

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 30 March 1982

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Motor Vehicle Dealers Amendment Bill.

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

2. Fire Brigades Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Hassell (Minister for Police and Prisons), and read a first time.

3. Acts Amendment (Judicial Appointments) Bill.

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

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [4.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a measure to correct an anomaly in the Stamp Act which has been highlighted by recent overseas loan raising activities on behalf of the State Energy Commission.

The State Energy Commission has been declared a Crown instrumentality under section 119 of the Act, which exempts the commission from payment of stamp duties when it is the party legally liable to pay duty.

However, under part IVB of the Act, a situation can arise when the State Energy Commission borrows money at a rate of interest in excess of the rate declared for the purpose of the Act.

If a person is carrying on credit business in Western Australia and the interest involved in transactions is above the rate declared for the purpose of the Stamp Act—currently 17.75 per cent—he is required to register under the Act.

If a lender to the commission is such a registered person or is required to register because negotiations are to be carried on in Western Australia, the lender is liable to pay the duty, if applicable.

As a result, and notwithstanding that the State Energy Commission is an exempt authority in its own right, the cost involved would be passed on to the commission by the lender. This, of course, adds to the cost of borrowing which, in turn, is passed on to the consumer.

This contrasts with the situation which arises when the State Energy Commission borrows from a lender who is a person outside Western Australia and is not required to register under the Stamp Act. In this case the commission is exempt from duty.

The anomaly has been highlighted in the current negotiations for an overseas loan for the Dampier-Perth natural gas pipeline where, because of a floating interest rate facility, the potential exists for the declared rate to be exceeded. The lenders are, therefore, reluctant to negotiate in Perth because of the existing stamp duty provisions.

Clearly, this problem will continue to arise not only in respect of future borrowings of the State Energy Commission, but also in any other approaches to overseas markets such as provided for in the borrowings for Authorities Act.

To overcome the problem the Bill proposes that the Treasurer be empowered to designate the Crown instrumentalities with whom credit transactions are to be exempt from stamp duty. There is no loss of revenue to the State. It means simply that transactions can be negotiated with greater flexibility between the parties.

The current situation is creating uncertainty amongst prospective lenders, and it needs to be resolved. Because of loan negotiations currently in progress which are affected by the present anomaly in the Act, the Government proposes that this measure be progressed with some urgency.

I therefore commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Brian Burke (Leader of the Opposition).

SUPREME COURT AMENDMENT BILL

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 25 March.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [4.41 p.m.]: In speaking to the Address-in-Reply, I wish to cover

the basic need for strong economic management and economic leadership. Initially, however, I congratulate the new member for Swan, who was elected to this Parliament at the same time as I was, at the recent by-elections.

I thank members from both sides of the House for the courtesies shown in welcoming me to this Parliament. I also place on record my appreciation to the staff and officers of the Parliament for the assistance and guidance given. Most importantly, I would like to thank the electors of Nedlands for putting me here, and for the tremendous support that they have offered me in what has been a major change in their representation. I will endeavour to maintain the same high standard of representation to which they have become accustomed.

It is a great honour for me to represent the seat of Nedlands which has been held previously by only three people. From 1930 to 1950 it was held by Sir Norbert Keenan; from 1950 to 1953 by Mr David Grayden; and from 1953 to 1982 by my father, Sir Charles Court. The previous member had one of the finest parliamentary careers this State has seen and judging by the speeches and comments made by members from both sides of the House since I have been here, he still has members a little worried!

Sir Charles spent 20 of his 29 years as a Minister and for the last eight years he was the Premier of this State. The example he has set, not only to me, but also to all members of this House, is a worthy one, and one that we should all follow. I wish Sir Charles and Lady Court a happy retirement. I hope they are happy in the knowledge that I am now taking most of the telephone calls; and I will endeavour to represent in a capable and dedicated manner the seat that they loved so much.

The main area of government with which I wish to deal is the economy, with particular reference to small business. Australia today has a great need for well-guided economic management and strong economic leadership. The sector of the economy with which I am most familiar is that of small business, having established a number of successful businesses, starting from nothing. Western Australia has more than 40 000 small businesses, which employ more people than all big businesses together, excluding the Government.

The key to the successful development of small businesses is strong economic management, and not Government handouts. Small business in this State requires major projects as the catalyst for their future growth. Much is said during debates about the current difficult state of the economy.

What should be done about it, and what can be done to help small businesses? The time is now right for the Federal Government to relax its tight monetary policy, because the international inflationary pressures on the economy have levelled off. The international energy prices have stabilised and, in some cases, have declined. Industry has tremendous surplus capacity, and the excess of demand of goods over the supply of goods is no longer apparent.

What is the best way to relax this tight monetary policy? It is by cutting personal income tax. This is the most visible method of obtaining benefits for the consumers. It would restore confidence to the consumers by placing money in their pockets.

The fact that the international inflationary pressures have been removed from the system is best shown by the very encouraging inflation figures in the United States economy in the last three months. In December, the inflation rate was 0.4 per cent; in January, 0.3 per cent; and in February, 0.2 per cent. The time is right for the Federal Government to ease its tight monetary policies.

The time has also come when we must develop new policies in relation to the protection of industry. Less protection would assist small businesses, farmers, and others in Western Australia. Less protection would increase employment in Western Australia. Protection may preserve employment in the protected industries, but it does not increase job opportunities overall. Rather, the jobs are distributed away from the resource-based economies such as Queensland and Western Australia to the manufacturing-based economies such as Victoria and South Australia.

The current protection of industry has created a higher cost structure for all industry in Australia. This country has become obsessed with protecting traditional industries, and it has neglected the new high technology manufacturing and service industries. It has neglected the resource-oriented industries that we can develop so readily in this State. We must not be mesmerised into protecting the older industries. We should get out, chase, and encourage new enterprise.

We are fortunate in this country to have an education system which includes many fine tertiary institutions which are turning out people with potentially high levels of expertise. Our country should become a leader in the new wave of high technology manufacturing and service industries, instead of making the consumers pay

for the protection of certain industries which have become political monuments. These are easily identifiable in New South Wales and Victoria; however, we do not have many such monuments in Western Australia.

It is unfortunate that certain sectors of our community have been fighting technological change. In some instances they have been successful and this has resulted in the competitive demise of those industries. We should not be fighting technological change. Rather, we should be ensuring that we are to the forefront in creating exciting new job opportunities and keeping our economy viable and competitive.

We have a shining example of a desirable Western Australian initiative in the field of new technology, and I refer to the Systems Research Institute of Australia, which is based in Perth. It is a Western Australian Government initiative which gives us a sound base to get into the computer software industry, both at home and abroad.

Besides encouraging the new breed of high technology industries and services we should look at Western Australia's major asset. We have a resource-based economic model with abundant reserves of energy and we have the perfect medium for the upgrading of those raw materials into upgraded minerals and processed metals. I give as examples bauxite to alumina to aluminium and ilmenite to synthetic rutile to titanium. This resource-based model provides the opportunities for small businesses and these provide the catalyst to which I was referring earlier.

In brief, I am not suggesting that overnight we scrap protection as we know it today. I am suggesting a 10-year plan to achieve a new order, allowing Government, industry, and commerce time to adjust to the changes. But we must head positively in this new direction with genuine and meaningful decisions to remain a viable and competitive economy.

Another area of concern for small business is the lack of long-term finance. The farmers have their Primary Industry Bank of Australia, and the miners have their Australian Resources Development Bank. What small business requires is 10-year-plus debt finance rather than have to rely on short-term current overdraft facilities.

People often overlook the fact that, to the small businessman, the security of a longer term for money is often more important than the cost of that money. Again I stress that small business does not want subsidies. It needs a growing and viable economy with adequate long-term finance available to it.

I move now to industrial relations, which is an area of the economy where we need vastly improved management and leadership on both the employers' and employees' sides. Militant leaders in the union movement have abused their powers. They are no longer concerned mainly with the conditions of service and the well-being of their members. Their objectives have become ideological rather than industrial.

On the employers' side, managers' communication with employees is terrible. A recent survey undertaken by W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd., management consultants, showed that, of over 150 chief executives surveyed, only four per cent regarded industrial relations as the portfolio they should handle. The remaining 96 per cent felt it was best handled further down the line. Yet the work force is the most important asset any manager has under his control. Managements have to learn to get out of their stuffy offices and communicate on the factory floor level, at the mine face, or wherever the action is. Perhaps in modern industry it is in the software department.

Our current wage-fixing system has broken down and presently we are operating under the worst of both worlds. As I have said before outside the House, the system is sick and in need of a doctor, fast. I would like to become part of a team to develop an alternative system, a system of collective bargaining with enforceable contracts, a system tailored to suit the unique industrial relations conditions that have evolved in Australia over the years, a system that caters for all sections of the work force.

Our overall wage-fixing system must become more flexible so that people like the young leaving school have the opportunity to start employment immediately on realistic wage levels. Currently, employers are reluctant to put on young school leavers because for the first year or so while they are being trained they cost too much and they earn too little for the employers. We must be realistic. They must have basic job training first. It is more important for persons going for their first job to gain experience, confidence, and a good reference than to receive the wage paid. As they become more productive they should be paid more.

A similar problem is experienced with graduates from the universities and our other tertiary institutions. They have no practical job experience. They must realise that their training is only just starting and that their initial productivity is not necessarily high. We must have wage levels related to productivity, not one high level of wages and conditions for the employed

and the dole for the unemployed. Everyone deserves employment. Employers and employees must be prepared to negotiate vigorously but realistically for the benefit of us all. They should keep politics out of it.

To conclude, I emphasise that our economic future is not gloomy; it is exciting and full of challenges. We live in a great country and, in particular, a great State and we should all be thankful for the tremendous opportunities given to us. I look forward to representing the seat of Nedlands in this Parliament and I hope I can make a contribution to the advancement of this great State of Western Australia.

[Applause.]

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley) [4.58 p.m.]: In speaking to the Address-in-Reply I would like firstly to extend my congratulations to the new member for Nedlands. I hope that as the years unfold he does enter debates in this Chamber, that he makes a worthy contribution to the Parliament, and that he plays a determining part in steering this State towards a prosperous and meaningful destiny for the benefit of the people who rely very heavily on us, their elected members, who are here to represent and promote their interests.

Those comments lead me into the address I intend to make, which will be an attempt—successful or otherwise—to convince this Chamber of the necessity for us to look at the more basic needs of the people of our State.

It is very fashionable and easy for members of Parliament to enter debates on major issues concerning this State and the nation. Many such members are headline seekers hoping to gain front-page newspaper coverage. Many of them seem to be very happy if they can achieve that. However, in the course of doing so we tend to establish ourselves as a group of big frogs in little puddles. In our determination to join in debate on major issues we often lose sight of the need to consider, to pay a lot of attention to, and to show compassion for, the very basic needs of the people of our State.

The people who are facing these problems see them as major issues. This is one of the conclusions I have reached in my second year in this House. We place too much emphasis on major issues such as exports, industrial relations, iron ore and so on. I do not say we should not spend a lot of time debating these very important issues. They are important, and we are commissioned with the responsibility of determining the most practical and meaningful way in which those issues ought to be faced and

planned, but I think we are doing it in such a way that very little emphasis is placed upon other issues.

One might say, "What are these other issues? How are they important as the people see them?" In the last few weeks I have read in the newspapers and have seen on the television our Premier making the statement that he intends to endeavour to set a place within the structures of this Parliament for emphasis on the needs of the people of this State. If he is fair dinkum about this, I am the first to say that he will gain as much co-operation as he needs from me. That is a very refreshing approach and will be valuable for the State, if he is fair dinkum.

We have allowed this "big frog in little puddle" syndrome to develop and we are said to be dictated to by bureaucrats and other people outside this Chamber in relation to where the problems lie. We must face the realities and have a good understanding of these needs. We were elected to advance these matters in the public interest, but, because of the way in which we have allowed this system to develop, we have to go to the bureaucrats for guidance. Often Government policies come from the guidance of bureaucrats and this is where the whole system falls down.

A problem has just developed in the Kimberley in respect of an air service to some pastoral properties. When I first raised this matter with officers of the Transport Commission, I was clearly told that as far as they were concerned a proposition was being put before the stations requiring these properties to meet a landing fee of \$40 per flight. This money was required to meet a shortfall in the direct operating cost of this service to the six properties concerned. The commission was adamant that if the properties involved were not prepared to meet this landing fee, the service would simply be terminated. I was very annoyed at their definite attitude in relation to this matter. It is all right for somebody in an office in Perth to say that only one or two letters are delivered every fortnight by way of these air services, but no matter how big the delivery is, it is very important to people in remote areas who rely upon it. We must not assess the value of this air service on weight factors or the number of letters delivered. There is a question of justice and an entitlement to a service to the people involved.

In fairness, I must say that the Minister adopted a very different attitude when approached in relation to this matter. We must look more positively and harder at where we are going in this Chamber in terms of deliberations and decisions on these issues. I am hopeful that because of my direct approach to the Minister

and the fact that this matter will be re-examined, the decision by the Transport Commission may be reviewed and the service will continue to operate at no cost to the stations involved. We are talking about only \$1 000 per year per station, which would not break the State. It is essential, right, and proper that that service should be maintained by the Government.

I recently returned from the Kimberley where I discovered that the RPT service is not operating as well as it was hoped it would. The House will remember that when the present operators were awarded the contract I raised a number of queries about what I saw as possible problems which concerned me. I had 16 years' experience in the industry as an agent for MMA—now Airlines of Western Australia—and I was able to gain an understanding of the industry which convinced me that the type of operations which were being considered by the Government in respect of the present contract holder would fall short of the region's requirements. This is happening now. Logistical problems which I foreshadowed have occurred.

A problem exists with non-delivery of mail to the town and in other areas there is no delivery of newspapers and the like. People might say, "Why make a song and dance about newspapers?" Since I have been a member of Parliament I have travelled extensively throughout the State and have been to most one horse towns in the south of the State where there is usually a daily or frequent delivery of newspapers. This is fair. The people expect it and they are entitled to have it. People in Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing do not expect a daily service or the early edition of the *Daily News* made available to them on the same day, but at least they are entitled to a reasonably frequent newspaper delivery. Presently a delay of about 10 days occurs before they receive a newspaper. People should not be expected to tolerate that sort of situation, but we overlook these basic problems when considering major issues of the day.

The Minister for Lands informed me that a lot of land will be made available in the Kimberley. I have stated publicly that I welcome such action, as long as it is fair dinkum. The Kimberley has been crying out for this type of policy for a long time.

We tend to concentrate on the major issues and lose sight of the basic ones that are fundamentally important to the people of the Kimberley or any other rural area that needs land to develop its future. To a man and his wife who have been struggling and writing letters to the department

for five years and getting nowhere, this is a very frustrating issue.

Mr Laurance: There have been major subdivisions already and more will be available in the near future, which will fix the problem in a number of towns. From my recent visit to the Kimberley I realise there is a demand, and it is a good thing.

Mr BRIDGE: That is right. A family in Broome or Derby needs only about a quarter acre block, which will not make the headlines in the newspaper, but we have done something tremendous for them and have achieved a satisfactory result in relation to their land needs.

I now refer to the Aboriginal Medical Service in Edward Street, Perth. I was amazed when I visited the centre about a month ago to discover that since its commencement on 15 December 1980, it has not had air-conditioning. Staff and patients had only fans as a means of comfort on a very hot day. I thought that was very poor indeed.

Most of us would go mad if we were required to work for two or three months without those sorts of facilities, and yet the Aboriginal Medical Service, which is providing a very important service to hundreds of people in the metropolitan area, is expected to operate without air-conditioning. This is a disgraceful situation and it should not be allowed to continue. The Government has not been prepared to give assistance in relation to this and other sorts of issues, to which a lot more attention should be given.

Alcohol rehabilitation has been debated in this House on previous occasions. This is another issue with which the Government has failed to come to grips in a really fair dinkum way. A few days ago I was advised that the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre, which is situated some 80 miles south of Perth, has a budget to cater for 30 patients. However, 70 patients currently are at the centre.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr BRIDGE: I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of the sitting.

Leave granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ADDRESS IN REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley) [5.48 p.m.]: Currently the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre is being funded by the Commonwealth through the ADA, and, as I understand the situation, the State Government does not contribute to its maintenance. This highlights the need for us to examine the whole area of alcohol-related problems.

The patients treated at the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre travel considerable distances to obtain the treatment available there. Some of the patients are from the Kimberley, while others are from the goldfields and the Pilbara. A considerable degree of success is achieved in the treatment of these people.

The State should examine the desirability of its funding organisations such as the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre. It is all very well to accept the proposition that the funding of such centres is a Commonwealth responsibility, but the State should examine its responsibilities in this regard. It has an obligation to support these sorts of organisations which are working vigorously to alleviate a grave problem.

Various proposals are postulated as to how alcohol-related problems can be solved; but, in reality, the victims of excessive alcohol consumption must be treated. The Wandering Rehabilitation Centre is involved in a very worthwhile and effective treatment programme for patients suffering from alcohol-related problems who are determined to try to do something about their addiction.

In Perth last weekend I met a person who was on his way to the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre. He was from Kalgoorlie and he intimated his marriage had broken down as a result of his drinking problem. He went on to say, "I left it a bit too long, but at the present time I am on my way to Wandering to see if they can do something to fix me." That was his own terminology. He also said, "Given that there is a cure for my problem, I hope to be able to re-establish my family relationship and live a meaningful life." It was rather sad to see a person who had reached that stage; but, nonetheless, he was examining the situation objectively and positively and was doing something about it.

The Government is not doing enough to support the people who work in organisations such as the Wandering Rehabilitation Centre. The person to whom I have referred is not particularly interested in the major issues frequently discussed in this place; but he is very interested in his own alcohol-related problem. That problem may not mean much to members of this House, but it

means a great deal to that person. Members should exhibit compassion when they deliberate these sorts of issues. Frequently when we are discussing major issues in this House, a compassionate attitude is lacking.

People often ask me how I am getting on in the "big city" and within the four walls of Parliament. They want to know whether I am making any inroads into the system. Generally I say that the progress I have made in the Chamber could be written on the back of a postage stamp; but, at the same time, I point out that, in the areas of personal and direct representation, I have derived a great deal of satisfaction. I have had a rewarding experience in that area of my job as a parliamentarian.

Be that as it may, the matter should not be allowed to lie there. We, the people with the responsibility to structure the future of this State and to meet the needs of the people, should look at the way in which we can best deal with issues which we may not always regard as being of major importance, but which have a great bearing on the man in the street.

In the course of my speech, I have canvassed a number of matters. I referred to the air service in the Kimberley, and indicated that the Government should face up to the problem which exists in that area. I am aware the Minister probably would say, "We have done that and we believe the service we have attempted to provide for the Kimberley is adequate." However, in reality, that service is not working properly and the region has suffered a decline in service over the last few years.

Members will recall that last year in this Chamber I highlighted the way in which the air service in the Kimberley had operated for approximately 20 years. I said that at least in those days approximately 15 or 16 pastoral properties were serviced regularly by air. I do not believe the volume of mail going into that area at that time was any greater or any less than it is today. However, at present the Transport Commission is reviewing seriously the air service provided to the remaining six properties there.

I find it hard to believe that an authority such as the Transport Commission should suggest seriously to the people who operate these stations that, to enable the air service to continue, they must pay \$40 each time a plane lands. The station owners may be quite capable of paying such a fee; however, an important principle is involved here.

How can it be argued that, because one lives on a pastoral property in the Kimberley, one should pay \$40 a flight, when people in all other parts of

the State receive a similar service free of charge? Such a proposition cannot be argued logically; but a decision has been made that a scheme of that nature shall come into effect on 31 March. As far as I am concerned, it is just not on. Such a matter must be considered thoroughly and a decision should be made on the basis of fair treatment for all. If that were done, the Transport Commission could not justify such an imposition on the station owners involved.

It is not necessary for me to reflect upon the hardships endured by people who live on pastoral properties in the Kimberley. I am sure all members are aware of them, because they have been referred to here from time to time.

A total of six stations are the subject of the Transport Commission's decision. They are located in the north Kimberley region, which is very isolated. The communications system is poor and they do not have the benefit of such facilities as the telephone, etc. Their major means of communication is the fortnightly or monthly air service. Surely to goodness the least the Government can do is provide a reasonable service for those people. Similarly the least the Government can do is to ensure that the operators arrange their operations so that a continuous and regular delivery service of essential items such as mail, papers, etc., is maintained to centres such as Halls Creek and the Fitzroy River. The people in those areas face an intolerable situation. On many occasions newspapers are not delivered until seven or eight days after publication, and sometimes longer. Frequently mail deliveries have been disrupted, creating an irregular service.

I cannot speak about the transport services to other areas, but it may well be that what I have outlined occurs elsewhere. Certainly these things at present occur in the Kimberley.

Government members, including the previous speaker—the member for Nedlands—have spoken about the significance of our supporting small businessmen. The Opposition very much likes to hear that theme advanced because it realises the importance of proper support to small businessmen, the people who are the backbone of this nation. Whether they run a cafe or a service station, or drive a truck, small businessmen are an important part of our society.

I have searched high and low for policies designed to give effective support to these people. We must consider the amount of finance made available to these people; obtaining finance always has been a problem for small businessmen.

The member for Nedlands mentioned the difficulties small businessmen encounter upon

commencing their businesses. We should adopt a scheme to provide readily available funds at a more attractive rate of interest than that which is available generally, and in line with the rate available to other sectors of private enterprise receiving such assistance.

It is often said that appropriate funds are available to small businessmen, but it has been indicated to me that small businessmen who qualify for such funds find it almost impossible to gain access to those funds. In the main we mislead people by suggesting that appropriate schemes to assist small businessmen are in operation.

Some people believe that when small businessmen attempt to secure funds they are attempting to secure assistance, but those situations are totally different. The problems encountered and the disappointment felt by small businessmen when trying to obtain appropriate finance, invariably leads them to give the game away, and that is something for which we must feel sorry. Such business people want to establish in the region in which they reside, and we, as members of Parliament, irrespective of the political party with which we are aligned, ought to give strong consideration to planning and introducing schemes that have a proper regard to the needs of these people.

The same comments apply in relation to the housing needs of the people of Western Australia. I accept that adequate finance for housing is a great problem, and certainly I do not need to be convinced that adequate finance is the most important part in our structuring and planning for future housing. However, many families in outlying areas are unnecessarily frustrated in their attempts to establish homes. Again this frustration can be related to how philosophies are established and policies determined by civil servants—bureaucrats, if one likes. We must get away from these philosophies and policies.

Often one can go to a certain person within the bureaucracy and receive an immediate and successful solution to one's representations; yet in other instances one can try one's hardest to obtain some satisfaction, but only a negative response is forthcoming.

Earlier I mentioned my disappointment over a clear example of Government negligence in relation to the Aboriginal Medical Service which occupies premises in Beaufort Street. For two years the service has operated without air-conditioning at those premises, a situation which highlights the need for members of Parliament to give deeper consideration and attention to the basic needs of the people of Western Australia.

It is unreasonable that people examined and treated by the service should suffer the present conditions. The service has operated as well as it can under the existing conditions, but it is time that an elementary facility such as air-conditioning be provided at the medical centre. If the provision of air-conditioning is good enough for members of Parliament and for civil servants, why is it not good enough for this medical centre? Others take for granted the provision of air-conditioning, yet it is not provided at the centre. It is an important and basic facility to such a centre.

I hope we will combine with our deliberations on major issues which will come before us in this Chamber. I would not want to be accused of suggesting that such debates ought not to have their place here. I hope we can join in our deliberations and have regard for the need to consider these other issues as well. We are all capable of considering these matters and of giving the thought required for the very needy matters to which I have referred. I feel that this is essential.

My plea is simply this: We should show more compassion, we should exhibit more understanding, and we should give a lot more thought to the basic needs and issues confronting everyday people of our State. The community would then be better off, at no further cost to the State. I hope that as members of Parliament we all would give a lot of thought to developing as our theme and attitudes a philosophy that will result in this sort of consideration to all debates in future. I hope that the simple but important points I have raised do command and receive the attention they deserve.

MR CRANE (Moore) [6.10 p.m.]: In supporting the Address-in-Reply motion I add my congratulations to those already expressed to the newly elected members in this Chamber. I am sure the new member for Swan will feel frustrated in the extreme—as we have all been at times—but undoubtedly he will endeavour to make his contribution as a member of Parliament and truly represent the people who elected him.

I express a word of kindness to his predecessor, Mr Skidmore, who retired a little prematurely I thought. I greatly respected Mr Skidmore. He was a person who had knocked around the world a great deal. He knew what it was like and what it meant to earn a living in it, and he knew what people were all about. He showed great honesty and integrity while he was here. Although I did not always agree with his philosophies I did respect them and the manner in which he presented them. Unfortunately he always used all his allotted time in debating any issue. I have

been known to refer to him as the “honorary Minister for everything” because he spoke at great length about so many subjects. This was probably because of his experience of life. He had a great experience of many subjects and was therefore able to speak at great length on them.

I congratulate the member for Nedlands on his maiden address to the Chamber this afternoon. He spoke in a forthright and meaningful way. He replaces his father, Sir Charles Court, who was a member of Parliament for many years and a man who made a great contribution to this State, as have many other people. Sir Charles was a particular breed of person. He was truly a great man in many ways. It has been said that some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Sir Charles achieved his own kind of greatness and the State has benefited a good deal from his being with us for all those years. I am sure the State will continue to benefit from his wide experience and his honest and forthright approach to all problems.

Contrary to what many people have said, besides being a firm man he was also very humane, kind, and compassionate. I admit that I am on record as saying that at times it was necessary when arguing with him to take along a piece of four by two! The softer side of his character was not seen by many people, but on several occasions I noticed it coming through. On behalf of the people I represent I thank him for his contribution to the State and his help in our electorate particularly.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr CRANE: Prior to the tea suspension, I complimented the work done, in this State, by the Hon. Sir Charles Court. I felt those words should be recorded on behalf of my electorate and the people I represent.

While travelling around my electorate from time to time certain matters become apparent.

Mr Pearce: It is apparent they need a new member.

Mr CRANE: Generally speaking, they express their satisfaction with the representation they enjoy. I did not intend to say that, but I felt I should.

Several problems exist in some of the schools in my electorate. At Wanneroo the primary school has several demountable classrooms. It is time we recognised the need for new transportables of a modern design, or new buildings to be added to the school to cater for the growth which has occurred in that area. I have written to the

Minister for Education about this matter and I have no doubt he will recognise the need.

The town of Bolgart has been concerned about the dilapidated state of its school and I enjoyed leading a deputation to the Minister recently about this matter. I am happy to relate that he has agreed to certain improvements and that eventually, the school will be replaced. I still stress that need because of the structure of the school and the potential hazard as a result of its location in an earthquake zone. The department is well aware of these problems and has been very sympathetic towards the request. Within the budgetary restraints we are experiencing at the moment, I am sure Bolgart will take its turn on the list for replacement.

Also of importance to my electorate is the subject of the skeleton weed fund and the fact that it has been subjected to a pay-roll tax. This is really a voluntary fund which is contributed to by the grain producers in the State. Strong feeling in the electorate indicates that it should not be taxed and although the Government needs to levy such a tax I hope that some way will be found for that fund to be exempted from the tax—remembering, of course, that much of the work in the eradication of skeleton weed is done by the farmers themselves.

I remember the first skeleton weed exercise which was held in Milng. I spent a day walking through the stubble looking for the noxious weed which, if it is not stopped, will bring grief to the grain industry in Australia.

The water supply in my area is another matter of concern to me. I was happy to receive a letter from the Minister for Works recently in which he stated that a reticulated water supply for the Bindoon townsite has been included in the draft funding programme. I hope that when the final programme for this coming financial year is drafted, Bindoon will be included because it is the only shire council centre in Western Australia which has not been serviced with a reticulated water supply. The need is becoming even greater because of the development of the townsite.

I am pleased with the progress which has been made with the Agaton scheme. Next Monday in Dalwallinu a meeting will be held between the Rural Water Council and the shire council, as well as the interested people of the area, to discuss and I hope, agree to, the proposition the State Government has put forward. Under the circumstances, I believe it to be a generous one whereby the funding of the Agaton scheme will be by a 35 per cent contribution from the State, a 35 per cent contribution from the Federal

Government, and the remaining 30 per cent contribution by the people in the area who will benefit from it.

This proposition is warranted and while it is breaking new ground, I hope the farmers recognise the need for them to make a contribution because if they do not the scheme will not be possible.

I have spoken about the fishing industry on many occasions and in particular about the need for a marina or fishing boat harbour at Jurien. Jurien is one of the important fishing ports on the west coast, but it does not enjoy a protected anchorage. The fishermen in the area have been quite patient, but they do require fishing harbour facilities.

While we have heard about money being spent on such facilities, I challenge the Government on the fact that some of the areas in which the money has been spent already have fishing fleet facilities and boats operating from them; however we do not have such facilities in Jurien. I hope the Government will recognise the need to proceed with research and get on with the job quickly so that a fishing boat facility can be established at Jurien.

Speaking of fishermen on the west coast, I understand that some inquiries have been made also by concerned farmers in the Dandaragan area about the landing of American aircraft carrier personnel. I was assured by the Department of Agriculture that an officer of the department travelled with the vessel and that quarantine regulations were adhered to. The farmers were concerned about the spread of exotic diseases.

Mr Davies: Where from?

Mr CRANE: The American sailors from the aircraft carriers.

Mr Pearce: What exotic diseases do American sailors have?

Mr CRANE: Probably foot and mouth disease to which some members in this House have been exposed by other members who do not have any manners!

I am pleased to relate that the problem involving the American aircraft carrier personnel has been resolved satisfactorily; however, I did bring it to the attention of the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife.

Mr Davies: How did they chance to come ashore? Were they on an exercise?

Mr CRANE: I believe they came ashore in helicopters, though, I am not sure because I received the details secondhand. I understand

they were Americans from the aircraft carriers, but I am not sure from where they came.

Mr Pearce: If they had any exotic diseases, I do not think they would give them to cows.

Mr CRANE: They may, and they may not.

A change in electoral boundaries is to occur shortly and my electorate will be changed for the second time since I have been in this place. Part of Wanneroo will be taken from my electorate and Toodyay, Coorow, and Carnamah will be included. While it is always disappointing to lose electors one has come to know, one has to expect such losses. I note that the member for Whitford will contest the seat of Joondalup and will be responsible for the 6 000 people who will go from my electorate in Wanneroo. I hope he will look after them in the manner to which they have become accustomed.

Mr Pearce: Talk about out of the frying pan into the fire!

Mr CRANE: It is of concern to me that over the last 12 months certain problems have beset the Shire of Wanneroo. I always have enjoyed, and still enjoy, a happy relationship with the six shires I represent and Wanneroo always has been one of the most progressive shires in Western Australia. The district of Wanneroo has developed from what was once a rural shire to a metropolitan shire. Areas in the north of Wanneroo are still market gardens while Quinns Rock and Yanchep are urban areas in a rural setting.

I am concerned about the problems which have beset Wanneroo over the last few years. I am not sure of the cause of these problems, but I have had many ratepayers come to me and ask whether I can do something because the shire is making a laughing stock of the area. They have said they have been concerned that they, as ratepayers, note that so much of their money is being expended on legal opinions and that they have no way in which to stop them.

Mr Pearce: The ratepayers there receive their information from the Department of Local Government.

Mr CRANE: They have expressed their concern also that many claims have been made—I am not sure whether this is the case—that party politics have entered the scene.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRANE: I would hope this is not the case because in the course of election campaigns in Wanneroo I have never tried to use the shire as a lever to help me. I do not believe party politics

have a place in local government. In a democracy we can accept only that the majority rule and the majority decision must be accepted.

Mr Brian Burke: Not here it isn't!

Mr CRANE: Concerning the claims made, the majority say party politics are not involved in the shire operations.

Mr Davies: Ones that don't face reality.

Mr CRANE: I have to accept that is so.

Mr Davies: He still believes in fairy tales.

Mr CRANE: One of the shire councillors made an admission at the works committee meeting on 13 May 1981—

Mr Davies: Who was it?

Mr CRANE: It was Councillor Holland, and he made his admission to the engineering committee on that date.

Mr Pearce: Were you there?

Mr CRANE: I believe it is as well for us to know what was said; perhaps then we can judge for ourselves.

Mr Brian Burke: I thought committee debates were confidential.

Mr CRANE: I do not know whether they are; however, a person can obtain a copy of the debate.

Mr Brian Burke: Is this a leaked document?

Mr CRANE: No, it did not fall off the back of a truck.

Mr Pearce: From where did it come?

Mr CRANE: From the shire concerned. The document states—

I was wondering if the Assistant Shire Clerk could let me know when the next local government school is likely to run. I am very, very keen to get on to it . . . If you can keep me informed, John, if you hear anything because I really want to go on it . . . because I have only got another couple of years left and I have a distinct feeling that conservative elements in my electorate don't like me very much. But that's good because it shows I am doing my job as a Socialist. If I wasn't doing my job as a Socialist, like, say, Mike O'Brien, I would be unopposed . . . not putting you—

Here, he was referring to Councillor O'Brien. The document continues—

—down, I just don't like the way you operate.

The other thing is, Mr Chairman, this will be the last time I will be serving on the Engineering Committee with a conservative

Council as in ten days time we will have a Socialist Council, providing a couple of so-called Socialists on this Council start acting like Socialists.

Point of Order

Mr BRYCE: Could I ask that the honourable member table the document from which he is quoting, in the interest of absolute accuracy.

Mr CRANE: I will be happy to table the document at the conclusion of my speech. However, I shall take a photocopy for my own records.

Mr Pearce: We will all be taking photocopies of the document.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr CRANE: I am not claiming socialism is in operation there. However, at a recent meeting Councillor Turley said that there was no socialism in the Wanneroo Shire Council. I must believe him, because that is what he says.

I am concerned also with the economy not only of this State, but also of Australia generally. I am deeply concerned at the continual tax evasion and avoidance which goes on in our community.

Mr Bryce: Which section of the community does that most?

Mr CRANE: I do not know that the practice of tax evasion can be sheeted home to a particular section of the community; it simply is perpetrated by people who do not accept their responsibility to pay their dues to their country.

Mr Brian Burke: Not many wage and salary earners would be following that practice.

Mr CRANE: I do not think there would be any. I know that I, as a member of Parliament, have my tax deducted before I receive my salary; no doubt, it would be the same for all wage and salary earners.

One way by which people are able to avoid tax is through capital gains. Although I am not suggesting the introduction of such a tax, when I see people continually buying and selling houses, and pocketing the profit, without a thought for the housing problems being experienced in the community, I wonder whether we should examine this area and tax such profits.

I am concerned also at the number of excessive wage demands in the community. Only this morning we read in the newspaper of industrial disruption in relation to the North-West Shelf gas project; the workers have gone on strike because their demands are not being met. It is high time the unreasonable demands of these people and the

unions which claim to represent them were brought into the open.

I thought that a couple of years ago we went through the process of implementing legislation which would make it better for people to work in any job they chose, without harassment from unions. However, it seems as though we provided for only words, and not action. I chide the Government for not having been strong enough and for failing to seriously examine ways of preventing industrial disputation occurring in the future, as it has in the past. Strikes are wreaking havoc on the economy of the nation. The housing problem is growing worse, and interest rates are escalating. It is time the economists looked seriously at what we used to do. We used to earn our money from the sweat of our brow. That is the only way to earn money. Many people today earn huge amounts of money from investments, which are non-productive. Such areas must be closely examined and heavily taxed.

Mr Brian Burke: If you want to know the truth, this is fairly primitive Marxism.

Mr CRANE: It is not.

It is not with any great pleasure that I raise a matter which is of deep concern to some of my constituents. I refer to problems being experienced by fishermen at Yanchep Sun City. For over two years, I have endeavoured, with those fishermen, to negotiate with Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd. an agreement whereby the fishermen could remain with the marina with some security of tenure, knowing with confidence that they will not be priced out of their berths. However, to date we have been unsuccessful.

Mr Brian Burke: You know the Government can order the company to dredge the inner harbour.

Mr CRANE: I know the Leader of the Opposition knows something about this matter; however, if he will allow me to continue, I will tell the House the full story.

Disputation commenced a couple of years ago concerning the fuel price charged at the Two Rocks marina. There is only one fuel outlet at the marina, which is controlled by one company. The fishermen objected to the fact they were paying considerably in excess of the amount paid by fishermen at Fremantle and fishing harbours further north. It seemed that they were being singled out. We looked into the matter and, after a great deal of negotiation, it was agreed a formula would be applied which had the effect of preventing the price of fuel escalating to the extent that it had. This was agreed to by the company and the fishermen, and there has been

no more trouble since, except that the fishermen claim that the \$50 000 profit the company had taken from them through overcharging was never returned to the fishermen. However, we are not arguing about that.

The next problem arose as a result of increases in pen fees. Over a two-year period, pen fees increased, first by 36 per cent and then by just over 14 per cent, a total increase of more than 50 per cent. That was the straw which broke the camel's back. Negotiations are continuing to this day, but so far we have been unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Another problem has arisen over the ability of fishermen to fuel from their own vehicles. It was agreed that because of the possible shortage of fuel, a fueling berth would be established which would enable the fishermen to fuel from their own supplies. However, such a berth never eventuated, although it was agreed upon.

As to the matter of pen fees, it has been claimed that incorporated in the pen fee is the provision that fishermen are allowed to "stand on the hard" for three months. "Stand on the hard" is a fishing term describing a vessel which comes out of the water. However, in a letter addressed to me and received only a few weeks ago, the company has revealed that it cannot guarantee that it will allow fishermen to "stand on the hard" for three months. Negotiations are proceeding also in this direction.

Because of all this disputation, it was suggested by the fishermen's solicitors that they should examine the original agreement which enabled the company to build the marina. An agreement was drawn up in 1974 and signed by the then State Premier (the Hon. J. T. Tonkin) and by Alan Bond on behalf of Yanchep Estates Pty. Ltd. and Bond Corporation Pty. Ltd. Knowing the Hon. J. T. Tonkin as I do, I have not the slightest doubt that he would have had included in that agreement all the protection which could be afforded to the fishermen. However, it seems as though there was a loophole in the agreement, and someone has slipped out of the net.

Today, I asked a question on notice of the Premier, part (6) of which was as follows—

Is clause 5 of the Two Rocks yacht harbour agreement included to safeguard professional fishermen who may wish, or be forced to use the natural mooring basin?

The Premier replied as follows—

The agreement includes provisions which reflected the Government's intent that the operations of the professional fishermen in

the Two Rocks area were not prejudiced by the harbour development.

It is quite obvious that the agreement signed by the Hon. J. T. Tonkin contained provision for the protection of the fishermen. The clause provides that if the fishermen are not able to use the marina, they shall have access to the natural mooring basin. However, unfortunately, the natural mooring basin has become silted.

The plan for the basin was drawn up by a firm called Environmental Resources of Australia; strangely enough, the company has since gone out of existence. The work of the company which drew up the plan—because it was a professional firm—was not checked for accuracy by the Public Works Department.

The plan tabled by the Premier shows the natural mooring basin which is claimed to be the one the fishermen were using prior to the establishment of the marina. There is no doubt that if we examine the plan we will find that siltation has not taken place to any great extent in that area. However, an aerial photograph taken in 1942 distinctly shows that many of the fishing boats were moored inshore of the natural mooring basin as indicated on the plan. This is where the problem arises and where we believe the Government must act. I would not say that Mr Alan Bond had the plan drawn up in the wrong place deliberately; he is an honourable man.

Mr Brian Burke: That is a bit tongue in cheek.

Mr CRANE: The fact remains that the plan was drawn up in that way. It would not have been impossible to draw up a plan west of Two Rocks—which could have extended to Mauritius; one would just need to keep going west; of course, one would need a very long mooring chain—and it would not have silted. Of course, that is an exaggeration, but it is precisely what happened on a smaller scale. The plan drawn up and agreed to and, in all honesty and sincerity, signed by the Hon. J. T. Tonkin was not the plan which covered completely the area where the fishing boats used to moor. The Premier does not yet have the relevant photograph, but he has undertaken to table it when he receives it.

That is the problem at the moment. The company claims it has no legal obligation to dredge the natural mooring basin to accommodate the fishing boats. However, I suggest to the company that it has much more than that. It has a moral and legal obligation in this matter, and that is what I have been trying to get the company to accept.

I have been bending over backwards to have the company recognise that it has a moral obligation.

The fishermen do not necessarily want the area dredged; but they want assurances and security of tenure. They do not want to be in the lap of the gods. They do not want the company to say, "We will charge this or that", and be able to have no objection to it.

The fishermen have asked that, in the event of a dispute, an arbitrator be appointed and that the arbitrator's decision be final. That request has been refused, although it was a reasonable one.

Mr Brian Burke: Hear, hear!

Mr CRANE: It would not have caused any great expense to the company. If it claims that the increase in marina fees is based on an escalation due to natural causes—an increase in costs, which we know are increasing—an arbitrator would recognise this, as long as the company was acting along business lines. The fishermen would accept that. However, the administrators of Yanchep Sun City refuse to do this.

It is unfortunate that the original proprietors of Yanchep Sun City are not here today to make good the mistakes they made, either by accident or through natural cunning.

Mr Tonkin: Which is more likely.

Mr Pearce: You have got to watch the Japanese.

Mr CRANE: It was not the Japanese who made the agreement. They bought into it.

Mr Evans: Good old private enterprise!

Mr O'Connor: And John Tonkin!

Mr CRANE: Mr Tonkin made the original agreement; but I am sure he did it honestly. The member for Warren would have been in the Ministry at the time, and so would the member for Welshpool. I am sure they would have been involved with the same integrity as the then Premier had.

Mr Jamieson: What have I done wrong now?

Mr CRANE: The member for Welshpool has not done anything wrong.

Perhaps the Foreign Investment Review Board ought to be reminded of what is happening at Two Rocks because, in Australia, overseas companies can own 49 per cent of the shareholding, and Australian companies hold 51 per cent. However, in this instance, through no fault of the Japanese, they hold 100 per cent of the ownership. This is happening in a country in which they are not allowed to do so. That ought to be sufficient reason for the company to recognise its moral obligation. I have tried to persuade the company of this, but it does not wish to be

persuaded. I do not enjoy what I am saying tonight—

Mr Pearce: We do not enjoy it much, either.

Mr CRANE: —but it is time for someone to step in between the fishermen and Yanchep Sun City, and to bring common sense to bear on what is happening. I have tried; I have failed miserably.

Mr Brian Burke: But now they have come to me.

Mr CRANE: That would not make any difference at all.

Mr Brian Burke: Why not?

Mr CRANE: Because, first of all, the Leader of the Opposition has the ability to do precisely nothing. He can jump up and down; as the Leader of the Opposition he can hang from the highest church steeple by his underpants; but if the Government does not wish to act, the Opposition has not the numbers to make it act. This is a fact. If the Leader of the Opposition were on this side of the House, and I were on the other side, the same would apply.

Mr Brian Burke: Are you saying we should not be working together on this?

Mr CRANE: I know we will work together on this. I know the Leader of the Opposition will give us his co-operation. However, he cannot do it, whether he agrees with it or opposes it—

Mr Evans: Why don't you? You have the power.

Mr CRANE: I will tell the member for Warren why, and I will be honest. It is because I have damn well failed.

Mr Pearce: Because the Government won't back you up. Seriously, you are getting more support from the Opposition than you are getting from the Government on this, aren't you?

Mr CRANE: I am saying this because it happens to be true. I am not ashamed of saying what is the truth.

Mr Pearce: Well, vote the Government out.

Mr Brian Burke: How are we to change the Government's mind? If we introduce a motion, will you support us?

Mr CRANE: It will not make the slightest bit of difference if the Opposition does move a motion. I am just putting it to the Government. I must say, in all fairness to the Government, that, as a Government, it has not been made aware of the problem. Some Ministers know of it; but, as a Government, the Government is not aware of it.

Now that I have explained the situation to the extent I have, the Government will have to act and put right what was done in good faith, but

incorrectly. I have every confidence in the Government to do that.

I am sorry that the situation had to come to this before the Government was told of it, and before it could act. However, I am more sorry that the company forced us to this stage.

Mr Bryce: What have you done tonight that is so devastating?

Mr CRANE: I have revealed the situation in which the company is not playing the game by the fishermen for whom it claims to be providing facilities. They are good facilities—

Mr Bryce: It is your democratic right to raise it.

Mr CRANE: I conclude my remarks by making it clear that I was not terribly opposed to an increase of fees at the marina. What brought objections from the fishermen was the fact that the Government has not been charging sufficiently high fees at its own marinas. One of the reasons we still have not obtained a marina at Jurien is that the Government does not receive enough revenue from its other marinas. The Government should raise its own marina fees to a reasonable level, and then we would not have a gap between private enterprise and Government marinas.

Mr Brian Burke: How much do you think the Government ones should go up?

Mr CRANE: I do not know. Let me say that at a meeting of fishermen in Jurien last year or the year before, they said they would be happy to pay \$1 000 a year for a pen, if they could have the protection of a proper fishing boat harbour. I did not say "\$1 000 a pen"; the fishermen at Jurien did. I am not a fisherman, so I do not know what their costs are. However, nobody stood up and disputed what was being said.

The position at Two Rocks is that the fishermen have no guarantee that the fee will not be increased again, and to a considerable extent. All the fishermen are asking is that they have that guarantee and—

Mr Brian Burke: An arbitration system.

Mr CRANE: —an arbitrator who can adjudicate and say, "Yes, I think that's fair", or "No, the increase is too great".

Mr Brian Burke: I believe that is fair and reasonable.

Mr CRANE: That is a fair enough request; but it is one to which agreement has not been given.

I suppose I could say that there my case rests. I hope that the Premier and the Government will recognise that all is not well at Two Rocks.

Mr Brian Burke: And the Opposition.

Mr CRANE: And the Opposition, yes. I am sure we can all sit on the one side of the House on this matter, and agree for once in our lives. The only other time that parliamentarians seem to agree is when a pay rise is in the offing. Then some of us object to it and do not take it, do we not? However, there are not many of us.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for the opportunity of putting these subjects forward. The matter of the Wanneroo Shire Council needed to be aired. I hope that the Minister for Local Government heard my comments; and I hope that the member for Whitford did as well, because I know he is particularly concerned about what is happening there.

With those remarks, I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Tabling of Documents

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): The papers referred to by the member for Moore will be placed on the Table of the House, for the information of members, for the balance of this sitting day.

The papers were tabled for the information of members.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.08 p.m.]: I listened with some interest to the member for Moore, who has just resumed his seat. He was talking about a company which apparently exists at Two Rocks, and which apparently has a perfectly valid, lawful contract with the Government. He is hoping that the Government will do something to alter the terms of that contract or to break the contract. I do not know what he is aiming at—perhaps he is intending that a special Act of Parliament will be passed varying the contract. I imagine that would be quite possible. Perhaps he can indicate whether that is his intention.

It appears that the member for Moore is distracted at the moment. I cannot imagine that this Government will introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament to vary that perfectly lawful contract. It is unfair of him to pick out that company—

Mr Crane: I did not say it was lawful. I said it was unlawful, because the plan which has been tabled is not an accurate plan of what the situation was at the time. It can be revealed, and is revealed, in an aerial photograph of 1942; and if you had been listening correctly, as I would imagine a lawyer ought to, you would have picked that matter up. So, the contract really is not valid.

Mr Watt: It depends on how good the lawyer is.

Mr BERTRAM: The mere fact that the member for Moore says a contract is unlawful, of course, does not render it unlawful. I am of the opinion—and I think he conceded earlier in his remarks—that it is a lawful contract; and the member for Moore was relying on the morality of the company to do the right thing.

It is unfair for the member for Moore to pinpoint that company without mentioning the many other companies and dealings in the business world every day in which the law takes precedence over morality. Why pick out one company and give it adverse publicity when he recognises that, in the business world, morality takes second place in most cases? I could give him 1 000 examples in which people with strength and people in strong positions have exploited the people without strength and people who are not in strong positions. Very often the people in the strong positions are the ones whose wages are paid by the little people. The big people are paid to protect the small people, but in fact they exploit the small people.

If the member for Moore is to talk about morality, he should do his homework and identify all of the cases. He should not single out one company alone. That is grossly unfair.

Mr Crane: In 45 minutes?

Mr BERTRAM: At least the member for Moore might have acknowledged that was the position, and not just seek out one company and attack it when, incidentally, it has nobody here to respond on its behalf. It entered into what appears to be a perfectly lawful contract. If it is not a lawful contract, the member is condemning the Crown Law Department and the Government, anyhow. Almost certainly it is a lawful contract, because if it was not the Government would have done something about it much sooner. If it did not, it would be condoning and acquiescing in an unlawful activity.

I notice also, to my amazement, that from time to time members of the Government seek to argue the proposition that, in fact, we have no party politics in local government. I was amazed, therefore, that the member who has just resumed his seat should put up again the proposition of no party politics in local government.

Anybody who knows anything about party politics knows one thing, if nothing else; that is, that we have party politics in local government, and we have had it for years. That position will continue into the future.

Mr Watt: There are fairies in the bottom of the garden, too.

Mr BERTRAM: I notice also that the member for Moore opposes income tax evasion, but apparently he has no concern for income tax avoidance. My greater concern personally is for income tax avoidance; that is, the lawful evasion of tax, as opposed to evasion which is unlawful.

In the States of Australia we have seen examples of solicitors who have put in considerable effort to find ways and means of defeating certain of our tax Acts. I remember one specific case in relation to the Stamp Act a few years ago when a solicitor worked out an extraordinarily complex system to avoid the payment of stamp duty on a transfer of land. Stamp duty of over \$100 000 was saved on a transaction involving \$1 million. That was a classic case where the parties concerned were well able financially to pay the stamp duty which could have been imposed properly; but they saw fit to pursue the avoidance procedure and thus saved themselves \$100 000.

Subsequently, when other people sought to follow the same technique of avoidance, it became necessary for the Government to amend the Stamp Act. The \$100 000 therefore went into the pockets of the people who already had ample funds; and the shortfall of \$100 000 in stamp duty was picked up by the man in the street. That is tax avoidance. It is thoroughly unwholesome and it has been practised on a large scale. Every effort to stop it should be made. One such effort should be to use retrospective legislation ever so much more often than is currently invoked in this country. It is certainly rarely invoked in this State.

Recently a young apprentice jockey of about 16 years of age, having committed an offence in a horse race, was disqualified for 15 years. Many members of the public were greatly concerned about the severity of that penalty, and I well may have been one of them. Someone who was concerned was the President of the Legislative Council, of the upper House. His comments about this incident were reported in *The West Australian* of Monday, 22 March and one could agree with a lot of the points raised by him. For example, he mentioned the great care and protection given by our laws generally in respect of people under 18 years of age. That happens to be a fact. But he was then reported to have said more, and what he said amazed me. He said, "I do not think it is right that the Turf Club committee should hear appeals against penalties which have been handed out by their own stewards' panel." We would have to agree with that because most people share the view—not necessarily most of the people opposite in this

Chamber—that it is just not a good system to have appeals from Caesar to Caesar, and that an appeal tribunal should be a separate body quite removed from the one which made the decision in the first instance. It seemed to me to be an amazing thing that the President of the upper House should make that comment, because he presides over a Chamber which, in fact, is involved in appeals from Caesar to Caesar.

The upper House in this State is referred to as the House of Review. To the extent that a House of review has a second look at matters, it is a House of Review. However, the public of this State are encouraged to believe that it is an objective House which does not have regard for party politics, that it deals objectively with matters that come from this Chamber, and that it makes objective decisions on whether it should agree with the decisions made by the Government. I have even heard Government members in these precincts in 1982 telling visitors from their own constituencies that the upper House is a House of Review in the true sense.

We all know that is a false position. The statistics are overwhelming and show that comment to be utterly false. It is one thing for people not having knowledge to tell the people of this State something that is wrong, but for members—particularly members who bring their own constituents here—who know something to be false and who tell their constituents this falsity, is thoroughly reprehensible, to put it mildly. It is a fraud or deception upon their own constituents whom they are here to represent.

What are the facts of the matter? Each Tuesday when this Parliament is sitting, the members of the two parties in this Parliament—the Labor Party, and the Liberal Party with its sundry appendages—meet in separate party rooms and work out what things they will or will not do and what questions they will or will not ask. The Government decides what Bills it will or will not introduce and deal with. When the Liberal Party and its appendages meet, members not just of the lower House, but also of the upper House attend. They decide what they will do with the legislation for the week. When the Liberal Party is in government its members know that any Bill they introduce in this place will be passed and they know what will become of it in the other place. They know that before the Bill is actually introduced.

So there we have a case of an appeal from Caesar—the Legislative Assembly—to Caesar—the upper House. Members will see just how ridiculous that is. In a situation where the Government is running around with razor gangs

slicing off expenditure, one would think that this Government, if it were at all dinkum about cutting down on expenditure, would have done something to get rid of the upper House, because it is costing the people of Western Australia millions of dollars to have an upper House in the circumstances I have just described. It is a waste of everyone's money and time. Above all, since the member for Moore raised the question of morality, I stress that it is deceiving the very people being represented by those members. It is deceiving the people who believe there is a virtue in having an upper House.

So here we have the President of the upper House complaining about appeals from Caesar to Caesar when in this Parliament, a place which involves itself with a little more than the mere disqualification of jockeys, he is presiding over an upper House which is one of the two parts in the Caesar-to-Caesar rigmarole which goes on in this Parliament. If that is not rough, one wonders what is.

I turn now to the Administration Act 1903-1980, an Act which sets out the procedure in the law for dealing with the assets of deceased persons. Generally speaking, if a person leaves a will, the Act indicates that his executor must obtain a grant of probate to administer the estate of the deceased person. If a person does not leave a will, a representative of that person has to apply for a grant of letters of administration. Both procedures are reasonably simple and in most cases not very costly.

However, section 139 recognises that from time to time a deceased person may leave an estate comprising only a relatively small amount of assets. That being so, when this section was introduced there was a provision that moneys up to the sum of \$1 200 in banks and, I think, building societies could, in certain circumstances, be withdrawn from those institutions without the representative of the deceased person having to obtain a grant of probate or letters of administration in the first instance.

Subsequently, and no doubt for reasons of inflation, the sum of \$1 200 was increased to \$3 000—I think in 1976. At present it remains at that figure. On Wednesday, 24 March I asked the Minister representing the Attorney General, "On what dates have proclamations been made and what amounts have been declared under section 139 of the Act?" The Minister replied, "24 December, 1976—not exceeding \$3 000."

I also asked a question as follows—

What increases in filing fees have been imposed since March 1974 for applications for grants of—

- (a) probate;
- (b) letters of administration?

The Minister replied:

- (a) and (b) The member is referred to the issues of the *Government Gazette* on 23 June 1978, 1 August 1980, and 20 November 1981.

In other words, over that space of time a number of increases in filing fees had been made in respect of applications for those matters in the Supreme Court. I should imagine those increases have occurred because of inflation. However, the \$3 000 limit has remained constant. It would be excellent if the Government quickly took steps to make the appropriate proclamation to increase that \$3 000 to perhaps \$10 000. Members will appreciate that if a deceased person now leaves \$3 500 in a savings bank account his representative has to go through all the procedures in regard to applications for grants of probate or letters of administration, with all the costs involved. That seems unreasonable, unnecessary, and out of step with the obvious intent of section 139 of the Act.

Turning now to a new matter, I indicate that many people are concerned about the proposal to build a high-rise residential structure at Scarborough Beach. It would involve something like 20 storeys and be situated very close to the high water mark at that beach.

Mr Young: What do you mean by "very close to the high water mark?"

Mr BERTRAM: Just that. It is less than a mile from the water's edge.

Mr Young: Fair enough. You gave the impression it was being plonked on the beach.

Mr BERTRAM: I imagine it would be about a quarter of a mile or so from the water's edge at Scarborough, which has one of the finest beaches in the metropolitan area and probably in all of Australia.

Mr Tonkin: The world.

Mr Watt: So is the current member.

Mr BERTRAM: It is a beach with tremendous potential in lots of respects. I do not think it does any harm to our tourist industry. In the years ahead it will be a major attraction for tourists, which it probably is now. When it is properly developed it will be an excellent tourist attraction.

On 25 March this year, I asked question without notice 49 of the Minister for

Conservation and the Environment, part (4) of which was, "Will site development and construction be permitted pending delivery of the EPA report?" The Minister replied, "This is a matter for the local authority." My submission is that, while it may be a matter for the local authority, the development of Scarborough Beach and its immediate precincts, because of its importance to tourism and because it is a beach which so many people from the entire metropolitan area—not just people from the City of Stirling—frequent, the care and preservation of that beach are the responsibility of the State Government.

The vagaries of sea and wind and the problems which come about when people tamper with beaches and their nearby precincts are fairly well known. While I would join with most people in wanting Scarborough Beach to be developed quickly—it has certainly not developed greatly to the present time—I am not one of those people who are inclined at this time to go along with the proposition that a huge development of 20 storeys should be established there without proper investigations being made from an environmental standpoint. The coastal strip for about one mile back from the water should be closely supervised and watched by the State Government in collaboration with local shires; but the prime responsibility should be on the State Government. That is not adversely reflecting upon the local government authority. I am acknowledging that this problem, like so many others, is a State problem.

If one wants to discontinue a railway, even if the line involved has not been used for years and it is only a couple of yards long, an Act of Parliament must be brought in to authorise its closure; yet here we have the decisions concerning the risks which could be associated with a high-rise development in Scarborough being left in the hands of the local government authority. If one comprehends the Minister's answers to my question without notice, one realises the Environmental Protection Authority could study this problem and decide that the development should not proceed, only to find that, by the time it brings in its report, the development is already finished and the 20-storey edifice stands there. It is an extraordinary state of affairs and something should be done to correct it so that if there is an environmental question, a developer or anyone else, whatever the field of activity, is able to proceed with his business and not find subsequently that the EPA disapproves of it. The beach could be ruined as a result of the development. Those who are concerned about the

situation could be informed that, "It is too late. The building is already there."

I agree with development under proper supervision. We must be extraordinarily wary of tampering with the environment close to surf beaches because of the adverse consequences which may follow with the water coming in where it has never been before, with sand dunes being washed away, and all sorts of odd things happening, often almost inexplicably. We want development, yes, but with responsible decisions being made by the appropriate authority, and the appropriate authority in this case should be a State Government.

As one observed certain events in this Chamber last year, it became fairly evident that the former Premier was about to retire. Of course, he steadfastly denied any such intention; as a matter of fact, I think he used to say, "I am too busy even to consider it", but everything here was pointing in the other direction and that did not seem to help his credibility greatly, and his resignation and retirement did not come as a surprise. On the other hand, for him to retire or resign now with the State in its present situation does come to me as a surprise. It is true that he is a little older than most of us, but we all know he has great energy and ability, and an obvious capacity to continue leading this State, particularly at a time when it is in great difficulty, and the fact that he should suddenly opt out and leave the State in the lurch, was extraordinarily uncharacteristic. Until somebody provides evidence that I am wrong, I will believe he was sacked by the Liberal Party—that he did not merely retire, but was shown the door—because he was well aware that one must have the numbers in politics. It does not matter whether one's political beliefs are right or wrong, one thing is certain: The numbers must be there. Being aware of that, he brought in laws to amend the Electoral Act and the Electoral Districts Act for the purpose of making sure he had the numbers, but, having done all that—what has been done to the Electoral Act is very shoddy—he neglected to see to it that he had the numbers within his own party and when he discovered that he did not, he was quick to realise that the best thing to do was to resign and retire, which he did. His ability has been lost to this State because of that type of situation. Who is there here on either side of the House who believes that the present Premier has the capacity to deal with the Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer with the same energy and competence as Sir Charles Court? Nobody would argue that.

Mr Pearce: The Premier argues that!

Mr BERTRAM: The Premier has said he will fight like heck with the Prime Minister on financial matters, and the member for Bunbury has said that the Government will do everything possible when fighting with Fraser. It is most important that both the present Premier and the member for Bunbury should have concern and heed for the forum in which they are speaking. That sort of talk goes down all right outside this place, but in this Chamber it is rather puerile and pretty petty to make those sorts of statements. What is the use of anyone going over and talking to the Prime Minister? What does that achieve in a political situation? The previous Premier came back here repeatedly and told us that he had been done like a dinner, which was obvious to everybody.

The State was to get a certain share of the income tax money. The Premier in those days did not realise, and Fraser "forgot" to tell him that he, Fraser, was going to bring in a fuel levy so he would get the income tax figure down and consequently this State's share would be down and he would receive all the rake-off from a new fuel levy, which he had in mind, and out of the billions of dollars raised from that effort, not one cent would come back to this State. That is the sort of person we deal with in the Federal situation. It is not good enough for the Premier to say he will go over and fight like heck and do everything possible. I do not think the member for Bunbury really meant what he said, because it is possible to recognise the position with the Prime Minister. The only time the Prime Minister will be moved is through the ballot box or by other means available, of which Mr Peacock seems to be aware.

If this Government really wants to do something about the Prime Minister, it should use its best endeavours to remove him. Now seems to be the opportune time to do so. If this Government really wants to apply pressure, this is one avenue by which to do it.

The other area is the one that politicians, including the Prime Minister, always understand; that is, the ballot box. If the member for Bunbury really meant what he said, he should be saying, "This State Government and the Liberal Party at the next State election will do something about you. If you are going to treat the State as you are, we will do everything possible and will actively campaign against the Federal Liberal Government."

Mr Stephens: You ought to know that even in the Labor Party, loyalty to your party is more important than loyalty to your people!

Mr BERTRAM: It is not satisfactory for the Premier and the member for Bunbury or anybody else in this Parliament to say these things. They should at least do the right thing and use those sorts of arguments outside with people who are not perceptive and who do not know much about politics. They should give members of this place credit for having at least average intelligence and lay off that sort of nonsensical argument. That is not asking too much.

It is important for me to recognise and place on record the fact that the Governor's Speech, delivered at the opening of Parliament, is a very depressing form of document. When all is said and done, the Governor's Speech is written by the Government and reflects Government thinking.

Mr Clarko: Was it any different when you were in Government?

Mr BERTRAM: It is a very depressing document containing very little. Let us look at page 1 where it says—

However, the overall result will be dependent largely upon the outcome of salary and wage determinations by wage-fixing tribunals and, in particular, the national wage case before the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

How often do we see this Government condemning statutorily constituted wage-fixing bodies for decisions which they make according to evidence and law and condemning them publicly for making wrong decisions in a forum, incidentally, where often the Government itself is wrong? I cannot think of anything more shoddy than for one to go to a properly constituted statutory body, have one's case heard, and be defeated, as is so often the case, and then for one to get out in public and blame the tribunal for being wrong in a situation where the tribunal has no right of reply.

Once again, that is a manoeuvre which goes down well with the public, and that is why the Government adopts it. However, the Government certainly should not dish it up in this Parliament because we know it is a very false position to take. If the arbitration tribunals are as unsatisfactory, unfair, and even as corrupt as the Government seems to suggest to the public, the Government should introduce measures to deal with the tribunals. However, it does not do that; it allows the tribunals to go on endlessly, putting up wages according to law and based on evidence before them, and the Government then demeans the tribunals repeatedly, and the tribunals have no right of reply. What an example to set young Australians! What if our children were to behave

in such a manner on the sporting field? We would condemn them, and perhaps even clout them over the ear. It is a disgusting technique, and one the Government should discontinue.

Mr Young: What about the situation where a tribunal twice orders a union to instruct its members to return to work, but that union refuses?

Mr BERTRAM: There are occasions when unions do not comply with the arbitration provisions and to that extent, in most cases, they should be dealt with; nobody questions that.

Mr Young: What do you mean by, "in most cases"?

Mr BERTRAM: Let us take a case involving the present Premier. Members may recall that years ago, when he was Minister for Railways, a dispute arose concerning the *Indian Pacific* train which he and other Government dignitaries were due to board. The then Minister for Railways gave an undertaking that the matter would be resolved by an independent arbitrator, and that he would abide by the decision.

On that basis, the matter went before an independent arbitrator, but when he brought down a judgment which the Government did not like, the then Minister for Railways refused to abide by it, as a consequence of which a strike ensued, with all the adverse publicity which normally attaches itself to the trade union movement.

Mr O'Connor: I think you had better take another look at it, because what you say is not correct.

Mr BERTRAM: The Premier will have the opportunity later to prove me wrong. Although we concede unions have a responsibility to set an example to the rest of the community, one should not compare the conduct of an individual union, which represents a relative handful of people, with the conduct of a Government, which represents the whole State. It is up to the Government to set an example of fairness, decency, and honesty.

Under the heading "Industrial Relations" the Governor's Speech had this to say—

The Government remains concerned about industrial stoppages which disrupt the community generally.

The Government is merely concerned; I would have thought it would be alarmed. The Governor's Speech continued—

During 1980/81, 165 754 man days were lost due to industrial stoppages throughout the State.

I do not know whether that has gone on the record as a confession, or whether it is bragging. If it is a confession, it is a very serious one. This Government has been in power—not in office, but in power, because it can do what it likes within the Constitution of the State with hardly any limits except in so far as the Commonwealth Constitution is concerned—non-stop since 1974, yet it has presided over a year in which 165 754 man days were lost as a result of industrial stoppages. Surely, that should be enough to turf the Government out of power.

There has been strike after strike, day after day. The Government knows about the situation and tells the world about it, but does nothing about it.

Mr O'Connor: What do you think should happen to the New South Wales Government?

Mr BERTRAM: At the moment, I am talking about the Western Australian Government. The technique of trying to change the subject is not altogether new, and it will not work on this occasion.

The Governor's Speech continued—

The Government will continue to insist that all wage and salary claims must be fully justified and where necessary decided by appropriate tribunals.

Members will note the lopsided approach. The Government's principal concern is with restraining salaries and wages. However, the Governor's Speech contained not one word about the price the worker must pay for his goods and services. Those prices are allowed to go up like a bushfire. I saw some figures recently relating to price increases which staggered me; they are being allowed to escalate madly, while on the other side of the coin, wage and salary increases are resisted strenuously by the Government. Putting those two things together, one can be fairly sure that the man days lost in 1981-82 will be considerably greater than the figure which applied last year.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Spriggs.

House adjourned at 8.52 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**EXPORTS: LIVE SHEEP***Number and Treatment*

156. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the estimated number of live sheep exported from Western Australia during calendar years 1979, 1980 and 1981?
- (2) Has his attention been drawn to reports of appalling treatment of the sheep between Australia and the Middle East?
- (3) What action has been taken to rectify this situation?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) The number of live sheep exported from Western Australia was—
1979—2 752 931
1980—3 126 799
1981—2 934 967
- (2) and (3) I am aware of unsubstantiated reports of the type referred to. Reports from experienced State and Commonwealth Government officers do not substantiate these assertions. There is a high standard of husbandry within the industry and careful supervision by Government authorities. A substantial research programme has been conducted and is continuing.

**FUEL AND ENERGY:
STATE ENERGY COMMISSION**

Accounts: Distressed Persons Relief Trust

161. Mr WILSON, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) How many persons have received grants from the distressed persons relief trust for the payment of State Energy Commission accounts to allow reconnection of supply in each month since August 1981?
- (2) What was the average grant made for such assistance during the period concerned?
- (3) How many persons have been refused such assistance by the trust?
- (4) How many persons have applied for such assistance from the department?

- (5) How many grants for such assistance from the department have been approved and how many have been rejected?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) August 1981 | 1 |
| September | 7 |
| October | 11 |
| November | 4 |
| December | 3 |
| January 1982 | 6 |
| February | 1 |
| Total: 33. | |
| (2) Average payment \$138.11. | |
| (3) Four. | |
| (4) and (5) From August 1981 to February 1982—inclusive—460 persons have been assisted with direct payment for SEC accounts either for reconnection or to avoid disconnection. A total of 471 applications were received in this period, with 11 being not approved. | |

FISHERIES: SALMON*Transfer of Concession*

166. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Did he receive a letter dated 2 February 1982, from the member for Albany, asking him to keep a commitment offered by his predecessor to visit Albany to discuss matters relating to the transfer of a salmon concession to a part-time fisherman and to review the decision made?
- (2) If so, has he made the visit?
- (3) If "No" to (1), does he intend to visit Albany and, if so, when?
- (4) If "Yes" to (2), will he advise whether the decision has been reviewed and, if so, with what results?
- (5) If the decision has not been reviewed, will he advise me of the outcome of the review when it is completed?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Yes, if discussions which I will be having with fishermen at Albany lead me to a decision that a review should be undertaken.

BEEKEEPING*Honey: Additives*

175. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What additives is it permissible to place in honey, and what is the main purpose of each additive?

Mr OLD replied:

Under the regulations if any additives are made to honey the product cannot be sold as honey.

EDUCATION: TEACHERS*Additional: Commonwealth Contribution*

188. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

Has he sought talks with his Federal counterpart to seek a Commonwealth contribution to the cost of employing additional teachers in view of the Commonwealth Government meeting the bill for unemployment benefits for unemployed teachers?

Mr CLARKO replied:

No.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT*Joint Venture: Pamphlet*

189. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the cost of printing, production and distribution of a pamphlet outlining the reason for the Government's decision to sell off Westrail smalls traffic for the joint venture proposal?
- (2) How many copies of the pamphlet were made and to whom were they distributed?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Assuming that the Leader of the Opposition's question refers to the publication *Delivering the Goods*, which is for the purpose of providing information and in the interests of encouraging informed discussion on progress the Government's land freight transport policy, the cost of that pamphlet was approximately \$2 000.

- (2) 10 000 copies were produced and they were made available to users of the State's freight transport system, road transport operators, Westrail employees, representatives of local government, members of Parliament, and any other person in the community who expressed interest in knowing what the Government is doing to maintain a cost efficient land freight transport system.

HEALTH: CAPEL*Radiation: Levels*

190. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Government establish guidelines for the release of information for people caught in situations such as that which occurred at Capel where residents found out about high radiation readings from the media?
- (2) Will he ensure that these guidelines provide that whenever items of information are released, the people affected hear about it first?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Following the request by the Shire of Capel to the Public Health Department for an investigation of the tailings, there was a great deal of expressed concern amongst the residents of Capel about the radiation levels and considerable Press speculation. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would agree that the best and most effective means of communication with a large number of people is the media.

A Press release seemed the best way to allay concern and was followed up within a few days by a visit by senior officers of the Public Health Department to discuss individual problems with local authorities and householders.

The reaction of the local authority and the people of Capel to the study, the work done by departmental officers, and the whole way in which it was handled was generally very favourable.

The local authority, the people affected, and the companies concerned are to be congratulated on the very sensible way in which they have reacted in the whole matter.

MINING: IRON ORE*Industry: Review of Conditions*

191. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

What are the terms of reference for a proposed review of conditions in the iron ore industry?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I refer the Leader of the Opposition to a statement by the former Premier dated 13 December 1981, and by me in a Press statement dated 20 January 1982. Copies can be made available if he does not have them.

MINING: IRON ORE*Industry: Review of Conditions*

192. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the current situation with the total review of the iron ore industry with special reference to possible new projects which was announced by his predecessor on 2 December 1981?
- (2) Does the Government concur with his predecessor's announcement that a new iron ore mine would proceed regardless of whether it had a majority Australian ownership?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I refer the Leader of the Opposition to the answer given by the Minister for Resources Development to question 191. The current situation is as follows—

During January, the Western Australian Government presented strong arguments to the Japanese Steel Mills in support of the companies' claims for a price increase. Pricing negotiations have been underway, and last Friday the two major producers, Hamersley and Mt Newman, reached agreement with the mills for a price increase in the order of 17 per cent.

Information has been requested from the Japanese Steel Mills on the type, size and timing of developments in shipping involved in transporting iron ore from Pilbara to Japan. The iron ore producers also have been requested to provide data on port expansion options.

The Japanese Steel Mills have confirmed their intention to continue to source 48 per cent to 50 per cent of their requirements from Australia, and it has been made clear to the Japanese Steel Mills that the State Government is looking for an early decision regarding the next iron ore developments, even though production may not commence until the late 1980s.

- (2) The position of the Government in relation to the foreign investments guidelines is unchanged. It is our view that the guidelines should be administered flexibly and that any projects should not be prevented from proceeding because they fail to meet an arbitrary level of Australian ownership at the time of commencement.

HOUSING: INTEREST RATES*Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee: Assistance Provided*

193. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How much in funds was allocated to the mortgage assessment relief committee?
- (2) How much has been spent?
- (3) How many requests for assistance were received?
- (4) How many people have been given assistance?
- (5) How many requests for assistance fell between the \$201-\$250 a week income group?
- (6) How many requests came from families or individuals receiving less than \$200 a week?
- (7) How many requests were in the \$250-\$300 a week income bracket?
- (8) How many were from people whose income was over \$300 a week?
- (9) How many requests came from the—
 - (a) metropolitan area;
 - (b) rural areas?
- (10) How many requests have been received by building societies for assistance in each of the months that the mortgage assessment relief committee has been in operation?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) \$2m of concessional interest funds to be mixed with lending institutions higher interest money was allocated.

- (2) \$1 571 800 was mixed to 10 March 1982.
- (3) 393 applications were received by the committee to 10 March 1982.
- (4) 271.
- (5) 161.
- (6) 92.
- (7) 101.
- (8) 39.
- (9) (a) Metropolitan area—369;
(b) outside metropolitan area—24.
- (10) Monthly figures not readily available, but applications received by societies were 765 to October 31 1981, 1 261 to 31 January 1982, and to 28 February 1982, 1 370.

RAILWAYS: SERVICES

Continuation

194. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he give a guarantee that all existing Westrail services will be maintained?
- (2) Is he able to give any assurances that costs will not increase for present services?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) It is not clear what the Leader of the Opposition's question is alluding to.
I am sure he appreciates, as we all do, that Westrail's services are under continual review and changes are made from time to time to ensure the services provided reflect the usage made of them. In common with any trading organisation Westrail must review its charges periodically to take into consideration variations which occur in general community costs.

FISHERIES

Bluefin Tuna

195. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

When is it expected that a decision as to whether the minimum size of takeable bluefin tuna in Western Australia will be raised?

Mr OLD replied:

Size limits for southern bluefin tuna is one of the matters being discussed by a tuna task force established to discuss

and report on tuna management throughout Australian waters. The report will be considered by the Australian Fisheries Council of Ministers which will meet later in the year.

LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

Select Committee: Recommendations

196. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it intended to implement any of the recommendations made by the Legislative Council Select Committee on National Parks in 1981?
- (2) If "Yes", which recommendations are to be implemented, and when is this to be done?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The report is still being considered by the Government. However, a number of recommendations are current policy which the National Parks Authority is working toward implementing. These include recommendations in regard to communications, equipment, roads, local advisory committees, visitor information centres, the allocation of land, classification of parks, and development of ranger training programmes.

NOXIOUS WEED

Caltrop

197. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

In view of statements made by the Senior Vice President of the Primary Industry Association at the 1982 annual conference of that body to the effect that the Agriculture Protection Board was unable to convince association zones that Caltrop did not pose a threat to agriculture, will he reverse the decision to remove this weed from the declared list and reintroduce its declared status?

Mr OLD replied:

No, there is still no evidence that Caltrop will affect agriculture even in heavily infested regions where the plant has been off the declared list for three seasons.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS PTY. LTD.*Camballin Project: Feasibility Studies*

198. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) (a) Were any feasibility studies concerning the viability and practicability of the Camballin project carried out by the Department of Agriculture prior to the signing of the initial Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. agreement;
 - (b) if "Yes", will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (2) (a) Were any feasibility studies on the Camballin project carried out prior to the amending of the Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. Agreement Act in 1969; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (3) (a) Were any feasibility studies regarding the viability of the Camballin project carried out prior to the amendment of the Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. Agreement Act in 1978; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (4) (a) Have any feasibility studies regarding the viability of the Camballin project been carried out since 1978; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (4) Comments have been provided to the Government on submissions by the company, but no formal feasibility studies have been carried out.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS PTY. LTD.*Camballin Project: Feasibility Studies*

199. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) (a) Were any feasibility studies concerning the viability and practicability of the Camballin project carried out by the

Department of Agriculture prior to the signing of the initial Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. agreement;

- (b) if "Yes", will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (2) (a) Were any feasibility studies on the Camballin project carried out prior to the amending of the Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. Agreement Act in 1969; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (3) (a) Were any feasibility studies regarding the viability of the Camballin project carried out prior to the amendment of the Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. Agreement Act in 1978; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?
- (4) (a) Have any feasibility studies regarding the viability of the Camballin project been carried out since 1978; and
 - (b) if so, will he table a copy of the report of any such studies?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (4) See answer to question 198.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS PTY. LTD.*Camballin Project: Cost*

200. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Works:

What has been the total cost of the Camballin project to the State since its inception?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The Public Works Department is unable to provide advice on the total cost of the Camballin project to the State. Several authorities in addition to the Public Works Department would be involved in having expended capital and in supplying services to Camballin. It is doubtful if recurring costs could be precisely identified as in some cases they might be booked with items pertaining to other matters as well.

BEEKEEPING

American Foul Brood

201. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) How many outbreaks of American foul brood have occurred in Western Australia in the past six months?
- (2) In these outbreaks—
 - (a) how many apiarists have been affected; and
 - (b) how many hives have been destroyed?
- (3) What has been the total amount involved in compensation payments to these beekeepers?
- (4) From what source is it considered that these outbreaks came?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) 9.
- (2) (a) 9;
(b) 151.
- (3) \$8 820.58*.
- (4) Infected equipment being reused. Feral bees have been suspected as a source of infection, but this has not been proven.

* Subject to ratification in part at a meeting of the compensation committee to be held next Monday.

FISHERIES

Squid

202. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Were the feasibility squid fishing projects announced in a joint statement by the Federal Minister for Primary Industries and the Western Australian Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife in November 1980, undertaken?
- (2) If "Yes", what were the findings of these projects?
- (3) If "No" to (1), will these projects proceed, and if so, when?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) Four Taiwanese fishing vessels arrived on the south coast in early January 1981, for the purpose of

undertaking squid feasibility fishing. They fished for about one week, but caught negligible quantities of squid because the mesh size of the nets used was too large. The vessels then left Australian waters.

- (3) There is currently no proposal by the relevant Australian company for further squid feasibility studies off the south coast of Western Australia.

HEALTH: SUNSCREEN PREPARATIONS

Pharmaceutical Benefit List

203. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Government approach the Federal Government requesting a reduction in the cost of approved sunscreen preparations for pensioners, low income families and people with sun sensitive skin by placing them on the pharmaceutical benefit list?
- (2) If not, will the State Government consider making sunscreen preparations more readily available through its hospital system at reduced cost?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I made submissions earlier to ask the Commonwealth to provide some relief on sales tax for these preparations and this was refused. I will approach the Commonwealth pharmaceutical benefits advisory committee to consider this issue.
- (2) Public hospitals are not an appropriate avenue for the distribution of such grants.

WATER RESOURCES: MWB

Three Per Cent Levy: Collections

204. Mr HILL, to the Treasurer:

Since 1974, how much money has been collected in each financial year by the Metropolitan Water Board by way of the three per cent tax?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

	\$
1974-75	618 493
1975-76	886 078
1976-77	1 281 534
1977-78	1 458 494
1978-79	1 604 869
1979-80	1 923 463
1980-81	2 380 563

The information is available in the Auditor General's report and, for information, from 1977-78 in Table 24 of the 1981-82 Financial Statement presented by the Treasurer to the Legislative Assembly on 13 October 1981.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Boyup Brook-Kojonup

205. Mr HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the income from freight on the Boyup Brook to Kojonup line in—
 - (a) 1978;
 - (b) 1979;
 - (c) 1980; and
 - (d) 1981?
- (2) How many men were employed for maintenance on this line at any one time in 1980 and 1981?
- (3) What is the cost of carting superphosphate by rail between—
 - (a) Picton and Boyup Brook;
 - (b) Picton and Dinninup?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Boyup Brook (excluded)—Kojonup (excluded)
 - (a) \$236 700;
 - (b) \$183 000;
 - (c) \$207 900;
 - (d) \$289 700.
- (2) 1980, seven men, and 1981 five men—also part employed on other sections of the railway in the area. In addition, from August to December 1981 a mobile Westrail gang made up of an average of 11 men carried out maintenance on the Boyup Brook-Kojonup section.
- (3) The current rail freight rate on fertiliser is—
 - (a) Picton to Boyup Brook \$5.67 per tonne;
 - (b) Picton to Dinninup \$6.75 per tonne.

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE TRUST

Management

206. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Who is the manager of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust?
- (2) When will he retire and what age will he then be?
- (3) Have special arrangements been made with respect to his superannuation?
- (4) If so, what are the details?
- (5) What is the name of the previous manager of the trust?
- (6) Did the previous manager take his trust car with him when he retired?
- (7) What were the—
 - (a) destinations;
 - (b) purposes;
 - (c) costs; and
 - (d) duration;
 of overseas visits taken by the former manager at trust expense?
- (8) On which visits did he take his wife at trust expense?
- (9) How many overseas visits have been taken by the present manager at trust expense and what were the—
 - (a) destinations;
 - (b) purposes;
 - (c) costs; and
 - (d) duration of each of them?
- (10) On which visits did he take his wife at trust expense?
- (11) Is it intended that the present manager make such a visit prior to his retirement?
- (12) If so, what are the details?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Mr L. A. Bowman is the Acting Manager of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust.
- (2) In the ordinary course of events he would retire in 1991 at the age of 60.
- (3) I am advised that no such arrangement has been made.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) Mr R. L. Marshall.
- (6) I am advised that he purchased the car from the trust on retirement.
- (7) (a) to (d) I am advised that there was no such trip.
- (8) Answered by (7).

- (9) (a) to (d) I am advised that there has been no such visit.
- (10) Answered by (9).
- (11) I am advised that there is no such intention.
- (12) Answered by (11).

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE TRUST

Membership

207. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Who are the members of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust?
- (2) Which companies are participating approved insurers and what percentage does each have?
- (3) (a) Are any of the trust members no longer in the industry; or
(b) are no longer participating approved insurers?
- (4) What checks are made to ensure that investments of trust funds are in the best interests of the trust rather than in the interest of some outside person or persons?
- (5) Who is in charge of the accounts section of the trust?
- (6) What are his qualifications?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Mr K. G. Milne (Chairman)
Mr J. R. Boon
Mr H. Rogers
Mr C. Barrington
Mr R. G. Pearce.

	Interest per cent
(2) FAI Insurance Group	.258
Legal & General Assurance Soc. Ltd.	.031
Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd.	1.626
State Government Insurance Office	86.956
Sun Alliance Insurance Ltd	5.500
T & G Fire & General Insurance Co Ltd.	.129
Western Underwriters Pty. Ltd.	.500
Westralian Farmers Co-operative Ltd.	5.000

- (3) (a) and (b) Mr K. G. Milne has retired from Westralian Farmers Insurance who are still participants in the trust.
Mr J. R. Boon has retired from Sun Alliance Insurance Group who are still participants in the trust.
Mr C. Barrington—R.A.C. Insurance Pty. Ltd. withdrew from the trust on 30 June 1981.
Mr R. G. Pearce—The Commercial Union Group withdrew from the trust on 30 June 1981.

- (4) All investments are approved by the trust. Moreover, the Act requires that investments be authorized by the Trustees Act or, if not so authorized, approved by the Minister.
- (5) and (6) I am advised that a Mr E. Davies holds this position and that he has no formal qualification.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: ASSISTANCE FUND

Payments

208. Mr TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What amounts were paid to each local government authority under the local government assistance fund?
- (2) What amount was paid to each local government authority in the State pursuant to the local government assistance fund in 1980-81?
- (3) Of the amounts paid to each authority, how much was by way of rebate, and how much was by way of interest on deferments?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) As the member would no doubt appreciate, there is a great deal of work involved in extracting and collating the information required to answer this question.
A reply will be forwarded to the member when the task is completed.

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

Dealers: Unlicensed

209. Mr TONKIN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What success has there been as a consequence of the Government appointment of two special investigators

to deal with the selling of secondhand motor vehicles by unlicensed dealers?

- (2) Are the investigators still working on the project?
- (3) How many—
- (a) successful; and
 - (b) unsuccessful;
- prosecutions have been made in this matter?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) A high degree of success has been achieved. Currently 130 suspect unlicensed dealers in motor vehicles are under investigation.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) 18 and five are awaiting hearing;
- (b) dismissed 3
 - withdrawn 5
 - adjourned *sine die* 2

In addition, as the result of inquiries by and information supplied by the two investigators the Criminal Investigation Branch prosecuted two persons, licensed under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, for false pretences.

HEALTH: BABY FOODS

Cans: Lead Solder

210. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

Adverting to question 2362 on 7 October 1981, when it was stated that the Western Australian food and drug regulations would prescribe a specific standard for lead in infant goods in tin plate containers—

- (a) have such regulations been promulgated;
- (b) is the standard prescribed that which was quoted in the question?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) yes.

POLICE: AUSTRALIAN POLICE COLLEGE

Establishment

211. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) What negotiations are being undertaken by the Government with respect to the establishment of the Australian Police College in Western Australia?
- (2) What was the result of the discussion at the Australian Police Ministers' Council in Hobart on 20 November 1981?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Negotiations for the positioning of the Australian Police College in Western Australia have been conducted through the Australian Police Ministers' Council and a detailed submission for this purpose, prepared by the Commissioner of Police, has been presented to the council by the Minister.
- (2) Council noted the undertaking of the Commonwealth Minister to ask his Government whether it would be prepared to meet the capital cost of relocating the college in Perth.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS: DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Cooling-off Period

212. Mr TONKIN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) How many people have been charged for failing to notify a customer of the "cooling off" clause in door-to-door sales contracts in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many of these have been found guilty?
- (3) What types of sales were the charged persons engaged in?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Four, involving five charges.
- (2) Three charges pending. One withdrawn—company in liquidation. One offence proved, but no conviction recorded.
- (3) Sales of—
 - (a) video recorders;
 - (b) pest control services;
 - (c) home cladding.

HEALTH: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Units

213. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the Mental Health Services negotiating to buy a block of units in Freeland Way, Eden Hill?
- (2) What type of patients will be accommodated in these units if they are purchased?
- (3) Has a firm decision been made to buy these units?
- (4) What steps will be taken to ensure that neighbouring residents are kept informed of developments?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Elderly persons requiring minimal supervisory and nursing care, which will be provided by full-time staff.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Discussion with several householders has already been held. Departmental staff have offered to meet with the Bassendean council. A public meeting will be held, if this is the wish of local residents, to explain the department's proposals.

EDUCATION: SPECIAL SCHOOL

Speech and Hearing Centre, Dodd Street

214. Mr TONKIN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Dodd Street Speech and Hearing Centre for deaf children an approved school, and is its work with children officially recognised?
- (2) Is he aware that the Princess Margaret Hospital refers certain children to the Dodd Street school?
- (3) Is it a fact that no transport allowance is payable in respect of children attending Dodd Street school because—
 - (a) a child should be attending a Government approved centre; and
 - (b) should be picked up by bus although one of the children concerned is only aged four years?
- (4) Is it a fact that in many cases no other facilities are offered for children with these problems?

- (5) Is the school receiving State or Commonwealth moneys?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) The Speech and Hearing Centre, situated in Dodd Street, Wembley, is recognised as an efficient non-Government special school.
- (2) Princess Margaret Hospital advised that the hospital does not formally refer children to the Dodd Street school. Formal referral is to the State Assessment Centre for Children with Impaired Hearing and the National Acoustic Laboratory. However, parents are advised of the facilities available at the Dodd Street school.
- (3) (a) and (b) The Education Department does not provide transport for children attending non-Government schools. Since the Speech and Hearing Centre is a non-Government school, transport is not provided to the centre.
- (4) It is not a fact that no other facilities are offered for children with impaired hearing. Over 300 such children attend Government schools.
- (5) The Speech and Hearing Centre receives substantial financial support from the Western Australian Government, the Schools Commission, and the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

PRISONS: FREMANTLE

Fire Safety Standards

215. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) With reference to his answer to my question 144 of 1982, is the chief fire officer completely satisfied with the procedures for putting out fires and for the evacuation of divisions which are included in Fremantle Prison orders?
- (2) Will he provide these procedures to me, or the Leader of the Opposition, on a confidential basis, so that we can see whether or not these procedures adequately provide for the safety of prison officers and other staff, and of prisoners?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The Chief Fire Officer is of the opinion that while one could never use the expression "completely satisfied" for any building holding prisoners, the arrangements in Fremantle prison orders for general fire emergency are reasonable in the circumstances of the case.
- (2) No. However I would be quite prepared for the Leader of the Opposition or Mr Parker to meet me and the director to discuss the procedures on a confidential basis.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

Radioactivity

216. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is gas fed into the State Energy Commission's system tested for radioactivity?
- (2) If so, how often and with what results?

Mr P. V. Jones replied:

- (1) No routine testing is carried out on radioactivity in natural gas by the State Energy Commission or any other major gas utility in Australia.
Equipment for testing radioactivity in natural gas is not locally available, although it is understood that the State X-ray Laboratory is obtaining such equipment.
- (2) Not applicable.

HEALTH: DENTAL

Perth Dental Hospital

217. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

Will he supply the scale upon which patients at the Government Dental Hospital and clinics are means tested?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The Perth Dental Hospital and its clinics provide treatment essentially to persons with low incomes and limited means. It also provides treatment to persons who—

- (i) being unable to obtain treatment elsewhere, attend in an emergency or for the relief of pain;
- (ii) attend upon direct referral from a dental practitioner;

- (iii) attend for purposes of the teaching of dental students;
- (iv) reside in areas which are not serviced by a dental practitioner and are considered to be geographically disadvantaged.

Some persons in the foregoing categories may not pass the means test.

I am tabling a copy of the assessment chart which is used for determining financial eligibility for treatment at the hospital and the levels—20 per cent through to 100 per cent—at which charges are made. The chart is based on age pension rates, the lower end of the scale being equivalent to the pension paid to persons who have no other income. At the upper end of the scale is the maximum income which may be received in pension and income from other sources which would entitle a pensioner to "fringe benefits". Persons receiving income in excess of that level are ineligible for treatment at the hospital.

As will be seen, the chart provides for single persons and married couples. An allowance of \$16 is made for a dependent child—taken from pensioner "fringe benefits" schedule—and, for each child after the first, the allowance is reduced by \$2 with \$6 being the minimum allowance for dependent children.

Gross weekly income is the main determining factor in making assessments. However, allowances are made for certain commitments such as rent, housing loan repayments, and such other fixed and unavoidable payments—including alimony.

It should be appreciated that social factors can have a bearing on the acceptance or otherwise of a person for treatment. A person who would ordinarily be ineligible for treatment on the basis of income may be accepted for high cost treatment—e.g., orthodontic attention—particularly if there are in the family a number of children who may require the same treatment in time. In making assessments it is difficult to apply hard and fast rules. The assessment chart provides for basic guidelines. However, the financial commitments and social factors which are taken into account often mean that

very arbitrary decisions on assessments are made. As patients who receive charges for treatments are essentially the financially disadvantaged in the community, sympathetic consideration is given to any genuine application for remission of fees. In reviewing such applications, each case is judged on merit.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 134).

FISHERIES

Two Rocks Marina

218. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he familiar with an agreement entitled "Two Rocks Yacht Harbour Agreement" made on 26 February 1974 between the Hon. J. T. Tonkin, M.L.A., the then Premier of Western Australia, for and on behalf of the said State, and Yanchep Estates Pty. Ltd. and Bond Corporation Pty. Ltd.?
- (2) Does this original agreement have plans annexed thereto and marked "Map 1", "Map 2", and "Map 3"?
- (3) Is the area referred to in the above agreement as the "natural mooring basin" clearly defined in map 1?
- (4) (a) If "Yes", is it that area of water of the Indian Ocean in the approximate location outlined in brown on map 1;
(b) does it include the service jetty adjacent thereto and used therewith at the date of the agreement, but since demolished?
- (5) Has he seen an aerial photograph of November 1972 showing a number of fishing boats at anchor between the basin as outlined in map 1 and the shore, and if not, will he examine it and table both the photograph and the Two Rocks yacht harbour agreement complete with maps, in Parliament?
- (6) Is clause 5 of the Two Rocks yacht harbour agreement included to safeguard professional fishermen who may wish, or be forced to use the natural mooring basin?
- (7) Is he aware that agreement has not been reached between the Two Rocks Professional Fishermen's Association and Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd. on several matters concerning fishermen and the use of facilities within the Two Rocks Marina despite protracted negotiations for almost two years?
- (8) (a) Will he confer with the Minister for Resources Development and the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife with regard to an assurance from Mr S. Hirose, Managing Director of Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd., that an area adjacent to the loading/unloading wharf would be allocated for commercial fishermen to refuel their craft from their own supplies in private vehicles;
(b) in view of the fact that the jetty barrier has not been removed as promised on 31 December 1981 to allow such fuelling to take place, will he remind Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd. that he views with concern such broken promises?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Map 1, showing the overall development scheme for the Two Rocks harbour, shows the outline of the natural mooring basin referred to in the agreement.
- (4) (a) Yes;
(b) map 1 shows the service jetty, but not within the outline of the mooring basin.
- (5) I will obtain the relevant aerial photograph. The balance of the documents referred to are tabled herewith.
- (6) The agreement includes provisions which reflected the Government's intent that the operation of the professional fishermen in the Two Rocks area were not prejudiced by the harbour development.
- (7) I am not fully aware of the commercial arrangements between the parties, but I have been advised that there are some matters which have not been resolved with some of the fishermen.
- (8) (a) and (b) I will ask my Ministers to make some inquiries with regard to the matters raised.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 133).

MINING: TENEMENTS*Applications*

219. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many applications for mining tenements were made during the months of January and February 1982?
- (2) How many applications for mining tenements were made during the corresponding period last year?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The period January-February 1981 was a time of very high activity in the exploration industry, and the prices for gold and other minerals were substantially higher in 1981 than in 1982.

This resulted in much greater exploration activity than is now being experienced. Activity where applications are concerned is also being affected at the present time by uncertainty, as any disallowance of regulations will jeopardise the tenements being granted.

The figures are—

(1) January 1982	107
February 1982	87.
(2) January 1981	1966
February 1981	1869.

MINING: IRON ORE*Export: Tonnage*

220. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What was the total tonnage of iron ore shipped from Western Australia during each of the years 1970 to 1981?
- (2) In each year what were the five major countries for destination of that ore and what tonnage was shipped to these countries in each case?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

	millions of tonnes
(1) 1970	42.370
1971	51.127
1972	54.520
1973	74.790
1974	86.110
1975	84.115
1976	84.627
1977	82.659
1978	81.450
1979	84.107

1980	84.177
1981	75.064

- (2) The information sought requires considerable research, and the member will be advised by letter.

HEALTH: TOBACCO*Advertising: "G"-rated Films*

221. Mr HODGE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

Further to question 35 of 1982 relevant to tobacco advertising, in view of the State Government's professed concern about the serious health hazard caused by cigarette smoking and the significant increase in smoking amongst young people, will the Minister give consideration to legislating to debar the screening of cigarette advertisements in cinemas other than with "R"-rated films?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The matter will be discussed by the relevant Ministers.

NOISE: TRAFFIC*Interdepartmental Committee: Recommendations*

222. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to question 33 of 1982 relevant to traffic noise, can I have details of the proposals made by the Noise and Vibration Control Council on the implementation of recommendations made by the interdepartmental committee on traffic noise?
- (2) Is he aware that Victoria, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Netherlands and many other nations have enacted legislation to alleviate, reduce and control traffic noise pollution?
- (3) If he and his department are unaware of the above-mentioned legislation, would he like me to obtain copies and forward them to him for his information and consideration?
- (4) Is the traffic noise pollution problem in Western Australia worse than that of Victoria, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the Netherlands?

- (5) Can he outline to me all measures taken by him during the past five years that have in some way alleviated or brought about a reduction in traffic noise pollution?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No, the recommendations of the Noise and Vibration Control Council are being sent to appropriate Ministers for consideration.
- (2) Yes, this legislation was considered by the interdepartmental committee on traffic noise.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The traffic noise problem in Western Australia is not of the same magnitude as Victoria, United Kingdom, United States of America, or the Netherlands, partly because we do not have the same population size.
- (5) In the past five years the traffic noise problem has been approached by the formation of the interdepartmental committee on traffic noise. Departmental officers have liaised with other Government departments and statutory bodies, local authorities, and the general public to approach specific problems. The Main Roads Department does considerable monitoring in connection with the road planning. The southern extensions of Kwinana Freeway are being monitored by my department at seven sites as a "before" and "after" construction exercise. About a dozen situations have been investigated and corrective recommendations made to local authorities and Government departments on behalf of the general public by officers of my department. Western Australia is represented on the Environmental Noise Control Committee of the Australian Environmental Council which produces recommendations such as the Australian Environmental Council Report No. 3, previously referred to in answer to question 33. It is hoped through this committee to develop uniform approaches in all States to a large extent.

POLICE: DIXON INQUIRY

Evidence, and Terms of Reference

223. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) With respect to the Dixon inquiry into the police handling of allegations of corruption, is it fact that—
- only evidence constituting absolute proof can be accepted;
 - there is no immunity from prosecution for people volunteering information that might incriminate them?
- (2) What investigatory staff have been assigned to Mr Dixon?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the inquiry?
- (4) What steps have been taken to inform people of the terms of reference of the inquiry when they have asked for them?
- (5) Is it correct that Mr Dixon is scheduled to go overseas this month and must have the inquiry finished by then?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) (a) The expression "absolute proof" is not known to the law. The evidence was taken both hearsay and direct. Different weight was given to each type of evidence.
- (b) The inquiry could give no immunity, but the prosecution can always call a person as a Crown witness and such a person can claim a certificate under the Evidence Act.
- (2) None.
- (3) The terms of reference are stated in Mr Dixon's report, which is to be tabled in Parliament today.
- (4) They were advised in writing or verbally.
- (5) No; Mr Dixon is going overseas, but the trip would have been postponed had the inquiry required it.
- As stated in the report by Mr Dixon, he will be submitting a supplementary report following the completion of inquiries which are at present being undertaken by the police.

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Advertisement

224. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:
- What was the total cost including production of an advertisement in *The*

West Australian on Friday, 12 March 1982, purportedly placed by the State Housing Commission, concerning Government housing policy?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Total cost \$2 263.87 which was money well spent because it was to inform the community of financial assistance which is available to them from the Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: GOSNELLS AND CANNING CITY COUNCILS

Hot Mix Plant

225. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to my question 60 of 24 March 1982 relevant to the Hot Mix plant in Beckenham and his answers to part (2), is he aware that the company general manager, the local councils, the Public Health Department, and other Government departments including the Premier's Department have been contacted regarding the problem caused by the Hot Mix plant in Bickley Road, Beckenham, but the problem still exists?
- (2) What action must the residents take to ensure their health is protected from dust and smoke from this factory?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I know that despite the closure of the old plant, complaints are being received about the operation of the new plant.
- (2) Public Health Department officers have discussed the matter with representatives of the residents and are investigating these further complaints on their behalf.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL AND YMCA

Jewel House

226. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that some sort of business arrangement has been entered into between Royal Perth Hospital and the YMCA regarding the leasing of Jewell House as a private hotel?

(2) If an agreement involving Jewell House has been entered into will he provide full details?

- (3) (a) When was the agreement entered into;
- (b) was a public announcement made;
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Letters of intent to lease Jewell House have been exchanged between Royal Perth Hospital and the Young Men's Christian Association of Perth (Inc.), the latter having been given occupancy from 1 March 1982, on interim terms.
- (2) Following Cabinet and Treasury approval, arrangements are proceeding for the formal leasing of Jewell House.
- (3) (a) A formal lease agreement has yet to be concluded;
- (b) no;
- (c) when a final agreement is concluded, an announcement will be made.

MINING: MINERAL SANDS

Capel

227. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Where are mineral sands tailings currently dumped from mining operations near Capel?
- (2) Where have they been dumped in the past?
- (3) Are the sites checked for radiation levels?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Mineral sands tailings which represent the residual sands from the extraction process are currently returned to the mining pits and dispersed with other tailings of low activity which comprise the great bulk of tailings produced and the pits subsequently rehabilitated.
- (2) This has been the common method of disposal of the great majority of the tailings.

- (3) The sites have not been monitored by the Public Health Department. Returning mixed sands tailings of low radioactivity to their place of origin is not likely to create a health hazard and tests are planned to confirm this. The tailings from the extraction process giving rise to concern contain monazite in a more concentrated form and conditions will be imposed on the companies to ensure the dispersion and dilution of the concentrates in the mass of residual sands referred to in (1).

HEALTH: TISSUE TRANSPLANTS

Australian Law Reform Commission Report

228. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that the Australian Law Reform Commission published a report on human tissue transplants, including a draft Bill in 1977?
- (2) Is it a fact that if the type of legislation suggested in the Law Reform Commission report had been enacted in Western Australia, the recent unfortunate occurrence involving the unauthorised removal of a deceased person's eyes could have been avoided?
- (3) Is it a fact that the above-mentioned report has been under study by the Government since 1977?
- (4) When does the Government intend introducing new legislation to regulate the removal of human tissue and related matters?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No legislation can prevent an action of the kind described by the member. Legislation can provide more clearly defined administrative procedures in an attempt to prevent an occurrence of the action referred to and failure to comply with those procedures would result in a punishable offence being committed. The legislation will require the consent of the next of kin to be obtained before tissue is removed.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) I hope during the next session of Parliament.

CEMETERIES: KARRAKATTA CEMETERY BOARD

Charges

229. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Can she confirm that the Karrakatta Cemetery Board now charges \$200 to dig a standard size grave and that this charge is substantially higher than fees charged at most other cemeteries in the metropolitan area?
- (2) If the above-mentioned claim is accurate, can she explain the reason for this apparent anomaly?
- (3) Is it a fact that if a coffin is slightly above average size an additional charge of \$55 is imposed by the board?
- (4) Can she confirm that the Karrakatta Cemetery Board now charges \$300 for a grave plot and that this charge is substantially higher than the fee charged at most other metropolitan area cemeteries?
- (5) If the above-mentioned claim is accurate, can she explain the reason for this apparent anomaly?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes, although submissions for fee increases have been received from other metropolitan cemetery trustees.
- (2) The Karrakatta Cemetery Board must obtain sufficient income to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the cemetery and burial fees are its principal source of income. The present fees have been determined on that basis.
- (3) The by-laws provide for a fee of \$60 for the interment of oversize coffins. I understand that the board's policy is that this extra fee should not be levied where a coffin is only slightly larger than normal.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The reasons are the same as those given in the answer to (3).

HEALTH: MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Doctor-patient Ratio

230. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

What is the doctor-patient ratio in—

- (a) The metropolitan area;
- (b) the State?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The doctor-patient ratio for the metropolitan area or the State is not available.

The doctor-population ratio based on the last medical manpower survey at 1 January, 1978 was—

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| (a) metropolitan area— | 1:482 |
| (b) the State— | 1:602 |

The most recent survey was done in January 1982, but these results are not available.

HEALTH

Electroconvulsive Therapy

231. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Saint committee of inquiry into the use of electroconvulsive therapy and other related matters completed its investigations yet?
- (2) Will he table a copy of the Saint committee report?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Unless there are valid and unanticipated reasons not to do so, I would expect the report to be made public after appropriate consideration.

HEALTH: MENTAL

Swanbourne Hospital: Sale

232. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Government made a decision to sell Swanbourne Hospital and the land adjacent to it?
- (2) If the hospital and land are to be sold, when and how are they to be sold?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) As part of the plans to develop replacement facilities for Swanbourne Hospital it is proposed that part of the land adjacent to the hospital will be sold. No decision has been made concerning the hospital building.
- (2) The date and method of sale of the land referred to in (1) have not been determined.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Lynwood

233. Mr PEARCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that his predecessor gave an assurance at a meeting on 30 June 1981 that modifications to Lynwood High School would commence immediately and hopefully be completed by the start of the 1982 school year?
- (2) Is it a fact that the tender for this work has not yet been let?
- (3) When is it expected that this work will commence?
- (4) When is it expected that this work will be completed?
- (5) Will he act to expedite this work and to minimise disruption to the school's programmes caused by the delay in this work?

Mr CLARKO: replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Specifications were delayed because adjustment to the works proposed were necessary. This has been completed and tenders close today.
- (3) to (5) Every effort is being made to hurry this project. The normal contract time is nineteen weeks which would give 24 August as the completion date, allowing two weeks for the letting of the contract. The extensions should be ready for the beginning of term 3. The school, in collaboration with the Education Department, will make alternative arrangements for accommodating students while building works are in progress to ensure a continuity of learning programmes.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Lynwood

234. Mr PEARCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that Lynwood High School is designed to accommodate approximately 1 000 students, but it is expected that the student population will rise to 1 500 during this decade?
- (2) If so, what arrangements will be made to accommodate the additional students?

- (3) If not, what are the student number forecasts for Lynwood High School?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) to (3) The present policy on school design is that permanent accommodation is provided for the expected long-term enrolments with use of transportable facilities during the years of peak enrolments. A four-stage senior high school such as Lynwood is expected to accommodate between 1 000 and 1 100 students depending on the proportions of lower and upper school classes in their enrolments.

Primary school numbers from Lynwood Senior High School's contributing area are declining. Following a peak of approximately 1 300 students in 1984, enrolments at this school are expected to decline to between 1 000 and 1 100 by 1990, unless there are substantial new housing developments in the area.

HEALTH: HEARING CONSERVATION

Regulations

235. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) When will the hearing conservation regulations be presented to Parliament?
- (2) What is the reason for the long delay in bringing the hearing conservation regulations into force?
- (3) In view of the fact that there is little or no protection provided by way of legislation at present for the hearing of workers in industry, will he ensure that the introduction of hearing conservation regulations for industry receive a high priority?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I regret I am unable to give an estimate.
- (2) The complexity of the regulations, particularly from a drafting point of view, and pressure on the Crown Law Department during the current sitting of Parliament. The Parliamentary Draftsman has advised that drafting of the regulations will commence again in late May.
- (3) Yes.

VEGETABLES: POTATOES

Potato Industry Trust Fund

236. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) What is the present amount contained in the potato industry trust fund?
- (2) (a) How many payments of compensation to growers have been made from the potato industry trust fund in each of the past five years; and
(b) what was the level of payment in each instance?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) \$234 357.66 as at 25 March, 1982.
- (2) (a) Four in 1978;
(b) \$434, \$619, \$825, and \$850—total \$2 728.

DAIRYING: CAPEL

Radiation: Levels

237. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has milk from the Capel dairy been tested for radiation levels?
- (2) If "Yes", who conducted the tests and what were the results of the tests?
- (3) Is milk from the Capel dairy mixed with other milk and sold to the public?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Milk from a dairy on a farm at Capel is being tested for radioactivity.
- (2) The analysis is being carried out by the Australian Radiation Laboratory. It is a lengthy procedure and is not yet completed.
- (3) It is understood that milk from the farm referred to in (1) is mixed with other milk and sold to the public.

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Handicapped Persons Equal Opportunities Bill

238. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Government studied the South Australian Bill entitled "Handicapped Persons Equal Opportunities Bill"?
- (2) If "Yes", what action, if any, does it intend taking?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As replied to question 2649 of 18 November 1981, the Government has endorsed the principles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons but does not propose at this stage to enact legislation similar to that in South Australia.

EDUCATION: NON-TEACHING STAFF

Number: Reduction

239. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

How many schools have had reductions in ancillary staff and/or facilities as a result of the Government's education cuts?

Mr CLARKO replied:

Ancillary staff have been reduced marginally in 467 schools. There have been no reductions in facilities.

MEAT: COMMISSION

Schedule of Prices

240. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Does the WA Meat Commission publish more than one schedule of prices and, if so, how many?
- (2) Will he table a copy of each schedule?
- (3) (a) Does the WA Meat Commission charge the Public Health Department institutions a higher rate for meat than it charges restaurants, hotels, and other clients;
- (b) how much more does the commission charge the Public Health Department institutions than it charges restaurants and hotels;
- (c) what is the reason for this practice;
- (d) what is the difference between the figure paid for meat to the WA Meat Commission by the Public Health Department last year and the figure it would have paid at rates charged hotels and restaurants?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) I refer the member to *Hansard* of 25 November 1981, for a question without notice asked by himself on the same subject.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION: ACT

Proclamation

241. Mr EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

When is it expected that the new Workers' Compensation Act will be proclaimed?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The Workers' Compensation and Assistance Act 1981 is expected to be proclaimed on 3 May 1982.

The reason for this date is the need to gazette rules and regulations so that practitioners in the field have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the new requirements.

SOIL: CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership

242. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Who are the present members of the soil conservation advisory committee?

Mr OLD replied:

Mr G. D. Cashmore—(Chairman)
 Mr S. A. J. Fletcher—(Deputy Chairman)
 Mr J. C. Layman
 Mr R. E. Y. O'Connor
 Mr A. G. Justins
 Mr R. E. Green
 Mr W. G. Henderson
 Dr E. R. Hopkins
 Mr R. E. Shaw
 Dr A. F. Trendal
 Dr G. A. Robertson

WATER RESOURCES

Meter Installation and Accounts: Procedure

243. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Will he detail—

- (a) procedure and timing for installation of meters;

- (b) procedure for billing; and
- (c) responsibility for the payment of accounts as between home owner and builder;

in the situation where a home is being built within the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board area?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (a) A meter is installed at the time the water service is provided.
- (b) No charge is made for the installation of the meter.
- (c) Not applicable.

WATER RESOURCES: MWB

Manager Communications: Salary

244. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What is the salary attaching to the position of Manager Communications with the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board?
- (2) Is the officer concerned provided with a vehicle?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) \$35 564 per annum.
- (2) He has access to a board vehicle for official duties.

TRAFFIC: ACCIDENTS

Morrison Road, Swan View

245. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many accidents involving pedestrians have occurred between Balfour Road and Amherst Road on Morrison Road, Swan View, in the last 10 years?
- (2) What is the vehicular count on Morrison Road per 24 hours?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Three accidents have been reported—one in 1973 was fatal.
- (2) 9 450 vehicles per 24 hours in April 1981 at the railway crossing.

TRANSPORT: FUEL FRANCHISE LEVY

Collections

246. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Transport:

With respect to the fuel franchise levy—

- (1) In the first complete year of operation—

- (a) what was the rate on the respective fuels;
- (b) what was the total amount of tax collected?

- (2) For the year 1980-81—

- (a) what was the rate on the respective fuels;
- (b) what was the total amount of tax collected?

- (3) For the current year, 1981-82—

- (a) what is the rate on the respective fuels;
- (b) what is the total amount collected to date and the estimate for the full year?

- (4) In each of the years the fuel levy has been applied, what is the estimated value of vehicle licence concessions?

- (5) Have the vehicle licence concessions been amended?

- (6) If "Yes" to (5), how and in what year(s)?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Year 1979-80, first complete year of operation.

- (a) Motor spirit—0.9c per litre.
Diesel fuel—3.0c per litre.
- (b) Fuel levy revenue—\$16 904 788.

- (2) Year 1980-81.

- (a) Motor spirit—1.3c per litre.
Diesel fuel—3.0c per litre.
- (b) Fuel levy revenue—\$24 438 609.

- (3) Current year 1981-82.

- (a) Motor spirit—1.6c per litre.
Diesel fuel—3.0c per litre.
- (b) Revenue estimated for full year \$29 028 167.

- (4) to (6) In 1979-80 vehicle licence fees were reduced by 20 per cent on all vehicles except heavy trucks. In addition diesel powered vehicles, except heavy trucks, were given a 50 per cent reduction in vehicle licence fees. Livestock, prospectors, sandalwood pullers, kangaroo shooters and beekeepers vehicle licence fee was set at \$10 per annum. The requirement to pay road maintenance charges entitled some concessions in vehicle licence fees. When the road maintenance charges ceased with effect from 1 July 1979 the corresponding concession of 50 per cent of vehicle licence fee ceased also.

In 1980-81 there was no change in vehicle licence fees with the exception of heavy trucks which had their fees increased by 25 per cent. With effect from 1 January 1981 the livestock, prospectors, sandalwood pullers, kangaroo shooters and beekeepers' vehicle licence fee was set at 50 per cent.

In 1981-82 vehicle licence fees were increased by an average of 8 per cent with the exception of heavy trucks which were increased by 22 per cent.

ROADS: FREEWAY

North-south

247. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In May 1974, Main Roads Department, in a publication entitled *Kwinana Freeway Proposed Southern Extension* stated that "no further high capacity road is planned to cater for the increasingly heavy north-south movement" other than the Kwinana-Mitchell Freeway system. When was it decided to put in another high capacity road carrying north-south regional movements given this statement by the Main Roads Department in 1974 and supported by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in its amendment to the metropolitan region scheme in 1974?
- (2) What circumstances warrant this change in policy?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) In the same section of that publication mention was made of a PERTS 1970 study conclusion of the need for another very long-term high capacity route. Both the Stephenson and West Coast Highways, which have been part of the metropolitan region scheme since 1963, are intended to provide for north-south regional travel. However, they lack continuity in the Claremont-Swanbourne area and are envisaged to be a lower capacity than the Mitchell-Kwinana Freeway system. In order to provide better continuity and improved capacity for these routes, the MRPA commenced statutory procedures in October, 1981 to consider an amendment to the region scheme. In due course any amendment recommended by the authority and accepted by the Government will be submitted to Parliament for approval in the normal way.

ROADS: FREEWAY

Western Suburbs

248. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

The Chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority (Mr Wilkins) stated in a newspaper report in *The West Australian*—11 March, 1982—that planning for the western suburbs highway commenced in 1972. Can he explain why on the one hand the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority now claims that planning commenced in 1972 for a new highway, but in 1974-75 when it wished to promote the extension of the Kwinana Freeway, it stated that no such high capacity road through the western suburbs is planned to cater for the increasing heavy north-south movements?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Although there were no formal proposals in 1974-75 to include a primary route reserve north of the Stirling Bridge, in the metropolitan region scheme, the long-term need for an additional route in the western part of the region was foreseen as early as

"The Plan for the Metropolitan Region, Perth and Fremantle, Report 1955."

Further examination by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in 1972 and extending through to the current amendment has confirmed the need for and determined the location of a primary north-south route.

TRAFFIC: COUNT

Riseley Street

249. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In May 1974, the Main Roads Department claims in its report on the proposed Kwinana Freeway extension that by 1979 there would be 31 600 vehicles per day utilising Riseley Street unless Kwinana Freeway extension was constructed. How many vehicles per day are currently using Riseley Street?
- (2) How does he account for the shortfall in the predicted volumes?
- (3) Are the Main Roads Department and Metropolitan Region Planning Authority predictions for the year 2000 similarly exaggerated, and if not, why, given their predictions in 1974?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) 16 890—October 1981.
- (2) The population predictions used to predict the 1979 traffic relied on 1966 census data. With this data and a knowledge of current planning in 1973, it was assumed that the area south of Leach Highway, Bateman would be developed as urban land. In fact this area has been slow to develop and areas such as the Applecross pine plantation have yet to be developed for urban purposes.
- (3) The prediction technique has been shown to produce reliable results for the major road system. The technique requires the prediction of such items as population, land use, economic status, work opportunity etc. The traffic predictions can only be as reliable as these other predictions.

TRAFFIC: COUNT

Narrows Bridge

250. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the current volume of traffic for the Narrows Bridge and the expected volume in the year 2000, assuming only minor improvements to the road network south and north of the Stirling and Fremantle traffic bridges rather than the construction of the western suburbs highway and Fremantle eastern bypass?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

In February 1982 traffic on the Narrows Bridge was 96 870 vehicles per day. It is expected that traffic on the bridge will peak at no more than 130 000 vehicles per day.

TRAFFIC: COUNT

Narrows Bridge

251. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the current peak period, morning and evening, on the Narrows Bridge and the anticipated peak period for the year 2000 assuming only minor improvements to the approaches to the Fremantle and Stirling Bridges?
- (2) What is the anticipated peak period for the year 2000 assuming construction of the western suburbs freeway and Fremantle eastern bypass?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Peak flows on the Narrows Bridge occur between 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on normal week days. In the year 2000 it is expected that the peak periods will extend to a limited extent which will largely depend on work travel patterns at that time.
- (2) Answered by (1).

ROADS: FREEWAY

Western Suburbs

252. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) In 1974, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in its submission on the extension to the Kwinana Freeway

argued that any proposal to remove the bypassable traffic across the Narrows further west across the Fremantle-Stirling Bridge would impose "potentially greater physical and environmental problems". The same report argued that not to construct such a facility would totally disrupt existing residential areas and create permanent environmental problems for large numbers of people. Is the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in the western suburbs study contradicting the statements it made in 1974?

- (2) How can the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority now justify this new route through the western suburbs given its previous statements of the severe environmental impact through the area and the virtual dismissal of environmental matters in the western suburbs study where only 2½ pages are devoted to an examination of these important matters?
- (3) How does the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority support its statement in the western suburbs study that environmental considerations in the western suburbs are not paramount and the further comments that its examination of the environmental matters was simply to identify those matters of an environmental nature which ought to be taken into account—but have not to date—in the deciding of a major transport route?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The quote from the 1974 Metropolitan Region Planning Authority report has not been read in the context of the whole document. In essence, the report argued that NOT to extend the Kwinana Freeway southwards would place an additional traffic burden on the Fremantle-Stirling Bridges and the local street system, with all the consequential physical and environmental problems.
- (2) See (3) below.
- (3) Environmental matters are of vital consideration when examining regional planning proposals. Nevertheless, they

are not necessarily the dominating factor—particularly when previous environmental studies initiated in 1973 have been carried out and further studies will be undertaken as development of a preferred route proceeds.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Western Suburbs Highway

253. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Given that the western suburbs study has only identified environmental issues in the western suburbs without analysing these issues, is the Government prepared to proceed with amendment 410/33 without an environmental impact statement?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I will consider this matter in the context of previous environmental studies following the report to me on amendment No. 410/33 by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

ROAD: FREEWAY

Western Suburbs

254. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

The Director General of Transport's *Transport Energy Policy Western Australia 1979* states that measures which simply improve journey times can have the effect of encouraging additional journeys which would have a detrimental effect on the total quantity of fuel consumed. Will the western suburbs highway have an effect on encouraging additional journeys and to what extent?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The quotation from the Government of Western Australia publication *Transport Energy Policy Western Australia* simply illustrates that given a high quality road

network there will be a tendency for motorists to make more trips, and more trips of greater length, than would be the case with a low-quality road network. The high quality network gives benefits of time saving and convenience.

The publication warned that purely for the purpose of reducing fuel usage, the improved fuel consumption to be expected from individual vehicles by eliminating congestion could be cancelled out by the extra traffic taking advantage of improved roads.

The western suburbs highway will probably result in extra motorists taking advantage of its convenience and benefiting accordingly, along with the existing motorists. The extent of this has not been quantified.

TRANSPORT

Journey-to-work Trip Length

255. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) According to the Director General of Transport's publication *Transport Energy Policy Western Australia 1979* "the corridor for the metropolitan area, with its major sub-regional centres, is expected to reduce the average length of trip in the metropolitan area as it develops, which will save energy and transport". What was the average journey-to-work trip length in 1960, 1970, and 1980?
- (2) What is the expected journey-to-work trip length in 1990 and the year 2000?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The information requested is not available for the years 1960, 1970, 1980, and 1990.

Estimates of the average journey to work trip lengths (including walk trips) were—

1971—9.6 kilometres

1976—10.8 kilometres

For the year 2000 the equivalent figure has been forecast to be 11.3 kilometres.

These figures show the rate of increase in journey length for work trips to be diminishing markedly over the next 20 years.

Journeys for shopping, social, school and recreational purposes which comprise

about three-quarters of all journeys made, are expected to show a fall in average length from 6.5 kilometres in 1976 to 6.2 kilometres in the year 2000.

HOSPITALS: CONSULTANT

Mr C. Campbell

256. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much is it costing to employ the hospital consultant Mr C. Campbell?
- (2) (a) How long has Mr Campbell been involved in offering advice to the Government; and
(b) what has been the total payment made to him over that period?
- (3) What service is Mr Campbell currently performing for the State Government?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I must point out to the member that Mr C. M. Campbell is the principal of Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd., who permanently employ seven people and also engage other specialist help from time to time for specific tasks.

I am not in a position to advise the member what proportion of the fees paid to Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd. are personally retained by Mr Campbell.

- (2) (a) Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd. have been engaged since June, 1979.
(b) In respect of consultancy services provided to the Minister for Health, total payments to Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd. over that period have been \$328 615.
- (3) The firm of Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd. has been commissioned for the following tasks—
(a) Review of metropolitan hospitals and related services. The updating of total site plans is a major part of this extensive study, which is a comprehensive review including teaching and departmental hospitals and the current and future requirements of the Mental Health Services.

(b) Mr Campbell has acted in person as the project director for stage 1 of Princes Margaret Hospital redevelopment and has also recently been engaged in this capacity for the Royal Perth Hospital north block project. The firm has also been commissioned as project directors and project managers for the Public Health Laboratories project and the remodelling of A block at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre.

(c) Charles M. Campbell and Associates Pty. Ltd. provide consultancy services on the development and implementation of uniform functional cost and related reporting systems which will be introduced in Western Australian public hospitals.

HOSPITALS: LAUNDRY AND LINEN SERVICE

Sale

257. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Is it a fact that the State Government is trying to sell the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The future of the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service is under consideration.

BRIDGES

Burswood and Mt. Henry

258. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is it now estimated that the Burswood bridge will be constructed by the Main Roads Department?
- (2) Have all the properties needed for access to this bridge, on each side of the river, been acquired?
- (3) In planning this bridge, has ready access to the Belmont racecourse been provided for?
- (4) Is there an up-to-date model available of this bridge for public viewing?
- (5) What is the expected opening date for the Mt. Henry bridge?

(6) What is the final cost of the Mt. Henry bridge, and how does this compare with the original Main Roads Department estimate?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No date has been set.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) 9 May 1982.
- (6) A final cost had not yet been determined, but it is anticipated that it will be below the original MRD estimate.

ROADS

Spencer-Manning Roads

259. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has there been any contact between the State and Federal Governments regarding deletion of the proposed Spencer Road-Manning Road link as a solution to the road traffic problems of the south-west corridor?
- (2) Has it been requested that the proposed link which had been included on the maps of declared urban arterial roads, be deleted?
- (3) If so, has this been done and, if not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes, this matter has been discussed by officers of Department of Transport, Australia, and the Main Roads Department.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Main Roads Department will shortly be reviewing the declared urban arterial road system and this link can be included with any other changes which have to be made.

TRAFFIC: ACCIDENTS

Great Eastern Highway

260. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

In each of the last four years, how many accidents have occurred in Great

Eastern Highway between Morrison Road and Great Northern Highway—

- (a) involving pedestrians and motor vehicles on the pedestrian crosswalk there; and
- (b) involving motor vehicles only?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Period between 1/3/78 and 28/2/79:

- (a) 2
- (b) 31

Period between 1/3/79 and 28/2/80:

- (a) 3
- (b) 22

Period between 1/3/80 and 28/2/81:

- (a) 1
- (b) 22

Period between 1/3/81 and 28/2/82:

- (a) 2
- (b) 24

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Purchase by SEC

261. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) How much gas has the State Energy Commission contracted to purchase from the North-West Shelf venturers?
- (2) What price will be paid for the gas?
- (3) How much of the gas that the State Energy Commission has contracted to purchase does it have customers for?
- (4) Who are the customers and how much gas is each committed to take?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 370 million cubic feet a day of gas for 20 years, based on a heat content of 1060 BTU/cubic foot.
- (2) As pricing is commercial information, it is a requirement of the joint venture participants, under the terms of the contract, that such detailed information remains confidential.
- (3) and (4) This information is of a commercial nature and must remain confidential, although allocations of gas to various customers have been made, and detailed negotiations involving price and delivery are being finalised as contractual details permit.

COMMUNITY WELFARE: DISTRESSED PERSONS RELIEF TRUST

Trustees, and Guidelines

262. Mr WILSON, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Who is responsible for appointing trustees to the distressed persons relief trust?
- (2) (a) How many trustees are there; and (b) when was each of the present trustees appointed?
- (3) What are the welfare qualifications of each of the trustees?
- (4) Is it a fact that—
 - (a) it takes only one trustee to decline to give aid;
 - (b) it takes two trustees to approve aid;
 - (c) if one trustee approves and one declines, the application for aid is automatically refused?
- (5) Was a new set of guidelines for the trust drawn up in 1980?
- (6) Were any such new guidelines made available to referring agencies?
- (7) If "No" to (6), why not?
- (8) In view of the apparent ineffectiveness of the trust system has any consideration been given to its replacement with a more decentralised system operating directly through existing approved community or voluntary welfare organisations, and if so, with what result?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2)
 - (a) The trust shall consist of five Trustees to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be the Public Trustee who shall be chairman.
 - (b) Mr P. W. McGinnity—6 August 1976
Mr J. H. Baker—7 May 1976
Mrs B. Harper-Nelson—22 June 1977
Inspector W. Currie—23 January 1980
Captain A. R. Walker—1 December 1980.
- (3) P. W. McGinnity:
35 years as an active member of the St Vincent De Paul Society.
30 years in Public Trust Office attending to the financial affairs of incapable patients and their dependants.

J. H. Baker:

1963-67 Executive Member NSW Council of Social Service.

1966-67 Vice Chairman NSW Council of Social Service.

1965-67 Executive Member Australasian Council of Social Services.

1975-80 Ex-member WA Council of Social Services.

1977-80 President WA Council of Social Services.

1962-66 Vice Chairman NSE Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

1966-67 Chairman NSW Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

Currently President Perth Inner City Youth Service.

B. Harper-Nelson: 1946 Bachelor of Arts (Social Science).

Thirty years experience in Social Welfare in United Kingdom, Kenya and Australia. Life member of WA Council of Social Services.

Inspector W. Currie: 29 years in WA Police Force. Apart from last 5 years being involved in social work in the Women's Police.

5 years as a member of Police Family Advisory Council.

1971 to date. Member of Board of Management Police and Citizens Youth Clubs (Inc.).

Captain A. R. Walker: 17 years service with the Salvation Army in Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia, including 5 years in charge of the whole social welfare organisation of the Salvation Army in the Northern Territory.

Currently responsible for the collation and dissemination of information to all social welfare departments within the Salvation Army.

- (4) (a) Yes.
 (b) Yes.
 (c) No. All applications are reviewed by the trustees at the monthly meeting.
 (5) Yes.
 (6) Yes.
 (7) Not applicable.
 (8) I understand that the trust has been very effective.

HEALTH: SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Koondoola School

263. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can he confirm that the speech pathologist position at the Koondoola School health services centre has been vacant since January this year?
 (2) In view of the fact that this speech pathology service is the only place for referral in the northern suburbs, that waiting lists for treatment are already up to 18 months' duration, and that there is an oversupply of qualified therapists, what is the reason for the continuing delay in this position being filled?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) It is regretted there was some administrative delay in converting the position from temporary to permanent status. A written offer of employment was made by the Public Service Board on 24 March, 1982.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Disconnection of Supply

264. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) How many disconnections of electricity supply to domestic consumers were effected in the months of July and August 1981?
 (2) How many disconnections for non-payment were recorded in each of the financial years—
 (a) 1980-81;
 (b) 1979-80;
 (c) 1978-79; and
 (d) 1977-78?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) July 1981 603
 August 1981 564
 (2) (a) 1980-81 10 250
 (b) 1979-80 11 485
 (c) 1978-79 6 330
 (d) 1977-78 3 919

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Assets

265. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the asset total for the permanent building societies as recorded in each of the last five years to 30 June 1981?
- (2) What is the asset total recorded as at—
 - (a) 30 September 1981;
 - (b) 31 December 1981; and
 - (c) 31 March 1982?
- (3) In respect of each date above, what is the relative liquidity percentage?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) and (2) The total assets for permanent building societies at the following dates were—

30/6/77	\$1 078 907 441
30/6/78	\$1 309 153 819
30/6/79	\$1 601 528 479
30/6/80	\$1 849 650 932
30/6/81	\$2 172 956 495
30/9/81	\$2 191 755 000
31/12/81	\$2 202 465 000
30/3/82	Unavailable
	Per cent

- | | | |
|-----|----------|-------------|
| (3) | 30/6/77 | 14.42 |
| | 30/6/78 | 13.74 |
| | 30/6/79 | 13.38 |
| | 30/6/80 | 12.40 |
| | 30/6/81 | 13.34 |
| | 30/9/81 | 16.36 |
| | 30/12/81 | 15.62 |
| | 30/3/82 | Unavailable |

HOUSING: RENTAL

Applicants: "Turn Reached"

266. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the status of an applicant for State Housing Commission accommodation who is deemed to be "turn reached" by the commission?
- (2) Can he confirm that some applicants who are deemed "turn reached" are having to wait several months after being so categorised before being offered accommodation?

- (3) Can he also confirm that Aboriginal applicants who are listed for flat accommodation and are categorised as "turn reached", are not being offered flats which are being allocated to non-Aboriginal applicants who have applied at a later date?

- (4) If "Yes" to (3), what explanation can he give for this practice?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) A "turn reached" applicant is one who has moved to the top of the list for assistance.
- (2) A "turn reached" applicant receives an offer of accommodation when a suitable unit becomes available.
- (3) Applicants who have shown by their prior tenancy history, an inability to cope with an urban living style, may be "turn reached" but required to wait before suitable accommodation becomes available.
- (4) Experience has shown that many applicants are unable to adapt and live satisfactorily in apartment situations.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Two-bedroomed and Four-bedroomed Accommodation: Shortage

267. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he confirm that there is a particularly critical shortage of two and four-bedroomed accommodation in State Housing Commission and Aboriginal Housing Board housing stock?
- (2) What special action is the Government taking to overcome the accommodation problems in these particular areas in the current financial year?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) I am aware that the number of applicants applying for assistance is increasing. However, the situation cannot be fully overcome until the Federal Government follows the example of this State Government and allocates more funds for welfare housing.
- (2) In the past 12 months, the stock of two-bedroom and four-bedroom accommodation has increased by 77 units.

Also, the commission endeavours to equalise waiting periods for the different categories of housing, by placing two-bedroom families in larger accommodation, where the situation allows.

ELECTORAL: ROLLS

Federal and State: Dual

268. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) In view of the Minister's publicly expressed intention to cut costs in his department, what consideration is he giving to the possibility of combining State and Commonwealth rolls as a cost-cutting measure?
- (2) If such a proposal is not being considered, can the Minister say why?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The evidence does not support the member's assumption that combination of the Commonwealth and State electoral rolls would result in reduced expenditure. Rather does it indicate that increased burdens would be placed upon the taxpayer to meet higher costs. For this reason alone the proposition is not under consideration.
- (2) See (1).

COMMUNITY WELFARE: DISTRESSED PERSONS RELIEF TRUST

Administration

269. Mr WILSON, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Can he confirm that the Citizens' Advice Bureau has ceased to be responsible for the administration of the distressed persons relief trust?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) who is now responsible for the trust's administration;
 - (b) why did the Citizens' Advice Bureau relinquish its administrative role;
 - (c) who is now responsible for interviewing clients;
 - (d) do those who now interview clients have broad practical experience in the welfare field;
 - (e) what professional qualifications do these interviewing staff possess?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The trust employs its own administrative staff.
- (b) Changes were made to enable implementation of the trusts policies.
- (c) The trust.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Bachelor of Arts degree with over 10 years experience in social work.

COMMUNITY WELFARE: DEPARTMENT

Cutbacks

270. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Can he confirm that the department's Belmont office has been subjected to a 50 per cent cutback and is currently only able to cope with child welfare problems to the exclusion of other community welfare work?
- (2) Can he also confirm that because of such a cutback, the work commitment is too great and welfare staff are not able to make home visits?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1) and (2), does the same situation apply in other offices of the department and what is he doing to overcome these apparent crisis conditions?
- (4) If "No" to (1) and (2), what cutbacks have been made and what effect have these had on the full delivery of community welfare services with which his department is charged?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) No, the department's Belmont office has not been subjected to staff cutback. Currently there is one staff vacancy and it is expected this will be filled in May.
- (2) No—welfare staff are still making home visits.
- (3) No reply required.

- (4) Cutbacks have not been made in relation to the delivery of service to clients. The department continues to discharge a wide range of community welfare functions, including statutory obligations. As always, the amount of work undertaken will be determined by available resources, including staff numbers, priority being given to work considered most urgent.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mirrabooka

271. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of situations such as that which exists at Mirrabooka Primary School where as a result of a reduction in the hours worked by the library aide, considerable additional strain has been placed on other staff and free access to the library for students is no longer possible?
- (2) Is he concerned that because of this reduction imposed by the Government, the library at this school is no longer available at all times as a valuable learning aid to the children concerned?
- (3) What rectifying action does he propose to take in this and other similar situations to ensure that school libraries are made available for full-time use during school hours?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) I am aware of reductions in library aide staff in schools such as Mirrabooka Primary School.

The reductions were made to those schools which were operating at a staffing level greater than that which applied generally. It is conceded that these schools have lost some fraction of what they considered as a valuable resource. However, in a time of limited resources it is not reasonable for some schools to be advantaged over others of similar enrolments. I should add in this context that the rationalisation permitted increased time to schools which were operating below the general level.

The provision of library aides was never intended to remove the responsibility for the use of library materials from the

classroom teacher. It has always been part of the educational process which teachers undertake that they give their pupils guidance in both what materials to use and how to make best use of them. Indeed, the recommended systems are designed to minimise the need for a particular person to be present at all times and allow for self-service both by teachers and students. This activity is quite distinct from the organisation of those materials as carried out by the aide.

- (2) and (3) The hours that the library is available for various activities is a matter for the principal and the regional superintendent to determine in relation to the total school organisation.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mirrabooka

272. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

With regard to the upgrading of facilities at Mirrabooka Primary School promised some time ago, when will the following improvements be effected—

- (a) the provision of new furniture for the year one classroom;
- (b) the installation of ceiling fans throughout the school?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (a) Year 1 furniture has been requisitioned and should be supplied by mid April 1982.
- (b) The request for ceiling fans has been deferred until funds become available.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Fremantle Financial Advice Service: Funding

273. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware that the Fremantle financial advice service, which has been able to provide support and assistance to a large number of families in the broad Fremantle region, is to be deprived of funds for the emergency relief component of its service after 30 June 1982?

- (2) Is he also aware that without emergency support money to provide food parcels, help with reconnection of electricity supply and make available emergency rent money, the effectiveness of this service will be severely limited?
- (3) In view of the current situation and the obvious need for these funds to alleviate the hardship of the disadvantaged in the Fremantle region, and in view of the continuing evaluation to which this service has been subjected by State and Commonwealth funding authorities, will he take action to ensure that the need for the allocation of funds to this service be reassessed with the prospect of the reinstatement of the emergency relief component of the funding?
- (4) If "No" to (3), will he at least urge upon the funding authorities the need for consultation with the family support workers with regard to the proposed cuts?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The emergency support moneys referred to are a component of a financial advice service funded under the family support services scheme. Although the grant to the Fremantle Council for this project is to be reduced by \$5 854 per annum, effective from 30 June 1982, a substantial contribution towards the salary costs of this project is to continue, indexed from a base rate of \$15 262 p.a. This should enable the continuation of the financial advice service's primary role; that is, to provide financial counselling and advice to families.

Funds provided by the Commonwealth were not sufficient to fund all the current projects to optimal level. It is anticipated that some fund sponsors may choose to take up the shortfall in available funding.

- (3) Action has been taken in that the Commonwealth State Management Committee responsible for the administration of this scheme met recently to consider and make recommendations to me in respect of four submissions, including one from welfare staff at the Fremantle Council regarding additional funding.

I am advised that Commonwealth funds made available to Western Australia for the continuation of this scheme are fully committed. I have subsequently advised the Fremantle Council that on current assessment it would seem unlikely that additional funds could be redirected to the Fremantle project.

- (4) An officer from the Department for Community Welfare consulted directly with council officers in relation to funding and project matters on 13 January of this year. Other normal liaison and reporting is being maintained.

TRAFFIC: PEAK PERIOD

West of Canning Bridge

274. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

In 1974, the Main Roads Department predicted that the duration of the morning peak period to Perth west of Canning Bridge would be 145 minutes in the year 1979. What is the current peak period at the same location?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

127 minutes.

HEALTH: RADIATION

Capel and Eneabba: Levels

275. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Radioactive Substances Act and regulations provide for a maximum permissible weekly dose of ionising radiation of 100 millirem?
- (2) How many workers at the Capel and Eneabba sand mining operations received doses in excess of this limit during 1981?
- (3) In view of his reply to question 37 of 1982 that radiation levels near the monazite store at Capel are around 50 millirem per hour, what special precautions are taken to ensure that workers in the mineral sand mining industry do not receive excessive radiation doses?

- (4) In addition to direct radiation exposure, which can be monitored by a badge, workers can also be exposed to the risk of inhaling or ingesting radioactive monazite dust. Will he give details of what precautions are taken to minimise the danger from this source in the mineral sand mining industry in Western Australia?
- (5) Where are the radioactive tailings from the Capel sand mining operations currently stored, and what provisions are in force to ensure that the public are not exposed to them?
- (6) (a) Has the Public Health Department carried out any survey of the incidence of possible radiation-induced diseases amongst workers and former employees of the sand mining operations in Western Australia;
 (b) if so, would he table the report;
 (c) if such a survey has not been conducted will he request one as a matter of urgency?
- (7) What provisions exist to compensate workers or their families for long-term radiation-induced illnesses contracted as a result of working in the mineral sands industry?
- (8) What special legislation or regulations does the Government have in force to protect the health and safety of workers in the mineral sands mining industry?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No. The regulations provide for a weekly average over the period of monitoring not exceeding 100 millirem except that in special circumstances a person may accumulate three rem in any 13 consecutive weeks.
- (2) Information on doses received by workers in the mineral sand industry is being extracted from the records and will be made available as soon as possible to answer this question and part (12) of question 37.
- (3) The 50 millirem per hour dose rate measured at Capel is only present directly adjacent to stored monazite. Employees do not work in such areas. In areas where dose rates are elevated to levels in which maximum permissible doses could be exceeded, exposure is limited by restricting working times.
- (4) Because of the physical and chemical nature of the mineral monazite and the method of treatment of the mineral, no specific precautions are taken or considered necessary.
- (5) Mineral sands tailings are not stored. They are returned to the mine pits and dispersed with other tailings of low activity and the pits are subsequently rehabilitated.
- (6) (a) No;
 (b) Not applicable;
 (c) The possibility of such a survey is being studied.
- (7) The provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act would appear to be adequate to cover workers subjected to long-term radiation induced illnesses.
- (8) The mineral sands industry is covered by the provisions of the Radiation Safety Act and the Mines Regulation Act. Regulations to provide specific protection from radiation are being prepared.

TOWN PLANNING: SCHEME

Servetus Street: Objections

276. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Will she provide me with a list of the names and addresses of the approximately 2 000 people who have objected to the amendments to the town planning scheme with respect to Servetus Street?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The submissions are confidential to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority at this stage.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GAMBLING: WILLIAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Football Pools

50. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Treasurer:

I refer to the summary of recommendations of the Liberal Party's Williams committee of inquiry into gambling, and in particular to the

recommendation that football pools should be legalised. I quote from that report—

Point of Order

Mr Bryce: On a point of order, I ask that the Leader of the Opposition be required to table the document from which he is about to quote.

Mr Hassell: Is this your stunt for the day?

ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order! The Leader of the Opposition will table the paper for the information of members for the remainder of this sitting.

Questions (without notice) Resumed.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Thank you Sir. I will table it not only for the information of the member for Ascot but also for the member for South Perth who has shown an interest.

I refer to and quote from the report as follows—

On calculations presented to us, half a million dollars leaves this State annually to bet on football pools.

I ask the Treasurer whether the Government has any information to provide confirmation of that figure?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The member should realise the report is not a Government report—it is one of a committee set up within the Liberal Party. The figures are not substantiated by the Government in any way at all.

The paper was tabled for the information of members.

POLICE: DIXON INQUIRY

Evidence, and Recommendations

51. Mr TRETHOWAN, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

In relation to the Dixon inquiry into allegations of police corruption—

- (1) Because of their serious nature were all allegations made, investigated thoroughly?
- (2) What evidence was sought by the inquiry?
- (3) Did the inquiry recommend any action that should be taken?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The instructions given to Mr Dixon were to examine thoroughly the allegations

that have been made and the actions taken on those allegations by the Commissioner of Police. Anybody who has given a fair reading to the report by Mr Dixon as tabled, and who was not precommitted to a position, would have to agree that Mr Dixon did just that. The Leader of the Opposition, in pursuance of his usual policy of trying to pre-empt the headlines in matters of this kind came out today with an incredible statement, without reading a single word of the report.

Mr Stephens: He could have anticipated the result.

Mr HASSELL: A man who purports to be a credible alternative comes out with an incredible statement that the report is not good when he has not read a single word of it. What a disgrace!

Mr Hodge: Answer the Question.

Mr Pearce: You can smell the whitewash from 100 miles.

Mr Stephens interjected.

Mr HASSELL: The member has not read the report, either.

Mr Stephens: I know I have not.

Mr HASSELL: The member for Stirling ought to have more sense than to make such stupid comments without reading the report. His attack on Mr Dixon is a disgrace, just like that of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Stephens: I have not attacked him at all.

Mr HASSELL: Yes the member has.

Mr Stephens interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. I call upon the Member for Stirling and others to desist from interjecting, and I ask the Minister to direct his remarks to the chair.

Mr HASSELL: The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Stirling have suggested by joint comments—perhaps made in concert—that Mr Dixon would write a report that was a “whitewash”, and that is an attack on Mr Dixon, who is a man of greatest integrity and reputation in this community. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to repeat his remarks when he has read the report.

- (2) Again, contrary to what was said by the Leader of the Opposition, all evidence available was received by Mr Dixon both hearsay evidence and non-hearsay evidence.

There was no question of absolute proof as stated by the Leader of the Opposition in his Press release. No such thing as absolute proof is known to law, it is known only to the Leader of the Opposition. It is some invention of his for the purposes of the Press release.

- (3) The inquiry recommended that certain action be taken on a number of matters of relatively minor significance, but in relation to the principal question of whether there should be a Royal Commission, Mr Dixon found not one shred of basis upon which such a Royal Commission could be recommended; indeed he clearly identified the total irresponsibility of *The Western Mail* newspaper and its editing.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION

Care and Maintenance: Cost

52. Mr OLD (Minister for Agriculture):

In respect of question 108 asked by the member for Swan on Wednesday 24 March, I seek leave to supply the information he requested. It is as follows—

	\$
1979-80	754 000
1980-81	272 000

Note: These figures do not include interest and depreciation.

ABATTOIRS: MIDLAND JUNCTION AND ESPERANCE MEAT EXPORTERS

Plant and Equipment

53. Mr OLD (Minister for Agriculture):

In respect of question 142 asked by the member for Warren on Wednesday 24 March, I seek leave to supply the information he requested. It is as follows—

- (1) Esperance Meat Exporters purchased a significant amount of

plant and equipment from the WA Meat Commission (Midland division) and the main areas from which items came are shown below—

1. Mutton chain
2. Beef floor
3. Chilling and freezing
4. Boning room
5. Boiler
6. Staff amenities
7. By-products and blood treatment
8. Effluent treatment
9. Materials handling and equipment.

- (2) The total amount paid for the plant and equipment was \$238 796.

- (3) According to the company's recent prospectus it is planned that the abattoir will be completed and ready to commence operations in mid 1983.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Japanese Delegation

54. Mr GRILL, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that representatives from eight Japanese companies negotiating to buy North-West Shelf gas were in Perth last week?

- (2) Is it also a fact that neither he nor any other Minister saw the delegation?

- (3) In view of the importance to Western Australia of the project and the signing of the contract by the Japanese why did he not take the opportunity to seek a deputation to impress upon them that the matter should be finalised?

- (4) Why did he not, as the new Premier, take the opportunity to impress to such an important delegation that this matter has the highest priority with the Government and it is of utmost importance, despite the retirement of Sir Charles Court?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) I know some representatives from the Japanese companies were here last week discussing with the Woodside company, matters in connection with the North-West Shelf. I did not see them and I cannot answer for the other Ministers as to whether or not they saw them. However, I assure members we are extremely interested in the North-West Shelf. The Minister for Mines travelled overseas recently in an endeavour to consolidate the position and ensure it is understood that, as far as we are concerned it is of vital importance to the State that the project is proceeded with. We will continue to do that.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS AND PETROLEUM

Exploration: Exmouth Plateau

55. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister Coordinating Economic and Regional Development:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Esso-BHP group have failed to carry out their obligations under the terms of their permit to explore for oil and gas on the Exmouth Plateau?
- (2) If that is correct, what steps is the government taking to ensure that permit conditions are carried out by Esso-BHP?
- (3) If nothing is being done to ensure compliance with the terms of the permit, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) If that is so it has not been brought to my notice. The Minister for Mines is not present in the Chamber at the moment and I am unable to answer the question. If the Leader of the Opposition wants an answer I suggest that he puts the question on notice and it will be answered accordingly.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Labor Party Raffle

56. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Does the Lotteries Commission issue permits to allow political parties to conduct raffles?

- (2) Has the Chief Secretary studied the raffle tickets and the photocopy of Mr Burke's letter given to him which indicates that the Labor Party in Western Australia has distributed raffle tickets with an accompanying letter on parliamentary letterhead signed by Terry Burke, member for Perth, stating the raffle would be drawn by Mr Brian Burke, the Leader of the Opposition, last Saturday night and implying the Australian Labor Party would be the beneficiary?
- (3) Were the tickets the subject of permit No. B 3904?
- (4) Will he refer Mr Burke's letter and the raffle generally to the Commissioner of Police for investigation of possible illegality and misrepresentation?

Mr Evans: Was the prize a motorcar?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I thank the member for notice of his question. The answer is—

- (1) No. It has never been the policy of the Lotteries Commission to issue permits to political parties to conduct raffles.
- (2) The Chief Secretary has received a copy of the letter on parliamentary letterhead signed by Terry Burke, member for Perth, which was apparently widely distributed, and a copy of which is tabled with this answer.
Amongst other things, the letter solicits financial support for the Australian Labor Party and solicits subscriptions to a raffle of which it says—

Mr Pearce: You are an expert on soliciting.

Mr HASSELL: It says—

We (presumably Mr Terry Burke and Mr Brian Burke) have also arranged a raffle.

Mr Brian Burke: I have not drawn any raffle.

Mr HASSELL: The letter contains the clear implication that the funds raised from the raffle will benefit the Australian Labor Party.

A copy of a raffle ticket which accompanied the letter is also tabled with this answer. It shows that a permit was issued to Mr N. Catania in the name of the Perth Social Club. I am advised that there is no record of this

organisation in the Corporate Affairs Office.

- (3) Yes. Inquiries are being made with the Lotteries Commission as to the purported purpose for the permit.
- (4) The matter has been referred to the Commissioner of Police for investigation and appropriate action.

The letter was tabled (see paper No. 135).

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Bunbury Power Station: Aluminium Smelter Proposal

57. Mr CARR, to the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development:

- (1) What talks has the Government had with Alcoa and the South Korean group, International Construction Corporation about the possibility of a power station-aluminium smelter development near Bunbury?
- (2) What is the current status of those talks and when can a decision be expected?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) I think the question should be answered by the Minister for Mines, but unfortunately he is not present. The Government has had talks with both Alcoa and the Koreans in connection with the project. The Minister for Mines visited Korea about a fortnight ago for further discussions, and these are proceeding at this stage. If the member so desires I will obtain further details from the Minister and provide them for him. However, negotiations have been proceeding for some time and they are proceeding satisfactorily. If the member wants to put the question on notice or give me details of any further information he wants, I will be quite happy to provide what I can.

PUBLIC SERVICE: PUBLIC SERVANTS

Opposition Members: Access

58. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

I want to ask the Premier a question of which I have given no notice, and I wonder whether he will try to desist from cracking jokes about wives working in the Public Service. This is quite a serious matter and he answered a similar

question in a jocular way previously. My question is as follows—

What is the Government's policy with regard to members of the Opposition speaking to civil servants?

I had arranged to speak with civil servants, and the Honorary Minister for Consumer Affairs cancelled that appointment on very short notice and in a discourteous manner. It is for this reason that I would like the Premier to indicate his Government's attitude as to whether members of the Opposition are permitted to speak to civil servants, not just with reference to constituent problems, but also with respect to operations. If the Premier is concerned that we are going to raise policy matters, that is never done. No member of the Opposition would put himself in the ridiculous position of asking public servants about matters relating to Government policy.

It has been a tradition that members of the Opposition are permitted to approach public servants and to have discussions with them, and I would like to know the attitude of the Premier's Government to this practice.

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There are certain items that the Government handles itself and obviously the Government does not want information about these passed on from public servants to anyone else at all. Therefore, there is no easy answer because it would depend on the particular circumstances in the case concerned. However, the Government does not preclude members of Parliament speaking to public servants.

Mr Tonkin: It did in this case.

Mr O'CONNOR: Those members of the Opposition who contact my department, and who speak to my officers regularly would understand that.

PRISON: PRISONER

Shooting: Details

59. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

With respect to the shooting of the escaping remand prisoner at Canning

Vale on Saturday, I ask the following—

- (1) For how long had the officer who fired the shot been on duty in the watchtower?
- (2) How many staff were on duty at the centre at the time of the shooting?
- (3) How many officers were in the watchtower at the time?
- (4) Is there any procedure for alerting staff in the rest of the prison of the attempted escape so that they can proceed to the scene of the escape to assist in apprehending the prisoner, and was this done in this case?
- (5) How much time elapsed from the time it was known by the prison authorities that the prisoner was attempting to escape and the shooting?
- (6) Will the Minister table the result of the departmental inquiry when it is finalised?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I have noted down the question asked by the member for Fremantle, as he had given me no notice of it, although it is a detailed list of queries about operational matters.

Mr Parker: You should not need to be briefed; it happened only two days ago.

Mr HASSELL: Nevertheless, I will advise the member of the answers that are known to me at this stage. The reply is as follows—

- (1) No doubt the member for Fremantle referred to the period the officer had been on duty prior to the incident in pursuance of some policy interest he apparently has on behalf of the union. However, as it happens, the officer had been on duty in the particular tower for quite a short period—approximately three hours or a little more. He was very alert to the situation.

Mr Parker: Your departmental advice is they should not be on duty for any longer than two hours though, is it not?

Mr HASSELL: I will answer the question, but let me assure the member for Fremantle that is not my departmental advice.

Mr Brian Burke: Tell us the joke you told at Mundaring.

Mr HASSELL: If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to turn question time into a joke session, that is his affair.

Mr Brian Burke: I'll bet you would not want to repeat your joke.

Mr HASSELL: Other people, including the member for Fremantle, are asking some serious questions which I believe ought to be answered. To continue—

- (2) I cannot tell the member for Fremantle exactly how many staff were on duty at the time, although I have some indication here that there was one senior officer in charge at the gate. Approximately 15 staff were on duty at the time.
- (3) I believe there was one officer in the tower at the time but I will have to check that particular point.
- (4) There is an airphone system throughout the prison which provides an alerting system.

Mr Parker: That part of the question referred not only to alerting them but also to getting them to the scene.

Mr HASSELL: Of course, some people who are alerted should not and cannot leave their posts. For example, the officers on the gate cannot simply walk away from the gate of a prison and leave it unguarded. All sorts of people are making suggestions and trying to pursue a particular line that in some way escapes can be stopped by staff running to the scene rather than having officers on duty in the guard towers. Even if we could provide a system where staff run to the scene of an escape, we would still need armed officers to deal with certain situations. So there is no nice simple answer. There is no easy solution to what is clearly a difficult management problem and one to which neither the Government, the prison officers, nor the prison administration seeks a result similar to that which unfortunately occurred on Sunday. The reply continues—

(5) The indication is that only a very short time elapsed between the escape commencing and action being taken. According to the best records we can obtain, the incident commenced at 6.05 p.m. and the ambulance was called at 6.12 p.m. I can tell the member that when a prisoner actually did escape from the remand section a few weeks ago, the time lapse from beginning to end of that incident was less than 30 seconds.

(6) No, the report will not be tabled. However, I have pointed out in other places that, because of the circumstances, this matter is being investigated not only by the department but also by the Police Force.

LAND: PARKESTON

Aboriginal Night Shelter

60. Mr COYNE, to the Minister for Lands:

Will the Minister make arrangements for land to be made available urgently to provide shelter for Aboriginal fringe dwellers at Kalgoorlie?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

I thank the member for Murchison-Eyre for some brief notice of the question. At the Cabinet meeting yesterday it was decided to proceed with the formal vesting of Crown land in the Aboriginal Lands Trust for the use and benefit of Aborigines. It was decided that a portion of the 36 hectares not effected by mining tenements which was to be made available for the fringe-dwelling group at Kalgoorlie be made the subject of a Land Act reservation. That was following the Cabinet meeting yesterday, and today, in order to get matters moving quickly, I have advised the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority that immediate entry will be given to the Aboriginal Lands Trust in order that it can commence the provision of this shelter pending completion of formal reservation procedures which will be carried out as quickly as possible. The Aboriginal Lands Trust has been informed that before any construction can begin, it

should liaise with the Mines Department so that the correct area within that 36 hectares be chosen for the construction to take place.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport: Future Development

61. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

I have given some notice of this question to the Minister for Transport. It is as follows—

- (1) What is the estimated capital cost of each of the four proposed options for the future development of the Perth Airport?
- (2) Which of the four proposals is supported or preferred by the Western Australian Government?
- (3) What would be the estimated cost of relocating the Perth Airport at an alternative site?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Transport Australia has not yet completed the final costing of the four proposed options for the development of Perth Airport. It is expected that it will do so during May.
- (2) The Government has not yet considered the four options in detail.
- (3) Depending on the location chosen, and using the cost of Brisbane Airport as a guide, Transport Australia estimates that the cost of relocating Perth Airport, in 1981 dollars, would be as follows—

Land acquisition: \$100 million
 Access and external services—mainly provided by the State—\$40 million
 Cross runway, terminals and internal services: \$250 million
 Total: \$390 million.

WATER RESOURCES

Rating System: Swan Valley

62. Mr HILL, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Will the Minister outline what steps are being taken to alleviate the burden of the water rating system as it affects grape growers within the Swan Valley, where their water rates are

proportionate to the market value of their properties?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I suppose the straightout answer ought to be "no", although the question is framed so that that would seem to be non-caring. However, water rates are not related to the commercial activities of the ratepayer, as the member well knows.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: WA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Preference to Unionists

63. Mr GRAYDEN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

I gave the Minister some notice of this question this morning. The question is as follows—

- (1) Has the Minister received an opinion from the Crown Law Department about the action of the Western Australian Industrial Commission in ratifying an industrial agreement which contains a preference to unionists clause?
- (2) If so, what is the opinion?
- (3) If not, when is the opinion expected?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is currently being examined by the Department of Labour and Industry and the Crown Law Department.

Points of Order

Mr STEPHENS: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I noticed that we started questions without notice at 5.15 this evening. Is this to be the procedure in future?

The SPEAKER: I regard question time as one of the most important facets of the sitting day. However, if the member looks through the Standing Orders, he will see that they contain no provision for questions. Questions without notice have evolved over the years, and they are permitted at the discretion of the Speaker.

Some time ago an arrangement was entered into between the members of

this place that questions would be taken at 5.45 p.m. Prior to that arrangement, questions without notice were taken immediately after questions on notice, and questions on notice were dealt with early each sitting day. I was unaware that the procedure was to be changed today. I have since spoken with the Premier, and he has advised that, after discussion with the Leader of the Opposition, it was decided that questions without notice were to be taken at 5.15 p.m. At that time I was temporarily out of the Chamber, and my deputy was prevailed upon to call on questions then. As a matter of common sense I think all people within the House should be advised when there is a desire to change question time. My Clerks were put in an awkward position as a result of the change, and I believe common sense dictates that reasonable notice should be given to all people involved when a change is to be made.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: On the same point of order, the Premier approached me about changing the time for questions, and naturally I assumed he would notify his members. I notified the members of the Opposition, but I was remiss in not checking with you, Sir, to see whether you had been informed. For that I apologise, but I had left those arrangements to the Premier.

Questions (without notice) Resumed

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WANNEROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Crown Law Department Opinion

64. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Lands:

I wish to ask the Minister a question relating to his brief period as Acting Minister for Local Government. The question is as follows—

Can the Minister explain how a confidential legal opinion of the Crown Law Department relating to land dealings in the Wanneroo Shire and which had been sought unsuccessfully by the Wanneroo Shire Council, was made available to dissident ratepayers at a ratepayers' meeting?

Mr Watt: It fell off the back of a truck!

The SPEAKER: Although the Minister for Lands may answer on behalf of the Minister for Local Government when that Minister is not present, the question ought now to be directed to the Minister for Local Government because clearly she is the responsible Minister and she is in the House.

Mr PEARCE: The situation was that I asked this question of the Minister for Local Government last Thursday and her answer was the position arose when she was not acting as Minister for Local Government. Therefore, I have directed my question to the person who was acting as Minister for Local Government at that time.

The SPEAKER: Order! I understand that; but the responsibility to this Parliament for areas of local government clearly rests with the Minister for Local Government and I believe the member would need to question her further.

Mr PEARCE: Could I ask the Minister for Local Government whether she will make inquiries about what happened in her department at a time when she was not acting as Minister, in order that she is in a position tomorrow to answer a question from me as to how this confidential Crown Law opinion was made available to dissident ratepayers when her department and herself were not prepared to make it available to the council?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I suggest the member put the question on notice in order that he may receive a properly researched answer.

HEALTH: RADIATION

Capel: Tailings

65. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can the Minister advise me if it is a fact that tailings from the Capel mineral sand mining project have been dumped under a number of buildings in Capel in addition to the 11 houses which have been publicised as having tailings under their foundations?

- (2) Can the Minister advise me if he is aware tailings from the Capel project have been dumped in Bunbury or in any other area apart from Capel?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) It is unlikely tailings have been dumped in places in Capel other than those which have been examined and are the subject of the report by the Radiological Council on behalf of the Capel Shire Council; but, if the member has more specific information and provides it to me, I would be happy to check the matter for him.
- (2) I cannot give the member an answer to this part of the question without more specific information. I am not aware of any other dumping of tailings. I am not saying that has not occurred, but I am not aware of it.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION

Alternative Uses

66. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to question 106 of 24 March, concerning the redevelopment of the Midland abattoir site, could he advise—

- (1) What size lots are being contemplated?
- (2) What actions are needed before the lots can be put on the market?
- (3) What method of marketing is proposed?
- (4) When is it anticipated that the lots will be ready for sale?

Mr OLD replied:

I thank the member for adequate notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) The lots range in size from 698 square metres to 1 624 square metres.
- (2) and (3) The Meat Commission will arrange the sale of the industrial lots through a real estate company.
- (4) Some lots will be ready for sale in April-May.