

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## (HANSARD)

### First Session of the Thirty-second Parliament

*The Legislative Council was prorogued as from 27 November 1985.*

*The Legislative Assembly was prorogued and dissolved as from 27 November 1985.*

*The Thirty-second Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on 10 June 1986, and the first session was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) on 10 June 1986.*

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

### Legislative Council

Tuesday, 10 June 1986

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 11.30 a.m.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair.

#### PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr L. B. Marquet), read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) summoning the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament.

#### GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Smith) having entered the Chamber at 11.31 a.m., a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary to be done in the name and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, or in the name and on the part of His Excellency the Governor, in order to the opening and holding of the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament of Western Australia.

The Commission was read.

#### COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Smith) read the following statement—

*Mr President, Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the Legislative Assembly:*

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that at 3.00 o'clock today His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this Session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by me in the terms of the Commission granted to me by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and likewise notify the same to His Excellency.

The Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Smith) and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

#### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members at the general election held on 8 February 1986, showing that the following had been duly elected—

North Central Metropolitan Province—  
Joseph Max Berinson

Metropolitan Province—  
George Maxwell Evans

North Metropolitan Province—  
Stanley John Halden

North-East Metropolitan Province—  
Thomas George Butler

South Central Metropolitan Province—  
Phillip George Pendal

South Metropolitan Province—

Garry Kenneth Kelly

South-East Metropolitan Province—

Robert Hetherington

Central Province—

Harry Walter Gayfer

Lower Central Province—

Alexander Ashley Lewis

Lower West Province—

Beryl Lillian Jones

South Province—

John Norman Caldwell

South-East Province—

James McMillan Brown

South-West Province—

Douglas William Wenn

Upper West Province—

Margaret McAleer

West Province—

Gordon Edgar Masters

Lower North Province—

Philip Harry Lockyer

North Province—

Thomas Richard Helm

These members took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, or made and subscribed the affirmation required by law, and signed the Roll.

*Sitting suspended from 11.58 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.*

**THE PRESIDENT** resumed the Chair and read prayers.

### VISITORS

*Welcome*

**THE PRESIDENT:** Honourable members, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming you all here today to the opening of the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament of Western Australia. I trust that the afternoon's proceedings will be interesting and enjoyable and that afterwards you will join me and all members at afternoon tea.

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) entered the Council Chamber at 3.02 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech—

*Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.*

This first Session of the thirty-second Parliament of Western Australia is an important occasion, not only for people gathered in this historic Chamber but for all the people in our vast State.

As this is the opening Session of a new Parliament I wish to emphasise the heavy responsibility that members of Parliament carry, not only for their constituents, but also as elected representatives in contributing to the well-being of the State of Western Australia and of its people.

Honourable Members, before beginning to outline my Government's legislative programme it is appropriate that I should record the death of a former State Premier, the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, who served the Parliament of Western Australia for nearly 35 years as Member for Northam from 1933 to 1968; and of Mr Clive Hughes, member for Cockburn (1985-86) who died recently after a long illness. We respect their respective contributions to the Legislative Assembly of this Parliament and to the State of Western Australia.

I turn now to matters of State which will concern you directly.

During this Session my Government plans to expand the Ministry from 15 members to 17 members. This reflects the expanded workload carried by Ministers, but more importantly, provides additional Cabinet representation for rural and remote regions. This expansion will provide for a greater effort to be applied to meet the complex issues which are facing the government of this large State.

Through the early part of 1985/86 Australia experienced strong economic growth with tighter monetary policy being used to slow down growth later in the year.

The performance of the Western Australian economy continues to be stronger than that of other States with the value of retail sales, building activity and the number of new motor vehicle registrations achieving growth rates well above national levels.

The State has maintained a high level of job creation with the number of people employed increasing by almost 70,000 during the three years to March 1986. This increase represents a 12 per cent growth in employment and compares favourably with the national growth rate of 9.8 per cent.

Moreover, since June 1985, Western Australia has recorded the second lowest rate of unemployment of any State.

The Government's policy for improving labour relations has contributed to a significantly greater fall in the number of working days lost from industrial disputes compared with the national average. The latest figures show that in 1985 the number of working days lost in the State was 22 per cent less than the previous year, compared with a 4.0 per cent decline for Australia as a whole.

Despite this favourable economic performance, the difficulties confronting certain sections of the economy, particularly the rural sector, are recognised by the Government.

Financial assistance amounting to \$75.5 million has been allocated in 1985/86 to help overcome rural problems. Assistance measures include improved drought assistance, the provision of funds to help offset high interest rates on farmers' bank loans, and an increase in funds available under the Rural Adjustment Scheme.

Other measures to assist the rural sector have included the broadening of the exemption from the State fuel franchise levy to cover motor spirit used off-roads by farmers and pastoralists and the implementation of measures for the deregulation of transport.

Government assistance for the housing sector and for homebuyers was given added impetus in 1985/86 by the investment of more than \$72 million in the building society and credit union sectors at concessional rates of interest in order to protect an estimated 50,000 families from rising home-mortgage interest rates.

The Government also remains committed to combatting the enduring problem of unemployment, placing particular emphasis on the resolution of youth unemployment and the provision of training initiatives.

In its continued pursuit of responsible financial management the Government's 1985/86 Budget is largely on target. On the revenue side, a significant boost has come from the Burswood Island Casino which is estimated to provide \$4.75 million to the State this financial year.

A difficult budgetary situation is in prospect for 1986/87. The Government will cut back on expenditure while making some positive initiatives. Every effort will be made to limit increases in the rates of taxes, and in charges, to the rate of inflation.

A further review by the Commonwealth Grants Commission of the distribution of the Commonwealth's general revenue grants to the States began this financial year.

The outcome of this review will determine the share of Commonwealth general revenue grants received by Western Australia after 1987/88.

The Government has allocated a high priority to the task of preparing the State's case for this review. The importance of maintaining Western Australia's current share of funding is underlined when it is recognised that a one percentage point reduction in general revenue grants from the Commonwealth would mean a loss of revenue to the State of some \$12 million annually.

The Government's commitment to improved efficiency will be further enhanced following the operation of the **Financial Administration and Audit Act** from the beginning of next month. This measure provides for the introduction of modern accounting, auditing and financial management practices necessary to ensure a high level of accountability in the public sector.

A **Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill** will be introduced during this session. This Bill will be the final component in the Government's legislative plan to ensure accountability in the public sector. It will specify an annual monetary limit on advances, and the purposes for which the Treasurer may withdraw moneys from the public bank account under the provisions of the **Financial Administration and Audit Act**.

The Government has recognised the need for a more flexible and equitable means of managing the debt of semi-government authorities. It intends establishing the Western Australian Treasury Corporation to replace the Treasurer of Western Australia as the State's central borrowing authority.

The **Western Australian Treasury Corporation Bill** will be introduced, establishing a body corporate empowered to borrow moneys for lending to statutory authorities. It is intended that the new corporation will adopt a more flexible approach to its borrowing and lending activities. It will be similar in function and status to the central borrowing authorities already established in all other States.

The Government will introduce a Bill for the establishment of the **State Government Insurance Commission**. It will also introduce a

**Bill to facilitate the merging of the EXIM Corporation with the Western Australian Overseas Projects Authority.**

During its period in office the Government has embarked on a course of substantial public sector reform.

This is an important yet little understood programme which has immense implications for the State. Government administration has in many areas failed to keep pace with both the public's need and the requirement that public administration meets established criteria of efficiency.

Since the creation of the Building Management Authority it has become clear there are a number of difficulties associated with the review and restructure of Government organisations.

The establishment of the Functional Review Committee has provided a structure and a process for handling reviews of the public sector. Some problems have resulted relating to the career consequences for public employees in restructured organisations.

During this Session the Government plans to make a Ministerial Statement called **Managing Change in the Public Sector**. This will outline those general principles which will assist public sector organisations in becoming more responsive to change.

It will help organisations in altering their systems to allow for review. It will help to build-in operational flexibility to ensure the effective and efficient use of public resources.

The Statement will assume that the public will not accept a substantial extension of the tax base to fund new or expanded public services.

The Government has recently created a new Department of Services with administrative responsibility for the Government Printing Office, Government Stores, State Tender Board and Astronomical Services. Other service agencies will be eventually brought under this new Department.

The aim is to rationalise and streamline the operations of the various agencies into an efficient and effective structure under the authority of a Minister of State with consequent cost savings to the public sector.

In opening Parliament in July 1984 and in August last year I said parliamentary and electoral reform was high on the Government's legislative agenda.

The Government's priority has not changed.

But in this Session the Government believes it has a new mandate to effect such reform; and that the State election demonstrated that electors want electoral reform. The Government maintained its majority in the Legislative Assembly and increased its representation in the Legislative Council to become the largest single party in that Chamber.

A new **Electoral Reform Bill** will be introduced to give effect to the Government's 1986 election policy and will address changes to our electoral system which will be fairer to all electors in the State.

Parliament will have the opportunity to dispose of the existing electoral system which the Government believes is a source of embarrassment among representative governments within Australia and in the Western world.

The legislation will seek to create an electoral system which will give all voters an approximately equal say in electing a Legislative Assembly and a Legislative Council, but at the same time give special consideration for country people.

It will propose that:

- all electoral boundaries be drawn by independent electoral commissioners;
- all Members of both Houses of Parliament be elected for four year terms, beginning with the 1989 election; and
- the marking of preferences on ballot papers be optional.

The Government believes in the goal that every citizen is entitled to an equal voice in choosing the government and that the changes proposed are designed to achieve that end.

The Government expects that the legislative process in both Houses of Parliament will generate positive alternative proposals. The Government's over-riding aim will be to ensure that the composition of future Parliaments will accurately reflect the voters' wishes.

The Government is determined to improve the environment and give more attention to controls to protect the environment in the future.

The Government will introduce new comprehensive environmental legislation—the **Environmental Protection Bill**—to replace the present Act of 15 years standing. The existing legislation has been found to be ineffective in a number of areas, particularly in dealing with pollution problems.

The new Bill will plan to consolidate responsibility for the control of air, noise and water pollution within one Environmental Protection Authority.

The Authority will be given power to assess the impact of development proposals and to advise the Government on them.

One early and important effect of the changes will be the establishment of a unit of the Environmental Protection Authority in the Kwinana area with strong links to Government authorities. The unit will be responsible for the control of pollution in the region, including Cockburn Sound.

The Government will appoint an environmental expert for industry to work for 12 months to establish a detailed mechanism for the control of industries at Kwinana. The expert will contribute to environmental aspects of major new projects.

The legislation will provide for maximum attention to be given to gaining the co-operation of both developers and industry, and it will also make provision for community involvement. It will specify higher penalties to reflect community concern about environmental damage.

As part of its concern about the environment the Government this year will declare Western Australia's first marine parks and reserves under the provisions of the Conservation and Land Management Act. Accordingly, two marine parks—Ningaloo and Marmion—will be declared.

The Government has also set up a Working Group to recommend a system of marine parks and marine nature reserves designed to protect some of the State's marine ecosystems and habitats.

These developments herald a new era for conservation in Western Australia, and will help ensure that the delicately balanced coastal environment is properly managed in the face of the rapid increase in its use by the public.

In this Parliamentary Session, two major conservation management plans—for the Shannon Reserve-D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the Lane-Poole Reserve—will be completed. These will be the result of a comprehensive programme of publicity, workshops, public submissions and guidance from advisory committees.

The Government will introduce significant amendments to the Liquor Act this Session. A Liquor Licensing Authority is proposed, separating the judicial and administrative functions of the Licensing Court.

Legislation will be introduced based on recommendations of the report on gaming in Western Australia under the chairmanship of Dr David Mossenson. An authority will be set up to control fund-raising by gaming. It will also control and issue bingo and raffle permits to the various organisations that depend on such functions.

Eighteen months ago the Government reorganised its arrangements for its contribution to the defence of the America's Cup by establishing an America's Cup Office.

During the period from October this year to February 1987 Western Australia expects to be host to more than one million visitors. This will be a rare opportunity for Western Australia to demonstrate to the world its outstanding attractions, the friendliness of its people, and to establish itself as a leading centre for tourists.

The America's Cup will provide long-term benefits which will outweigh the outlay of funds for public facilities.

My Government is confident that the Cup will attract to Perth the largest collection of the world's leaders in commerce and industry yet assembled in this city. This will provide an unprecedented opportunity for the State to display its immense potential as a base for commercial and industrial operations throughout South East Asia and the Indian Ocean.

It is no coincidence that in November Perth will host a major international conference—Pac-Rim—to evaluate directions in the Pacific region.

During its first term the Government removed half the backlog of more than 20 Law Reform Commission reports. It will continue to implement these reports as a matter of priority.

Legislation relating to the admissibility in evidence of computer records, appeals from Courts of Petty Sessions, trustees' powers of investment, and interstate and foreign grants of probate will be introduced during this Parliamentary Session.

In this Session it is hoped to legislate to establish an independent Statutory Costs Committee to fix the scale of costs for lawyers' fees. Half the committee's members will be non-lawyers.

Work will continue on implementation of recommendations of the Review of the Criminal Code under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Murray Q.C.

The Bills of Sale Act will be amended to avoid duplication of obligations arising as a result of new consumer credit and chattel security legislation.

I now turn to my Government's important economic development programme.

Western Australia is one of the leading resource and energy-rich provinces in the world and because of this has significant competitive advantages in the Asian region in particular.

The central goal of energy policy and planning is to ensure that energy is available to all sections of the Western Australian community when required at the lowest possible price consistent with broader Government objectives.

The Government recognises the fundamental importance of the agricultural, mineral and resources sectors to the State's economy and their dependence on energy availability. The recent downturn in oil prices and continuing uncertainty in oil markets is leading to a careful reassessment of domestic and export energy markets and of investment decisions affecting new energy-based mineral processing projects.

The diversity of energy resources and the current gas surplus mean that there is now considerable potential for energy-intensive production and value-added processing of natural resources in the State and the establishment of associated manufacturing enterprises and service industries.

Western Australia is now in a position to take advantage of the shift in the world's economic activity towards the Pacific Rim and the growth in regional trade.

Since coming to office, the Government has been reviewing the operation of the State Energy Commission, particularly in the areas of energy policy and planning and considering the establishment of a new organisation to take over these functions from the Commission.

Legislation will be introduced in this Session to amend the State Energy Commission Act to allow the setting up of an independent Office of Energy Policy and Planning.

Its role will be to define, evaluate, and recommend energy policy and planning options and to assess the implications of the development, production, distribution, and use of energy in the State.

Agriculture remains an essential component of the State's economy.

Honourable Members will know that the State Government is making a concerted effort to help farmers overcome difficulties associated with the economic downturn in the rural sector, particularly the difficulties facing grain producers.

It has instigated a series of initiatives aimed at offsetting the effects of high interest rates and believes it is imperative that action be taken to prevent more farmers being forced off the land.

The Government is currently reviewing problems associated with non-farm businesses in rural areas and has implemented measures to help country people face the social difficulties resulting from economic readjustment.

The Government recognises that despite the economic downturn, agriculture must, and will, continue to be of profound importance to Western Australia. The Government is firmly committed to maintaining its support for the primary producing sector. Its legislative programme will demonstrate that commitment.

The Government has approved the setting up of a Primary Products Promotions Unit within the Rural and Allied Industries Council. Its aim is to protect and expand the share of the Western Australian food market filled by local primary producers.

Primary producers will benefit also from Government plans to make Westrail more competitive through adopting a more commercial and enterprising role.

Westrail will be restructured financially and is set to become a more businesslike entity comparable with its competitors.

Under these competitive conditions Westrail will deliver increased productivity and be a more effective transporter. It will provide transport services at lower cost to agricultural and mining exporters.

The competitive Westrail programme is designed to remove deficit support for railways and this will benefit all taxpayers.

While agriculture and mining remain the two basic components of economic development in our State, the Government's first term was characterised by the realisation of the need to broaden and diversify the State's economic base. Priority was given to identifying new markets, new technologies and new forms of assistance.

In the Government's second term a complete overhaul will be made of existing measures to assist the modernisation of industry including a review of legislation affecting industry. Key industries to receive special attention will include shipbuilding, defence, electronics and mineral and agricultural processing.

In the industrial relations area my Government intends introducing legislation to repeal Part VI (a) of the Industrial Relations Act and to give the Industrial Relations Commission the power to give or withdraw preference to unions.

The aim of the measure is to encourage the Government's policy of creating a better industrial relations climate through consultation and consensus.

Consultation will also be the keynote of the work of the Bureau of the Aged in developing services for senior citizens.

The Government is committed to a comprehensive policy on the accommodation and transport needs of the aged. It will continue to work towards co-ordination of aged services between departments, and supports this with a comprehensive data base on the demography of the aged, their services, programmes and needs.

The Government's programme also includes legislation for:

- The repeal of the **General Insurance Brokers and Agents Act** which has been rendered redundant by Commonwealth legislation. The repeal legislation will provide for pro-rata refunding of licence fees for insurance brokers and agents.
- The extension of the jurisdiction of the **Builders' Registration Board** beyond the Metropolitan area; and
- The reduction of the costs carried by land holders.

Finally, the Government has announced its intention to introduce a Bill to amend the **Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act** to ensure that this important source of revenue is fully protected. The legislation will be retrospective to April 29, 1986—the date of the Government's announcement.

Honourable Members, the legislative programme before you covers many areas of governmental activity; it has the simple aim of providing a better standard of living for all the people of Western Australia.

I now declare this First Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your deliberations.

[His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.]

[Questions taken.]

## SUPREME COURT AMENDMENT BILL

*Leave to Introduce*

**HON. D. K. DANS** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [3.47 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

*Distribution of Copies*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths): I wish to announce that, for the sake of accuracy, I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech, which will now be distributed to members.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

*Motion*

**HON. GRAHAM EDWARDS** (North Metropolitan) [3.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency—

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

It is a privilege, Mr President, to move this motion in the first session of the thirty-second Parliament.

It is an honour to again welcome His Excellency, Professor Gordon Reid, and Mrs Reid, to the Legislative Council. I was very pleased to read, Sir, of His Excellency's award of the Companion of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, awarded to him for his public service, service to learning, and service to

the Crown. This award is fair recognition of the very considerable contribution he has made, and continues to make, to Australia and in particular to Western Australia. It is a pleasure to see His Excellency here, and his presence is enhanced by that of his very fine wife and lady, Mrs Reid.

I recognise other distinguished guests and, in particular, those leaders of the Australian defence forces representing our Navy, Army, and Air Force.

I intend to speak, but briefly, on two issues which I addressed in my maiden speech in this House just three years ago. Before I do, however, Mr President, I wish to congratulate all of those members who were either re-elected or elected to this House for the first time. I wish them well in the hope that all we achieve in this place, collectively and individually, is to the enhancement of this State and to the betterment of the people in this State.

Special congratulations are due to my most recent colleague, Hon. John Halden, whom I welcome to Parliament, and with whom I look forward to working in North Metropolitan Province.

I wish also to congratulate Hon. Kay Hallahan for her deserved election to the Ministry. She has the full support of her colleagues, and as the first-ever woman Minister of this House she is poised to make a significant contribution in those areas for which she carries ministerial responsibility.

I must also reflect, Mr President, that the opening of this Parliament is poorer for the sad loss of our friend and colleague, Clive Hughes. The passing of Clive was a particular loss because he was a young man with much to offer and his contribution will be missed. It was highly appropriate that His Excellency, Professor Reid, mentioned both Clive Hughes and our former State Premier, Hon. A. R. G. Hawke in his speech.

The first of the issues with which I wish to briefly deal is that of equal opportunity for disabled persons.

I have for the past 18 months or so been chairing a task force which has been looking at legislation in this area.

Our task force has one further meeting, following which a discussion paper will be presented to the Premier. Contained in that paper are some 80 draft recommendations designed to benefit not only the disabled community but the whole community of which all disabled people are a part.

The discussion paper is entitled "A Fair Go for Disabled People" and contains moderate and sensible proposals which suggest change through a balance of legislation, public education, and policy redirection.

As an important part of the task force deliberations, this paper will be available for public comment before final recommendations are put to the Premier.

The members of the working party, which I am pleased to say has excellent representation and includes members of the disabled community, have worked hard in the presentation of this paper which I trust members and other interested persons will read and respond to in a reasoned and intelligent manner so as to help achieve that which the report sets out to achieve: A fair go for disabled people.

The other issue which I addressed in my maiden speech and which I also wish to address today is that of electoral reform and the introduction of democracy to this Chamber.

Members would be aware that the Premier has revealed details of our electoral reform proposals which were again outlined this afternoon by His Excellency, Professor Reid.

One of the many real benefits which will flow to the electorate will be the multiple choice which will be provided to electors under our regional proposals when they choose which member of Parliament they wish to consult.

Currently in my Province of North Metropolitan, three of the four Assembly seats are held by Government members and both members of the Legislative Council are also members of the Government.

A Liberal voter who wishes to consult a member of the State Legislature has no choice but to approach a member who is Labor, or that elector has to go outside the electorate to see a member of the party for whom he voted.

I might say, Mr President, that all electors, regardless of politics, who approach Government members in the northern suburbs are assured of excellent service and strong representation. That, however, is not the point.

Under our proposal my province would become part of a region which will return seven members, some of whom are bound to be Liberal, with a reasonable possibility of one being a Democrat. So not only will voters have a choice of members of the Legislative Council to approach, but they will also have an option of members who represent favoured parties or philosophies from which to choose. This choice



is currently not available under the current situation to North Metropolitan voters living in the Assembly seats of Scarborough, Whitford, and Joondalup.

I was heartened to read in the newspaper at the weekend that the Liberal Party is considering changing its stance on electoral reform. I certainly trust that this is the case and that the newspaper report is accurate.

I remind honourable members of the sponsorship of the television series "Anzacs" by the Liberal Party in October last year and of the letter from the leader, Mr Hassell, sent to electors in Whitford in which he made the statement that the Anzacs fought for democracy.

I take this opportunity to remind the House of what democracy means, and I take the liberty of quoting from the *English-Australian Oxford Dictionary*, remembering that our Australian system of Parliament stems from England. That dictionary defines democracy as—

Government by the people; the state in which this prevails. The principle that all citizens have equal political rights.

That, Mr President, is democracy.

I am pleased that the Liberal Party is showing signs of recognising democracy and I encourage its support for the introduction of that great principle into this House.

It is that principle, coupled with freedom, which has been embodied in the spirit and sacrifice of ANZAC and carried through two World Wars and numerous other conflicts.

It is to Western Australia's lasting shame that this House does not reflect true democracy. While many thousands have died to protect it, we here need only to vote fairly to achieve it. Impatient for the realisation of that possibility, it is with great personal optimism and anticipation that I support the motion.

**HON. FRED McKENZIE** (North-East Metropolitan) [3.58 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. G. E. Masters (Leader of the Opposition).

*House adjourned at 4.00 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### BILL OF RIGHTS

*Effect: Portfolios*

1. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services, The Family, Youth, The Aged, and Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs:

- (1) Has she studied the Federal Government's Bill of Rights legislation presently before the Senate as it relates to her ministerial portfolios?
- (2) If "yes", does she fully support the Bill in its present form?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Bill of Rights is a matter of general Government policy, and in that regard it is supported.

### PRISONERS

*Fremantle: Fight*

2. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Prisons:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the report in the Press last night and this morning concerning the alleged fight at

Fremantle Prison between the Mickelburg brothers, Raymond and Peter, and a group of Aborigines?

- (2) If the Minister is so aware, has he ordered an investigation into this incident?
- (3) Will the Minister give consideration to transferring these prisoners to a less secure prison such as Canning Vale Prison?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) I am aware of the incident and I have received a preliminary report on it. The matter is currently being investigated by the police and I expect to receive further reports as that investigation proceeds.

Nothing that has come to my attention so far would indicate that the incident of itself would justify the transfer of the Mickelbergs from Fremantle Prison.