothing against Mr Fletcher and I appreciate the volume of work the bureau handles, but the Deputy Premier's Government has not given the bureau enough teeth. The Government should legislate this session to give the bureau more scope and broader terms of reference so it will have greater powers.

Mr O'Connor: What additional powers?

Mr McIVER: Its officers should be able to go in and check firms more thoroughly than is the case now.

Mr O'Connor: They can do that now.

Mr McIVER: Yes, but there are not enough people available and this is indicated by the letters I receive.

Mr O'Connor: You said we should give them more powers.

Mr McIVER: More powers in various fields.

Mr O'Connor: They have ample power. What extra power do they need?

Mr McIVER: The paper work should be cut for a start. Its officers should be able to go straight to a regional centre and have the power to cross-examine everyone involved in a case. They should have power to obtain evidence immediately. At present they have to write first to one person and then to another. I am sure these procedures can be shortened.

Perhaps the Deputy Premier is overloaded with portfolios, but this is something he really must look at because country people are being ripped off with people coming from Perth and doing many jobs, such as the reroofing I mentioned and additions to houses.

A little while ago I was involved in a case where a man had purchased a motorcycle for $600 which went for just 45 minutes. I wrote to the bureau and was later advised that although the person who sold the bike was not licensed to do so, the bureau was powerless to do anything about it. The bureau should have greater power to cope with this sort of situation. It should be able to act immediately and take these people to court and have them receive the penalty they justly deserve.

I trust the remarks I have made so strongly will be attended to by the various Ministers concerned. I believe that in future when a member of Parliament writes to a Minister, the Minister should at least have the decency to acknowledge the correspondence. That is the least we deserve.

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

ELECTORAL: SENATE VACANCY

Filling of Vacancy

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): It is my intention shortly to leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells which will allow members of this Chamber to attend the Legislative Council Chamber at 4.45 p.m. for the joint meeting of the Houses. The procedure will be that at 4.40 p.m. the Legislative Council bells will be rung and members of this Chamber, together with members of the other Chamber, will enter the Legislative Council Chamber. I will now leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 4.39 to 5.13 p.m.

Result of Election

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I have to report that a Joint Sitting of both Houses was held this day as required by the Joint Standing Orders, and that Mr John Raymond Martyr was duly elected as a senator of the Commonwealth Parliament.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [5.14 p.m.]: On page 2 of his Speech, His Excellency the Governor referred to our resources development and our fuel and energy supplies. He said that the resource projects under development in Western Australia in the next year or so amounted to something like $12 000 million. All of us are appreciative of the fact that that amount of money is being contemplated for the development of our resources. I believe it is accepted that we need to develop our resources for the benefit not only of our country, but also of the world generally. There is a shortage in other parts of the world of a number of the resources which we have. The developments in this State include not only the utilisation of natural gas, but also the search for oil and other very important projects.

This brings me to the matter I wish to refer to; that is, our future needs for the generation of power. Over the past years we have had both oil-fired and coal-fired power stations, and at the present time we are changing the oil-fired stations to use coal. I do not think the Government has any alternative but to continue to move in that direction. However, in the long term, we must consider all the alternatives.

Various reports have appeared in the news media of the system of nuclear power generation which is being used in many parts of the world. Indeed, one becomes quite annoyed at times when one tries to decipher whether Press reports are truthful or are distorted. It appears that many of the reports are not giving us a true picture of the facts. It seems to be a trait of journalists in many places not to disclose the full facts; the public should be kept informed of the true situation by men who know the facts accompanying the development of nuclear power stations in various parts of the world.

I have attempted to ascertain more information on this subject, and to find out the truth of the various reports. As we are now proceeding to move from oil-fired power stations to coal-fired power stations, I undertook some research to determine how the dangers of coal-fired power stations compared with the dangers of nuclear power stations.

The nuclear power industry has a tremendous record of safety. The information I have obtained is vouched for by some highly qualified men, and it is quite interesting. The record of safety and the cleanliness of American nuclear power is referred to. Professor Henry Kendall is the head of the Union of Concerned Scientists, although it has been claimed that this organisation is misnamed. The union has demanded the shutdown of 16 nuclear power plants which produce about 2 per cent of the country's electricity requirements.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear!

Mr McPHARLIN: Although this group knows that there is no power source as safe as nuclear energy, and no power source which has such a multiple safety fence, still it is advocating the discontinuance of the nuclear power industry in favour of coal-fired generation.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear!

Mr McPHARLIN: I suggest that the honourable member who is so interested in his newspaper should listen to the figures. The same gentleman recounted the following statistics which would be the price of substituting coal-fired power stations for nuclear power stations: Annually, we could expect 72 deaths from black lung and 13 deaths by accident; some 103 000 disability man days would be lost as a result of injuries; 360 premature deaths could be expected, many through lung and heart diseases caused by air pollution. Numerous accidents would be caused by the transportation of coal in 600 000 railway trucks as opposed to 100 truckloads of uranium, and the movement of five million tonnes of coal ash instead of 20 cubic metres of nuclear waste. Professor Kendall, whose personal wealth supports the so-called Union of Concerned Scientists knows this as well as anybody else but he prefers to ignore it and to omit crucial facts.

We have all read reports from these sort of people about the mutations which occurred after the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This subject has been thoroughly monitored and researched and a close check kept on the people who have been selected as the subject of scientific study.

I wish to read now a short article written only after very thorough research. It states as follows—

> Opponents of nuclear power have played upon mankind's natural concern for children, the future of family and species. They have over-emphasised the ability of radiation to induce mutations (or inherited changes). This ability is shared by many synthetic or naturally-occurring chemicals.
>
> Limits to the possible magnitude of mutagenic effects of radiation on man have been established by experiments on animals. There is good scientific reason to believe that even those low estimates may be excessive.
>
> Absolutely no evidence of mutagenesis has been found in the children of parents who were heavily radiated during the atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and who conceived afterwards. Tens of thousands of their children have shown no increase in abnormalities. Studies have continued for 35 years and it is unlikely that this finding will change.
>
> The wild stories of anti-nuclear activists are untenable. They have deliberately withheld from us the foregoing facts. One must ask whether it is to facilitate acceptance among the uninformed that deformed children are part and parcel of nuclear development. This unscrupulously presented untruth has had a great effect on young people who don't know enough to be critical. "Mutants" of demonstrations and written propaganda are the product of science fiction.

Mr B. T. Burke: What is your source?

Mr McPHARLIN: I am quoting from a book published by a John Grover, who has studied the development of nuclear power in all parts of the world. He has written this article because of his concern about the propaganda being put forward throughout the world by the anti-nuclear activists.

Mr Barnett: What is his expertise?

Mr McPHARLIN: He has sufficient expertise. People talk about radioactivity; as anybody who has studied this matter would be aware, we are exposed to radioactivity in our daily life. Radioactivity is present in the food we eat and the water we drink. I should like to quote members some figures which support my argument. I commence with a comparison of the waste water discharged fromea nuclear power station with tap water and other liquids consumed by the public.

Mr B. T. Burke: We would believe anything about our tap water.

Mr McPHARLIN: Members should listen to these figures.

Mr Barnett: We are pretty much forced to do that, so you might as well continue.

Mr McPHARLIN: If members opposite have a closed mind on this subject and do not want to understand the facts, I cannot do much about it. The measurements I am about to quote are in picocuries per litre; a picocurie is one trillionth of

a curie, which is a very small amount indeed. The radioactivity found in normal waste water discharged from a nuclear power station is between one and 10 picocuries; in domestic tap water, about 20 picocuries; in river water, is between 10 and 100 picocuries; in beer, it is about 130 picocuries; in sea water, about 350 picocuries; in whisky, some 1 200 picocuries; in milk, about 1 400 picocuries; and, in salad oil, about 4 900 picocuries. So, it would seem the anti-nuclear lobby would prefer to drink waste water from a nuclear power plant!

I wish to compare now the number of accidents which occur in the nuclear power industry to those which may occur in everyday life. A negligible number of accidents occur in the nuclear power industry, yet for reasons which are difficult to understand anti-nuclear activists keep feeding in their misleading propaganda. One area to which they give great attention is the disposal of nuclear waste. Russia adopts virtually the same method as the Western world of disposing of its nuclear waste, yet there is no alarm or criticism. However, when countries outside Russia adopt the same disposal methods they come in for severe criticism. This would seem to suggest a great deal of communistic influence in the anti-nuclear lobby.

I have statistics which draw a comparison between the number of deaths and injuries caused annually by accidents in the nuclear power industry and in everyday life. Among the estimated 15 million people living within 25 miles of present and planned American nuclear power stations, it is projected that motorcar accidents will cause 4 200 deaths and 375 000 injuries; falls will claim 1 dead and 75 000 injured; fire will kill 560 people and injure 22 000; electrocution will cause 90 deaths, with no injured; lightning is expected to cause eight deaths, again with no injured. However, with 100 nuclear power stations operating, or planned to come on stream, only two deaths and 20 injuries are projected.

These statistics have been thoroughly checked by men who know what they are talking about. Yet the anti-nuclear activists continually feed their rubbish to the media. The media seems to love it; it seems to relish distributing misleading and sensationalist material throughout the world. They are doing a great disservice wherever their propaganda is distributed.

Mr Barnett: Do you think the Liberal Party still wants a nuclear power plant in this State?

Mr McPHARLIN: The Government would be remiss if it did not go on preparing for such an eventuality. The planning has to go on and I think the Government is doing that. Because in the future there may be a need for this power, it is imperative planning go ahead and for us to have it ready.

Mr Pearce: Would you have it in Mt. Marshall?

Mr McPHARLIN: I would have it on my farm. It would not worry me.

Mr H. D. Evans: It might worry your grandchildren.

Mr McPHARLIN: Members opposite are influenced by the anti-nuclear activists.

Mr Barnett: You are saying this only because your farm is uneconomic. You cannot get a quid from proper farming activities so you are trying to make a quid from the nuclear industry.

Mr Sodeman: Watch out or you will get another broken leg.

Mr McPHARLIN: There has been a lot of propaganda put about concerning what happened at Three Mile Island.

Mr B. T. Burke: What did happen?

Mr McPHARLIN: If members opposite are prepared to listen for a few minutes without smirking I will tell them.

Mr B. T. Burke: Do not talk to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition like that; he has the respect of the farming community.

Mr McPHARLIN: Maintenance was carried out on that plant and the accident was due to human error. One of the valves had not been operated correctly and the cooling water was not getting to the reactor. Without that something had to give.

There are a tremendous number of safety devices on all nuclear power reactors, and in this instance something had to give. An automatic pump tripped and five seconds before the control rod slammed down between the fuel rod to shut off the reactor, something happened. What usually happens when the safety device is activated is that the control or poison rods drop into the reactor and shut it off. This can be done in seconds.

Mr Barnett: In five seconds?

Mr McPHARLIN: The heat-caused pressure had automatically opened the power-operated relief valve; but while it was open the cooling water was lost. The high pressure cold water was pumped in to make up for the loss and everything seemed right.

Mr Pearce: Seemed!

Mr McPHARLIN: But the power-operated relief valve stayed open and the operator did not

know the cooling water was lost. It was a matter of human error in the first place.

Mr Pearce: So there were two human errors.

Mr H. D. Evans: There have been 1 600 other accidents.

Mr McPHARLIN: I shall quote as follows—

> To stop the pressuriser filling with water they shut off the water injection pumps. The fuel core flashed into steam at 4.06 a.m. and was damaged by the high temperature, but not critically as the auxiliary feedwater was going again in two minutes.
>
> The real problem was that PORV which was stuck open. Water was being lost for 2 hours 22 minutes draining from the hot reactor inside the thick steel vessel.

Mr B. T. Burke: How can you say two hours and 20 minutes is human error?

Mr McPHARLIN: The valve was stuck open and they could not release it. To continue—

> The large 3½ feet thick reinforced concrete containment dome designed to isolate the reactor in such an event couldn't do so because water was spilled onto the floor of the containment dome and then automatically pumped to an outside building.
>
> Pumps were vibrating because of the bubbly instead of solid water. They were switched off to avoid damage and the reactor core went dry. The fuel pellets in the tubes were operating at a temperature 2 000 degrees Fahrenheit above normal—generating hydrogen (but not oxygen) and xenon gas. *The worst had happened!*

Mr B. T. Burke: Where were the poison rods at that stage?

Mr McPHARLIN: Unless it was cooled with cooling water it would create heat.

Mr Pearce: One small human error in a nuclear reactor could lead to disaster.

Mr McPHARLIN: To what?

Mr Pearce: To near disaster.

Mr McPHARLIN: To continue—

> Then the operators realised that the PORV was stuck. *They closed it manually and the accident was all over that same afternoon.* The emergency radiation experts, who had been flown in, all went home.

Mr Barnett: The people at Three Mile Island didn't. They left home.

Mr McPHARLIN: It seems members opposite are not prepared to accept what has been recorded after thorough research. That is a typical attitude.

Mr Pearce: Why did the American Government tell the people to get out?

Mr McPHARLIN: I am prepared to accept what has been stated and I appreciate the qualifications of the gentlemen who have done the research.

Mr B. T. Burke: I like your WISALTS speech better.

Mr McPHARLIN: If members are not prepared to accept what has been done there is nothing I can do. They are prepared to go on with the distortions that are put out by some people. The facts are there for anyone to see.

Mr B. T. Burke: It is a Communist plot!

Mr McPHARLIN: A matter which is of tremendous interest and concern in my electorate of Mt. Marshall and also in part of the electorate of Moore is the proposed extension of a water scheme known as the Agaton project. It is proposed to take water from bore holes near Watheroo and pump it through an area of approximately one million hectares eastward as far as Mukinbudin.

The State Government made a submission to the Federal Government in 1978, but the Federal Government was not prepared to accept it without further examination. This was done and a report by the State committee was presented to the Federal Government last year. Again the Federal Government deferred the matter, wanting further analysis of the proposal.

There has been a lot of work done on this idea and only yesterday a report was submitted by a committee appointed from the areas concerned to the committee which is handling the report for the Federal Government in its further examination of the matter.

The people involved are concerned about the lack of water and their concern has been deepened by the drought conditions. Many of the people have suffered droughts for four or five years at a stretch and their water supply is desperate. I have worked closely with these people, the shires, and the committees concerned. They have presented a considerable number of statistics and a good case has been prepared. They have gone into the costs of water carting and the establishment of on-farm water supplies. They have shown the unreliablity of dams. They have submitted a first-class report. Six shires are involved in this area.

Mr B. T. Burke: Name them.

Mr McPHARLIN: Going down the list I have they are Moora, Mukinbudin, Dalwallinu, Koorda, Wongan Hills, and Mt. Marshall.

Mr B. T. Burke: What was the third one?

Mr McPHARLIN: It was Dalwallinu; the member for Balcatta knows where that one is.

Mr B. T. Burke: I am trying to take an intelligent interest in this and you are being funny with me.

Mr McPHARLIN: The shires carried out research into the cost of carting water during the last few seasons, and they did this because of the drought situation. In the Moora Shire 8 230 tonnes of water was carted; in Mukinbudin, 20 000 tonnes; in Dalwallinu, 36 000 tonnes; in Koorda, 30 000 tonnes—

Mr B. T. Burke: How many gallons are there to a tonne?

Mr McPHARLIN: —Wongan Hills, 20 000 tonnes; and Mt. Marshall, 30 000 tonnes. The total was 144 230 tonnes of water that had to be carted at a considerable cost.

Mr B. T. Burke: How much?

Mr McPHARLIN: The average distance one way for each trip was 16 kilometres and the cartage rates were 17c per tonne per kilometre. The total cost was $392 300.

Mr B. T. Burke: Gee whiz!

Mr McPHARLIN: The total man hours consumed at 6.8 tonnes per load and an average time per trip of 2.5 hours was 52 800 or 6 600 eight-hour working days. The total distance covered was 667 728 kilometres and the fuel consumed was 238 612 litres. The cost was borne by the farmers in the unfortunate position of needing water.

I know the local and State Governments have assured the farmers involved that the project to which I referred has the highest priority. It is encouraging to have that assurance and know the case in support of the project will be pushed at the Federal level to endeavour to have the scheme completed.

An estimate of the increased stocking capacity as a result of the project was made by the committee involved. The estimate relates to when the scheme is put through the area. The figure is only an estimate and it could be higher. For the Dalwallinu Shire the estimate is an increase of 150 000 sheep; for the Koorda Shire 50 000 sheep; for the Mt. Marshall Shire, 100 000 sheep; and for the Mukinbudin Shire, 30 000 sheep. I do not have the figures for Moora or Wongan Hills; possibly the shires were not able to put in their estimates.

The increased wool production is estimated to be worth $3.3 million, and the sales of sheep $2.16 million based on a value of the stock at $10 per head each year. The sales figures are based on 66 per cent lambing on half the total flock at $20 per head. The tax yield would be an extra $2 million each year.

Even though the cost of the scheme will run into an estimated $55 million to be spent over eight years and financed by the Commonwealth and State Governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis, it is not a great deal of money and should not be beyond the capacity of the State Government to meet.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr McPHARLIN: I move—

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

Motion put and passed.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [7.30 p.m.]: Prior to the tea suspension I was speaking about the Agaton water expansion project. I made the comment that, spread over a period of eight years, the cost of $55 million which will be funded on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the State Government, is not a great deal of money. I hope that, as a result of further pressure from the State Government, the Federal Minister will see his way clear to approve the submission which has been forwarded to him. A great deal of committee work has been carried out on this matter in the last few weeks. The benefits of this project are very great. It will make living conditions much better for people in the affected areas and it will give security of water supply, not only for stock purposes, but also for living purposes. Women will have the opportunity to enjoy a garden around their houses as a result of this scheme.

Even though, in many cases, farmers supplement the scheme with their own water supply, depending on the drought situation, they are never certain their supplies will be adequate, because frequently salinity takes over bore holes and wells. As salt has increased, it has crept into dam water, therefore, many farmers are in a desperate situation.

I urge the Government and the Premier to give as much support as possible in an endeavour to push forward this matter, because of the great need for this project in the proposed areas.

I should like to refer to a matter about which I have spoken many times in this House and it concerns one of the major problems in the wheatbelt and other areas of this State. I speak of the salinity problem. Members will be aware that, prior to Christmas, an international seminar was held into this matter at Murdoch University. It was a most interesting seminar and some of the leading scientists from other parts of the world attended it to deliver their papers. Some very interesting discussions took place.

One point which emerged from the seminar was that nowhere in the world is a better method being advocated for the control of salinity than is being advocated in Western Australia. I behoves us all to work towards the result for which we all hope.

There is a need for co-operation between all those concerned to obtain the results which are necessary and which will alleviate the salinity problem.

I was pleased to hear the Governor make reference to this matter in his Speech under the heading of "Works and Water Resources," where it was said that the Government would introduce legislation for the establishment of a statutory advisory council on water resources.

A report appeared in *The West Australian* on 20 March under the heading "Expert team to tackle salt problem." It reads, in part, as follows—

> A team of senior government officers and other experts will co-ordinate a programme aimed at combating soil erosion and salinity in WA.

I am pleased to note that this team of experts will be looking at all aspects of the problem.

The team will be composed of senior officers from Government departments and will include the areas of agriculture, works and water resources, lands and forests, and conservation and the environment. People from the private sector will be represented on that team also as will representatives from the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and the Primary Industry Association.

This report was issued under the name of the Premier and he makes the following comment—

> There was no single or simple solution to the problems of soil erosion, salinity and soil degradation.

Of course there is no simple solution and it is pleasing to note that the Government has accepted that at last.

The Premier made a further comment as follows—

> Some of the prejudices of the past will have to be broken down and the revised organisation will be more concerned about finding out what is right rather than who is right.

That is a very good comment. I hope the team will examine all the methods for the control of salinity which are being used and advocated. It is a major problem and salinity is continuing to affect and take out of production more and more of our good agricultural land.

I hope the committee works as it is envisaged in this report and I urge that consideration be given to the inclusion of Mr Harry Whittington as a member of it.

Mr Harry Whittington has devoted a great deal of time to and has worked tirelessly on this matter in an endeavour to evolve a system which is used now by many hundreds of farmers in Western Australia and other States. He has returned recently from a trip to South Australia and Victoria where his system is being installed. Last year it was installed also on Thursday Island where dramatic results have been achieved.

I urge consideration be given to the inclusion of Mr Harry Whittington as a member of that team, so that he may work alongside the experts to whom I have referred, in the interests of this State. In that way, the results which everybody is waiting for will be obtained.

In January of this year I wrote to the Minister for Water Resources and suggested to him that a consultative committee be appointed to investigate the problems of salinity. I suggested the members of that committee should include representatives from the groups which were mentioned in the report to which I have referred. It is pleasing to note this will in fact be done in the near future and it is hoped the work will begin soon so that results will be obtained as quickly as possible.

Another matter causes the farming community a great deal of concern and the National Farmers' Federation has raised the issue and intends to take it to the Federal Government. It affects all people involved in the farming industry in Western Australia and I refer to the high tariff protection afforded various companies.

It is estimated that the tariffs on farm imports throughout the whole of Australia amount to

approximately $340 million a year, and that they cost each wheat, sheep, and cattle producer in this country approximately $11 000. These tariffs are payable on farm equipment and machinery which is required for the farming industry in Australia.

We must look closely at this matter in an endeavour to provide some relief, because farmers are not subsidised to the extent many people believe; in fact, the level of subsidy received by them is much less than that received by other industries in Australia. Farming is among the least subsidised of all industries in Australia. I have seen figures which show that the effective rates of assistance given to farmers in Australia are approximately 4 per cent a year, whereas the subsidies given to manufacturing industries total approximately 26 per cent.

In recent years criticism has been levelled at the amount of subsidies received by farmers in the belief that it was greater than that received by the manufacturing industries. However, the Industries Assistance Commission blew that myth wide open when it conducted an inquiry into the matter and produced the figures which are available now.

The high tariff protection which reflects against the farming industry must be watched closely and the situation must be eased so that the farming community does not have to meet the high extra costs involved.

Last year a great deal of discussion took place and dissatisfaction was expressed in regard to the proposed grain freight increases in Western Australia. Meetings were held in a number of areas and the Minister, along with Westrail, decided to adopt a system whereby, if a certain percentage of grain was railed, the producers would receive a rebate based on the percentage delivered. I do not believe final figures are available, so we cannot make an assessment of the position. However, an answer given to the member for Merredin today revealed some figures which would indicate that grain growers may not qualify for a discount on grain freight rates. That is rather disappointing after all the meetings which were held and the work that was done.

It is unfortunate that this situation should arise based on the figures which have been produced and it means that we are now back to square one. I understand further investigations are being held so that a better way may be found for the organisation of the transport of grain. It was suggested an arrangement could be arrived at between Westrail and the Wheat Board, similar to the arrangements in force for the transport of iron ore.

A committee has reported on the matter and it is being examined further. However, it appears that suggestion has a considerable amount of merit although as yet no final decision has been made. It is, however, a possibility which could result in a more satisfactory arrangement. I did not agree with the proposal put forward by Westrail last year under which the rates for long hauls would be loaded and the short hauls reduced. I did not agree with it, I thought it was wrong and I have said so on many occasions.Most of the farmers involved were against the proposal also.

I hope that, in the interests of all, the Minister and Westrail can come up with a satisfactory arrangement.

I wish to conclude by saying that I appreciated the trip we made this morning which was arranged by the Minister. The trip on the *Prospector* was very acceptable and well worth while.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [7.46 p.m.]: The Governor's Speech is usually an indication of what the Government proposes for the forthcoming session and it was with particular interest that I examined the agriculture, lands and forests sections of the Governor's Speech.

The comments on agriculture were, in the main, confined to an expression of sympathy to the south-west farmers whose properties were badly damaged by fire. That expression was proper and fair and we on this side of the House express the same sentiments. Mention was made also of the drought conditions which continue to plague so much of the State's agricultural zone. Reference has to be made to that matter because, while there was some lamentation on the part of the Government through the Governor, that drought-declared area affects 3 500 farmers, or 40 per cent of the State's wheat producers.

There was no indication of a positive action to be taken with regard to the salinity problem or the future release of land. While sympathy is merited and should be extended to the farmers, I think the Government should have raised a vital question. The Government lauded the boom period and the statement was made that all were looking forward to the period of tremendous expansion. However, nothing was said about its impact on the rural industries of Australia, including Western Australia. There was a total absence of any indication as to what the Government proposed to do about the problems which will occur during the boom period.

That omission is indicative of the fact that the Government does not know what it will do. Of

course, that goes along with the philosphy of the Liberal Party; it is a case of "'Everyman for himself', as said the elephant as he danced among the chickens". That is the orderly approach of what is called the private enterprise philosophy.

The effect of the proposed mineral boom on the rural sector will be dramatic. The country members on the other side of the House should give some thought to this matter before it is landed in their laps. The incomes of rural producers, especially those of cattle and wool producers—and to a lesser degree grain producers—are likely to fall in the 1980s as a direct consequence of mineral development.

It was indicated in the Governor's Speech that the gross income from mineral development will be some millions of dollars—$27 million to be precise! The income for the rural producers will fall and the reasons are quite explicable in economic terms. Incomes in the rural sector will fall as a consequence of the mineral boom. However, domestic farming industries may have a slight increase and that is the consensus of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This warning was echoed by Mr Sinclair, the Federal Minister for Communications, who has suggested that the rising value in the Australian dollar could cut into our farm exports and farm production. Mr Anthony, the Deputy Prime Minister, rammed home the menace of the rising dollar to the National Farmers' Federation when he pointed out that the Government intended to use the exchange rate policy rather than a tariff policy as a means of checking inflation.

So, the Liberal-Country Party Government on the other side of the continent—of the same complexion and ilk as this Government—has taken deliberate fiscal policies that will have an effect on the whole rural industry as a consequence of the mineral boom. Perhaps it might be as well to look at some policies which will offset this. This means the Government intends to side with the high protection industries such as the motor and textile industries, against the low protection, more efficient types of industries such as the farming and export manufacturing industries.

There is no question that the strength of the dollar is actually on the rise in the 1980s. The *National Times* quoted that the dollar had risen by 4.8 per cent, which is more than enough to rub out the benefits that were obtained when the Whitlam Government reduced tariffs by 25 per cent. There were very few Press reports, during the Whitlam era, about this reduction and benefit to the rural producer. In fact, the only reports about it were the words of myself in this Chamber.

Mr Blaikie: You did have some help from other members on this side of the House. There was a super subsidy and there was a subsidy for butter producers.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It remains at the same level today and no action has been taken by the existing Government. Why has it not taken some action?

Mr Old: This Government restored the subsidy.

Mr Bateman: You are quite happy to accept handouts left, right, and centre.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order!

Mr H. D. EVANS: Whilst we are speaking of subsidies and assistance, I must add that the Whitlam Government brought in the underpinning of wool which was the greatest boom to rural producers since the World War.

Mr Cowan: It was done by a Liberal-Country Party Government.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It was not done by a Liberal-Country Party Government, it was done by the same Government which brought in wheat stabilisation and other safeguards for the wheat industry.

The tariff cut made by the Whitlam Government was one of the most significant and helpful measures that have been taken in the last two decades. I cannot see the present Government emulating that assistance to the farmers in this State. I will quote from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics warning about the mineral boom. Although it is couched in cautious terms, I believe it is the only solution we have. The bureau's quote was reported in a recent "Quarterly Review of the Rural Economy" article which stated—

> Without independent policy action to promote imports, the real (dollar) appreciation and its effects on the rural exporting sector would be unavoidable.

No measures have been taken by this Government or the Federal Government to do something about the situation. To quote further—

> The most likely outcome would be for growth rates in the rural exporting sector to decline, although it is likely that most rural industries would continue to grow in absolute terms.
>
> Seen from the farmer's viewpoint, that means that the cost/price squeeze could get worse this decade.

Unless something is done there will be no growth rate in the rural sector. It looks as though nothing will be done and country members should throw up their hats now and talk about the mineral boom.

Seen from the farmers' point of view, that means that the cost-price squeeze could get worse in this decade and another phenomenon of the cost-price squeeze is the situation whereby the cost and inputs of farm production exceed those of returns to producers.

Most farmers in Australia are ingenious and inventive but they need a decent Government behind them. The only off-set they will have will be the increase in the size of farms. It has been demonstrated that with the decrease in the number of farms there is an increase in the size of holdings. There is also an increase in the capitalisation of farms and of course this results in a flow-on in the machinery and technology sectors. There will be a continued increase in technological application to farming and this will bring about chemical farming and new methods in seeding. The farmers have been in this situation for some time.

The cause of the new squeeze is the swelling flood of money now pouring into Australia to fund new resources and projects from coal and aluminium, to diamonds, uranium, and shale oil. This will generate an export income other than what we have been receiving from the rural industries in the past.

Australia is a suitable place in which to invest; not only has it a sympathetic Government but it is an almost philanthropic Government.

We can anticipate that the trend will follow the same pattern as during the era prior to the Whitlam Government where the flow of funds brought about an actual rise in inflation. The rise in inflation was so dramatic at that time that it resulted in a surplus of office buildings in the cities and that surplus lasted for about seven years. It appears this Government will have something of a similar problem unless Australia moves to balance this inward flood of money either by making our own investments overseas or by simply buying more imports. The inevitable result will be a climb in the value of the Australian dollar, compared with other world currencies.

The result—and this is the essential point—is that Australian wool, beef, sheep meats, and grain will become more expensive to our customers. If we increase costs to our customers, what will emerge is a drop in price to the Australian farmer or a cutback in actual demand if the importing country cannot afford the increased costs.

How bad that drop in price will be varies according to the analyst one happens to follow. The Agriculture Business Research Institute of the University of New England makes some interesting forecasts. It states that by 1985, the liveweight value of a bullock will have fallen from a current 83c per kilo to 62c per kilo. This projected figure incorporates both the effect of the revaluation against US currency and the expected expansion of the US herd. It is forecast by the same body that, by the mid-1980s, the price of wool will have dropped from 240c per kilo greasy to about 185c per kilo.

The National Farmers' Federation estimates that if the Australian dollar is revalued by 10 per cent, wool prices will drop from 370c to 309c, clean average. That is a considerable drop. It is about time some of those members opposite representing the wool interests had a look at these figures and at what the mineral boom is liable to do to the economy in our rural areas unless sensible Government action is taken.

Sir Charles Court: You and your colleagues are saying quite clearly and loudly that you want to see a slowing down of the progress we are making.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I did not say that at all; I am saying that this is what is going to happen unless the Government does something.

Sir Charles Court: What do you want done? Do you want us to stop it altogether?

Mr Laurance: Give us something practical, like your leader is always requesting.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Firstly, the Government must examine the overall tariff position; this is a matter with which the Government must come to grips eventually. I notice this Government's Federal counterparts have shied away from that problem. Mr Anthony has come out in direct confrontation to the proposal. What are members opposite going to do about that one?

Sir Charles Court: Mr Anthony has also told the farmers not to be frightened of the boom, and he gave his reasons.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Farmers currently comprise about 7 per cent of the Australian rural population, and it has been projected this figure will drop to between 3 per cent and 4 per cent by the end of the century. I suppose that is the reason for Mr Anthony's statement.

A number of matters must be examined in this regard. Members opposite and their counterparts in Canberra are supposed to be the Government.

Sir Charles Court: We are.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Labor Party sorted out the marketing of wool, a problem with which members opposite had been shilly-shallying around for years. It was the Labor Party which sorted out wheat sales. Locally, the Lamb Marketing Board has provided stability to the industry. In addition, there are other areas of marketing where we have put forward concrete proposals in the last couple of elections.

Mr Old: All you did was introduce a Bill. It was all arranged, as you well know.

Mr H. D. EVANS: If the Australian dollar is revalued by 33 per cent, the price of wool will drop from 370c per kilo clean to 279c. It is true as the BAE demonstrates that many factors are at work; however, in essence, that is what is going to happen unless members opposite and their counterparts in Canberra do something. Are they supposed to be the Government, or are they not? Who is running the country? Members opposite say "What would you do?" They are supposed to be running the country, so let them do something to correct the problems we now face. Any boom in minerals will have a deleterious effect on rural producers.

Mr Sibson: What you are really saying is that we should nationalise the whole lot.

Mr Bateman: Most of all, they are not going to sell their souls to the Communists.

Mr H. D. EVANS: No, but they will sell their wheat to China.

Mr Bateman: Yes, to China and to Russia. They are the greatest hypocrites on God's earth.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I wish to make reference to several other matters, one being in connection with forests. The Governor's Speech contains the following statement—

> Consideration is being given to legislation to give additional security of tenure to management priority areas as set out in the Forests Department's General Working Plan.

It is to be hoped that proposal proceeds in an effective manner. I refer members now to page 31 of the Forests Department working plan, which deals with the management priority areas. This needs to be understood because to a large degree this is the basis of forest management. Paragraph 4.3 states as follows—

> 4.3 ALLOCATION OF MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES
>
> The whole forest will be divided into areas in which the dominant and secondary uses will be specified and their priority ranking nominated. Each unit known as a Management Priority Area will be described according to its dominant use. Where aspects of prescribed management for two or more land uses are in conflict, the priority use will be favoured. This is necessary to reconcile the differences in compatability between the various land uses. The process of delineating management priority areas involves a number of steps:

It goes on to point to the need of assessment for each official area and to estimate the level of demand for the various uses of that area. It also involves the identification of the legislative and economic constraints on the area; for example, gazetted catchments, mining agreements and timber supply commitments. Finally, the process of delineating management priority areas involves identification of constraints imposed by the nature of each land use itself. That is a very sound approach.

At present, the question of security of tenure of these management priority areas is something about which there has been a great deal of criticism and it is for that reason that major blocks which have been set aside as management priority areas—in the main, for parks, tourism, and scientific purposes and the larger blocks such as the Johnson, Soho and O'Donnell blocks—are covered under the tenure of "State Forest", despite the fact that within the department a policy of land management priority areas has been established.

There is a need to place these management priority areas outside the existing Forests Act in such a way that they could not be made available for any other use by administrative action of the Forests Department or the Government. The designation of management priority areas could be changed administratively, which is the reason for the current concern. As I have said, this is the major criticism levelled at the department. Because of this there is a feeling of mistrust of both the Government and the Forests Department. Such criticism would be levelled at any Government, regardless of its political colour, as well as at the department.

If the Government and the Forests Department are sincere—I have no reason to doubt that they are sincere—no objection could be made to this proposal. It is essential that the manner in which the management priority areas are set aside satisfies the objection that it is possible to manipulate the purpose for which the areas were conceived.

So, the concept is sound; the management by the Forests Department of these areas is essential. For example, it would save duplication of services such as fire-fighting services; it would be unthinkable to establish two fire-fighting groups to cater for the same area. While it is good thinking that the areas should remain with the Forests Department, they should be under a security of tenure which removes any chance of their designation being changed.

The Governor's Speech also contained the following statement—

> There is a strong and continuing demand for release of Crown Land and attention is being given to satisfying an expanding demand for Conditional Purchase Land as well as for urban residential and industrial blocks.

I notice in *The West Australian* of 21 February 1981 under the heading "Huge WA land deal" the following article—

> A Claremont property developer is buying up millions of dollars worth of farmland north of Perth.
>
> Mr Michael Hodgson, of Brae Road, Claremont, has agreed to pay $18.2 million for the Yathroo Estates, near Dandaragan, 150km north of Perth.
>
> The estate, of 35,000 hectares, consists of three properties and was owned by the AMP Society.
>
> The sale was confirmed yesterday by the WA manager for AMP, Mr G. E. Bowles, who said that discussions had been going on for some months.

The article then goes on to relate the history of the properties. What concerns me is that, once again, the Government has allowed a large tract of agricultural land to pass away from any possible chance of becoming a normal family farm. I use that term in its broad sense of young farmers moving onto the land; this sale precludes any such possibility.

Recently, there have been several moves, particularly from the Rural Youth Association, to establish a land bank in Western Australia. Unless something of this kind is done, there will be little hope in the future of young men being able to acquire land in our agricultural areas.

When the manager of the Saskatchewan Land Bank came to Western Australia and made his suggestions, I noticed that the Minister for Agriculture made a remark to the effect that "nationalisation of land" was involved; it was "Beware of the big Red" all over again.

Mr Old: I did not say that at all.

Mr H. D. EVANS: This is the sort of reverse thinking we see from members opposite.

Mr Old: I said the Saskatchewan scheme was a socialistic scheme which was not acceptable to us.

Mr H. D. EVANS: That is right.

Mr Old: I did not say what you claimed I said; namely, that it involved a nationalisation of land. Your statement was quite wrong.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister for Agriculture gave a clear intimation that that was his objection to the scheme. He was afraid of "Reds under the bed".

Mr Old: When did I say that?

Mr H. D. EVANS: At the time of the visit of that gentleman; it was inference, as much as anything else.

Mr Old: You are a great one for inference; you live on it.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister for Agriculture is like his predecessor; he is worried about "Reds under the bed".

Mr Old: Most of them we can see from here.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister certainly did not give the scheme much encouragement; he did not indicate there would be any serious endeavour to examine a proposal of that kind. Subsequent election promises perhaps modified his stand to some extent. Here we have a land deal involving some 35 000 hectares.

There is, too, a question on the notice paper that I lodged yesterday and hopefully it will be answered tomorrow. It asks to what extent foreign ownership has crept into Western Australia. I suspect it is quite substantial and extensive.

Mr Bateman: He will not tell the truth.

Mr H. D. EVANS: One can only hope. There are several small matters I would like to raise while the opportunity is left for me to do so. In the first instance, I point out that on an industry basis a matter that I raise will, hopefully, if it has not already happened, be brought to the attention of the Minister and this matter is in connection with apple juicing in Western Australia. Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), as you know the apple crop is in the main dependent on the export industry. From an answer to a question given tonight I have the total figures of exports as they are anticipated for the forthcoming season, but there is no way in which the quantity listed will cover all the fruit which is going to be available. So, in addition to their export, there is necessarily to be the use of apples for one of the three juicing plants in Western Australia, the Manjimup

cannery, and to one small pilot plant that is dealing with sliced apples. But there will be considerable quantities of apples which will be dumped anyway, and the lesser quantity used in processing the greater the amount which will be dumped.

As the costs in producing and exporting apples increase, orchadists simply have to boost their revenue by utilising the total crop they can produce, albeit naturally at a smaller amount received. Juicing is becoming a fairly important consideration. I mentioned there are three juicing operations in the State, but the price set for juicing fruit is set on an Australia-wide basis. For 1981 the price is $82.50 a tonne at the factory gate.

It would appear there has been a definite move by one processor to reduce the Australian price by approximately one-half. He is hopeful that the quantity of excess fruit will be such that he will be able to receive fruit at this discounted price. If that occurs in one direction, every other producer will be entitled to accept that amount as the price paid. That seems to be the logic and morality of it. But the price has been set at an Australian level so there could be grave overtones on a national basis if this comes about. I suspect it is largely in the hands of the growers if they accept a reduced price.

Mr Old: On juicing apples?

Mr H. D. EVANS: Yes. The current Australian price is $82.50 a tonne and this processor is suggesting about half that. While the answer lies directly with the growers, if they accept this price it is to a very large extent their own fault.

Mr Old: They have to stick together.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Yes; but there is the chance of some grower breaking and instead of dumping 500 bins accepting a smaller return. Once that happens the danger is that when the breach has been made in the wall of the dyke a whole deluge will follow.

The President of the Western Australian Fruitgrowers' Association has, in a circular letter to all growers, made this point and he has given them some sound advice. I hope they are sensible enough to take it. I do not think the Government could do anything except use its good offices in a matter such as this. It does not have any powers in this regard but at least it could encourage and give support to the association.

One of the most perplexing regulations I have ever come across concerns dogs in national parks. This regulation has caused a great deal of consternation in the Pemberton National Park, which has a caravan park next to it. The rule is that there are no dogs allowed in national parks, but at the edge of the town we have this delightful caravan park.

Mr Watt: With a big hitching rail.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It is a particularly good national park with a lot of trees, but as dogs are not allowed the rangers simply say to people who arrive with dogs "I am sorry; you cannot stay." The reason is that the presence of dogs in national parks upsets the activities of the wildlife and so here in Pemberton we have travellers being ushered out the gate if they have dogs. These people promptly go out with their dogs into the remoter parts of the national park and upset the wildlife to a greater degree, and the town dogs go surging through the national park anyway. One can imagine the situation when perhaps a retired couple are travelling around Australia with their pet dog. There is no way they will part with their dog.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am not discounting the point you are making, but you were a Minister responsible for national parks at one time and so you realise there are very good reasons for this regulation.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I do, but here on the edge of town we are having to tell a retired couple with perhaps two silky terriers that they are ineligible to stay in the caravan park. They promptly go out to a more remote part of the national park and their dogs are still able to upset the wildlife. The point is that in the meantime the local dogs are still running around the national park.

The rangers are in the position of not being able to do much about this. They have to follow the regulations with which they are provided and so an impasse is reached. I might add that the Northcliffe Tourist Bureau is not impressed with the situation and I think its submission was one of the lengthiest received by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council inquiring into national parks during its travels through the south-west.

Last November I raised the question of fuel and energy in the context of supplies to country churches. I asked a question of the Minister for Fuel and Energy. I asked whether there were churches in country areas, where there was no resident clergy, being charged a monthly reading fee by the SEC, and if the answer was "Yes", would the Minister have this fee waived in cases where the power was not used. I gave my reason for this request; I explained that in some small country towns the church service is conducted only during the day. There is no resident rector or priest. They travel morning or afternoon to

conduct services in some of these towns. So it means the running of a cake stall and things of this kind to pay the reading fee, which is unnecessary because no electricity is used. The current situation is grossly unfair even if it happens in only the three instances I know of.

Mr P. V. Jones: There is some doubt as to what you mean by "reading fee". You made it sound as though the SEC charges for someone's time to go and actually read a meter. What is being considered—because your colleague and members on this side of the House have raised the same question in regard to local government halls and so on—is the card reading system. It is thought that this should be extended to allow for this type of situation.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I thank the Minister for his interjection and his exposition.

Mr P. V. Jones: It has already started extending the system to some areas. Can we have the churches involved? No church has applied.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister will have the information at a very early date. I will pass this information on and I am sure it will be well received.

Now that the member for Vasse has resumed his seat, I would like to raise a matter that is very dear to his heart; that is, the prices of baby beef. He is not only personally interested but also has very extensive knowledge of this matter and that knowledge would encompass the information that during the last two years the fluctuations in baby beef prices have been very considerable. If we were to look at the graph that extends over the past three years we would find that two years ago the price was shown at 133.96c per kilogram. It picked up in May and June of 1979 and reached 200.5c per kilogram. It fell back by December 1979 to 165c per kilogram and in August 1980 it rose to 200.4c per kilogram. The latest costing I could get was 133.96c per kilogram, which is 67c per kilogram less than it was four months before.

Do members think those prices are reflected accurately in the retail outlets? They are not. My summary here shows that the percentage of variation is far less in the retail outlets than is currently being paid for baby beef. When we hear of a reduction in price by around $15 a head at sale after sale, it makes us wonder whether the Government has taken some action with regard to meeting the true wishes of the Farmers' Union at its referendum of some three years ago. At that time three questions were asked and I will not labour the actual content of them. Suffice to say there was no question that the beef producers of this State were seeking some organisation with regard to marketing. As a consequence the second alternative, which was nowhere near the intention that was sought, was foisted upon the farmers.

Mr Blaike: Are you alluding to a beef marketing board?

Mr H. D. EVANS: This is a matter which will probably come up later. I do not have the time to elaborate now.

MR WATT (Albany) [8.29 p.m.]: Like other members, I welcome the opportunity to support the Address-in-Reply because it does give a back-bench member of the Parliament the chance to express some concern about things he comes in contact with in his day-to-day work throughout his electorate. I shall speak about two or three items and the first is something which concerns most country people; that is, the drift of the population from some of the country areas to the city. I do not have statistics at my disposal but most people are aware that there has been a steady decline of the population in established rural towns into larger towns and a movement of people from larger towns to the city.

Many of us feel the cities are growing at the expense of some of the rural areas. Of course, the general decline in the population of rural areas means there is a corresponding reduction in the number of services that can be maintained in the rural towns. Because of reduced turnover businesses become less viable and that means fewer jobs are available for shop assistants and various other workers. As a consequence we find a need for smaller schools and a reduced number of school teachers and school bus contractors. So, the process goes on throughout the various sections of country areas.

In many towns we find that the shire council, to maintain the services of a doctor, must subsidise him by not only providing a house, but also guaranteeing a certain level of income. We find a decreased number of bank officers, policemen, and a whole range of other people who provide goods and services. We need more industry in these areas, but to attract industry just for the sake of it does not really make good economic sense. To have an industry in a particular area we need one of two things. The first is to be able to take advantage of a natural resource such as minerals or whatever. The second is to be able to take advantage of a natural market so that an enterprise can import raw materials, process them and sell the end product to the local market. Most of the rural communities have only one natural resource, and that is agriculture.

I think one of the causes of the present problems is the tendency towards larger farms.

Many farmers are increasing the size of their holdings in order to try to remain viable. I have heard the President of the Plantagenet Shire Council speak on numerous occasions about the declining number of farm holdings in his area because many of the farms have been amalgamated.

With the tendency towards better technology and the resultant larger machinery we find that fewer people are needed to do the work which was once done by a large number of people. I am told that there is somewhat of a problem in the rural communities in regard to the availability of adequately trained farm workers. I have no doubt that when many farmers seek permanent experienced farmhands to do the farm chores they find that those people simply are not available. I am told one of the difficulties is that farmers have become a bit wary of employing permanent farm workers because the Australian Workers' Union has attempted to impose certain conditions on the employment of farm labourers. They are the provisions of regular hours of work—quite frankly, that does not suit farming operations, especially in peak periods—the limiting of the amount of work to be done on weekends, improved working conditions, and a whole host of other conditions which would make the employment of those permanent farm hands unviable.

What we really have is the chicken and the egg situation. Young people cannot obtain farm work because they are not experienced and they cannot obtain experience because farmers employ seasonal workers experienced in farm work. The farmers simply do not have time to train young people. Apart from farmers' sons it seems to me we are losing the resource of a pool of experienced farm workers. Therefore we need some sort of farm training or education programme. We had the experiment of a farm training facility at Moora, and I am not sure whether that still functions. The agricultural colleges do a good job in training young people, but I would suggest something further than that is required for the young people who, perhaps, find themselves at the end of their schooling after obtaining the Achievement Certificate level. They could be at the stage of trying to decide what career they would like to follow.

Often I have spoken with youths who say they would like to go on the land but that no opportunities are available to them. Perhaps the danger in the sort of scheme I propose is that farmers may attempt to use young people as a form of cheap labour and, of course, that would be a great shame.

Associated with this form of training I envisage some form of cadetship or an apprenticeship in farming. Farmers would be forced to employ young people, and to keep them employed to give them wider training which will be necessary for them to become competent farmers. So many elements of farm training would need to be learnt; for example, animal husbandry which is quite diverse. Certainly in the great southern area we have cattle, sheep, pigs, dairying, and poultry production, just to name five types of farming, each with a different application.

A training course obviously would need to include instruction in grain production. Again in the great southern area we have the production of wheat, barley, oats, and oil seeds. The trainees would need to learn the intracacies involved in pasture development and improvement, and also a practical knowledge of machinery and its maintenance. Basic mechanics would form a very big part of any such course and the trainees would need to know how to weld, do a little bit of fitting and turning, fencing, and, even, know a little about basic farm economics. In fact, many more aspects of being a farmer would be involved.

I think it would be much better if young people could come out of a training programme such as I suggest with some form of certification, whether it be a diploma or apprenticeship papers. I would like to see a farm training facility, institute or school—call it what one likes—located in each region of the State so that we could continue to train young people in the manner I have described.

In each region emphasis would be placed on particular training. For example, in the great southern area to which I have referred there would need to be an emphasis on cattle production and pasture improvement. In the south-west there could be an emphasis on dairy and beef viticulture, while in the wheat belt area there would need to be an emphasis on cereal grains and wheat production.

I have been informed that a proposal such as this was put to the Farmers' Union, as it was then known, now the Primary Industry Association, which indicated its support for the proposal. I also believe it is supported by the Industrial Training Advisory Council which sees great merit in the idea. The main point is that it would give boys a chance of a career in farming and, obviously, improve their job prospects when farmers realised they could find a trained farmhand. I am sure many farmers are gearing the running of their properties towards farm equipment and away from farmhands because experienced workers are not available.

Mr Hodge: Seriously, is it a question of education or farm economics?

Mr WATT: It is a question of both. As I said, it is largely the chicken and the egg situation. I have had a sufficient number of comments from people in the rural areas about the difficulties of obtaining permanent farm labour that I am satisfied a need exists for a programme such as I have outlined.

I urge the Ministers for Agriculture, Labour and Industry, and Education to get together to consider this matter and discuss it with all people concerned to see whether something can be achieved for the improvement of the situation. In the Liberal Party policy speech before the last election the Premier expressed his desire to see an increase in agricultural output. He said—

> Out of the land will come a flow of renewable rural wealth on a scale that we believe will double before this century ends, and has the potential to treble.

Clearly that can be achieved only if two things happen. Firstly, we must maximise the use of the latest technology in farm equipment; and, secondly, we must have an adequately trained labour force. As a country that is capable of producing more food we have an obligation to do so in order that the world's starving millions are provided with food. Perhaps more importantly we have an obligation to help our young people into meaningful employment.

I will now turn to another subject which relates to the Small Claims Tribunal. Previously I had little occasion to be very much aware of the operations of the tribunal and, quite by chance, I had recently three representations made to me about it. I understand other members have had some problems or have been a little dissatisfied with the outcome of some of the matters referred to the tribunal. I make it quite clear at this stage that the registrar (Mr Bastow) has always been co-operative, and I make no criticism of the running of the tribunal. I simply question certain decisions that have been made and, in particular, two that have been brought to my attention. The best I can do is relate one example to the House. In fact, the two examples with which I have been associated are somewhat similar, but the case history of one will demonstrate my point.

I reiterate that I believe the concept of the Small Claims Tribunal is fine; it provides easy access to an official arbitrator and it is cheap. In addition, it has an upper limit to which claims may go, otherwise they go to other areas of the judicial process. In fact, the tribunal should cause no real trauma in a person's mind, something which is usual in a courtroom situation. It is really something similar to the Family Court and endeavours to achieve the same relaxed atmosphere in which people can air their grievances and hope to have them settled.

The particular example to which I intend to refer concerns a person who first told me of the problems he encountered when he arrived at the tribunal. A very gruff referee said "Are you so-and-so?", and he said "Yes". The referee said "Sit there", and said to the other fellow "You sit there." The referee then proceeded to tell them in a stiff and starchy manner what the ground rules were. He said "When I have heard enough to satisfy myself I will say 'Stop', and when I say 'Stop', I do not want to hear another word." That seems to me like a fairly unusual way of hearing evidence in cases involving legal questions.

After judgments are made there seems to be a strange process for making a determination in regard to the amount payable by one party. It seems that the claimant is able to have his cake and eat it too. In each of the two cases I have had put before me the claimants have had the full cash value of work reimbursed to them with a little bit extra besides. So they seem to have come out of it fairly well indeed.

I will tell members the story as it relates to this particular incident. It involves Dowsett Automotive Engineering Works of Albany. Immediately prior to Christmas 1979 a local resident of Albany was visited by some relations in a Ford Transit van. The Albany man asked Mr Dowsett if he would help the owner of the van, Mr Hunter, as the van was on its last gasp.

Mr Dowsett inspected the motor first. He found that it had very little compression, the clutch was slipping, and the unit generally was in very poor condition. He stated that it would not travel much further without repair.

Mr Dowestt suggested to Mr Hunter that the only real solution to his problem was to fit an exchange motor. Incidentally Mr Hunter said he was hoping to travel to Adelaide, and clearly that was not going to happen. Mr Hunter suggested that Mr Dowsett dismantle the motor and clutch assembly to see whether there was a cheaper way to get the vehicle mobile. Mr Hunter thought it would be best to return to Perth as he considered it was not worth spending more than $1 000 on the vehicle.

Reluctantly Mr Dowsett got his men to remove and dismantle the motor. They found that the rings were worn out completely and the cylinders were worn to such an extent that they needed reboring. The cylinder heads were in a shocking

state and a valve grind and new valves were required.

Mr Dowsett explained to Mr Hunter that the only machine shop in Albany capable of doing the work on the heads had closed down for the Christmas break. Mr Hunter then prevailed on Mr Dowsett to do the best he could in the cheapest way possible at least to enable Mr Hunter to return to Perth. Mr Dowsett explained to Mr Hunter that he did not like doing that sort of work and that he could give no guarantee that the end result would be satisfactory. However, Mr Hunter insisted, and Mr Dowsett did the work but warned him that the head would have to be rectified as soon as he returned to Perth because the problem was not really being solved.

Mr Dowsett's account was for $706. His mechanics did a complete bottom end job on the vehicle and just did the best they could with the heads. Mr Hunter paid $400 in cash, and gave him a cheque for $306 for the balance.

Several days later Mrs Hunter rang Mr Dowsett from Perth to apologise for the fact that her husband's cheque had bounced because of insufficient funds. She said she was making arrangements to deposit funds to meet the cheque if he would like to re-present it. During the conversation Mrs Hunter happened to mention that they had a pretty good trip back and that while at Norseman the vehicle of their travelling companions had broken down and they had loaded everyone into the van to return to Perth. When Mr Dowsett expressed surprise that the Hunters had travelled to Norseman, Mrs Hunter said the vehicle was going so well that they had decided to go on to Adelaide.

Mr Pearce: Is this a joke?

Mr WATT: It is not a joke; it is the truth.

Mr Pearce: I was waiting for the punch line!

Mr WATT: Mr Dowsett again presented the cheque, and it was returned with a note that the cheque had been stopped. He rang Mr Hunter who informed him that he had taken the vehicle to his normal garage and he had been advised that the head was in a very bad condition and that it needed major repairs. Of course this was no surprise to Mr Dowsett, because he had told Mr Hunter that. Mr Dowsett wrote to Mr Hunter, rejecting his claim for costs, and he asked him for the $306 owing. Mr Dowsett said that if Mr Hunter did not pay the money he would take action. The matter then went to the Small Claims Tribunal and it was duly heard on 24 July 1980. I have already told members that the referee said, "When I have heard enough I will say 'Stop', and I do not want to hear another word after that."

Mr E. T. Evans: Just like the Premier!

Mr WATT: After having given part of his evidence, Mr Dowsett handed the referee a copy of his letter to Mr Hunter reminding him of the facts about the repairs. After reading the letter the referee said he did not require any more information and that obviously Mr Dowsett had not done the job properly. The referee then asked Mr Hunter how much he had paid Mr Dowsett. Mr Hunter said he had paid $700, when in fact he had paid only $400. The referee allowed $100 to Mr Hunter for the loss of the enjoyment of his holiday, although that had absolutely nothing to do with Mr Dowsett. The referee awarded $800 to Mr Hunter, including the $100 referred to.

Any member who has been involved in a Small Claims Tribunal case will know that the only avenue of appeal is to the Supreme Court. We all know what the cost of such an appeal would be.

To add insult to injury, included in the assessment of the damages was an amount for work done on the vehicle by Mr Hunter's usual garage which had nothing to do with the work done by Mr Dowsett.

This story has a number of features which are absolutely amazing. The awarding of $100 for the loss of the enjoyment of Mr Hunter's holiday was a joke. There was no check on the documents to determine whether the facts in them were true. No regard was had to the fact that Mr Hunter's cheque had bounced.

I have here copies of two statutory declarations which were sworn in relation to this matter. One was from the mechanic who did the work, and the other was from Mr Hunter's own relative who said that everything Mr Dowsett said was true. Mr Dowsett was given no opportunity to present some of the crucial evidence in the case and, of course, there was no appeal other than to the Supreme Court.

My story demonstrates that while the idea of the tribunal is good, it breaks down when power is put into the hands of one person who may decide not to do the job as we think it ought to be done. Naturally enough Mr Dowsett feels bitter about all that happened to him and I do not blame him.

Mr Harman: What are you going to do about it?

Mr WATT: I do not think anything can be done about it now. I am sure that the member for Maylands knows full well the workings of the Small Claims Tribunal. I have told this story in the hope that the Minister for Labour and Industry will look at this tribunal, particularly to see whether it is functioning in the way it was intended to function. If it is not functioning in this

way, I hope the Government will make some modifications to it so that at least people who find themselves in a position similar to that of Mr Dowsett can ensure that they are given an opportunity to present all the evidence they can to support their case. Surely that is the basic aim.

I want to move on now to express my very real concern about another subject, the funding of nursing homes, and the payments to the people who live in them. As I understand it, the procedure is established that around 1 November each year the Federal Government increases the patient benefit payable to nursing home patients. My main concern is for those pensioners who have no financial means to support themselves other than their pension.

The patient benefit has been set at a rate so that the combined income of the pension and the benefit is sufficient to meet the nursing home account each week. I understand that the Federal Government operates on what it refers to as the 70 per cent rule. Statistics show that approximately 70 per cent of all the people in nursing homes depend completely on their pension; the pension is their sole income, and that, together with the patient benefit, must support them fully.

Since this system has been in operation, it has worked fairly well. On or about 1 November each year the patient benefit has been increased to a level to allow a reasonable margin—when combined with the pension—above the nursing home account. The level of the benefit is reviewed only once a year, and during the course of the year, as inflationary pressures force up the nursing home costs, so the nursing home charges go up and the margin is reduced. Just before the next increase, the patients are breaking even, perhaps they have $1 or $2 a week over, or maybe they have to make up $1 or $2 a week of the account.

I am very concerned about this matter because when the Federal Government made the adjustment on 1 November last year, the patient benefit was brought up to a level which, when combined with the pension, just met the nursing home account. As the year progresses, obviously the nursing home fees will increase, and particularly the pensioners in nursing homes will find they are falling further and further behind.

Last year the patient benefit slipped behind a little more than usual, and probably that is why the Federal Government thought that it was making a reasonable increase. The situation is that already pensioners are falling behind, and family or friends are being asked to supplement their income.

I wrote to the Federal Minister for Health about this matter, and in part of the reply he told me that nursing home operators need to review their operations in a normal business enterprise manner; in other words, they had to cut costs. That is all very well, but a difficult situation emerges when we look at the costs involved.

An interesting statistic is that between 65 and 68 per cent of the gross income of nursing homes goes on wages, salaries, pay-roll tax, and workers' compensation payments. Obviously these are fixed charges, and it would be almost impossible for proprietors of nursing homes to do as the Federal Minister suggests in regard to them. Obviously that makes up the largest portion of the costs of nursing homes.

In regard to wages and salaries, some of the decisions handed down by the Western Australian Industrial Commission over the past nine months have affected the awards of the employees of nursing homes, and the proprietors have no alternative but to abide by those awards.

In March 1980, 50 per cent penalty rates were granted to all staff working on public holidays. This award was made despite the fact that such staff already received seven weeks annual leave to compensate them for their loss of holidays and the shift work. Also at that time all staff were granted an increase in sick leave from five to 10 days annually, and also an indefinite accumulation of unused sick leave.

In July 1980 a wage increase of 4.2 per cent was granted to all staff. In August 1980 an $8-a-week increase in wages was granted to domestic staff. This was a flow-on from the public hospital wage determinations.

In December 1980 a 5 per cent increase in wages was granted to all registered nurses, nursing aides, and nursing assistants. Again this increase flowed on to the nursing homes, and it was something the nursing homes found impossible to reduce. Again in January 1981 there was a wage indexation increase of 3.7 per cent to all staff.

So I think members will see the predicament in which nursing homes find themselves is a very difficult one indeed. I know the Minister for Health is not without a worry or two at the moment, and I am sure he is thoroughly acquainted with the situation I am describing here. However, the position is really intolerable and I would urge him to try even harder to do something about it. No doubt he is already endeavouring to bring some justice to the

situation, and I hope he will try even harder so that people in nursing homes, especially those who have no income other than the pension, will be able to live in comparative financial comfort and have one or two dollars a week for those sorts of things every person needs to maintain his or her dignity.

Mr Wilson: Do you think one solution might be to make it possible for more people to have that kind of care at home?

Mr WATT: My understanding is that a fairly dramatic increase has occurred in the number of people receiving home care, anyway. Certainly in Albany, the electorate I represent, a dramatic expansion has occurred in the amount of home care given by the Government through the Silver Chain organisation and the regional hospital. While I suppose the truthful answer is that maybe there is room for more home care services, my experience is that people go into nursing homes only when they absolutely have to. The member for Dianella and I know that most elderly people very strongly resist moving into nursing homes; and because of that the majority of families are reluctant to put them in nursing homes unless it is essential to do so.

Mr McIver: How did you vote in the last Federal election?

Mr Laurance: Leave him guessing.

Mr WATT: Yes, I will leave the member for Avon guessing.

Mr McIver: You put up with it, because you put the Government there.

Mr WATT: That is not quite right. I am sure the member for Avon has never agreed with everything his Government has done while in office.

Mr McIver: I agreed with its criteria for homes for the aged, particularly four-to-one in nursing homes.

Mr WATT: Let me assure the member for Avon that when I cast my vote at the last Federal election, I cast it precisely where he thinks I did because the alternative was far too horrible to contemplate.

Mr Young: It's a bit like old age; it is lousy until you contemplate the alternative.

Mr WATT: I know the Minister will take up this matter with the Federal Government. I believe these people should be able to retain their dignity. Apart from the pressure which is applied to these people in many cases, pressure is applied also to relatives who have little or no income to spare themselves, and an unfair burden is placed upon them.

In conclusion I would like briefly to discuss a couple of local issues. A matter of concern is the fishing industry. Pressure is being applied at the moment by professional fishermen for the establishment of a fishing boat facility in Princess Royal Harbour. I support the fishermen in their endeavours.

The history of this matter is a little involved. A few years ago the professional fishermen sought the establishment of a facility at Emu Point. The Public Works Department enlarged the facility there, which at best could be described only as makeshift. The area had to be dredged, and as it is subject to silting it will require to be dredged periodically to keep it useful. Now we find the tendency is towards bigger craft and as the draught increases so the fishermen find it more and more difficult to get into the Emu Point facility. Indeed, some cannot enter it at all if they are fully loaded and others can enter only at high tide.

Consequently the fishermen must take their boats to Princess Royal Harbour where the only facility which might be suitable is the town jetty which is closed to vehicular traffic because it is in a poor state of repair and is not worth repairing, anyway.

When the South Coast Fisheries Study was convened one of its terms of reference was to consider the need for further fishing boat facilities along the south coast. There is no question that at the time the committee received clear evidence that Esperance had the greatest need for the establishment of the next facility.

At that time Esperance had only the Taylor Street jetty, and the professional fishermen were in a hopeless situation indeed. Albany at least had some facilities, and it was argued that even if Albany's facilities were inadequate, at least it had protected waters where fishing boats could anchor. That was not the case at Esperance, where the waters are largely unprotected. Therefore, plans are in hand and I think work has now started on providing a new fishing boat harbour at Esperance.

The problem is that probably about half the tuna fishermen at Esperance are Albany fishermen who fish part of the year in Albany and part of the year in Esperance. Of course, some Esperance fishermen come to Albany as well. It is unfortunate that it is necessary to provide two sets of facilities for what is virtually one fleet.

Reluctant as I am to do so, I must acknowledge that the cost of providing fishing boat facilities is somewhat prohibitive. Therefore, the important thing is that we get the planning under way now

so that when funds begin to become available after the completion of the Esperance facility we will not have to wait a further two or three years worrying about where the Albany facility will be situated. It is important that we do the planning now so that we can get the show on the road and have the project started as soon as funds are available.

A further problem is that tuna fishermen are coming under pressure from the Federal controlling body, the Australian Fishing Industry Council, which wants to take control of the fishery on a national basis. AFIC is saying that the tuna caught in Western Australian waters are juvenile fish and smaller than the desired size; therefore, it is seeking to place controls on the fishery. Frankly, I believe if this happened the tuna fishing industry at Albany would be killed. Therefore, we are urging the State branch of AFIC, the Minister, and the department to resist that proposition at all costs.

Scientific evidence has been produced by a scientist from the CSIRO to the effect that only a very small proportion of the juvenile fish caught here would make their way to the Eastern States had they not been caught. The majority of the fish caught here are of an acceptable size, and a high proportion of those fish tagged in the Albany area are recovered in the Indian Ocean. The evidence suggests that only about 10 per cent of fish in the Albany area find their way to the Eastern States fishery.

Therefore, it seems this is lobbying on the part of the Eastern States fishermen's associations in order to put the squeeze on Western Australia so that not only will greater catches be available in the Eastern States, but also the Eastern States will have an easier time in the market place. It is interesting to note that while people in the Eastern States fishery are talking about the problem of undersized tuna being caught off Albany, no mention is made of the fact that juvenile salmon are caught in the Eastern States fishery; and we would dearly love to be able to tell people over there not to catch juvenile salmon so that they may find their way to Western Australia. However, we have always taken a compromising attitude on that subject, and I think the least the Eastern States fishermen can do is to look sensibly at the research figures available from scientists. If they do, they will agree that their fears are more imaginary than real.

With those comments, I indicate my support for the Address-in-Reply.

Mr PEARCE: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Mr BLAIKIE: Mr Acting Speaker—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Is the member for Gosnells the Acting Whip?

Point of Order

Mr BLAIKIE: The member for Gosnells obviously is not in his correct place and, therefore, I must have the call.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I noticed the Whip was in the Chamber, and that was why I asked the question. I hope the member will take matters of this nature a little more seriously in future.

Debate Resumed

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [9.11 p.m.]: I wish to make a few remarks to the Address-in-Reply debate, reluctant as I am to do so at this time because I would have preferred to leave my comments to a later occasion.

However, I wish to support the address given by the Governor and to say that I believe the appointment of an Englishman as the Governor of Western Australia is a credit to us. I have met the new Governor and I am sure he will prove to be a great man for Western Australia. I believe he is a person to whom Western Australians can relate easily, and I wish him every success in his office.

I would like to compliment the action of the Government in providing financial support to Sir Wallace Kyle for damages occasioned to his house in England while he was Governor of Western Australia. I believe Sir Wallace endeared himself to all Western Australians during his travels throughout the State. It is sad that damage was occasioned to his house, and I believe the Government has acted responsibly in providing compensation. I entirely endorse the actions of the Government.

Mr Bateman: What the hell has that to do with the affairs of the Government of Western Australia?

Mr BLAIKIE: I am glad the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—I mean the member for Canning—has assisted me in this regard.

Mr McIver: He is our next leader.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am one of those who are concerned about the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition. I do not hold with his points of view, and if ever a speech attempted to sound the death knell of the monarchy system of government, that was it. If members opposite do not support the monarchy system, then let them identify what they support and do not try to destroy the monarchy by stealth. I believe that is

what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to do. Probably all members opposite would like to see a republic of Australia.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr BLAIKIE: I do not believe the Australian public would agree with that.

Mr Hodge: Look at the opinion polls.

Mr BLAIKIE: I suggest that while we operate under a monarchy the Leader of the Opposition should encourage his members to play the game by the rules and let the Australian public decide upon constitutional changes at the appropriate times.

Mr Bateman: Are you Australian, or what are you?

Mr BLAIKIE: I do not believe one should denigrate the office of Governor, as the Leader of the Opposition has done. I am proud to be an Australian; but I do not believe people—

Mr Bateman interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order! I ask members who are not in their seats to refrain from interjecting.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am proud to be an Australian. However, the action taken by certain members of the Opposition in relation to the monarchy and in relation to the office of Governor does them no credit at all. I do not hold any truck with that; and I am opposed to their points of view in this regard.

The Address-in-Reply allows members to refer to matters within their own electorates. I intend to take the remaining time to relate to matters within my electorate that I believe are important. I am delighted to note the interest that other members have; and I hope at the end of my address they will have the same amount of interest, and they will give me the same support they are giving me now.

One matter I have raised before in this House, which is giving me concern, relates to the Margaret River Hospital. The hospital is long overdue for replacement; and I look to the Government for funding for a new hospital. I am making a plea to the Minister for Health to visit the area so he can make a personal inspection and see the condition of the hospital, and the conditions under which the staff have to operate.

Mr Hodge: Who put you up to this? It is all orchestrated.

Mr BLAIKIE: One can write letters about such matters; but members of the Opposition would have to agree that there is nothing as successful as pointing out to a Minister on a personal visit the matters one wishes to raise. The member for Avon was complaining that letters to Ministers are not answered. Not only should one write letters, but one should also take the Minister along and let him see the situation at first hand.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have got to get him down there. How do you do that? Give us your secret.

Mr BLAIKIE: In reply to the member for Collie, one has to ask the Minister to come, in the first place.

Mr McIver: You are a bit young to be chasing a knighthood.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is important for the Minister to visit the area. I am asking that the Government review hospital services within the town of Margaret River. It is a growing town; and the present hospital is long overdue for renewal.

Mr Young: That is the hospital you were born in, is it not?

Mr BLAIKIE: That is right.

Mr Young: It must be in bad need of repair, it is so old.

Mr BLAIKIE: If my argument has not won the sympathy of the Minister, at least my physical appearance might have done so. He would understand that the hospital is very old indeed.

Recently the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife performed a ceremony at a boatyard in Fremantle when he launched a tuna boat which has cost about $250 000. This boat is the result of work by two Augusta fishermen, Terry Adams and Peter Osborne. They have ventured into what I would regard as an operation showing great courage and great initiative.

The member for Geraldton, the member for Swan, and other members of this House were members of the South Coast Fisheries Study; and they would recall the meetings held at Augusta. They would recall also that, at that time, the fishermen described the lack of facilities in the area. They would recall the fishermen advised us of the lack of navigational aids in the area.

Mr T. H. Jones: I usually complain about the lack of fish.

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe this new venture does them great credit. Terry Adams was the pioneer of the abalone fishing industry in Western Australia. That industry is worth in excess of $500 000 to the town of Augusta. Terry Adams has now ventured into the tuna industry with the boat worth about $250 000. When one talks about the pioneers of the 1980s, these partners are worthy of that title. Not only have they put their beliefs at great risk, but they are fishing in waters that are uncharted.

As the member for Albany has said, Albany has people fishing for tuna; but they have the protection of facilities and navigational aids. However, these people at Augusta are the new pioneers. I wish their venture every success; and I hope their courage is rewarded.

As the member for Swan would recall, in recent weeks the local authority at Augusta has made application to the Government for $12 000 for the building of a land-backed wharf to assist the fishermen when they move into the Hardy Inlet for the unloading of their fish. Members of the study committee were most impressed at the endeavours of the people in that town, because their request for finance was based on a minimum sum as they were going to carry out the project on a self-help basis.

Mr H. D. Evans: Has the Government sorted it out yet?

Mr BLAIKIE: The Government has still to sort it out.

Mr H. D. Evans: It has not done it yet?

Mr BLAIKIE: The Government has only just been requested to do so. The Government is receiving its first double-barrel blast now; so the member for Warren should let me continue.

At the time of the inquiry, the amount sought was $10 000. One of the principal recommendations of the South Coast Fisheries Study was that that work be done. In the 18 months that the local community has been gearing itself for this project, the amount required has risen to $12 000. I believe all members in this House would endorse the actions of the Government—

Mr McIver: Not all members.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am requesting that the Government provide $12 000 for that community through its local authority so that the facility, which will be of great importance to the fishermen in the area, can be built. I have already said that the abalone fishermen bring in something in excess of $500 000; and the wet fishermen bring in a large sum of money as well. In addition, there is the new venture, with the partners fishing 100 miles from the shore, seeking tuna.

The member for Swan was a member of the study committee; and he made a valuable contribution to its report. As he would know, the fishermen presently unload their catches at the town jetty area. The partners will be obliged to bring the new boat over the mouth of the river. They have been doing that sort of thing for 10 or 12 years. The fishermen have been showing remarkable skill, remarkable courage, and remarkable seamanship. Such courage and endeavour should receive acknowledgment by the Government. The request for $12 000 will be put to the Government at an appropriate stage.

I am pleased that the Minister for Transport is in the House, as this matter concerns road funding. The roads which are of concern to me are the Caves Road and the Brockman Highway. Some years ago I referred to the Brockman Highway as being worse than a bad goat's track. It is slowly changing; and it is improving, but far too slowly.

Both of these roads are major interior roads within the State's road system. The Bussell Highway is the main road connecting Busselton and Augusta; and the responsibility for financing that road rests with the State. The Caves Road and the Brockman Highway ought to be treated similarly; but they are not. In relation to both of these roads, the respective local authorities are obliged to allocate $1 for every $3 contributed by the State. That is unfair. I will raise this matter with the Minister, who will be visiting the electorate at the end of this week.

The Caves Road, particularly, is an important tourist road. Some 120 000 tourists visit the caves system between Busselton and Augusta each year. If we consider the number of people using the road but not visiting the caves, it is easy to draw the conclusion that more than 500 000 people would use that road every year. It would be one of the most heavily used country road systems in Western Australia; yet any funding carried out is partly at the cost of the local authorities, which have to contribute to the moneys put in by the Main Roads Department. That is unfair, and it is a burden on the local government bodies which have to meet that payment.

The Minister will certainly be hearing of these matters; and he will see this road at first hand. It is a matter that causes me great concern; and it is also of concern to the shires I represent.

It is unfortunate the Minister for Education is not here this evening. In Busselton, one of the principal sites in the town is occupied by the local primary school. The time is long overdue for a revision by the Education Department of the future needs of the school in relation to the district. There is need for consideration of the long-term needs of the schools in the area as a whole. I am asking the Minister and his department to undertake a survey of the East Busselton area for the establishment of a pre-primary school. If that move proves successful, at some later stage, possibly in seven or eight years'

time, the main school could be moved out of the town centre and established in the East Busselton area.

This would free that site which could be used as a major commercial area and yet still give the children of the town the opportunity to have a school in a garden setting.

These are some matters which are not of pressing concern, but are in need of attention and I ask the Minister and his department to undertake the survey.

It is unfortunate the Honorary Minister for Housing is not in the House at the present time. Representations have been made to the SHC regarding the need for single and pensioner accommodation at Capel which is a town which appears to have been overlooked in the commission's examination of housing needs.

Mr Jamieson: If you blink twice you have passed through Capel without seeing it.

Mr BLAIKIE: I would take up the member for Welshpool on that matter. When driving through quickly, if one blinks twice, one might travel through Capel very rapidly; but if one travelled at a slower speed, one would find it is a very important town.

Mr Jamieson: I never break the speed limit, but I can pass through Capel in two blinks of the eye.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is an important town and it has been overlooked by Government departments when planning for the needs of the area. I am certainly concerned about the region and I shall continue to make representations to the Minister and his department, because no single accommodation is provided by the SHC there. Nor is pensioner accommodation provided in the town and yet it is a centre for perhaps one of the largest mineral sands operations in the world, with approximaately one million tonnes of sand being exported annually.

Capel is the centre for a dairy company factory, an apple juicing plant, and abattoirs, and yet there is no aged accommodation. It must be considered also that Capel is within 15 miles of Bunbury, which is a major growth area, and 15 miles of Busselton which is a major tourist town; but whilst both of those towns have received allocations for single and pensioner accommodation, Capel has missed out all the way round and I believe that state of events should change quickly.

After taking up this matter with the SHC I was staggered to learn the reason Capel has not been considered for single or pensioner accommodation is that nobody has applied for it. I imagine the same situation would pertain at Peppermint Grove and I wonder how many people have applied for accommodation there.

Mr Barnett: Don't you think SHC tenants are far more discerning than that?

Mr BLAIKIE: Therefore, the criteria on which the department has based its premise need to be looked at, because a number of people in the Capel area are approaching the age of retirement and unfortunately no single or pensioner accommodation is available in that town.

Those are the matters I wished to raise in the House and I certainly hope the Minister will take cognizance of them and that the department will change its policies in relation to the location of this type of accommodation.

I believe Capel offers many bonuses for the establishment of single and pensioner accommodation by the SHC. It is serviced by a private bus company which offers a return journey to either Busselton or Bunbury twice a day. Capel is adjacent to both of those towns and the commission can buy land at a very realistic and attractive rate. Notwithstanding all of that, it is a very delightful town in which to live.

One other matter I want to raise concerns passenger transport as it affects the Bunbury region. I trust this matter may be of interest also to the members for Collie and Warren—certainly it will be of interest to you, Sir—and perhaps to the member for Wellington. I believe there is now a hotch-potch of passenger transport in the Bunbury region particularly in the service provided for school children. A review of the passenger transport service in the greater Bunbury region is long overdue.

If one examines the school bus services as they exist today, one finds they are an extension of those which existed in the 1950s when Bunbury had one high school—the Bunbury Senior High School.

Mr McIver: That has nothing to do with the Minister for Transport.

Mr BLAIKIE: It has a great deal to do with the Minister for Transport.

Mr McIver: Why? The Education Department handles school buses.

Mr BLAIKIE: If the member for Avon is patient, I will assist him. When there was only one high school in the Bunbury region, school buses operated into the town to service it. With the growth of Bunbury and the general city area, bearing in mind there has been a diminution of people within rural regions, a second high school was established at Bunbury. As a result, school

bus services have been duplicated and in the 1970s additional schools have been built in the region. We have now the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, the Bunbury Catholic College, and the Bunbury Technical School. The school bus system founded in the 1950s is being used to take children into the Bunbury area in the 1980s.

I make the point that the services are completely outmoded and not in keeping with transport requirements of the 1980s.

Mr McIver: You must have a weak transport committee.

Mr BLAIKIE: If the member for Avon will give me a little time, I will take this matter further.

Mr McIver: It has nothing to do with the Minister for Transport.

Mr BLAIKIE: It has a great deal to do with the Minister for Transport. In addition to the situation I have just explained, on the one hand we have a multiplicity of school buses ferrying children across various areas and duplicating services, whilst, on the other hand, there has been a reduction of the services of Westrail which in the 1950s was the major passenger carrier from the Bunbury Station area.

Westrail's services have dropped off and been curtailed and they are virtually non-existent to some centres today. I believe that is a sad state of affairs.

Mr McIver: Whose fault is that? You can't blame the Minister for that.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is a very sad state of affairs when people who live in areas removed from the Bunbury region and who have to depend on public transport if they wish to go to a major town, either do not have a Westrail service, or find it is reduced to one journey a week.

There is a further matter to which I wish to refer. Approximately three or four years ago I made representations to the Ministers for Education and Transport to ascertain whether a special passenger transport service could be set up to take students from the Busselton area to the Bunbury Technical College. Ultimately those representations were successful and the Minister for Education agreed to transport the technical students from Busselton, and others who lived *en route*, to Bunbury.

At the same time the Minister for Transport agreed that the service could be used for the transportation of fare-paying passengers. I believe the service was the first of its kind in Western Australia. Let me say also that the service has proved to be outstandingly successful and very important to the people it services. It has been successful for the technical school students and the fare-paying passengers; in addition it has provided a twice-a-day service between Busselton and Bunbury.

Mr McIver: You shouldn't have buses, you should have a train.

Mr BLAIKIE: The same operator tried to meet the demand for transportation for technical school students at Collie.

Mr T. H. Jones: That hasn't worked.

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe it has met with some difficulties. I am confident that a rearrangement of the timetable would make the service more satisfactory and encourage the students to use the service instead of utilising private cars. The Minister for Education would need to be involved, as would the Minister for Transport.

Coupled with these services a number of school buses operate in the area to provide a service for State primary school, private school, high school, and technical college students in the Bunbury region. I think it is a sad state of affairs when a tertiary technical institution is obliged to operate to a primary school timetable. When one considers that the students come from Harvey, Donnybrook, Collie, and Bunbury, one can see the immensity of the problem. However, the people I have concern for are the ones who live in the peripheral areas of the Bunbury region. In fact, as a result of these transport problems, the students living in those areas must work harder than their counterparts in the metropolitan area.

Mr McIver: Do you want Westrail buses to take them, or what?

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe the time is long overdue for a complete revision—

Mr McIver: What do you want?

Mr BLAIKIE: To the member for Avon—

Mr McIver: I want to know what you want. I am only trying to help you.

Mr BLAIKIE: If the member for Avon desisted from helping me I would be able to tell him precisely what I want. As I have said many times, a need exists for a complete review of the passenger transport system servicing the Bunbury region. Such a review would need to cover the use of Westrail services, private bus services, and school bus services. I would be confident that at

the end of such a study the recommendations would be for a further consideration of the use of services whereby school children and fare-paying passengers could utilise services, and technical school students such as those in the electorate of the member for Collie could use buses which run to a timetable suitable to the school bus services.

I make an appeal that a need exists for an urgent review, a review which is long overdue. The Bunbury region could well be the first region to undergo such a detailed review in relation to passenger transportation.

Mr McIver: What about private enterprise that we hear so much about?

Mr BLAIKIE: With the few remarks I have made I have much pleasure in endorsing the Governor's Speech.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Carr.

House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LIQUOR ACT

Inquiry

27. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) Since the publication of the 1980 Liquor Act committee report how many representations have been made to the Government?

(2) From what sections of the industry or the general public have these originated?

(3) Of the 33 submissions presented by individuals to the committee, how many of these persons were examined in person by the committee?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Two formal representations have been made.

(2) One from a private individual.
One from an organisation involved in the liquor trade.

(3) Three, who particularly requested interview. All other individual submissions were clear in intent.

COURTS

Law Courts Building

28. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Works:

(1) How much was the original estimate for the Law Courts building-Anzac Club complex?

(2) What is the latest updated estimate for the completion of these buildings?

(3) When are they now expected to be completed?

(4) What rental is it expected that the Anzac Club of the RSL will pay annually?

(5) For how long will be the initial lease to the RSL?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) $22.4 million.

(2) $25.83 million.

(3) December 1981.

(4) Peppercorn.

(5) 21 years.

RAILWAY

Spring Hill-Wundowie

29. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it the Government's intention to retain the Spring Hill-Wundowie railway line?

(2) If "Yes", will finance be made available to carry out major maintenance on the Wundowie line this year?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) and (2) A decision on retention and future maintenance of this line has not been made at this stage.

RAILWAY

Midland-Geraldton

30. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have Westrail officers discussed with the company Agnew Clough the carting of raw material from Coomberdale and other centres on the Midland-Geraldton line to Wundowie?

(2) If "Yes", has a determination been arrived at and, if so, what freight rate has been set?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) No, but arrangements have been made for a meeting to be held on Monday, 30 March.

(2) Answered by (1).

RAILWAYS

Bunbury Port

31. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the current situation relevant to having rail access to the land-backed wharf at Bunbury?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Rail access is already provided to land-backed wharf at Bunbury.

PORT

Albany

32. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to his letter of 6 March 1981 to the secretary of Albany branch Waterside Workers Federation, would he table the correspondence from the

Albany Port Authority or give the list of names forwarded to him for his consideration for appointment to the port authority board?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Mr T. H. Blake
Mr O. Uebergang
Mr E. W. Wallace
Mr R. H. Bevan.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Karratha Airport

33. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) With the upgrading of facilities at Karratha Airport about to commence, would he endeavour to obtain funds to extend the runway?
(2) If "No" to (1), would he state his reasons?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) There will shortly be a study group convened by the Department of Transport Australia, the Pilbara study group, under the auspices of the Commonwealth-State advisory committee to study Western Australian airport requirements.
This group, which will contain representatives of all levels of Government and the private sector, will examine airport needs throughout the Pilbara. Amongst these will be the needs of Karratha.
(2) See answer to (1).

RAILWAYS

Armadale Station

34. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

When will upgrading commence on the Armadale railway station, as promised in the Liberal Party policy in 1980?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Liberal policy for the 80s undertook to actively promote the use of the public transport network by completing the Kelmscott bus-train transfer station and continuing plans for similar facilities at Gosnells, Armadale, and Cannington or Queens Park and at other locations where required and practical.

Firm plans are in hand for bus-rail transfer facilities at Cannington, Gosnells, and Armadale.

HEALTH

Vanadium

35. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Have officers of the Health and Medical Services Department carried out examination of Clough and Sons vanadium project at Wundowie?
(2) If "Yes", when did the examination take place, and what was the result of their findings?
(3) Is it envisaged that further investigations will be undertaken in view of workers employed at the vanadium works who are currently suffering from eye irritation and the symptom known as "green tongue"?
(4) If "No" to (3), would he state his reasons?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Yes.
(2) List of the dates of the visits—

9 July 1980
19 August 1980
10 October 1980
12 November 1980
18 November 1980
20 November 1980
21 November 1980
3 December 1980
4 December 1980
9 December 1980
23 December 1980
29 January 1981
11 February 1981
25 February 1981
4 March 1981
5 March 1981
6 March 1981
10 March 1981
13 March 1981.

The company was having problems with dust collection from the main stack. The Air Pollution Control Council accepted that dust emission was due to teething problems associated with the commissioning of a new plant and agreed to allow the company until 15 January 1981, to overcome the problem.

A high efficiency dust collector has now been installed. Its performance will be checked as soon as the plant is operating for a continuous period. Discussions with the company have been held and sampling for vanadium dust has been undertaken. The levels of vanadium in the dust were low.

(3) Yes.

(4) Not applicable.

HOSPITAL: ROYAL PERTH

Employees: Parking Facilities

36. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it a fact that nurses employed on shift work at Royal Perth Hospital have recently been prohibited from using a special car-parking area that had previously been allocated to them?

(2) If "Yes" to (1) what is the reason for the change?

(3) Can he give an assurance that safe and suitable car-parking facilities within close proximity of Royal Perth Hospital are available for all female staff required to work shift work?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) No. Car-parking capacity is diminishing progressively because of structural extensions on site. The car parks are open areas, but are lighted and are patrolled by security guards and hospital staff.

HEALTH: MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Public Hospitals

37. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) In December 1980 he announced that the Government was seeking renegotiation of the agreement on fee-for-service payments to doctors in public hospitals. Has the agreement been renegotiated and, if so, please provide details of the new agreement?

(2) Will the budget provision for fee-for-service payments to doctors in public hospitals be exceeded in 1980-81 and, if so, by how much?

(3) Was the budget provision for fee-for-service payments to doctors in public hospitals exceeded in 1979-80 and, if so, by how much?

(4) How much will the 1 November 1980 increase in fee-for-service payments to doctors in public hospitals cost in this financial year?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Negotiations are proceeding for a new agreement for the provision of medical services at hospitals other than teaching hospitals.

(2) Yes—$318 000.

(3) Yes—$612 000.

(4) $578 000—estimate.

HOSPITAL

Wanneroo

38. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Can he explain how, if proper planning and feasibility studies were made prior to constructing the Wanneroo Hospital, it was found necessary within only five months of its completion to close 23 beds?

(2) (a) Does the Government have plans to employ any salaried doctors at the Wanneroo Hospital;

(b) if not, why not; and

(c) if "Yes", when?

(3) Are there plans to establish a casualty department at the Wanneroo Hospital?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Proper planning and feasibility studies were carried out by the hospital consultants, Llewelyn Davies Kinhill, in conjunction with the medical department prior to the construction of Wanneroo Hospital. Hospitals are planned with a capacity to absorb more patients than those immediately available on the day of opening. It was not expected that Wanneroo would be fully occupied for nearly one year.

The 23 beds closed is a "paper" closure as they were not in use at the time of the announcement.

The "closure" was brought about by the action of the Commonwealth in refusing to cost share the total number of beds.

The Commonwealth balanced the partial closure of the Mount Hospital against the opening of Wanneroo Hospital. It would agree only to cost share 53 beds of the total of 83 beds.

(2) (a) No;
(b) peripheral metropolitan hospitals are not normally staffed by salaried doctors. Meetings were held prior to the opening with community and shire representatives and local practitioners to discuss medical staffing of the hospital;
(c) answered by (a).

(3) A limited casualty facility exists at Wanneroo Hospital which is used by the local community. It is manned on a voluntary "on call" basis by local general practitioners, who make themselves available on a roster.

HEALTH: MENTAL

Handicapped Persons: Offences

39. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Has his attention been drawn to comments made in the Supreme Court by Mr Justice Brinsden about the lack of a suitable institution for mentally handicapped offenders?

(2) Is the Department of Health and Medical Services concerned about this situation and is it proposed to take any action to overcome the problem highlighted by Mr Justice Brinsden?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The situation has been the subject of correspondence between a number of departments including Community Welfare, Mental Health Services, and Corrections. Consultation will be continued with the objectives of establishing the dimensions of the problem and possible remedial measures.

HOSPITAL: ROYAL PERTH

Jewell House

40. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) In *The West Australian* of 31 January 1981 he was quoted as saying that he was not fully aware of the ownership of the recreation facilities at Jewell House. Has he determined yet who owns the recreation facilities at Jewell House?

(2) (a) In *The West Australian* of 31 January 1981 he was quoted as saying that he had asked the Royal Perth Hospital Board to make recommendations on Jewell House and its facilities. Has he received the board's recommendations yet; and

(b) if so, will he provide me with details?

(3) Is it still the Government's intention to close Jewell House on 31 March 1981?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Royal Perth Hospital owns the recreation facilities.

(2) (a) No;
(b) not applicable.

(3) It is the intention of the Royal Perth Hospital Board to close Jewell House.

ABORIGINES

Ringer's Soak

41. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Are the Aborigines from Gordon Downs Station still living in tents in the new reserve at Ringer's Soak?

(2) If "Yes", what is being done to provide more appropriate accommodation?

(3) If "No" to (1), what type of accommodation has been provided and how many people are occupying it?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) to (3) Currently there are no Aborigines living at Ringer's Soak. Representatives from the group visited the site this week and estimate that it will be at least three weeks to a month before the wet conditions improve and the group can move to Ringer's Soak.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Spectacles

42. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Does the Department for Community Welfare provide financial assistance under certain circumstances for the purchase of spectacles?

(2) What are the eligibility requirements for the receipt of such assistance?

(3) Has there been any recent change to the eligibility requirements or the level of assistance available; if so, please provide details?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Eligibility is confined to those cases where—

(a) spectacles are prescribed by a medical practitioner as essential and urgently required; and

(b) the person applying has insufficient means or resources to pay for the spectacles.

(3) No. Recent instructions issued merely served to clarify but not to change eligibility requirements.

ROAD

Albany Highway

43. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it a fact that resumptions have been carried out in Wimbledon Street, Beckenham and Rupert Street, Kenwick, for the purpose of the diversion of Albany Highway through Beckenham and Kenwick?

(2) Does he consider the cost of such a diversion is warranted, bearing in mind the capital expenditure required for other major highways?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) and (2) A diversion of Albany Highway through Wimbledon and Rupert Streets is allowed for in the metropolitan region scheme. This diversion is included for sound technical reasons associated with the design of the future interchange between Roe and Albany Highways. No resumptions have been initiated along this alignment although land has been acquired through the normal process of the metropolitan region scheme.

ROADS

Kewdale Road and Beechboro-Gosnells Freeway

44. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) In view of the ever-increasing daily build-up of traffic generally through Kewdale and Forrestfield, will he endeavour to have the route past Kewdale Road upgraded to four lanes?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) When can it be expected that the extension of the Beechboro-Gosnells route past the airport to link with Great Eastern Highway will be commenced?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Yes, but timing will depend upon agreement first being reached on the next section of the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) The most satisfactory method of upgrading this road would be the construction of the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway past the airport to Great Eastern Highway. Proposals to finalise the planning of this route are currently being considered by the Belmont City Council and until agreement has been reached with that council no construction staging can be programmed.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Pipeline

45. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) For the purpose of laying the North-West Shelf gas pipeline can he advise why easements of land were taken

through private property in Wattle Grove and other adjoining areas, without the residents being advised of such intentions?

(2) Will he further advise why the local authority for that particular area was not advised also?

(3) As there appears to be ample Crown land through this area, why was not this vacant land used rather than possibly inconveniencing the local residents?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) to (3) The State Energy Commission has not taken any easements over land in association with the North-West Shelf gas pipeline. The survey of the route has been completed, and negotiations with landowners are proceeding. Each section of the route has been the subject of detailed discussion with affected landowners and local authorities, and specific consideration given to the use of available Crown land.

EDUCATION

Technical: Tertiary Advanced Studies

46. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

(1) What options are being considered for the future tertiary advanced education studies in the technical education division?

(2) Which of these options are most likely to be considered?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) and (2) Several options are under consideration, but it is still too early to indicate whether any is likely to proceed.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed Persons: Transport Concessions

47. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) In view of the ever-increasing employment problem with school leavers and young people endeavouring to find work, has any consideration been given to transport concessions for these unemployed youth?

(2) If not, will he give this matter urgent consideration?

(3) If "Yes", what avenues are open for such concessions?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) to (3) The Commonwealth Employment Service administers a fares assistance scheme for eligible unemployed people referred by it for job interviews.

In view of the very onerous transport costs already faced by the State Government it is not intended to grant any further concessions at the present time.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER

Environmental Review and Management Programme

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

(1) Will an environmental review and management programme be required from the Westal consortium before approval to construct an aluminium smelter is given?

(2) If "Yes", will the environmental review and management programme be available for study and assessment before legislation is introduced into Parliament?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) and (2) Any proposal to proceed with development of an aluminium smelter will be subject to the normal environmental review and management programme procedures which are applied to other major developments.

WOOD CHIPPING

Wheatley

49. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

(1) (a) Is there a reserve around the settlement of Wheatley and, if so, what is the extent of such reserve;

(b) what is the type of this reserve, if any?

(2) Is it intended to carry out wood chipping operations in the vicinity of the Wheatley settlement?

(3) If "Yes" to (2)—

(a) when will such operations commence;

(b) what will be the closest to the settlement these operations will be carried out?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) (a) and (b) The Wheatley settlement is located within a gazetted townsite reserve. Forests Department stream and road reserves are also associated and a management priority area for recreation and education is proposed.

(2) and (3) There is no current intention to carry out wood chipping in the vicinity of Wheatley.

Any future cutting is expected to be a considerable distance from the settlement and have regard to development of the site in question.

AGRO-FORESTRY

Projects

50. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

(1) What agro-forestry projects have been established in Western Australia?

(2) (a) Where is each located;

(b) what does each project entail?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) The agro-forestry research projects in which the Forests Department is involved are set out in the answer to (2).

(2) (a) Wellbucket, east of Mundaring in the Helena catchment; co-operative project between CSIRO, PWD and Forests Department.

(b) Establishment of pasture under pines and its potential for sheep grazing; comparison of pasture production in the open and under pines with time.

(a) Flynn, east of Mundaring in the Helena catchment, co-operative project between CSIRO, PWD, and Forests Department.

(b) Effect of different tree arrangements on pasture productivity, grazing potential, and hydrological balance.

(a) Stenes, east of Collie in Bingham catchment, co-operative project between PWD and Forests Department.

(b) Main accent is on the hydrological effect of trees planted in various configurations. The feasibility of grazing under these conditions is also being studied.

(a) Forbes, east of Collie, in the Collie catchment, technical assistance in a trial established by the Department of Agriculture.

(b) Planting of fodder trees, such as tree lucerne, in belts, to control salinity and raise farm productivity.

(a) Jarrahwood, east of Busselton, co-operative trial with Department of Agriculture.

(b) Grazing potential of pastures established under pines in the Sunkland.

(a) Wonnerup, east of Busselton.

(b) Effect of wide tree spacing characteristic of agro-forestry on tree growth and form on coastal sands.

(a) Ferndale, between Balingup and Nannup.

(b) Effect of wide tree spacing characteristic of agro-forestry on tree growth and form on inland loams.

(a) Perillup, east of Manjimup; technical assistance in a trial established by PWD.

(b) Establishment of pasture under partially cleared native forest.

RIGHTS IN WATER AND IRRIGATION ACT

Regulations

51. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) Have regulations under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act been proclaimed, and if so, on what date?

(2) If "No" to (1), when is it expected that they will be?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) Many regulations relating to various sections of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act have been proclaimed. However, it is presumed the question refers to the section of the Act relating to safety of dams to which the answer is "No".

(2) Drafting of the regulations under that section of the Act has not been completed and a date for proclamation has not been decided.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Gnowangerup

52. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Has he received correspondence regarding the need for finances to allow the operations of the Gnowangerup Agricultural College to continue and to expand?

(2) Will the funding being sought be made available to the Gnowangerup Agricultural College?

(3) (a) If "Yes" to (2), what amount will be made available;

(b) if "No" to (2), what is the reason for the funds as sought not being made available?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) to (3) The farm school at Gnowangerup will continue to operate as a viable unit. An application to purchase additional land has been received but there are no capital works funds available for this purpose because of demands for new schools and additional classrooms in the State.

DROUGHT

Areas Declared

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

How many shire council areas were—

(a) fully drought declared;

(b) partly drought declared;

in 1979 and 1980?

Mr OLD replied:

Drought declarations refer to a season and not to a calendar year and are as follows—

(a) 3 in 1979-80; 17 in 1980-81;

(b) 18 in 1979-80; 22 in 1980-81.

STATE FINANCE

Consolidated Revenue Fund: Wages and Salaries

54. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

(1) What was the total amount of expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund on wages and salaries in each of the following years—

(a) 1974-75;
(b) 1975-76;
(c) 1976-77;
(d) 1977-78;
(e) 1978-79;
(f) 1979-80?

(2) What was the amount of expenditure required to finance employment growth in each year identified in (1)?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) (a) to (f) The amount of expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund includes shares of the costs of these items in organisations such as hospitals and other statutory authorities. It is necessary therefore to estimate the amount of expenditure from the fund which relates to salaries and wages in these cases. The following figures are, therefore, the best estimate of expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund on salaries and wages in the respective years—

	$
1974-75	489 965 000
1975-76	611 539 000
1976-77	692 680 000
1977-78	794 375 000
1978-79	885 171 000
1979-80	997 160 000

(2) It is not possible to provide information on actual expenditure on employment growth as these are included in total wages and salaries expenditure and are difficult to isolate in departmental

payrolls. Funds provided in the Budget for the part year cost of new staff appointments are as follows—

	Part Year Cost $
1974-75	9 354 000
1975-76	14 723 000
1976-77	13 046 000
1977-78	9 404 000
1978-79	5 470 000
1979-80	5 566 000

STATE FINANCE

Cash Balance Investment

55. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

What is the estimated amount of interest earnings from the investment of Treasury cash balances in 1980-81?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Interest amounting to $16 918 000 was earned to the end of February 1981. No estimates have been made of the amount likely to be earned for the full year which will depend on the balances available for investment during the balance of this financial year, which are variable, and the rate of return that may be obtained on the investments. In interpreting these statistics it has to be kept in mind that part of the interest must be distributed to various trust accounts and Government instrumentalities. This amounted to almost 30 per cent of the earnings last financial year.

PASTORAL LEASE

Gordon Downs Station

56. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) What attempts were made by him or other Ministers or officers of the Government to contact Mr Sherwin of Gordon Downs Station?

(2) Has Mr Sherwin responded to their attempts to contact him?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) On 16 January 1981 following unsuccessful attempts to contact Mr Sherwin by telephone, a telegram was sent from my office requesting contact between Mr Sherwin and myself.

There has been no contact between officers of the Department for Community Welfare and Mr Sherwin.

It is understood that officers of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have attempted to contact Mr Sherwin, but with no success.

(2) Mr Sherwin replied to my first telegram on 19 January 1981 and a further response was telegrammed to him from my office on 21 January 1981. No further responses have been received.

ELECTORAL

Districts: Redistribution

57. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) Is it fact that the Government has been examining the question of a redistribution of electoral boundaries since November 1980?

(2) If so, who is conducting the review?

(3) When will it be completed?

(4) Will the review be made public?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) The matter has been under consideration for some months.

(2) I am looking at the situation.

(3) Not known at present.

(4) A statement can be anticipated when my review has been completed and the matter has been considered by the Government. There is no legal requirement for any redistribution to take place.

ANZAC DAY

Trust

58. Mr DAVIES, to the Deputy Premier:

Will moneys accruing to the various organisations from the Anzac Day Trust this year be as a result of events held on Anzac Day, Saturday, 25 April, or events held on the public holiday on Monday, 27 April?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As a result of events held on Anzac Day, Saturday, 25 April, in accordance with the Anzac Day Act.

TRAFFIC

Accidents: Interdepartmental Committee

59. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

(1) Has the Government yet considered recommendations by an inter-departmental committee on road injuries and deaths?

(2) If so, which recommendations have been accepted and what other actions are proposed?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) The report of the interdepartmental committee released on 3 March 1981 is under consideration by the Government.

(2) Answered by (1) above.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Child Welfare Act

60. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Is the report of *The West Australian* of Saturday, 28 February, that the Western Australian Government is undertaking a special review of Western Australia's child welfare legislation, fact?

(2) If so, who is conducting the review?

(3) When is it expected to be completed?

(4) Will it be made public?

(5) When are changes to the WA Child Welfare Act expected to come before State Parliament?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The Department for Community Welfare, in conjunction with a representative from the Crown Law Department.

(3) Completion date is uncertain. Some issues need to be examined before it can be determined whether further or modified legislation is necessary.

(4) The normal process of governmental consideration of the law will be followed before legislation is presented for the consideration of Parliament.

(5) In 1981, if full consideration is completed.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Abused Children

61. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Has the Department for Community Welfare set up a unit to deal with the problems of sexually abused children and their families?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Yes. Under a provision made by the Government in the Budget for 1980-81, the Department for Community Welfare is in the process of setting up a specialist unit to deal with the problems of sexually abused children and their families and will be known as the children's protection service.

Currently the service is recruiting specialist staff and integrating the planned service with existing statutory and voluntary welfare services.

It is intended that the unit will be operating within the next few months.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Family Advisory Committee

62. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Have any reports yet been received from the ministerial advisory committee on families?

(2) How many times has it met?

(3) Are its members paid?

(4) If so, on what basis?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) No.

(2) Four times.

(3) Non-Government members are entitled to claim a sitting allowance and travel expenses.

(4) The fees and allowances committee of the Public Service Board has determined that remuneration for the non-Government members of the family policy advisory committee should be at the category "C" rate of fees applicable to Government boards, trusts, and committees.

HEALTH: MENTAL

Handicapped Persons: Offences

63. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

Further to the problem raised by Mr Justice Brinsden in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, 17 March, concerning the lack of institutions to deal with mentally handicapped offenders, what action is being taken by the Government?

Mr HASSELL replied:

There have, over the years, been a number of meetings and a great deal of correspondence between the Mental Health Services, Department for Community Welfare, and the Department of Corrections in an attempt to resolve this very complicated issue. I am advised that consultations between these relevant authorities are continuing. I am further advised that the subject is also being considered at the present time by the Western Australian Law Reform Commission.

PRISONS

Officers: Union

64. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

Does the Government intend to legislate to keep a group of prison officers out of the Prison Officers' Union?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The Government will ensure that certain public servants employed in the Department of Corrections have industrial coverage under and representation before the Public Service arbitrator as do other public servants.

EDUCATION

Technical: Pilbara and Goldfields

65. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

Is it intended to amend the Education Act to enable technical division staff to teach in the Pilbara and goldfields colleges as part of their normal service?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

No.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Payment to Hospital Fund

66. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

(1) What is the amount estimated to be paid to the hospital fund by the Lotteries Commission in 1980-81 under section 9 of the Lotteries (Control) Act?

(2) For what purpose are the funds to be employed in 1980-81?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) $5 445 000.

(2) The funds will not be received until the end of June 1981. It is proposed to use them to finance part of the hospitals capital works programmes for 1981-82.

WOOD CHIPPING

Licence Area: North-eastern Section

67. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

(1) What is the extent of the area in the north east section of the wood chip licence area which the Forests Department has indicated will not be available for wood chipping activities?

(2) For what purpose is this area now classified?

(3) Is this area the subject of fears of salinity if wood chipping takes place?

(4) Why does not the Government remove this area from the wood chip licence area?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) Approximately 134 000 hectares embracing the catchments of the Warren, Shannon, and Deep Rivers east of the 900 mm rainfall isohyet will not be available for wood chipping unless it can be assured that it will not have an impact on salinity.

(2) This area is classified for fauna conservation (Perup), road reserves and catchment protection.

(3) The member is referred to the marri wood chip project environmental impact statement page 21 sections 4.3, 5.4, final paragraph.

(4) For the same reason that applied when the member was responsible for forests in renegotiating the wood chipping industry agreement in that future research would allow wood chip operations to assist regeneration measures in certain areas.

FRUIT: APPLES

Exports, Production, and Price

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

(1) (a) What quantity of apples was exported from Western Australia in 1980;

(b) to what markets were they exported and what quantity did each receive?

(2) (a) What is the estimated total apple production for Western Australia in 1981;

(b) what quantity of apples is it estimated will be made available for—

(i) export;
(ii) canning;
(iii) juicing?

(3) What is the price expected in 1981 for—

(a) canning apples;
(b) juicing apples?

(4) How is the price for canning and juicing apples set in Western Australia?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) (a) 19 130.7 tonnes

	tonnes
(b) United Kingdom	3 882.7
Singapore	5 271.6
Germany	2 521.2
Malaysia	3 560.6
Holland	983.5
Belgium	950.5
Sweden	103.9
Hong Kong	489.5
P.N.G. & Solomon Islands	7.4
Taiwan	226.7
Indonesia	209.8
France	177.7
Pacific Islands	0.2
Bahrain	415.5
Norway	210.9
Philippines	11.3
Kuwait	90.0
Sri Lanka	17.7
Total	19 130.7

(2) (a) The estimated apple crop for 1981 is 44 600 tonnes—this compares with 51 563 tonnes of marketable fruit recorded by the Government Statistician for 1980.

(b) The estimated requirements are—

(i) export 16 360 tonnes;
(ii) canning and processing, other than juicing 6 000 tonnes;
(iii) juicing 5 500—6 000 tonnes.

(3) (a) Recommended canning apple prices for 1981 are—

$110 per tonne for A grade apples
$98.10 per tonne for B grade apples;

(b) the recommended price for juicing apples is $82.50 per tonne.

(4) A subcommittee of the Standing Committee on agriculture known as the processed apple and pear subcommittee meets each year to recommend minimum prices for juice and canning apples. Each State involved in production of these products is represented on the committee.

SHIPPING

"Lauderdale" and "Seiko Maru"

69. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many times has the bulk carrier *Lauderdale* accepted iron ore cargo at Cape Lambert?

(2) What were the actual tonnages accepted and destination ports of the *Lauderdale*?

(3) How many times has the bulk carrier *Seiko Maru* accepted iron ore cargo at Cape Lambert?

(4) What were the actual tonnages accepted and destination ports of the *Seiko Maru*?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Twice.

(2) 185 455 tonnes—Europort (Holland)
195 854 tonnes—Hunterston (Scotland).

(3) Twice.

(4) 185 036 tonnes—Oita (Japan)
163 795 tonnes—Rotterdam (Holland).

RAILWAYS

Pilbara

70. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Who is giving consideration to the electrification of Pilbara railways?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Each of the iron ore companies operating in the Pilbara is separately carrying out an investigation. The State Energy Commission and the Government are being kept fully informed of these studies.

STATE FINANCE

Borrowings Programme

71. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

(1) (a) In respect of the amounts approved for borrowings under the infrastructure borrowings programme by the Loan Council on 27 June 1980 for 1980-81 have arrangements for these borrowings been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the details including repayment arrangements?

(2) What amounts have already been expended on—

(a) Dampier-Perth pipeline;

(b) Pilbara region power integration;

(c) Worsley rail and water;

(d) North-West Shelf gas infrastructure;

(e) Kwinana power station conversion;

(f) North-West Shelf gas infrastructure—Jervoise Bay; and

(g) Muja D power station?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) (a) Not in respect of the Worsley alumina project, North-West Shelf gas infrastructure and development at Jervoise Bay;

(b) $30.2 million was raised in 1980-81 for the four projects under State Energy Commission control.

The amount was raised as a 15-year term private placement of 7 500 million yen at an issue price of 99.4 per cent and at an interest coupon rate of 8.7 per cent. The loan is repayable by instalments of 1 800 million yen in years 12, 13, and 14 with the balance in year 15. The Australian dollar amounts involved will obviously vary with exchange rate movements.

(2) (a) $5.4 million;

(b) $9.2 million;

(c) $0.3 million which will be recouped from the company;

(d) negotiations with the company on the needs and funding arrangements for all the infrastructure have not been finalised; however, in anticipation of finalisation of the details an amount in the order of $1 200 000 has been spent on social infrastructure in the area mainly on a primary school and hospital;

(e) $0.9 million for the conversion project included under the infrastructure programme;

(f) $4.0 million;

(g) $5.8 million.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

Liquid Petroleum

72. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

What is his Government's policy on the use of liquid petroleum gas in Government vehicles?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Government's policy is to encourage the use of LPG wherever possible. In terms of the Government fleet, the State Energy Commission has a number of LPG powered vehicles currently undergoing testing and the MTT has an LPG powered bus in service.

PORT

Fremantle

73. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has the Fremantle Port Authority considered ceding control of the area behind the Round House in Fremantle to the City of Fremantle or any similar plans?

(2) If so, what is the result of that consideration.

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The establishment of the boundary of the area to be transferred to the Fremantle City Council is in course of negotiation.

RAILWAYS

Pedestrian Crossing: Fremantle

74. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has a decision been taken to install a pedestrian crossing across the railway line in front of the Fremantle Round House tunnel?

(2) If so—

(a) what type will it be;

(b) how much will it cost;

(c) when will it be installed?

(3) If "No" to (1), what is the situation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Yes, though some minor details require resolution.

(2) (a) The crossing will be in the form of a path at the level of the rails protected by a maze, bells, illuminated signals and signs.

(b) $20 000 is estimated.

(c) In approximately three months.

(3) Not applicable.

FUEL AND ENERGY

Electricity: Establishment Charge

75. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

With reference to my various questions without notice of 1980 regarding the imposition of an establishment charge upon State Housing Commission tenants whose electricity accounts are transferred to the State Energy Commission, can he now inform me—

(a) whether the dispute between the State Energy Commission and the State Housing Commission has been settled;

(b) how it has been settled; and

(c) what is the outcome for the State Housing Commission tenants concerned?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(a) to (c) The procedural matter involved has been mutally resolved between the State Energy Commission and the State Housing Commission, and the account establishment fee has been withdrawn from the charges made to the State Housing Commission tenants.

FUEL AND ENERGY

Electricity and Gas Charges: Rebates

76. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) With reference to his answer to my question 1524 of 1980, is consideration of the submission by the State Energy Commission action group yet complete?

(2) If "Yes", what is the result?

(3) If "No", when will consideration be complete?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) and (2) No. A working party of officers from the State Energy Commission and Community Welfare Department is considering the submission, together with other relevant information, and its report has just been received by the Minister for Community Welfare and myself.

(3) Shortly.

HOUSING

Fremantle

77. Mr PARKER, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many four-bedroomed dwellings are there in total in the Fremantle region, by suburb?

(2) How many are there in the adjacent regions?

(3) How many people are on the waiting list for four-bedroomed accommodation in the Fremantle region?

(4) How many of these have "emergent" status?

(5) What is the expected waiting period for four-bedroomed accommodation for these people in the two categories?

(6) Does the State Housing Commission have plans to construct new four-bedroomed dwelling units or to alter existing units to four-bedrooms?

(7) If "Yes" to (6), when and where?

(8) If "No" to (6), what are the State Housing Commission's intentions in this area?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(1) Four-bedroomed dwellings—Fremantle region.

Commonwealth/State	Rental	Aboriginal Grant Housing	Total 4 Brm
Beaconsfield	1		1
Brentwood	2		2
Coolbellup	12	2	16
Fremantle North	1		1
Graylands	9		9
Hamilton Hill	7	3	10
Hilton	24	1	25
Medina	14		14
Mosman Park	5		5
Palmyra	2		2
Parmelia	8		8
Spearwood	1		1
White Gum Valley	3		3
Willagee	5		5
	94	6	100

Legend—Commonwealth-State funded
Aboriginal grant funded

(2) Total four-bedroomed houses in adjacent regions at 28 February 1981—

	C/S Rental	AGH	Total
Metro. north	317	30	347
Metro. south	259	35	394

(3) Four-bedroomed applications on hand at 25 March 1981—Fremantle region

C/S Rental	AGH	Total
23	4	27

(4) For four-bedroomed housing there are three applicants and nine transfer applicants listed for the Fremantle region.

(5) The expected waiting period for a four-bedroomed family with no priority through adverse housing circumstances can be approximately two years.
An applicant with emergency circumstances depending upon vacancies can expect to wait up to approximately four months.

(6) to (8) A firm capital works programme for 1981-82 cannot be established until precise funding arrangements are known.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Station: South Fremantle

78. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) Is it the case that the South Fremantle power house is to be closed within the next nine years?

(2) If "No" to (1), what are the plans for this power house?

(3) How does the South Fremantle power house currently fit into the operations of the State Energy Commission?

(4) What contribution does it make to power generation?

(5) By category, how many people are employed there?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) to (4) The State Energy Commission has no current plans for closing down South Fremantle power station. It is a coal-fired power station, and currently makes a significant contribution to the State Energy Commission's supply system. The plant is, however, almost 30 years old, and would normally be expected to have an approximate 40-year life.

(5) There are approximately 180 employees at the power station.

PRISONS

Prisoners' Action Group

79. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Has he advised officers of, or counsellors with, the prisoners' action group that he would not respond to representations made by them on behalf of prisoners, parolees or ex-prisoners?

(2) If so, why?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) and (2) Official recognition will not be given to self-appointed unofficial groups purporting to represent individual prisoners. The department will always deal directly with prisoners, their parliamentary representatives, and in relation to legal matters, counsel.

EDUCATION

High Schools and Technical Colleges: Fremantle

80. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Education:

(1) With respect to the school year 1981 have any students or potential students been refused enrolment in—

(a) high schools in the Fremantle district;

(b) technical colleges;

(c) any other non-tertiary educational institutions?

(2) If "Yes" to any of the above, what were the reasons?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) (a) No;

(b) yes;

(c) no.

(2) Students enrolled in full-time secondary courses are, in general, ineligible to enrol in technical colleges.

HOSPITAL

Kalgoorlie

81. Mr E. T. EVANS, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is he aware that the X-ray machine at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital has been out of order for some four months?

(2) If "Yes", what is the reason for the machine being out of order?

(3) How many patients are at present waiting for X-rays?

(4) When will the machine be operating again?

(5) What have patients requiring urgent X-rays been doing to obtain them over the last four months?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) and (2) Work on dismantling one of the three X-ray machines at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital to permit the installation of a new machine commenced on 27 January 1981. Work on the installation of the new machine commenced on 2 February 1981. There has been no delay in the work.

(3) 50 non-urgent barium meals and 10 non-urgent barium enemas are waiting for X-ray examination.

(4) The new screening machine is expected to be in operation on Monday, 6 April 1981.

(5) All patients who do not require screening have been examined in the two remaining X-ray rooms.

Patients requiring urgent screening examinations have been given an X-ray examination in one of the other X-ray rooms.

RAILWAYS

Crossing: Wharf Street

82. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) In view of the known serious accident which occurred at the railway crossing in Wharf Street, Cannington, on Friday, 20 March 1981, is he aware this crossing is used by school and passenger buses, and heavy traffic travelling to and from Welshpool to Cannington daily?

(2) If "Yes", is he further aware that fatal accidents have occurred also at this crossing?

(3) If answers to (1) and (2) are "Yes", can he inform me why boom gates are installed at the Belmont racecourse crossing which is used approximately 20 times a year, and not at the Wharf Street railway crossing which is used daily by hundreds of vehicles?

(4) To prevent a further serious accident or fatality, will he have boom gates installed at this crossing immediately?

(5) If not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) There was no serious accident at Wharf Street on Friday, 20 March. However the crossing which the member is probably referring to is the Crawford Street crossing in which case I am aware of its heavy usage.

(2) Available accident records since 1976 show that no fatal accidents have occurred at the Crawford Street crossing.

(3) While this is answered by (1) and (2) the installation of half booms near the Belmont Racecourse was funded by Perth City Council as part of council's planning proposals to develop the foreshore area.

(4) and (5) The Crawford Street crossing is already protected by flashing lights. Initial consideration has been given to the provision of half booms which are estimated to cost $150 000 due to complications of track and road layout. This in association with major changes contemplated arising out of the south-east corridor planning proposals have caused consideration of half booms to be deferred. However I have asked the Commissioner of Main Roads to have the appropriate authority, the level crossing protection committee which is administered by his department, to re-examine the situation at Crawford Street.

HOUSING: SHC

Land: Canning Vale

83. Mr BATEMAN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) Will he detail the State Housing Commission ownership of land in Canning Vale?

(2) If "Yes", will he list exactly what areas, streets, etc.?

(3) If answer to (1) is "Yes", when will it be developed and what type of housing development will be constructed?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(1) The commission owns approximately 95 hectares of rural zoned land at Canning Vale.

(2) It is a long standing policy of the commission not to provide the details requested by the member.

(3) There are no development proposals for this land.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Children's Institution at Forrestfield

84. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Why is a children's detention centre proposed to be built between the Forrestfield High School and a retirement village?

(2) What reasons were put forward to build it so close to a residential area?

(3) Why was the original site changed?

(4) How many similar institutions are there in Balga, Greenwood, and generally in this northern area, compared with areas south of the Swan River?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) The proposal arises from a plan to exchange the Education Department site in Berkshire Road for my department's site on the corner of Dawson and Bougainvillea Avenues upon which it had originally been intended to build the detention centre. The proposal to exchange these sites is being further considered by myself and the Minister for Education.

(2) The original site on the corner of Dawson and Bougainvillea Avenues was selected in 1968 for its accessibility to the city and a main traffic artery as well as proximity to, but reasonable separation from, a residential area.

These considerations are important in such matters as accessibility to police, recruitment of staff, visits by parents, and so on.

(3) The proposal to exchange sites has been made so as to enable construction of a primary school on the corner of Dawson and Bougainvillea Avenues, in accordance with the wishes of the Kalamunda Shire Council.

(4) There are three major residential centres north of the Swan River, located at Cottesloe, Mt Lawley, and Caversham. This compares with three such centres and one day attendance centre south of the river. One is located at Applecross and the others are at Bentley. A further centre is located in the eastern hills at Stoneville.

ROAD

Albany Highway

85. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What was the cost to bituminise with hot mix, Albany Highway from William Street, Beckenham, to Royal Street, Kenwick?
(2) As this section of Albany Highway was in perfect condition, will he give a full explanation why taxpayers' money was spent on such a programme?
(3) If not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) $84 975.
(2) The section of road referred to was originally constructed in 1961, it is very heavily trafficked and surface cracking and irregularities had developed as well as base failures over short sections. In order to prolong the life of the pavement it was considered necessary to resurface the road at this time.
(3) See (2).

EDUCATION

Special School

86. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Has building of a new special school been commenced in Western Australia and, if so, where?
(2) When will the school be completed and occupied?
(3) Will the completion of the new special school mean that children at Devonleigh Hostel presently not attending any school will be found places?
(4) If so, where?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) Kenwick and Safety Bay.
(2) Kenwick will be occupied in term II. Safety Bay is expected to be completed during term III and occupation will depend on the actual completion date.
(3) and (4) While completion of these schools will make some space available in other special schools, factors other than the availability of such places are involved in the placement of children from Devonleigh.

ABATTOIR

Midland Junction: Alternative Uses

87. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What progress has been made by this committee inquiring into alternative uses for the Midland abattoir and surrounding lands?
(2) When does he expect to receive its final report?
(3) Will the report be made public?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) and (2) The committee has met on four occasions, and has a number of issues still under investigation. It is expected that the committee's final report will be available by 30 June.
(3) The matter of an appropriate public statement will be taken into account when the Government has considered the report.

MEAT

Inspectors

88. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) How many meat inspectors does the Government employ?
(2) Where are the meat inspectors employed?
(3) How many meat inspectors did the Government employ prior to the closure of the Midland abattoir?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) 32.
(2) Watsons Foods Pty. Ltd., WA Meat Commission, and Karnet Rehabilitation Centre.
(3) 39.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Small Business Services Pty. Ltd.

89. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

With reference to his answer to question 1147 of 22 October 1980, which aspects of the Government's policies relating to small business will the Small Business Services Pty. Ltd. company be responsible for implementing?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

All aspects of small business, but there are a few policies which require co-ordination with the Department of Industrial Development and Commerce and other departments before implementing.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Small Business Services Pty. Ltd.

90. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

(1) Has the company Small Business Services Pty. Ltd. been established officially?
(2) Will he table a copy of the articles and memorandum of association of Small Business Services Pty. Ltd.?
(3) Are the names of the board chairman, members of the board of Small Business Services Pty. Ltd. the same as those published in *The West Australian* of 21 August 1980?
(4) How many times has the board met since its inception?
(5) What members of staff have been appointed to run the Small Business Services company?
(6) In what respects will the service offered by the Small Business Services company vary from and improve upon the service of the body which it will replace?
(7) How does the Government propose to fund the Small Business Services company?
(8) What priorities have been set by the board of the Small Business Services company?
(9) Will the Small Business Services company continue to operate as a referral agency?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

(1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) Yes.
(4) Seven directors' meetings have been held since incorporation and two prior to incorporation.
(5) A manager took up duties on 3 March 1981, and a receptionist on 18 December 1980.
(6) Refer to memorandum of articles tabled.
(7) By appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund.
(8) To examine existing service and upgrade standards of counselling and approach to Government, especially in country areas, with emphasis on provision of appropriate levels of education for small businesses.
(9) Yes.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 115).

HEALTH

Funds: Expenditure

91. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Will he explain the apparent discrepancy between the amount of $539 million, the expected cost of providing health services in 1980-81 stated in the Governor's Speech, and the total estimated expenditure on health services of $476.591 million documented in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and General Loan Fund Estimates for 1980-81?
(2) What is the expected total expenditure on health in 1980-81 through—
  (a) the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
  (b) the General Loan Fund;
  (c) other sources?
(3) How do the amounts identified in (a), (b), and (c) of (2) compare with the budget provisions?
(4) What is the expected expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund on subsidies to public hospitals and related services in 1980-81?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) The expected cost of providing health services in 1980-81 of $539 million through the Medical Department, Public Health Department and Mental Health Services, is comprised as follows—

	$
total expenditure on health from part 9 of Consolidated Revenue Fund estimates	440 553 000
"add back" revenue received by hospitals and central services and credited direct to the hospital fund	70 434 000
total gross CRF expenditure	510 987 000
General Loan Fund expenditure	28 131 000
total expenditure	539 118 000

I am unable to reconcile the member's figure of $476.591 million with the above estimates.

(2) (a) The expected total expenditure by the Medical Department, Public Health Department and Mental Health Services is $510 987 000;
(b) $28 661 000;
(c) nil.
(3) (a) In accordance with budget;
(b) over budget by $530 000;
(c) not applicable.
(4) $368 million.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Department of Industrial Development and Commerce

92. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

(1) How many private consultants are currently employed within each department and instrumentality under his control or directly by the Minister?
(2) Who are they?
(3) What was the nature of the selection process involved in each case?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

(1) None employed on a full-time basis.
(2) NA.
(3) NA.

HONOURS

Imperial and Australian Systems

93. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

(1) Who are the members of the selection body in Western Australia who make the necessary judgments and recommendations for Imperial honours?
(2) Under the auspices of which Statute authority are these people appointed?
(3) What is the term of appointment of members of the selection body?
(4) How many Western Australians received Imperial honours in one form or another during each year since 1974?
(5) In which year were Western Australian citizens first granted recognition under the "Australian system" of honours?
(6) How many Western Australian citizens have received Australian honours during each year since the inception of the Australian system?
(7) Does the current Western Australian Government approve of the Australian system of honours?
(8) Can he explain why so few Western Australians—on a *per capita* basis—compared with their Eastern States counterparts have received Australian honours in recent years?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) There is no selection committee as such. The Government of the day has the responsibility of making recommendations to Her Majesty The Queen through His Excellency the Governor in Western Australia.
(4) Since 1974 a total of 331 Western Australians were nominated for Imperial honours by the Government of Western Australia and have received Imperial awards. No statistics are maintained of Western Australians receiving Imperial awards on the Commonwealth or other State lists.
(5) 1975.
(6) 1975—3; 1976—10; 1977—9; 1978—27; 1979—26; 1980—36; 1981—11.
(7) The Western Australian Government supports the Australian system of honours.
(8) Nominations are made to the Council of the Order of Australia which makes awards on the basis of merit, irrespective of where the person resides.
However, the Premier's Department calculations indicate that between 1975 and 1981 the percentage of Australian honours awarded to Western Australians is approximately that of our population to Australia's population.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Rents: Increases

94. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Will he provide details of all State Housing Commission rent increases during the calendar years 1979 and 1980?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The commission did not increase rentals in 1979.

Increases on Commonwealth/State rental properties were effected at 21 July 1980.

The following table indicates upper level rent increases—

	Metropolitan		Country		North West	
	Previous Rent $	New Rent $	Previous Rent $	New Rent $	Previous Rent $	New Rent $
2Br apart.	28.00	28.00	26.50	28.00	—	—
2Br house	32.50	37.00	32.50	37.00	28.00	32.50
3Br House	35.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	29.50	35.00
4Br house	37.50	43.00	37.50	43.00	31.50	37.50
5Br house	40.50	46.50	40.50	46.50	—	—

ROADS

Exmouth-Manilya Road, and Blowholes Road

95. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Who was the private contractor who was given the recent contract for work on the—
  (a) Manilya-Exmouth Road;
  (b) Blowholes road?

(2) What was the Main Roads Department's estimate of the cost of the work involved in each case?

(3) What was the contract price of each of the jobs referred to in (1)?

(4) What was the final cost of each job?

(5) (a) Is it a fact that the Carnarvon-based Main Roads Department gang was sent to the Pilbara while the work was being done;
  (b) if so, will he explain why this was so?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) (a) The construction and sealing of the final section of the Minilya-Exmouth road was undertaken by Cooper Plant Hire Pty. Ltd. commencing June 1979;
  (b) as at 25 March no contract has been awarded for work on the Blowholes road; tenders are currently being assessed.

(2) Minilya-Exmouth road $1 075 716
Blowholes road $2 800 926

(3) Minilya-Exmouth road $777 748.31
Blowholes road Not applicable.

(4) Minilya-Exmouth; contract payments to date are $970 727; however there are some outstanding claims from the contractor still being resolved.
Blowholes road Not applicable.

(5) (a) No;
  (b) not applicable.

HOUSING

Belmont: Resumptions

96. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

In respect of the State Housing Commission's tenants who currently occupy houses which will be resumed for the construction of the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway in Belmont, can he provide an assurance that—
  (a) such families will not be forced to leave the Belmont district;
  (b) such families will be given priority in the allocation of transfer opportunities within Belmont, when it is time for them to shift?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(a) I understand the alignment of the proposed Beechboro-Gosnells Highway has not been finalised;

(b) whilst it is difficult to forecast so far ahead, the commission has always endeavoured to rehouse tenants, in such circumstances, in an area of their choice.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Lead-based Paints

97. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Is it a fact that building, construction, and maintenance contracts let by the State Government usually require contractors to use "lead-based" paints; if so, can he explain why this is so?

(2) Is he aware that such contracts let by the Commonwealth Government expressly preclude the use of lead-based paints for health and safety reasons?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

HOUSING

Belmont: Rental

98. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission rental homes in Belmont normally become vacant and are reallocated each year?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The number of rental houses in Belmont which became vacant last year and were reallocated was 34 properties.

HOUSING

Belmont: Programme

99. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Does the State Housing Commission propose to build any form of accommodation in Belmont during the 1981-82 financial year?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

A firm construction programme for 1981-82 cannot be established until precise funding arrangements are known.

100. *This question was postponed.*

URANIUM

Enrichment

101. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

(1) With reference to the statement by him on the introduction of the Uranium (Yeelirrie) Agreement Bill in the Assembly, second reading, page 4520, *Hansard* 21, 1978, and in the second reading, Legislative Council, by the Hon. I. Medcalf, on 21 November 1978, *Hansard* 24, page 5145, in connection with caustic soda used at a rate of 71 000 tonnes per annum at Yeelirrie in the enrichment of uranium, will he inform me for what purpose is caustic soda used in the enrichment process and at what concentration?

(2) Who will produce, deliver, or transport this material, in case production is not entrusted with a Western Australian based company?

(3) Could such quantities be produced by a Western Australian company?

(4) What is the cost of production and the cost of transport of this material per annum, based on recent market tendencies?

(5) (a) Will this material be radioactive after its use in the enrichment procedures;

(b) if so, for how long after its disposal as waste material from the production plant?

(6) (a) Where will this material be disposed of after its usefulness in the production of yellow cake has been exhausted;

(b) by whom;

(c) in what manner; and

(d) at what cost?

(7) (a) After production of yellow cake ceases, who will be responsible for the safekeeping of this waste material;

(b) for how long; and

(c) at what cost per annum—based on recent economic trends?

(8) Will he table a copy of the latest report(s) on the economics and the environmental control measures and safeguard principles adopted by Government on the manufacture of yellow cake and the disposal of its waste products?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) The member appears a little confused. The quantity of caustic soda is 52 000 tonnes per annum. It is the fuel oil that is used at the rate of 71 000 tonnes per annum. No enrichment process is being undertaken at Yeelirrie and, to my knowledge, no enrichment process anywhere in the world uses this chemical. I assume the member is referring to its use in the processing of uranium ore to yellow cake. The concentration of caustic soda used is not available, but it is used to convert the uranium and vanadium in the ore to a soluble form.

(2) This has not been decided.

(3) Not by any present Western Australian company without investing in totally new plant.

(4) This information is not available.

(5) (a) and (b) The caustic soda becomes part of the waste materials produced by the process, and the question is not meaningful. However, I can say that the caustic soda itself does not become radioactive. It becomes mixed with radioactive elements derived from the uranium ore.

(6) (a) to (d) The caustic soda will be disposed with other wastes in accordance with proposals under the agreement which will be based on the approved ERMP. The total waste will be disposed at Yeelirrie by Western Mining Corporation at a cost that cannot be determined accurately at this time.

(7) (a) to (c) The design concepts for tailings disposal are aimed at ensuring that the material will not require ongoing management, other than regular checks. The detail of this will be contained in the proposals approved under the agreement.

(8) The State is presently co-operating with the Commonwealth in developing a code of practice for waste management, which is still in confidential draft form. The company is required to abide by an international atomic energy agency code, as set out in the agreement, until suitable State regulations are in place. As far as yellow cake manufacture is concerned, there is now a Commonwealth code of practice which I can now table. There is work proceeding within the State on drawing up regulations based on this code.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 116).

FIRES

Fire Brigades Board

102. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) What is the total number of permanent officers and men now on strength of the Fire Brigades Board?

(2) (a) How many centres outside the metropolitan area are manned by permanent staff; and
(b) what is the complement at each station?

(3) (a) Is it the intention of the board to establish any further permanently manned stations in the near future;
(b) if so, at what centres?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) 678 authorised;
668 actual.

(2) (a) 5;
(b) Albany 10
Bunbury 10
Geraldton 10
Kalgoorlie 20
Northam 5

(3) (a) Yes;
(b) Wangara.

PRISON

Fremantle

103. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) Has the Government made a decision yet on the complete phasing out of Fremantle Prison; if so, when is this expected to be complete?

(2) Since the Canning Vale remand centre has been fully functional, what has been the daily average number of prisoners held at Fremantle Prison?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) No.
I am continuing to hold discussions with the department as to the possibility of phasing out Fremantle Prison. Its phasing out is subject to the availability of funds for new institutions under future loan programmes.

(2) Fremantle Prison's daily average muster for the period 1 July 1980 to 28 February 1981 was 509.62 prisoners.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Joint Lotto Venture

104. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) How is the Lotteries Commission permitted to run lotto in conjunction with organisations outside this State?

(2) What is the arrangement regarding cost sharing of the various parties to the joint lotto venture?

(3) In the several joint ventures already decided, was there more or less money available as profit to the commission, than the last of equal number of States separately run lotto contests?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) By an agreement entered into by participating partners and with the approval of their respective Governments.

(2) Each State bears the operating costs as previously. Common costs such as television cover are shared on a *pro rata* basis.

(3) This question is not clear.

LAND

Building Blocks: Government Auctions

105. Mr E. T. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) What restrictions, if any, are placed on the purchase of residential blocks at Government auctions?

(2) If the blocks are conditional purchase, are building companies or developers permitted to buy at these auctions?

(3) If so, is there any restriction on the number of blocks they can purchase?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) No restrictions, as such, are placed on the purchase of residential land at auctions conducted by the Lands and Surveys Department except that each purchaser is required to undertake to comply with building covenants and other conditions of release and purchases by agents are required to be ratified by principals.

(2) Yes.

(3) While previously the department did apply a restriction of "one lot per person", this restriction was deleted a few years ago in response to representations that it inhibited a home purchaser in the north being able to buy a completed home ready to occupy as would occur normally in the Perth metropolitan area.

URANIUM

Enrichment

106. Mr E. T. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) What quantity of ore has been treated at the Western Mining Corporation uranium pilot plant so far?

(2) What quantity of yellow cake has been produced from this ore?

(3) What quantity of radioactive waste has occurred as a result of this production?

(4) What plans does the company and the Government have for the disposal of this waste?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) To end of December 1980 a total of 842 tonnes of ore was treated.

(2) No yellow cake was produced from this ore.

(3) The information requested is not immediately available.

(4) The waste is being disposed of in the manner described in the approved ERMP for the pilot plant.

I am seeking more recent information from Western Mining Corporation, and will make this available to the member when available.

HEALTH

Tobacco: Advertising

107. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

(1) The Australian Council on Smoking and Health was critical of the committee on the monitoring of the advertising of tobacco products appointed by the Government of Western Australia—the Williams committee in its review of December 1980. This review was sent to the Minister for Health and other parliamentarians and the Minister indicated to the public that he was investigating the criticisms. Can he now indicate the outcome of his investigation?

(2) What has been his decision on the future of the Williams committee?

(3) In particular, is he planning to do anything about the presence of the representative of the tobacco industry on the committee and is he planning to change the terms of reference of the committee?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) No, the investigation is still proceeding.

(2) The Williams committee has not yet completed the specific task given to it.

(3) No rearrangement of the committee or the terms of reference have been determined at this stage.

FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

Power Station

108. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Will he advise the latest figures the Government has on the capital costs of a nuclear power station?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The Government has not produced any recent estimates of capital costs of a nuclear power station. The main thrust of present Government activities is to obtain sites which satisfy the most stringent criteria for acceptability for possible future use, should a site ever be required.

POLICE AND ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Personnel: Overtime

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

(1) What was the cost of overtime worked by Road Traffic Authority personnel during the recent road blitz?
(2) What period does the overtime relate to?
(3) What was the cost of overtime for members of the Police Force for the same period?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) $104 586.89.
(2) 14 November 1980 to 4 January 1981.
(3) Cost of overtime for members of the Police Force during the period mentioned was $254 174.00.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Station: Bunbury

110. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) How far have the investigations proceeded into the construction of a slurry pipeline from Collie to Bunbury?
(2) What have been the costs associated with the investigations?
(3) If the pipeline proceeds, what is the anticipated cost?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) to (3) Investigations in relation to the saline water pipeline from Muja power station to Bunbury are well advanced, but decisions on construction have been deferred pending clarification of the most desirable route and timing. It is not possible to give an estimate of the costs associated with the investigation, but the pipeline is estimated to cost approximately $7 million.
The State Energy Commission has also been carrying out some detailed conceptual studies of coal slurry pipelines in association with the possible power station development at Bunbury. Specific details are not available as yet.

ELECTORAL

Districts and Provinces: Enrolments and Quotas

111. Mr CARR, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) What is the current enrolment of each Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council electorate?
(2) What is the current quota for Legislative Assembly seats?
(3) Which seats are above or below the allowable tolerance?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Legislative Assembly

District	Current enrolment
Ascot	15 060
Balcatta	18 334
Canning	21 208
Clontarf	16 906
Cockburn	17 026
Cottesloe	14 677
Dianella	18 926
East Melville	16 570
Floreat	15 868
Fremantle	16 326
Gosnells	23 114
Karrinyup	18 271
Maylands	16 061
Melville	16 395
Morley	17 872
Mt. Hawthorn	15 799
Mt. Lawley	15 746
Murdoch	25 131
Nedlands	13 871
Perth	12 693
Scarborough	14 381
South Perth	14 116
Subiaco	14 322

Swan	17 035
Victoria Park	14 021
Welshpool	15 623
Whitford	31 159
Albany	8 474
Avon	7 895
Bunbury	9 424
Collie	9 054
Dale	9 089
Darling Range	9 150
Geraldton	8 814
Greenough	9 337
Kalamunda	9 914
Kalgoorlie	7 318
Katanning	7 853
Merredin	7 970
Moore	10 946
Mt. Marshall	7 764
Mundaring	9 101
Murray	11 451
Narrogin	7 766
Rockingham	13 611
Roe	9 249
Stirling	9 643
Vasse	10 420
Warren	9 217
Wellington	9 388
Yilgarn-Dundas	6 942
Gascoyne	3 781
Kimberley	5 761
Murchison-Eyre	1 941
Pilbara	15 171

Legislative Council

Province	Current enrolment
East Metropolitan	65 912
Metropolitan	71 431
North Metropolitan	97 944
North-East Metropolitan	85 640
South Metropolitan	66 317
South-East Metropolitan	79 267
Central	23 425
Lower Central	26 124
Lower West	34 151
South	27 366
South-East	22 230
South-West	29 232
Upper West	29 097
West	28 165
Lower North	5 722
North	20 932

(2) If struck at the present time, quotas would be—

Metropolitan Area	17 278
Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Area	9 157

(3) Those districts whose enrolments vary from quota by more than 20 per cent are—

Metropolitan Area—

Above	Below
Canning	Perth
Gosnells	
Murdoch	
Whitford	

Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Area—

Above	Below
Murray	Kalgoorlie
Rockingham	Yilgarn-Dundas

Note: The above information was extracted from the latest figures available; that is, 23 March 1981.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Denmark Shire

112. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

With reference to the widely publicised disputes within and involving the Shire of Denmark, will she please detail any action she is taking aimed at resolving the present conflicts?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I am very concerned about the difficulties which are being experienced by the Shire of Denmark.

On two occasions officers of my department have made extensive inquiries into aspects of the shire's administration.

I visited the shire about two months ago and met with the council. I also attended an elector's meeting.

The problems appear to involve purely local issues and, in keeping with the concept of local government autonomy, it is highly desirable that they be resolved by the council itself.

There have been no substantiated allegations of gross impropriety on the part of the council.

I have maintained a close interest in developments at the shire and will continue to do so.

I am presently giving consideration to making a further visit to the shire at an early date and have already discussed this with the shire president.

GERALDTON CULTURAL TRUST

Former Maternity Hospital Building

113. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

With reference to the former Geraldton Maternity Hospital, I refer him to a Cabinet decision of 23 July 1973 that the building be made available to the Geraldton cultural trust when a replacement group home is built for the Department for Community Welfare, in view of the replacement group home for the Department for Community Welfare being built this financial year, is he able to advise of the likely timetable for the building to be made available to the Geraldton cultural trust?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I am aware of the undertakings given that when alternative facilities were made available, the Department for Community Welfare would relinquish its use of the Geraldton Maternity Hospital as a family group home, and that the building would be made available to the Geraldton cultural trust.

The contract for the construction of the Department's new group home facility in Geraldton was let on 4 March 1981. Construction is due to commence within the next few weeks and it is expected that the home will be completed early in July this year.

On completion of the new home, the current facility will be relinquished by my department.

EDUCATION: TECHNICAL

College: Geraldton

114. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:

What stage has been reached with the proposal to provide hostel accommodation at the Geraldton Technical College?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Preliminary sketch plans have been completed. Further work has been deferred pending the availability of funds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cottesloe Town

115. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

Can she explain her reasons for giving permission to a developer to build a five-storied 26-unit motel in Marine Parade, Cottesloe, despite the strong opposition of the Cottesloe Town Council and residents in the area concerned?

The SPEAKER replied:

I have been advised that the matter referred to in this question is the subject of a legal challenge; indeed, a writ has been issued out of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, and the subject matter is, therefore, *sub judice* and the question is ruled inadmissible.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Beach Road-Mirrabooka Avenue Intersection

116. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

Since accidents have continued to occur at the Beach Road-Mirrabooka Avenue intersection following its reconstruction as a four-way unsignalised crossroad, will he ensure that traffic signals are installed at this intersection in 1981?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

This site will be considered for provision of signals in the 1981-82 financial period in the light of experience following current roadworks.

SHOPPING CENTRES

Structure Plans

117. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

(1) Which recommendations of the Government party committee of inquiry into shopping centre development in Western Australia have been implemented by the Government?

(2) Has the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority received structure plans for the establishment of shopping centres from all local authorities in the metropolitan area?

(3) If "No", which local authorities are yet to submit structure plans?

(4) If "Yes", what stage has the MRPA reached in compiling an overall structure plan?

(5) How many applications are currently with her department for the rezoning of sites for shopping centres?

(6) How many such applications have been rejected in the past three months?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) None. The report is still under consideration.

(2) No.

(3) City of South Perth; Towns of Claremont, Cottesloe, Mosman Park, East Fremantle, Bassendean; Shires of Peppermint Gove and Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

(4) The Town Planning Department, on behalf of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, has prepared a preliminary regional retail structure plan based upon the local authority structure plans. For the local authorities mentioned in (3) above the Town Planning Department prepared retail structure plans from information that was available.

(5) Within the metropolitan region there are currently 20 proposals for rezoning to commercial type zones which would permit shopping centre development, if approved.

(6) Two.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Dianella

118. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) Is it considered acceptable practice by the Metropolitan Water Board to stockpile sand from sewerage work excavations in large mounds in residential areas?

(2) When does the board intend to honour commitments given to me on two occasions to remove mounds of sand being stockpiled at the pumping station site in Surrey Street, Dianella?

(3) What long term proposals does the board have for the improvement or development of the drainage sump at the corner of Surrey Street and Waverley Street, Dianella?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) For economic considerations it is necessary to stockpile sand on available sites as close as possible to construction works.

(2) The commitment was to commence removing sand on 19 March 1981. In part removal of the sand commenced on 16 March 1981 and is continuing.

(3) Apart from refencing and cleaning the site, no furhter improvements or development of this compensating basin and pumping station are proposed.

SEWERAGE

Works: Destruction of Gardens

119. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) Has the Metropolitan Water Board given any consideration to the possibility of making a special water allowance available to residents whose gardens and lawns are destroyed by sewerage works, to assist with and encourage the reinstatement of such properties?

(2) If "Yes", what has been the outcome of such consideration?

(3) If "No", is he willing to request the board to take up such a proposal?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) to (3) Reasonable claims for compensation associated with reinstatement of lawns and gardens on private property are considered individually. Reasonable cost for water to promote regrowth is included in the consideration.

EDUCATION: TECHNICAL

Plumbing Courses

120. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Can he confirm that plumbers attending night school courses to gain a plumbers' licence at technical colleges have to pay 50 per cent of the cost of all materials used, as of this year?
(2) If "Yes", does this apply to all such courses for tradesmen?
(3) What is the justification for the sudden imposition of such charges this year?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) Yes.
(2) No.
(3) The escalating costs of materials such as lead and copper has resulted in the department being no longer able to meet the full costs of these materials.

SEWERAGE

Morley

121. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) When is work due to begin on construction of sewerage extension works in sewerage reticulation areas 11B and 4B Morley?
(2) What is the anticipated cost of the works involved?
(3) What proportion of the construction cost is to be borne by the private developer of presently undeveloped blocks in Morley Drive, Havendale Crescent, and Emander Drive within these two sewerage reticulation areas?
(4) Can he confirm that this work is to be undertaken as a result of a review of the board's development plan 1980-85?
(5) If "Yes" to (4), why were not those parts of Cheviot Street, Penguin Street, and Wren Street, which constitute a small unsewered area adjacent to areas 4B and 11B Morley, included in the proposed extensions when residents in this neighbourhood are affected by a high water table in winter and are having to arrange for septic tanks to be emptied at increasingly frequent intervals?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) Work is planned to commence in May 1981.
(2) Estimated cost is $358 000.
(3) Approximately 26 per cent.
(4) Yes.
(5) It is the board's strategy to curtail the growth of unsewered areas and to give priority to works where developer funds can be utilised to advantage for this purpose.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Emergency Relief

122. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Can he confirm that his department recently conducted a survey into the demand for emergency relief in Western Australia?
(2) If "Yes", what were the results of the survey and what follow up action is to be taken?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) No.
(2) No answer required.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Transfer Fee

123. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

In view of other charges made on State Housing Commission tenants in connection with transfer to alternative accommodation, including the payment of two weeks' rent in advance, an inspection fee of $2.10, a tenants' deposit of $20 and stamp duty, what is the justification for the transfer fee of $40 and how is it calculated?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The transfer fee to which the member refers is in fact one week's rent at the current rent being paid by the tenant and is imposed to partly reimburse meeting the loss of rent during the transfer action.

EDUCATION

Endowment Grants

124. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

(1) How many applications were received for education endowment grants for the 1981 school year?

(2) What was the respective number of applications received from each high school?

(3) What was the number of grants given out and the range in value of these grants?

(4) What were the equivalent figures for applications received, the number of grants given and the range in value of such grants for the years 1978, 1979, and 1980?

(5) What income level or other considerations were taken into account in allocating the grants?

(6) Can he confirm that nearly all the grants were allocated to single parent families?

(7) What was the closing date for applications for endowment grants and when were decisions finalised regarding allocations to successful applicants?

(8) In view of the apparent futility of urging more parents to apply for such assistance when the amount available for disbursement is a fixed amount and the need for supplementary assistance for low income families seems to be increasing, what consideration is the Government giving to augmenting such assistance in the 1982 school year?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) 1 058 applications were received for the education endowment grant for 1981 prior to the closing date, plus approximately 50 late applications.

(2) The applications are not collated in a manner to permit this information to be readily provided.

(3) 431 grants were awarded at $160 per student.

(4)

	No. of applications received		No. of grants awarded	Value of each grant
1978	147 applications		115 awards	$160
			16 awards	$ 80
		Total	131 awards	
1979	582 applications		166 awards	$160
			1 award	$140
			1 award	$132
			2 awards	$125
			9 awards	$ 80
		Total	179 awards	
1980	498 applications		380 awards	$160

(5) Grants allocated on the following basis—

	Gross Weekly Income
1 dependent child family	$100 per week or less
2 dependent children family	$110 per week or less
3 dependent children family	$120 per week or less

(6) Yes.

(7) The closing date for applications was 31 December 1980. The selection of successful applicants was made by 5 February 1981.

(8) The Education Department operates a school book assistance scheme for students in years 8, 9, and 10 to assist needy families who have difficulty in meeting the cost of their children's school books. Funds for this scheme are considered each year in the Education Department's revenue budget.

WATER RESOURCES

Bridgetown

125. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) Is it a fact that to the cost of providing a water service to blocks on a recent subdivision in Bridgetown, a further $500 per block was charged by the Public Works Department?

(2) What is the reason for this additional charge?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) The cost of providing a water service to subdivisions in Bridgetown includes $500 per lot for local distribution works.

(2) This is the average cost of upgrading distribution mains and service tanks in Bridgetown to meet the increased demands placed upon them by the new lots. This upgrading is necessary to maintain pre-existing standards of service, such as water pressure, to the present consumers.

LAND: AGRICULTURAL

Release

126. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) What areas is the Government examining for release of land for agricultural purposes?

(2) In what shire areas are the regions to be released for agriculture located?

(3) (a) How many of these shire areas asked to be drought declared in the past 10 years;

(b) how many were drought declared in the past ten years and in which years were they drought declared?

(4) What inquiries have been carried out to ascertain the suitability of this land for agricultural purposes?

(5) (a) What inquiries have been carried out in connection with environmental matters involved in the release of this land for agricultural purposes;

(b) would he give details of the nature and depth of these inquries?

(6) Over what period have rainfall records for the areas being considered for release, been kept?

(7) Is there any evidence of the risk of saltation in this land if released for agriculture?

(8) What investigations into saltation in the areas have been carried out and what are the details of any investigations?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) to (3) Potentially suitable areas for agricultural land release were identified by the rural and allied industries council's committee report. This report, which will be available for sale, shortly, identified areas aggregating three million hectares from within existing agricultural areas or adjacent areas.

The Government has established a policy of releasing up to 50 blocks annually, in an area where it is known that development is environmentally acceptable, and does not out run our knowledge and experience of farming in such areas. At present there are areas in the Shires of Kent, Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe, and Esperance which conform to this definition and Government is looking at further land release in these shires.

Identification of specific releases has been complicated by the presence of mining tenements or claims.

(4) to (8) Investigations and inquiries as to land suitability and related factors are being undertaken by a working committee consisting of representatives from the Departments of Lands and Surveys; Agriculture; Conservation and Environment; and Fisheries and Wildlife, with liaison and co-option as necessary from other departments and authorities. All aspects of agricultural suitability and the impact on the environment are included in the committee's investigations and its recommendations will be considered by the announced Cabinet sub-committee.

WATER RESOURCES

Waggrakine-Glenfield Area

127. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Water Resources:

(1) How many applications have been received for a water service in the area not now connected to the water scheme in the Waggrakine-Glenfield area in the Greenough Shire?

(2) (a) Have any plans been drawn up to provide a service;

(b) if so, what is the anticipated programme for development to take place?

(3) If finance is the limiting factor, would the department consider a contribution from applicants, similar to the State Energy Commission rural connections scheme?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) Approximately 12.

(2) (a) and (b) It is understood that the applications relate to small rural holdings on high ground to the north of currently reticulated areas. The extension of water mains to this area is expected to coincide with its closer

development for urban residential purposes. The matter will be investigated in more detail and the member further advised in writing as soon as possible.

(3) A contributing scheme similar to the State Energy Commission's rural connection scheme has not been contemplated in recent times. Water extensions to serve rural or semi-rural properties, however, are generally provided if the consumers meet the full costs of the extension.

SNAILS

Italian White

128. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What was the result of the examination into the possiblity of sending an officer to the United States to investigate the biological control methods of the Italian white snail, which reached plague proportions in the coastal limestone in Western Australian agricultural areas last spring?

Mr OLD replied:

This matter is still under consideration pending the result of an application for industry research funds to further investigate the potential for biological control of the Italian white snail.

MINING

Tenements: Members of Parliament

129. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) Are any members of Parliament in Western Australia current holders of mining tenements?

(2) Can he name which members either Federal or State who hold mining tenements and where their tenements are located?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) and (2) To obtain complete details of the owners of mining tenements would require a considerable degree of research, involving a great amount of time. I would consider having a specific case researched, but am not prepared to authorise a detailed examination in order to try and establish some particular possibility.

TRANSPORT

Grain: 1980-81 Harvest

130. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What tonnage of this season's harvest was transported directly to port terminals by farmers or their agents?

(2) What percentage of the total 1980-81 harvest does this represent?

(3) Will grain growers qualify for a discount on grain freight rates?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Based on figures supplied by Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. up to 16 February 1981, the tonnage was 730 000 tonnes including that from non-rail areas.

(2) 20.9 per cent.

(3) While the figures are not final the preliminary figures suggest grain growers may not qualify for discount on grain freight rates.

TRANSPORT

Grain: Deregulated Zones

131. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) In view of the reduced freight rates within the short haul areas of Western Australia, can he provide statistical data to show grain growers within deregulated zones took advantage of the reduced rates?

(2) Can he provide grain freight schedules for all other Australian States?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) No, this information is not presently available, but will be made available as soon as practicable.

(2) Westrail advise me that current rail freight haulage rates for grain—wheat—are—

KM	WA $pt	SA $pt	VIC pt*	NSW $pt	QLD Classified Rate $pt	Special Rate $pt
100	5.00	6.16	7.40	8.01	12.90	8.60
200	9.30	9.87	11.20	11.91	19.60	13.04
300	13.00	11.80	13.50	14.86	25.40	15.82
400	15.50	13.11	15.10	16.78	30.00	17.35
500	17.50	14.90	16.20	18.18	32.90	17.71

*Bulk only.

TRANSPORT

Grain and Iron Ore: Tonnages

132. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What are the tonnages of—

(a) grain;
(b) iron ore,

hauled by Westrail in each of the preceding five years from 1979-80?

(2) What numbers of—

(a) narrow gauge;
(b) standard gauge,

Westrail wagons are used exclusively for the transport of

(i) grain;
(ii) iron ore?

(3) How many other—

(a) narrow gauge;
(b) standard gauge,

Westrail wagons have multiple uses and are used for the transport of—

(i) grain;
(ii) iron ore?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) (a) and (b)

Year	Grain million tonnes	Iron ore million tonnes
1974-75	3.665	2.309
1975-76	3.874	2.175
1976-77	3.455	1.883
1977-78	3.382	1.225
1978-79	3.109	1.233
1979-80	3.534	1.742

(2) (a) (i) 629;
(ii) nil since cessation of Wundowie project.
(b) (i) 200;
(ii) 145.

(3) (a) (i) 3 258 open type wagons; the level of usage in grain is dependent on the haulage tasks; 214 flat top wagons are also used on which containers are placed; the use of these wagons is minimal and is confined to specific coarse grains for the milling trades;
(ii) nil—since the cessation of the Wundowie project;
(b) (i) 231—the only usage of these was during the 1978-79 haulage task when 50 were used for a period of about three months;
(ii) nil.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Shackleton

133. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

(1) When was the Shackleton Primary School built?
(2) When did it receive its last repair and renovation programme?
(3) Is it scheduled for replacement, and if so, when?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) The school opened in 1923 in one room and other buildings were added several years later.
(2) 1974.
(3) Replacement of the school is listed for attention and it is expected that this can be undertaken within the next two to three years.

HOUSING

Government Employees' Housing Authority

134. Mr COWAN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) In each of the past five years, what amount of money has been spent by the Government Employees' Housing Authority on construction of houses in country areas?
(2) For the same period, what moneys have been spent on maintenance on Government Employees' Housing Authority homes?
(3) How many houses in Western Australia are controlled by the Government Employees' Housing Authority and allocated to the Education Department for accommodation for teaching staff?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(1) 1975-76 $3 183 726
1976-77 $4 461 547
1977-78 $7 801 394
1978-79 $4 881 516
1979-80 $6 151 014

(2) 1975-76 $ 449 151
1976-77 $ 809 634
1977-78 $1 035 168
1978-79 $1 111 528
1979-80 $1 169 512

(3) Total accommodation controlled by GEHA—2 637 units
Accommodation allocated to Education Department—1 465 units.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Honorary: Validation of Appointment

20. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Can the Honorary Minister advise the House what action has been taken to bring before the courts the matter of the constitutional amendment relating to the additional Ministers to be appointed to Cabinet?

I have directed this question to the Honorary Minister because every time I ask the Government about this matter I am told it is the responsibility of the Honorary Ministers concerned. I understand the Honorary Minister is a person concerned.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Although this matter is one of great interest to me I find I must rule the question out of order. It is not proper for the Honorary Minister to answer it as he is not administratively responsible for that area of concern.

Mr DAVIES: Whilst I will not disagree with your ruling I must say that every time I ask similar questions I am directed to the Honorary Ministers concerned; they are supposed to be accepting the responsibility. May I direct the same question to the Premier?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Honorary: Validation of Appointment

21. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

What action is being taken to bring before the courts the recent amendment to the Constitution which would give validity to the amendment and enable the appointment of two additional Ministers?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I cannot be precise as to the current state of this matter which involves a very complex legal question. I recently discussed it with the Attorney General and he expects to come back to me to discuss the matter further. I must emphasise that some aspects of it are peculiar to the individuals involved, but that in itself is not the sum total of the matter.

Within the next few days I hope to have some indication from the Attorney General as to what procedures are proposed as the most practical to achieve the hearing that will get the decision the Government and Parliament seek.

RAILWAYS

Bunbury Port

22. Mr SIBSON, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the current situation in regard to rail access to the general purpose berth at the Bunbury inner harbour?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The construction of rail access to the general purpose berth is under consideration. Westrail requires a firm undertaking of continuity of a satisfactory volume of cargo before committing itself to expending the related capital funds.

HOSPITALS

Deficits: Number

23. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Health:

(1) How many board controlled hospitals are there in country areas in Western Australia?

(2) (a) Of these country hospitals, how many are expected to end their current financial year with a deficit in their operations; and

(b) how many will have a deficit exceeding $10 000?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) 45 hospitals, nursing homes and nursing posts.

(2) (a) All are expected to have sufficient funds to avoid deficits in 1980-81;
(b) answered by (a).

HOSPITAL: FREMANTLE

Bicton Annexe

24. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

(1) At the time the Government was considering proposals from private hospital operators to take over the Fremantle Hospital Bicton Annexe was he aware that two of the principals of Tarel Pty. Ltd.—the company whose proposal was accepted by the Government—were a former Liberal member of the Legislative Council, Mr Roy Abbey, and the treasurer of the Curtin division of the Liberal Party and chairman of the party's State policy committee, Mr David Saggers?

(2) What role did he play in discussions with any or all of the potential operators of the annexe before a final decision was made on who was to operate the annexe?

(3) Did the Minister hold any formal or informal discussions on the matter with any officers of Tarel Pty. Ltd. before a decision was made?

(4) Who was responsible for making the final decision on who should operate the annexe?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) No, I was not aware of the existence of the company in respect of any approaches made to me as Minister. Not only was I not aware of the fact that the company existed, but also I was unaware of the relationship to which the member for Melville has referred.

(2) I will have to ask the member to repeat this part of the question. I was not able to get it down, and he never gives notice of questions.

(3) No.

(4) The final decision as to who should lease the Bicton Annexe was made by the Board of the Fremantle Hospital.

HOSPITAL: FREMANTLE

Bicton Annexe

25. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

The second part of my question was: What role did the Minister play in discussions with any or all potential operators of the annexe before the final decision was made?

Mr YOUNG replied:

None.

Mr Davies: With whom did you discuss it?

Mr Young: I will answer the *sotto voce* interjection of the Leader of the Opposition by way of interjection. The answer is that the Fremantle Hospital Board was clearly the body responsible for allocating the lease.

Mr Davies: And you rubber stamped it without inquiring into the background.

The SPEAKER: Order!

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: PREMIER

Dealings with Private Investigator

26. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

(1) Has the Premier ever met or had any dealings with or had any knowledge of a private investigator based in Melbourne named Ericson?

(2) If he has had any dealings or contact with or knowledge of work done by Ericson, would he reveal details to the House?

Mr Davies: Be careful with your answer.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) and (2) I do not have to be careful; I do not need the advice of the Leader of the Opposition.

The name of Ericson does not register with me, but if the member for Balcatta wants to make further information available I will be only too pleased to consider the matter. Offhand, I do not know the gentleman concerned.

WEST TRADE CENTRE LTD.

Report

27. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Yesterday the Minister answered a multifaceted question concerning West Trade Centre Ltd. and its financial collapse. In that question I asked why he refused to release the report of the in-depth review of the company. His answer was that the report concerned a private company and was considered confidential.

As a preface to my question, I remind the Honorary Minister that the seven or eight directors each contributed $100 maximum, and the State Government advanced $100 000 and guaranteed $1.3 million. I ask—

(1) When does a private firm become a public firm from the point of view of ministerial responsibility to this Parliament?

(2) When will the Honorary Minister remove the shroud of secrecy concerning the details surrounding the collapse of this company, because $1.3 million of the taxpayers' money is at stake and the Parliament deserves some answers?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

(1) and (2) Firstly, I dispute the figure mentioned by the member for Ascot at the end of his question, because the matter of what the loss may or may not be is in the hands of the receiver, who will make a determination in his own time.

Mr Bryce: Is it the taxpayers' money?

Mr MacKINNON: If there is a loss, it will be taxpayers' money; no-one has denied that. There is no secrecy concerning the report. It was made available to all the directors of West Trade Centre Ltd., and it was the decision of the directors in association with the Government that the centre be wound up. The report was prepared by Mr Jim Horwood, Chairman of Chamberlain John Deere Pty. Ltd. and Mr David Richardson, President of the Australian Computer Society, and it merely confirmed what the Government already feared and what the board of West Trade Centre Ltd. already feared; that is, insufficient support was forthcoming from the private sector to warrant the Government continuing with its guarantee. Hence the decision was made to call in the receiver.

In my opinion no purpose would be served by making that private report available to the Opposition. As I said previously, the Government's commitment is basically by way of a guarantee to a limited company which had its own memorandum and articles of association. The Government has no intention of making a private report in respect of a private institution available for public scrutiny, even though the private institution may be the subject of a Government guarantee.

WEST TRADE CENTRE LTD.

Report

28. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Let me emphasise the point that the Western Australian Government advanced $100 000 of Western Australian taxpayers' money to the West Trade Centre Ltd., and the maximum liability of the seven private directors—whose names read like a mailing list of Liberal Party supporters—are committed to no more than $1 000 all in. Does the Minister not consider in the light of those facts that he has a responsibility to the Parliament, representing the taxpayers, to provide the information in the report?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

The member for Ascot previously mentioned this list of Liberal Party members, and I challenge him to name any one of the directors who is a member of the Liberal Party. This is a red herring he is trying to draw over the whole issue. I would remind the member that the members of the board of West Trade Centre Ltd., were nominated by the organisations named in the memorandum and articles of association. Therefore, I reject that point. Secondly, I repeat that the report

was made available to the Government on a confidential basis and it will not be made available for public scrutiny. No useful purpose would be served by doing so. The Government has acted responsibly in the interests of the taxpayer.

Mr Bryce: How do we know that?

Mr MacKINNON: We acted responsibly in reviewing the situation. We found no possible chance of achieving viability in the near future. I reject the call for the tabling of the document.

SIR WALLACE KYLE

Repairs to Residence

29. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

Has the Premier had an opportunity further to examine the papers associated with the appointment of Sir Wallace Kyle, wherein Sir Wallace claims an arrangement was made before he took office that repairs to his house would be paid for after he returned to England?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have been endeavouring to obtain the information to which the member refers in respect of the claim that Sir Wallace Kyle said that was part of the arrangement before he came here. I have been unable to ascertain that, and I have not yet been in touch with Sir Wallace. However, I will endeavour to obtain the information. If the member can tell me where the statement was made, it will be of considerable help to me.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

"Artlook"

30. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

(1) Is he aware that the arts magazine *Artlook* has had to curtail considerably its output both in relation to the magazine and in other publishing as a consequence of not receiving a grant this year from the WA Arts Council?

(2) Has he looked into this matter?

(3) What action does he intend taking to ensure that *Artlook* is able to restore its publications so that it will once again enjoy the respect of the Western Australian community?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) to (3) The matter is under consideration by the WA Arts Council at the present time.

TOWN PLANNING

Melville Scheme

31. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

(1) Is it a fact that the City of Melville presented its new town planning scheme to the Minister for her approval in September 1980?

(2) Is it a fact that the Minister has not yet advised the City of Melville whether she intends to approve the new scheme?

(3) What is the reason for the delay and when is the decision likely to be made?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

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

(1) No, it is not a fact that the scheme was presented to me in September last year. Inquiries indicate that it went to the Town Planning Board in October 1980.

(2) I have not yet advised the City of Melville of the acceptance or otherwise of that scheme, because I have not yet seen it.

(3) The scheme is one that involves the department in a lot of work. It has taken a somewhat different approach to planning from other schemes; and it has been necessary to refer some matters contained within the scheme to the Crown Law Department to ensure that the provisions incorporated in that scheme will have the statutory force that the City of Melville wishes them to have. Those matters have been referred; and it is estimated that I will have that town planning scheme before me, with a recommendation from the board, within a period of two months.

HOSPITAL: FREMANTLE

Bicton Annexe

32. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Health:

When did he first become aware that Mr Roy Abbey, a former Liberal member of Parliament for 18 years, and Mr David Saggers, a machine operator within the Liberal Party, were directors of and associated with the company concerned with the Bicton annexe?

Mr YOUNG replied:

When the member for Melville questioned me, he did not name those two gentlemen. If he had done so, I would have become aware of the existence—

Mr Davies: He did name them.

Mr YOUNG: I was not sure that he used their names. In that case, the answer is: Approximately 10 minutes ago.

NUCLEAR ATTACK

Fallout Shelters

33. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I preface my question by reminding him of the tirade of abuse with which he responded to my question on the opening of the Parliament before the last one, when I asked him what actions the Government had taken to provide facilities or to assess facilities concerning nuclear fallout shelters. I would like to refer again to question 12 on notice of last evening, the answer to which indicates that the State Government has no knowledge and no understanding of a plan, and no provision for shelter in Western Australia for the citizens of this city in the event of a nuclear attack. I remind the Premier that I was not joking, and that I was not scaremongering when I asked the question eight months ago. I remind him also that countless countries throughout the world are prepared. As revealed by his answer to me last night, is it a fact that the State Government simply does not know of arrangements of any sort to provide protection for the citizens of this city in the event of a nuclear attack?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

It ill becomes the member to be a fear and scaremonger around this place because, as a member of the Parliament, he holds a very responsible position.

Mr Bryce: So do you.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Some people, for commercial reasons, and some for political reasons, are trying to create an atmosphere of urgency and fear about this particular matter.

Mr Bryce: Haven't you noticed the world has shrunk?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I make it clear that this question is one between the Commonwealth Government and the natural disasters organisation at the Commonwealth level and the WA State Emergency Service. I can assure the member that the State Government keeps itself fully informed. The Deputy Premier is in charge of the State Emergency Service, ensuring that we are informed at a high level. I remind the member also that the Government would not go around putting in the newspapers, on the radio, or the television the action that is proposed against anyone who might want to do something of a terrorist nature, or against anyone who might have the intention of trying to destroy this place by nuclear weapons or otherwise.

Mr Barnett: Of course you do.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the member that the prospect of the things about which he is trying to create fear in the minds of the people is very remote indeed. Secondly, the Government is in touch at the Commonwealth and State levels with the people who have the expertise in these matters.

MINISTRY FOR THE DISABLED

Creation

34. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

(1) Has the Government given any consideration to the possibility of creating a Ministry for the disabled?

(2) If so, what decisions have been reached on that matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) and (2) The Government has given no consideration, and will not be giving any consideration, to having a Minister for the disabled because this total question is one that is the responsibility of the whole Government. It does not rest with any particular Ministry. It is a matter that has an impact on practically every portfolio. The Government's record in this field is a good one; and it will continue to be good.

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Parliament House Facilities

35. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

This follows the previous question. Unfortunately the Premier was absent from the Chamber when I spoke earlier today; but I am pleased to note his concern for the needs of disabled people. Will he give urgent consideration to expressing his concern for disabled persons by revising the accommodation at the entrances to this place so that disabled people, about whom he is so concerned, will have the opportunity to attend the Parliament?

The SPEAKER:

The matter to which the member for Balcatta refers is one that comes within the responsibility of the Joint House Committee. That committee has repeatedly made requests to the Public Works Department for a more appropriate form of access to this building for disabled persons. It is a matter of immense interest to me and I have pursued it vigorously over a long period of time. I have been assured by the principal architect that the access the Joint House Committee desires will be listed for consideration in the forthcoming Budget. As a member of the Joint House Committee, I certainly will be pushing for an early commencement of this work.

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Parliament House Facilities

36. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

Having heard the Speaker's explanation of what has happened and having heard his doubts about priority being accorded to the work to provide better access to this building for the disabled, would the Premier undertake to have this matter expedited?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The member for Balcatta seems to be attempting to create a certain atmosphere about this matter.

Mr B. T. Burke: I raised this matter today, but you were not here.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The matter has been under consideration long before today. Quite an amount of progress has been made in working out ways in which the building can be adapted. It is very high in the way of priorities as far as funds are concerned. The Joint House Committee has been active, the Public Works Department has been active, and the Government has been active. I will be holding a meeting in a couple of days' time to discuss the question of finance.

Mr B. T. Burke: Do not get touchy.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am not touchy. I remind the member that certain things were done when the building was designed to allow partially for this problem. The member can be assured that the Joint House Committee, the Public Works Department, and the Government are on the job.

NUCLEAR ATTACK

Fallout Shelters

37. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I preface my question by reminding him that the State Emergency Service is in my constituency and I am fully aware of the extent to which it has been ill-provided with funds; ill-provided with both human and financial resources. Will the Premier concede that the public of Western Australia are entitled to know—since he concluded his previous

answer to me with a fairly childish rejoinder, "Wouldn't you like to know?"—if provision has been made for nuclear fallout shelters of any sort and where they are, since members of the public will be interested to find them if they need to?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Again, the member for Ascot is trying to create an atmosphere of fear.

Mr Bryce: I want an honest answer.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member always receives one. The member is dealing with a subject which is not likely to be something of an emergency in the near future.

Mr Bryce: It takes decades to plan.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I assure the member that people of competence at both national and State level are planning all these things. One does not advertise these matters in the newspapers because the people who would attack this place with nuclear weapons would not be the sort of people we would want to advise from where the Government is to operate and how it is to operate.

Mr Bryce: I did not ask that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member did, yesterday; he made great play about it. I am trying to get some cohesion in his questions. Of course, when the time is appropriate we would have to train the people in the use of these shelters and other procedures. We would have to have exercises to demonstrate these things to the public. But it would be quite stupid for any Government to have the whole State upside down doing exercises in order to learn how to cope with a nuclear attack when such an attack is not in the offing. We would create only fear and dislocation. People would possibly suffer a traumatic experience.

Mr Bryce: They have them in the United States and in Canada.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The situation in Europe is different. The member will be the next to say there is no threat to this country, so what is he talking about?

Mr Bryce: You are saying there is a threat.

Sir CHARLES COURT: There is, and it is already among us.

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Employment

38. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

What efforts have been made on the part of the Government to have a co-ordinated approach which will allow for Government departments to give a lead to private industry in the employment of handicapped persons on a full-time basis?

Mr B. T. Burke: None.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I am surprised the member has asked this question because I think he is a person who does take a genuine interest in these things. He would know from people involved with the disabled that the State Government has been one of the leaders in this field. It has been a leader in adapting buildings to make them more accessible to disabled people and in employing them whenever practicable. We have set the lead and we have tried to encourage private enterprise.

When we knew that the International Year of Disabled Persons was to be held this year we went to the extent of letting every Minister know. Advice went from myself as well as the Minister for Health that Government departments and instrumentalities were expected to give greater emphasis than in the past to the whole question of the disabled. When I say "disabled" I am talking about all sorts of disabilities, not just physical disabilities. The member knows there are people with a tremendous range of disabilities and I am not referring only to people who are obviously disabled, such as paraplegics.