

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 14 March 1996

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 pm.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko) took the Chair, and read prayers.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr P.J. McHugh) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AO, MC) summoning the fourth session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening speech (see Council report preceding), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - NEW TELEVISIONING AND SOUND SYSTEM

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko): I advise that the new televising and sound system is operating today. On members' desks is a blue sheet giving a brief description of how to use the equipment. Some members have already had a more extensive briefing on the system including an inspection of the control rooms. That opportunity will be extended to all members next week. I will make a further statement in relation to the system on Tuesday next week.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - MEMBER FOR KALGOORLIE

Resignation

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko): Members, on 8 February I received a letter from the member for Kalgoorlie resigning as member for Kalgoorlie in the Legislative Assembly. With respect to that letter, I have caused a writ to be issued to supply the vacancy in the electoral district of Kalgoorlie. The writ was issued in 16 February, nominations closed on 23 February and polling day will be 16 March 1996.

I table the letter.

[See paper No 12.]

BILLS (25) - ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Secondary Education Authority Amendment Bill 1995
2. Business Licensing Amendment Bill 1995
3. Acts Amendment (Vehicle Licences) Bill 1995
4. Strata Titles Amendment Bill 1995
5. Real Estate Legislation Amendment Bill 1995
6. Government Employees Superannuation Amendment Bill (No 2) 1995
7. Agricultural Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 1995
8. Government Employees Superannuation Amendment Bill 1994
9. Local Government Bill 1995
10. Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Bill 1995
11. Acts Amendment (Racing and Betting Legislation) Bill 1995
12. Acts Amendment (Betting Tax) Bill 1995
13. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 1) 1995
14. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 2) 1995
15. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 3) 1995
16. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 4) 1995
17. Loan Bill 1995
18. Water Corporation Bill 1995

19. Water and Rivers Commission Bill 1995
20. Water Services Coordination Bill 1995
21. Water Agencies Restructure (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 1995
22. Sentencing Bill 1995
23. Sentence Administration Bill 1995
24. Sentencing (Consequential Provisions) Bill 1995
25. Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 1995

PETITION - BUSSELTON HOSPITAL, PRIVATISATION POLICY

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.02 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned petitioners:

1. Call on the State Government to reverse its policy of privatisation at the Busselton Hospital.
2. Call on the State Government to ensure that the 1995 structures of the Health Service remain unchanged.

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

The petition bears 2 413 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 1.]

**PETITION - REGIONAL PARK SOUTH OF GUILBERTON
ESTABLISHMENT TO PROTECT MOORE RIVER AND DUNES**

MR McGINTY (Fremantle - Leader of the Opposition) [3.03 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the Government establish a Regional Park immediately to the south of Guilderton in order to protect the mouth and lower reaches of the Moore River and the significant dunes and coastal heathland south of the mouth of the Moore River.

We request that the Government take urgent action to acquire this land before it is further rezoned or developed, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 91 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

A similar petition was presented by Mr Cunningham (92 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 2 and 4.]

PETITION - CENSORSHIP BILL 1995, AMENDMENT

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [3.04 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

This petition shows that whereas the Censorship Bill 1995 would permit:

- a) the possession of X-rated videos and their exhibition in any place other than a public place;
- b) the free distribution of X-rated video material and the proliferation of R-rated violence and pornography on computer services; and
- c) a defence of artistic or literary merit to offences relating to child pornography.

we the undersigned petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled should ensure that the Bill is amended to:

- a) prohibit the possession and exhibition of X-rated videos;
 - b) prohibit the distribution of X-rated and restricted material on computer services; and
 - c) remove the defence of artistic or literary merit for offences relating to child pornography;
- and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 1 479 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 3.]

PETITION - SCHOOL CLEANING, CONTRACTING OUT

MRS HENDERSON (Thornlie) [3.05 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia oppose the State Government's decision to contract out school cleaning as we believe cleaners are committed and enthusiastic members of the school community who make a substantial contribution to the school's wide range of activities and programmes often outside the prescribed hours. They are often seen as friends and mentors by children particularly before and after school. We consider that such loyalty will be sacrificed by the contracting out of school cleaning.

We are also appalled at the Government's callous treatment of school cleaners in that:

The Government has not honoured its commitment to retain day labour even though cleaners have met targets for improved productivity;

The Government has not justified economically how, or why, the decision was made; and

The Government has not kept its promise to let school cleaners and the Miscellaneous Workers' Union know of any decision before it was made public.

Your petitions, therefore respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to reverse the decision to contract out school cleaning and replace the Arthur Andersen Report which allegedly justifies this decision.

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

The petition bears 44 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 5.]

CHattel SECURITIES AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [3.11 pm]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice -

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Chattel Securities Act.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Court (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko): Accompanied by the honourable members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency The Governor (Major General Philip Jeffery, AO, MC) in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the speech to be distributed among members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - MOTION

MR BOARD (Jandakot) [3.12 pm]: I move -

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor's speech be agreed to -

May it please your Excellency -

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to the Parliament.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those members from Western Australia who were elected to Federal Parliament recently. In particular, I congratulate all new members, who have a great deal of responsibility and face many challenges. I know they will tackle that responsibility with great vigour. Western Australia is achieving strong growth, and it is very important that the State Government and the Federal Government work very closely to produce positive outcomes for all Western Australians.

I also take this opportunity to put on the record - this is the first chance to do so - my respect and admiration for the former member for Kalgoorlie, Hon Ian Taylor. Although we did not sit on the same side of the political fence and although he has spent a great deal longer in this Parliament than I, I got to know him over recent years and I found him to be a very sincere and genuine member, one who had the interests at heart not only of his electorate but also those of Western Australia. He made a sizable contribution to this Parliament. I am sure I speak on behalf of all my colleagues when I wish him well in any endeavours he takes on in the future.

His Excellency the Governor touched on a number of issues, particularly youth. Although in this State we enjoy a climate, an environment and a quality of life which are probably second to none in the world, we have our social problems, some of which relate to youth. The pressures on young people today are considerable. Although they might enjoy many advantages over those enjoyed by previous generations, the pressures they face today far outweigh those experienced by most members of this House when we were young.

Western Australian youth is different today because nearly half of these young people were born overseas or their parents were born overseas. Many come from one-parent families. Those factors are in addition to the normal pressures they are under today. They face pressure to succeed in a very competitive world, and to get into employment or training, which for some is difficult to find. Then there is the pressure to do drugs, as young people say. There are always people around who are prepared to sell young people something to sniff, to inhale or to inject into their body, normally solely for the purpose of the personal gain of the drug dealer. Pressure comes from their peer groups to look good, to sound good. Young people are judged on how they look and what they wear, more than what they say or do. Perhaps the greatest pressure is to maintain a positive outlook for the future, and not be negative about what lies ahead of them. Some young people have turned to drugs. In Australia there is a high suicide rate among young people. There is nothing more tragic than to read about a young person who has taken his or her life because that youth felt helpless or lacked direction.

In recognising that, it is important that we do not create a negative image of youth, that we do not spend all our efforts solely on those who may have chosen to do the wrong thing or who, for some reason, are not coping with the system. It is important to recognise that the vast majority of youth is constructive in its personal development and is doing things within the community. Why do we read about one youth who may be arrested for stealing a car and doing 150 kmh down the highway, yet we do not read about the 400 or 500 children in my electorate who took part in a recent doorknock for charity? Why is that not as newsworthy as the one individual who broke the law?

This year we must make a concerted and concentrated effort on youth. Importantly we must seek the assistance of youth in doing that. We must create confidence among young people for their future. The Premier's drug task force headed by Mike Daube made a recommendation about the need for community involvement. Other issues face youth that need community involvement. The State Government can bring down a number of policies and directions; however, many issues facing youth need all in the community to be involved. We must work proactively not only with the State Government but also the Federal Government. We want to see an expansion in all services for youth.

I will spend a little time talking about employment because that is the key to many of these issues. Although there is a lot of development in Western Australia, particularly in the resources development and mining industries - we are leading Australia in the growth in export dollars in these areas - the small business sector will be the key in bringing down unemployment, particularly in Perth and for young people.

Last year I visited the United States. Although I do not hold up the United States as a model of many things, and it has its own problems, in this instance I saw a policy which reduced unemployment among youth to below 6 per cent, and 5 per cent in some States. I will not spend the time of this House talking in great detail about that program today, other than to say that it allows everyone in the community to get behind small business by investing through banks, and that investment is offset by tax deductions. That investment in small business in turn creates employment. As a result, certain States have reduced their unemployment rate to below 6 per cent and in some instances youth unemployment has been reduced to 3 per cent.

One of the recommendations of a 1992 select committee was the creation of a directorate of youth and, in particular, regional youth coordinating committees. Of course, these committees are needed in this State now and the Government is considering the issue very seriously. There is a minefield of youth policies at

federal, state and local government levels. Many of those policies need a little more coordination. With that in mind, I commend the Minister for Youth and the Premier for creating the Youth Council of Western Australia. The role of the council will be the development of policies and programs to support youth actively. The council will recommend strategies to deal with a whole range of youth issues. More importantly - and I say that unreservedly - the council will be talking to young people throughout Western Australia. I will press that council in 1996 - before the end of spring - to hold a youth summit that will provide an opportunity for young people to talk to the council about policies and programs for this Government to implement into the next century.

I am particularly pleased that the Governor mentioned the establishment of a Western Australian youth training program in schools. The Governor stated that 10 trial programs will start in the first term of this year. This is a very exciting program. It is not a resurgence of military cadets, as some people would know them, but the creation of a cadet program based on bringing together existing community groups and voluntary organisations to work within schools with young people. The program has enormous potential because it will bring together government services, the community and, in particular, the school communities. We hope that in the next couple of years every state high school in Western Australia will have an opportunity to be involved in the program. There is the potential for 150 cadets in each school. The program is not compulsory, but it will give young people the opportunity to take part in leadership, communication, first aid, physical and survival courses. They will need these skills in their future employment and social life.

The existing military cadets in Western Australia have been successful, although their numbers have declined in recent years. Unfortunately, the numbers are now down to just over a couple of thousand cadets. We hope that in the next three years under this scheme will increase to 10 000. I will briefly run through the trials that have been established. The Air Training Corps has started a program at Swanleigh Residential College involving 70 cadets. The Army Cadet Corps has been established at Eastern Hills Senior High School and 60 cadets are involved. The Naval Reserve cadets at South Fremantle High School number 36. The Emergency Services Cadet Corps at Mandurah Senior High School has undertaken a program involving 35 cadets in conjunction with the search, sea and rescue service. The Emergency Services Cadet Corps at Collie Senior High School is due to commence tomorrow with 35 cadets. The Emergency Services Cadet Corps at Katanning Senior High School will commence this week with 20 cadets. The police rangers at Balga Senior High School will commence tomorrow with 70 ranger cadets. Churchlands Senior High School started a program last month with 40 cadets. The St John Ambulance cadet program - the first in the State - at Willetton Senior High School, the State's largest school, will start later this month with 50 cadets and the Army Cadet Corps will be established at Carnarvon Senior High School. We are being pressed by a whole range of other schools, including Maddington Senior High School and Safety Bay school, that want to start programs. Unfortunately, we cannot start those programs at the same time. However, I hope we will be able to extend the program significantly next year and at least double the number of groups participating.

I am happy to indicate that the WA health promotion unit, Healthway, is behind the program. All the messages in relation to Healthway, Drinksafe, Sunsafe and Smoking - No Way are included in the program and it is also prepared to support it wherever possible. I am delighted to note that the new federal coalition Government has taken up our suggestion that there be a commonwealth-state relationship for the cadets and it will be providing the State Governments with up to \$3m to assist in this program. It is not appropriate for me to list the people who have been involved in the program, and I will thank them at a later time.

Our generation will be judged by the legacy that we leave for our young. The responsibility is ours. The challenge is for us to search constantly for new ways to provide the best opportunities we can for the next generation of Western Australians. This is not an issue for which any one side of politics can claim to have a total solution and it is an area in which we must all work together for the long term benefit of Western Australians. The future of this State is in the hands of the young and there is an incumbent duty on all of us to provide the best opportunities that we can for their progress.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [3.26 pm]: I formally second the motion.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.27 pm]: The Opposition would like to take this opportunity to make some comments about the Government's speech to the Parliament delivered by the Governor and to raise some issues we believe are important to the people of Western Australia. It is our view that the coalition Government has been an enormous disappointment to the people of Western Australia. Indeed, the rather lacklustre and unstructured speech prepared for the Governor is indicative of the attitude and approach of the coalition Government to this State. The attitudes, values and prejudices of this Government are those of 20 years ago. Time has moved on; we have new issues to address; we have new concerns; and we have a community with new expectations. Instead of addressing those issues, this Government finds it enormously difficult to come to terms with their very existence.

The **SPEAKER**: I ask the member to resume his seat. He will be aware that depending on whether he is the lead speaker for the Opposition, the time allocated to him will be different. I ask the member to advise me.

Dr GALLOP: I am not the lead speaker. The benchmark issue in Australian politics for determining the difference between the past and the future is the report of the royal commission. The attitude taken to that

report and the approach of members of this Parliament to it show who is looking to the future as opposed to who is anchored in the past. That report, for the first time in this State's history, enabled the community to express its view about the nature of government in this State. The nature of government was subject to systematic analysis and scrutiny in that report. That royal commission report and the reports that have followed from the Commission on Government should have set the agenda for any Government in Western Australia.

It is an enormous disappointment that the coalition Government has failed to come to grips with the message that was sent out by the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters.

Firstly, I refer to the state of this State's public sector. A fundamental reform that was at the heart of the royal commission's report was the depoliticisation and strengthening of the State's public sector. The Government not only completely contradicted the recommendations of the royal commission's report with its Public Sector Management Act, but also it is evident by the actions of Ministers of this Government that it has completely undermined the tradition of public service in this State. This has resulted in the once proud Public Service that served the citizens throughout this State on the basis of equality being privatised and contracted out. Senior officials who work for the Government no longer work for the people of Western Australia but for Ministers who have their particular narrow ideological objectives. The undermining of that tradition of public service is no better illustrated than in the health system of Western Australia. Most of the senior officials of the Health Department have left the Public Service with the result that this State is in a much poorer position to address the major public health issues which confront it. It is a great disappointment that that issue is not addressed in the Governor's speech to the Parliament today. It appears this Government does not have any comprehension of what it has done to the State's Public Service.

Secondly, and very importantly, the royal commission and the Commission on Government made it clear that the State's electoral system was not serving the needs of Western Australia. It is not only an unprincipled electoral system, but also it creates a Legislative Council which cannot perform the role of a check and balance in this State's system of government. We have had the royal commission's report as well as the Commission on Government's report -

Mr Cowan: And the High Court's decision.

Dr GALLOP: I advise the Leader of the National Party that the High Court was looking at the question of the constitutionality and legality of the system. The High Court did not address the morality of the electoral system in this State.

The Legislative Council in Western Australia is a disgrace; it is to the shame of the people of Western Australia that when opposition members visit other jurisdictions they are compelled to say that when there is a coalition Government in power in this State there is no check and balance from the Legislative Council. One would think that after two major reports this Government would have electoral reform at the top of its agenda, but it does not.

Thirdly, I refer to two terms which are used in the political vocabulary and which are fundamental to the royal commission's report. The first is the concept of responsibility and responsible government and the second is the concept of accountability. I inform the Government that in this session of Parliament the Opposition will directly focus on those two concepts as the basis of its actions in this Parliament.

I refer to the so-called backflips that have occurred in Western Australian politics in recent days and I will link them to the issues of responsibility and accountability. The backflip which interested me is that related to the Health budget. It is very interesting that for two years the Opposition, the trade union movement, the Australian Medical Association, the rural communities and all those people interested in this State's health system have been telling this Government that its Budget strategy was unsustainable. The Opposition told the Government that its 1995-96 Budget was simply not sustainable in terms of the money that had been delivered to the hospitals in Western Australia.

What did the Government do when the Opposition, the Western Australian branch of the Australian Nursing Federation, the Miscellaneous Workers Union, the Australian Medical Association and others pointed to that crisis? The Government said the Opposition was telling lies and that it was spreading misinformation about the health system. Of course, the Opposition knew that the reality was that not some, but all, the senior officials in the Health Department had left this State's Public Service. Many nurses have left the system. The failure of this Government to negotiate an agreement with the nurses meant that this State lost many skilled nurses to the Eastern States. The standard of this State's hospital system declined to serious levels. Every member in this Parliament has had constituents in his electorate office telling him of the consequences of the budget strategy. Now, all of a sudden, only a few weeks after the Premier said there had been an increase in health expenditure in Western Australia and all was well, \$81m was found for the Health budget.

Who within the coalition Government will carry the responsibility for the crisis that was created in the health system; who will carry the responsibility for the fact that this State lost many nurses; who will carry the responsibility for the fact that this State lost all of its senior administrators in the health system; and who will carry the responsibility for the loss of service to the citizens of Western Australia who had to carry the can for the diminution of the service which has occurred over the past couple of years? I can

answer that question because in our system of responsible government it was this Minister for Labour Relations, who was the former Minister for Health, who accused the Opposition of telling lies about the health system; it was the former Minister for Health who was the agent of misinformation in this instance; and it was the former Minister for Health who was the creator of the crisis in the health system.

I advise this Parliament that one of the things the Opposition will do in this House is to hold that Minister to account for what has happened in the health system. One of the Opposition's first moves in this Parliament, on behalf of the nurses of Western Australia, the administrators in the health system, the doctors who work in the hospital system and the rural communities in this State who have lost significantly by the changes to the patient assisted travel scheme will be to make sure that that responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the Minister who carried the Health portfolio in the past 12 months. Make no mistake, the Opposition will not rest in its actions in this Parliament until the standards of responsible government are observed in this Parliament.

Finally, I refer to what is now quite clearly the Wanneroo fiasco. It is clear that this Government is completely incapable of dealing with this issue. It cannot address the issue because members of its party are involved in the whole fiasco.

Let us consider the process that has occurred so far in respect of the Wanneroo fiasco. Firstly, we had the secret Mann report, the details of which were never revealed to the Parliament. The Government took the view that that report, which dealt with one aspect of this dispute, would satisfy the public. It thought it would get away with it by keeping the report within its environs and not releasing it to the public. It thought that that would be enough to satisfy public pressure. However, the pressure continued and a court case resulted in the former Mayor of Wanneroo being sent to gaol. The Kyle inquiry was reconstituted and, despite pressure from the Opposition and interest groups outside Parliament to ensure that the inquiry had proper indemnity for its processes and procedures, the Government said that that was not necessary to its functioning. It is interesting that the Government is now saying that its advice is that a royal commission is necessary. The Opposition will certainly pursue the Government on the advice it received when the Opposition introduced legislation to give that inquiry proper indemnity.

The Government said it would create a royal commission but, despite the urgings of the former inquirer, Mr Kyle, the terms of reference of that inquiry will not be widened. Each time the Government addresses this fundamental issue which concerns every citizen in this State, because it affects the reputation of this State, it thinks it can trick the public by taking a little step here and there, but really it does not confront the issue. Times have moved on.

The notion of executive government as the core of political practice is now redundant. The royal commission, the recommendations that followed it, and the political climate in which we now live mean that accountability of the Government to the people and of the Parliament to the people is the most fundamental concept that should govern the way our system operates. That demands a royal commission which will deal with all the issues that have been put on the agenda, not just by members of the Opposition, in particular the member for Peel, but also by members of the community such as the current mayor of Wanneroo and the former inquirer, Mr Kyle. The Opposition in this Parliament will be pursuing this issue with vigour. We want to send a message to the backbench of the Government that if they think they have overcome this problem by reconstitution of the Kyle inquiry as a royal commission, they should think again.

The Opposition will pursue this issue day in and day out in this Parliament on behalf of not only the people, and the former and current councillors and mayor of the City of Wanneroo, who want to see their council based on a proper reputation, but also the people of Western Australia so that we know that the system of government, be it local government or State Government, is working properly.

It was reported in *The West Australian* yesterday that four major areas of inquiry may not be taken up by the reconstituted royal commission including the questions of police corruption and the adequacy of the police inquiry. They are major issues that concern the people of this State. Drug running, and senior police officers trying to buy a goldmining company and having links to Northbridge crime, are issues that this Government does not want on the agenda of the inquiry into Wanneroo Inc. Of concern also is the money trail to political campaigns and Liberal Party coffers and the role of Premier Richard Court's senior adviser, Richard Elliott, in the latter years of Wanneroo Inc.

Times have moved on. The Executive can no longer say to the public, "Trust us, everything is okay." The people of Western Australia want a guarantee that matters of concern that are raised by distinguished people such as Peter Kyle are properly investigated in this State. The people of Western Australia want to know that their electoral system and the Legislative Council, which is an important product of that electoral system, are acting properly in the interests of the people of this State. The people of Western Australia want to know that their Public Service is above board. The Public Service is now riddled with conflicts of interest through the introduction of consultancies into its operation. Most importantly, the people want to be assured, with the major allegations made about Wanneroo, that a full and open inquiry is conducted into not just the narrow terms of reference that the Government wants, but also the broader terms of reference that the *The West Australian*, Peter Kyle, and the current mayor of Wanneroo want dealt with in that inquiry. The opposition benches will be vigorous in this session of Parliament in raising these issues and ensuring that the public interest is foremost in the proceedings of this Parliament.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bloffwitch.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko): I wish to advise members of the appointment of the following members as Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session: The member for Darling Range (Mr Day), the member for Dianella (Dr Hames), the member for Perth (Ms Warnock), the member for Roe (Mr Ainsworth) and the member for Whitford (Mr Johnson).

[Questions without notice taken.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

On motion by Mr C.J. Barnett (Leader of the House), resolved -

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 19 March at 2.00 pm.

House adjourned at 3.59 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO WANNEROO INC - CASH, HON GEORGE
Police Inquiries into Allegations of Criminal Behaviour; Terms of Reference

1. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the police have investigated allegations of criminal behaviour involving the Government Leader in the Legislative Council, Hon George Cash, which surfaced during the Kyle inquiry into Wanneroo Inc?
- (2) Are those allegations the reason the Premier has refused to extend the terms of reference for the royal commission into Wanneroo Inc?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any inquiries, or whatever, that have taken place.
- (2) The terms of reference were established while members opposite were in government.

BUNBURY TIMBER JETTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY - FUNDING

2. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Bunbury Timber Jetty Preservation Society has waited many years for government approval for the funds which would otherwise be used for the demolition of the jetty to be paid to the society so that the jetty can be preserved?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that the society has literally reached the limits of its endurance, and that government action on this issue is necessary for the jetty to be saved?
- (3) Will the Minister make provision in the Budget for the achievement of the society's aim?

Mr LEWIS replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for some notice of this question. The Minister for Transport has briefed me on this question.

- (1)-(3) Yes, I am aware of the activity and the wait experienced by the Bunbury Timber Jetty Preservation Society. The society has had discussions with the City of Bunbury and the Department of Transport concerning the transfer of ownership of the facilities to the Bunbury City Council.

Mr D.L. Smith: What about the funding?

Mr LEWIS: Please, be patient.

Those discussions have continued on the basis that the equivalent cost of the demolition of that jetty would be paid directly to the Bunbury City Council. The council would then assume the responsibility for the future upkeep, care and maintenance of that jetty. In October 1995 the council confirmed its decision to accept ownership of the jetty on that basis.

In the budgetary process the Minister for Transport will make overtures to ensure that the estimated costs of demolition will be paid to the City of Bunbury so it can assume those responsibilities, and therefore those funds will be turned over to the preservation society for the ongoing upkeep, maintenance and restoration of that facility. As a result of a request from the Minister for Transport to the Department of Transport the council will assume the immediate responsibility for the care and maintenance of that jetty and the Department of Transport will retain the financial responsibility for that until the negotiations are completed and those moneys are paid.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO WANNEROO INC - KYLE, PETER
Probe into Controversial Development by Leading Perth Businessman

3. Mr MARLBOROUGH to the Premier:

I refer the Premier to the front page article in *The West Australian* on 2 March which said in its opening paragraph -

Dumped Wanneroo Inc investigator Peter Kyle confirmed yesterday he was about to launch a probe into a controversial development by a leading Perth businessman when he was replaced by the State Government three weeks ago.

- (1) Is it true that Mr Kyle reportedly said he had wanted to probe allegations that this businessman donated thousands of dollars to the 1991 election campaign funds of Wanneroo councillors through a former Wanneroo councillor with direct links to the Liberal Party?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm that the businessman is Len Buckeridge, a Liberal mate and one of his major political donors, and that the former Wanneroo councillor who allegedly received the money was Colin Edwardes, husband of the Minister for Family and Children's Services?

- (3) Was this attempted bribe to earn council approval of a controversial concrete batching plant at Neerabup?
- (4) Is this yet another reason why the Premier has refused to broaden the terms of reference of the royal commission inquiry into Wanneroo Inc?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) I thank the member for some notice of this question. The allegations have been made and the Director of Public Prosecutions has already responded to them -

Mr Marlborough: What was the response?

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Peel. Everyone heard the member's interjection the first time.

Mr COURT: The allegations were smear and innuendo without substance. Any allegation of that type would fall within the terms of reference of the royal commission that has been established. I suggest that the member or anyone else put such allegations before the commission. I am fully confident that the royal commission has the ability to make a determination on the matter.

WATER AUTHORITY - INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAM *Progress*

4. Dr HAMES to the Minister for Water Resources:

Can the Minister advise whether the Government's 10 year infill sewerage program is running ahead of time and below budget?

Mr NICHOLLS replied:

The Government's 10 year infill sewerage project is a very ambitious and important one. In 1994-95 the target for the program was 7 500 lots at a cost of \$8 600 per lot. The achievement in the first year was 8 500 lots at a cost of \$6 700 per lot. Although many of the extra lots achieved were in areas that could be considered to be easy to construct areas, both indicators - that is the number of lots and cost per lot - are that the Government will exceed the expected target. The target for 1995-96 is 9 000 lots at a cost of \$8 000 per lot. The indicators at the end of December 1995 suggest that the Government will achieve its target.

The program initially targeted 100 000 lots over 10 years at a cost of \$800m. Following a detailed review the figures have been revised and the Government expects to produce 110 000 lots over 10 years at a cost of \$800m. With 8 500 lots in the first year and 9 000 in the second year with corresponding expenditure of \$60.7m and \$76m respectively, I expect the Government will achieve its target. This is a major achievement not only for Western Australia generally, but also for the environment around Perth and in country areas.

GOLD ROYALTY - MINING INDUSTRY PROPOSAL

5. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Resources Development:

Why did the Minister tell the *Kalgoorlie Miner* that he expected the mining industry to put forward a proposal for a goldmining royalty when the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies said that it would definitely not be presenting any proposal for a gold royalty, and its chief executive said that he was not aware of any goldmining company, large or small, that would support such an action? He said also that he had absolutely no idea how the Minister reached such a conclusion when the weight of evidence to the contrary is so overwhelming. Who is telling the truth - the Minister or AMEC?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The preamble was interesting; the question was ridiculous. Since the early 1950s there has been a lot of discussion about a goldmining royalty in Western Australia. After this opening ceremony the member may like to go to the library and consult the Bradley report, which was commissioned by a Labor Government and which recommended such a royalty, or more recently the 1992 report commissioned by the Bureau of Labour Market Research, which also recommended a royalty. He might also like to talk to the other non-gold producers in the mining industry who feel strongly that there is a case for a royalty on all minerals and that gold should not be exempt. I speak to many gold producers and many of them concede that in the long term things will change in the industry.

ROADS - TOODYAY, TOP OF RED HILL, PASSING LANE PLANS

6. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister advise the commencement and completion dates of the fourth lane planned to be built along Toodyay Road between the Red Hill rubbish tip and the top of Red Hill?

Mr LEWIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. We are all aware of the hard work that the member for Swan Hills does for her constituency. She is an excellent member and opposition members are aware of that!

The Minister for Transport has briefed me on the matter. It is recognised that the existing Toodyay Road from the top of Red Hill does not provide an opportunity for vehicles to pass slow-moving traffic. Currently a passing lane is being designed to provide that capacity for the downhill section. The design will be completed by May 1996. The construction is expected to commence in December 1996 and be completed in April 1997. The construction cost will be about \$600 000.

HOSPITALS - FUNDING; CRISIS; \$81m BAILOUT

7. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's announcement last week of a \$81m bailout for public hospitals.

- (1) Will the Premier advise the House why he continues to keep the former Minister for Health in Cabinet when the Premier admitted last Wednesday that he was kept in the dark about the hospitals crisis until the Minister was replaced as Health Minister at Christmas?
- (2) Why is the Premier retaining this Minister on the front bench, given that he has single-handedly downgraded our health system by forcing our best health professionals to go to the Eastern States and by starving hospitals of urgently needed funds?
- (3) How can the Premier possibly justify his lack of action given the pain and suffering this Minister has caused to thousands of patients?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) I refer the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to a letter written by one of his former ministerial colleagues which stated that I was the first Premier who had the courage to face up to that problem.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr COURT: I do not agree with everything that Mr Wilson says. I say that with due respect to the two former Premiers here today.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I formally call to order the member for Peel. I ask him not to continue his interjections when I call for order.

Mr COURT: The member for Riverton is a very good Minister. He has never kept me or his colleagues in the dark. The public hospital system over the past three years has been able to cope with tremendous growth in activity because of the productivity improvements in the system. However, the one thing the members opposite do not want to talk about fully is that this Government has been able to provide increased funding to the health system without borrowing money. We are now starting to receive that social dividend. We can put more money into the hospitals; we can put more money into the schools; and we are spending a lot less money on interest payments.
