

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, 17 August 1983

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## RACING AND TROTTING: HONORARY ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

### *As to Motion: Point of Order*

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr President, before speaking to the motion standing in my name on the notice paper, I wish to raise a point of order. It is incumbent upon me to draw your attention to Standing Order No. 15, which deals with formal business before the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

As the Address-in-Reply is still being debated, I think it will be necessary for me to seek leave of the House to move my motion, otherwise I will have to utilise Standing Order No. 63. It would be preferable if the matter I wish to discuss were to remain on the notice paper, because a number of other members wish to speak on it. I am anxious not to use Standing Order No. 63, but I may have to if the House refuses me leave.

I seek the leave of the House to move my motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon has asked whether his motion on the notice paper conflicts with Standing Order No. 15. I suggest that it does and that leave of the House will be necessary for him to move his motion. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

### *Motion*

HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [2.31 p.m.]: I thank members for giving me permission to proceed. I move—

That the House takes note of the report of the Honorary Royal Commission appointed to report upon Racing and Trotting and that the House requests the Government to take immediate action in order to restrain the WATC or the WATA from any action aimed at so called rationalisation until a firm decision has been made by the Government on the recommendations contained in the report of the Honorary Royal Commission.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the report of the Honorary Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the suit-

ability of present laws relating to racing and trotting in Western Australia in their application to the allocation of surplus Totalisator Agency Board moneys as provided in the Totalisator Agency Betting Board Act 1960-73 in particular and other related Acts and issues.

What brought this matter to my attention was that the other day in the Press there was a report—there have been several—of statements made by Sir Ernest Lee-Steere about a rationalisation programme. Throughout the life of the Honorary Royal Commission, the Hon. Norm Baxter, the Hon. Fred McKenzie, and I were aware of this talk about rationalisation.

Under normal circumstances, the commission's report would have been tabled in the House as, initially, it was a committee of this House. However, as the committee's work was held over from last year into this session, it became an Honorary Royal Commission. Its report was presented to the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Burt, as the Governor was away at the time. So the usual discussion on the report could not take place in this Chamber.

The report in *The West Australian* of 26 July indicated that Sir Ernest was asked at the biannual meeting of the Western Australian Turf Club to give the committee's viewpoint on the findings of the Honorary Royal Commission. He indicated that certain changes should be made to the financial distributions of the club. He said that the moves recommended by the commission would open the gate to lesser horses, which would not be in the best interests of the sport. That is his opinion and, of course, he is entitled to hold that opinion. He said that the sport must be rationalised so that provincial and country clubs could increase their stake money by at least 30 per cent.

Let me take members' minds back to the time when the TAB was first introduced into Western Australia. At the time we had SP bookmakers and, really, all they were interested in was machinery to gamble with. It was commonly said at the time that it really did not matter where races were held and that it was some advantage if the races were held in Melbourne or Sydney. That was held to be the ultimate in rationalisation. This would have meant that those engaged in these activities could go home at 3 o'clock in the afternoon because of the two-hour time lag.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask members to cease their audible conversations.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The TAB was introduced in order to ensure the continuity of racing and trotting as industries in this State. The TAB was accepted by the Parliament of this State

just as it was in turn by the other States. I think Victoria led us by a few days, but it was just an accidental lead, which is really beside the point.

It has become the scene now that the racing industry is indeed subsidised from the profitability of the totalisator's activities on the various courses. Strangely enough, although Australians are supposed to be great gamblers and horse followers, on both occasions this matter has come before the Parliament with any degree of force, remarkably few members have been present who took a great interest in it and who were deeply involved in the racing industry. At present we still have only a few members involved, as members would be aware. I suppose members of Parliament are too busily engaged in other activities to be able to spend much time on racecourses. Be that as it may, in the early 1960s and again now, not a great number of people here were intimately familiar with the racing industry. I suppose the Hon. Norm Baxter would have been more deeply involved than anyone else who has been in this Chamber. He certainly knew a fair bit about it.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: He taught us plenty.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is a very intricate industry. So many people are involved who do not get together much. There are the punters, the social racegoers, the trainers, the owners, the jockeys, and all those other people attached to the industry such as those who present the television cover, and those who make the announcements. It is a very active industry. I must include also the people who grow the special sorts of lucerne, hay, chaff, and oats. All these people are tied up with the industry.

The members of the Honorary Royal Commission became aware very early in the piece of the problem of so-called rationalisation and the fact that we have country clubs which are frequently not profitable in the sense of the TAB's operations. This matter exercised the commission's attention for quite some time.

The TAB operation in this State is by any standard efficient; whether it is the most efficient in Australia is a matter of opinion. Certainly members of the commission were all impressed by the Victorian operation. Perhaps the other States give marginally better attention to the customer—the punter—but this could well be a matter of denser population.

The fact remains that a number of non-TAB country race meetings are held and we are told that it is very difficult for the TAB to operate on these meetings, the main reason given being the cost of a landline. We found this difficult to understand. Kalgoorlie probably has several TAB

shops—those members who represent Kalgoorlie would probably know how many—and I suggest that town must have a landline. It seemed to us reasonable to suppose that on the day of a race meeting at Kalgoorlie the TAB could tap into one of the landlines and therefore run a TAB operation on course at Kalgoorlie. Kalgoorlie was one of those isolated areas which we thought ought to be given special attention.

Sir Ernest spoke about lesser horses. I think there is a need for lesser horses to get some exercise and for owners to have an opportunity to race such horses. Lesser towns ought to be able to keep the facilities to hold race meetings; they should be encouraged to do so.

I am hopeful now that something will be done, especially after hearing the Hon. Peter Dowding's answer or rather a speech to a question from the Hon. Tom Knight about "Bunbury 2000" when he spoke about decentralisation. I hope the Government will intercede in the interests of decentralisation and thereby ensure that some of the country clubs are protected.

We looked at this rationalisation; indeed, in the early stages I was very taken with the proposition that there should be some amalgamation of clubs, not to strengthen the metropolitan area, but rather to strengthen country areas. If we cut out Toodyay, as has been suggested, it should be cut out to strengthen Beverley, York, and Northam, and not to strengthen Perth. The Hon. David Wordsworth and the Hon. Tom Knight are both very interested in the question of cutting out Mt. Barker as they have been approached in this regard and, had it not been for the spot of bother we had with the Address-in-Reply, Mr Wordsworth would have spoken on this matter this afternoon. I am sure the Hon. Tom McNeil and the Hon. Miss McAleer would have spoken on the interests of Toodyay.

The local authority has invested over \$200 000 of ratepayers' money in the Mt. Barker club to provide a facility for that town. Mr McKenzie will recall we visited one country club in Victoria where the facilities for gambling were so good that a certain punter attended regularly at monthly meetings and would gamble up to \$60 000 at each meeting. Eight per cent of that amount was set aside as turnover tax and went into the pot for country races. That was good business, such good business indeed that they were quite prepared to send a luxurious motorcar to make sure he came to the club. These facilities do not exist at Kalgoorlie, despite the building of the Kalgoorlie—

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Remember one thing: He came because he was able to plug into the big TAB pool.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is right. That point was well made. We tend to forget that we have studied these things and everybody else has not done so. He was able to bet on any race in Australia on the total TAB pool for the whole of the State.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: That is right. It has particular relevance to the Kalgoorlie issue.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, because here one can only bet on a little local pool and it causes some difficulties. I have gone to some length on this matter, but there is nothing sudden or new about this programme of rationalisation. Members of Parliament should remember that once this sort of thing starts it is almost endless. For instance, do we need all our schools? Do we need all the hospitals in the country area? Maybe not. One could put forward a good case to rationalise them. If any member of Parliament wants to make a name for himself, I suggest he tries taking that tack. We are all interested in this State as a whole and we should look into this rationalisation programme with great care. I was gradually weaned off it, partly by examination and partly, I must admit, by the Hon. Norman Baxter. Mr McKenzie will speak about his attitude later.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: It might be somewhat different from yours.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It could well be. He is a metropolitan member and I am a country member. He is the city boy and I am the country boy.

Hon. P. G. Pendal: There is not one racecourse in his electorate.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It has been said that one can take the boy out of the country but one cannot take the country out of the boy. Is that right?

We must bear in mind that somebody some day will pick up the Grants Commission report of a couple of years ago which points out that Western Australia is more centralised and consolidated than even Tasmania. Our metropolitan area houses 80 per cent of our population. Unless we deliberately move to take things to the country we will become more and more centralised. I have publicly said that I approve of the Social Democrats' move to pick up Sir Charles Court's speech on "Bunbury 2000 and Beyond", I think he called it, and to put it into a document called "Bunbury 2000" and deliberately set about trying to make that into a more major regional centre. I approved of that in a letter to the newspaper. The best place

available was picked to see if it could be made to work, and I think that is a good thing. We have got to be deliberate about this. We must take steps in the right direction. I suggest that this report, a copy of which has gone to the Premier and to the Hon. David Parker, ought to be adopted immediately.

One of our recommendations on page 35 was that bookmakers should be allowed to be decentralised. We also recommended that they be allowed to carry more than one licence and that they be allowed to sue for their debts. I heard on the radio recently that the Government is thinking of doing something about that, and that is worthwhile. I have only heard talk about that subject.

One of the things about which we could not get any evidence is how we will cope with the major race meetings if they do move to the metropolitan area. We must bear in mind that we have only two tracks in the metropolitan area. Helena Vale and one or two private tracks have ancillary training facilities, but the two metropolitan tracks—one is used in the winter and the other in summer—are meant to cope with all race meetings. In this country we race on grass tracks, which is somewhat unusual. In most countries of the world, for a variety of reasons, sand, chip, or composition tracks of one sort or another are used. In America, for instance, grass is not used because it snows a lot there and the grass dies and will not regrow; apparently it is too soft. The Americans do not race horses much on grass, but Australians do.

Hon. J. M. Brown: That is only for gallops.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: There are a few grass tracks in the world, but they are not used universally. If we have enough water, the grass on our tracks grows well. The track has to be rested, hence the movable rail which can be moved out to keep the track in pristine condition. A number of people have expressed real doubts as to whether those two metropolitan courses could cope with much additional racing. It is our understanding that a fair amount of training is restricted now. Anyhow, there is an inside training track which is not grassed but a trainer is likely to get his horses on to it in order to try them out for the race.

We have not had very wet winters for a very long time. It was suggested in evidence that a couple of really wet winters would make it extremely difficult for the metropolitan courses to cope with race meetings.

We were told that in Victoria race meetings had to be moved, on occasions, out of the metropolitan area to closer provincial clubs. Indeed, this

happened in this State in the last year or so when a metropolitan race meeting was moved to Beverley, if my memory serves me correctly. Therefore, there is sufficient capacity for country clubs to conduct race meetings that should be held in the metropolitan area. Certainly, the conditions at some country towns leave nothing to be desired because they are better than those of most other tracks. They would certainly be as good as the tracks at Ascot and Belmont.

I am not a regular racegoer and I do not think that many members of Parliament are, but I have been on a few occasions. I have seen what the conditions are like and they are very good. Most of the country clubs have good conditions which have been provided by a committee of hard working people, including honorary secretaries. This position is frequently occupied by a local lady who has the time to give and has an interest in the club. Country clubs have been able to raise sufficient money to make their courses very attractive.

The commission was critical of the racecourse development activity fund in this State. It certainly does not match the contribution made by the fund in Victoria. Nevertheless, many of the local clubs have first-class courses which are extremely comfortable for all those who like to attend the races. All the facilities required are provided.

I refer again to the Mt. Barker club. As I have mentioned, the Hon. David Wordsworth and the Hon. Tom Knight will make a contribution to the debate on this subject. The Plantagenet community has thrown its weight behind the long-term future of the Mt. Barker Turf Club. A newspaper cutting which appeared in a local paper shows that the community has obviously commented on this proposal.

In regard to the Toodyay club it was interesting to note that Lady Lee Steere came out in opposition to her husband in a bid to save the club. As mentioned in the newspaper report Lady Lee Steere did not receive a lot of support from people in the metropolitan area, and I suppose that is fair enough.

I would like to elaborate a little on the difficulty of winter clubs. The eastern districts clubs—Toodyay, Beverley, York, and Northam—hold their race meetings during the winter. The summer circuit is looked after by Pinjarra, Bunbury and other clubs. Because of the wet conditions races cannot be conducted on just one or two tracks. A multiplicity of clubs is required to ensure that a usable track is available,

because one could not expect one or two clubs to provide extra grounds.

I noticed in another Press report that BOTRA—the owners and trainers association—has claimed that clubs can retain their independence and identity by combining. In other words the Toodyay and Beverley clubs could retain their separate identities but still conduct a combined meeting at either Beverley or Toodyay. Indeed, I attended a combined meeting in Victoria.

Hon. J. M. Brown: They do that in Kalgoorlie—the Coolgardie Cup is held at the Kalgoorlie racecourse.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is done by a number of clubs and it keeps the meetings in the district. It is no good whistling in the dark. Some endeavours had to be made and proposals put forward in this report to ensure these clubs can exist.

I believe it is possible for the clubs to tap into the TAB. One should be able to bet on, say, the Kalgoorlie racecourse in the same manner as one is able to do at the TAB. It does not seem right that the racecourses can tap into the Eastern States races but not into the local races.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I think people should be encouraged to go to the racecourse to bet.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If a person can tap into a Statewide race meeting I see no reason that he should not be able to do that locally. It would encourage people to attend local race meetings and they would be able to bet on all races.

Hon. D. K. Dans: It used to be done in Tasmania for the trots.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is also done in Victoria.

Hon. Neil Oliver: And also the greyhounds in Tasmania.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I thank members for that information. It is not just a matter of people wanting to go to the races, they want to bet because they are students of form and they study races in different States. The percentage of funds retained by the TAB could be spent to the advantage of the racing industry on the provision of better facilities and the other things that I mentioned earlier. Racegoers will not only have a pleasant day at the races but also they will be able to bet on races at Caulfield and Moonee Valley.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: They want to get into the big pool.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, that is right. We were advised there is a new generation of gamblers—both professional and semi-professional—who work the TAB rather than the

bookmakers and they can only do that if they can tap into the Statewide pool. They bet in big money which I believe runs into thousands of dollars. With my Scottish ancestry this leaves me a little breathless and I find it hard to comprehend. Nevertheless, there are people who gamble large sums of money and they receive a great deal of benefit from it. As long as they do not want my support on taxation matters, etc., it is okay by me. They bet the field almost like the bookmaker and they aim to take at least 10 to 15 per cent of the TAB pool. If they are good operators, lucky operators, that is what they do. It is very much what I understand a good bookmaker might do.

One of the things I must bring to the attention of the House in its consideration of this matter—and I will not go though the recommendations—is that it was the problem of the Honorary Royal Commission to try to remove from both the trotting and the galloping fraternities the almost paternalistic, benevolent, total control of the two master bodies—the WA Turf Club and the WA Trotting Association. Certainly the money is paid to them and they dish it out, but insufficient money goes as of right to the non-TAB clubs—many of the country clubs. The Turf Club and the Trotting Association have a very great control over the money. There is no doubt about it, they have been quite generous and many of the country clubs have operated well. However, the country clubs do not have quite the same lee-way financially as does headquarters, and their margin, after paying the stakes, is not as great as it is, for, say, the Turf Club or the Trotting Association. That situation is revealed in the figures in the report.

Some criticism is levelled at the stake of \$300 000 for the Perth Cup. It is getting perilously close to the stake money for the major horse race in the whole of Australia—the Melbourne Cup. Nevertheless, there is this feeling of the benevolent dictatorship, so much so that it became apparent to me, and it was mentioned many times, that it was difficult to get some people to give evidence. Indeed, there were some rumours that moves had been made to discourage people from giving evidence.

I do not know whether that is true, but there were rumours to that effect. The number of people who accepted the proposition that they could give evidence in camera was remarkable. It is a pity when this happens, but certainly one gained the impression that amongst the witnesses there was some degree of trepidation that there might be repercussions. Let me hasten to state that some evidence was given during which one thought that perhaps the person giving the evi-

dence wished to give it in camera as it was a little extravagant—some people might have been pulling the longbow a little. I believe we are sufficiently experienced to be able to discuss that and to come to our own conclusions. Nevertheless, there is this feeling that if someone did not go along with the Turf Club, he would run the risk of getting into a bit of trouble.

Of course one problem is money—it is money that keeps the industry moving along. We were worried about the money side of the industry, and it was for that reason we aimed to produce a situation in which the administration of the industry as a whole was paid, as a first charge, across the board—it would no longer be a matter of getting \$10 000, and then perhaps another \$5 000 for a country club. The money is to be a first charge paid through the WATA and the WATC, and then the other money is to be distributed in a slightly different way. The manner of distribution between the TAB clubs and the non-TAB clubs is to follow a slightly different pattern.

Other suggestions were made in the hope that they would strengthen the smaller country clubs. I do not think anybody would look at the spread of the racing industry and the clubs across our very sparsely settled State without being alarmed at the talk of "rationalisation". But then I repeat: which race meetings and clubs would we cut out? Would we cut out the race meeting at Tom Price? Many members in this place represent the north of the State and they would have attended some of these picnic race meetings. I am quite sure that Mr Moore has attended one of these.

Hon. N. F. Moore: I am the secretary of one.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am quite sure Mr Lockyer has been to a few meetings in the north. I know a few members who recently attended a race meeting at Exmouth—I went to this meeting myself last year and it was a very enjoyable day. Should we cut out that race club to rationalise the industry? In many of the country towns such a meeting is the social occasion of the year. I went to a race meeting at Yalgoo recently; I had a great time there and at the ball afterwards. It was really an event. People must have come from hundreds of miles—some of them even flew in.

Mr President, I am sure from your very wide travels around this State that you would appreciate it would need a very brave man to say, "We must get rid of these race clubs that hold only one or two meetings a year—let us rationalise it". I suppose if we are to say that, we should look for better horses, close down all our racing clubs and let our better horses race in the States of Victoria and New South Wales.

Hon. Tom Knight: And we would all have to travel to see them.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, or we could see the races on television. That is the ultimate, and I think it would be a sad position.

Hon. Tom Knight: A disaster.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In bringing this matter forward my main concern was the sharp reaction to the original report in the Press stating that the WATC had given a hint in respect of country racing. During the whole time the commission was carrying out its inquiries, there was more than a hint about this and many country race club members were quite worried about it. This sort of thing has been on the go for quite a long time and the report of the Honorary Royal Commission shows a way to minimise it.

I am not saying that there is not some need for rationalisation because, of course, profitability is the key. Racing must be made profitable through the TAB so that there is more money in the industry. Everyone is trying to get his share of the cake. We have received letters from such bodies as the Sportsmen's Association, and all these bodies want a little of the cake. The commission took the view that the whole reason for its establishment was to save racing and that objective has been carried out very successfully. It was one of the most successful operations that this State Parliament has engaged in. Racing has been saved, and everybody wants to get in on it now—they even want a share of the unclaimed dividends. If everyone who wanted it were given a cut of the unclaimed dividends, we would have to make sure that 50 per cent more people did not collect their winning bets! Of course, that is forgetting that unclaimed dividends are now paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

We believe the Government has been fair in the proportion it takes out of the industry and we find no real objection to that share. My personal hope is that Mr Parker, the Minister responsible for this industry, might see fit to ensure that, until he has had time to read this report and to decide, through the various Government agencies, what steps he intends to take, he might ask the Turf Club and the Trotting Association—if they have any idea of moving in that way—to hold up any rationalisation programme for a little while and not jump the gun.

I must admit there is some suspicion that, having read this report, a few people might think that, if they hop in quickly enough, they can circumvent the system. I do not think that would be desirable.

Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Some officials have already been to Mt. Barker.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That indicates how quickly this can happen. They are really trying to get in ahead of the department. If, in his wisdom, the Minister decides there is no point in doing anything about helping Mt. Barker or Toodyay or making things easier in Kalgoorlie, that is his business; but I object to the proposition that someone might think, if he is quick enough, he can get in ahead of the Government of the State.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: There is only one thing wrong with it. I don't think we have made any recommendations on rationalisation.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: Excuse me, Mr MacKinnon. Did you and Mr McKenzie happen to sit on this commission together?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr McKenzie has raised a point, Sir. You, in your benign wisdom, allow a certain number of disorderly interjections knowing how helpful they can be at times and, in this case, Mr McKenzie has been helpful. He caught me just in time, because I was about to sit down.

The Hon. Fred McKenzie is quite right; we did not make any direct recommendations as to whether rationalisation should occur. However, we pointed out ways in which small country clubs could be made more profitable on the one hand and how they could be helped to a greater extent on the other.

I started out initially believing that rationalisation was a very necessary plank in the horse industry programme. Towards the end of the inquiry, I became less certain of that. I repeat that I would not like to be responsible for saying which clubs shall disappear. Certainly I would think that a club as isolated as Mt. Barker in the far south, in the electorate which is looked after by Messrs. Knight and Wordsworth, would be one which we might want to foster a little. If it is intended to rationalise Toodyay, Beverley, York, and Northam, at least let us do it in the interests of the area. It can be done in the interests of racing and also in the interests of the area at one and the same time. Toodyay can be moved into Beverley, York into Northam, or whatever.

Hon. Margaret McAleer: There is too much concentration in your speech on moving Toodyay!

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I would not like to be responsible for rationalisation and that is really the answer to the point made by the Hon. Fred McKenzie. However, in the hope that the Minister's advice to the Government will be along lines which will be beneficial to the widespread interests of racing in this State and to its ultimate

perpetuity and health as an industry and sport, I had pleasure in moving this motion.

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: I second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Fred McKenzie.

## PETROLEUM PIPELINES AMENDMENT BILL

### *Point of Order*

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I ask you, Sir, whether this legislation is in order, because it appears to me to be in breach of section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act which says, in part, that "Bills appropriating revenue or moneys or appropriating taxation shall not originate in the Legislative Council".

I raise that issue, bearing in mind the recent High Court decision which ruled invalid similar legislation in the State of Victoria.

The PRESIDENT: It would seem to me that this Bill will not be discussed today. I shall have to take some time to examine the question and I will report on it later.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 16 August.

HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [3.16 p.m.]: In rising to support the Address-in-Reply, I should like again not only to congratulate the people I congratulated briefly on a previous occasion—that is, the Leader of the House, his Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, and the two Whips—but also to congratulate those new members who have made their maiden speeches on the standard of those speeches. I believe we shall hear another maiden speech this evening of the same standard as those first-class speeches.

However, if I may make a comment, I believe the practice of reading speeches is not a good one. With all due humility I suggest that perhaps it does not make for better parliamentarians or debaters in this place. We should all be able to stand up and make a speech without reading it. I know, Sir, from your point of view no speeches have been read, because it is not done in this place, but it appears that a previous member who started this practice and who is no longer with us may have started a decline which may spread to other members if they too adopt the practice of reading speeches.

I shall canvass a number of subjects today. They range from railways, to fuel and energy, to

the total deception of the people by the Government. Of course, nobody would expect me not to mention the Shannon River basin and the Government's total disregard for the timber industry and the social and conservation aspects of that area. I shall deal with that matter in great detail later.

However, I shall begin my remarks today by discussing the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board. I received an answer from the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture to a question I asked which read as follows—

What have been the administration costs of the Lamb Marketing Board for each of the last 12 months in—

- (a) cents per kilo; and
- (b) averaged in dollars, per carcass?

The Leader of the House replied—

The board's administration costs are not available on a monthly basis. The administration costs for 1982-83 were—

- (a) 10.89 c/kg;
- (b) \$1.52 per carcass.

Two or three problems arise in regard to that answer. The first is that the Hon. David Wordsworth and I have asked similar questions of Governments over a long period and we have received answers.

Why is it that with this change of Government the monthly administrative costs of the board are not available to this House? It seems to me that either the Minister in charge or someone else has decided not to give the information. I am sure the Leader of the House has given that which he is able to give; I am sure he has tried to give this House all the information he has had available as soon as it has become available. However, we did witness his abject response last night. He adopted the bully boy approach and said, "You will get it when I decide to give it to you".

It was a bit like listening to the Premier when he said that Mr O'Connor was playing politics when he was interviewed by the Press. For the Hon. Brian Burke to accuse Mr O'Connor of playing politics is not something that we would expect. No-one from the Press or anyone else has seemed to take up the point that politics is the job we are all about. No-one took up the point that this so-called horrible Leader of the Opposition was playing politics! The Burke bandits slipped in with tears in their eyes because the Opposition happened to talk politics.

It is fascinating that those same people when in Opposition tried to say that they did not bring politics into the Parliament but operated only for the good of the State. Even the ALP advertising at the election tried to show that the ALP was not interested in politics. It has been interesting to note that the advertising agency that handled the ALP campaign, and at one time worked for the tobacco industry lobby, will handle the advertising for the antismoking campaign.

We have been told by the Premier we should not play politics, but I do not take much notice of him because I do not ever believe what he says. Later I will deal with the promises he has made, but now I will relate my remarks to the Lamb Marketing Board.

It is a pity that some members of the Opposition are not here to hear my remarks.

Hon. J. M. Brown: You just said "the Opposition".

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I meant to refer to members of the Government. It is easy to be confused while sitting on this side of the House. At times I have felt awfully lonely over here, and at times I have felt that this House is operating as a House of Review comprised of one person—me.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you want a handkerchief?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It would probably be of good quality because Mr MacKinnon is one of those members who can afford such things.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That will not be so when the Labor Party cuts my salary.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It has not cut it yet, and possibly the Labor Party will receive a bit of a shock over that issue.

I refer members to the *Western Farmer* of 11 August. The heading is, "Non-export abattoirs halt lamb slaughter", and the article continues—

WA's lamb industry was under a three-pronged attack this week.

The main reason for its being under attack, I guess, was that the killing fees for those works were set at \$4.60, \$3.60 and \$2.60 a head compared with past agreements for all works which set the rate at \$4.60 for each kill. All that is being done is the slaughter of a poor lamb. In fact, the public have been lambs lead to the slaughter because they have accepted the ALP's outlandish statements such as those it made before the last election. The comment made by Mr Nevill of the ALP was that his party was the light on the hill for farmers, but it has been a red light for farmers. Farmers have realised that they have to say, "Stop this socialistic dead hand coming on to

our farms". That is all that the Labor Party has ever done for farmers, and I will explain the number of cost rises created by the Labor Party. It has had no idea whatsoever about what people in the bush are all about; it has not been aware of their objectives or ambitions. Labor Party members say to all the people in the bush, "You will do it this way because we think it is better for you". But what is the Government's explanation for the different killing fees? A lamb is a lamb.

Hon. Mark Nevill: It was because the meat industry asked for the reclassification.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is about the best answer I have heard: The meat industry asked for it!

Hon. Mark Nevill: Some country abattoirs do not have refrigeration, so their costs are lower.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I hope the honourable member learns later in his career to follow this subject because he will learn something. The object of killing an animal is to get it to the consumer in an acceptable form. The object of the Lamb Marketing Board is to get that killed animal to the consumer at the cheapest price. The fact that an abattoir does or does not have refrigeration has nothing to do with the killing cost. It does have something to do with the storage cost, and I suggest to the honourable member that he read the report of the Lamb Marketing Board in which he will see one column which gives the cost of storage as a separate item.

This is an example of the sorts of red herrings that are raised in these arguments. I refer to the yarding of lambs and hoggets that have been born about the same time in the same paddock. These animals are in the same yard but some happen to have two teeth and the others happen to have just lambs' teeth. Can anyone from the board or anywhere else tell me why a difference of 85c a kilogram exists as a result of the different classification of those animals? Can anyone tell me why the quality is regarded as different? These animals are from the same yard and go to the slaughter at the same time but there is a cost difference of 85c a kilogram. It is beyond belief that a bureaucratic organisation is crazy enough to support that difference.

Hon. J. M. Brown: You know what the definition is. What are you talking about?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will go through the argument again. I am sorry to bore other members of the House in order to enlighten the Hon. Jim Brown. It just so happens that the development of human beings differs regardless of time and conditions. It is a little quicker for some, and it is a lot slower for the Hon. Jim Brown. It is a lot



quicker in some lambs or hoggets than other lambs or hoggets; some lambs develop quicker so they have their two front teeth sooner and are classed as hogget. They are brothers and sisters from the same paddock, but the difference is 85c a kilogram.

I defy anyone to tell the difference in meat and I defy anyone to tell me how a bureaucratic organisation can determine a difference of 85c a kilogram.

That is not my only complaint. Members will have heard me talking about a lamb grower who is a butcher. To illustrate the difference between the cost of the lamb when it is sold in his own butcher shop and when it is sold to the Lamb Marketing Board, I point out that it costs \$19 more to kill and administer through the Lamb Marketing Board.

We have also the example of the gentleman I know who sent lambs to the Lamb Marketing Board but kept two of the small lambs at home to kill because he did not think they were up to scratch at the time.

He weighed the lambs and they came up at 14 kilograms, but the weight from the Lamb Marketing Board was 13.8 kilograms. Members must remember that was the average over the 200 lambs. When he queried this matter with the Lamb Marketing Board he was told, "All right, we must have made a mistake, we will put them up a kilogram". So he was granted another kilogram over the whole lot. Is that the way the board conducts its business? Maybe the ALP conducts business that way because that is the way it does everything else—it muddles along. That is not good enough for the farming community.

Now, if the Lamb Marketing Board is so good for the consumer—I know that members of the ALP are very interested in the consumers, they always tell us so—why should this article state that more than 6 000 lambs were imported in the week to Monday, taking the total since 1 July to about 16 000?

The ALP has a philosophy about socialism and instructs people how they should run their businesses. I have not heard Mr Brown comment on this article because I think he knows he is caught in a cleft stick.

What is happening is that the Lamb Marketing Board is not buying because it cannot compete with the lambs from the Eastern States. It cannot compete because the board has depressed the market with its costs and its fiddling around. As a result another avenue has been created and lambs are coming from interstate.

We have heard one ALP explanation as to why there are three different killing rates. It would seem to me that if a real job were to be done everyone would be given the lowest rate. Of course, Robb Jetty would close down and the country butchers would be killing the lambs. Perhaps that is what should happen. Perhaps they should be killed right where they are and not exported to Perth and back to the country.

We all know that the ALP wants to have a marvellous socialistic Government and wishes to centralise everything in an already overcrowded city. Mr MacKinnon pointed that out to us. It seems the Government wants to cut out all the employment of people in country towns. Will the Government close country slaughterhouses in another step towards getting rid of country people and country towns?

I am sure if the ALP had its way it would even socialise the farms. We would be farming under a great five-year plan. We have all seen the wonderful way the Russians handle their farming. They handle their farming so well that they cannot grow enough grain for themselves, so we have to provide it for them. This is what the ALP wants to do. Very simply, it is undermining anyone who produces. We have another Bill—I am not allowed to allude to it—coming before us, which will undermine people. It seems the Government does not care which section it undermines, it is just not giving any confidence to the community. The ALP is crippling this State for its own political ends.

I am fascinated to think that the Lamb Marketing Board has been allowed to continue. If a referendum were held now the board would go out of existence. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind about that. The lamb growers in this State do not want the Lamb Marketing Board, but we are holding on to it because of a political philosophy.

I move next to the subject of the Manjimup cannery. Again, we must remember the total openness of this Government and the loving consensus that Mr Hawke talks about. In May the Government made great play about giving financial assistance to the Manjimup cannery, free of interest. Would not we all like that, being given money from the Federal Government in the same way that a cannery was subsidised in the Eastern States?

I asked the Minister whether he had received a reply from the Federal Government with regard to the interest-free finance for the Manjimup cannery. I asked, that if the answer was "Yes", would the Federal Government make the money

available? The illuminating answer was that the Minister for Agriculture had written to the Federal Minister for Primary Industry on this matter and a reply had been received, but no decision had been made by the Federal Government to provide money for the cannery. It was stated that the matter was to be the subject of further examination.

I ask: Does the Minister mean what he says? He said he has had a reply but all we needed was a "Yes" to the first part of the question and a "No" to the second part of the question.

The Minister will not provide that. I will deal later with the Leader of the House and some of his answers, and the way he tries to confuse people when he makes an effort to give an answer—which is very seldom.

The answer says the matter is to be the subject of further examination. Of course it will be. The Minister will keep writing to John Kerin saying, "Please, it is in my electorate, give me the money". John Kerin will keep on saying, "No, no, a thousand times no". Why is that so? It is because the Federal Government can see what a botch this Government is making of its finances and the Federal Government knows that to hand money to the State Government would be pouring it down the drain. It knows this State Government is incompetent and even though it is of the same political colour the Federal Government has said, "No way, boys; we liked you before the election, but we are not so fond of you now".

So the cannery will be kept on a string like a puppet until this Government, probably in two years' time, says, "Sorry, fellows; we have done our best and we have written numerous letters, but you cannot have any money, and certainly not any interest-free money". So it goes on.

I turn now to railways. We have seen the answers I have received to questions about railways—brilliant stuff. Let us deal quietly and simply with the Katanning-Boyup Brook line and see what has happened. The Government made a promise that it would be opened. Its spokesman on transport made a decision while in Opposition that the line would be opened. We asked a question as to when this would occur, and the answer was that further discussions are being held about this line and a decision has not been made.

I can inform the House a decision has been made because for the last four months the sleepers have been taken out and transported to Collie. I have to pass them every time I go home to Boyup Brook and I pass semi-load after semi-load of sleepers going to Collie.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: What are they doing with them there?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not worried what is being done with them there. The Hon. Fred McKenzie knows something about railways; I have always thought he was an expert. Would he agree it would be more difficult to open a railway after removing the sleepers than before removing them? It strikes me as funny because I thought railways needed sleepers. If the Government plans to put in a fast monorail at huge expense I will oppose that too because it will be a waste of money for the amount of traffic it has to carry.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: The sleepers may have to come up because they may be beyond their normal life span.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am glad the Hon. Fred McKenzie brought that up because he will have heard me criticise the previous Government for the approximately \$865 000 spent resleeping the track in the year before last. The sleepers may be at the end of their life and I would not argue with Mr McKenzie who is an expert on railways. But I always have believed that sleepers lasted a little longer than 18 months. I would have thought that if the sleepers were being pulled up so carefully and trucked to Collie they might not have come to the end of their working lives. If they were no longer of any use someone might have said to the locals, "You can have the sleepers; use them for firewood, for building, or what you will. We do not want them".

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You should be pleased they are being pulled up because you always advocated closure of the line.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am devastatingly pleased the sleepers have been pulled out, for two reasons. The first is that the line was losing quids.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: The second is that he has a pot belly stove.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have a pot belly but not a stove.

The second reason is to catch this Government out in its lying and conniving again.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: We never said we would reopen it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr McKenzie should be very careful. There were headlines in the local paper about the then Opposition spokesman on transport saying the line would be opened. I will not name him because he is a friend of mine.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: He was speaking as an individual.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is Mr McKenzie telling me that Mr Evans was speaking as an individual about Wagin-Bowelling?

I would like to pursue this matter further.

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

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: On behalf of the Government I apologise for members of the House who do not wish to return after afternoon tea. It is a sad state when members of the Government of this country are not in their seats to control the House. It seems to be a very common practice which they adopted when in Opposition. They would disappear from the House and go and do all their electoral business with absolutely no sense of responsibility to the community at large. Please allow me, Sir, to apologise for holding you up.

Prior to the suspension I was dealing with railways. Two or three comments were made and then silenced as to what was happening about the Katanning-Boyup Brook line. My colleague, the Hon. Bill Stretch, will ask a question about the Bowelling-Wagin line. In front of a meeting of 60 or 70 people the Hon. Dave Evans, Minister for Agriculture, and assistant Minister for Forests—I emphasise that he is the assistant Minister for Forests—pledged that if Brian Burke was elected to Government he would immediately reopen that line. Well, Sir, I do not know the definition of "immediately". I thought the election was on 19 February and yet today the line has not been reopened.

I shall draw a comparison between the actions of this Government in the country and in the bush. The Fremantle-Perth railway line was reopened at a cost in excess of \$5 million—peanuts! That is taxpayers' money. Where is the productivity to the State in that line? You, Sir, know as well as I do—the line passes through your electorate—there is no productivity in that line. It was reopened on a whim of members of the Government—people like the Hon. Fred McKenzie.

The reopening of the Fremantle-Perth line was a political ploy. People were yelling and screaming to have the line reopened. However, here we have a line which, as at 19 February, would have cost \$200 000 to reopen—to fill in the washways and that sort of thing—and what is the Government doing? The Government has received reports; it is considering the matter; it is humbugging around waiting to find what excuse it can use not to reopen the line, because it is in the country. The Labor Party has no interest in anything in the country. It has proved that with its proposed legislation. I am not allowed to talk about it, Sir,

but the Government has proved its attitude in legislation which will be before us within the next week or 10 days; it has proved it in legislation the Attorney has introduced; and it has proved it in legislation introduced in the other House. Members who represent country electorates know what will happen to the people in the country if the Labor Party's attitude is taken to the nth degree. The Labor Party has no interest in honouring its promises.

I thought Labor Party members were honourable people, but they are proving day by day how dishonourable they are. They have made promises, but they have not stuck to them.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is despite "Bunbury 2000". Do you think the Government is denying those promises?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think it is a certainty. The Government will deny the promise made by Mr Evans. Indeed, it has already done so and I shall return to that matter later. The Government has already denied the promises made by Mr Evans and the Premier as far as the south-west and the Shannon basin are concerned.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: They can't build a police station that they promised.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What can the Government do that it has promised?

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That useless Fremantle-Perth railway was reopened.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Fremantle-Perth railway is a great thing! The Government has honoured its promise to reopen it, expensive as it may be, and, of course, that will only win the odd vote for the Government. Funnily enough the Government will honour its promises only in places where it won votes. The Government is looking after its own; it is not worrying about the productivity of Western Australia. Government members are only worried about people who live along the Fremantle-Perth railway line. Most of them will come to the conclusion in the fullness of time that the decision to reopen that line was wrong and they will say, "It was far too expensive to reopen the Fremantle-Perth railway line".

However, that is the way this Government operates. The Hon. Graham MacKinnon has been here much longer than I, and he knows the way the Government operates.

I turn now to discuss a firm which is well known not only in Western Australia and Australia, but also internationally as one of the best machinery manufacturers in Australia. I refer to Pedericks Engineering Pty. Ltd. of Wagin. Has the Government taken any interest in the fact that

the staff of that firm has dropped from 80 to 20? When I asked them what sort of help the Government was giving them they said, "The Government is not interested".

The Government is not interested in these tradesmen, tradesmen's assistants, and secretaries who are out of work, because they live in the country and the Government does not hold the seats in which they reside. The Government believes it does not have to pander to these people because they are not on the Labor Party State Executive and they do not make Labor Party pre-selections. That is all that is of interest to members of the Labor Party. They are interested only in their own survival and the survival of their State Executive. They care only about being able to get the numbers to be pre-selected again. They could not care less about the people in these provinces. They are not interested in them.

Members opposite do not deny what I am saying, therefore, they agree with me. It is very interesting that they should agree, because we have known that to be the case in this State for many years.

Ugly rumours are rife about a senior Cabinet Minister—a senior man in the Government—who has had work done by the Metropolitan Water Authority in the weekend. These are very serious allegations.

Hon. C. J. Bell: And that work was done at no cost.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I believe that work was done at no cost. There is also doubt as to the source of the material for that job. A member in another place who knows all the details has been gagged by the Minister. The Minister will not answer his questions and, if that is the case, and I happen to get hold of the facts—it is only rumour at the moment—and I find this sort of thing is happening in relation to instrumentalities, I shall not be frightened to bring it to the attention of this House and talk about it loudly and clearly. I am told this is common knowledge outside the House.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Why doesn't someone outside say so, Mr Lewis? Why don't even you say so inside? Why do you peddle rumours, Mr Lewis?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I said it was a rumour.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: That is right. Why do you peddle it then?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not naming anybody and if the Attorney wishes me to go into the facts further I shall do so for his benefit.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: I think that is exactly what you should do.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I shall speak on the adjournment for the Attorney's benefit.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Better facts than rumours.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I shall name the people. I am not worried about the Minister; I am worried about the employees. Of course, the Attorney is not; he would let them suffer; he would let them get the sack. The Attorney could not care less as long as one of his Ministers got the work done and it was all hush-hush and under the carpet. That is the sort of attitude I deplore on the part of this Government, and it continues day by day.

Knowing the Hon. Joe Berinson as I do, it is pretty obvious to me that he would not have a bar of this if he knew about it. He is an honest man and I am sure he would not personally be a party to such a situation. However, I am reliably informed that part of his Government has been and as Mr Berinson has now challenged me, I shall dig out the facts and bring them to the House and quote them, because I am not worried as long as he is not worried about such facts being quoted in the House.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: As long as they are facts and not rumours.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: As long as I can have a guarantee from the Attorney that not one member of the staff of the MWA is harangued and bullied, as is the habit of this Government—we saw that from the Leader of the House in this place last night who harangued and bullied members—I shall bring forward the facts.

The Attorney cannot give me that guarantee, because I do not trust his Government. It has done so many underhand things so far and crippled people who cannot fight back that I do not trust it. I can fight back; have a go at me! However, the Government should not have a go at the people in the work force that it is so fond of getting stuck into. These people are losing their jobs and the Government is not protecting them in any way at all. The Attorney's job is to protect those people. Does he give me an assurance that he will do so?

Hon. J. M. Berinson: You give me some facts and we will deal with them on their merits.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the Attorney gives me an assurance that those people will not be harmed, I shall give him the facts.

We have silence. I do not blame the Attorney General because he has probably just heard about this matter. I am sure that the Press know all

about it and are horrified by it; I am sure that they are too scared to do anything about it.

My comments will now follow a humorous vein; the last subject was so serious, and to me it was deadly serious. I will try to re-enact the scene that must have occurred when the change of Government took place. We had Ken McIver, the Minister for Lands and Surveys, ready to take the Chair of the Rottnest Island Board. I am not positive that he was ready to do that, but I was told by my colleagues that it is usual for the Minister for Lands to take that position. It is a pleasant duty.

Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Yes, but it is a responsible position.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is a responsible position, but I do not know much about it. Since the report of the national parks Select Committee came down the Minister for Lands has not deigned to talk to the Hon. Fred McKenzie or me about Rottnest Island, yet we are the people who know more about it than anyone else. Mr McIver took over that ministerial position but he was not given the chairmanship of the Rottnest Island Board. He is a good fellow and is certainly a good engine driver, except for when he drove the first Perth-Fremantle run.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: He was a bit out of practice.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, he was, but he was ready to take the chairmanship of that board. However, the big boy, Brian Burke, said, "Come here, Kenny, I want to have you authorise me to be the Chairman of the Rottnest Island Board". Ken would have said, "Fair crack of the whip, that's one of the jobs I really wanted. You have taken water away from me and have given me a rough time everywhere else. You have appeared to give me the job in name only and make it look as though you carry me". "No", says Brian, "As Minister for Tourism I should be the king pin and I will not take note of the reports of the national parks committee and the appropriate boards and things. You will do as I say". We heard the same remarks last night from this Leader of the Government who said, "Don't you try to get anything out of me before I want to give it to you. You will get it when I want to give it to you". That is the attitude of people unaccustomed to power—they cannot handle it.

Ken McIver was discarded before he even had the chance to initiate the Rottnest Island college. He is a fine gentleman, and it was very sad to hear that he would not be the Chairman of the Rottnest Island Board. As a member of the Labor Party for whom I have great regard commented to me this week, "It is a one-man band. Our mob

used to get into Charlie Court about one-man bands. Charlie was an amateur compared with the boy we have now". Even though we have had a change of Government the one-man syndrome has continued. We have seen the chairmanship of the Rottnest Island Board taken from the Minister for Lands and Surveys, and probably next we will see responsibility for casinos taken from David Parker. It is difficult to believe that the Premier has acted so badly towards one of his Ministers.

I will refer now to Collie and other parts of the south-west.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr MacKinnon may laugh because his area has "Bunbury 2000", which is another example of the broken promises of this Government. It promised people the lot, but when it came into power the people received nothing. The place that will keep going as a result of its production is Collie, and it will continue to improve.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Have the contracts been signed for the power house?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will have a shot at that now. I do not think the contracts have been signed, but I believe there are problems. This Government has not told us that contracts have been signed. My good friend Tom Jones was critical of the previous Government when the contracts were not signed. We now have a new Minister who does not seem to have a grasp of his portfolio, yet when in Opposition he was one who said that any Minister ought to have a grasp of his portfolio and get on with his job. He is young, and has performed rather badly. For the sake of Collie I will indicate to members why he has behaved so badly. I must admit that today he has behaved extremely well, as indicated by his interjections—they are the best I have ever heard from him!

The people of Bunbury were conned over "Bunbury 2000".

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They were conned completely.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They were conned completely into believing that the power house would be sited at Bunbury, but now I am concerned that it will not go to where it ought to go.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Yes, it might not go to Collie.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am beginning to have that thought. The Attorney General spoke about precipitators, and that got him into trouble with my friend, the member for Collie. Obviously the

power house will not be constructed at Collie. Do members wonder why I believe that? I picked up an edition of the *Collie Mail* and read that no decision had been made. As I flicked through the pages of *Hansard* I saw an answer by the Minister who sits in this place to a question about the stability of the coalfields at Collie. He said that the total quantity of coal produced at Collie was likely to remain stable for several years. The question was asked by my good friend Thomas Henry Jones, the member for Collie, a first-class member. I will refer to his situation later.

It is difficult to believe that a power house will be built near Collie, a power house that will use a couple of million tonnes of coal a year. The answer does not ring true. Anybody who knows anything about the south-west will know that the power house should be constructed at Collie. No reason is available to substantiate its going to Bunbury.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: If that is the case, at least we have made one correct decision in your eyes.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am glad the Hon. Fred McKenzie has raised that point. The Government made a correct decision, but in doing so, it broke a promise it had made. The Hon. Fred McKenzie cannot have it both ways; either the Government has broken a promise or it has made a correct decision.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You are the one who tells me the site has been changed.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the Hon. Fred McKenzie does not know he should allow the Deputy President and I to continue our discussion. When I refer to railways he can interrupt, because on that subject I like to hear from him about the extra money that has been spent on the reopening of the Perth-Fremantle line, money that should have been spent on the Wagin line.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You said Bunbury people were conned.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They were promised that they would get a smelter and a power house. To where is the Hon. Peter Dowding leading us? I am reliably informed that the Attorney General had to fly to London at great cost to himself because the Government would not allow the junior Minister to sign certain legal documents. The poor old Attorney General, as old and tired as he is, had to fly to London because the Government could not trust that junior Minister to sign documents which any other Government would have allowed a Minister in such a position to sign. This Government had to have two Ministers present. I

feel sorry for the Attorney because he is a bright and honest fellow. Dear, oh dear, he must put up with somebody like the Minister for Fuel and Energy. I feel dreadfully sorry for the Attorney.

The ALP played con tricks to get power but now it cannot handle that power. We even had Mr Dans saying last night that he will make information available only when he sees fit. Now that he is a Minister he regards himself as a big man. I wonder where we are being led by this so-called Government?

What are the possible sites for this power house? Is one Eneabba? Will the ALP use the gas from the North-West Shelf and other resources to win seats that it does not already hold? The Government promised Bunbury that it would receive certain things, but did not think it would win that seat. The ALP has been politically cynical; it promised the people of Bunbury and Mitchell that they would receive certain things, and once it won those seats its members thought to themselves, "We have got this one. We don't need to worry about Bunbury now. David and Philip Smith will handle it for us; they will hold those seats". However, the ALP was wrong; both those members will go down the gurgler so fast that it does not matter. The ALP will have to accept the odium of the public as a result of its broken promises.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Your Government committed us to buying gas that we can never use.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Does the member think that the shelf gas production is a bad idea?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I am not saying that. Your Government committed us to buying gas we can never use.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Do you support my theory that the power house will go to Eneabba?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I did not say that at all.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The progressive Government we had previously, tried to get projects moving and did not try to put the dead hand of socialism on our development.

We have heard from Mr Bartholomaeus and the other faceless men regarded as advisers to the Labor Party. We might hear that the conservation movement says that certain things should not be done, such as taking coal or gas from the ground. Such mentality belongs to the period of 25 years ago.

At least the previous Government took initiatives. This Government has only conned our people; it has not taken one initiative. In fact, one of the initiatives of the previous Government is under dire threat of cancellation because the con-

servation lobby, the backroom boys, have said, "Stop bauxite mining in the northern jarrah forests".

Those people who belong to the ALP will have to obey their masters. They have signed their pledge and will have to obey at all costs, despite the fact that doing so may send the State broke and have severe repercussions on employment or the financial situation of the State. The people in the ALP have to do as they are told.

Labor members are not interested in the State or in development; they are not interested in the people of this State. They are not allowed to be; they are not allowed to think for themselves but are ordered to do certain things by backroom boys. That will be obvious when I discuss the Shannon River issue. We will see just how much power these backroom boys have.

All Labor members shiver in their shoes when Mr Bartholomaeus speaks and they jump because they know that their endorsement is on the line.

Hon. I. G. Pratt: Are they today's faceless men?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They could be. I believe they are faceless and brainless because they are not leading this State. The old faceless men showed a bit of leadership, although it may have been the type of leadership Mr Pratt and I would not agree with. These faceless men today are negative knockers and stoppers. The ALP's people are not interested in the State as a whole or the people in the State. They will lead the Labor Party into an abyss.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The Minister did not face the people in Bunbury.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister did not go down to face the people at Bunbury. The ALP sent the commissioner. This is another interesting matter I will come back to: the Minister and his attitude to people and how people should be treated. The Minister is a disgrace and ought to resign. He is worse than most of the Ministers in the Burke Government, apart from my good friend the Attorney General—he is the only useful one amongst them.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: He is really trying to do me in now.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: At least the Attorney General is here to listen to what I have to say and to give me some helpful advice.

When Mr Kirkwood took the blow to Bunbury he then made a very pertinent statement in *The Collie Miner* saying, "The State Energy Commission is soon to start site studies and the design for the proposed new power station".

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Good. It suits your story.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Why has not the Minister been down there and said, "Look fellows, we made a boo-boo, we made a promise to Bunbury but now we are going to take it over to Collie"? Is it because his seniors in Cabinet will not let him off the leash? He is not allowed off the leash to make statements without the Attorney General holding his hand, just as when they signed the agreements in the United Kingdom. Is that a fact?

They tell me there is a power struggle between the Minister and Mr Bryce in Cabinet. I do not think there should be any struggle because Mr Bryce is far more able and knows something about the game. However, the information I have—the Labor Party dropped it off the back of a truck—is that there is some sort of power struggle. I have been told the junior Minister gets himself into a lot of trouble with the Deputy Premier because he overreaches himself at times. I am sorry because he is a capable young man—if he is kept on a leash. So long as he is kept on a leash, Mr Attorney General, he will be all right, but when you snap that buckle watch out because he will bite big and hard.

Hon. Fred MacKenzie: You will find out next week just how capable he is.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Why do I have to wait until next week?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: He is on Government business.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is the first time he has been on any business at all on his own. We have now heard that he is off the leash. Please, Mr Attorney General, be careful because I am worried about the bites you will receive because if the Minister is let off the leash there will be trouble, not only for the State and the Government but for all of us in this House as well.

I asked my friend, the Minister for Industrial Relations, a question. I thought that being an old friend of mine and a man who always answers where he can and who does all the things he ought to do, he would give me an answer: "Certainly not", and so on. I asked him about the new Western Australian Industrial Commission and whether the Collie Coal Mining Tribunal would come under that new tribunal. From what I have heard from my local Press man and my friends in the union in Collie I expected the Minister for Industrial Relations to have said, "No way". However, instead I received a diatribe of about 15 or 20 lines telling me nothing. I believe the Collie coalminers deserve to know where the Minister stands.

I have given the Minister's reply to three or four legal counsel and they said "What the hell is the bloke talking about?" I thought that perhaps someone who was an expert in English may be able to help me but again the answer was "What the hell is the bloke talking about?" I asked an English expert because lawyers are not always experts at English. I said the reason I asked them was because I could not understand the answer.

This strong, powerful Leader of the House will give answers when he is ready. When I asked him he said "I will give you answers when I am ready and I am going to do to you what you did to me last time". That was a very statesman-like performance which will come back to haunt him in this place year after year.

Hon. D. K. Dans: While I am leader.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: A Minister does not have to answer; but to say "You will not get the answer until I feel like giving it to you" is hardly what one would expect. The Leader of the House goes down a great deal in my respect and I believe in the respect of this House. The question I asked was perfectly sane and intelligent. However, we witnessed another Oscar-winning performance of a person with power gone to his head.

That was a disgraceful performance last night and I do not think that matter should be allowed to slide by. I cannot understand why the Minister could not have said "Yes" or "No". I cannot follow his reasoning because he did not have to give an answer, he could have postponed the answer.

I am concerned for my friends in Collie and I worry about them. They have not received an answer as yet. I worry for my friend Tom Jones also because he has to fight to get answers from this Government.

My friend Tom Jones is one of those who received a letter and I hope the Labor boys have replied to their masters and said "Yes, if you our masters think we are worthy we will put our names in again, Sir". They would not be game not to say "Sir" to their masters.

I know last Thursday in the Warren electorate a meeting was called, and I know it will only be a day or so before I find out the position there—it will drop off the back of a truck.

I just wonder when I see the flushed look on the face of the Leader of the House if he has answered his letter as quickly as he should. I wonder whether the young members have answered their letters quickly. I guess they would have popped their reply in the next mail saying, "Yes, Sir, we will fight the next election despite the fact that we are going down the gurgler. We will still be there fighting".

The ALP is so divided in its strongholds that it is starting new branches. One has been set up in Collie to get rid of Tom Jones. The Labor type of man who has done manual labour and has worked up through the Labor movement is being thrown out of the Labor Party to be replaced by the whiz-kids.

Mr Pandal asked a question about "Zoo Kids" the other day and I think he was talking about members of the ALP. They act as though they are "Zoo Kids". It is interesting to see how the ALP has run scared, especially with the Royal Commission into the Combe affair. Some of my shearer friends have called it the "wide Combe Royal Commission". The Royal Commission is so wide it will inveigle every Minister in the Federal Government who may have leaked something to his friends. It is interesting that all the whiz-kids and advisers have said, "Let us go on with this, let us have a Royal Commission". They did not listen to Fred Daley who said one should never have a Royal Commission until one knows what the result will be.

To use a Federal parallel, in the upper House Senator Button is being harangued to have a Royal Commission. He said, "No way, we don't want a Royal Commission". In the lower House Senator Bowen is saying exactly the same thing. There is no way they want a Royal Commission. In walks little Bob and says, "Sure fellows, we are going to have a Royal Commission. I have not talked to Cabinet about it but we will have a Royal Commission".

Look at the taxpayers' money that has been wasted because of a man who has no parliamentary knowledge and no administrative ability, and yet is the leader of this country. Charisma abounds, but no common sense.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It seemed like a good idea at the time.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, like the spy flights and everything else. Some people think it is funny, and it may be until one starts looking at the promises and following them through.

I will not delay the House for long; I got my incidental remarks out of the way first. I come now to the main part of my talk. I want to draw the lines of battle because that is what it has to be with this Government. It does not understand anything else; it does not understand consensus, or opinion, or professional integrity, or any of those things that go with decent government. I want to talk about the Shannon River basin, but before I do so I want to comment on a couple of matters that intrigue me. I have a pageful of speech head-



ings here and I have referred only to the first three, so we will be here for a little while.

Let us look at the "Bunbury 2000" strategy document and its size, and refer to the earning potential of Western Australia. Half the money earned in Western Australia comes from agriculture, yet the "Bunbury 2000" document runs to 48 pages while the ALP's agriculture policy document contains only 11 pages. That is the mentality of the Bunbury strategy. I am not going to talk about the promises in relation to the smelter because they have been broken. Nor will I talk about high-powered railway lines or electrified lines and all the things that were going to happen under the "Bunbury 2000" strategy, because one by one they are being chopped down.

Hon. C. J. Bell: Like the Mandurah estuary.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Bunbury document runs to 48 pages, but little of that will have been achieved at the end of the Government's three-year term. It will be three years because, believe me, the Government does not have the guts to go to an election. This huffing and puffing by the Government will not get anywhere. We have seen Mr Burke and Mr Tonkin turn turtle, and we have heard the Premier speaking about behaving in a statesman like way. He knows what the public would give him if he went to the electorate. The Government has made all these promises, and yet when it comes down to reality probably only half a page of its 48-page document will be carried out. I am being kind to the Government because that is all that will be done.

The 11-page agricultural policy document—and that includes the introduction—deals with the most important continuing industry in Western Australia. Agriculture receives 11 pages and Bunbury gets 48 pages. Let us look at a few of the statements contained in the document. It says a feasibility study will be conducted into the establishment of a land bank scheme through the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia. The basis for investigation will be "the land bank currently operating successfully in Saskatchewan in Canada". But it is not successful in Saskatchewan; it is a disaster. A feasibility study has already been carried out by the most competent people and the Government is now leading us down the same line as Canada. Of course, both the previous and the present Government, are so hidebound they would not look at the only place in the world that has a really successful land bank—South Africa. That is the only place it has got off the ground as a commercial operation, supporting the farming communities, co-operatives and businessmen.

The geniuses of the Labor Party, however, would follow the Saskatchewan scheme. Someone in the Labor Party must have been to Canada and not read the signs correctly. The second point in this agricultural policy document says that farmers will be given the right to take consumer matters such as grievances over farm equipment transactions, to the Consumer Affairs Bureau. The Leader of the House interjected previously, and it is recorded in *Hansard*, that really his Government is not interested in those people when one is talking about price rises. Not only will farmers be able to take equipment transactions to the bureau, but also if the answers to my questions are to be believed—and I would say one cannot believe anything this Government tells us—all goods purchased by farmers will come into the same category. The bureau will also become a watchdog on country prices to end freight rip-offs, according to the document.

That is interesting because the Government controls the railways. I guess the freight rip-offs are to support the Perth-Fremantle railway. Freight rates will have to be increased to such a level that greater rip-offs will occur. That is the only rip-off in the country. Occasionally I have agreed with the Hon. Fred McKenzie about these matters. I feel freight rates have been too high if we are to get people to go into the bush. But the freight rip-off is contained in Mr McKenzie's policy document which promises the reopening of the Perth-Fremantle railway line. That will increase freight rates for the farmers.

The policy document talks about a comprehensive fuel policy. Members may recall coming to this House and dealing with a very comprehensive policy which put up the price of fuel because it is controlled. The price will go up again because it is controlled.

We talk about natural disasters and about the Fraser Government's indifference to the plight of those affected by natural disasters. I ask members to look at the record and confirm that lie for themselves. The Fraser Government did a first-class job in relation to both drought and flood relief, and if this Government can do better I will congratulate it. But its performance so far is pretty poor indeed, if we can take any notice of what Mr Bridge, the member for Kimberley, has said. The Government has been conning the public again.

I refer to another gorgeous point in the policy document which says that a Labor Government will hold Cabinet meetings in rural centres so that people do not have to come to St. George's Terrace to get their views across. It would not matter where the meetings were held because no-one

would get his views across. When the Premier came to Manjimup, he walked into a meeting and read a Press statement. He said, "That is what we are going to do". This was supposed to be the Government consulting people about a certain situation. The Premier said he would elaborate further and then said, "Thank you, gentlemen", and left. Manjimup Shire is in my electorate and as the people at that meeting were all ladies and gentlemen they did not say to the Premier "Hold it". They let him go as any decent person would. He bulldozed his way out, and left the tatters of the timber industry behind. It was a disgraceful performance from a leader of any party, and it was a disgrace to the Government of Western Australia.

I turn now to the Shannon River. The Premier told the Manjimup Shire as follows—

The Government has decided to declare the Shannon River basin a national park. However, the declaration will be postponed until the review of land resource management is completed. In the interim the Premier has directed the Acting Conservator of Forests to prepare amendments to the working plan 87 so that the Shannon River basin is treated as a special management area to be managed as if it was a national park.

The Premier then referred to a land resource management committee. I am sorry that question time was not taken before I rose to speak on this debate because I am sure I will receive the answers to my questions.

Hon. D. K. Dans: If you like to call for half time we will have questions now.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is that possible, Mr Deputy President?

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): The member may seek leave of the House to continue his remarks after question time.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Would the Leader of the House like me to do that?

Hon. D. K. Dans: I have no worries about that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the House interjected.

Hon. D. K. Dans: You implied you would be better able to continue what is passing for a speech, and I will try to help.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will keep going until the Ministers arrive. I do not think the Leader of the House is in a position to have question time at the moment. I will wait until he gives me the nod.

To continue, the land resource management committee was set up. It is a fairly heavy job and

three very professional men are on the committee; Dr Mulcahy, who chairs it; Dr Syd Shea, who is a ministerial adviser on forestry to the Premier—he is a very high-class officer, and one of the most knowledgeable men in the world on dieback problems, and it seems a great tragedy he should be pulled off his research and put on the committee—and Mr Howson of the Department of Agriculture.

After the Institute of Foresters report on the South Coast National Park was produced a report was drawn up on the conservation of resources. I believe we should read some of the comments about reservation of forest areas.

#### *Leave to Continue Speech*

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of the sitting.

Leave granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

### QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### PETROLEUM PIPELINES AMENDMENT BILL

#### *President's Ruling*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): Earlier this afternoon I was asked to rule whether it was in order for this Bill to have been introduced in this House.

I am aware that on 5 August this year, the High Court in the case of Hematite Petroleum Pty. Ltd. against the State of Victoria held that Victorian legislation similar to the WA Petroleum Pipelines Act was invalid by reason of its infringing section 90 of the Federal Constitution. The majority opinion was that the licensing and other fees payable under the Victorian Act were, in reality, an excise tax. It may be that this State's legislation will be attacked on similar grounds, although I am not aware of any moves thus far.

Whatever opinion is reached by the High Court as to the validity or otherwise of this Parliament's legislation, it is not a matter for me to consider as a hypothetical question. Moreover, it is not my function to interpret the State or Federal Constitutions except in so far as I am required to in reaching a decision on proceedings in this House; for example, section 73 dealing with absolute majorities.

As I see it, this Bill is one intended to increase the amounts payable under the parent Act for securities and licences. For parliamentary purposes,

I must take any Bill on its face and there is nothing in this amendment which suggests that it is appropriating revenue or imposing taxation. Accordingly, I rule that the Petroleum Pipelines Amendment Bill does not involve an appropriation or impose taxation, and, accordingly, was properly introduced in this House.

Before we proceed, I take the opportunity of mentioning to honourable members that it is my belief that the procedure adopted this afternoon of taking questions in the middle of a member's speech is irregular, to say the least.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**HON. A. A. LEWIS** (Lower Central) [5.33 p.m.]: I guess it is in the light of my speech! Members will remember that when the Leader of the House kindly offered to call on question time I was developing a theme about the Shannon River national park. I had read to the House the first point of the Premier's demand, as I call it, or the claim, I guess the Leader of the House would call it, on the Manjimup Shire. To explain to the House what this is all about, I mention that the South Coast national park was first suggested by the Institute of Foresters, and later the Conservation Through Reserves Committee put out its green book. A review committee was then set up to consider the input to that green book. Finally the accepted version came out, I think in October 1978, but do not hold me to that. Cabinet accepted the Conservation Through Reserves Committee report.

I want to quote from that report because I believe it has a great deal to do with our discussions in relation to the Shannon River. Dealing with the selection of forest areas for reservation, page (9) of the report reads as follows—

In selecting areas to be recommended for reservation for scientific purposes, we have been aware of principles outlined elsewhere<sup>12</sup> involving considerations of the size of reserve, the degree to which it represents the range of environments and natural communities, and its location in relation to other land uses. In this last respect, it is desirable to have reserves forming a "core" within a "Buffer" area of natural vegetation managed primarily for the protection of the former. In the case of forest areas this does not necessarily preclude management of the buffer area for timber production. We believe that the CTRC proposals, as modified by the Review Com-

mittee<sup>1</sup> go some considerable way to achieving this ideal arrangement.

In supporting their proposals for reservation in the Shannon Basin the CTRC were influenced by a desire to preserve, in the form of a river catchment, a self-contained system as an undisturbed, or relatively undisturbed, reference area. The general concept of an ecosystem (see above) makes it clear that a natural landscape unit is not essential when selecting a representative area, and also it may conflict with the requirement to encompass genetic and environmental diversity, which is only possible in an array of reservations.

We have suggested earlier that there is a considerable degree of compatibility between management of forests for production, conservation and as water supply catchments. The role of the forest in catchment protection is now better understood due to research carried out in recent years, and it appears that its function in the upstream parts of the catchments may be more to prevent outflow of water and dissolved salts than to provide a yield of water<sup>14</sup>. Where this is the case, i.e. where water yield is minimal, there may be no real reason for prevention of public access for the less intensive recreational uses. In this light, there may be good grounds for revision of the existing policies of the State's water supply authorities in respect of public use of some parts of water supply catchments.

I interpolate to say that this was particularly the case before the Country Areas Water Supply Amendment Bill came into effect and it clearly had to be restricted in some alienated areas. The report continues—

The CTRC recommended that areas described as multiple-purpose forest parks be set aside within State Forests principally for recreation and flora and fauna conservation as scientific reference areas. This was strongly supported by the Review Committee<sup>1</sup>. We propose the establishment of "forest parks" in a number of areas in the recommendations which follow.

We do not agree with the detailed suggestions relating to the status of forest parks put forward by the CTRC and we define our concept below. However, this concept involves a significant departure from the role of the Forests Department as stated in the Forests Act, which will need to be amended to define and regulate the use and management of our concept of a forest park.

We suggest that a "forest park" should be an area of forest which is kept unavailable for the commercial production of timber except in the ordinary course of forest management and to such limited extent as would enable the Conservator for the betterment of the park to cut and remove timber for the purpose of tree regeneration in any areas containing trees which have been damaged or which have deteriorated through age, fire or disease.

That is the background of the review committees. I now quote from section 2.4 of the same document. It reads as follows—

#### SHANNON RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN AND RESERVATION OF KARRI

The EPA made a visit of several days to the Karri forest areas for an air and ground inspection in May 1976, during which we saw representative areas and paid particular attention to those parts of the Shannon Basin drawn to our notice in public and other submissions. The appearance of parts of the mature forest in the Donnelly and Pemberton areas to the west, and in such areas as the Johnston and O'Donnell blocks to the east is far superior, and conforms more to the idea of "the sombre magnificence of uncut timber" as expressed by the CTRC. As a result we have concluded, from the aesthetic point of view at least, that the CTRC recommendations for the Shannon Basin could not be supported in toto.

However, the northern end of the Shannon Basin, north and east of South-Western Highway contains some inspiring uncut mature forest, and includes the Shannon townsite, now a golf course, and the Shannon dam. This part of the Shannon is a most attractive area, and has considerable prospects for tourism and tourist development.

The Review Committee has proposed part of the adjoining Curtin block as a forest park, and the Forests Department already has drawn up plans for extensive stream and road reservations in this area. However, near the northern limits of the basin the soils are laterite and carry mixed forest of Jarrah and Karri and apart from stream reserves, the area of pure Karri forest has been extensively fire damaged.

The lower part of the Shannon Karri forest from Dog Pool south to the boundary of the proposed South Coast National Park, which includes Broke Inlet, has good forest, and, of

course, has considerable attractions for public recreation and tourism.

These two better areas of forest in the Shannon Basin; viz.

- (a) part of Curtin block north of South-Western Highway, and
- (b) south of Dog Pool

we recommend as "forest parks", the lower boundary of the latter being the proposed South Coast National Park.

The EPA is satisfied that all relevant purposes of reservation of a substantial area of the Karri forest towards the end of the first licence period can be better met by setting apart now, as "forest parks", the two sections of the Shannon Karri forest to which we have referred, together with other areas suggested for reservation by the Review Committee.

This leaves the central section of the Shannon. Unfortunately much of this part of the Shannon Basin suffered considerable fire damage some years ago. Gaunt grey "stags" rising above the forest canopy over miles of country are mute evidence of the severe damage which the forest has suffered in this area. The forest here is badly in need of rehabilitation and regeneration if it is ever to become suitable for reservation. For this reason, in our view, this and other areas of forest needing rehabilitation should be managed for regeneration purposes, using established techniques, with a view to reservation of the rehabilitated forest at some time in the future. In the meantime, the river stream and road reserves will ensure that for canoeists and travellers the attractive characteristics of the Shannon will be preserved.

In addition, the Conservator of Forests has already agreed that no more than 9% of the Shannon Basin would be cut without the approval of the EPA during the first five years of the licence agreement. Following our more recent review, although we now see the need for management, and hence some cutting and regeneration in the Shannon, we nevertheless regard this agreement between the EPA and the Conservator of Forests as so important to conservation in the public mind that this agreement must continue to be honoured.

With the three-fold approach viz.

- (i) reservation of selected areas as "forest parks";
- (ii) regeneration of other areas as necessary with a view to ultimate reservation, and still

(iii) restriction of cutting to less than 9% without the approval of the EPA,

we believe that in the future the Karri forest of the Shannon will be of a quality suitable for reservation as a "forest park".

We were very impressed by the forest areas proposed for reserves by the Special Review Committee in the Donnelly and in the forest country to the east of the Shannon...

I do not think I need quote further. The Leader of the House was very kind to answer my question, but two answers which were deferred were ones I required in order to continue my speech. One was about the land management/resource management task force, the members of which I have named.

Members will remember I have mentioned that Mr Burke said he would turn the whole of the Shannon River basin into a national park and that the declaration would be proposed when the review of the resource management committee was completed.

Mr President, who was the chairman of the review committee that wrote what I have quoted? It was Dr Morris Mulcahy—the same man the Premier pre-empted by declaring the Shannon—who wrote the review committee's comments in this report, but not for the Premier. The brilliance of the Government shines again. Dr Mulcahy was one of the members who had a great deal of expertise on the review committee. Members might like to know who the members of the committee were and I will find that information in a moment.

Hon. Robert Hetherington: Take it as read.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is very interesting that Mr Hetherington, a person of great knowledge who should be making an effort to ensure that the Parliament is looking after the community in the way it ought to, should make such a comment. The members of the committee were as follows—

Dr M. J. Mulcahy (Chairman), Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO, Division of Land Resources Management.

Mr A. J. Clarke, Research Officer, Soils Division, Department of Agriculture.

Mr A. S. George, Botanist, WA Herbarium.

Mr J. Havel, Superintendent of Research, Forests Department.

Mr P. C. Kimber, Senior Silviculturist, Forests Department.

Dr F. H. McKinnell, Plantation Inspector, Forests Department.

Mr R. Sprivulis, Acting Senior Agronomist, Department of Agriculture.

Mr B. J. White, Senior Silviculturist, Forests Department.

Mr L. G. Goodridge (Secretary).

The members of the committee have a great deal of knowledge and a huge amount of work went into the preparation of the report. This Government is duplicating work for purely political reasons. It is controlled by people who are not in Parliament and have no responsibility to the public. The Government has appointed as chairman of the committee the same man who brought this document to the previous Government's Cabinet. The assistant Minister for Forests has gone to ground lately—we see him as Minister for Agriculture and not assistant Minister for Forests especially when he is in his own electorate because he is not so popular—and the Government has appointed the same man to chair the new committee. However, that man's job has been pre-empted on not one but numerous occasions by the Government. The Premier has said that the Shannon will become a national park, but Dr Mulcahy said previously that it will not.

Would members like to be on the committee when the Premier has pre-empted a decision of the committee and has gone against what was reported, in good faith, to the Government? Has he not compromised his chairman and put political pressure on him because of the people outside who are not responsible to this place or to the community? The Premier has let down the people of Warren and has insulted a first-class officer by asking him to chair this committee. He has not only insulted him, but also he has insulted the small staff which is doing a task force job. Those members who have been on one of my national park Select Committees will be aware of the volume of paper work from just one national park. I remind the Hon. Fred McKenzie of the papers that were prepared in relation to the Kakadoo National Park because he had to search Canberra for information on it and he found it in three large volumes.

We do not know what birds, bees or other creatures are in that forest and we do not have botanists examining this park. Instead, we are sending people to the area to do a job that is far beyond their capabilities. The time that the Government has allowed for the report to be prepared is not sufficient. The Premier has compromised every person on that committee.

It is a disgrace that people should be put under that sort of pressure by a political party—not the Premier as such. The Premier is doing what his

political party wants him to do—a party that is controlled by people who are not responsible to the public.

In regard to the Shannon River basin the Government accepted the conclusions of the Lush and Bradshaw report, but it then appointed another committee to oversee what conclusions had been drawn by those two officers. I am referring to the report entitled, "Conservation of the Karri Forest" which was compiled by two of the best research officers in the department—Bradshaw and Lush. They reported on scaling down of the cutting of karri logs and so on. Obviously the ALP does not agree with Mr Evans. It did not make him the Minister for Forests, but only assistant to the Minister for Forests.

The member for Warren, who has been discounted by the Labor Party because he would not front up in his electorate, made several comments. During the election this fact was brought up and a very good pamphlet was published which read as follows—

DO YOU want A JOB as a . . .

TIMBER WORKER, FORESTRY WORKER, EMPLOYEE OF A SMALL BUSINESS after the 19th February?

DO YOU want to have a BUSINESS after the 19th February?

If so—DON'T VOTE LABOR

DON'T VOTE FOR DAVE EVANS

DON'T VOTE FOR JOHN BIRD

WHY? BECAUSE both DAVE EVANS and JOHN BIRD are bound by the ALP Constitution and Rules which states "State Conference shall be the supreme governing body in the State and its decisions shall be binding upon all affiliated sections in the State".

BECAUSE both DAVE EVANS and JOHN BIRD must support the 1982 ALP State Conference decision to declare a Shannon National Park of 50,000 hectares thereby costing you your job and your business.

WHO SAYS SO?

Why none other than DAVE EVANS.

"Because this would cost up to 300 timber jobs . . .

That is what Dave Evans said. Between August last year and now Dave Evans has changed his tune. Does he like his ministerial car or does he believe all the circumstances have changed?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Yes, they have changed. Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The comment was made that he has honour and that is just what I was about to discuss before Mr McKenzie helped me with his remark.

I was about to discuss honour among thieves or people who are misleading the public at every turn.

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The honourable member has just referred to the Minister, the Hon. Dave Evans, and he is talking about honour among thieves. That has the kind of imputation that should not be made in this House.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not going to get into any arguments with the Hon. Bob Hetherington but I will withdraw my remarks—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member has not been asked to withdraw the remarks, but I suggest that he does and I suggest he temper his comments and disregard the interjections.

Hon. D. K. Dans: If he keeps going for much longer we will be able to claim treble time—it is worth it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I withdraw the comments.

#### *Debate (on motion) Resumed*

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I quote from the *Daily News* of 1 August as follows—

Turning the Shannon River Basin into a national park would cost up to 300 timber jobs, a Labor MLA warned today.

Mr Dave Evans (Warren) added: "This would result in a wage loss of something like \$3 million in the Manjimup region alone.

"There would be flow-on consequences to business, including transport.

"The reductions would be in addition to those already planned in the Forest Department's working plan of 1982.

"This all would bring about unacceptable dislocation socially, economically and environmentally."

This is what was quoted in a reputable newspaper in June 1983: "The Government has honoured its promise to the ALP".

In a letter Mr Evans has guaranteed a wood resource to the timber industry, but the Government is finalising stream reserves and road reserves for the eventual declaration of the Shannon basin as a national park. What did Mr Evans say before?—"This all would bring about unacceptable dislocation socially, economically and en-

vironmentally". I do not know whether it is honest to change one's mind in 12 months, but to do a complete somersault seems peculiar to me to say the least.

Mr Evans defended the park decision in the Press, and I quote—

ASSISTANT Forests Minister Dave Evans is supporting the State Government's moves to declare the Shannon River basin a national park.

He is standing by the State Government's pre-election decision to ensure that there would be enough timber.

It continues with what I have already said—

It was a dangerous outburst for the party as the State election rapidly approached and it made hurried moves to placate Mr Evans.

And that is the way they got themselves into trouble. To continue—

Mr Evans said that there was no doubt that the Environmental Protection Authority, study groups and Forests Department research teams would have the information on logging areas and reserves to be set aside.

From whom does he think the previous Government got the information?

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.*

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Prior to the tea suspension I was elucidating the position in relation to the Shannon River basin and, in particular, I referred to the appointment of Dr Mulcahy and the restrictions imposed upon him by the Premier.

Question 178, which I directed to the Leader of the House, asked who was on the committee under the chairmanship of Dr Manca to advise the Government on the pine planting programme. I did not receive a very complete answer, but the Minister indicated, "Representatives of the shires concerned with the pine planting on private property".

I do not know whether that answer refers only to the Manjimup and Nannup Shires, or whether it includes also Collie, Harvey, Boyup Brook, Dardanup, and Busselton.

Working plan No. 87 issued by the Forests Department refers to land used for pine planting mainly in the Blackwood Valley between Nannup and Bridgetown. It indicates also that considerable areas of sandy soil in the Donnybrook sunkland are suitable for *Pinus radiata* plantations given appropriate fertiliser treatment.

I asked the Government to indicate amendments which had been made to the plan, but it has not indicated that any changes have been

made. Question 178 referred to the committee appointed by the Government, but no indication was given that page 30 of the working plan had been altered in relation to pine planting. In question 188 I asked the Leader of the House whether amendments to working plan No. 87 for the management of the Shannon basin had been prepared and the answer was in the affirmative.

However, the Government has not said that it intends to do anything to the working plan with regard to pine plantations. In answer to question 153 the following statement was made—

Direct employment in plantation operations is expected to be in the order of 16 to 20 people on a seasonal basis in the first five years . . .

Mr Evans referred to the fact that 300 jobs would be lost by turning the Shannon basin into a national park. We want answers to these questions. The people of Warren want answers to them. Their own member in the lower House, Mr Evans, will not or cannot provide answers for them. The Government has set up numerous committees. The Hon. Fred McKenzie will remember the suggestions which were made on this matter by the Select Committee on national parks.

I have already referred in detail to the management plan and in question 186 I asked the Attorney General—

What are the names of the members of the working group who are developing management plans for the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the Shannon Basin?

The answer indicated the members were Dr John Watson and Dr Per Christensen. Anybody who knows anything about national parks knows that two men do not have a hope of developing a management plan. I see Mr McKenzie is nodding his head in agreement. It would be physically impossible for two men to formulate a total working plan for a national park and deal with every aspect that must be considered.

The answer to the question indicates also that the two members of that working group have met on numerous occasions and the guidelines are to develop initially a strategic working plan for the Shannon forest, D'Entrecasteaux National Park, and the vacant Crown land scheduled to be amalgamated with the national park. That is really drawing the longbow. Anybody who knows anything about the subject would realise that.

It is completely unsatisfactory to have this Government instructing experts in the Forests Department, the National Parks Authority, the Lands and Surveys Department, and the Depart-

ment of Agriculture to produce plans without giving them the requisite tools to do so.

As I mentioned earlier this evening, I, along with the committee I chaired, believed that parts of the Shannon ought to be buffer zones for a national park. Indeed, I indicated earlier that the review committee of the conservation through reserves system maintained certain areas should be used as buffer zones. The International Union of Conservationists and Naturalists agrees with that sort of approach, but here we have the Government, for purely political purposes, taking this action, because it has been instructed to do so by a State conference.

During the tea suspension I was asked whether I was taking these steps for political motives or whether I really believed in what I was doing. That is a hard question for a politician to answer, because most of the things we do are partially politically motivated. However, I honestly believe—I know some of the members who sit opposite and who worked with me on my committee believe this also—that the recommendations we made to the House were made by honest men who had a far greater overview of the situation than the people who are drawing up the strategic working plan.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: That is one point on which we agree.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: During the tea suspension I was also told to be nice to the Hon. Fred McKenzie and I am doing that as well!

It is tragic that the Government has set up a number of disjointed committees with completely unrelated terms of reference. It will be impossible for them to adopt an overall plan. What is even worse, nobody has been given the guidelines to enable him to arrive at an overall plan.

My committee recommended that land utilisation be studied on the Victorian scale and that these plans be brought forward. I implore the Government, through the Leader of the House, to let the present situation stand and leave the plans in the hands of the various departments in the meantime. I ask the Premier not to take any action right now. I know such a course would create problems for the Premier within his own party and with ALP supporters outside the Parliament. I am sure the people inside the Parliament are intelligent enough to understand what I am getting at.

The recommendations of the Select Committee on National Parks should be examined and, in that way, all sections of the community can be accommodated and everybody will be satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings. I implore the

Government, for the sake of the workers and in the interests of social conditions and everything else that relates to the Shannon or the seat of Warren, to follow the course I have recommended. The member for Warren in another place is a Minister and, therefore, bound by Cabinet restrictions. I have quoted what he said and I implore the Leader of the House to pass on to the Premier my real worry about the Shannon basin.

I know another member wishes to make an important speech in this debate. I apologise to him for being unable to listen to his speech, because I have another pressing engagement. I am sure it will be up to the standard of the speeches of other new members and I hope all other members will remain in the House and listen to him.

HON. S. M. PIANTADOSI (North Central Metropolitan) [7.40 p.m.]: I wish to support the motion. Mr President, I congratulate you on your election to the position of President of this House. Further, I would like also to congratulate the Hon. Des Dans on being elected Leader of the House and the Hon. Ian Medcalf on being elected Leader of the Opposition. I would like also to thank all the honourable members of this House for co-operating and giving their time in order that I would be in a position to deliver my speech later in the day so that members of my family and friends could be present. Next I would like to thank particularly the Hon. Sandy Lewis for his co-operation and also apologise to the House for his lengthy speech!

I wish to address some remarks to this House and I shall preface them, by thanking the electors of my province for placing their trust in me to represent them in this Parliament. I am proud to have been elected as the first member for North Central Metropolitan Province, an area in which I have had a real interest regarding the issues affecting it. Some of the issues also affect many others, in other parts of the State, and also other parts of the country.

I wish to address my remarks to one of those issues, that which affects the non-Anglo-Saxons who number approximately 30 000 residents of my constituency.

For too long Australian political parties have been torn between the notion of the ethnic vote as a goldmine to be exploited, and the guilty hope that if the "wogs" are ignored long enough, they will vanish. Australia has consciously pursued policies of attracting migrants as settlers. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Governments to assist new settlers in establishing themselves, with



the equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities of all Australians.

In the 1970s with the Grassby Ministry, it was officially but belatedly recognised that Australia is a multicultural society. I say "belatedly" because Australia has been a multicultural society since the arrival of the first fleet nearly 200 years ago. Among the soldiers, sailors, and prisoners there were people from every continent, ranging from the English who were in the majority, to a group of Jews and a group of West Indian blacks. They came to an Australia which was 100 per cent black and Aboriginal, and this had been the Australian pattern for 40 000 years.

While there had been many visit to Australia's shores by Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch the first people to stay for any length of time were the Macassans from what is now Indonesia; they came, traded, remained for long periods, and continued a close and peaceful association with the Aboriginal people for more than 400 years. Then came the first permanent European settlement in 1788 and the newest chapter in the history of this old continent was commenced. During the last century people came to Australia from many countries; a glance at the casualty list and the names of the leaders at the battle of the Eureka Stockade will illustrate that diversity. It is true that the largest single ethnic component was then and is still now English, but members may well ask why did we know nothing of this, and why was there no acknowledgement of that diversity.

The reason lies with the policy of assimilation which insisted that every man and woman in the country should acknowledge only one ethnic background, one culture, and one language. No variation was permitted and there was a position of public unity and private divisions. It is interesting to note that in pre-war days there were very few intermarriages between the great original groups of English Protestants, Irish Catholics, and German Lutherans. Often to attempt it, was to bring great family and social disapproval. In contrast the postwar generations have been more tolerant and a third of all the marriages in the past 25 years have been between people born in Australia and people born outside Australia. This number is tending to rise to the halfway mark—surely a great mixing of backgrounds.

It is against this background, that we should look at the people who are so often described as "migrants". For the most part they are not migrants. They are Australian citizens, Australian workers, and Australian taxpayers, but not Anglo-Saxons. So the word "migrant" is used as a euphemism for non-Anglo-Saxons, very much like the word "ethnic", which is from the Greek word

"ethnos" meaning "people" or "folk". Ethnic was meant to include everybody, but today it is yet another expression for non-Anglo-Saxons.

So we have a situation where these millions of Australians are categorised as something separate and very often the institutions, which are supposed to serve all the people, have only been organised to serve some of them. Widespread discrimination has resulted.

It is no longer good enough to expect the non-Anglo ethnic communities to entertain the Anglo-Saxons with traditional dances and ethnic food. They no longer want to remain the dancing bears. They are part of the total Australian society in need of equal opportunity and equal life chances. This can be achieved only if a genuine commitment to their cause is made. These needs in ethnic affairs should no longer be pushed under the carpet, hoping they will all disappear. Bold decisions and courageous actions are needed to bring about structural changes.

Specifically in the area of welfare I ask that this Government initiate discussions with the Federal Government to jointly administer and fund the grant in-aid scheme. It is not good enough to leave the middle ranking public servants to play God to ethnic communities. The State has the responsibility to ensure the ethnic communities have immediate access to elected political representatives at the State level.

We have talked long enough. We need action now to have needs serviced in an integrated form within proper service-delivery structures like the Department for Community Welfare or the proposed ethnic affairs commission. Failure to recognise this need for change, will lead only to the formation of pockets of disadvantaged and discontented people.

If we believe in an egalitarian society, surely we have to act to prevent discrimination in all facets of the society.

The evidence of this widespread discrimination in Australia is to be found in the eight annual reports prepared by the Commissioner for Community Relations for the Australian Parliament spanning operations in all States including Western Australia. Those reports, which have formed the basis of the overall Australian report to the United Nations Committee on Racism every year, have detailed 5 000 cases of racial discrimination which were the subject of investigation and conciliation under the Federal Racial Discrimination Act.

I want to draw attention particularly to the fact that a great deal of discrimination was practised by public authorities which failed to recognise the

languages of the people. For example, research has established that twice as many overseas workers as locally born workers are injured in industry every year, and have to wait twice as long for their compensation, and on average receive half as much. This points to the inadequacy of safety and training procedures, the inadequacy of the courts and tribunals and the built-in injustice for many workers.

The reports also indicate the tragedy of hospital patients who have suffered maltreatment and wrong treatment because communication was not properly established with them by health workers. There has been on many occasions a gap in understanding leading to disadvantage to those seeking justice but who have had language problems. It is a fact even today that this multicultural Australia does not have any law to enforce the right to understand court proceedings, despite the fact that a person could be involved in serious charges that could rob him of liberty, perhaps for a lifetime. It depends on the sensitivity and goodwill of judges and magistrates as to whether interpreters are provided. Most judges and magistrates have proved to be sensitive and understanding on this issue but there are some who have not, and injustice is an inevitable result.

In the sphere of education discrimination continues unchanged for a century. Rosanna McEvedy in her important research into the performance of schools and school children in Western Australia has pointed out—

Although politicians tell them that they live in a multicultural society teachers find it difficult to handle children from multicultural backgrounds. If primary school children wish to get on well with their teachers and be perceived as above-average performers they should carefully select Anglo-Australian parents, live in the upper-class and be girls. In the Olympian portals of Teachers Education God may indeed be female, but she is equally white, Anglo-Australian and almost certainly Protestant.

Colleges and universities are still turning out mono-lingual and mono-cultural teachers. The majority of children in Western Australia whose first language is not English are still without the facilities to maintain their first language, and very often they begin school immediately disadvantaged by a mono-lingual system which robs them of their first language and inadequately introduces them to English.

Even more serious than this is the failure of Australian schools to adequately prepare all Australian students to live in a multicultural society.

Research carried out in the past eight years has shown that textbooks are still filled with racist references and there is no proper acknowledgement of the make up of Australian society. It is a matter of gravest concern that children leaving Australian schools today can talk easily of "wog", "pom", and "slanty eyes", and assume a racial superiority which ill fits them to live in a multicultural society. Australia is made up of people from 140 ethnic backgrounds, speaking 90 languages at home and practising 80 different religions.

Much progress has been made in the last 10 years but at this very moment there is a movement to turn the clock back 25 years to the old days of discrimination and assimilation. The attempt to reintroduce the White Australia Policy and to categorise all of the people from east of the Bosphorus as undesirable Asians is to condemn nearly half a million people in Australia, some who have served Australia in peace and war for five generations. Such a policy would divide the nation at home and place Australia in world isolation with South Africa because those calling for the return to the White Australia Policy want apartheid here. That such people have come out of the woodwork in recent years is a measure of how much we need a guarantee of basic human rights for all Australians.

It is often claimed that the English common law which we have inherited is a sufficient guarantee of justice for all, but it has been pointed out by the Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission, Judge Michael Kirby, that for those who are disadvantaged in society, common law is a weak reed to depend on. It is for this reason that a great majority of Western Australians welcome the decision by the Labor Government in this State to establish a commission for multicultural and ethnic affairs to ensure equality of opportunity, in the vital spheres of labour and industrial relations, education, health, law, housing, consumer affairs, and, indeed, in every major facet of Australian life.

For the first time Western Australia has a Government which has pledged itself to foster recognition, acceptance, and support of the multicultural nature of the society; to facilitate the retention and development of community languages and cultures as part of the Australian identity; and to promote services and programmes to overcome special disadvantages and to ensure equality of access and use of social and economic resources.

I particularly welcome the pledge by the Government to promote practical self-help initiatives by communities to resolve their particular

problems rather than rely exclusively on the bureaucracy. I have referred to the grave deficiencies in our education system, and again it is important for all Western Australians to have this Government's pledge to greatly expand the teaching of Australian community languages other than English, and to foster intercultural understandings from pre-primary and tertiary levels, to the community level.

While welcoming this pledge by the Government I want to take the problem one stage further. It is not good enough to pledge to ensure that all non-Anglo-Saxon children retain their first language and have access to English; but there must be at the same time programmes to ensure that all Australian children of all backgrounds have access to a second language in primary school as they would receive if they belonged to any other developed country in the world. It is vital for good community relations that Anglo-Australian children have the same opportunity for a second language and share in the wider culture of the society. If we ignore this fundamental need of all Anglo-Australian children then we simply shift discrimination from one foot to another.

Australia is wasting its linguistic and cultural talents at a time when the world is getting smaller, and if we do not improve, the last monolingual 17-year-old who lives in the world in the year 2000 will be born in Perth tonight. Australia's future lies in its trade and commercial relation with the world, yet Australian children are denied access to language skills at a primary level which would better equip us to face our competitors in trade and commerce. Even within Australia today the Australian born child who has a second language has a better chance of securing employment. This is the finding of a recent survey carried out in NSW.

There is an urgency today to ensure basic human rights and equality of justice for all Australians. This urgency arises from the despair created so often by unemployment. There is real desperation in many areas of this society when jobs are lost or threatened. This leads to the search for a scapegoat and the emergence of the ugly face of intolerance and racism. Yet there is no bill of rights for all Australians; there is no mechanism to ensure basic rights; and there is no legislation guaranteeing basic rights. In this area of equal rights and justice we are talking not only about race, but also about people discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, and disabilities. It has been indicated that the present Federal Government will legislate for a bill of rights, and create the mechanism to service the whole of Australia.

On present indications we may be waiting for some years for action in this area.

I believe that in the State of Western Australia we should take the initiative and ensure our own legislative protection for basic human rights. I believe in introducing legislation to establish a commission for multicultural and ethnic affairs, the Government should at the same time either use that commission, or establish a commission to work in tandem with it, to administer a basic legislative safeguard for human rights for all.

Finally, I would like to say that it is a source of pride personally that I am the first Australian of Italian background to become a member of the Parliament of Western Australia. The Italian contribution to the Australian settlement spans 200 years from the first fleet, and more than one million Australians are of Italian birth or descent spanning all generations since 1788. Italian today is the most widely spoken community language in Australia after English and it has been used in the Victorian Parliament by my friend and colleague, the Hon. Giovanni Sgro, in his maiden speech; in the New South Wales Parliament by another friend and colleague, the Hon. Takis Kaldis; and it was used in the Federal Parliament by the late Arthur Calwell at the end of his last speech, and the reply was then made, also in Italian, by the then member for Riverina, the Hon. Al Grassby. I will join my colleagues in the other Parliaments of Australia who have addressed their Parliaments in Italian by concluding in these words in Italian—

*Io spero che i membri di questo Parlamento sosterranno e riconosceranno il basilare diritto della nostra multiculturale società, ed incoraggeranno la comunità a coltivare queste lingue che sono parte integrante della nostra società multiculturale.*

The translation is—

*I hope that members of this Parliament will support and recognise our multicultural society as a basic right, and encourage the community languages spoken within our multicultural society.*

Hon. Robert Hetherington: Bravo Sam! Che magnifico discorso.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. P. G. Pandal.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.00 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

*Mr J. McGinty: Union Work*

**HON. G. E. MASTERS (West)** [8.01 p.m.]: I do not think the House should adjourn until I make some comments. I make these comments sincerely and I hope they are taken that way because I am certainly not about to make a personal attack on the Leader of the House. However, some matters should be brought to his attention.

I asked a question this evening which was supplementary to other questions I have raised previously relating to the employment of advisers. I am sure the Leader of the House answered me in all honesty, but I would like to bring to his attention a number of questions.

Firstly I asked at what time and what date Mr Jim McGinty was employed by the Government. The Minister answered "11 April 1983". I would like members to remember that date for the moment. I asked further whether Mr McGinty's contract meant he worked eight hours a day for five days a week and the Minister answered "No". In other words he was required to work more hours.

I would now like to draw the attention of the Leader of the House to some comments he made on a news review interview on 4 August 1983. Tony Serv said to Mr Dans that the Opposition spokesman, Mr Masters, had made allegations that a senior adviser to the Government had been permitted to continue his union support. When Mr Dans was asked whether the allegation concerned him greatly he said, "Not greatly, because I have had allegations from Gordon Masters before and most of them I have found to be groundless". Mr Dans said, "You must remember too, of course, Tony, that Mr McGinty only works for me eight hours a day five days a week". This is the area I am concerned about.

I would assume from those comments that Mr Dans is indicating that he does not mind what Mr McGinty does outside those hours. I wish to make that point. However, the Minister said to me, in answer to a question I asked about whether the contract permitted him to carry out union and other work during normal hours and outside normal hours, that Mr McGinty had the Minister's permission to continue and finish the union business he had started before he was appointed as a Government adviser. Mr Dans answered that question twice. However, the next part of the answer concerns me. I asked whether Mr McGinty carried out union work without the Minister's authority and he said "No".

Again, I expect the Minister has honestly answered that question as far as he could. I am

not arguing about that point, but I would like to point out that Mr McGinty has been carrying out union work, whether with or without the authority of the Minister, to drum up union membership. He has applied a great deal of pressure. I would like to quote from a letter dated 27 April 1983 signed by Mr J. A. McGinty, the Assistant Secretary of the Hospital, Service and Miscellaneous Workers' Union. The letter is addressed to the Master Cleaners Guild of WA Inc, 190 Hay Street, East Perth, WA. I will read this letter because it is important that members should understand exactly what some of the Government advisers are doing, with or without the Minister's authority. It reads as follows—

Since the Guild adopted its policy of opposition to the Cleaners & Caretakers Union request for payroll deductions of Union dues and Union membership, a number of significant changes have occurred.

Essentially these are:

1. Amalgamation of the Cleaners Union with a number of other Unions to form the largest Union in the State with considerable resources. The amalgamated Union is the W.A. Branch of the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union which covers contract cleaners in every other State and Territory throughout Australia.
2. Change in Government policy relating to Union membership.
3. Further deterioration in the national economy, imposing cost constraints on both the Union and your companies.

Currently only 10 per cent of the employees of contract cleaning firms are Union members. This is a situation which we cannot allow to continue especially in the light of the changes referred to above.

This letter is to request your co-operation in achieving the Union aim of increased financial membership of the Union among your employees.

Your co-operation would avoid conflict which will be draining on the time and resources of your companies and the Union. Additionally, the time is appropriate for co-operation between business and Unions to our mutual benefit.

Specifically, we request that the Master Cleaners Guild recommend to individual companies that they co-operate with the Union in achieving maximum levels of Union membership in the cleaning industry. This is

to be done by offering payroll deduction of Union dues and encouraging all employees to join the Union.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with your Executive or any other gathering of contract cleaning companies.

The point I wish to make is that not only is he an adviser, paid by the public, but he is also actively continuing his role as an assistant secretary to a union and has applied pressure on various individuals and private companies. I think that action is reprehensible, wrong and improper. I would like the Minister to give some indication to the House of what action he proposes to take.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another letter dated 12 May from Mr J. G. Gatt, the Secretary of the Master Cleaners' Guild of WA Inc., to the Assistant Secretary of the Hospital, Service and Miscellaneous Workers' Union, which reads as follows—

Thank you for your letter dated April 27, 1983.

The members of this Guild have in the past been opposed to the philosophy of payroll deduction of Union Dues, and there is a Standing Order to this effect. This of course is a Guild policy matter to which some members may choose not to subscribe. The Guild is not opposed to Union membership.

The question of payroll deduction of Union Dues was discussed by the Guild's Executive at its May meeting and resulting from this, a Notice of Motion to rescind the original Resolution will be put to our May General Meeting. If it is the wish of the General Meeting to rescind this Resolution, the Guild will then have no policy in relation to payroll deduction of Union Dues.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to another letter dated 23 May from Mr Gatt to the Hon. M. J. Bryce, B.A., M.L.A., the Deputy Premier of this State. The letter to Mr Bryce refers to a review of the school cleaning contracts and one paragraph in the letter to Mr Bryce—of which I am sure Mr Bryce has a copy but if not I will provide one—says—

Coincidentally as this review takes place, Mr McGinty, on behalf of the union, visits the 12 largest contractors and insists on 90% union membership. In his own words "There are membership subscriptions worth \$120 000 p.a. amongst contractors staff."

Of course that is the real point of the exercise. Again I say it is improper and wrong for an adviser to make such threats and apply such pressure

when he is employed by the Government and the public.

Some of these people said they would not co-operate and they were told if they did not co-operate the Government policy could change. Those comments were passed to me by two or three people. Mr McGinty said he represented the biggest union in Western Australia and it had 20 per cent of the Caucus vote and plenty of support. In fact what Caucus says goes, and the Minister and Government will obey Caucus decisions. What he was making was as strong and as powerful a statement as a Government or Minister could make.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Are you sure he said "Caucus"?

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That is what was reported to me.

Several members interjected.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am putting this forward because I want the House and the public to know—

Hon. D. K. Dans: Putting it over all right.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: —the sort of activity that is being carried out. It is quite wrong for such an action to come from someone who is paid by the public to be an adviser. I would imagine such an adviser should be unbiased. It is clear there has been some pressure applied, almost strong-arm tactics. This is a blatant abuse of a Government position. I believe the Minister is embarrassed by the comments I am making and the announcements I am putting to this House.

This is not the only example I have been given of advisers putting this sort of pressure on private individuals and groups. I will bring such evidence forward as it becomes more apparent to me. The Government must review its adviser policy. Surely it must have another look at it when we hear about such actions.

The Government has no alternative but to dismiss some of these advisers. Advisers should be people who are not committed and are independent. They must be unbiased and have a fair outlook on matters.

Hon. J. M. Brown: Mr W. W. Mitchell?

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The Government is lurching from one crisis to another. This action I have mentioned indicates the poor advice the Government is receiving from its advisers. The Government should revert to the traditional and accepted practice of using professional people in the Public Service who are unbiased and dedicated.

There is no question that the Government Ministers are there to make the political decisions. Mr Dans will receive advice from whomever he likes but the political decision will almost always be his. However, the professional decisions should come from the experts and those people who are experts are those in the Public Service.

Several members interjected.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am saying that it appears to me that the Government advisers seem to be biased, committed and lacking in the experience required.

I think the Government has made a mistake. The advisers are a costly disaster which the public cannot afford. They have not offered any benefits at all to the public and they will be rejected in time. I make that point.

#### *Mitchell Freeway: Off-ramp*

HON. P. H. WELLS (North Metropolitan) [8.15 p.m.]: I wish to raise a matter of some concern in my electorate which relates to answers I received tonight. It would appear the political PR machine of the Government is being used at the expense of the normal operations of Government being communicated clearly to the people. The City of Stirling engineer and people out my way were led to believe in connection with stage five of the Mitchell Freeway that an off-ramp was to be built in the vicinity of Duffy Road.

Hon. Graham Edwards: Rubbish!

Hon. P. H. WELLS: The City of Stirling engineer told me so, and I was presented with a plan that had been provided by the department. It is interesting to hear a councillor of the City of Stirling interjecting to say, I gather, that the information provided to me was incorrect. A number of discussions have been held over a period of time as to whether an off-ramp should be located at Beach Road or whether it should be at the northern end of the freeway. People in the vicinity of the supposedly planned off-ramp at Duffy Road in Carine have been disturbed through being led to believe that a lot of traffic would enter their area. It would appear they have been misled if the information provided to me tonight is correct and no off-ramp is planned in that area.

This matter needs to be examined. When authorities change their ideas they should communicate those changes to the people. It is not as if it is a big problem; that area has a local paper and all that is required is for some journalist or perhaps a secretary of one of the members of Parliament to draft an alteration to let people know.

Hon. P. G. Pental: One of the advisers could do it.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: If that were done it would save parents a great deal of concern about their children being in that area.

The answer to part (6) of the question I asked today says consideration will be given to building the northern perimeter highway between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue when construction of the off-ramp to the northern perimeter highway is being examined. It may be that the information provided by the City of Stirling engineer relates to the future, and does not concern what is happening now. Someone may have forgotten to tell somebody that there has been a change of mind, and the engineer may have been misled. Different information appears to be available. The engineer told me that in the first place an overpass was to be built at Duffy Road, and then that was changed and a T-junction was proposed.

Part (3) of my question asked whether the City of Stirling recommended to the Government that the northern perimeter highway between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue be included in proposed roads for the State bicentennial funding. The answer was that it had been submitted for consideration. The engineer said the reason it was submitted was that the road was planned to take away the traffic rather than divert it via Duffy Road and move this additional traffic to an area which was not planned to receive it. These sorts of changes should be notified in an area which has a paper that goes to the people. It is easy for the department to get the information to the people. In the event that the off-ramp is not planned for that area I suggest the department informs the City of Stirling engineer and other people in the area who are running around seeing members of Parliament and who are disturbed because of this proposal.

I trust the information the Minister has provided tonight is correct, although a little doubt still exists in my mind.

#### *Mr J. McGinty: Union Work*

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.20 p.m.]: It is incumbent on me to make a few comments. I am glad the last speaker did not offend against Standing Orders as he did last evening when I allowed him to continue. He spoke about the Firearms Amendment Bill and that is not the normal practice.

Hon. P. H. Wells: I am willing to learn from experience.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I am just telling Mr Wells that I was aware of what he was doing last night and I did not call him to order.

In relation to the supposed exposures made by Mr Masters, I thought my answer tonight was clear when I said Mr McGinty had some outstanding union matters to attend to. The matter Mr Masters referred to was one of them. I have heard the story about Mr McGinty's influence in Caucus from some of my people and I have taken it up with Mr McGinty, who denies it. Subsequent actions in respect of contract cleaners would seem to indicate to me that he did not have that amount of support in Caucus or Cabinet.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I think it was public opinion.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not think so at all because the contract cleaning business in other States is unionised and payroll deductions take place.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Are you saying McGinty had your authority to be involved in the membership drive? Is that part of his work?

Hon. D. K. DANS: Let me answer the question; I do not want to get into a discourse on this. I said he had some outstanding matters to attend to and that was one of them. It meant signing a couple of letters and that is about as far as it went.

Hon. G. E. Masters: It goes a bit further.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Masters may make allegations—

Hon. G. E. Masters: There were visits.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I am referring to the allegations about what he was supposed to have said.

Mr Masters said we should dismiss the advisers. I have no intention of dismissing Mr McGinty. I will be sorry when he goes, because he will probably go before the end of his 12-month term. Mr Masters is making so much fuss about the advisers, but I give him a written guarantee that when the Government changes and the Opposition gets back into Government—if it ever does—it will come into the twentieth century. I doubt it will return to Government given the state of the Liberal Party in Australia, particularly in Queensland.

Hon. G. E. Masters: The swing of the pendulum, Mr Dans.

Hon. D. K. DANS: The Opposition will then use advisers. Every other Government in the

country including the national Government has used advisers for years.

Hon. G. E. Masters: It would be an unbiased adviser.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Masters is not fooling anyone on either side of the House. One of Mr Cain's election promises was that he would employ fewer advisers than the previous Government. The Hamer and Thompson Governments had 97 advisers, and I think the Cain Government ended up with 94. In other States the figure is bolstered by consultants and other people. We do not have many advisers; some are on contract and I offered to show Mr Masters the contract tonight.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I am looking forward to it.

Hon. D. K. DANS: That is provided the Chairman of the Public Service Board says it is all right, and I do not see any reason that he would not.

Our advisers have been picked by the Government for the role they have to play. When the Opposition returns to Government those advisers will not be there, and I assure Mr Masters his Government will appoint its own advisers. Some Opposition members when they were previously in Government told me personally on a number of occasions that they wished the Premier would let them have advisers.

Hon. G. E. Masters: You never heard me say that.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I did not say it was Mr Masters. Why is he defending himself? I never mentioned him.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I am amazed you can say an adviser can be involved in membership drives.

Hon. D. K. DANS: That is a normal union function. Mr Masters went on an overseas trip at the Commonwealth Government's expense and in Alabama dug out some right-to-work legislation that titillated his hatred of unions and nearly all things Australian. Mr Masters' attitude is one that helped defeat the Government and I hope he keeps it up.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I intend to keep it up.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I made a speech in this House one night and said that one of the things Mr Masters was trying to buck was Australian tradition. He can go to the history books and he

will see that every time someone has tried to tamper in that area he has come to grief. That is particularly so of Stanley Bruce. He not only lost his seat while he was Prime Minister, but also lost Government on just about the same issue. The Opposition is not doing any good for itself. Mr Masters spoke of the swing of the pendulum, but the last Gallup Poll shows we have gone further ahead.

Let me give him some advice. We have devised a method of measuring the Opposition's perform-

ance and in the run-up to the election it was shrinking a little shorter along the measure all the time. It will continue to do so while the Liberal Party is in Opposition. The measure is getting shorter and shorter every day. Members opposite should have a good look at themselves. They should forget about the advisers; they will remain and they will go when the Government says so.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 8.24 p.m.*



## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Answers: Cost*

143. Hon. TOM STEPHENS, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Would the Minister obtain from the Premier the current estimated cost of answering parliamentary questions, in this session, in each portfolio of the Cabinet, and advise the House of these costs, on a weekly basis?
- (2) Would the Minister also obtain from the Premier the hours spent by the chief executive officer in each of the portfolios in preparing the answers to these questions, and advise this House?
- (3) Would the Minister also state whether the answer to the bulk of these questions would be available to the members through the process of contacting ministerial offices, and what would be the estimated delay if answers could be obtained in this manner?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) Questions identical to this have been asked previously, in April 1978 and April 1981. The position is, for all practical purposes, unchanged, and as the honourable member will no doubt appreciate, the costs quoted in 1978 will have risen considerably.

The average weekly cost of parliamentary questions in 1978 was \$15 312, and the average cost involved in answering each question was \$89. If CPI increases since that time are taken into account, the resultant figures are \$24 143 and \$140 respectively.

156. *This question was postponed.*

## MINISTER OF THE CROWN: STAFF

*Mr McGinty*

157. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) On what date did Mr McGinty commence full time employment with the State Government?
- (2) Does Mr McGinty's contract require him to work only eight hours per day five days per week; and are those hours worked on a flexi-time arrangement?
- (3) Does Mr McGinty's contract permit him to carry out union and other work—
  - (a) during normal working hours;
  - (b) outside normal working hours?

(4) Has Mr McGinty carried out union work without the Minister's authority since he has been a Government adviser?

(5) If "Yes" to (4), what action does the Minister intend to take?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) 11 April 1983.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) and (b) As the written contract is silent on the questions posed, the matter becomes one appropriate to be resolved between Mr McGinty and myself. As to that resolution, I refer the honourable member to (4) below, and answer to question 89 on 3 August 1983.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

## HOUSING: LAND

*Sale*

158. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Did the Government make a pre-election promise to sell 20 per cent of the State Housing Commission's metropolitan land holding?
- (2) Will the Minister advise how much of the land in question, and particularly which land, has been sold so far?
- (3) In what way has any such land been sold, and at what price?

Hon. D. K. Dans for Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The consultant appointed by the Government to examine the commission's land holdings and formulate a plan for the rational use of these holdings, including the identification of land for sale, is still proceeding with his examination and is expected to provide an interim report shortly.

## EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

*Lesmurdie*

159. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When will tenders be called for the next stage of construction of Lesmurdie High School?

- (2) When is it anticipated construction will commence?
- (3) When is it programmed for the works to be completed?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) It is anticipated that extensions to the Lesmurdie High School may be commenced in the 1983-84 capital works programme; but it is not possible to advise of the dates for calling tenders, commencing construction, or finishing the building programme until the capital works budget is finalised.

### ABATTOIRS: CAPACITY

#### *Reduction*

160. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does the proposal to reduce abattoir capacity as presented to the WA Government, include the repayment of a Government guaranteed loan by means of a \$5 levy on all livestock killed?
- (2) If so under such a proposal will the owners of the remaining abattoirs be contributing towards the closing down of redundant capacity, or will the stock owners have this sum deducted from their cheques?
- (3) Are such proposals based upon an independent survey which indicated that a 20 per cent decline in plant utilisation was costing about \$20 per head?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The Government has not received a formal proposal on this matter.

### LAND: SURVEYORS

#### *Duplication of Effort*

161. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

I draw his attention to Federal Department of Administrative Services' advertisement earlier this year calling for "Land Surveyors Class 1" to be located in the WA Branch of the Australian Survey Office, and ask—

- (1) What function does this Federal body carry out that is not already carried out by the State Department of Lands and Surveys?
- (2) Is there a case for rationalisation under which the Federal office is absorbed into the State department?
- (3) If so, would the Minister consider approaching the Federal Government with a view to ending this apparent duplication of effort?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) The Australian Survey Office has a prime function of servicing Commonwealth Government departments within the State by effecting engineering and cadastral surveys as required, and usually where the lands relate to the use of Commonwealth funds. Some mapping work is carried out, including aerial photography which is contracted on an Australia-wide basis.
- (2) Given staff and funds, all of these activities could be carried out by the State Department of Lands and Surveys, but investigations would have to be made into the costs and benefits of such a move before it could be stated that there is a case for rationalisation.
- (3) I am willing to make some further inquiries into the suggestion, so that I can assess whether such an approach should be made.

### WATER RESOURCES

#### *Denham*

162. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that each residence in the town of Denham, which receives desalinated water, must have two meters?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that a charge of \$67 (in 1982) is levied for the second meter?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister aware that a limit is placed on the amount of desalinated water available to each residence; and  
(b) if so, what is the current limit?

- (4) What assistance is given to pensioners living in Denham to help them pay the second meter charge?
- (5) If there is no assistance, will the Minister consider giving pensioners a 50 per cent rebate on this fixed charge?
- (6) Will the Minister give consideration to abolishing the second meter charge for all water consumers in Denham?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. In accordance with the Country Areas Water Supply Act by-laws, a service charge of \$67 in 1982-83 (\$78 in 1983-84) is levied for each additional water service made available to a property.
- (3) (a) Yes;  
(b) 80 kilometres per year.
- (4) No special assistance is provided to pensioners for a second water service. Arrangements can be made by all rate-payers, including pensioners, to pay outstanding accounts by instalments over a reasonable period if the need arises.
- (5) Under existing legislation it is not possible to give pensioners a 50 per cent rebate of the additional service charge. The Pensioners (Rates, Rebates and Deferments) Act provides only for a rebate or deferment of the annual water rate or charge in lieu of rates and does not extend to water consumption or other charges. I presume the member was active in this matter during the nine years of the previous conservative Government.
- (6) Consideration has been given to the abolition of the second meter charge on numerous occasions and cannot be supported in view of the high financial losses being sustained on this scheme.

## DEFENCE

### *Advisory Group: Membership*

163. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Minister for Inter-Governmental Relations and Defence Liaison:
  - (1) Who are the members of the defence advisory group?
  - (2) What are their terms of reference?
  - (3) On how many occasions have they met in this calendar year?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The committee is an honorary one and its members are—Commodore R. H. Percy, C.B.E.; Air Commodore E. D. Courtney, M.V.O., O.B.E.; and Brigadier J. Roberts, I.S.O., M.B.E., E.D.
- (2) Its terms of reference are—  
To advise the Premier on:
  - (a) Western Australian defence needs, within the context of Australian defence;
  - (b) the best means of seeking to have the State's needs met;
  - (c) the ways in which State activities and works can be designed and planned to dovetail with defence requirements;
  - (d) the policies the State can adopt to reinforce defence strategies—including relations with allies and visiting allied service personnel;
  - (e) the best means of providing adequate coastal surveillance, particularly in the remote parts of the State; and
  - (f) the best means of keeping the public of Western Australia positively aware of the need for policies, attitudes, and actions to optimise the defence of the State as part of Australia.
- (3) Three.

## LAND: BOARD

### *Chairman*

164. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

With reference to the answer to question 135 of Thursday, 4 August 1983, in relation to Mr John Tozer, former Chairman of the Land Board—

- (1) To which members of Parliament were representations made in regard to the chairmanship held by Mr Tozer?
- (2) Who made the representations to these members?
- (3) Upon what grounds did those MPs object to Mr Tozer continuing as chairman?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The Minister for Lands and Surveys is not prepared to release the information sought by the honourable member due to the confidentiality of such matters.

The honourable member may be interested to read the reply to a question without notice asked of the Minister for Lands and Surveys on Tuesday, 16 August 1983, in the Legislative Assembly, on this subject.

#### HEALTH: TOBACCO

##### *Smoking: Petition*

165. Hon. W. G. ATKINSON, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier written to any residents of Dalwallinu who signed a petition against the increase of tax on tobacco products?
- (2) If so, why has the Premier in the first paragraph of the letter stated that a letter had been received from these residents, when in fact only a petition was signed?
- (3) Has the Premier written to all persons or only some of these persons signing any petitions against the increase of tax on tobacco products?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) No, I have not received a petition from the residents of Dalwallinu. I have received a number of "letter cards" individually addressed to me concerning the tax, to which I am responding. Where possible, all such letters received by me will be replied to; but some of the names and addresses are indecipherable.

#### HEALTH: PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

##### *Staff: Replacement Policy*

166. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the WA Health Department subject to the Government's stated policy of replacing only 50 per cent of staff who have resigned or retired from the department?
- (2) How many employees formerly with the WA Health Department have resigned or retired since 1 March 1983?
- (3) How many new employees has the Health Department engaged since 1

March 1983, including those in the Minister for Health's own office?

- (4) In what areas were the staff savings mainly achieved, if any?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 129.
- (3) 118 new employees have commenced; and offers of employment have been accepted by three persons expected to commence at an early date.
- (4) No specific area of activity is identifiable. Each vacancy is being considered on its own merits.

#### FLORA

##### *Mt. Lesueur*

167. Hon. MARGARET McALEER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Could the Minister tell me whether the Mount Lesueur area contains rare and endangered species of flora?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Yes.

#### NOONKANBAH STATION: AGREEMENT

##### *Mr Stephen Hawke: Discussions*

168. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Mines:

Further to question without notice 36 of Wednesday, 3 August 1983, will the Minister advise whether Mr Stephen Hawke met with any Mines Department officials in Perth to discuss the Noonkanbah agreement with International Energy Development Corporation?

Hon. D. K. Dans for Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

No; but he did visit the department for a general discussion on aboriginal issues.

#### INSURANCE: BROKERS

##### *Licences: Classifications*

169. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) How many licences are there in the various classifications covered by the General Insurance Brokers and Agents Act?

- (2) How many insurance agents are registered with the Insurance Brokers Licensing Board?
- (3) Who are the present members of the Insurance Brokers Licensing Board, and what are the terms and qualifications of their appointments?
- (4) Which members of the board have deputy members appointed, and what are their names and terms of appointment?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) 72.
- (2) 4 337.

(3) Name	Designation	Term Expires
L. L. Ikin	Chairman	14 June 1985
E. L. Morton	Member	14 June 1984
R. J. Trigg	Member	6 June 1984

There is presently one membership vacant. The qualifications for appointment are set out in section 6 of the Act.

- (4) At present only Mr E. L. Morton has a deputy. He is Mr H. T. Rogers, whose term expires on 14 June 1984.

#### EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Rossmoyne Senior: Nurse*

170. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that the position of school nurse at the Rossmoyne Senior High School has been filled on a temporary basis only?
- (2) If so, when can an appointment on a permanent basis be expected?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A nursing sister will take up a permanent appointment at Rossmoyne Senior High School as from 12 September 1983.

#### ABORIGINES

##### *Marra Worra Worra Aborigine Corporation: Funding*

171. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Does the State Government fund the Marra Worra Worra Aborigine Corporation?

- (2) (a) If not, does the Government propose to do so;
- (b) if so, will the Minister provide details of any arrangements?

Hon. D. K. DANS for Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) No;
- (b) Not applicable.

#### TOURISM

##### *Spencers Brook-Wundowie Railway Line*

172. Hon. W. G. ATKINSON, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Minister for Tourism been approached to preserve, for tourism purposes, the Spencers Brook-Wundowie railway line?
- (2) If so, who has made the approach?
- (3) Does the Government intend to support such an approach?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An approach has been received from a private individual who, it is understood, is representing a group of interested persons.
- (3) The matter is being considered by the Department of Tourism, which is presently awaiting a further submission from the group concerning the tourism aspects of their proposal.

#### MINING: LEASES

##### *Homesite*

173. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Mines:

As statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that in 1982 there were 259 miners' homesite leases covering 11 748 ha. as well as 83 miscellaneous leases covering 638 ha. and 76 garden areas covering 119 ha. in Western Australia—

- (1) In which shires do these exist?
- (2) How many of these leases have been in existence for over 50 years?
- (3) What rental does the Government receive for these leases?

- (4) What are the usual terms of such leases?

Hon. D. K. Dans for Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (4) The answers to the questions asked by the honourable member will require considerable research. The facilities are not readily available. If the member explains the reasons for requiring this information, I will give his request consideration.

## EDUCATION

### *Teachers: Accouchement Leave*

174. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Education:

Is it the intention of the Government to increase the duration of accouchement leave available to female teachers employed by the Education Department?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The matter of accouchement leave for female teachers is under discussion in a working party committee consisting of Education Department officers and representatives of the State School Teachers' Union.

175. *This question was postponed.*

## PUBLIC SERVICE: PUBLIC SERVANTS

### *Replacement Policy*

176. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government still intend to achieve a reduction of 1 500 employees in State Government departments as a result of the 50 per cent replacement rule?
- (2) Would the Premier advise the total reduction so far achieved between 1 March 1983 and 30 July 1983?
- (3) In what departments and what areas of those departments were the savings made?

Hon. D. K. Dans replied:

- (1) The Government announced on 22 June 1983 a reduction of 50 per cent in the rate at which Government employees are replaced when they retire or resign. The total reduction achieved depends on the number of severances.
- (2) The information requested is being prepared, as far as possible, and will be provided directly to the member by letter.

- (3) I am not prepared to divert staff to gather all the information required by this question.

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Yalgoo*

177. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

What steps are being taken to provide a satisfactory water supply to the town of Yalgoo?

Hon. D. K. Dans replied:

A departmental drilling rig is at present on site at Yalgoo, drilling and testing additional bores to determine the extent of the groundwater basin indicated by preliminary investigations carried out in 1982.

## STATE FORESTS: PINE

### *Planting: Programme*

178. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Who is on the committee under the chairmanship of Dr Manea to advise the Government on the pine planting programme?
- (2) How many times have they met?
- (3) What are their terms of reference?

Hon. D. K. Dans replied:

- (1) Representatives of the shires concerned with the pine planting on private property, the timber industry, and the Forests Department.
- (2) Once.
- (3) To act as an advisory body to the Forests Department and provide the means for consultation between the shires and the Forests Department on initiation of a major pine plantation programme on repurchased or leased private property in the south-west region.

## FISHERIES: PRAWNS

### *Learmonth: Closure of Factory*

179. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the possibility of the closure of the M. G. Kailis prawn

factory at Learmonth which employs up to 160 people?

- (2) What steps is the WA Government taking to offset this possibility?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) The Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife had discussions with Mr Kailis yesterday about this matter. The issues raised in that discussion are being examined.

#### STATE FORESTS: PINE

##### *Planting: Leasing Land*

180. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Has the pilot study into leasing land for pine planting been commenced?  
 (2) Who is conducting it?  
 (3) What are the terms of reference?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) The Centre for Applied Business Research, University of Western Australia.  
 (3) To determine the potential for co-operative ventures between the Forests Department and farmers in the south-west which would permit pine plantation establishment on privately-owned land.

181. *This question was postponed.*

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

##### *Appointment*

182. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) How many Members of Parliament have applied to become justices of the peace?  
 (2) What are their names?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) 52.  
 (2) Hon. W. G. ATKINSON  
 Hon. C. J. BELL  
 \*Hon. J. M. BROWN, JP  
 Hon. P. M. DOWDING, LLB, JP  
 Hon. V. J. FERRY, DFC  
 Hon. H. W. GAYFER  
 Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS  
 Hon. E. K. HALLAHAN  
 Hon. G. K. KELLY, JP  
 Hon. T. KNIGHT, AFAIM, AAIB

Hon. A. A. LEWIS, JP  
 Hon. G. C. MacKINNON, CMG, JP  
 Hon. M. McALEER  
 Hon. T. McNEIL, JP  
 Hon. M. W. NEVILL, JP  
 Hon. S. M. PIANTADOSI, JP  
 Hon. I. G. PRATT  
 Hon. T. G. STEPHENS, BA, JP  
 Hon. W. N. STRETCH  
 Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, BA, JP  
 Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH

M. BARNETT, JP  
 T. H. BATEMAN, JP  
 P. A. BEGGS  
 \*J. L. BRADSHAW, JP.  
 E. F. BRIDGE

Hon. M. J. BRYCE, BA  
 P. A. BUCHANAN, JP  
 Hon. B. T. BURKE, JP

\*T. J. BURKE, JP  
 G. J. BURKETT

Hon. J. P. CARR, BA, JP

\*J. G. CLARKO, A.E., BA, Dip.Ed., JP  
 Dr. G. T. DADOUR, MB, BS

Hon. R. DAVIES  
 Hon. J. F. GRILL, LLB, JP  
 Hon. J. J. HARMAN

Y. D. HENDERSON, JP  
 G. L. HILL, JP  
 T. H. JONES

Hon. D. C. PARKER, BA, JP  
 Hon. R. J. PEARCE, BA, Dip.Ed., JP

J. B. READ  
 D. L. SMITH, LLB  
 G. C. C. SPRIGGS, JP

Hon. A. D. TAYLOR, BA, JP.  
 I. F. TAYLOR, B.Econ. (HONS), JP

Hon. I. D. THOMPSON  
 Hon. A. R. TONKIN, BA, Dip.Ed., JP  
 G. J. TROY

R. J. TUBBY, JP  
 R. G. WILLIAMS, AAIM, JP

Members of Parliament appointed prior to 1983 marked with an asterisk.

#### LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

##### *South Coast National Park Advisory Committee: Reconstitution*

183. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the south coast national park advisory committee been reconstituted?

- (2) If so—  
 (a) who are the members;  
 (b) how often has it met; and  
 (c) what are the guidelines for this committee?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) (a) The south coast national park advisory committee is presently being restructured to include representatives from—

two representatives from Shire of Manjimup;  
 one representative from Shire of Nannup;  
 one representative from Department of Agriculture;  
 one representative from Department of Lands and Surveys;  
 one representative from Department of Forests;  
 one representative from Department of Tourism;  
 one representative of the Conservation Movement;  
 the co-chairmen of the working group developing management plans.

The chairman will be the Acting Conservator of Forests.

- (2) (b) The committee has yet to meet; the National Parks Authority is awaiting nomination of representatives from the local authorities involved;  
 (c) to review policies and develop advice to the National Parks Authority on the formulation of a management plan and on its implementation including the establishment of recreation and educational facilities within the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, the vacant Crown land proposed for amalgamation into this park, and for the Shannon River Basin.

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

##### *Retirements and Resignations, and New Appointments*

184. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Would the Minister advise the House—

- (a) the number of retirements or resignations from his department since 1 March 1983;

- (b) the number of new appointments made, including advisers and back up staff; and  
 (c) the areas where staff cuts have been achieved?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (a) Workers' Assistance Commission—2  
 Department of Labour and Industry—13  
 Western Australian Government Industrial Relations Service—Nil.  
 (b) WAC—2  
 DLI—6 officers transferred or promoted from other departments to fill vacancies;  
 MIN. OFF.—2 ministerial advisers appointed.  
 WAGIRS—3 temporary appointments.  
 (c) WAC—Nil.  
 DLI—  
 Administrative Division—2  
 Labour Relations Branch—2  
 Machinery Safety Branch—1  
 WAGIRS—Nil.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

##### *Duties*

185. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney-General:

What are the normal duties of a justice of the peace?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The duties of justices of the peace are as follows—

- (1) To be available at any time—  
 (a) to assist in the preservation of the peace;  
 (b) to assist the police to facilitate the arrangement of bail for persons under arrest, to receive complaints; to issue search warrants, arrest warrants and summonses.  
 (2) To be available to witness documents such as affidavits and statutory declarations as may be required from time to time.  
 (3) To be available where practicable to participate in court proceedings, and to accept judicial responsibilities.



- (4) To attend formal lecture sessions and seminars where practicable, as arranged by stipendiary magistrates and/or the Royal Association of Justices.

#### LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

##### *D'Entrecasteaux and Shannon River: Working Group*

186. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What are the names of the members of the working group who are developing management plans for the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the Shannon basin?
- (2) Have they met, and if so, how often?
- (3) What are the guidelines for this group?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Dr John Watson—Southern Regional Superintendent of National Parks, Albany.

Dr Per Christensen—Inspector, Forests Department, Manjimup.

- (2) Yes, on numerous occasions.
- (3) To develop initially, a strategic working plan for the Shannon Forest—River Basin—the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the vacant Crown land scheduled to be amalgamated with this national park.

Additionally, the group should plan and supervise the development of appropriate visitor facilities within these areas, within National Parks Authority policy guidelines.

#### EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Meekatharra: Farm School*

187. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that a proposal for a farm school to be attached to the Meekatharra High School has been submitted to the Education Department?
- (2) If so, how far has the proposal proceeded, and when is a decision on the project expected?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) A submission has been received from the Meekatharra District High School seeking support for facilities intended to extend the optional courses available within its secondary education programme. It is not a request to commence a farm school.
- (2) There will be a meeting in Meekatharra on 24 August at which the proposals from the school will be examined in detail.

#### LAND: NATIONAL PARK

##### *Shannon River: Management Plans*

188. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Has the Acting Conservator of Forests prepared amendments to working plan No. 87 for the management of the Shannon basin as a national park?
- (2) If so, would the Minister table the plans?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I table a paper containing the information.  
(See paper No. 225.)

#### MINING: STATE BATTERY

##### *Sandstone*

189. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there a possibility of reopening the State Battery at Sandstone?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The position of all State Batteries is regularly reviewed.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### MINING: COAL

##### *Production: Future Levels*

190. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

If the production of Collie coal is to remain stable, does this mean—

- (a) that a new power house will not be built; or
- (b) that it will be built and powered by North-West Shelf gas; or

- (c) that it will be built and supplied with coal from a source other than Collic?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(a) to (c) No.

### ROAD

#### *Meekatharra-Wubin*

191. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are there any plans to divert the Wubin to Meekatharra Highway around the Paynes Find hotel?
- (2) If so, will the Minister give an undertaking that no work will commence without further discussions with the Yalgoo Shire and persons affected by this diversion?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) A proposed new alignment of Great Northern Highway at Paynes Find is currently under investigation to determine the most economical and acceptable solution.
- (2) Arrangements are in hand for Main Roads Department officers to discuss the proposal with Yalgoo Shire and local community representatives at Paynes Find on 23 August.

### STATE FORESTS

#### *Working Plan No. 87*

192. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

Further to question 131 of 4 August 1983—

- (a) what have been the changed circumstances to date; and
- (b) what amendments have been made?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (a) The Shannon River basin will be declared a national park;
- (b) in accordance with section 31 of the Forests Act 1918-1976, alteration of working plan No. 87, part 1, 1982 was made on 2 August 1983 to accommodate this change.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT: SWIMMING POOLS

#### *Subsidy*

193. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Attorney-General representing the Treasurer:

Will the Government, in the framing of the State Budget, give consideration towards increasing the subsidy for country swimming pools from the present \$3 000 which has been set for some years?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

No. In 1981-82 the Government decided to terminate the subsidy as part of cost-cutting measures affecting local authorities. However, the decision was reversed on the understanding that the level of subsidy would not be increased.

### STATE FORESTS: PINE

#### *Planting: Manjimup*

194. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

Further to question 61 of 2 August 1983—

- (1) Have any negotiations taken place to obtain alienated land for planting pines in the Manjimup area?
- (2) If so, in what area of the Manjimup Shire is this land?
- (3) Is it intended the land be—
  - (a) purchased;
  - (b) leased; or
  - (c) resumed?
- (4) Is it intended the land be—
  - (a) cleared; or
  - (b) uncleared?
- (5) If, as stated in answer to part (2) of question No. 61 of 2 August 1983, it is to replace part of Shannon resource—
  - (a) how many years will it take for the resource to be available; and
  - (b) how many hectares will be planted per annum, and for how many years?
- (6) What is the dollar value of the work being relocated from the sunklands to Manjimup?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Answered by (1).
- (5) I refer the member to the answer given to part 2 of question 61 of 2 August 1983 when it was stated that in addition to replacing the Shannon resource, these plantings will form part of a relocation of the pine-planting programme from the Donnybrook sunklands. The answers to the specific questions are—
  - (a) 25 to 30 years after planting;
  - (b) 500 hectares for 30 years.
- (6) Unknown at this stage.

### ROAD

#### *Brookton-Kelmscott Highway*

195. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is it proposed to upgrade the Kelmscott-Brookton Highway to a suitable highway standard?
- (2) If there is not to be any major works, when are works, if any, to commence?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) A further 1.3 kms of the Brookton Highway will be reconstructed this financial year. Works will commence in February 1984 and will extend the improvements undertaken earlier this year in the vicinity of Holden Road. Widening between the Armadale Town and Beverley Shire boundary and Brookton has been included in the Australian bicentennial road development programme submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Transport. The work has been scheduled to commence in 1986-87.

It is also planned to widen the section to the Armadale Town and Beverley Shire boundary prior to 1986-87.

### MR STAN MUTTON

#### *Employment by Government*

196. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Has Mr Stan Mutton, ex Secretary of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union, approached the Government or

Government advisers seeking employment?

- (2) Will the Government consider employing Mr Mutton as an adviser?
- (3) Will the Government attempt to find suitable employment for Mr Mutton.

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any approach made.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

### STRATA TITLES: ACT

#### *Amendment*

197. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Government examined the Law Reform Commission's report on the Strata Titles Act—Project No. 56?
- (2) In review of the fact that the Law Reform Commission began its examination of the Strata Titles Act in 1977 and completed its report in December 1982, will the Attorney General ensure the Government brings forward any proposed amendments to the Act during the current parliamentary session?
- (3) If amendments are not to be introduced, in the current session, will the Government announce its intentions as to the Law Reform Commission's recommendations?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The report of the commission is being examined by departmental officers. It is not yet possible to indicate when the Government will be in a position to proceed with legislation.

198. *This question was postponed.*

### ROAD: FREEWAY

#### *Mitchell: Off-ramps*

199. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does stage five of the Mitchell Freeway include an off-ramp to direct traffic along the northern perimeter highway with a T junction planned at Duffy Road?
- (2) If not, what are the planned off-ramp positions for northbound traffic, south of Warwick Road and north of Beach Road?

- (3) Did the City of Stirling recommend to the Government that the northern perimeter highway, between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue, be included in proposed roads for the State bi-centennial funding?
- (4) What was the result of the City of Stirling's recommendation?
- (5) Is the Government aware that, due to a massive traffic increase, the Carine area, in close proximity to Duffy Road, will be disturbed and a hazard created for school children, if the perimeter highway, between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue, fails to be completed prior to the opening of the off-ramp from the Mitchell Freeway?
- (6) Will the Government ensure that the northern perimeter highway, between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue, is completed prior to the opening of an off-ramp in the area?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Stage 5 of the Mitchell Freeway will terminate at Warwick Road thus giving access to this road for northbound traffic. In addition, there will be a bus only ramp just north of Beach Road.
- (3) This was submitted as a project for consideration.
- (4) Insufficient funds were available for the project to be accepted as one using Australian bicentennial road development funds.
- (5) As no connection to stage 5 of the Mitchell Freeway is planned at the north perimeter highway it is not anticipated that there will be a significant traffic increase in this area.
- (6) Consideration will be given to completing the north perimeter highway between Duffy Road and Marmion Avenue when construction of an off-ramp to north perimeter highway is being examined.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### MINISTER OF THE CROWN: STAFF

###### *Mr McGinty: Contract of Employment*

53. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

My question is supplementary to the Minister's answer to question on notice

157. Is he prepared to table the contract of employment for Mr McGinty, who has been employed as an adviser by the Minister?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Naturally enough I do not have with me a copy of the contract, which is between Mr McGinty and the Chairman of the Public Service Board. If the board has no objection, I will either table the contract at the next sitting or give a copy to the member.

##### MINISTER OF THE CROWN: STAFF

###### *Mr McGinty: Union Work*

54. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

In answer to my question on notice 157, the Minister said that Mr McGinty, since he had been a Government officer, had not carried out union work without the Minister's authority. Will the Minister confirm that any union work carried out by Mr McGinty since 11 April has been with his authority?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Let me try to answer this as correctly as I can. Mr McGinty has been employed by me as an adviser for a maximum of 12 months. I worked very hard to obtain his services because, as people who know anything about industrial relations would be aware, Mr McGinty is thought to be possibly the top person engaged in industrial relations in Western Australia. I particularly wanted him because he was previously given a grant to work in the United States to examine the construction of the Alaskan pipeline—at the time we were getting into the pipeline business ourselves. While he was there he also examined the heavy industry at the Great Lakes. He is a lecturer in industrial relations. When I took him on I said to him that if he had any outstanding union matters to attend to, he had my full permission to clean up those matters. If he has engaged in any union activity since 11 April I will ask him to inform me, and I will bring the answer to the member. However, to the best of my knowledge he has not engaged in any other union activity since then; but I do

not know for sure. During a long discussion I had with his Federal secretary, we reached an agreement that I could have Mr McGinty's services for no longer than 12 months.

# MINISTER OF THE CROWN: STAFF

*Mr McGinty: Union Work*

55. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

As I would like an absolute assurance on this matter, would the Minister confirm that any union activity carried out by Mr McGinty since 11 April was done so with his authority?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not know what I have to do to advise honourable members of the procedure for asking questions. It is a long standing procedure in accordance with the Westminster system under which we operate that once a question has been answered, that same question cannot be asked again. I suggest to the member that he is asking the identical question to that which the Minister has just answered, albeit perhaps not to the satisfaction of the member. The member may ask a different question if he so wishes.

# MINISTER OF THE CROWN: STAFF

*Mr McGinty: Union Worker*

56. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Will he again talk with Mr McGinty and assure himself that that officer has not carried out union work without the Minister's authority, and will he then advise this House accordingly?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Let me be quite straight forward about this. I took on Mr McGinty with the express understanding that I could not have him for longer than 12 months. He was permitted to clean up any outstand-

ing union matters in which he may have been involved. I will ask him of any union work in which he may have been involved since 11 April and advise the member. I cannot give an answer off the top of my head because of my previous undertaking to Mr Gietzelt in Sydney.

# JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

## Duties

57. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney General:

My question is supplementary to the Attorney's answer to my question on notice 185 dealing with justices of the peace. The Attorney indicated that the justices can attend formal lecture sessions and seminars where practicable as arranged by stipendiary magistrates and/or the Royal Association of Justices. Will the Attorney give consideration to ensuring that Members of Parliament who are appointed justices of the peace undertake similar courses? Obviously it is not practical for all of them to attend lectures, but perhaps they could attend a course run by the Crown Law Department.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Those courses are already available to those members in the same way as they are available to all persons appointed justices of the peace.

# JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

## Duties

58. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney-General:

Will the Attorney General make these courses mandatory?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

No.

**WAGES: FREEZE***Increases: Guidelines*

59. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Were the wage rises relating to shift penalty increases of between 18.7 per cent and 22.5 per cent for members of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union within the guidelines of the wages freeze legislation?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The shift penalties that were allowed to the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union were well within the legislation. The power under that Act is clearly spelt out. It did not involve a great deal of money. I may as well go on a little bit further with it: On the request of the SEC, it involved some \$9 000, the position arising because of an oversight in adjusting shift penalties for the union.

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