

Legislative Council

Wednesday, 15 September 1982

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.33 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Justices Amendment Bill.
2. Legal Aid Commission Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), and read a first time.
3. Industrial Arbitration Amendment Bill (No. 2).
Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. G. E. Masters (Minister for Labour and Industry), and read a first time.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Lotteries (Control) Amendment Bill (No. 2).
Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. R. G. Pike (Chief Secretary), and transmitted to the Assembly.
2. Bulk Handling Amendment Bill.
Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. G. E. Masters (Minister for Labour and Industry), and passed.

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 August.

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.07 p.m.]: It seems that I received some wrong information tonight. I thought this Bill would be dealt with a little later. However, I shall continue.

The Bill outlines two major proposals. The first is that the power to set fees for motor vehicle licences and for drivers' licences is to be removed from the legislation and placed in regulations. The second is that charges will be increased following the gazettal of the regulations. The proposals give the Opposition two very sound reasons for opposing the Bill.

It appears to be part of the present Government's policy to downgrade the role of the Parliament and to accentuate the role of the Executive. In other debates in this place, I have raised the issue of parliamentary representation. Every member of the Chamber, irrespective of his party affiliation, has the right to come here and represent the views of his electorate. The approach by the Government to the Bill is a retrograde step.

I know that when the Minister rises to his feet he will say, "All right, the regulations will come before the Parliament. They will be laid on the Table of the House, and the Parliament will be able to disallow them." When was the last time any member can recall regulations being disallowed in this House?

I notice that in another place it was suggested this is a way to legislate in a retrospective manner. Everyone in the Chamber knows that charges have to be raised, but we are not sure by what amount they should be raised. The parliamentary system under which we operate gives us the opportunity, as an Opposition and as members, to question Ministers, who are a part of the Executive, as to why charges should be increased. We have the right to question if the increases are fair and just. It seems that once the regulations are gazetted and the increased charges imposed, it will be a very difficult task to convince the Government of the day that the charges are wrong.

One would not have to allow one's imagination to stray very far to understand our opposition if it was found that something had been done wrong. It could be found that some people had paid, some had not paid, and those who had paid would, somehow or other, have to have their payments refunded.

The Bill has a more sinister side to it. It seems that the Government wants to increase charges, with the least amount of publicity. The easiest way to do that is by way of regulation. It would be difficult, as I have stated already, for a debate to take place in respect of something that had been done already.

I do not know how other members feel; but the downgrading of the parliamentary system, is not confined to the Parliament of Western Australia. It seems to be happening in a number of places in this country. I predict that if the downgrading continues, we will be striking at the very base of our parliamentary democracy. For that reason, I cannot lend the Opposition's support to this Bill. In fact, every private member of this House on this occasion, and on many other occasions, will

simply become a cypher, filling a seat and drawing his salary.

The Opposition objects to another part of the Bill, and that is the size of the increase in the charges. On my reading of the second reading speeches here and in another place, the Minister has not spelt out adequately the reason that the increases are being made. We were not told why increases have to be by way of regulation.

The vehicle transfer fee is to be raised from \$3 to \$5. One might say that is not very much. It does not sound a great deal; but in fact it is an increase of 66 per cent. When that is added to the other increases that have gone before, it becomes a terrific amount.

The fee for a motor driver's licence will increase from \$10 to \$11—not a great deal; only \$1. However, last year the Parliament increased the fee from \$7 to \$10, so in a very short time the fee for a driver's licence has been increased by \$4. That is a pretty hefty amount when one considers the other charges that the public are called upon to carry. It is worse when one considers that, although we have had the opportunity to debate increases in the past, in the near future increases may be made simply by regulation. In these hard economic times that is simply not good enough.

The Opposition accepts the proposition that Government charges along with all other charges in the community may have to rise; what the Opposition opposes is the raising of those charges by stealth. I know the phony argument will be used that the regulations will lay on the table of the House for a time and that if we do not like them we can move to disallow them; but that is not good enough.

The Government has the numbers in this Chamber to pass anything it wants to, so there is no need to use regulations. One can assume only that the real motive is to sneak these charges through slowly but surely and if the move is successful to try to do the same thing by regulation in a whole host of other areas. The Government believes the public will not know they have been hooked until the people look at their disposable income and see that it is down \$X. When they realise what the situation is they will be so hog-tied they will not know where to go. When they ask for higher wages all hell will break loose and the castigation and name calling will occur.

If we are to have a parliamentary system to which we can adhere and which we can swear to uphold, the raising of charges must be above board because they affect every man, woman, and child in the community and must be open to parliamentary scrutiny and debate.

The Government has erred, deliberately or otherwise, by not giving enough thought to this matter. I urge it to think again, because if this kind of approach continues it could have far reaching consequences.

We have a reasonable system of Government, so let us keep it rather than erode the rights of parliamentary representation. For those reasons the Opposition cannot support the Bill.

THE HON. W. M. PIESE (Lower Central) [5.17 p.m.]: I support the Bill. I am pleased that for once at least the Leader of the Opposition has in part supported remarks I made last session on this very matter. I said then that while I realised certain fees and charges were more expediently handled by regulation, the Government should look to impose a limit on the amount of increases introduced in one hit when made by regulation.

It is true that the matter will be looked at very carefully by the Minister when the increase is requested, but I understand that once he has seen it the request then goes to the Governor and then appears in the *Government Gazette*. Although the regulation may lie on the Table of the House, the chances are that it will not be necessarily examined by members here. This can lead to considerable problems for members when they return to their electorates and learn that a large increase has been made.

The vehicle licence transfer fee has been increased this time from only \$3 to \$5 and, as the Leader of the Opposition said, this represents a 66 per cent increase. This sort of increase is too high to be achieved by way of regulation alone.

The driver's licence is increased only by \$1, from \$10 to \$11, representing a 10 per cent rise. When we consider the other charges that have been placed on electors in recent years and we consider so called "fixed charges"—I can think of a certain fixed charge that I will not mention that has increased by regulation in less than three years from \$5 to \$30—we must be careful what charges we introduce by way of regulation. I am very concerned about the use of regulations to increase fees without a maximum limit being included in the Act. However, I support the legislation.

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Minister for Labour and Industry) [5.20 p.m.]: I thank honourable members for their comments. Clearly I am not able to agree with the Hon. Des Dans and I am sorry his party is opposed to the Bill.

The charges are not being introduced by stealth. They were announced by the Government in a public statement and have been known to the public for some time. Indeed, they are before this

House being debated right now. Therefore I cannot regard his comment as being worthy of consideration. The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that whether it be this Government or a Labor Government, on many occasions fees and charges are raised by regulation. That was the situation when the Labor Party was in Government some years ago.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: So that makes it right.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The Leader of the Opposition was not right when he said that we are denigrating the role of members of Parliament and Parliament itself. It has never been the intention of the Government that the role of members in this House should be denigrated. We are debating an issue of some importance which demonstrates clearly that at all times members are able to make their thoughts known and have them recorded clearly and concisely.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It may be the last occasion.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Members have the right to speak their mind and to represent their electors; there is no doubt about that. This House has performed well over the years that I have been here. It has carefully reviewed legislation. The work members have done has been a credit to them. I am sure the Hon. Bob Hetherington would know that in some areas he has made a major impact. So let us not talk about denigrating members or this House. This House is something of which we are proud.

Certainly the regulation will be tabled in the House. If members opposite are not looking at these regulations perhaps they are not performing their roles properly and are not representing their electors. Regulations are tabled for 14 days to enable Mr Dans and his colleagues to look at them carefully and if necessary to move that they be altered or thrown out altogether. That is what section 36 of the Interpretation Act allows. I am sure members opposite would have read it many times and used it to effect on occasions.

These increases have been made as a result of a judgment of the Government on the advice of Treasury. We are not introducing them in an unreasonable way and it is not fair to say that we have plucked them out of the air willy-nilly and increased charges by 100 per cent or 200 per cent. The Government and Cabinet consider all increases very carefully because of the effect they have on the public and therefore on the Government. The Government must always be aware of the effects of extra charges; if it did not it would be out of office very quickly. The Government will not be deterred just because the Opposition

thinks the Government's judgment is wrong. The Government considers it has its role to play in Parliament and as it has the majority it will pursue what it thinks is a proper and responsible course of action.

It should be borne in mind that over recent years this Government has achieved a record in financial management that is second to none in Australia, and that includes both Federal and State Governments.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: By constantly increasing charges above the inflation rate.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That is not true. I will not mention the charges imposed by the New South Wales Government and the problems it is faced with because of its neglect and bad management. I will not be so rude as to draw those matters to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition.

We have shown good management. We have made a financial judgment and brought the increases to the House accordingly.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And stealthily.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I know the Hon. Win Piesse is concerned about increasing fees by way of regulation. This is a decision of the Minister who has made a recommendation to Cabinet. Cabinet has decided on a course of action. In many cases these matters are discussed in our party room if there are problems. These matters can be debated and discussed in any Budget debate in this House.

I ask members to support this proposition because it is a reasonable one. It is the sort of proposition any Government would put before this House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 August.

THE HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (East Metropolitan) [5.28 p.m.]: It is with some satisfaction that the Opposition supports this measure. I am glad to see that after all the tortuous nonsense that has gone on about the Western

Australian School of Mines, commonsense has now at last won out once more.

It is a great pity that the original recommendation of the Jackson committee in the 1960s was not adhered to so that the WA School of Mines, which then became part of WAIT, stayed that way and we did not have all the nonsense of trying to get the Eastern Goldfields Technical College and the School of Mines united in a federation of post-secondary institutions, which was obviously arrant nonsense from the outset and could come to no good at all.

I know the Tonkin Government must take its share of the blame, but it was the conventional wisdom in the late 1960s and the early 1970s that we should multiply independent colleges and colleges of advanced education. I remember having a very short debate with the present Director General of Education when he was Principal of the Nedlands College.

I said there should have been a multi-campus CAE established in Western Australia and he said he did not agree with me. In due course, we had multi-campus CAEs forced upon us. It would have been better if we had gone for this in the first place and planned it accordingly without the unfortunate empire-building that went on in between the establishment of these CAEs and their reunion men.

One of the things that has been drawn to my attention—and I do not know if it is correct, but the Minister might like to draw his colleague's attention to this—was that it was suggested to me that as we have a multi-campus CAE in Western Australia, all the former directors who are now the heads of the various departments have to have free cars so that they can meet together. I do not know if that is true, but it looks as if we might be worse off than we were before. However, I do not wish to dally on that. It was just a passing thought and is something I have not examined heavily, although I hope to do so one day. Perhaps I am just giving a warning.

I wish this Bill went further than it does, but I am pleased that it is establishing the School of Mines at Kalgoorlie as a branch of the Western Australian Institute of Technology and is giving it some independence, while at the same time uniting it with the parent body so that it can rely on the parent body for staff and services which are so essential.

I said in this House when the colleges in the Pilbara were proposed that I believed it was foolish to establish independent colleges and that first we should establish colleges attached to the TAFE section of the Education Department so

that they could be staffed and serviced adequately until such time as they grew to a size where they might have been able to become autonomous.

New colleges should learn to crawl before they leap up and run. We let them run too soon. Certainly, it is a sad thing that in this Bill the new Kalgoorlie college is not being returned to the Technical and Further Education section of the Education Department because it will be a little isolated in its independence and will face a number of troubles as far as staffing and services are concerned which would be obviated if it were to remain as a part of TAFE until such time as it grew bigger.

I think we are presently tending to downgrade the technical section of the Education Department instead of upgrading it and using it as a flexible instrument to meet new needs in our changing, new technology society. Certainly, it had been my intention if I ever became Minister for Education—it seems unlikely now—to encourage the establishment of technical colleges and set them up. For instance, at Albany, it had been my intention to put a new high school next to the technical college, looking forward to the day when it might be possible to establish an independent community college; in other words, we would develop colleges through the technical section until they were ready to drop off, as someone said, like ripe plums.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: It was Burke.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Although I welcome the Bill, I wish it were going further. It does not go far enough in returning Kalgoorlie to a more sensible educational situation. Certainly I have no objection to the Eastern Goldfields Technical College being called the Kalgoorlie College, although the old name was a well known and traditional one and in some areas I am all for a little tradition.

It seems to me that we can often unnecessarily destroy such little tradition as we have in this State, but that is a minor thing. The Kalgoorlie College is a decent and honourable name, but I certainly wish that the Bill did include returning it, for the time being, under the umbrella of the technical section.

The only other thing that I would say about this Bill is something that my colleague and comrade, the Hon. Jim Brown, will dwell on further, perhaps in the second reading and certainly when he moves an amendment later. It seems to me that it would be a good idea, as I have said many times before, if this Government recognised that there is a trade union movement in this State and it put on boards representatives of trade unions

and not just the upper echelons of our society. I will have more to say about that in the Committee stage.

If the Minister is prepared to accept the amendment, good, it will be moved; but if he rejects it, I have another suggestion for him. I hope the Minister will be on his toes and is prepared to answer our simple straightforward and common-sense suggestions.

It is with real pleasure, but pleasure modified by the fact that I think that the Bill does not go far enough, that the Opposition supports this Bill.

THE HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) (5.36 p.m.): It is my admiration of the Kalgoorlie School of Mines that leads me to say a few words in this debate this evening. The Kalgoorlie School of Mines, being located in Kalgoorlie, has a wider influence than just the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area itself as it extends throughout the goldfields and into my electorate and affects all towns involved in mining in some way or another.

Whilst I support this legislation, I have some reservations about the way in which we are supporting the Kalgoorlie School of Mines. If we briefly look at the history of the events in recent times that have led to this Bill, we see why some reservations could be expressed. The Partridge committee report in 1976 recommended that the tertiary level courses at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines be transferred to the Bentley campus of WAIT.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: It goes to show you cannot always trust academics, doesn't it?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am going to get on to that in a minute. That is one of the reasons that I am a bit worried about this legislation. The Government responded to a fair amount of criticism and opposition at the time and decided that it would not transfer the course to WAIT but that it would set up a federation of post-secondary education institutions in Kalgoorlie. This essentially was to combine the School of Mines and the Eastern Goldfields Technical School to form a federation of post-secondary colleges. In 1980 the Government made a decision to establish a self-governing post-secondary institution in Kalgoorlie, the combination of the Eastern Goldfields Technical School and the School of Mines, and this was to be called the Western Australian school of mines and further education or WASMAFE.

An interim council was formed to carry out the Government's decision; in other words, to establish an autonomous self-governing college in the eastern goldfields. The interim council's job was to implement the Government's decision so that

on 1 January 1982 this institution would come into being. The interim council was confronted with a number of problems, the major one being the attitude of the staff at the technical college and at the School of Mines who, for a variety of understandable reasons, were very worried about their future in a self-governing independent institution in Kalgoorlie. So they lobbied very hard to retain the situation with the School of Mines being retained by WAIT and the technical college remaining part of the Education Department system.

The second major problem was in relation to the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Council which did not accept that the courses at the proposed institution would be acceptable for Commonwealth licensing. The third problem was the question of actually getting staff to go to Kalgoorlie to work at the new institution.

All these problems compounded themselves and created many difficulties for the interim council, and the Government decided towards the end of 1981 that it would not proceed with its proposed course of action and the interim council was asked to rethink its position. It resolved that the independent tertiary institution at Kalgoorlie would not be brought into being. It resolved, in effect, that the School of Mines would remain part of WAIT and that the technical college would remain as a technical college but, as the Hon. Bob Hetherington mentioned, it would become the Kalgoorlie College. Personally, I would like to see an independent, self-governing, autonomous tertiary institution in Kalgoorlie.

My fear that is occasioned by this legislation is in relation to the influence that WAIT will continue to have on this institution at Kalgoorlie. I have a sneaking suspicion that the administration of WAIT has a grand plan for the future of mining education in Western Australia, which goes something like this: There will be two small appendages of WAIT, one at Kalgoorlie and one at Collie, and students will go there to do their first-year course, and once they have graduated from that course they will return to the Bentley campus at WAIT and finish their education. I hope that does not happen because I agree with the attitude of the Dean of the School of Mines (Dr Jones) that mining education has to be located where mines are located.

You, Mr President, being a former student of the School of Mines would realise that is the case and that is how it should be. I cannot see a lot of mining activity taking place on the Bentley campus and I would hope the majority of mining education takes place where the mines are situated; that is, at Kalgoorlie and Collie.

Any move to diminish the importance of the School of Mines in Kalgoorlie would be something I would resist very strongly, and that is why I expressed some reservations about this particular legislation which, in effect, legitimises the relationship between the School of Mines and WAIT.

Of course, the ALP has had problems with this legislation and has not known which way to jump. If my memory serves me correctly, when the question arose as to whether there should be an independent and autonomous college at Kalgoorlie the residents in Kalgoorlie were in favour of it. The attitude in Kalgoorlie would be rather parochial—both the Hon. Ron Leeson and I agree on this point—because the people in Kalgoorlie are in favour of having their own college. However, when we started to implement this policy trouble arose when the staff association at both the School of Mines and the technical college became very vociferous and argumentative about the proposal. Some members of the association happen to be members of the Eastern Goldfields branch of the ALP. It put the ALP in a difficult position and it did not know whether or not it should support it.

The member for Kalgoorlie in another place described WAIT as an octopus and that is a description with which I am inclined to agree. While he intended to go along with this Bill to formalise the agreement between WAIT and the School of Mines, the member for Kalgoorlie feared that the octopus-like tentacles of WAIT will be such that it will swallow both the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and the school at Collie and they will become part of the campus of WAIT.

I will follow the future of the School of Mines with great interest. It has a tremendous history and many people have been educated at the school. It is highly regarded throughout the world and I would not like to see it diminish in any way; but if WAIT gets its hands too strongly around the neck of the School of Mines it could eventually be strangled.

THE HON. P. H. WELLS (North Metropolitan) [5.46 p.m.]: I was a student at the School of Mines in Norseman and in Kalgoorlie, a part-time lecturer in cartography at both schools and I was involved in the negotiations that took place in relation to the closure of the Norseman School of Mines. On the occasions I have visited the goldfields I have noticed differing points of view between the academic staff, the students, and the community. Each of the changes I have observed has had a fair degree of trauma connected with it, not only because of the nature of the development of the School of Mines, and the nature of the

mining industry, but also because the School of Mines has achieved a certain degree of acceptance due to the type of people who have been educated there. I notice from the Western Australian Institute of Technology handbook of 1982 that the WA School of Mines was established in the goldfields in 1902.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: It was established in Coolgardie.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: When I went to Norseman in 1960 the school at Bullfinch had closed. I did not attend the schools at Bullfinch or Wiluna but I have met people who did. The Norseman School of Mines was a small establishment but it gained tremendous support from the mining industry. Professional people supported the school by becoming part-time lecturers. They were practical people—that is what is lacking in other areas of education—and they were not purely academics. They were employed in the industry and if a problem arose, not only were they readily available, but also they were able to show one at first-hand applications in whatever field they were teaching. As a student I found this to be a tremendous help. I decided to go back to school after being an officer in the Salvation Army. I was appreciative of the fact that those people who taught me were practical people and were able to take me to the areas of work in which my studies were related.

Kalgoorlie is ideally situated; I do not think anyone would disagree with me on that point. However, many people who go there want to return to the city and the problem is to find an incentive to hold people in the area. The fact that the mines are situated in Kalgoorlie means that a student does not have to wait for a weekend to go into the field to obtain experience in whatever subject he is studying. During the time I was on the goldfields a large number of part-time staff worked in the mining industry and they were backed up by the permanent staff of the School of Mines. In those days the Chamber of Mines was akin to the School of Mines by nature of its involvement.

The development that has torn the town apart is sad. In the early days there were no arguments between the staff, the students and the community. The school operated in an atmosphere which was conducive to good education in terms of the mining industry. The broader based mining industry which takes people to the north of the State is a contributing factor to the reason that the School of Mines did not branch out. However, there was no development in the education system to correspond with the expansion of the mining industry. The trauma of the School of Mines be-

came a problem; but Kalgoorlie developed as a regional centre and many industries were based there to service the growth in the mining industry.

Agricola College was built by the School of Mines and it provides accommodation for 75 students who wish to study mining.

The Kalgoorlie School of Mines is referred to in this Bill as a branch of WAIT. The staff would argue that they have no attachment to WAIT in respect of salaries or professional status. From the students' point of view there is a need for the recognition of degrees.

The number of students at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines is small and the number of degrees attained is comparatively small. There must be some recognition of the degrees attained at the school. A solution has been put forward by the Minister concerning the council, following a lengthy report of the interim council of the Eastern Goldfields Technical College concerning this matter which amounted to three volumes.

In his second reading speech the Minister referred to the broad base of the board which is outlined in proposed new section 21C in the Bill. This section includes a range of people from within the town and industry who will make a worthwhile contribution towards the development of the School of Mines. Under this section the Minister, as well as appointing the chairman, may appoint seven persons representative of education, the professions, and industrial, commercial, or other community interests. This means that the Minister can select seven people from a wide range of the community; if a person represents a particular union he may well be appointed.

It could be argued that that base should be expanded, and it has been suggested by a speaker in this debate that there has been an omission of room for expansion. It has been suggested that a representative from the TLC should be on that board.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: What does that mean?

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I am glad that the Hon. J. M. Brown interjected because I wanted to say that it could be that on occasions, that broad base should be broader. It could well be that it would allow union secretaries to be trained through the School of Mines. Let us note that the School of Mines is not training union secretaries.

Let us look at what is taught at the School of Mines to ascertain if any courses are available in that area to train people who end up in unions. I realise that the book from which I am quoting was published in 1982—it could well change in 1983. It reads as follows—

The following are the courses of study currently available at the WA School of Mines, Kalgoorlie.

Bachelor of Applied Science (Mining Geology)

Perhaps we should have a representative from the association of geologists on the board. It continues—

Associate Diploma in Mining and Mineral Technology (Mine Surveying stream)

Yes, perhaps there should be a representative from the surveying field. It continues—

Associate Diploma in Mining and Mineral Technology (Coal Mining Technology stream)

Bachelor of Applied Science (Mining Engineering)

Bachelor of Engineering (Mining Engineering)

Bachelor of Applied Science (Extractive Metallurgy)

Bachelor of Engineering (Extractive Metallurgy)

Graduate Diploma in Metallurgy (Extractive Metallurgy)

Master of Applied Science (Mineral Processing)

I worked within the mining industry, and my understanding is that those people are not covered under the TLC, or by a union. If we want to extend into that area, those are the people at whom we should be looking.

Sitting suspended from 6.01 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: Prior to the tea suspension I referred to proposed new section 21C, which enables the appointment of 14 people to the board, and I raised a query as to whether a wide enough range of people will be represented on it. Much consideration has been given to this matter and this is borne out by the fact that paragraph (b) provides for seven persons to be appointed representative of education, the professions, industrial, commercial, or other community interests and they are quite apart from the members referred to in the other paragraphs, which enable representation of staff and students also.

Therefore, proposed new section 21C will enable a broad range of involvement to be represented on the board, which is commendable and recognises the major contribution made by people in the community. Not only have those people contributed to the historical development of the WA School of Mines, but also they have ex-

pressed considerable interest in the current debate.

One of the major problems in arriving at the composition of the board was to ensure the community, students, and academic staff were represented.

The existence of institutions such as the WA School of Mines has virtually disappeared in other parts of Australia. For example, some time ago the Ballarat School of Mines was swallowed up by the College of Advanced Education in that State.

Clause 9 provides for the establishment of branches of the institute to enable the WA School of Mines to develop in other areas of the industry to meet future needs. The School of Mines has produced very practical, qualified people from the time of its inception and they have made a tremendous contribution to the mining industry in this State.

Some time ago I listened to a speech by a former executive officer of the Western Mining Corp. Ltd., Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall in Kalgoorlie. At that time I was an employee of one of the companies associated with mining in the area where I worked for over 10 years. Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall pointed out that fewer problems were experienced with graduates from the WA School of Mines who had learnt to live in country areas than with people from other areas. Graduates from the WA School of Mines have made a very worth-while contribution to the mining industry, not only in this State but also throughout Australia.

The Hon. Norman Moore referred to the fact that he looked forward to an independent School of Mines in Kalgoorlie. I trust, as a result of the development of a number of branches of the WA School of Mines, it will achieve this independence and its academic record will be recognised throughout the world, because of the specialised industry for which it trains people. This State relies heavily on the mining industry, which contributes large sums of money to the economy. Many people in Western Australia either directly or indirectly derive their incomes from mining and associated industries.

Kalgoorlie is recognised as a major centre and, as a result of the development of branches of the WA School of Mines, as mentioned by the Hon. Norman Moore, it will be able to stand on its own feet. Therefore, the provisions in clause 9 are highly desirable.

The historical and technical issues relating to the Bill probably have been dealt with more competently by people like the Minister and the Hon. Norman Moore than by me. However, I lived in

the town of Kalgoorlie for some time and have had a close affinity with the community there. Therefore, I am aware people in the area have a great deal of faith in the WA School of Mines and the mining industry has been well served by it. It will be a sad day indeed for this State if any Government neglects the operations of the WA School of Mines, because it is a viable institution which makes a valuable contribution to the mining and associated industries in Kalgoorlie.

I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [7.37 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak on the Bill, but as it is a "night for confessions" I thought I might say a few words.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I also attended the WA School of Mines for a number of years. Over the last few years a great deal of uncertainty has existed in a number of quarters as to the future of the School of Mines. Those who have been closely associated with the developments which have culminated in this Bill would be aware of the issues involved. Arguments for and against the course it is proposed to adopt tonight were heard in a number of quarters. Indeed, two members from the Government side have expressed opposite views to the proposals in the Bill.

Some people in Kalgoorlie would support the Bill, while some would oppose it, and many people tended to make a mountain out of a molehill when discussing this issue.

The Government was faced with the situation in which two or three members or supporters of the Liberal Party in the goldfields were opposed to the WA School of Mines coming under the umbrella of WAIT. Therefore, for some time the Government was hesitant to change the status quo. That was unfortunate, because the uncertainty which has developed and the time taken to sort out the problems have caused a great deal of ill feeling in various sections of the community, including the staff of the School of Mines and other people in the goldfields. Perhaps all parties could learn a lesson from this to the effect that sometimes we take too much notice of what, in the final analysis, are one or two very small voices.

The steps taken in the Bill are the right ones. Although opposing views have been expressed in the community, I do not think the division is as strong as the Press and some members of the public have tended to make out. The School of Mines will continue as a very worth-while institution and I pay tribute to those who have been associated with it over the years. Along with the Hon.

Norman Moore, for many years I have had personal involvement with the School of Mines. Frequently people have lectured there without pay. They would work their eight hours in the mining industry and then attend the institution and lecture at night, because in the past, and even today, difficulty has been and is experienced obtaining the right type of people to go into outback areas and do the required work. That situation will continue in the future and it is a problem the School of Mines must face.

Regardless of where one goes in Western Australia one finds a large percentage of senior staff of mining companies are graduates of the WA School of Mines. The same situation pertains if one goes to Tasmania, New South Wales, or Queensland.

The School of Mines will blossom under this proposed structure and I indicate my support for it and my good wishes for the future.

THE HON. W. M. PIESSE (Lower Central) [7.43 p.m.]: I support the legislation. I do not know a great deal about Kalgoorlie, but I know a fair bit about Collie. The Hon. Ron Leeson drew attention to the fact that some Government members appeared to be somewhat opposed to the legislation. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that Government members are wary of it. Indeed, I am somewhat wary of attaching a school of this nature to an institution such as WAIT. Part of the reason for that is that WAIT has grown rather too quickly and, as a result, the staff, students, and population generally have not been able to quite keep up with what has happened to the campus.

We do have evidence that all that has come out of WAIT has not been good. I suppose one could make that remark of any similar institution, and perhaps because WAIT grew so quickly its problems are more apparent. I do not wish to give the impression that I am critical of all that WAIT has done; some good things have come out of it. Any institution can become too big, and that is the danger we are facing.

I am one of those who feels strongly about keeping the School of Mines in a mining area. I perceive it as not only teaching geology and mining engineering, but also preparing its students for a lifestyle they will need to accept so that they can follow their chosen profession. Mining professions cannot be followed unless the person involved lives in the area where the mining takes place. The whole question revolves round the future life of the student, and his wife and family, and their general way of living. Unless the student recognises the kind of area and com-

munity in which he will find himself, all the instruction he receives in geology or mining engineering will be lost. He must realise the kind of area and community, and the isolation he will experience. Those things have been mentioned. He may very well find that he and his wife are in that situation after he qualifies for and takes part in the profession he has chosen. Again I say that is my reason for supporting strongly the maintenance of the School of Mines in a mining area.

It is true that the Kalgoorlie School of Mines has produced tremendous graduates, people who in many areas outside the State have achieved a great deal in their fields. We can be proud of those achievements and must not lose that goal by interfering with the system. We must not remove students from an area where they can learn to acclimatise themselves.

I support the legislation and, like the Hon. Norman Moore, wish to keep a wary eye on the situation. We do not want to lose what we have already; we want to go forward.

THE HON. P. G. PENDAL (South-East Metropolitan) [7.48 p.m.]: Like other members of the Government side I give my support to the legislation, and further like other members I make it clear to this House, as I have made it clear to two Ministers for Education, my support of this legislation is somewhat lukewarm. I ask the Minister in this House to say, when he responds to the points raised at this stage of the Bill, whether he is aware of what the future holds for the School of Mines in so far as finances are concerned as a branch of the Western Australian Institute of Technology. Members would be aware it is now about 10 years since tertiary institutions in this State, as in other States, had their finances taken over by the Commonwealth Government. The decision was made about 10 years ago by the Tonkin Government of this State to allow that to happen. I suggest that was one of the most regrettable decisions it made. I must add that similar decisions were made by State Liberal Governments around Australia, and those decisions were equally regrettable.

The point I make is that my understanding of the financing of the School of Mines till now is that finance has been made available on a joint basis between the Federal and State Governments. I am not aware of the proportion of funds currently provided by the Federal Government for the School of Mines, but I sound the warning that it may not be too many years down the track when the State Government and this Parliament will lose any control over the finances of the School of Mines. If that happens it would be in much the same way as this Parliament has lost

financial control over the University of Western Australia, the Murdoch University, the Western Australian Institute of Technology, and all the colleges of advanced education in this State, with the colleges being rationalised into one large campus. The Minister may care to comment on the future of the funding arrangements.

If one reads the budgets of those universities, WAIT, and the colleges of advanced education, one will realise that the State component of the finances of those institutions is minimal. The only contribution to UWA and WAIT by this Parliament relates to debt charges stretching back many years.

The reason my support for the legislation is lukewarm, a reason I have put to the present Minister for Education and the previous Minister for Education, is that although certainly the School of Mines, WAIT and other institutions will be subject to the legislative controls of this Parliament, they will be subject to the financial controls of the Commonwealth Government. If until now the School of Mines has been part-funded by the State Government and part by the Commonwealth Government—my understanding is that this has been the case—we may well find ourselves five years or so down the track in the situation of witnessing this State Government, or a future one, neglecting its responsibilities in respect of that funding and deciding to hand over full financial control of the School of Mines to the Commonwealth Government. If that happens, the legislation we are dealing with tonight, and all the trouble that at least two Ministers have gone to in order to maintain some form of autonomy for the School of Mines, will have been to no avail.

I think it is recognised by most people that the State during the last decade has lost the financial control of universities and other tertiary institutions, and is finding that situation regrettable.

A recent article in *The Bulletin* touches on this point. Apparently the vice chancellors conference of Australia held recently bemoaned the rather tortuous route that heads of tertiary institutions now must follow to obtain adequate funds from the Commonwealth Government of the day. It may well be that we in this State will need to consider this legislation in three, four or five years to decide how to do what many people in the community are waiting for, and that is a turning back of the clock in order that the School of Mines and other tertiary institutions of this State come under the direct and total financial control of this State Parliament in the same way as they are under its legislative control.

With those words, and the sense of reluctance I have outlined, I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. M. BROWN (South-East) [7.53 p.m.]: I support the Bill with a certain degree of wariness, as did previous speakers this evening. My colleague, the Hon. Ron Leeson, referred to a conflict of opinion between two members of the Government side, the Hon. Norman Moore and the Hon. Peter Wells, and said that conflict of opinion related to their attitudes to the Bill, rather than the measures contained in it. The Hon. Win Piesse suggested a conflict existed in relation to the measures contained in the Bill; however, their comments appeared to me to be in conflict in relation to their attitudes to the Bill.

Of particular importance to this matter is the Kalgoorlie College. Perhaps the Minister will oblige us with information as to the form it will take and the Government's commitments to that college. Originally it was referred to as a technical college, but has adopted this new name. An interim council has been appointed comprising the Chairman, Mr D. Daws, Mrs M. Cable, Mr P. Grainger, Dr L. Jones, Mr J. McDermott, Dr J. O'Sullivan, and Dr A. Walkington. Dr Walkington is from the Karratha College.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: This Bill is not about the Kalgoorlie College.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: If one reads the second reading speech—

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I am reading the Bill.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN:—one will find that the Minister remarked that the Government had announced its decision in regard to education facilities in the eastern goldfields region.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I don't argue that.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: This provision of facilities is an important aspect of this legislation. I do not object to the establishment of the Kalgoorlie College, but I ask the Minister what form that college will take and what commitments the Government will make in this direction. Initially a loose federation was to be established, and several plans have been made for a school of mines at Kalgoorlie. The Kalgoorlie College forms an integral part of the education facilities in the Eastern Goldfields, and as such deserves a great deal of consideration in deliberations on the WA School of Mines.

I am not concerned about individual members of that interim council, but I am concerned that a qualified tradesman has not been appointed to that council of a technical college, a college to train people to be tradesmen. There must be an input from someone with the practical skills in the

areas of learning at that college. Later I may make a comment about other skills required of appointees to boards of management, interim councils, or whatever they are called, so that a proper input is available into the running of education on the eastern goldfields.

I will now refer briefly to the Bill. At times the people involved with education in the goldfields have been criticised, and condemned for their actions, but never have they been lacking in their endeavours to do what is right. Indeed, tutors and students have responded well to the obligations placed upon them by all parties. It is to those tutors and students that credit is due for the way the School of Mines has operated, especially when one bears in mind the differences of opinion that have arisen in various sections of the community.

I do not think there is a greater education facility in Australia. It ranks high worldwide; there is no doubt about its accreditation.

Every speaker tonight has expressed concern that this accreditation may be taken away by WAIT. I have expressed this concern on previous occasions but I am sure the School of Mines will flourish and expand and be a forceful institution in the mining sphere.

There is a role for three such schools in Australia: One in Queensland, because of the mining development there, one in either New South Wales or Victoria, and one at Kalgoorlie.

I am mindful of the contributions made to the School of Mines in Kalgoorlie by the Chamber of Mines and the business community as well as the rank and file of the people in Kalgoorlie. This augurs well for the school's future.

The following was quoted in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* on 8 September 1982, which indicates that the focus of the School of Mines is not on the residents of Kalgoorlie only. The article stated—

A group of 22 students from throughout Western Australia spent last week gaining first-hand knowledge of the mining industry in the Goldfields.

The students were in Kalgoorlie as part of the WA Chamber of Mines "Focus on Mining" course, which is held twice a year.

The group included students who had expressed their interest in pursuing a mining-related career, particularly in the fields of metallurgy, geology and mining engineering.

They were given an insight into the Goldfields mining industry during their week-long stay through visits to mines, tours of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area and an inspection of Western Mining Corporation facilities.

It is a tremendous introduction for students who are interested in mining education. It goes without saying that the facilities, operations, and service of the School of Mines in the environment of Kalgoorlie are a tremendous asset to education in Western Australia.

I have no criticism of the composition of the board of management for the School of Mines but suggest that a representative of the trade union movement on the board would be an asset. It could be the responsibility of the members of the organisation to elect their representative, who would be also a representative of the goldfields.

Mining is a dangerous occupation, as we all know, and that is why there is so much self-reliance amongst the Kalgoorlie community—they have a responsibility to fellow workers. I suggest that a person from the trade union movement who is well versed in mining could make an appropriate contribution to the board.

Perhaps the board of management has been appointed already, and if so I ask the Minister to inform us who are the members. If they have not been appointed, perhaps the Minister will give consideration—if he does not see fit to accept my amendment—to my suggestion.

I reiterate that, because of the dangers involved in mining, such an appointment to the board would be invaluable in the teaching of mining. Apart from being invaluable, it is common sense.

The remarks made by Mr Wells—when I invited him to make a contribution—about geology, etc. and the whole tirade of names he gave had nothing to do with the proposition of having a mineworker associated with the board of the School of Mines. I believe the matter has been well canvassed within this Chamber by both political parties. If we adopted that attitude towards all our legislation we would have a far better country area to sponsor.

The Kalgoorlie School of Mines is unique in its operations and facilities. I acknowledge what has been said about Agricola College and the contribution it makes to mining education. I recognise also that the facility is not only for the people of Kalgoorlie, it is for the people of Western Australia and, indeed, people from overseas who may have the opportunity to gain top class education with top class facilities in a top class town, where the environment suits the education needs.

I trust that the watchdogs we have on the School of Mines will be to the good of the mining community. I believe the director of the School of Mines, Mr Jones, his staff and students will be well served in their future endeavours.

I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. G. PIKE (North Metropolitan—Chief Secretary) [8.10 p.m.]: I thank members for their generally declared support of the Bill. I wish to deal with the comments made by the Hon. Robert Hetherington about the Eastern Goldfields Technical School and associate them with the points made by the Hon. Jim Brown.

I have been informed that the Dormer inquiry is looking into technical education throughout the State and not just Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: That just does not give us any joy because we do not think much of the inquiry.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I acknowledge the Hon. Robert Hetherington's expertise in the area of education and would be the first to admit that his knowledge of the subject is more extensive than mine. Many constructive points have been made about this Bill and I give the members of the House an undertaking that all those comments will be referred to the Minister for his proper and considered attention.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You can give an undertaking as to the referral but you cannot give the same undertaking as to their reception.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: Obviously not, Mr Dowding.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: We all know what the Minister for Education is really like.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: The contributions made by the members of the Labor Party and the Government have been well considered and thought out and as the Hon. Jim Brown has said, it is clear that there is some concern about the future of the School of Mines. He indicated his support and admiration for the school, and other members have done likewise.

During a period of my career with a bank in Kalgoorlie I had a little to do with the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and I am aware of the tremendous contribution it has made to the community. The Hon. Norm Moore dealt with the history which led to the Bill; and the Hon. Peter Wells was a student of the school, having spent 14 years in the goldfields. He summarised the concern which had been expressed and I was fascinated to learn that the school commenced in 1902.

Mr Wells said that the people of Kalgoorlie wished the school to remain there and mentioned people such as Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall, who has made a significant contribution to mining in this State.

The Hon. Ron Leeson said that some of the members seemed opposed to the concept of the

school, but I would say we have seen tonight a manifestation of the concern of members of all parties and whilst they accept what is being done, they will watch it closely. The Hon. Win Piesse made the same comment and introduced some other points for consideration.

The Hon. Phillip Pandal introduced another subject very close to my heart. With successive Commonwealth Governments we have had an erosion of authority brought about by the money power of the Commonwealth, and the power of the State has been eroded. Money power has tended to be the actual power, and this of course has an effect on the funding of institutions such as WAIT.

All I can say to Mr Pandal is that while I am not the Minister responsible, as a member of Cabinet I am concerned and aware of attitudes of Commonwealth Governments of both colours in their bouncing of the States in regard to the Commonwealth money power and eroding the sovereignty of the States in respect of their Constitutional rights. I share his views on the matter.

The Hon. Jim Brown said he supported the Bill, and I answered his question when I dealt with the point made by the Hon. Robert Hetherington. He said it was one of the best educational facilities in Australia and I understand that to be the case. He said that the House would continue to be vigilant in its surveillance of the School of Mines, and that certainly will happen. He dealt with the submission contained in his amendment and put the arguments for the inclusion of a representative of the Trades and Labor Council. I think the House would prefer me to deal with that clause in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (the Hon. V. J. Ferry) in the Chair; the Hon. R. G. Pike (Chief Secretary) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Heading and sections inserted—

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Bearing in mind what some members said during the second reading debate I want to place on record that I take quite seriously the Kalgoorlie School of Mines becoming a branch of WAIT, and as far as possible it should be an autonomous branch with, I hope, greater and not less autonomy. I take the point made by the Hon. Norman Moore and the Hon. Win Piesse that WAIT has shown empire-building tendencies.

These have not always been to the benefit of the State in general. It might have been to everybody's benefit had it grown a little less rapidly.

I hope it has not developed the kind of habit that some people think it has in that it wants to swallow everything whole and have undue centralism in education.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: The member for Kalgoorlie thinks that may be the case.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: WAIT has to be watched carefully, and in due course its tendencies may have to be curbed if it goes on in the way it has in the past. Although I said I did not agree with the gay abandon with which we established autonomous post-secondary institutions in the past, it does not mean I do not approve of them in the future. We should aim for that and develop them and I would be happy if I lived—and I intend to live for about another 35 years—to see the Kalgoorlie branch of WAIT become an autonomous institution.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: The Perth branch of the Kalgoorlie institute of technology?

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would not mind if we saw the day when the two branches separated. It is something the Opposition would desire and would be watching in Government. I would not like it to be thought that the Opposition is unduly optimistic about the future. We think this is a good step. As long as it is not a step in swallowing and not building up autonomous institutions working in harmony and partnership, it will be for the ultimate benefit of the State.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I move an amendment—

Page 6—Add after paragraph (g) the following new paragraph—

(h) One person appointed by the Trades and Labor Council of Western Australia.

In the second reading debate I gave my reasons for making this suggestion and the Minister said he would wait until the Committee stage to reply.

I cannot overemphasise the need for some practical skills on a board such as this. It consists of 14 members; some might take the view that it is a delegation rather than a board. The tendency now is to reduce numbers rather than increase them. I ask the Minister whether the person to be appointed by the Minister as chairman of the board already has been appointed. If not, I seek an assurance in relation to the seven persons to be appointed under paragraph (b), which refers to representatives of education, the professions, in-

dustrial, commercial or other community interests. It leaves it open for a member of the Trades and Labor Council, a miner from Kalgoorlie or a worker well skilled in the mining industry, to be appointed as the representative of the Trades and Labor Council. If that paragraph has already been covered by a proposed nomination, as I believe it has, the only alternative is to insert paragraph (h) as I propose.

There are good reasons for accepting my proposal. I am thinking not only of the earth education that occurs in this industry, but also of the welfare of the people involved. Underground or above-ground work can be a dangerous and hazardous occupation. I do not suggest for one minute that silicotic miners or other fields of mining need to be represented on the board; but at least there can be input as to what is required underground. There is a spirit of camaraderie among underground workers who rely on each other. If we are to have efficient mining education and a board of management at local level, and if we are to recognise the industry's contribution, we need to have on the board a worker from that industry.

It is a fair and reasonable request, and it has happened in the past. Grenville Seaward from Kambalda was on the board of management of the Kalgoorlie School of Mines. Going back a little further, a miner was a representative on the Chamber of Mines in Kalgoorlie. I think my proposal is very practical. It is a common-sense recommendation to the Committee to accept a mineworker on this board which already consists of 14 people. The Minister could shorten the debate by agreeing to make this addition to the board.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: This amendment relates not only to this Bill, but also to a general principle of the Labor Party in that it endeavours to get Trades and Labor Council representation on various boards and councils that are set up by legislation.

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: What is wrong with that?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The honourable member should let me finish.

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: You have the Confederation of WA Industry.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: It is not on this board. This proposal is another example of the Labor Party's attempt to give the trade union movement an importance to which it is not entitled.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: To give it a view.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: To give it a position and importance to which it is not entitled. The legislation provides under proposed section 21C (b) for seven persons to be appointed by the Minister and representing various sections of the community. Proposed new section 21C does not say that the Chamber of Mines, the Confederation of WA Industry or the Chamber of Commerce, or any other specific interest body should be represented on this board. The Hon. Jim Brown is suggesting that the Trades and Labor Council ought to be singled out and given representation. The Labor Party espouses that general principle.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Why don't you suggest they get into it?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I oppose the principle. There is no reason for the Trades and Labor Council to be treated any differently from any other organisation which represents groups of people. If the legislation said that the Chamber of Mines and the Chamber of Commerce shall have a representative, we could mount an argument for the Trades and Labor Council being entitled to some representation. The amendment should be opposed because the trade union movement, through the Trades and Labor Council, has no special right or need to be on this board.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: What a pathetic contribution that was.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I oppose the amendment for a number of reasons. An argument was put forward to have a mineworker on the board. I was a mineworker and a financial member of the largest union in mining, the Australian Workers Union.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: I am a financial member.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I did not keep my financial membership. The Opposition's idea is to single out one group of people to be represented on the board. The largest group of people working in the mining industry is the mineworkers; but we are not talking about their training. We are talking about the training and development of the professional people in the mining industry.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: We are talking about their lives.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I did not know that the Bill referred to safety. I have a lot of respect for safety in the mining industry. I understood we were dealing with an educational institution. It may be that the member who interjected was thinking of something else.

The CHAIRMAN: For the clarification of the Committee, the question is that the new paragraph proposed to be inserted be inserted.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I am opposing that.

The organisation called the Trades and Labor Council has varying support from time to time from various unions that move in and out of it. Why should it have a select position, by Act of Parliament, on this board? If one were to consider any representation, there could be arguments from each of the unions, whether they are members of the TLC or not. I understand that the AWU has withdrawn its support from the TLC from time to time.

When I was speaking in the second reading debate I asked if that organisation had a special reason to make a contribution to the board. I understand the TLC has been able to attract the Teachers' Union to its side. Surprise, surprise! The Teachers' Union has lost so many members that it is looking to the TLC to bolster it!

Proposed new section 21C(d), (e), and (f) provides for three staff members. Those staff members could well be teachers who belong to the Teachers' Union. The Opposition's suggestion is that its faith in the ability of the Teachers' Union is such that it could have less representation than one in three. That is the sort of confidence that the mover of the amendment has in the ability of the Teachers' Union to attract members. However, if the teachers were members of the union, they would be a part of the TLC and it would have a voice.

I do not agree with that argument, because the purpose of the board is to deal with the institution. We know the range of positions involved. We know that many mining surveyors are involved in the industry. The education, research, and development in relation to mining surveyors would be of interest to the board; and those people should have a greater input than the TLC.

A suggestion was made that the precedent of having a member of the AWU on the School of Mines is justification for this move. However, the School of Mines is a unique organisation that is not involved in the training of unionists. It is not involved in the development of educational areas to train people who, in the end result, belong to unions. The School of Mines is not dealing with apprentices, so why should it have on its board people who are involved in the unions?

The School of Mines ranges over a wide number of subjects. It is an institution working for the mining industry in specific areas. Perhaps the member should consider the proposition that

the Kalgoorlie College, or some other institution, should send people into the trade area.

I heard an inference that the Minister for Education would not take notice of suggestions put forward by the Opposition. I refute that, from my own experience with the Minister. He is responsible, and he takes notice of worth-while contributions. It is obvious that if the ideas are not worth considering, he can hardly be expected to follow them up.

I oppose the amendment because it does nothing for the board. It is possible that someone special might happen to be a unionist and belong to the TLC; and the Minister of the day could appoint that person to make his contribution.

I have studied the history of this legislation; and I notice that Bill No. 49 of 1971 dealt with an amendment to section 9. At the time, a Labor Government was in power; but it did not suggest the placing of this sort of provision into the Act. This provision has never been explored before. I gather that, as it is introduced now, it is the "great left" taking over, trying to bring in the TLC and direct, not only the political wing of the ALP, but also the School of Mines.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I rise, apparently as a member of the "great left"—

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: There is nothing great about it.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON:—but because of the fatuous nonsense of the member who has just resumed his seat. I support this amendment.

The Hon. P. H. Wells: Surprise, surprise!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would not expect the member to be surprised. His view, apparently, is that if something has not been done by a Labor Government in the past, the Labor Party should not support it now. If the Labor Party has new attitudes to things, that is a sign of deterioration in the development of the party, as far as some members opposite are concerned. The remarks of the Hon. Peter Wells indicate that we should not expect him to consider any ideas seriously. He is so full of his own prejudices that he will not look at an idea.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: That is a bit rough.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am responding to the remarks made by the member just before he sat down.

The Hon. P. G. Pendal: Is this your angry voice again?

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: Remember he is a man of the cloth.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I do not think that is true now.

The CHAIRMAN: I draw the honourable member's attention to the purpose of the amendment before the Chair.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The Hon. Norman Moore said he opposed the principle of what we are putting forward. We believe that the Trades and Labor Council is, at this stage, the appropriate body to nominate somebody, because it is likely to nominate a unionist from the district. That is likely to be the case, otherwise we would have put forward some other amendment.

When one considers an education institution—members opposite have pointed out that this is a peculiar institution that belongs within its own environment—one hopes one can assume that many of the children of unionists may attend the institution, particularly if we again have a Federal Labor Government that is prepared to fund education to a greater extent. This institution is not training people to do a particular thing.

I refer to proposed new section 21C(b) which refers to "representative of education". I was not aware that the institution was training educationists. It refers to "the professions", but it does not say which professions. If one had a good medical man, would one not put him on the board because no courses for medical men are offered? That would flow from the argument the Hon. Peter Wells just used. Would one not put a Kalgoorlie businessman on the board, because there are no courses designed specifically for businessmen?

The Hon. P. H. Wells: I said if he is the best man, let us put him on.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: We are not arguing that people should be put on the board because apprentices might be produced, or because the institution is training unionists. We are not arguing anything as foolish as that. Normally, on the board of any institution, one finds businessmen, directors of companies, professional men, and the people who are on the owning and managerial side of our society. If it was normal to have also people from the wage-earning level of our society, perhaps we would not have moved an amendment like this.

We are trying to establish the principle that ordinary working men and ordinary unionists—the kind of people that the TLC might appoint—would be interested in the nature of the institution, and they may have an input to make. I am sure the Hon. Norman Moore would be the

first to admit that, because I am sure that some of his friends are unionists.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I was one myself.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Sometimes good, average, ordinary, practical, working men talk common sense, when some of the people who come from the professions, and so forth, do not.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: This does not preclude them from being on the board.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am putting a two-pronged argument. One of the prongs, which I thought I had mentioned before, is that if it were even fairly usual for a working man or unionist to be on a board, we would not have moved an amendment because we would say that, as the institution is in a mining area, in a more or less closed area with a mining community, no doubt the Minister for Education, in his wisdom, would put on the board a miner—one of the people who was a recipient of all the knowledge of the institution; the Minister had actually found there are one or two intelligent miners in Kalgoorlie. If this were likely to happen we would not have moved this amendment.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: He would be hard put to find anyone who hadn't been a miner. Even Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall was a miner.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: If the member is going to use as his criterion someone who has been a miner, it is quite often such a person has been a unionist but in making good has forgotten what it was like. So it is a good idea to choose someone who works in the area now.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: Most of them are proud of it.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am talking about whether they still remember the feeling. I am arguing that it would be a good idea to institutionalise the putting of a working man on a board; he might have something to offer. In this instance he would have something to offer. The majority of people in this country are wage earners and we ought to put representatives of them on boards. If we were to do so through the device of asking the TLC to nominate someone, that would be the most practical way.

This is a highly desirable move and has nothing to do with being left, right, or centre. It has something to do with the belief that the best way we can get cohesion and consensus in our community is to try to tap all the resources in the community and not assume that just the top professionals, the people who have succeeded, who have made money, who have status and who have qualifi-

cations are the only people who have something to offer.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Don't universities assume that?

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am glad to say that even universities are beginning to put members of the non-academic staff on their councils.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Outweighed to blazes.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I realise that; I will not defend the elitism of universities in this place but I will defend universities on other grounds. They would still do well to have more unqualified people on their councils.

I support this amendment; it is highly desirable. It is a good thing to recognise that we have in this country a working class. I know it is not popular to refer to the working class; they are now referred to as blue-collar workers. I do not mind the term "working class"; most of them are decent and sensible people with whom I can relate and from whom I can learn. They are people from whom the board of the Kalgoorlie branch of WAIT could learn, too, if the Minister were sensible enough to put one or two of them on the board.

In order to encourage him to do so I support the amendment moved by my comrade, the Hon. Jim Brown, to get the TLC to nominate a member to the board as a first step. I do not want to dilate here on industrial democracy, but I believe that the sooner we get a whole range of people on boards the sooner we might get commonsense and consensus in our society. The amendment is highly desirable and I commend it to the Minister.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I support the amendment. I do not want to be emotional about this but I was once a student at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines. I think the amendment is a very desirable concept.

For many years our concepts of mining have been bound up with the mining of gold and I do not think many members would disagree that the view of mining today has moved very rapidly away from purely goldmining. Previously we associated the School of Mines with deep metalliferous mining. However, this State is mineral rich, with many minerals already having been mined and many more that will be mined. They will be mined by a lot of different mining methods, different from those we have normally associated with teaching at the School of Mines.

In suggesting that the TLC have a representative on the board, we use the TLC because undoubtedly it represents the largest group of people working in various trades and professions in this State. Its present affiliation covers nearly 150 000 people and it encompasses members of the Australian Workers Union, mine deputies, shift bosses and the like. If I remember correctly, at one stage shift bosses attended a course at the School of Mines and subsequently many of them became lecturers at the School of Mines. Indeed, some of our most successful mining managers in the past—and I am sure this will be the case in the future—were originally down below on the banjo, although I am led to believe that the banjo days are behind us now.

We hear so much about industrial relations and of the futile punitive methods that have been used in days past when workers in Manchester were charged by horses, yet in the year 1982 these methods are still failing.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: It is still happening in Poland.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Being a unionist in Poland is very respectable, and we support them. Recently in New South Wales I had lunch with representatives of Solidarity along with the Premier of that State and His Eminence, Cardinal Freedman. I am very sympathetic to these people.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The amendment does not deal with the topic the member is now discussing.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I am mindful of that, but someone on my left interjected.

If we are to keep on down the road of dividing our community, let us reject this amendment. The whole social cohesiveness of this nation is bound up with us all playing a part. I would expect that if the TLC were to nominate someone to this board it would nominate someone capable of carrying out a really useful role.

Mr Hetherington mentioned the very thorny question of industrial democracy, which comes in many different shapes and forms. It can come in the form of self-management, shop floor committees and so forth. It is interesting to note that the present Federal Government is still sensibly pursuing the programme of employee participation. It is not beyond the bounds of reason that were a person nominated by the TLC appointed to the board it would give some sense of belonging to the whole structure.

Before I came here I served on a number of Commonwealth boards and committees which dealt mainly with the construction of ships.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: Is that because the legislation said there had to be a unionist?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: This was spelt out in the Navigation Act. I was on accommodation committees, committees of advice and so on, and I never found it very difficult to relate to engineers, naval architects or the representatives of the people who owned the ships. This gave me a greater understanding of what was involved.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: What did it do to the shipping industry?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I could take the member to Fremantle to have lunch with ship-owner representatives who would be able to explode some of the myths and fallacies the member has in his mind. I am referring to the Australian shipping industry, but with the member belonging to the great mob of unwashed—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member should return to the subject matter before the Chair.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Then the interjections should be stopped.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the member addresses the Chair and ignores the interjections he would make progress.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I have been trying with a good deal of success to do that but members have been introducing other topics by way of interjection.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest you ignore them.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: It is very difficult, but I will do my best.

If we are to continue to divide our community and not provide for some form of employee participation, we deserve all we get. I had the experience the other evening of paying plenty of money to attend a seminar run by the Chamber of Commerce in this State.

What was said by the chief economist of Conzinc Rhotinto, the former chief executive of the Barclay group in Australia, was that unless we curb unemployment and reduce friction in the work force, not only in Australia but in all Western democracies, the social fabric might come asunder. The way we are dividing the country is the matter to which we should be addressing ourselves. This is a very small starting point, but it is done in other parts of Australia. I take the point that we may have done it when we were in Government, but the year is now 1982 and we should make a start and this time at least give some lip service to employee participation.

I would not suggest or even speculate that the Trades and Labor Council, with the many and varied people who belong to it, would put on this

board someone who was not capable of making an adequate contribution. Mr Wells would know that many of the miners who went to the School of Mines—many of them shift bosses—made a positive contribution, by giving lectures to people who went on to become leaders in the mining industry in this country. After all, it is not a bad situation to have the grass roots element having some kind of input about what really happens down the mines.

The other day I attended the launching of a ship and was talking to the person who designed it. He has designed many ships in Australia and is one of our most successful naval architects. He served his time as a boilermaker at Cockatoo and he suggested to me that before people were let loose into the engineering fields, or indeed anywhere, these days they should be required to serve an apprenticeship because in that way a person becomes more associated with the labour force and knows what goes on from A to Z. That is the kind of input we need to have.

We should talk about this question in relation to other areas apart from this Bill. If we can finally get the message across that we all belong to the one family, we will start to make some social progress in this so-called technology age. After all, the placing of a representative of the work force onto this board would have a two-way result. First of all, there would be the input by the person on the board and the output of that person in coming back and reporting what was going on. In addition to that, it may also encourage other areas of co-operation because, believe me, it would be only one faltering step. We need to look at getting a bit of social cohesiveness back into this country in order that we may recapture our competitiveness which has been somewhat blunted. No member here would deny that. If we constantly divide the community, sometimes for political and pig-headed reasons, we will not get anywhere.

Whether or not the amendment is agreed to, I hope on some future occasion real concern will be shown and positive steps will be taken to at least begin to shore up our very fragile nation. We are not asking for a great thing. We are not asking for a member of the AWU to be on the board.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Or even a left-winger!

The Hon. D. K. DANS: A left or right-winger, I do not care.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: As long as they fly!

The Hon. D. K. DANS: They have to do that.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: They need both wings.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I commend the amendment to this Chamber because it has some positive aspects. A few years ago this suggestion would have been thrown out by the trade unions themselves, but that time has since passed. We are all in this together. I suppose we could call this an educational Bill. It is at least a starting point. Training in the School of Mines will lead to people eventually becoming managers. The area in which they will be most efficient is the area in which they are most proficient now in respect of managing the most important part of the whole operation; that is, not the nuts and bolts of the machinery, but the work force. If that input is achieved perhaps we will have a very positive result and from those first faltering steps, maybe we will start to make some progress.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I rise again because I feel the remarks relating to the reasons for my opposition to the Bill may have been lost in some parts of the explanation. One of the reasons for this clause was that development of the mining industry and therefore the School of Mines has occurred under the goldmining mentality. Perhaps I am aware of some Act developed for the goldmine. I spent in excess of 10 years goldmining.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will give you a medal for that.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I spent the last 10 years outside the goldmining industry and I worked for Incos Australian Exploration Company which is the largest nickel mining company in the world. I do not claim it gave me expertise in all mining fields.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: But you know about it!

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: In terms of the explanation for my opposition to this amendment and the concept put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, we are not poles apart. It is a matter of the means of getting to the end.

The Hon. Mr Hetherington made reference to the fact that unions could not be represented on the board. What I was opposing was the inclusion of a specific group which may not include the best person to be on the board. The Bill allows for the appointment of the best person to serve Kalgoorlie. It does not say that the Chamber of Mines should be represented or that a certain person in the community such as the Mayor of Kalgoorlie should be represented.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He wouldn't get on it!

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: It does not say that the TLC cannot present to the Minister the opinion that perhaps a member of the AWU would be the best person at this time. The Bill does more than pay lip service to what was referred to in connection with employee participation. I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition would have supported the Bill and not the amendment. The Bill spells out employee participation.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am still supporting the Bill.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: Paragraphs (d) and (e) spell out that there are to be several members who are employees, but it does not say we may have employee participation. It says that we shall have employee participation.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: We approve of that.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: We could take the analogy of the School of Mines and the students and workers of that educational institution. Paragraph (g) says—

one person who is for the time being an enrolled student of the branch and who is elected by enrolled students of the branch in such manner as is prescribed by Statute.

In terms of our considering employee participation or worker participation in the School of Mines, we have provided the means by which this can be achieved.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: That depends on the Government, doesn't it?

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: The Bill talks about a representative of the industry or other commercial community interests, and I assume the TLC is well covered within that clause, but only if it proposes the best person at that time.

I refute any suggestion that a unionist may not be the best person. The School of Mines and people working in the mining industry make a great contribution and some of them are a lot smarter than city fellows. A fellow came to Perth on one occasion and tried to get some sand at the local council sand pit and the council said, "No, you cannot have sand. Get off this land. This is for the council." He promptly turned up at the Mines Department and discovered that it was Crown land that had not been pegged. He pegged the land and told the council it could buy the sand if it liked.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I bet we had some retrospective legislation fairly quickly after that.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: As has been mentioned by the Hon. Norman Moore, many of the unions and people in the community, would be

hard pressed to find people who have not had an association with the union in Kalgoorlie. In the years I spent working underground I was a member of the AWU. A Chief Secretary who used to sit in this Chamber, the Hon. Claude Stubbs, raced over and made sure I was on the local council roll so that I could vote in the upper House elections in those days.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I bet he is sorry about that now.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the honourable member is straying from the amendment before the Chair.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: I am sure it has a lot to do with the amendment.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: The Hon. Claude Stubbs also has a history! We are talking about the TLC and situations in which a union might find itself. Paragraph (b) allows for the fact that a unionist could well be on the board. In those days Claude Stubbs, prior to being a health inspector, was underground.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He was an underground manager.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: He would have been a member of the AWU. I would have thought the Opposition would have given some credit to the Government for the fine way in which it has looked at employee participation and the possibility of including on the board a union member or any person in the community who is the most suitable person. The Leader of the Opposition said that with this clause we are dividing the people.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I didn't say that.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: He didn't say that at all. He said that this clause will unite the people.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: He said, "divide the people, divide the community". That is a type of blackmail approach.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: First left-wingers and now blackmailers! Your speeches are always full of Christian charity.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: I suggest the amendment should be opposed and if the TLC person happens to be the best person available, there is allowance for his appointment.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: And if the Minister happens to choose him!

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: It gives consideration to every person.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Are you going to make a commitment?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I will respond briefly to the remarks made by the Hon. Des Dans. I have been here five years and I have heard that speech about dividing the community about 27 times.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will let you have it. I said "divisive".

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I have heard the same story about the question of industrial democracy.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I didn't use the term "industrial democracy".

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I have heard about the future of the country being totally gloomy unless we do something about the demands of the union movement and the economic climate.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What a lot of rot!

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am pleased the Leader of the Opposition had lunch with Mr Wran the other day because he could have given that gentleman advice on how to run industrial relations in New South Wales.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I had lunch with the Solidarity people and Mr Wran was there.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: As the Hon. Peter Wells mentioned, the Hon. Des Dans said that if this amendment is not passed the legislation will be divisive. They were his exact words.

The Hon. J. M. Brown is asking the Government to write into the legislation that a particular interest group be included on the board of the college. If that is not divisive, I do not know what is. If he were to also say, "Let us write in the Chamber of Mines as a group which will have a representative on the board", that would not be divisive because it would give both sides of the argument. What he is asking is for one group only to be represented by writing it into the Act.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: What balance can be achieved under the existing legislation?

Several members interjected.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You are talking rubbish.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: You are talking rubbish.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The honourable member who is interjecting has been in this Chamber for only three minutes this evening and would not know what we are talking about.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: That is not true.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: If we agreed to the amendment we would be writing into the legis-

lation that a particular interest group shall have a representative on this board. If we were to say that the Trades and Labor Council shall have a representative, and also the Chamber of Mines shall have a representative, that would be a balanced situation. The honourable gentleman has not moved for a balance, he has moved for one group to be written into the legislation.

What I am suggesting is that we do not need the amendment because proposed section 21C(b) as it stands, provides for all interest groups to be represented and I cannot see any reason for any amendment.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I did not want to get into this arena but the Government has a vested interest in being divisive.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: That is not true.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The Hon. Norman Moore knows it is true.

I was listening with a great deal of interest to the Hon. Peter Wells and he was going well; but then he started to wobble and shake and mention unionists and other things of that kind. Let me repeat that when I say divisiveness destroys social cohesiveness in the community, they are not my words. I have the opportunity, as Leader of the Opposition in this House, to meet with leading industrialists in this country who are deeply concerned as are a number of other people in our society. When I said that the Trades and Labor Council, by its very name, represents the biggest group of people in that arena—I do not want to use the term "worker" because we are all workers in one way or the other—those words belong to the Kier Hardy days.

There is such a thing as a marketing exercise and that is an easy way to market a bit of employee participation. It would be far more desirable to have the Trades and Labor Council named in the legislation. I can bet pounds to peanuts that a representative from the Chamber of Mines will be on the board. When the Minister for Labour and Industry refers to the Trades and Labor Council, the metal workers and people they deal with, the Chamber of Mines, the Confederation of Western Australian Industry, the Australian construction engineers body, and so on, are included. I expect that those people to whom the Government is referring will be included on the board.

When I talk about the divisive nature of our society, that is a real thing. It is unfortunate we inherited it from our forefathers and it is time we got away from it. Australia is one of the few countries in the world in which we do not give enough credence to the organisations which are basically part of a labour movement. As Cliff

Dolan points out, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and its affiliates must speak to the Government regardless of which party is in Government. Incidentally, some members of the Trades and Labor Council belong to the Communist Party, the Liberal Party, the Labor Party and other groups.

The Hon. P. H. Wells: Because they are forced in there.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: They are there of their own volition—members of the Australian Council of Trade Unions have many diverse political viewpoints in the labour council of this country. Therefore, there is a good cross-section of the work force from which to draw. Is anyone to suggest that Mr Harding from the Trades and Labor Council is a supporter of the Labor Party? What the Opposition is saying is that this Chamber should either accept the amendment or reject it. If we want to do something about divisiveness in our society today we could take a few faltering steps. If this amendment is not carried out, at some time in the future we will put forward a further amendment.

The problems confronting this country today are far more serious because Australia is out of phase with the rest of the western world—we may be able to debate this issue at some time later during this session. There are a number of conscientious people in this country who know the reasons for the problems.

I commend this amendment to the Chamber. Whether it is accepted or rejected by the Chamber it is a serious attempt on the part of the Opposition to strengthen the Bill we are supporting.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: The points that have been made by the Hon. Norman Moore and the Hon. Peter Wells summarise the reasons that the Government is not prepared to accept this amendment. I do not intend to repeat at great length what has been said already.

I merely make the point that the Hon. Norman Moore made reference to the reason that the Bill does not refer to the Chamber of Mines or the Chamber of Commerce, while the Hon. Des Dans asked, "Why not the TLC?" I refer to proposed section 21C(b) which has already been referred to by the Hon. Peter Wells. It refers to a representative of education, the professions, industrial, commercial, or other community interests. That is what it says and frankly, that is what it means. Therefore, the amendment put forward by the Opposition is already covered in this Bill.

The Hon. J. M. Brown said that he understood the board had already been appointed. While I

am not a legal eagle, it is my understanding that no appointments can be made because we have a Bill before us which must become an Act and be promulgated before it can be implemented.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I have waited for some time to hear the Minister's response. I understood that Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall was to be chairman of the board—the Minister mentioned this during his second reading speech.

When I put forward this amendment I considered the pros and cons because I know how the people in the goldfields react in regard to the appointment of various members to various organisations. Indeed, I accept that there would be an appointment from those bodies that have an affiliation with the Confederation of Western Australian Industry and with the Chamber of Mines. There is an awareness that there is no representative on the board of those people who are involved in the mining industry; that is, the workers of the industry. Therefore, I had no other alternative but to suggest that the Trades and Labor Council should be represented.

This point has been canvassed by my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps we could appoint someone from the AWU, the metal workers union or the Transport Workers' Union. Those unions are involved in the Trades and Labor Council and I would expect the council to act sensibly in the appointment of someone who is associated with the mining industry from the workers' point of view.

We are talking about education and we could have someone with academic qualifications who had no experience whatsoever standing against a person who has had a practical education. It is desirable, in this technological age, to have someone on the board who has had practical experience. I do not think any members in this Chamber would reject the proposition that despite qualification a person with practical experience is invaluable to the industry of commerce.

The arguments put forward which have been of a political nature and have denigrated the Trades and Labor Council and the union movement in relation to having a representative on a board which will have 14 members—I would like that membership expanded to 15 members, or alternatively, to have a board of 14 with the inclusion of a worker from the mining industry—leave me rather aghast.

It is not a great thing to ask that a worker from the goldfields be appointed to such a board. The Bill makes provision for this by the inclusion of the words "or other community interests". Mining

is the greatest community interest in the gold-fields.

Common sense should prevail. We are supposed to be a Chamber of Review. These people have sweated blood for our nation for over a century, yet they receive no consideration from this Government.

I remind the Minister handling the Bill that the former Minister for Education agrees with this proposition. In fact, he has gone on record as saying it has been part of his policy to encourage representatives from people in all walks of life on such boards and institutions and that a common sense, practical arrangement would be to appoint a representative of the Trades and Labor Council.

I reiterate that these people have practical experience in the mining industry of the eastern goldfields. For example, although the Chamber of Mines appoints at the Government's expense, a mines inspector to inspect mines, the Government also pays a workers' representative to inspect mines. A person who comes to mind who is sincere and well respected in his field is Bob Leggerini, who was elected by the workers.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: He was appointed by the ALP.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I did not say that. Mr Moore's contribution was one of the poorest I have ever heard from a person who is supposedly knowledgeable in this area. He would do better to allow me to continue my remarks without interruption; I extended him that courtesy.

This amendment has nothing to do with politics; it is to do with common sense, which is something we seem to be lacking. I am talking about the education of our students in one of the best facilities in the country, a facility which has produced world renowned results. All I am asking is that this Committee consider providing that one member of the board shall be a representative nominated by the TLC. If the Committee does not accept my amendment, members do not deserve to be here. There is nothing political about the amendment.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: Are you saying the TLC is not political?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: It is not a political exercise. We have the hire-purchase conference, the shipping conference, and many other bodies and institutes with different names which could be said to imply some activity with which members may not agree. However, there is no way in which a worker with practical experience could offer anything but his knowledge of the industry; he would not represent a threat to the board. He would be concerned with the welfare of the

students. If the institute were in Collie, I would suggest the appointment of a miner from the coal-field; if it were in the Pilbara, I would suggest a worker from that area. I remind the Committee that the former Minister for Education supports this proposition, and I hope members will be of the same opinion.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: Mr Brown has prompted me to rise.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: I am sorry to hear that.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: Mr Brown said we should adopt a common sense attitude to this matter; I wish to present the common sense reason that we should not accept his amendment. One of the things Mr Brown did—perhaps in deference to his leader—was to refer to "the workers"; I prefer the Leader of the Opposition's assertion that we are all workers. Clause 7 of the Bill provides that a worker may be appointed to the board. It is better not to spell out the names of specific organisations. It may be that a representative of the Chamber of Mines should be on the board.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Are you suggesting someone from the Chamber of Mines may not be on the board?

The Hon. J. M. Brown: What is wrong with you? Who do you think Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall is?

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: The great probability is that there will be a representative from the Chamber of Mines.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Is there a great probability there will be a unionist?

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: An argument may be put forward that a representative from the Chamber of Mines would represent various sections of the mining industry, but not necessarily the total mining industry.

I disagree with the principle that we should start listing a whole range of people who could be appointed to such boards. Indeed, I could put forward the argument that it is about time industry in Australia followed the lead set elsewhere in the world not only on educational authorities but also on other boards dealing with the lives of people, particularly young people, and appointed a member of the clergy; the "Minister for the eternal" could be appointed to such boards to represent the people and their needs.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He could lead them in prayer for job creation.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: Mr Dans may laugh, but it is a recognised practice elsewhere in the

world that there is a place on such boards for industrial chaplains.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Do not have worker priests. They did that in France, and they ended up as the most vocal supporters of the Communist Party.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: If we start to spell out specific groups of people who should be appointed to these boards, we must take into consideration the whole spectrum. The common sense approach is to appoint the best man for the job.

I was disappointed in Mr Brown's approach to the debate when he said that members who did not support his amendment did not deserve to be here; the implication was, "This is the only way. Do it our way or else." The community is sick of that approach and it is time for a more open approach. I believe such an approach is embodied in this legislation. I am amazed that members opposite cannot read, because the Bill provides for employer and worker participation; it makes it possible for such people to be on the board, without necessarily spelling out their names.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There seems to be creeping into the debate a certain repetitious approach. I ask members to confine their remarks to the amendment and not to go over old ground, but to introduce fresh material.

The Hon. P. H. WELLS: In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I reiterate that we do not need to spell out the names of these people because the Bill is worded in such a way as to make provision for their inclusion. I oppose the amendment because it offers nothing to the institution or the legislation.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I promised myself I would not enter the debate again, but Mr Wells has provoked me. The first point I wish to make is that I would be very surprised if a member of the Chamber of Mines were not on the board of this institution. Furthermore, if there were an election tomorrow before this board came into operation, and a Labor Government were returned, I have no doubt we would appoint a representative of the Chamber of Mines to the board of this institution.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: It is not compulsory that there be one; it provides for flexibility.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: That is what I have just said. I noted that no member—not Mr Wells, although I asked him by interjection; certainly not Mr Moore; and, I do not expect, the Minister, although I will try him out a little later—said, "Yes, there will be a mineworker or a unionist on the board."

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I am not appointing the board, so how could I have said that?

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Nor am I, but I am quite sure certain people will be on the board.

The Hon. P. H. Wells: There will be 14 workers.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: We spell something out specifically when it is the custom not to appoint certain people to boards. It is necessary for the time being to introduce what amounts to positive discrimination. There would be times when I would move that a woman should be appointed to a certain board or institution; there might be times when Mr Wells believes a person from the clergy should be appointed to a board, and I might support him in some instances.

The Hon. P. H. Wells: If he is the best man.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Mr Wells is missing the point. Sometimes we put a person on a board as a symbol, as well as looking for the best man, and that is what I am suggesting we should be doing. That is what the argument is about.

I stress the point that, as a matter of course, Governments should appoint to boards unionists, as representatives of the working class. Mr Dans will not like my use of that term, but I make no apologies for it. Once this practice is followed, there is no need to write it into legislation. However, I believe we should write it in now because it is important a representative of the TLC be appointed as a symbol. I am sure the Minister would appreciate the importance of symbolism, if none of the people behind him does.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 7

Hon. J. M. Brown	Hon. R. T. Leeson
Hon. D. K. Dans	Hon. Tom Stephens
Hon. Peter Dowding	Hon. Fred McKenzie
Hon. Robert Hetherington	(Teller)

Noes 15

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. P. G. Pandal
Hon. A. A. Lewis	Hon. W. M. Piesse
Hon. P. H. Lockyer	Hon. R. G. Pike
Hon. G. E. Masters	Hon. P. H. Wells
Hon. Neil McNeill	Hon. R. J. L. Williams
Hon. I. G. Medcalf	Hon. D. J. Wordsworth
Hon. N. F. Moore	Hon. Margaret McAleer
Hon. Neil Oliver	(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Hon. Garry Kelly	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. Lyla Elliott	Hon. I. G. Pratt
Hon. J. M. Berinson	Hon. Tom Knight

Amendment thus negatived.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I take the point made by the Minister and other members that proposed new section 21C(b) says—

Seven persons appointed by the Minister representative of education, the professions, industrial, commercial, or other community interests;

I recall some years ago when a new university was being created in South Australia—the Flinders University—the legislation laid down that the Government would appoint three members, and a number of other people were specified. It was a very specific piece of legislation.

It was argued members of the TLC and the employer groups should be included also. The Minister of the day, the Hon. R. R. Loveday, who was not a great one for patronage, unlike some other Ministers, decided to overcome the protest by promising that, of the three Government appointees, one would be appointed on the recommendation of the employers' group, and one on the representation of the TLC, and so it was done.

I suggest to the Minister that not only can the Government appoint the kind of person we have suggested, but also that it should do so. I ask the Minister that, when the Committee stage has been reported, he make the third reading an order of the day for the next sitting of the Chamber and if he can return and report to me that the Minister has said he will appoint a union representative or somebody similar—he knows what we are looking for—I will be able to vote for the third reading with a better conscience.

The Minister knows I will not vote against the third reading, but I could vote for it more positively as a result of this simple assurance which I know he cannot make himself now, but which he could make later if he so desired.

I make that suggestion to the Minister because, after all the brouhaha we have heard about what can be done with the Bill, I should like to see that it is done and, if it is, I shall be quite overjoyed, because we probably would not need to move amendments like this in the future.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I remind the Minister that in my second reading speech I made some comments about the Kalgoorlie College, which was formerly the Eastern Goldfields Technical College.

In his wisdom, the Hon. Norman Moore mentioned that had nothing to do with the Bill; but had he consulted the debates which took place in another place, he would have seen it was the subject of much comment.

Before this Bill is passed in the House, we should have some assurances as to the functions of the autonomous body which will operate the Kalgoorlie College, because it is closely tied in. I referred to this in my second reading speech and the Minister did not comment on it in his reply. I understand there is good reason that he could not do so and I just wonder whether any commitment has been made by the Minister for Education in this direction, because it is certainly tied up with education in the goldfields. I pointed out previously that an interim committee had been appointed in this regard and some answers should be given on this matter.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: If I might answer the Hon. Jim Brown first, I did mention, when I replied to the points made by the Hon. Bob Hetherington—because he raised the same point as the Hon. Jim Brown—that I was aware of the situation surrounding the Eastern Goldfields Technical College, because I had looked at the debates which took place in the other place. I said I had received a statement from the Minister to the effect that the Dormer inquiry which had been appointed by the Minister was looking into the whole situation concerning technical education not just in Kalgoorlie, but also in Western Australia—although I understand specific attention will be given to Kalgoorlie—so we would need to await the results of that inquiry.

In regard to the point raised by the Hon. Bob Hetherington, as he has already said, I am not the Minister responsible for the Bill, but I hope on this occasion, and on subsequent occasions, I will not be an unreasonable Minister and so, of course, I will refer his question to the Minister for Education.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 10 and 11 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.57 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Feasibility Studies

437. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

In relation to feasibility studies or other studies concerning—

(a) the proposed aluminium smelter;

- (b) the proposed Bunbury power station; and
- (c) the proposed reduction of iron ore to a more pure state—

will the Minister advise—

- (1) Have any commitments been made to fund these studies?
- (2) If so, to which groups have commitments been made?
- (3) What funds are involved in each case?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (a) (1) to (3) Arthur D. Little Inc. of the United States and W. D. Scott & Co. have been appointed to perform separate studies in relation to the proposed aluminium smelter for Western Australia.

- (b) (1) to (3) The Energy Commission is proceeding with the environmental studies associated with the proposed Bunbury coal-fired power station. A total of 14 studies associated with the preparation of an environmental review and management programme at a total estimated cost of \$970 000 are in progress.

The power plant consultant, Burns & Roe Inc., has been retained to produce an economic feasibility study for the Bunbury "C" power station.

- (c) (1) to (3) Currently Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. and the Italian group, Finsider, are actively studying prospects for direct reduction of Western Australian iron ore.

The Western Australian Government has offered to Finsider the support of Western Australian Government organisations in carrying out this study—as is offered and available to established Western Australian iron ore companies.

Studies are funded by the proponent companies.

APPRENTICES

Suspensions

438. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

For each month of 1982, how many apprentices have been suspended as a re-

sult of applications from their employers under section 37A of the Industrial Training Act relating to cessation of business or financial difficulties?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

The following schedule confirms the number of apprentices suspended under section 37A of the Industrial Training Act during 1982—

January	8
February	0
March	10
April	5
May	33
June	10
July	22
August	10
September	0

Total since January 1982—98.

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

Licences: Fees

439. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Do different licensing fees apply in respect of identical vehicles on the basis of them being—

- (a) petrol; and
- (b) diesel?

- (2) If so, what is the reason for the different fees?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Section 19 (14) of the Road Traffic Act provides for a concession of 50 per cent of the licence fee that would otherwise be payable on a diesel-engined vehicle, or a semi-trailer, trailer—other than plant trailer—or convertor dolly trailer hauled solely by a diesel-engined prime mover, provided the tare or load capacity is within specified limits.

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW GROUP

Reports

440. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development:

Further to question 394 of 18 August 1982, I ask—

- (1) What are the precise titles of all re-

- ports which have been prepared by the technology review group?
- (2) What are the titles of those reports currently in preparation by the technology review group?
 - (3) Which reports in (1) above have specifically addressed the question of the impact of new technology on employment structure?
 - (4) Which reports in (2) above are addressing the question of the impact of new technology on employment structure?
 - (5) For what precise reason will the Government not make public any of the reports which have been prepared by the technology review group?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Reports have been submitted to the Minister under generic headings. Refer answer to parliamentary question 394 of 18 August 1982.
- (2) No specific new reports are under study by the TRG. Further research into current and ongoing studies is being undertaken.
- (3) Education subcommittee interim report. Refer answer to parliamentary question 394 of 18 August 1982.
- (4) Refer answer to part (2).
- (5) Refer to answer to parliamentary question 394 of 18 August 1982.

APPRENTICES

Metropolitan Water Authority

441. The Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to recent newspaper advertisements for apprenticeships being offered by the Metropolitan Water Authority, and ask—

- (1) For what purpose are radio and television servicing apprenticeships required?
- (2) How many vacancies in this category are there?
- (3) How many current apprentices are there for radio and television servicing?

- (4) How many qualified tradesmen are employed by the authority for radio and television servicing?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) To service the authority's radio and telecommunications network.
- (2) One.
- (3) None.
- (4) Three.

COURT: CHILDREN'S

Carnarvon

442. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney General:

- (1) What was the total number of charges heard in the Carnarvon Children's Court in 1981?
- (2) What was the total number of charges heard in the Carnarvon Children's Court from 1 January until 31 August 1982?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) 348.
- (2) 366.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Annual Report

443. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Does the Totalisator Agency Board circulate its annual report to all racing, trotting and greyhound clubs in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Is the report available to the general public on request?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Are any obstacles placed in the way of any person endeavouring to—
 - (a) peruse a copy of the report at TAB headquarters, and obtain extracts from it; and
 - (b) obtain a copy from the same location or from the board?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) The annual report of the Totalisator Agency Board is circulated to the principal racing, trotting, and greyhound clubs. It is supplied to other clubs on request.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Answered by (3) above.
- (5) (a) and (b) No.

HEALTH: NURSING HOMES

Statistics

444. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many non-Government nursing homes are now registered in WA?
- (2) Of these, how many are run by—
 - (a) non-profit making boards or organisations; and
 - (b) private individuals or companies?
- (3) What was the total amount paid in subsidies to these homes in the last financial year by—
 - (a) the State; and
 - (b) the Commonwealth?
- (4) What is the total number of patients accommodated in these homes?
- (5) Has the Minister's department yet established a method to determine the numbers related to age and sex of nursing home patients?
- (6) If not, when will the study designed to obtain this information, as referred to in his reply to my question 693 of 10 November 1981, be completed?
- (7) How many nursing officers are now employed by his department to carry out inspections of non-Government nursing homes?
- (8) How many homes have been visited from 1 January to 31 August 1982, and on how many occasions?
- (9) Have unannounced inspections been carried out—
 - (a) at meal times; or
 - (b) early in the morning to ensure there is no repetition of 4 a.m. showering of patients?
- (10) When is it intended to introduce the proposed new private hospitals regulations?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) 104.
- (2) (a) 30;
(b) 74.
- (3) (a) and (b) Information on (a) is not available but will be given to the member in writing and (b) is a matter for the Commonwealth.
- (4) 4 917 beds. Day-to-day numbers not recorded, but experience indicates near 100 per cent occupancy.
- (5) No.

- (6) Preliminary study indicated that the cost would be prohibitive and the member has not really indicated any justification for compilation of such detailed data.
- (7) One full-time nurse, two regular part-time nurses, other nurses as required, and the establishment of a further full-time position is under consideration. A number of health surveyors also inspect from time to time.
- (8) 90 single visits
seven visited twice
one visited three times
- (9) (a) and (b) Yes;
- (10) Early in 1983.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Welfare and Assistance Act: Allowances

445. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Under the Welfare and Assistance Act, what allowance is paid in respect of a child fostered to—
 - (a) a relative; and
 - (b) a stranger?
- (2) When was the allowance last altered, and by how much?
- (3) Is the amount payable currently under review, and if so, can we expect a further alteration?
- (4) If "No" to (3), why not?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) Under the Welfare and Assistance Act the allowance paid in respect of a child fostered to—
 - (a) a relative—is \$12.85 per week (privately placed) \$24.00 per week (department placed);
 - (b) a stranger—is \$24.00 per week.
- (2) The allowance paid to—
 - (a) strangers—was last altered on 1 October 1981, when the rate was increased by \$1.75 per week;
 - (b) relatives—the allowance paid is equivalent to the Commonwealth Government's double orphan pension rate; and was instituted from 1 January 1981. The relatives' allowance has not varied since inception.

(3) The amount payable for—

(a) strangers—is reviewed each year at time of Budget preparation; any alteration will only be known after the 1982-83 Budget has been brought down;

(b) relatives—as advised in 2(b) the relatives' allowance payable is equivalent to Commonwealth Government's double orphan pension rate; accordingly any alteration to this rate is dependent upon changes to the double orphan pension rate (subject to Cabinet approval).

I understand no alteration is planned by the Commonwealth at this point, to vary the double orphan pension rate, accordingly there will be no alteration to the department's relatives' allowance.

(4) Relatives' allowance—as in (3) (b).

RACING

Racecourse Development Fund: Distribution

446. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) What was the total amount of moneys distributed by the racecourse development fund?

(2) Which clubs were the recipients, and what were the individual amounts?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

(1) The total amount of funds allocated to clubs during the year 1 August 1981 to 31 July 1982 was \$301 389.

(2) Schedule of allocations made to clubs during the year 1 August 1981 to 31 July 1982—

	\$
Harvey Trotting Club	
Assist financing of track lighting	20 000
Northam Race Club	
Assist cost of developing new track	75 000
Exmouth Race Club	
Assist cost of replacing wind-mill head	500
Northam Trotting Club	
Assist repayment of lighting loan	15 000
Pinjarra Trotting Club	
Assist cost of upgrading track and enclosing public area	25 000

Pinjarra Race Club	
Assist cost of new administration building	40 000
Bunbury Trotting Club	
Assist financing of public facilities	12 000
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club	
Assist financing of additional overnight stable accommodation	4 000
Bunbury Race Club	
Assist financing of new totalisator building, bar and additional area for jockeys	10 000
Katanning Race Club	
Part cost of running rail	4 000
Carnarvon Race Club	
Part cost of public bar and tea rooms	2 500
Ashburton Race Club	
Part cost of restoration of track, construction of stallion yards and supply 20 000 gallon tank	3 000
Toodyay Race Club	
Assist financing of new administration building	12 000
Beverley Race Club	
Assist financing of extensions to bookmakers and public bar area and erection of 50 new horse stalls	18 000
Albany and Districts Trotting Club	
Assist reduction of overdraft	15 000
Assist clearance of overdue debentures	5 000
Newman Turf Club	
Totalisator Machines	1 000
Bridgetown Trotting Club	
Assist cost of concreting floor of 68 horse stalls	3 000
Upgrading of track	2 500
Yalgoo Jockey Club	
Contribution towards cost of new diesel generator plant	500
Assist financing of new 12 stall starting gates for joint use by Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Meekatharra and Murchison Goldfields Race Clubs	1 500
Collie Trotting Club	
Financial assistance	8 000

Moora Race Club	
Weatherproofing and upgrading of totalisator and grandstand	1 889
Mt. Magnet Race Club	
Assist financing of 26 additional horse stalls	2 000
Assist financing of new 12 stall starting gates for joint use by Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Meekatharra and Murchison Goldfields Race Clubs	1 500 3 500
Meekatharra Race Club	
Assist financing of new 12 stall starting gates for joint use by Mt. Magnet, Yalgoo, Meekatharra and Murchison Goldfields Race Clubs	1 500
Murchison Goldfields Race Club	
Assist financing of new 12 stall starting gates for joint use by Mt. Magnet, Yalgoo, Meekatharra and Murchison Goldfields Race Clubs	1 500
Geraldton Turf Club	
Water supply improvements	5 000
Wiluna Picnic Race Club	
Assist financing of new mill, tower and pump	1 000
Dongara-Irwin Race Club	
Assist purchase from Geraldton Turf Club of starting gates for joint use with Mingenew Turf Club	3 000
Mingenew Turf Club	
Assist purchase from Geraldton Turf Club of starting gates for joint use with Dongara-Irwin Race Club	3 000
Esperance Bay Turf Club	
Assist financing of boundary fencing and earth works	3 500
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HEALTH

Royal Flying Doctor Service

447. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

How much money was granted to the WA Branch of the Royal Flying Doctor Service by the State Government in the 1981-1982 financial year?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:
\$1 466 000.

HOUSING

Exmouth

448. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many State houses are there in Exmouth?
- (2) How many of these houses are being used under an arrangement with the United States Navy and the Australian Navy?
- (3) What is the number of State houses to be built in Exmouth in the 1982-1983 financial year?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) There are 209 commission houses in Exmouth.
- (2) 139.
- (3) This has not been finally determined.

HEALTH

Nursing Post: Yalgoo

449. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Health:

What is the completion date of the nursing post in Yalgoo?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

The Yalgoo nursing post was completed on 30 August 1982. Problems with the bore pump delayed occupation until 9 September 1982.

TRAFFIC: MVIT

Statute of Limitations

450. The Hon. J. M. BERINSON, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In respect of how many active claims against the MVIT was the trust proposing to rely on the Statute of limitations prior to the Government's announcement on Monday, 13 September 1982, of its intention to amend the Act?
- (2) Will the proposed amendment extend to actions already Statute barred?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) The trust has followed a policy of pleading the defence available to it under the Limitation Act in cases where a claimant has issued a writ after six years.

Inquiries with the trust indicate that only about two or three such writs would be current at the present time.

- (2) Details of the amendment have not been finalised.

TRAFFIC: MVIT

Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act: Section 29

451. The Hon. J. M. BERINSON, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Local Government:

In each of the last five years—

- (1) How many notices were issued by the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust pursuant to section 29 (2) of its Act?
- (2) How many applications were made pursuant to section 29 (3) of the Act?
- (3) How many orders were made pursuant to section 29 (5) (a) of the Act?
- (4) How many claims were barred pursuant to section 29 (8) of the Act?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) to (4) The Minister for Local Government has been advised that the trust has never recorded the statistics required by this question, and that it would take an inordinate amount of time to extract the information from the papers covering each claim.

INSURANCE: STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act: Participation

452. The Hon. J. M. BERINSON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Why has the SGIO not previously withdrawn as a participating insurer under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act?
- (2) What financial benefit or detriment has or is estimated to have accrued to the SGIO in the past five years from its position as a participating insurer?

- (3) What financial benefit or detriment is it estimated would accrue to the SGIO if it continued as a participating insurer?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) Because it is a function of the SGIO to support the Government and Government organisations.
- (2) The SGIO has received dividends in accordance with the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act on the same basis as other participating insurers. I am advised that in the past five years dividends from completed pools have totalled \$1.7 million.
- (3) I am advised that if the MVIT is allowed to adjust premiums on an actuarial basis modest dividends will continue after outstanding claim liabilities have been made.

IMMIGRATION

Skilled Labour

453. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Can the Minister detail the steps taken by the State Government to reduce the number of skilled migrants coming to WA, and when were those steps taken?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

Curtailment of recruitment and processing of applications for migrants to Western Australia commenced in November 1981. The State immigration officers maintain regular contact with the Agent General's Office in London to keep that office informed of current employment trends, and to enable that office to advise applicants of the difficulties in obtaining employment in certain categories of work.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

RECREATION: FOOTBALL

Subiaco Oval

114. The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (for the Hon. TOM McNEIL), to the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) What is the capacity of the Subiaco Oval in—
 - (a) seating;
 - (b) standing room?

- (2) What is the record attendance for this ground?
- (3) In the event of the attendance at this week's grand final between Swan Districts and Claremont reaching total capacity, and the gates being closed, is it the Western Australian Football League's intention to make a direct telecast of the game available to all country areas and the metropolitan area?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

The WAFL advises—

- (1) (a) Approximately 20 000;
(b) approximately 32 000.
- (2) 52 871.
- (3) Providing ground attendances reach anticipated levels, it is intended to telecast the game direct to all country areas. Any decision regarding the metropolitan area would be made on the day; but I am advised it is most unlikely that there will be any direct telecast in this area.

NEWSPAPER LIBEL AND REGISTRATION ACT

"The Kimberley Echo"

115. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Attorney General:

This relates to my question yesterday dealing with a complaint about *The Kimberley Echo*, to which the Attorney indicated that he had replied to me by letter. My questions are as follows—

(1) Would he inform me and the House when I might expect to receive this letter?

(2) If it has been transmitted, could he explain the delay in its delivery?

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Perhaps he sent it to your electorate office.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) In regard to my reply to the member's letter, which I note was dated 3 September, not 19 August, I have in fact replied.
- (2) This question should be addressed to the Federal authorities.

NEWSPAPER LIBEL AND REGISTRATION ACT

"The Kimberley Echo"

116. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Attorney General:

Would he tell me and the House on what date the letter was despatched to me, as far as he was concerned?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

The letter was signed by me this morning.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Oh!

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I said yesterday that it had not been written. I imagine it will be posted today. However, as we are moving into a speculative area, I would not like to comment further.

