

Legislative Council

Wednesday, 3 November 1982

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: OFFICES OF PROFIT

Inquiry by Joint Select Committee: Report

THE HON. NEIL McNEILL (Lower West) [4.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the report of the Joint Select Committee inquiring into Offices of Profit of Members of Parliament and Members Contracts with the Crown, together with the minutes and the transcript of evidence be received, and that the Report be printed.

Question put and passed.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 506).

Personal Explanations

THE HON. NEIL McNEILL (Lower West) [4.33 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a statement in relation to the tabling of the report.

Leave granted.

The Hon. NEIL McNEILL: I would like first to make some comments, and to commend and thank all members of the committee for their diligent and most co-operative approach in deliberating on the questions placed before us by this Parliament. I personally could not have wished to have presided over a more objective committee, and over committee members who were more prepared to change their views and opinions after consideration of evidence placed before them, and in response to some persuasive argument raised during the deliberations.

The questions of offices of profit and members' contracts with the Crown are, and have been, matters of great historical and constitutional importance within the Westminster system of parliamentary government. I believe all members have been very conscious of what may well be the ultimate importance of their findings. If the experience of your committee is any indication, Mr President, it could be that its conclusions will be of interest to Parliaments and students of the Constitution well beyond Western Australia, for the reason that where similar constitutional provisions still prevail, actions to review have been approached with no less caution than in Western Australia.

Mr President, the committee has framed its recommendations with the object of satisfying the criteria of simplicity and clarity with both questions, and with a deep respect for the institution of Parliament. In relation to contracts with the Crown, it has attempted to draw the distinction—quite properly in its view—between that and the much discussed questions of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest. It is a matter for regret by the committee that it could not have reported somewhat earlier and so enabled the Parliament and the Government to have considered some action in this session of the Parliament. However, that was not to be, for reasons which I am quite sure will be appreciated in view of the nature of the subjects which had to be deliberated upon, and their complexity. I do not exclude the considerable demands made on the members of the committee by their other parliamentary and committee duties.

The committee was a large one in terms of membership and changed a number of times for various reasons, including the resignation of members from the Parliament, and also because of their appointment or election to other positions. Therefore, although the committee was a large one, quite contrary to a general belief about large committees, it worked very well indeed.

I thank the members of the committee who have taken part in its deliberations at all times, the witnesses who so readily gave evidence before the committee, and the staff of Parliament House. In particular, I wish to thank those persons who have acted as secretary of the committee, starting with Mr Les Hoft, Mr Ian Allnutt, and on occasions Mr Kevin Hogg. I wish also to thank those most important people, the Chief Hansard Reporter and her staff.

It is the hope of the committee, and my hope, that the report fulfils the expectations of the Parliament, and will be of lasting benefit to this Parliament and Western Australia. I am grateful that the duty and the privilege of presiding over this committee was extended to me. I hope the report will reflect the deep interest and dedication that all members of the committee have in the need for the maintenance of the integrity of Parliament, and the continuance of its role in the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy in Western Australia.

THE HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (East Metropolitan) [4.39 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a short statement in relation to the report.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: As I led for the Opposition on the Attorney's Bill,

which was really the beginning of this committee, I think it behoves me to say something about it because I found this committee to be an interesting one. It taught me a lot, and I changed my mind on a number of things; I was forced by the logic of the evidence into positions I did not hold when the Bill was brought before this House in the last Parliament.

Therefore, I think the report will not be displeasing to the Attorney, although he may find it a little more conservative than one he would have presented to this House.

The subject before this committee was that of offices of profit; and, particularly in regard to contracts, it was an extremely difficult and a very complex one. I hope members will find that the committee's conclusions are persuasive and sensible, as I think they are. Certainly it is my earnest hope that next year the Attorney General, whoever he may be—either the present Attorney or the member on my right—will introduce into this House a Bill to change the Constitution based on the recommendations of this committee.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: CHAMBER

Televising: Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Mr Speaker and I have agreed to a request to film part of the proceedings of our respective Houses.

A local production company is compiling two programmes on Parliament, primarily for use by the Education Department in schools throughout the State.

Filming of proceedings in this House will occur on Wednesday, 10 November, commencing at 4.30 p.m. and continuing for approximately one hour.

I trust members will not suffer any undue inconvenience from the use of lights and equipment in the Chamber.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Order No. 38(g)(9): Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): On the motion to adjourn the House last night, the Hon. R. J. L. Williams requested that I make a statement relating to the effects of prorogation on parliamentary committees and parliamentary business.

Section 1 of the Parliamentary Privileges Act 1891 provides, amongst other things, that the privileges, immunities, and powers of the Council are those of the House of Commons as they were

at the passing of the 1891 Act, or as they are from time to time.

The Commons has never claimed the power to carry forward business from one session to the next, or to revive lapsed Bills except on motion to reintroduce.

At common law, a prorogation of Parliament causes all business before either House to lapse. Any business with which the Crown or the Council wishes to proceed in the next ensuing session, strictly speaking, must be re-introduced and dealt with as if for the first time.

Erskine May clearly regards legislation as the only means to carry forward business, a view consistent with the rule that the common law, which includes the law and custom of Parliament, is modified or extinguished only by Statute.

A Standing or Select Committee purporting to transact business following a prorogation would be acting in excess of its powers. Moreover, neither the members nor witnesses could claim or apply the privileges, powers, or immunities normally attaching to such committees.

My impression is that legislation is required before any committee of this House could lawfully transact business following a prorogation.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ELECTORAL: NORTH PROVINCE BY-ELECTION

The Hon. Tom Stephens: Ministerial Statement

THE HON. R. G. PIKE (North Metropolitan—Chief Secretary) [5.15 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to make a statement on electoral matters.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I refer to the article on page 10 of today's *The West Australian* dealing with the electoral enrolment of the Hon. Tom Stephens. Mr Stephens is quoted in the newspaper as having said—

... he denied the allegations and said that Mr Pike should be ashamed of himself.

No allegations were made, I simply quoted a report to me from the Chief Electoral Officer which I requested after Mr Stephens made his original complaint to the news media.

Mr Stephens is quoted in the newspaper today as saying also—

... the story was a complete distortion of the truth".

He goes on to say that when he first became aware that he was enrolled twice on the electoral roll he rang the Electoral Department and confirmed the conversation in writing. He said he had notified the office of his change of address and that he had inadvertently used the shortened version of his christian name on the nomination card.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to paragraph (7) of my answer to the question asked by the Hon. V. Ferry yesterday.

I had prefaced my reply to the question by stating that I had asked the Chief Electoral Officer for a report and he had advised me—

(7) Mr Stephens was previously enrolled for the Kimberley electorate under the name Thomas Gregory Stephens. He later claimed enrolment for the Pilbara electorate under the name Tom Stephens.

Mr Stephens telephoned the Chief Electoral Officer after the issue of the writ for the by-election to advise that he was still shown on the Kimberley roll. Arrangements were made for this entry to be deleted. The Electoral Department was not aware that Mr Stephens had changed his name. If he had used the other name when applying for enrolment in Pilbara the computer would have deleted the Kimberley entry automatically.

It is therefore quite clear that the facts which Mr Stephens represented as an "allegation" and his statement that the story was "a complete distortion of the truth", were actually part of the truthful statement already given in detail by me in Parliament yesterday. He has predicated his response to the newspaper as though the true details were not given to this House.

Mr Stephens has merely repeated the details concerning his dual enrolment as though they had not already been given by me to the House. When the Hon. Tom Stephens hears the word "fairness" he reaches for his dictionary.

Secondly, about six minutes ago the ABC reporter handed me an advice which stated "There's been a call for the Chief Secretary, Mr Pike, to resign over his handling of electoral matters in Western Australia." It said that the call had been made by Tom Stephens. I repudiate and reject that call because the Press notice continued to say "Mr Pike told State Parliament yesterday that Mr Stephens had been enrolled twice, under slightly different names." That is factual. It continued to say, "Mr Stephens said today he had notified the Chief Electoral Officer three weeks before the election when he noticed the double enrolment and had had an enrolment in the Kimberley struck off." That is the fact I men-

tioned to the Parliament yesterday. That is what the Chief Secretary is all about. I made a statement of fact. Mr Stephens is obviously going off half-cocked and half-baked.

Point of Order

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I submit to you, Mr President, that the Chief Secretary is engaging in an abuse of the leave of the House. He requested leave for a ministerial statement on electoral matters. We accepted that request in good faith and leave was granted by this side of the House.

What we are actually hearing is something in the nature of a claim to be misrepresented, and even if that is the object of the Chief Secretary's statement, he would be going beyond the normal bounds. On another occasion I will comment further on this abuse of the leave of the House, but for the moment I ask you, Sir, to rule that further comments of this nature by the Minister are out of order.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member has sought my ruling in respect of the ministerial statement being made by the Hon. R. G. Pike in response to leave being granted to him. I ask the Minister to be concise because ministerial statements are intended to be concise and precise in regard to the particular subject and indeed ought not to be controversial.

I ask the Minister if he wishes to continue his ministerial statement to confine it to these parameters.

Ministerial Statement Resumed

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: To conclude, I would like to state that the Hon. Tom Stephens has made the point that the Electoral Department in this State has been starved of the resources to do its job. I answer briefly and concisely: There have been five by-elections and a redistribution in the past 13 months and the Government has authorised part-time staff to bring the Electoral Office up to date because of that quite remarkable work load. On top of that, three new appointments have been authorised by the Government in order to keep this department up to date.

The final point the Hon. Tom Stephens made referred to the posting of "Please explain" items in regard to the last poll to electors in the north where there is no home delivery. That is a point the member had raised with me previously and a matter I have been considering. So far, I have discovered that there is one thing of which we can be certain: The people who live in towns where there is no delivery to residential numbers certainly

always go to the post office to pick up their pension cheques and other mail.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Cut it out.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: It appears to be not a problem.

Personal Explanation

THE HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (East Metropolitan) [5.23 p.m.]: As the Hon. Tom Stephens is at present in hospital I ask leave to make a statement giving certain facts in relation to the statement made by the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I wish to make a brief statement about the Minister's statement and I will say something rather long about it later in the day. In the Minister's reply yesterday, part (7) gave the implication that the whole question of whether the Hon. Tom Stephens was asked whether he had voted was to do with his change of enrolment, because the reply said the Hon. Tom Stephens was previously enrolled in the Kimberley electorate, under the name of Thomas Gregory Stephens and he later claimed enrolment in the Pilbara electorate under the name of Tom Stephens.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Part (1) said he had enrolled there and had indicated—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Could I continue?

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Read part (1) again.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I just want to put some facts before the House. The Hon. Tom Stephens is in hospital in the Pilbara and is not present to hear the statement the Hon. Robert Pike made but has replied to a Press report. The answer of the Minister was itself ambiguous and there was an implication in it.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: A Dorothy Dixer.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It implied that because of the confusion in the rolls he received a letter to ascertain whether he had voted.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: That is not so. Reread part (1).

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Mr Stephens did write and ring the Electoral Office. He did vote in Karratha on 31 July, as Tom Stephens, 22 Sutherland Road, Port Hedland.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I said that yesterday, clearly and concisely.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would be glad if the Minister would stop yapping and let me make a statement as I allowed him to do so.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am accusing the Minister of having misled the House by implication.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Reread part (1).

Withdrawal of Remark

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member cannot make that statement and I ask him to withdraw it.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I withdraw the statement and say that I am suggesting the Minister's reply had implications in it. Perhaps he did not intend that, but it was confusing and the report has been so.

Personal Explanation Resumed

The member voted under his new enrolment. He received his letter under his new enrolment, so what happened, as far as the Kimberley enrolment was concerned, had nothing whatever to do with the fact that he received a letter asking him if he had enrolled.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: That is not contested.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I want to make that quite clear.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: You were not listening before.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I object to that accusation that I was not listening. I was. I will speak on this matter at a later stage.

The Hon. I. G. Pratt: Why waste our time now?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The Minister made what he purported and considered to be a ministerial statement. I will not grant him leave to make a ministerial statement again until I see a copy of the statement to see that it is what it purports to be. I believe the Minister's statement made claims against Mr Stephens which were not true.

I just wanted to point to the fact that Mr Stephens is not present and cannot question the Minister's report. His dual enrolment has nothing

to do with the letter that was sent to him, as the Chief Secretary now admits freely in the House.

CHILD WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott, and read a first time.

CLOSING DAYS OF SESSION: SECOND PART

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.29 p.m.]: I move—

That during the remainder of the current session so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable Bills to be passed through all stages at any one sitting, and all Messages from the Legislative Assembly to be taken into consideration forthwith.

The introduction of this motion is an indication to members that the session is drawing to a close. Its purpose is to enable us to keep in step with the Legislative Assembly in the progress of legislation, particularly during the final few days of sitting.

Members possibly have noted that the Assembly suspended Standing Orders on 19 October but I have seen no pressing necessity to follow suit prior to now. At the same time I trust there will be no need to rush through the remaining legislation and, indeed, I will endeavour to be receptive to any legitimate request for time to consider any matter before the House.

At the appropriate time, and for obvious reasons, it will be desirable also to align our commencing times for daily sittings with those of the Assembly and possibly sit after 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

It is all a matter of circumstances as they arise, but this motion and the one to follow will provide the machinery which will enable us to deal with legislation through the various stages without undue delay, should such action become necessary.

I commend the motion to the House.

[Resolved: That motions be continued.]

THE HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (East Metropolitan) [5.30 p.m.]: I know this motion comes up every year, and every year we feel it is perhaps not entirely necessary and that the affairs of the House may have been better ordered

to make it unnecessary. In this instance I want to say something further, but nothing that I say should be taken as a reflection on the Leader of the House. He has moved this motion because of matters that are beyond his control. It seems to me that since we have had a change of Government, and a new Premier, the conduct of this Parliament has become tremendously haphazard.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: Absolute nonsense!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Apparently, what I have said hurts some members. As far as I am concerned, the conduct of this Parliament during this session has been haphazard; sittings have been all over the place, and times and Bills also have been all over the place. We have debated Bills during the night which have then sat for a week in another place without being looked at.

If this is not a haphazard shambles, I do not know what is.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: That was done so the Opposition could examine them.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Some members opposite seem to think it is adequate debate if a Bill sits in a House for three weeks. I am complaining about the amount of time allowed for debate because the House has not always sat for three days a week. There was no reason to do what has been done. The change of Premier has not been to the benefit of this Parliament, or to the way the business of the Parliament as a whole has been conducted.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Absolute nonsense!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: This is no reflection on the Leader of the House; he has not changed. He has been here for a long time.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: His behaviour in this House has always been meticulous. As far as it is within his power to do so, he has allowed proper debate to take place on measures, and he has considered the Opposition. This motion comes at the end of a travesty of a Parliament.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: Absolute nonsense! Sit down.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. G. Pandal: Back to university!

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Mr Pental's cheap gibes have never influenced me very much. I do not intend to go anywhere, except in this House, at least until 1986, because the people of Western Australia have put me here until then, and this is where I will stay.

I had meant to make a brief protest, but of course the raucous interjections from some of the back-bench members of the Liberal Party kept me on my feet longer than I intended. It seems to me this Parliament has been haphazardly managed, and the time of this House could have been better spent had the Leader of the House been able to use his time better. I am not blaming him for that.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: Not your best speech, Mr Hetherington.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

THE HON. I. G. PRATT (Lower West) [5.35 p.m.]: I am glad the Opposition has taken the opportunity to use this motion to show clearly its growing concern at the high standing of the Premier of this State. It is obvious that the louder Opposition members bark, the greater their concern.

I support the motion; it is one which is moved by all Governments, no matter what their colour. I recollect as a member of the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire Council the occasion when the representatives of the then Labor Government rang up late one Friday afternoon, three weeks into December, to say they could not attend a council function; their management of Parliament was so bad that they were sitting just before Christmas. Obviously, the Opposition did the same thing; it suspended Standing Orders, as we do, and as all Governments do to facilitate matters. But even after Standing Orders had been suspended the then Labor Government was unable to dispose of its business until a week before Christmas. We will be finished before that because our business is well managed.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: That is a ridiculous statement.

The Hon. I. G. PRATT: The Premier's management of the Government is well illustrated by the concern expressed by Mr Hetherington and his like when they get the chance. When they say things like this it is a pretty good indication to the people of this State that the Premier is doing a good job; his standing is high, and the Opposition is trying to con people into believing otherwise.

THE HON. FRED MCKENZIE (East Metropolitan) [5.37 p.m.]: We have to be fair to Mr Hetherington; at no stage did he oppose the motion. He simply informed the House that Parlia-

ment was mismanaged. It has been mismanaged. A couple of weeks ago we sat here until 3.30 a.m., and until 6.30 a.m. the following day, and then we have had Thursdays off. It is absolutely idiotic to sit all night.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: You kept that going well.

The Hon. FRED MCKENZIE: Now we have to face a motion of this nature so that we can all go home well and truly before Christmas.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Do you want to stay?

The Hon. FRED MCKENZIE: I do not deny that next year when we are in Government we may do the same thing.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: Even you do not believe that.

The Hon. FRED MCKENZIE: Since we have been here we have always wanted to rush away before Christmas, and get away as quickly as possible.

I rose to point out that the interjectors were not fair to Mr Hetherington, and neither was Mr Pratt, because Mr Hetherington did not oppose the motion. He said Parliament had been mismanaged, and so it has. I look for a better performance next year when the Labor Party is in Government. If it is not a better performance, please tell us.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.39 p.m.]: The Hon. Robert Hetherington attempted to disarm me by saying he did not blame me for the state of the agenda, but I cannot allow the comments he made about the mismanagement of Parliament, or the mismanagement by the Premier, to pass unnoticed. The fact is, I am responsible so far as this House is concerned, for setting the agenda and fixing the times of sitting, and the items on the notice paper. It is true I depend to a large extent on the items which come from the other House. However, we also initiate business in this House.

I accept responsibility for the fact that we sat late on two nights in debating the Industrial Arbitration Bill. That decision was made in the light of the facts at the time, and I believe it was the right decision. We have not sat on some Thursdays because there has been little point in sitting when there is little on the agenda. It would have been futile to bring the House back when there was nothing, or very little, to discuss, simply to warm the seats in the House. I am sure members have many other useful things they can do. In order to conserve time and energy we did not sit on some Thursdays. There is little point in sitting when there is nothing on the agenda. I accept

responsibility for the decision. It was accepted just as readily by members of the Opposition as it was by members of the Government. Not one member of the Opposition objected when a decision was made not to sit on a Thursday.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: What can we do about it?

Several members interjected.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: It was greeted with acclamation. I do not know about the Hon. Garry Kelly; he may have preferred to sit on Thursday and do nothing, but I do not think other members of the House would care to do that.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: It is easy to criticise the conduct of this Parliament and of the Premier, and it is easy on any occasion to speak in generalities and use extravagant phrases about "haphazard mismanagement". I could do that on any day of the week, but I do not because while one may get a cheap headline, it is meaningless and gets one nowhere; people know in their hearts it is untrue. For these reasons I reject the criticism of mismanagement of this Parliament, and I ask for support of this motion.

Question put and passed.

NEW BUSINESS: TIME LIMIT

Suspension of Standing Order No. 117

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.41 p.m.]: I move—

That during the remainder of this session, Standing Order 117 (limit of time for commencing new business) be suspended.

Question put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: CHAMBER

Procedure for Call: Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Before we get onto Orders of the Day, I want to remind honourable members that whenever it is their desire to address the Chair, or to get the call, it is necessary for them when standing to indicate that they want the call. The President is not a clairvoyant, and it is not the function of the President or the Chairman of Committees to guess that a member is standing up with the idea of wanting to say something. In other words, it is the honourable member's responsibility to call for attention. I will impose that requirement in future.

ACTS AMENDMENT (MINING) BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Leader of the House), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Third Reading

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Minister for Labour and Industry) [5.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. J. M. BERINSON (North-East Metropolitan) [5.45 p.m.]: I take the opportunity on the third reading to urge upon the Minister the need for a reprint of the Road Traffic Act. I note that the last reprint was on 22 July 1980, and that is fairly recent as reprints go. However, in the two years since that time we have seen six amending Acts to the Road Traffic Act, some of which are of substantial significance. The Bill we are now about to pass certainly comes into that category, being a document of 31 pages.

Unlike many other Acts, the Road Traffic Act is constantly in use and under reference. The penalties provided under the present legislation are severe and they should be readily understood by anybody who has any business to refer to the Act. Although I am sure there is heavy pressure on the reprinting facilities, a high priority should be given to this measure.

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Minister for Labour and Industry) [5.46 p.m.]: I accept the Hon. Joe Berinson's remarks. His comment is a fair one, and I will draw it to the attention of the Minister responsible for the operation of the Act. I will support his comments.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

LAW REFORM (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 2 November.

THE HON. J. M. BERINSON (North-East Metropolitan) [5.47 p.m.]: The purpose of this Bill is to reverse the effect of the decision of the High Court in the case of *Fitch v. Hyde-Cates* which was heard in September 1981 and decided in April of this year. In that case, the High Court held, contrary to the general view, that an award

to dependants under the equivalent of our Fatal Accidents Act did not preclude a further award under the equivalent of our Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

The result of that case was to produce an unexpected and unintended effect of the law. It introduced the possibility of the duplication of very substantial awards, and as the Attorney General indicated, that meant, in turn, the likelihood of heavy additional burdens on the people who pay premiums for such cover as motor vehicle insurance, workers' compensation, and public risk liability.

The additional burden of premiums would not be conclusive, on its own, in deciding one's attitude to a Bill of this kind. Basically, the question is whether the duplication of awards which the High Court decision permits is either necessary or justified.

Long experience in a system which has assumed that the duplication is not possible suggests that the answer should be in the negative. All other mainland States have accepted that view and either have legislated or are in the process of legislating to negate the effect of the High Court decision. That seems to be a proper position to take, and the Opposition supports the Bill on that basis.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.49 p.m.]: I thank the honourable member for indicating that the Opposition supports this legislation. It is only necessary for me to add for the benefit of the House that the decision in a matter such as this was not taken lightly and was not taken without careful regard for the fact that, had we not taken the decision in the face of the actions other States with the exception of Tasmania have taken, we could well have found anomalies creeping into our system, and proceedings which should have been brought in the other States being brought here. For those reasons, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney General), and transmitted to the Assembly.

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from 2 November. The Deputy Chairman of Committees (the Hon. I. G. Pratt) in the Chair; the Hon. R. G. Pike (Chief Secretary) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 19 put and passed.

Clause 20: Section 34 inserted—

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I intend to oppose this clause and to move an amendment, failing an adequate reply to matters which I propose to put to the Chief Secretary.

Before I deal with the clause in a substantive way, it is only fair to acknowledge the extent to which the Chief Secretary has been prepared to accommodate the Opposition with time to consider his second reading reply. There was some misunderstanding between us, as a result of which I did not expect this debate to come on until next week. That is a shame, because I have found one day to be inadequate for the purpose. On the other hand, I am not certain that a week or even longer would have been enough time either, because we are in an area of considerable complexity.

In the course of my second reading comments, I said that one of the lessons which emerged from this Bill was the relative uselessness of our ordinary parliamentary procedures for examining in detail the operations of various departments and agencies. The difficulties in that respect were highlighted last night when, in response to fairly detailed questions, the Chief Secretary came back with a detailed reply. If the ordinary course of debate within the Chamber was adequate for the purpose, one would think that would dispose of the matter. In fact, however, all that happened was that the Chief Secretary's reply raised rather more questions than we started off with.

We were treated to the blithe introduction of terms like "pool years", which, we were told, should be contrasted with and kept clearly separate in our minds from things like "ordinary financial years". That seems to be good advice, and I am prepared to take it.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Are you prepared to take a dive?

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I know roughly what a financial year is and how the accounts for

a financial year are put together. I confess I do not have the faintest idea how the accounts for a pool year are put together, although we did get some hints from the Chief Secretary's reply in respect of the feeding back into pool years of changes in claims and investment results.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: My main theme during the second reading was based on the fact that after receiving about \$6 million in payouts between 1964 and 1975, participating insurers are now being released from their obligation to pay to the trust about \$5 million on account of losses suffered since 1975.

I indicated also that a release of that nature might well be appropriate to the last two participating insurers remaining, that is the SGIO and the FAI Insurance Group, but I did not see that that applied to insurers who had already withdrawn from the scheme.

The Chief Secretary corrected me in an important respect. I had gained the impression that participating insurers were entitled in years of profit to share the profit or an amount equal to five per cent of the premiums in that year, whichever was the lesser. The Chief Secretary confirmed that that part of my understanding was correct. Where I went wrong was in believing that the same applied in years when the MVIT suffered a loss. In that situation I said earlier that it seemed to me that the insurers would be liable to pay to the MVIT the losses of five per cent of the premiums in that year, whichever was the lesser. In fact, the Chief Secretary indicated—and I accept—that no such limit applies in respect of the years of loss. To that extent the fact that losses of over \$50 million were incurred by the MVIT between 1976 and 1981 would seem to make even more serious the matters to which I have drawn attention.

The basic difference between the Chief Secretary's position and mine arises from the Minister's view that any apparent entitlement of the MVIT to receive payments from participating insurers is illusory. The reason for that, as he put it, was that the Act permits losses in any year to be balanced against profits in a future year. I do not accept that although I do concede that the subject at this point becomes so complex that it is almost impossible to pursue by the normal forms of debate in the Chamber. This much however would appear to be clear: The insurers who retired from participation under the Act between 1976 and 1981 remain liable for their share of the losses in those years. In response to my specific invitation to comment, the Minister has con-

firmed that my understanding in that respect was correct. Where I was in error was in underestimating the extent of the participating insurers' liability which arises as a result.

I refer members to the table incorporated in my second reading speech on page 4273 of *Hansard*. Two tables are on that page and I refer to the table in the right-hand column. On the basis of the figures set out in the fourth column of that table I estimated that participating insurers up to the year ended 1981 had a contingent liability to the trust of about \$8.6 million. In fact, however, the Minister's correction of my understanding of the liability for loss means that the correct column to consider in this table is not the fourth column but the second column. From that second column it emerges that the contingent liability of participating insurers for the years 1976 to 1981, is not in the order of \$8 million but something over \$61 million. That is the effect of the Minister's correction.

I have said that the Chief Secretary and I part company on this question of the effect of future profits as a set-off against the liabilities created by the losses in those years. My reason for differing from him is that I do not see that participating insurers can rely on the profits of investment income of years beyond the date on which they voluntarily withdrew from the scheme. It seems to me that their withdrawal precludes their reliance on the profits of years beyond that point. In any event even if I am wrong in that as well, the fact that a 5 per cent limit applies to shares of profit must have the result that the insurers would take almost forever to get back their contributions.

The net effect of the procedure must be a benefit of some millions of dollars to the insurers and an equal detriment to the premium paying motorists. The only thing which I find myself completely unable to do is to quantify now the amount of money involved. It is quite beyond the procedures in this Chamber to pursue the technicalities of the bookkeeping and accounting system in relation to pool years in such a way as would clarify that. I remain confident, however, that whatever the true nature of this special accounting system the net result of clause 20 of this Bill will be to benefit the participating insurers by at least some millions of dollars and to put the motorists, of course, to detriment to the same extent.

Another part of the Minister's explanation is unsatisfactory. Explaining why the financial year statements might be different from the so-called pool year statements, he said this—

This occurs because in the annual accounts the very substantial investment income received in a particular year is all credited to that year, whereas it is spread over the various pool years in proportion to the funds held in respect of each of the various pools; . . .

I am sure that is all very clear to members and in particular to the Hon. Norman Moore, who has been following this matter with such avid interest. However, to try to clarify what all that means is indeed impossible.

Let me take for example the year, any year would have the same effect—ended 30 June 1976. I turn to the financial statements for that period. The bottom line of the profit and loss account for that year indicates a surplus for the year of \$5.241 million. The Minister's statement would seem to suggest that the true end result for the 1976 pool year would show a greater surplus than that because it would be entitled to a share in the investment income of years later than 1976. I think that is a fair representation of what the Minister said. The problem with that proposition is that the bottom line surplus of \$5.241 million itself includes a figure of \$5.048 million from interest received from investment in that year. According to the Minister's explanation that \$5.048 million, representing income from investments, should be traced back for purposes of pool year statements to previous years.

What I am trying to explain is that one cannot have it both ways. One cannot say that one is not entitled to take the whole of the investment from that year into that particular pool year but at the same time say that one is nevertheless entitled to take into that pool year part of the investment income from future years.

Perhaps the point emerges even more clearly if we look at the accounts for the year ended 30 June 1982. These show that the net deficit for the year was \$27.991 million, but that is after taking account of income from investments of \$16.407 million. Again, I put it to the Chamber that if we are to follow the Minister's explanation and accept that \$16.407 million should be credited back to earlier pool years from which the investment sum was drawn, the loss for the year ended 30 June 1981 would be not \$27.991 million, but \$44.399 million.

It is true again, following the Minister's explanation that the \$44 million would be reduced in subsequent years by the benefit of future investment income. One can only guess without any solid basis for the comment—and I would hazard such a guess—that it is unlikely that investments from future income distributed back

to 1981 would do any more than replace \$16.407 million which is shown as investment income in any event.

I am well aware that all of that is as clear as mud. The Minister took a week, with the support of the MVIT, to bring down his explanations. I have said earlier that a day is insufficient for me to put all these threads together for the purpose of my own understanding, let alone for the purpose of explanation to others. I have conceded also I would not have been helped much had the Minister given us more than a week before the Bill was again discussed in Committee. These really are matters to be sent to accountants and actuaries and it is only with professional expertise that one can come to understand the real position in dollars and cents.

For my own purposes I remain convinced that whatever the result of this, in general it could be said a large sum of money is being left with insurers and effectively being taken out of the pockets of the motorists.

I have only one further general comment to make, which does not go precisely to the problems I have been discussing to this stage. In the course of my second reading speech I drew attention to the fact that over a period of seven months I asked three times for the same information. The information I sought was the profit or loss, or to be more accurate, the surplus or deficit of the MVIT for the 12 months ended 30 June 1982. The result of those three inquiries was as follows: I was told once that the estimated deficit was \$5.5 million. It emerged within a couple of months that the actual deficit ranged between \$11 million and \$9 million depending on factors on which I need not now report. Between those two occasions on which I was given figures apart by \$5 million, as representing the profit of the MVIT in that 12 months, I was given a further figure showing that it had made a loss of \$1.2 million. I raised a question as to how those answers could possibly be accommodated one to the other.

With due respect to the Chief Secretary, this part of his reply was surely the most meaningless and evasive of all because he attempted to put the problem of this wild distribution of answers onto the same basis of confusion between the statements for the financial years and the statements for the so-called pool years. That answer has got to be wrong. It must be unacceptable because every time I asked that question I asked it in the same form. I had never heard of pool year financial statements. That was a concept that was totally remote from what I had under consideration and there was no reason for me to ask about the results of any pool years. I simply asked what

was the estimated profit or loss for the year ended 30 June 1982.

I asked the questions in that form because it was the only form of question that occurred to me and in response to those three identical questions I received those different answers. I say no more at the moment, but that the problem illustrated by those sets of figures and others I presented at the same time were simply not addressed in the answer provided by the Chief Secretary.

I refer to a proposed amendment which has already been distributed to members.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: It is a good amendment too.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: For reasons I have already explained, this amendment has been provided under pressure cooker conditions and I would like to express my appreciation for the help of the Clerk in this respect. Nonetheless, it is quite possible, under the circumstances, that there is something in this draft which does not really reflect my intention. I therefore propose to indicate what is intended by this amendment in the hope that whatever the Government's reaction to it, it will not seek to rely on some fault in the expression.

The amendment is in two parts. The first will have the effect that the two participating insurers, that is, the SGIO and FAI, will have the benefit of this Bill as though no amendment had been made at all. In respect of these two insurers I propose that the Government's intention should apply that there should be a release equally from liabilities and entitlements. In case I have previously given the reason for my differentiating the position of the two continuing insurers from those which have previously withdrawn, I will indicate the reason.

The reason is that the continuing participating insurers could indeed look forward—admittedly over a lengthy period—to recouping whatever they are now obliged to pay out as a result of participating in the trust over future years in which the trust made a profit. To that extent the removal of these insurers from the scheme in all ways seems fair. They are providing a consideration by way of their future entitlements to profits against their current contingent liability to contribute to losses. That amendment would become clause 20(1).

Clause 20(2) is intended to express the view that participating insurers which have already withdrawn from the scheme should be subject, up to the date of withdrawal, to precisely the same rights and liabilities as they presently enjoy. On my understanding of the Bill, this will mean that

participating insurers will have to contribute to the trust a substantial proportion at least of the \$6 million that which has been paid out by the trust to them in recent years.

On the other hand, if the Minister is correct, no harm will be done. The liability to contribute to losses will indeed be matched by their rights to future entitlements. That seems to me to be the sort of proposition that a reasonable man like the Chief Secretary will latch on to with alacrity, and I take it the broad smile on his face indicates his consent.

It is not unusual for large and serious matters to go largely unnoticed. That is not just a question of what happens in the Parliament, but it is also typical of the media's treatment of parliamentary affairs. I am reasonably confident that if a week ago I had come into the Parliament and accused the Minister of improperly using \$5 worth of Government petrol on the private use of his ministerial car I would have reached the headlines. Coming in with something as insignificant as the loss of a mere \$5 million or \$6 million from the State funds attracted not a word in the media. That is understandable because the sorts of matters I was raising were admittedly technical and difficult to follow.

Similarly in this Chamber, and in spite of this being important, we have really come down to a conversation between the Chief Secretary and myself. While that is all very civilised and convivial, it does not indicate I have succeeded too well to this stage in attracting the interest of other members. The fact, however, that the matter is complicated should not discourage us from pursuing it properly. I have raised these matters seriously and as best I can in a reasonable attempt to give a proper analysis of a situation which is really quite difficult to understand, given the paucity of the reports on which study must be based.

I commend my proposed amendments to the Committee as a way of testing in the best fashion possible what is the true position. In conclusion I repeat that if I am right the motorists of Western Australia will benefit. If I am wrong, no harm will be done to anyone, including the participating insurers. I move the following amendments—

Page 8, line 9—Insert after the expression "34" the expression "(1)".

Page 8, line 12—Delete the words "any time before" and substitute the words "the time of".

Page 8, line 29—Insert the following new subsection to stand as subsection (2)—

(2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, any person who was, but who, before the commencement of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Amendment Act 1982, withdrew as, a participating approved insurer shall, for the purposes of entitlement to the benefits or incurring the obligations of an approved participating insurer under this Act, be treated as if the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Amendment Act 1982 had not been passed.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I oppose the amendments.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: I cannot believe it.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: In doing so, I would like to make reference to some of the points made by the Hon. J. M. Berinson. I commence by saying a loss can be offset against not only future profits, but also a past profit. I agree that probably, it is beyond anyone to quantify with certainty what will be the deficit. Who can say how much investment income will be earned in future years, or by how much claims actually paid will develop from present estimates?

The pool result for 1980-81 was not a deficit of about \$40 million as suggested by the Hon. J. M. Berinson; in fact, it was \$7.7 million.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: It changes every time it is mentioned.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: This is because a substantial proportion of the claims for 1980-81 relates to previous pools.

I go on to make the point that because many of the unfinalised pools continue to earn substantial income and thus their deficits are reduced and because under the present Act it is possible to offset a deficit in any one year against a surplus of either an earlier or a subsequent year, it is not possible to say exactly what contributions might need to be made by or what payments made to participating insurers.

Likewise, it is not possible accurately to forecast how each of the pool years eventually will finish up. However, it is very probable the aggregate deficit in all of the pools will be wiped out even though perhaps some small deficits may have remained from individual years.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Can you say at what point of time it would be likely to be wiped out?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: There is no way of determining that factor.

The effect of the amendments are, firstly, that any participating insurer at the time the Bill comes into operation is relieved from any obli-

gation to continue to contribute to a deficit, and loses the right to receive a distribution from a surplus. In other words, the insurer is neutralised. Secondly, any participating insurer which withdraws prior to the Bill's coming into operation will continue to be liable to contribute to any deficit and to be entitled to receive a distribution from a surplus as if the Bill had not been passed.

Under the Bill as it stands, all participating insurers, whether they have previously withdrawn, or are still participants, are exonerated from any further liabilities, and relinquish the right to any further dividends. In other words, the slate is wiped clean.

The amendments could create some quite ludicrous and palpably unfair situations. It might be supposed that those participants who already had withdrawn would, if the amendments were agreed to, inevitably face the necessity of contributing to the deficits which presently are shown in the accounts of the trust. Further, it may well be the case that these deficits eventually will be converted to surpluses because of the envisaged investment income which will continue to be credited to the pool years concerned for a number of years to come. Indeed, there is no doubt that will be the case with at least some deficit pools.

That being so, participating insurers would receive a dividend in respect of the surplus that would thus occur, and the ability under the Act to offset a deficit against an undistributed surplus could result in participants having to pay very little, if anything, by way of contribution to a deficit. So, the amendments might well produce a completely unexpected windfall to those participating insurers who have chosen to cease to be participating insurers.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: I concede you are absolutely right; you have pointed up the omission of vital words from my amendments. If you care to allow me to indicate those words, it might obviate the need for the rest of your criticism.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I think I will continue, because I am about to move to another point. However, in the meantime, the member has the opportunity to draft the appropriate words.

What of the participants who have stuck with the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust? As the Hon. J. M. Berinson mentioned, only two remain, one of which is the State Government Insurance Office, which now holds an interest of almost 100 per cent; the other holds an interest of a fraction less than one per cent. Despite their apparent loyalty to the trust, the effect of the amendment would be to deny those remaining participants of any right to a dividend; they would not be permit-

ted to receive any money at all. Of course, the two remaining participants also would be freed from any obligation to meet a deficit. However, although it cannot be predicted with any certainty how the unfinalised pools will end up, the probability is that, in aggregate, they will turn sufficiently into credit to return a dividend to those two participants. The effects of the amendments clearly are unreasonable. The proposition in the Bill as it stands that the slate shall be wiped clean is the best and most sensible way of resolving the position. Therefore, I support the Bill, and oppose the amendment.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I deal with the Minister's reply in three parts. In the first part of his reply, he pointed out that liability for losses can be offset against entitlements not only to future profits, but also to past profits. So far as I can understand from replies to questions on this subject, past profits now have been distributed for all the pool years up to and including 30 June 1975. That seems to be the effect of the reference contained in the 1982 financial accounts to distribution to participating insurers for the three years 1973, 1974, and 1975.

The result of that is that, with the exception of a small amount of about \$262 000 available for distribution from the anticipated surplus for the financial year ended June 1976, there are no past profits on which to fall back. We are left with accumulated losses amounting in total to something like \$60 million, to be funded in full by the participating insurers.

The next part of the Minister's comment related to the effect of the amendments on the State Government Insurance Office. My understanding of the situation is that under the amendments, the position of the S.G.I.O. and the FAI Insurances Group would be precisely the same as it is under the Bill; namely, there will be a mutual release of both rights and obligations which the Minister says should be applied to all insurers. The wiping clean of the slate under the Bill is supposed to apply to all insurers. As I understand the effect of my amendments, the wiping clean of the slate will still apply to the SGIO.

This brings me to the third matter raised by the Chief Secretary. He so much enjoyed his criticism that even after I conceded he was right, he could not bring himself to come to a halt.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: That is not quite true; another matter had been introduced, and you know it.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: Please allow me a little latitude. The Minister is quite correct in saying the acceptance of the amendment as dis-

tributed would result in some ludicrous situations. It was precisely because I feared that the haste in which the amendments had been drawn up might result in something like that happening that I qualified the introduction of the amendments by indicating exactly what was intended. I concede again to the Chief Secretary that the wording of the amendment as distributed is deficient. In order to indicate clearly what is intended, I seek leave to amend my amendment as follows—

By adding after the words "be treated" in line 10 of new subsection (2) the words "up to the date of withdrawal".

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: At the risk of repetition, the effect of the correction to the amendment will be to reflect the intention I outlined earlier regarding participating insurers which withdrew prior to the introduction of this Bill—which means every participating insurer except the two companies named. The intention is that they should keep their entitlement to any past or future distributions of profits, and should retain their liability to contribute to past losses. Of course, they cannot possibly be fixed with liability to contribute to future losses, because they have withdrawn; that must be absolutely clear. So, the only question which remains is: are they or are they not entitled to the benefit of profits made beyond the date of their withdrawal? That is the intention, and I trust the amendment in its correct form reflects that intention.

Whether it does or not, I think it would be appropriate for the Chief Secretary to comment on the principle I am proposing to the Committee, without undue concern at this time for the precise terminology that is appropriate.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: As I opposed the honourable member's amendment. I now oppose his amended amendment. In regard to the finance structure, there is a limit of five per cent on the premium incomes on past distributions; that is to say, not all the profits were distributed. There is still a surplus of about \$16 million of undistributed profits from the year 1975-76—that is from the finalised pool.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: That is against the \$61.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I have not gone into the details, but the honourable member's figure of \$61 is also incorrect.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: It was taken from the trust's financial accounts.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: If the honourable member looks at it, I think he will find it is \$51 million.

I now direct my attention to the amendment specifically, and I make this comment: the additional words make no difference whatsoever. The final investment income earned after the date of withdrawal must still be credited to the pool for the years in respect of which the income was earned. I ask the Committee to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. R. G. Pike (Chief Secretary), and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from 20 October.

THE HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) [8.18 p.m.]: This item on the notice paper relates to the House taking notice of tabled papers, which are, of course, the Budget papers presented in the other House by the Treasurer.

The tradition in this House has been that members may take the opportunity of this debate to discuss any subjects, and I propose to take advantage of that tradition tonight to discuss matters relating particularly to my electorate. Bearing in mind, of course, that we are in a pre-election period, I propose to advise the House of the aspirations and needs of the people whom I represent in this House.

I commence my remarks by referring to the Australian Labor Party's campaign in the Murchison-Eyre electorate.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: I thought you made your election speech last night!

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I was looking after one half of my constituents then; tonight I am looking after the other half.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: Don't you have any pastoralists up there?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: As members are aware, my electorate covers Murchison-Eyre and

Gascoyne—two Assembly seats. I wish to relate my comments initially to the ALP campaign in the Murchison-Eyre electorate. As at this time, there is no ALP campaign in the Gascoyne electorate, because it has not endorsed a candidate for that seat.

The opening of the ALP campaign commenced with the endorsement of a Mr Frank Donovan. Mr Donovan has been described to me as a left-wing socialist of some note.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: A very fine person actually.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Mr Donovan went to Press just subsequent—

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Do you mean that fine person, Mr Frank Donovan?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is a description the honourable member may have of him, but it is not what I hear.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: It is quite a good description.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Upon being endorsed, Mr Frank Donovan made a statement to the effect that his campaign would be aimed at enrolling illiterate Aborigines. He estimated that in the central reserves and the Aboriginal communities of Murchison-Eyre about 1 400 to 1 800 Aborigines were not on the electoral roll. He said that he would go out and enrol these Aborigines, and, presumably, he thought they would vote Labor and, therefore, he would win the seat. He said also—I was amazed and rather interested to hear him say this—that he was doing it because he could not rely on the traditional white Labor vote.

The results of that comment have come home to roost. Mr Donovan's traditional white Labor supporters did not appreciate his statement and they have let him know, in no uncertain terms, that they object to the form of division he is endeavouring to create in the community.

After Mr Donovan made that statement—which was reported widely in the Press—he was employed by the Federal member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Graeme Campbell) as a research assistant. I understand that this is very convenient for Mr Donovan, as he could become a full-time candidate for the seat of Murchison-Eyre with his salary paid by the taxpayers of Australia. I understand that the Hon. Tom Stephens, regrettably not with us tonight because of a back injury, was also an employee of Mr Campbell. It seems that Graeme Campbell has decided that anybody who becomes an ALP endorsed candidate should have a job with him so that, as his

employee, the person can then spend all his time campaigning for a forthcoming election.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Why don't you tell us about Mr W. W. Mitchell who is paid by the Premier and who is a candidate for the Liberal Party?

The Hon. P. G. Pendar: We have had all this before.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Actually the Mitchell position is much worse.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Mr Donovan has taken on the role of Mr Campbell's chief adviser on affairs in Murchison-Eyre. I know that he does not spend a great deal of time in any other part of Mr Campbell's electorate. I know he lives in Kalgoorlie and travels extensively in the Murchison at the expense of the taxpayer.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: That is a joke!

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The taxpayers are paying Mr Donovan's salary to travel throughout the electorate.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: He is a keen, conscientious, and honest employee.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am sure there is no doubt about that. He is a keen employee, and he is aiming to win the seat of Murchison-Eyre.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: What about Bill Mitchell in Gosnells?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Following the employment of Mr Donovan by Mr Campbell, the ALP endorsed a Mr Brian Wyatt, a gentleman who has been described to me also as somewhat of a radical activist, to oppose me in the Lower North Province. Mr Wyatt happens to be a part Aboriginal, and this ties in with the comments of Mr Donovan that the intention of the ALP is to sign up 1 400 to 1 800 illiterate Aborigines in the Aboriginal reserves. Bearing in mind that the ALP cannot rely on the traditional white Labor vote, it is using the "expertise" of Mr Wyatt.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: Your facts are not correct. Mr Wyatt was endorsed a long time after Mr Donovan's endorsement.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is what I am saying.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: You just referred to his first comments. You are not telling the truth.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I beg your pardon.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the honourable member to direct his comments to the Chair and to ignore the interjections.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Thank you, Mr President. I will endeavour to do that. The honourable gentleman may well be correct in re-

lation to the time factor. I am saying this is the order in which the events occurred. In fact, we have a scenario, if one likes, for the ALP campaign in the seats of Murchison-Eyre and the Lower North Province. First of all, we have the endorsement of Mr Donovan, then his employment with Mr Campbell, and then the endorsement of Mr Wyatt. These are the steps and the timing of them.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: What is wrong with that?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is what I am saying, I find a lot wrong with it. If the honourable member is prepared to admit publicly, in this House, that he thinks the enrolment of illiterate Aborigines with the intention of getting them to vote is a fair and reasonable way to go about an election campaign, that is his affair. I am exposing to the House what the ALP is doing.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: The illiterates should not be enrolled! Your predecessors in the 19th century believed that white illiterate people should not be enrolled.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not say they should not be enrolled. I am just saying what is happening in the electorate because the ALP cannot rely on its normal voters.

The Hon. J. M. Brown: That is rot.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The campaign is to enrol Aborigines, and I understand that Mr Wyatt is the Chairman of the Aboriginal Hostel Association, another publicly funded organisation.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: I suppose you could say that when I was endorsed I was paid by the taxpayers.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Mr Wyatt has campaigned throughout the Lower North Province electorate, and this is creating division in the community.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I have been advised to ignore the interjections.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: You were a school teacher, and you were publicly funded.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: When I was employed as a school teacher, I was teaching children to the department's syllabus. I was not journeying all over the countryside trying to win votes. In fact, I applied for half a day off without pay to attend a meeting with the Deputy Premier and I was refused. That was the only time I endeavoured to obtain time off. What is happening here is that Mr Donovan and Mr Wyatt, both being funded by the Federal Government, are

spending their time campaigning, and Opposition members think that is all right!

The Hon. Garry Kelly: What about Bill Mitchell? He is on the public payroll here.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That has been explained already on countless occasions. I do not intend to get into an argument on that.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Let us hear your version of the explanation.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: We have this scenario developing in Murchison-Eyre. Into the scenario comes Mr Aubrey Lynch—the National Aboriginal Conference delegate for the eastern goldfields district. Mr Lynch was elected on a non-political platform. I am aware of that because I have spoken to many Aboriginal people in the Eastern Goldfields who told me they had supported Mr Lynch because he said he would not bring politics into his position as a National Aboriginal Conference representative. Personally, I have a great deal of time for Mr Lynch. I think he is a fine man. He is an Aboriginal, a justice of the peace, and a wonderful person. However, he has broken the promise that he gave to the people that he would not bring politics into the position of NAC representative.

The first I knew of Mr Lynch's political activities was when I saw a photograph of him in the *Daily News*. He had a scowl on his face—it was the first time I had ever seen him scowling—and he was holding up two handfuls of electoral cards and was reported as saying, "I have to get out to the central reserves to sign up the Aboriginal people, because the current Government is doing nothing for them." I had never before heard Mr Lynch say that, nor have I heard him say that subsequently. Obviously Mr Lynch has been got at—if I may put it that way—by all the people working with Commonwealth money in the Kalgoorlie area. It was a complete turnaround for Mr Lynch and I am prepared to say publicly that while I hold him in the highest regard, I am also very disappointed—

Point of Order

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I would like to seek a withdrawal of the comment that Mr Lynch has been "got at" by these people. It is a reflection on those people and the member has no right to say those things about people who are not here to defend themselves.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Have a chat to the bloke next to you.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: May I say the member is suggesting some sort of corruption is involved.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member knows there is no point of order.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: There appears to have been a change of attitude on the part of Mr Lynch. The nature of his behaviour in these times is quite out of character with what one normally expects of him. I understand from information given to me that he has spent a great deal of time enrolling Aborigines throughout Murchison-Eyre.

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

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am not saying there is anything wrong with it.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You are implying it.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Why would the Labor Party people—candidates and their supporters—wish to enrol illiterate Aborigines? Obviously they are doing that to try to win votes.

The Hon. Garry Kelly interjected.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: This gentlemen makes it very difficult for me to contain my impatience bearing in mind some of the remarks he makes. In the main, the Aboriginal people who are being enrolled are illiterate because they live out in the central reserve areas.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: That does not mean they are unintelligent.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I would be the first to agree they are probably more intelligent than most of us. I am saying they are illiterate.

What is the ALP promising these Aboriginal people in order to win their votes? Let us look at some of the promises it makes. The ALP promises the Aborigines land rights. What are land rights? The ALP promises the Aborigines a treaty. What is a treaty? The ALP promises increased welfare services.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: What is a treaty?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I shall get on to that. The ALP representatives also talk about giving Aborigines more autonomy and control over their own affairs.

Let us look at these promises in more detail. Firstly, let us examine land rights. I shall go to one extreme of the land rights argument and suggest that we are not looking at the land rights movement at all; we are looking at a national liberation front.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: Subversives!

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am not saying that. We are looking at a movement by a group of people in Australia—I am not saying they are Aboriginal people—who are trying to develop within Australia a separate Aboriginal nation.

The Hon. P. G. Pendal: That is right.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I shall quote the remarks of a person held in high regard by the Hon. Robert Hetherington. I refer to Dr H. C. Coombs and I shall quote what he said—

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: I hold Dr Coombs in high regard in a number of ways, but he does not commit me to anything.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am not even saying that the Labor Party is involved in this. I hope it is not. However, a group of people in Australia have this in mind and I suggest Dr Coombs is giving a lead to those sorts of people by saying what I am about to quote to members.

A passage from the winter 1981 issue of a publication called *Identity* is quoted in a book titled *Red Over Black* by Geoff McDonald. In his book he quotes a message given to Aborigines by the "Aboriginal treaty committee", a group of white people headed by Dr H. C. Coombs, as follows—

We started work in April, 1979, and from the beginning we told Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders what we were trying to do. But some of you may not have heard of this. *Identity* now gives us the chance to tell our story.

We decided to work for a Treaty between your people and the Australian Government, which would say for the first time that you have been fighting almost 200 years for your land and that people from other countries took that land from you by force.

We think that the Treaty should give back to you, forever, important parts of your land in every State (as in the Northern Territory and South Australia), and that it should give to you every year a fixed share of the wealth which all the land of Australia produces. The money would be for you to use, as you decide. No government, Federal or State, would be able to tell you how to spend it.

Incidentally, this money, may I suggest, comes from the wealth of the whole country, not just the Aboriginal nation. To continue—

Also, you would continue to get all the social service money which is the right of all Australian citizens.

The Treaty should protect your languages, your laws and your ways of living, your danc-

ing and singing and what you believe. It would respect all this.

The Treaty should allow you to control your own lives in your own way, on your own land. It should help you to keep your own groups for health and housing and legal service and your own clubs, in other parts of Australia.

Talking and deciding is not our business. Our job is to make all other Australians, who are not of Aboriginal or Islander descent, tell our politicians that they must listen to you and make that Treaty like you want.

That is what Dr H. C. Coombs is suggesting to those people in Australia who believe we should have a separate Aboriginal nation. He talks about a basis for a new nation as a result of the treaty.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: It is no different from the treaties in the USA. They have treaties with the Indians.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Maybe they do; I am talking about Australia, my electorate, and my electors. Some people want this. Let us have a look at who wants a separate Aboriginal nation in Australia. I do not know whether the ALP wants it. I know it believes in land rights for Aborigines, so perhaps, inadvertently, it believes in a separate nation—I do not know.

I believe the World Council of Churches believes we should have a separate Aboriginal nation. We had a delegation from the World Council of Churches led by Anwar Barkat and Elizabeth Adler. They visited Australia with the intention to create racial strife here and their report has been discredited by anyone who knows anything about the subject. Let us look at what a suborganisation of the World Council of Churches had to say. Elizabeth Adler, from East Germany, is the head of this organisation which, in my opinion, is a Communist front. There is no question in my mind about that and my opinion is supported by other people who are knowledgeable on the subject.

I have a sneaking suspicion some Commonwealth Government people think we should have a separate Aboriginal nation. While the current Federal Government probably does not realise what it is doing in relation to Aborigines, it is assisting the people who believe we should have a separate Aboriginal State.

Let us look at what Geoff McDonald has to say about the Federal Government in respect of this matter. I quote from page 90 of his book *Red Over Black*—it is an interesting book and I suggest members read it if they have time—where he says—

To repeat an elementary lesson in politics, no matter how much the Federal Government bends over backwards in making concession after concession, including opposition to Queensland, in betraying Rhodesia, in becoming a leader in the fight against South Africa, in attacking the New Zealand Government, employing Marxists to head Government departments dealing with Aboriginal affairs, kow-towing to the Third World, condemning so-called racism, declaring Australia to be a multi-cultural nation, changing our traditional immigration policies away from Britain and Europe, makes no difference to Australia's enemies. They still declare the Federal Government to be "racist" and they will continue to do so. No battle can be won by continual retreat.

We are not dealing with a reformist movement seeking gains for the Aborigines or anyone else. It is a struggle for power which in the Communist directives means a complete separate nation flying the yellow, black and red flag already on display everywhere since the first tent "embassy" was established 10 years ago.

Members will recall the "embassy" which was on the lawn of Parliament House in Canberra.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: Wasn't that the League of Rights?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is Mr McDonald's opinion of the Federal Government.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: May I have the title of the book, the name of the author, and the publisher?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The title of the book is *Red Over Black—Behind the Aboriginal Land Rights*; it is written by Geoff McDonald, and published by Veritas Publishing Company Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 20, Bullsbrook, WA 6084.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: Who is Geoff McDonald?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: He is a former member of the Communist Party of Australia. He spent many years in the Communist Party and has since resigned because he does not agree with the direction in which the Communist Party is endeavouring to take Australia. He is also a well known and respected member of the trade union movement. He wrote a book because of his concern about the way in which the land rights groups in Australia are being taken over and used by Communist subversives.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: He is not a member of the Labor Party.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I did not say he was. The trouble with members opposite is that they seem to think that, because I am talking about these matters, I am talking about them. If the Hon. Garry Kelly wants to apologise for what the Communist Party is doing, let him do so. I did not say the ALP was doing this. I have assumed the ALP may be heading towards that direction, but members opposite know better than I about that matter. However, members opposite should not apologise for the Communist Party unless they agree with what it is doing.

The Hon. Garry Kelly: Come on!

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: We have looked at who wants this. We have looked at the ALP and I assume it wants land rights. Does it want a separate Aboriginal nation?

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: No.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Is the Hon. Fred McKenzie speaking on behalf of the ALP?

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: Yes.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The World Council of Churches, the Communist Party and, inadvertently, the Federal Government are all heading in this direction and they are supported by people like Dr Coombs and his treaty committee. They are asking for all the things I quoted in that document, such as their own land, no interference by Federal or State Governments, etc. One could not get much closer to a separate nation than when one is advocating those sorts of things.

Who does not want a separate Aboriginal nation? In my opinion, most Aborigines do not. Aboriginal needs are being used by various people in our community to further their own ends and this is not what the Aborigines themselves want.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: You can speak for all of them, can you?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: A very interesting phenomenon occurred in my electorate recently. It was called the "Aboriginal revival movement" and it began at a place called Elcho Island in the Northern Territory. Some Aboriginal people moved down from there into other Aboriginal communities throughout Australia, particularly throughout the central reserves area, reviving Christianity. These people went to Warburton Range and "converted" some of the Aboriginal people there.

These people claim to have had visions and to have been told by the person who appeared before them that they should preach the Christian gospel. They have moved from Warbuton, throughout the south-west of Western Australia

and I understand they are moving into the north-west as well. They are preaching a return to Christianity, but interestingly they are also taking an anti-land rights line.

I went to a revival meeting at Mt. Margaret Mission which was attended by approximately 2 000 people. I saw a person stand up and heard him say, "We are not for land rights. We are anti-land rights. We are opposed to the land rights movement."

I talked to Bobby Scott who was interviewed by a reporter from *The Australian* on Thursday, 1 July. I shall quote what Bobby Scott said to the reporter, because he made the same statement to me. Bobby Scott is an Aboriginal stockman and prospector who lives in the Laverton-Leonora area. He is a man of great wisdom and has an enormous sense of humour. I quote—

Mr Scott is also critical of what he says Aborigines throughout central Western Australia believe is an anti-missionary attitude held by many Department of Aboriginal Affairs employees and academic anthropologists.

"Some of these people want to take us back to the stone age, but we are not interested," he said.

"In Warburton and the nearby communities we no longer have the tribal law, we have the new law. There is no more fighting. No more drinking.

"The Lord Jesus Christ is the best welfare of the lot."

This fellow is a full-blooded Aboriginal who believes Aborigines should become part of the wider community; he does not want separatism. The main feeling I got from this revival movement was that this group of Aboriginal people in that area say, "We don't want to fight white people. We don't want to fight for land rights. We don't want to complain all the time. We want to become part of the wider community, and be accepted as part of that wider community and share in the wealth and benefits of that community." That is their attitude; it is one of being co-operative, not one of being argumentative.

What that movement is doing in Western Australia is one of the most positive actions I have seen taken in regard to Aboriginal welfare. In fact, in the eastern and northern goldfields region it has been able to rehabilitate alcoholics who have been in that condition for years and years. Suddenly they have given up drink—just like that—and have stayed off it. This situation is totally alien to and different from the situation about which I spoke earlier, and totally different

from that which some people have in mind for the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Fortunately Aboriginal people have a great basic intelligence—the Hon. Lyla Elliott does not think I believe Aboriginal people have this intelligence—and great common sense—

The Hon. Lyla Elliott interjected.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: —that allows them not to fall for the argument peddled to them by the sorts of people who think Aborigines should be different from other Australians.

Somebody suggested that the reason for my making these comments is that an election is around the corner. I have a great deal of concern for the Aboriginal electors of my province. Some of the outstanding people of my electorate are Aboriginal people, people like Sadie Connor, who was the matron of the Leonora Hospital. I have mentioned Bobby Scott and Aubrey Lynch, and talked about several others who work for the Education Department in Kalgoorlie. One is Maurice Brownley. These people have been prepared to say that they do not want to be separate from the wider community. They say, "We don't want to live in a hut in the bush; we want to use our abilities to become part of the wider white community"—if one cares to use that term—"and to take advantage of its great benefits." These people have succeeded, and are respected citizens of the community. On the other hand, we still have many Aborigines living in what can only be described as squalid and dreadful conditions.

The West Australian published the other day a couple of articles by a reporter who visited Laverton. He was most scathing in his attack on the conditions in which Aborigines live in that area. I know Laverton well, and must admit that I am appalled every time I see those conditions. This reporter pointed out in his second article that on a hill just outside Laverton there are four or five buildings—for want of a better word—that could be used. They are nothing special, but could be done up to provide some shelter for Aboriginal people in Laverton, but no Aboriginal person wants to live there because somebody died there. It is an Aboriginal tradition that until after a certain period one does not live in a place where somebody has died. I accept that as part of the Aboriginal culture, but it makes the situation difficult.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: It has been there for seven years, I think.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Yes, I think that is so. In addition, the roundhouse was discussed. It is an incredible building; at one time it was called

the opera house, because it has a roof similar to that of the Sydney Opera House. It was designed by an architect who thought he knew everything about Aborigines. The roof slopes to the middle of the building, and when it rains the water ends up in a puddle in the middle of the house. That did not seem to matter to those who put up the \$50 000 or \$60 000 for its construction. I understand more money was to be put up for another roof to be constructed so that the water course would be reversed. The house has been there for seven or eight years, but nobody lives in it because it is not the sort of house Aboriginal people want.

I mention this because of the great difficulty Governments of any persuasion have in providing housing for itinerant Aboriginal people; they do not want houses similar to those that the average white fellow would want, such as in Floreat Park. The needs of Aboriginal people are quite different. It will be a long time before we can provide housing for Aboriginal people which will not make others in the community distraught or shudder when they see that housing or the conditions in which the Aboriginal people live. It is interesting that many Aborigines probably enjoy the type of housing in which they live presently.

I will turn now to a few matters in respect of some of the towns in my province, and I will mention some of the aspirations of my people. I will mention some of the achievements the Government has made in recent years.

The electorate of Murchison-Eyre is an enormous part of Western Australia, of about nine shires, and includes quite a number of towns. Naturally the locations are quite spread out and isolated.

One of the smallest towns is Menzies. It can claim to be the last town in Western Australia to have established in it a branch of the State Library. Until about a month ago every other shire in Western Australia had a library branch, but Menzies did not. I am pleased to say the Hon. Bob Pike recently visited Menzies to open that branch of the State Library. Admittedly, it is situated on a closed verandah of the local school, but it is something the small population of Menzies appreciate very much.

I must mention another matter concerning Menzies, which ought to be raised at this time. I regret that I must again talk about Aborigines as a sort of separate group in the community, but this point relates to the Aboriginal reserve at that town. The conditions of that reserve are little better than squalid. I understand that this year electricity has been connected at the reserve by the State Energy Commission; however, there is still a

great need for major upgrading of that reserve. A need exists also for Aboriginal housing, although I do not mean three-bedroom brick-and-tile residences, I mean houses suited to the needs of the Aboriginal people in the Menzies area.

Members would be aware that in the Leonora area during the last four years or so, the Government has provided a new hospital at a cost of \$1.3 million. At present negotiations are well in hand for the establishment of an Aboriginal village. At Leonora we are endeavouring to provide conventional housing for those Aborigines who require it. In fact, a number of Aboriginal people at Leonora live quite happily in conventional houses. We are seeking also the provision of a village for the Aboriginal people who live just outside the town—fringe dwellers if one cares to use the term. In addition, we seek pensioner units for the elderly people so that they can be looked after and live in relatively comfortable conditions. The State Housing Commission would provide the pensioner units, and a caretaker would look after those elderly people.

The town of Laverton, which I have mentioned already, has had its ups and downs over the years. When I lived there as principal of the school, prior to becoming a member of Parliament, the mine at Windarra was operating at full steam ahead and the town was booming with a population of 1 500 or so. Regrettably a couple of years ago the world nickel price was such that the mine had to be closed down. For a couple of years it was kept on a care and maintenance basis, but fortunately the mine has since reopened, partly because Western Mining Corporation Ltd. and its partner, the Shell corporation, were able to develop the Lancefield goldmine in conjunction with the nickel mine. The Lancefield goldmine has provided a boost to the nickel mine; it has provided a cash flow for the company to enable it to operate the nickel mine. Laverton now has two mines and the town is back to about the size it was prior to the closure of the mine in 1978.

I feel some action should be taken in regard to another matter of concern to Laverton. This matter was referred to in the newspapers articles to which I made reference earlier. It must be understood that there are basically three different sorts of Aboriginal people. The first are those who live in towns—for want of a better word, "normal" people. The second are those who could be termed fringe dwellers, people who prefer to live in humpies on the outskirts of towns. The third are transient people; they move from one place to another every two or three weeks.

Money has been made available by the Federal Government to the local Aboriginal community at

Laverton, the Wongatha Wonganarra community. The money is partly for the provision of watering points so that the transients do not have to go into the town to obtain water; water will be available where they camp. Portable ablution facilities, tents and other accommodation will be available for people living in and around the area of Laverton.

I would like to see consideration given to the provision of some type of village accommodation for the fringe dwellers, the people who do not want to live in conventional houses. They require some form of housing of a more permanent nature than that provided for transients.

I referred earlier to Mt. Margaret, a small place outside Laverton. That is where I attended the revival meeting. Mt. Margaret has a special place in my mind, so far as my electorate is concerned. I claim as my first achievement as a member of Parliament the provision of a new school at Mt. Margaret. The old school had been brought in at the turn of the century from Mt. Morgan, and was totally unsuited and practically falling down. The department has provided a brand new, air-conditioned school. It is comfortable not only for the teachers, but also for the children. It was opened officially earlier this year by Mr Clarko, the Minister for Education.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: How many students are there?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The number varies between 40 and 15; it varies considerably. As I have said, the people of that area move between the central reserves at Mt. Margaret and Wiluna, and take their children with them. The new school was air-conditioned, so there was a need for a new SEC power facility. However, a problem still exists in regard to the provision of water. That provision is an old problem in many parts of the northern goldfields area; some places have plenty of water, but others have none.

Through the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs money has been provided in this year's State Budget for the Public Works Department to investigate the provision of and to provide a water supply for the Mt. Margaret community. Approximately \$180 000 has been allocated for this project. I trust that in the not-too-distant future a proper water supply will be provided for that community.

Another community mentioned in the Press of late is the Cundeelee community. The people of that community were settled there many years ago for a variety of reasons. Cundeelee is totally unsuitable for the type of settlement that presently exists, mainly because little water is

available. Successive Governments have said that because little water is available a permanent community cannot be established, and, therefore, money will not be spent to provide proper facilities for the people until they are shifted somewhere else.

No-one has found anywhere else for this community, or has even looked very hard for such a place. The people have been fobbed off and fobbed off while nothing has been done for them.

At a meeting in November or December last year with the then Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Baume, when he visited the Cundeelee community, it was agreed that the people of that community will go to a place called Coonana. It is adjacent to Cundeelee—a pastoral lease that was on the market.

It is understood that there is water at Coonana in sufficient quantities to establish a community with proper facilities for the Cundeelee people. The question of the transfer of the pastoral lease by the State Government to the Aboriginal community was a matter which caused a great deal of concern. Flak was flying on both sides.

The State Government announced recently that the Coonana pastoral lease would be transferred immediately to the Cundeelee Pastoral Company. This was announced on 11 October this year. Initially the State Government had said that the lease would not be transferred until such time as a survey of sacred sites had been undertaken and those sites had been established.

The Government in its wisdom, has decided now that it will transfer the lease but there has been some hold up in relation to the Aboriginal development Commission paying the money. An article on this matter appeared in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* under the heading "Transfer of lease 'a hollow victory' ". This causes me some concern because every time the State Government tries to do something for the Aboriginal people, such comments are made. This article quotes a Dr Ian Hills who has a Ph.D in psychology from James Cook University in Townsville. He has come out as an expert on Aboriginal matters. The article states—

Dr Hills said in *Kalgoorlie* that just before the announcement that the State Government had also decided to delay the erection of houses for community members by at least another four years.

"This fact was not announced by the Premier," he said.

He then said it would take four years for houses and buildings of that nature to be built and there was still some doubt about whether there was suf-

ficient water at Coonana. He said it would take some time before all this would occur. It will take a number of years and that is regrettable. I use this speech to suggest to the Government that it ought to deal with this matter as quickly as possible because it is a matter of urgency to the community. However, to say it will take four years to come about is nonsense.

When I attended the meeting with the community and Senator Baume, the Federal member for Kalgoorlie was present also. He endeavoured to talk the community out of going to Coonana. He suggested they should go somewhere east of Coonana, yet the community wished to go to Coonana. This Dr Hill is now blaming the State Government for the fact that insufficient water is available at Coonana. He is blaming the Government when the Aboriginal people themselves voted to go there.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: The pastoral leases were not passed because there was no water at Coonana.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The argument put forward by the vendors of the lease is that sufficient water is available there. I do not know whether that is so. If there is no water, it is of no use building a community there.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: That is the reason for the two year delay.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: A number of other Aboriginal communities are situated throughout the Murchison-Eyre region. They extend from Warburton to Blackstone, through to Wingelina, right through the central desert area. Over recent years the attitude of the Government has been to diversify its services to encourage small groups to develop so that we do not have a concentration of people living in one area.

The Warburton community is large; and too many people are there. This is placing pressure on the services. The people are moving to small outstations and the Government is providing water and school facilities at those places.

An activity in which young Aboriginal children are involved and which causes me some concern is that of petrol sniffing. It is a serious problem amongst young Aboriginal children. Some even have a can filled with petrol tied on a piece of rope which hangs around their neck so they can sniff all the time. The effects of sniffing petrol are similar to most other drugs of addiction. This activity has a disastrous effect on the mind and the health of those involved in it. It is a little like alcoholism; it is difficult to prevent because people must have petrol to fill their cars and it is not un-

usual for young people to milk petrol tanks or drums which are lying around the communities.

Something must be done about this problem, but it is like saying the Government should cure alcoholism. It is difficult to prevent petrol sniffing but we ought to be aware, as members of Parliament, that this activity is occurring. It is increasing.

I would like to refer to two of the newer towns in this State—Leinster and Teutonic Bore. These are delightful places but at present, like all other mining areas, they are suffering from the effects of low world prices for their products. These towns have most things provided for them by the company. The conditions of setting up these mining operations were similar to those set up in the Pilbara. The company provided the essential infrastructure and as a consequence the input of the Government has been minimal.

However, Leinster has no community hall or gymnasium. The community has got together in a fund raising scheme and has put forward a submission to the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation for a grant to build a hall. I raise this matter in the hope that the Hon. Robert Pike will take notice of this submission and ensure that the people of Leinster obtain a much needed community facility. We all know how important a hall is to a country town, and Leinster is no exception.

Teutonic Bore is a town which produces zinc and copper. It has had a difficult life because production began at a time when most copper mines around the world were closing. The company decided to take the plunge and get in quickly and develop a rich body in a short time to get a cash flow as quickly as possible. The Government reduced the royalties payable on copper so that the Teutonic Bore operation could remain viable. I congratulate the Government for its action and the company for its faith in the future.

On a previous occasion I quoted to the House the speech of Sir James Foots, the then chairman of Mt. Isa Mines. He spoke about the vision of mining companies and this has been shown at Teutonic Bore. Those members who have not been to that part of Western Australia and who would like to see the newest and second-newest towns in Western Australia should make that trip because the State Government recently has provided a bitumen road from Leonora to Leinster. It is one of the best roads in the State and it is a delightful drive.

Another town I wish to mention is Wiluna which was a mining town in its heyday. Most people left the town except for the Aboriginal

people who live at the Ngangganawili community, east of the town.

The Ngangganawili community operates a very successful orchard called the Desert Farm which grows magnificent fruit. The emu farm which is located at Wiluna is another activity where Aboriginal people are employed. In Wiluna we have the situation where all Aboriginal adults are employed. People must work before they obtain their pay, which is in lieu of the dole cheque. However, there is still the problem of alcohol in the community. Alcohol abuse occurs and the revival movement has not had as much success in the town as it has had in other parts of Western Australia. We have a spectacle at the Wiluna Hotel on Friday nights which is something which must be seen to be believed.

However, in this town of Wiluna which can be recognised miles away by aircraft because it glitters—because of the broken glass and cans about the area—is a green oasis: the local school.

Approximately 1978 the principal of Wiluna school was Len Hayward who said to the Education Department that if it wanted to help him he would turn the community into the best school in the country. The department had faith in him and agreed to his request to build a barbed wire fence around the school to keep the Aboriginal people out. Len Hayward was part Aboriginal and it is regrettable he died last Christmas.

He and his staff got together and made the school a credit to the town. The lawns cover about one acre and trees are growing all around the area. The school is clean. When the children go to school their home clothes are taken away and washed. They are fed at the school and wear their school clothes. When it is time to go home their home clothes are put on and they travel 10 miles by bus to their community.

The Aboriginal mothers provide the money for the food and they do the washing of the clothes. No-one is allowed inside the school premises without the invitation of the principal, and the children stay there all day.

We have a modern civilisation in the middle of this area which is suffering from terrible depression. Len Hayward was a fine man. I had the privilege to attend a small ceremony in Wiluna which was attended by the Minister for Education. A plaque was set into the ground to commemorate Len Hayward. The area was full of people who had come to pay their respects to this fine man. He has been succeeded by a new principal—Patrick Burke—who is the youngest man to be promoted to a class 3 school in the history of the Education Department.

He is carrying on the great tradition of Len Hayward in a different way, but he is achieving similar if not better results. In Wiluna a magnificent memorial exists to the hard work and dedication of some people. I cannot speak too highly of what has been done there. It is most unfortunate that once one gets outside the school grounds one sees broken bottles, cans, Aboriginal people lying under the trees, people asleep in the middle of the day, and the hotel full of people drinking. It is a completely disgusting arrangement. However, I guess when one has a school like that, hope must exist for the future.

A favourite town of mine in the Murchison area is probably the smallest, Sandstone. It is the smallest shire in terms of population in Western Australia. The population of the town is about 30, and yet for spirit and community involvement, one would not find a better town anywhere. Twice a year the people organise sporting functions for all the residents in the surrounding towns; a cricket knockout competition is played, and in September a golf tournament is held. If one were driving through, one would say "What a dreadful place." It does not have a lot going for it. When one spends time there one appreciates that. Yet the people there who probably have the least also complain the least. Members of Parliament know how many complaints they get. Usually, those with the most complain the most. Sandstone is a prime example of people saying "We live here by our own choice; we have not got a lot going for us, but we like it, and we will make the most of it." I always like to put in a plug for the town when I make a speech, and when I write to the Minister for Telecommunications to urge him to extend television to Sandstone. It is the only town in Murchison-Eyre which does not have television.

The Hon. P. G. Pendal: What is the population?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: It is about 35, but approximately 350 live in the shire.

The use of Intelsat IV over the Pacific Ocean has provided television to all the small towns throughout Lower North Province. Each town has a dish which picks up the signal from Intelsat IV. It is sent from Carnarvon then to Intelsat IV, back to the dish at each town and then to the townspeople. The Federal Government has provided that facility in the last couple of years, and it has made a great difference to the people living in isolated towns. I made a plea for Sandstone to the Minister for Telecommunications, and I hope the State might also make a plea.

Sandstone is not far from the potential Yeelirrie uranium mine. I have spoken about this

on many occasions. It still has not got off the ground; impediments have been put in the way by unions and the ALP, and it has been affected by a variety of other international marketing factors. I hope Yeelirrie can be developed because it will have an enormous impact on the economy of Western Australia, and a great impact on the economy of the immediate area. It will provide better roads and services to the people living in the district.

I feel the people who read this speech ought to know that the Government has been looking after their interests in the last four or five years, and will continue to do so in the future. It is important that people know what is going on in other towns in their area.

Meekatharra has been in a difficult situation in respect of the provision of medical facilities. It has been difficult to attract qualified medical practitioners to the Murchison area, and we are very fortunate in the last six months to have attracted a competent, highly qualified doctor. This has improved the situation no end. A problem still exists in other towns like Cue and Mt. Magnet, in particular, where insufficient medical facilities are available.

The first solar power station in Western Australia, probably in Australia, will open in Meekatharra on 19 November. It is a combined venture of the State Energy Commission and a West German firm. They have built a solar energy electricity plant which will be used to supplement the power supply from the conventional power station. It will be opened this month by the Minister for Fuel and Energy (the Hon. P. V. Jones).

Cue is one town in the Murchison which has an enormous future, in my opinion, as far as tourism is concerned. The problem Cue has, to which I wish to refer, relates to its tourist potential. Cue was built to last; the buildings were made of stone and were quite substantial, and the intention was that this town should be around for a long time. Many other mining towns were built of corrugated iron and timber because no-one expected them to last; when the mine closed, the people picked up their houses and went off. Cue was different; people built substantial buildings there. Unfortunately, even these buildings do not last unless they are maintained.

We have some fine examples in Cue of architecture used in the Murchison goldfields at the end of the last century and early this century. These buildings are falling down, and will continue to do so unless someone decides to spend a lot of money on them. It would be easy to say

there is no point in preserving them because no-one wants to use them, and to let them fall down. That would be easy, but it would be a great shame, as it is whenever we see anything of great historical value destroyed, or allowed to deteriorate to the point where it no longer exists. I do not know what is the answer to the future of Cue, but I would love to see someone put a big fence around it, spend a couple of million dollars restoring it, charge people to go in, and pay for it that way.

It looks like a wild west town—it is a replica of what one sees in the western movies. Perhaps that is a possible use for it. It is a fascinating place. I do not know to whom to appeal; no-one seems to have money for this. There is never enough money for the preservation of old buildings.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: It even has its own leaning tower of Pisa.

The Hon. P. G. Pental: I suggest that the money from the instant lottery be used for that purpose.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is an excellent idea, and I trust Mr Pike heard that because it would be a very good way to spend that money. Perhaps we should use some TAB surplus funds as well. Everyone else wants to spend it; why should not I get in for my cut?

The Government decided recently to retain the Mines Department office at Cue. This was a very sensible move. The Mines Department was one of the Government departments using the most elaborate building in town. That enabled the building to be maintained. Then the Government, through its Cabinet expenditure review committee, decided to close the office at Cue which would have meant half the building being evacuated. However, it would still have to be maintained or we would face the ignominy of it falling down. Fortunately, the Government has changed the decision and the Mines Department office is to be retained.

The town of Mt. Magnet is important because of the Hill 50 goldmine. The Hill 50 goldmine closed about 1974 because of the price of gold. About two years ago it reopened because, as members know, the price of gold skyrocketed, and provided a sufficient price for the company to make a viable return to mining there. Times have changed since the old days of Mt. Magnet, because as the Hon. Ron Leeson would know, people brought their own houses in the other old goldmining towns. This happened at Mt. Magnet. When the company returned to Mt. Magnet it wanted to attract personnel, and it could not say "Bring your own house." The company has built a

new subdivision in Mt. Magnet, and we now have a very attractive new town.

It is suffering from the problem of fluctuating gold prices, as are all goldmining towns. It suffers also from the fact that it does not have many of the facilities provided at other mining towns throughout the country, particularly those provided by companies. My colleagues and I are endeavouring to convince the Government more money is required to provide a recreation facility at Mt. Magnet—a grassed oval, and some form of change rooms. Once again, I appeal to the Minister for Recreation to bear in mind the needs of Mt. Magnet when he comes to cutting up the cake.

The Hon. Neil Oliver: Will you leave anything for anyone else?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am not especially worried about anyone else. I hope the proposal to which I have referred will come about in the future, along with the provision of some sort of medical facilities for the people of Mt. Magnet.

Yalgoo is another very small town, but a very progressive community, and in recent times we have been able to provide that community with a number of new facilities. I mention the new nursing post which will be opened by the Minister for Health next week. It is a brand new building in the town and will provide a much needed facility for the people of Yalgoo. A new police station is to be opened later this year. The old Warrambo house which was previously a hostel run by the Department for Community Welfare was closed through lack of patronage, but has been refurbished and made into the policeman's house.

In the school we find yet another exceptional teacher; his name is Ian Lonnie. He has established a farm at the Yalgoo school on which he has all sorts of animals, and on which various things are grown. He has provided a tremendous educational environment for the children of Yalgoo who under normal circumstances would be deprived of various educational experiences. Mr Lonnie has devoted an enormous amount of time, not only school time, but also out-of-hours and holiday time, to providing a wonderful educational environment. He provides also horse riding lessons and is planning a grassed oval and things one would not normally expect school teachers to do.

A couple of things need to be done. Yalgoo does not have a water supply; people get their water from a windmill in their backyard, which is rather an inadequate situation in modern times. The Government buildings in the town are reticu-

lated from a tank on top of the hill, but people whose residences are in town have to provide their own water. We suggest to the State Government that a proper reticulated water supply is a great necessity for the town.

South of Yalgoo is another project I hope will get off the ground in the not-too-distant future—the Golden Grove project. It promises to be an enormous copper-zinc deposit. Exploration has taken place over a period of years, and has steadily increased the size of the potential ore lode.

On a recent visit to Golden Grove, I had discussions with the company executives who indicated that a work force of 200 or 300, or perhaps more, could be employed. The possibility of a brand new town of 2 000 or 3 000 people being built just south of Yalgoo is being raised. The company is talking about transporting the concentrated products to Geraldton for shipment, using road trains; it suggests 24 road trains a day could travel from Golden Grove to Geraldton. It is an enormous project.

At present, the feasibility study has been completed, and we can expect an announcement about the future of Golden Grove in the not-too-distant future. Golden Grove and Yeelirrie involve investments of about \$1 000 million together, and they will have enormous benefits for the Murchison area of Western Australia. I hope that world economic conditions improve to the extent that these projects will get off the ground.

Located in the Gascoyne part of my electorate is a shire which does not have a town. It is probably the only shire in any part of the world in which the local government authority has no town. I refer to the Shire of Murchison. All that exists is the shire clerk's house, together with a new sporting facility which was built with funds provided partly by the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: How many electors?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: They have more than Sandstone. I am not sure how many electors there are.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: The last I heard, it was 27.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: More people live in the Shire of Murchison than in the Shire of Sandstone. The Shire of Murchison has asked the local members to have a house provided by the State Housing Commission. In effect, the shire wants to start a town. I suppose we have to decide when a town becomes a town—is it when it has more than one house? If another house is provided, maybe a

town will be started, which could be called Meeberrie, or Murchison, if one likes.

A similar situation exists further up the road at Gascoyne Junction, which is also a very small place. It has one of the facilities required in country towns in Western Australia, and that is a very pleasant little hotel. Apart from the hotel, Gascoyne Junction has a number of houses and a school. I am pleased that, following the visit of the Minister for Education, a new classroom for the school will be provided, hopefully at the beginning of the 1983 school year.

The town of Denham often is referred to as Shark Bay, but its correct name is Denham. In my judgment, the town has an enormous future, and that future is based on tourism. We are twisting the arm of the Minister for Transport on every possible occasion to expedite the sealing of the road from the main North-West Coastal Highway into the town of Denham. About half of the road is sealed, and money is being made available gradually over the next six years for the completion of the road. I hope that the Government makes the money available earlier so that the road can be completed more quickly.

A group of investors has mooted the possibility of establishing a "Club Med" type of facility north of Denham. They intend to spend millions of dollars on providing an international-type resort, including the provision of an airport to take large aircraft and proper facilities that one would expect to find at a resort of this nature. The plan is still at the feasibility stage, but if it is ever developed, the expenditure of many millions of dollars would be a great asset to the area of Shark Bay.

While talking about Shark Bay, I pay tribute to the founder of the Dolphin Foundation, a person by the name of Wilf Mason. At the place called Monkey Mia, adjacent to the town of Denham, tame dolphins come close to the shore and people can wade out, pat them, and communicate with them in the way in which one can communicate with dolphins. People feed fish to the dolphins, and essentially, they are very friendly; but the residents in the area hold fears that silly people will do the wrong thing by the dolphins—give them the wrong food, or try to harm them in some way. Wilf Mason, who owns the caravan park at Monkey Mia, set up the Dolphin Foundation which is raising money to provide a warden to patrol the beach at Monkey Mia and protect the dolphins.

Dolphins become as tame as this in very few parts of the world, and the situation at Monkey Mia should be preserved. I do not know if the

foundation requires any assistance from the Government yet, but should it do so, I trust the Government will treat the request in a favourable light.

The town of Denham's future is restricted by the amount of water available. The water supply at Denham is provided through a desalination plant—a reverse osmosis plant which removes the salt and other impurities from the ground water that is pumped up from the wells. Prior to the building of the desalination plant, the people of Denham had brackish water piped to their houses to use in their toilets, for washing, and for things of that nature. Each block now has two pipes carrying brackish water and water from the desalination plant into the houses, and because of this, each house has to have two meters. If one lived in any other part of Western Australia, one would not have two meters.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: What is a meter? I live in Western Australia, but I do not know what one is.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: A meter is a device through which water passes to record the amount used.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Are they standard practice?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Yes, in towns. Each householder must have a meter to assess the amount of desalinated water and the amount of brackish water which is used. The people of Denham have been required by the Government to pay an additional fee, which is now \$60. Nobody else is required to pay that. I have argued consistently that the people should not have to pay that fee.

The country areas water supply scheme is designed to enable all people living in the country to pay the same price for their water, regardless of how much it costs to produce it. I do not know what it costs to take the water into a home—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: It still costs \$60 anywhere in the State.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: These people have to pay extra.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: They are very lucky to have a water supply.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: They have to pay more than anybody else. We have a system in Western Australia that, no matter where one lives, one pays the same amount for water, with the exception of Shark Bay. No matter where one lives in Western Australia, one pays the same amount for electricity.

I am talking about the people of Shark Bay. They are required to have two meters in order to have a normal water supply. We should bear in mind that the water supply they have is an inferior one, because the good water is in limited supply. Yet, the people are required to pay more.

The Government has consistently used the argument that, regardless of what it costs to produce the water, everyone will pay the same amount, yet in Shark Bay a different system prevails because the people are required to pay more. That is not an equitable state of affairs.

Three or four years ago, when the Government first implemented the charge—it was \$10 then—I presented a petition to the House on the matter. That was about 1978, and now the charge is \$60. I guess one could argue about inflation—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: It used to be \$2 originally.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: —but that is inequitable. The people should pay at the same rate as everybody else.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Did you successfully persuade the Government to put in the scheme in the first place?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: No. It was before my time, regrettably. I would like to claim credit for it, but I cannot. My colleague, the Hon. Ian Laurance, may have had a lot to do with the provision of the plant.

Across the bay from the town of Denham is a place called Useless Loop. Useless Loop has a population of about 200 people, together with a most unusual name.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Where did it get that name?

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Suggestions have been put forward, but I could not relate exactly what they are.

At Useless Loop, a gypsum mine and salt lakes are in operation. Recently the company there was restructured, and the AMP Society purchased a fairly large share in the operation. As a result of the restructuring, a great deal more money has been spent at Useless Loop, and the facilities provided for the people have improved immensely. They will become even better.

At present, the State Government is negotiating with the company for a new agreement on the mining operation. Some matters which are causing concern need to be resolved. In response to a question asked by the Hon. Phil Lockyer yesterday, I was pleased to hear today that the company has agreed to provide a new school at Useless Loop.

Another matter which has yet to be resolved involves the provision of freehold land. Some people would regard this as unusual, but there is a movement amongst the people of Useless Loop to be given the right to buy freehold land in the town. For many good reasons, some of the people who live there would like to stay, even if the mine did not continue to operate. I trust that the new agreement will provide a facility for freehold land to be made available, or even leasehold land on a long-term basis, so that the people who wish to can build their own homes at Useless Loop.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: They would have to be careful that the land did not become denuded, because a lot of that area is terrifically prone to soil erosion.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not think it is any worse than in the surrounding areas. It is no different from Denham.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: It is very easily solved, by putting a house on it.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: We are not looking at a town of 50 000 people. There might be 20 people who would like to put up a house. Members should bear in mind that the people who want to spend their money in the town will look after it better than anybody else—more so than the people who are just renting a house.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: They are very conservation conscious up there.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: The most important town in my electorate is Carnarvon, which contains the bulk of the population of the Lower North Province. Over the years, many things have happened in Carnarvon. The town has been expanding rapidly, although it has had its ups and downs. It has had a steady, progressive growth in its industries over many years, and the growth appears to be continuing. Carnarvon is a fortunate town in many ways, in the sense that it has a diversification of industry.

Carnarvon does not rely on one industry, as does a nickel town. It has a variety of industries—fishing, plantations, irrigated agriculture, the salt industry; it is a major Government town; it has Radio Australia, and a variety of service industries catering for the major industries.

As members know well, Carnarvon is cyclone prone and flood prone, and one of the main problems in the future of Carnarvon is flood mitigation. Various Government agencies and consultants have conducted major studies into the question of flood mitigation. Various plans have been put forward, but they have not been accepted, or they have been rejected by various members of the community, for various reasons.

The Government is still working on a way in which it can overcome the difficulties of flooding at Carnarvon.

Associated with this is the question of a new bridge over the Gascoyne River, for which tentative plans have been drawn up; these are for a bridge that will not be subject to flooding as, presently, whenever the Gascoyne River floods, the road north from Carnarvon to the Pilbara is closed because no-one can cross the existing bridge. A new bridge would be of benefit to the people on the north side of the river at Carnarvon and places further north.

However, this raises the problem of the necessity for some land resumption, and I am pleased to say the Minister for Transport and Deputy Premier is to come to Carnarvon to discuss with interested people the potentialities that could arise if the proposed new bridge were ever built. It is not something that will happen in the near future.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: They would need to have a committee first.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: Perhaps the member is right.

As a member of Parliament representing Carnarvon, I believe we should look at the consequences of any land resumption and the effect of a new bridge before any decision is made. I am mindful that until the plans are finalised some difficulties will be found with current town planning, as some blocks which are in limbo cannot be used because people do not know whether the bridge is to be built.

A very interesting study presently is being undertaken in the Carnarvon-Shark Bay area into the snapper fishery. The Hon. Gordon Masters was the Minister in charge of this matter at the time, and he initiated the study, one which could be the answer to many questions asked by the Hon. Phil Lockyer and me about the snapper fishery.

Many people suggest that trap fishing for snapper is detrimental to the quality of the fish and that unless the fish is caught by line and handled gently when it comes out of the sea we end up with a very poor quality fish. The inquiry has been established to look at the effect of trap fishing on the quality of snapper and to consider the whole snapper industry. I look forward to the results of that study because I think they will assist the fishing industry generally in Carnarvon.

Many Aboriginal people live in Carnarvon and, as is common throughout most country towns, housing is in short supply. Recently the State Housing Commission built a new complex called the "Bore Street Village". It is quite a

magnificent facility providing excellent housing for a large number of Aboriginal people. The way they are looking after their homes shows they have great pride in what has been provided. This complex is a great credit not only to the Government but also to the people who live there.

Carnarvon is facing several very difficult problems which will need to be resolved in the near future. I have mentioned already flood mitigation; presently insufficient levee banks are provided to protect the major part of the town during times of flood, which is essentially the central business district and the surrounding residential areas, while all of East Carnarvon is without protection during floods. That is a problem which must be resolved if the future of Carnarvon is to be as good as it can be.

A second problem needing to be resolved ironically involves a water supply; on the one hand we have the problem of too much water with flooding and on the other hand we have a shortage of a water supply. The shortage of water is such that the plantation industry will not be able to expand unless a significant amount of money is spent on improving the water supply to the industry.

I do not believe we should say now that is as far as the industry will go because it will cost too much to provide more water, and so we should not think about the future of the industry. I think Governments ought to adopt a great deal of vision, a C. Y. O'Connor-like vision, of the future of the plantation industry at Carnarvon.

We will always have a need for the produce of Carnarvon; fruit and vegetables always will be in great demand because, as the population grows, more and more people in the metropolitan area will require out-of-season fruit and vegetables, which can be provided only by places like Carnarvon. We should not consider the plantation industry as one which has reached its limit.

Carnarvon also has a rather substandard airport terminal when we compare it with facilities at Geraldton and Learmonth. Governments should start thinking about the provision of a new terminal at Carnarvon.

The future of Exmouth depends greatly on the future of the US Navy base at North West Cape. The Labor Party consistently has said that, should it gain office, it would not allow the US base to remain. I assure people that the State Government and the Federal Government, of our political persuasion, have always indicated the base will continue so long as we have any say in the matter.

The base at Exmouth essentially is the main reason for the town's existence; without the base

it would be very unlikely that the town would exist, certainly not in its present form. I give an undertaking to the electors in Exmouth that I will continue to support the retention of the US Navy base. Unlike the ALP, I do not contend it is a nuclear target; I could go there tomorrow and sabotage the base if I wanted to. Certainly in my judgment it is not a nuclear target.

Exmouth is prospering because the tourist industry and the associated fishing industries are growing. The future of Exmouth will be enhanced if, some how or other, we can come up with the answer to how a game fishing industry can be developed, which is what some people are trying to do now. The "GAMEX" game fishing contest is held at Exmouth, but it is on a much smaller scale than the one held at Cairns.

Many things are happening in Lower North Province on which I could comment, but I have taken up enough time of the House discussing what I consider to be matters of importance to my province.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I have been extremely interested in what you have said.

The Hon. N. F. MOORE: When I was first elected to this House about five years ago I said that Lower North Province was either on the threshold of a very promising future or on the threshold of going backwards very quickly, because the sorts of industries which are in the province are those which can suffer in a major way from changes in the economic situation.

I have mentioned the mining industry, which is at the whim of world prices for minerals. The pastoral industry is at the whim of world prices for wool and is subject to increasing costs which bear little relationship to the income received by pastoralists; it is subject to the traumas of drought. Places like Carnarvon are subject to flood. It is an area of Australia subject to great extremes; things can go very well or very bad.

I do not say this because I happen to be the member for the province, but in the last five years the province has progressed very well. The pastoral industry is holding on, although in my opinion it could not sustain another drought of the magnitude of the last one, and we are still worried about some parts of the pastoral industry there. The mining industry is holding on and in some parts has expanded. The fishing industry is developing well, and the tourist industry is becoming very significant. Per annum approximately \$6 million is spent in the Gascoyne area by tourists alone, and if this industry can be expanded the whole area will benefit considerably.

I will conclude with the suggestion to the Federal Government that it could assist people living in remote areas if it were to help them with air fares. The air fare from Perth to Laverton and return is about \$368, a significant sum of money. People who live in Laverton can fly to Perth and back at a concession rate, but if I were to go to Laverton and back I would have to pay \$368. As an incentive and an assistance to people in remote areas, the Federal Government ought to consider the provision of a tax deduction on at least one air fare a year. A person living in Meekatharra who flies to Perth once a year for holidays should be able to claim the cost of the air fare as a tax deduction. This would be one way the Federal Government could assist people living in remote areas without having to outlay a significant sum of money, remembering that these people put up with deprivation that people living in city areas know nothing about.

The Budget presented by the Treasurer is to be commended. He has done a first-class job since he has taken over the reins from Sir Charles Court. The Premier and Treasurer is an excellent leader and with this Budget he has shown his ability is certainly no less than his predecessor's.

I support the Budget papers.

THE HON. TOM KNIGHT (South) [9.56 p.m.]: I welcome this opportunity to speak to the tabled Budget papers as I have done in previous years. As mentioned before, this debate gives members the opportunity to discuss problems and happenings within their electorates. At times comments have been made that members have had to sit and listen to a particular member take them on a tour through his electorate, and I realise some members do not find that interesting; however, as in previous debates, I intend to do just that again and will talk about my electorate and the things that are happening within it so that they are brought to the attention of the Parliament. I want to mention things the Government has brought forward in this Budget which will be of benefit to electors in my province.

The Budget is responsible and well balanced and has been seen by the media to be designed to improve or bring forward work-intensive programmes which will help overcome unemployment now facing Western Australia and other States of Australia. The major allocation, even within my electorate, concentrates on labour-intensive programmes, and I am grateful for this as it will mean that young people will be able to find employment.

The employment situation in Albany is not as bad as in many other parts of the State, and look-

ing at some of the major works programmes—Government, semi-Government and private—I can see that, within the next six months or so, in the vicinity of \$18 million will be spent on work-intensive projects in Albany. On top of that the Budget provides for a housing programme and commercial programmes, and these will be of great benefit to people in my province and to the concept of job establishment.

I will go through major allocations to my province one by one and make comment where necessary.

The Esperance fishing boat harbour has been mentioned on numerous occasions by members who have represented South Province. Last year \$1.12 million was spent on the harbour and this year \$1.75 million is to be spent.

The fisheries resources of the south coast are most important to Western Australia and possibly represent the greatest potential fishing resources in the whole of Australia. This was proved by the initial establishment of the Southern Ocean Fisheries company, which through no fault of its own ceased to operate in the area.

The catch rates by that company indicate the great commercial numbers of fish available in the Southern Ocean, as borne out by the continuous operations of Japanese, Taiwanese and Indonesian boats that fish along the 200 miles of our shore. This indicates fish are there, and Albany, Esperance, and some of the smaller ports along the coast will benefit from this.

Members may remember that from time to time I mention the town of Hopetoun. I have been very successful over the years in getting the Government to provide facilities in that town. When I spoke on the Budget last year I mentioned the old jetty which has existed since the late 1800s and which is now falling apart and being washed out to sea and will become a navigational hazard for shipping. The Government has allocated the sum of \$337 000 this year for a fishing boat landing at Hopetoun which will be a boon to the fishermen along the south coast, because now they will not have to steam back to Albany or Esperance to unload. Now another avenue for unloading will be available at Hopetoun. As far as safety is concerned, it is another haven that can assist them in the event of rough weather.

One of the greatest shortages in Australia is that of water. Water resources have been a problem to some of our more arid areas. When we look at the feat of C. Y. O'Connor at the turn of the century when he established the Kalgoorlie water pipeline we realise how important it was to

Western Australia and to the future water supplies in my electorate. I will talk only about the major figures in the Budget because there are numerous small figures and I believe the people in the areas concerned will appreciate that. The Government is servicing small communities and increasing the standard, quality and service of the water.

Members may remember I spoke strongly against the Government in regard to its lack of effort when it ceased the extension of the Great Southern comprehensive water scheme to the small town of Kendenup several years ago. I have asked questions of Ministers in this House, as recently as today, in an effort to ensure that the comprehensive water scheme continues from Mt. Barker through to Kendenup, which is the next stage of the proposed extension. Many and varied reasons were put forward as to why the pipeline was stopped. Following many representations to different Ministers who have held the portfolio over the years, I am delighted to say that this year the Government is to spend \$360 000 on the extension of the water scheme to Kendenup. That will meet the cost of the pipeline and also a stand-pipe in Kendenup.

Obviously more money will be required for the next stage of development—the reticulation of water to the Kendenup townsite and an overhead tank, but that is some time in the future. Work was commenced on 18 October; the Mt. Barker-Kendenup water pipeline is now under construction. I know how much this means to the residents of Kendenup and to the Hon. David Wordsworth and myself in respect of the efforts we have made to ensure that these people were given this pipeline, which was promised as early as in our 1974 platform and policy. The main from Mt. Barker to Kendenup was commenced around 1977-78 and for some reason work was stopped and the pipes on the site were moved away. Members can imagine the sort of pressure that was brought to bear on myself and the Hon. David Wordsworth, and we have been fighting for this ever since. I am delighted the work is now reaching fruition.

The amount of \$187 000 will be spent on upgrading the quality of water in the Esperance area, and in Grasspatch, which is north of Esperance, \$102 000 will be spent on the development of a water supply. The amount of \$142 000 will be spent on water supplies in Albany and in Mt. Barker \$45 000 will be provided for this purpose.

I mention the town of Newdegate, which is a small town at the end of the railway line that runs out through Wagin, Dumbleyung, and Lake Grace. An amount of \$300 000 is provided for a

reservoir which will be double the size of the reservoir there now. The excavation of a 45 000-cubic metre tank is involved. The tank will be part of the Public Works Department programme of spending this year and the capacity will be increased from 31 200 cubic metres to 76 200 cubic metres. It has been stated that the Newdegate area has 69 users of water, including homes and businesses, and the bitumen catchment area will be increased in size as the demand increases. The performance of the existing catchment will be monitored to ensure an increased amount of water is caught to allow 81 water services to be provided in that area. I am delighted to see that money will be spent in a small wheatbelt town like Newdegate. I repeat that I appreciate the way the Government has looked into these matters and has supported me and my colleague in ensuring that these things come to fruition in our province.

At Pingrup \$67 000 is to be spent on the upgrading and establishment of water facilities. Several years ago we put in a water supply service at Pingrup and the town was reticulated. A bitumen catchment area and two large holding dams also were provided. The water was of excellent quality, but we had a problem because of the drought conditions we experienced in the catchment areas; even though they are large, they have not picked up sufficient water to service the town for the 12-month period, and from time to time restrictions have had to be imposed.

Hopefully this upgrading will eliminate the need for the imposition of restrictions.

The catchment area at Ravensthorpe was sealed last year but vehicles travelling over the very thin surface which becomes very spongy when wet broke through and now it needs resealing. An amount of \$2 000 will be provided to upgrade that facility.

The works I am talking about are those the Treasurer has seen fit to put forward in my area, and these are all labour-intensive.

The amount of \$920 000 has been provided for sewerage extensions in Albany; in Denmark an amount of \$253 000 has been provided for this purpose. When we look at these sorts of figures we see they are mainly work productive proposals and we all benefit from them. We will create work for people in the areas concerned.

Land drainage is very important, particularly to the potato growers along the south coast between Elleker, Wilson and Torbay and \$130 000 will be spent on improvements in that area, which again is work-intensive.

In relation to hospitals the amount of \$200 000 will be spent on a maternity theatre at the

Esperance Hospital. The Albany Regional Hospital and the hospitals at Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace, Mt. Barker, Denmark and Esperance are all very high standard hospitals and their facilities are improving every year. Members may recall that last year I talked about the magnificent effort made by people in the Albany region in raising over \$80 000 to install a hydrotherapy unit at the Albany Regional Hospital; the Government contributed to a project costing in excess of \$300 000. It was the first regional rehabilitation centre established outside the metropolitan area.

In respect of high schools, the North Albany High School was started this year; to date approximately \$2.6 million has been spent on that school. In the coming year it is anticipated that another \$767 000 will be spent on it; again, this is labour-intensive.

Members understand the problems we are experiencing in regard to apprenticeship training, particularly in the building trades. The Treasurer and Premier has ensured that as many building projects as possible will be brought forward to ensure that apprentices can continue their training without being stood down. This is the type of humane action that makes people look up to a Premier as a statesman rather than just a politician and a run-of-the-mill sort of guy, and I think we have a statesman here.

An amount of \$20 000 has been provided for improvements to the Albany High School. That high school was opened in the 1920s and although additions have been made to the building, some sections of it are badly in need of repair and I understand that \$20 000 represents the first step in the renovations that will be carried out to the old sections of the Albany High School. I hope that in the next Budget we will see sufficient money coming forward to bring it up to an acceptable standard.

The Ravensthorpe District High School will receive \$20 000 for improvements. The primary school at Esperance will receive \$19 000 for improvements.

We now return to Albany. There is a magnificent technical college at Albany which is continually expanding to cope with the needs of students and the many different trades and occupations students wish to pursue. Last year \$235 253 was spent on automotive workshops and an additional \$16 000 needs to be spent this financial year to complete the work. This is again labour-intensive. The catering and classroom section of the regional technical college has received to date \$95 585 and a further \$1.45 million will be spent in the next 12 months. At the trades

training centre at Esperance, \$96 000 will be spent.

At the Albany Regional Prison, \$388 000 will be spent on kitchen improvements, electrical services, security, ventilation, punishment and security cells, work established training, pavements, and replacement of all water mains, and this is all job-creative. This is the sort of thing the Government should be looking at in the situation of high unemployment we are presently facing.

I want to turn to some other areas involved partially and totally in the Budget. A magnificent 96-bed student hostel was built in Albany at the rear of the Albany High School some years ago. Due to measures beyond the control of the board or the Government, it was reduced to an unviable situation, with only some 30 students. It was said from time to time the hostel would have to close and the different wardens who administered the hostel managed to get enough students to keep it just moving. The present board is possibly one of the most progressive high school hostel boards in this State and it has set up a programme of education and promotion which it sends out to schools to educate parents in relation to what is available at the Albany hostel and to advise them of the advantages of sending their children to the Albany High School and boarding them at the Albany Amity Hostel.

The members of the board have been able to convince the Minister that next year they will have a viable unit and because of their confidence about what they can do, the Minister has agreed to leave the hostel open for the next 12 months on trial because, he believes that the efforts, initiative and drive that these people have put in to keep the hostel going deserves his support. I am pleased to say that many parents rang me to check on alternative accommodation because of the possibility of the closure of the hostel and they are now assured that their children can go into the hostel and be extremely well cared for by the board and the staff there.

I refer to another point that I have brought to the attention of this House on several occasions and, Mr President, I ask your permission to read a circular letter which I sent to the Shires in my electorate in relation to third party insurance cover to owners and drivers of vehicles seconded to bushfire control. It reads—

Late last year I received correspondence from the Shire of Gnowangerup drawing my attention to the perennial problem of the use of unlicensed vehicles which are occasionally required for the control of bush fires. The Shire's main concern being that of Third

Party Insurance cover which presently does not exist.

At the time the Shire, through their Bush Fires Brigade put forward suggestions on ways of providing adequate Third Party insurance cover to the owner/drivers of vehicles seconded in emergency bush fire control.

Recognising that a problem does exist, I circularised this correspondence to all Shires in my electorate to ascertain their views. Of the 10 Shires questioned only two opposed the suggestions with the remaining eight offering their support. A number were cautious in recognising the need for extreme care to be taken so as not to encourage the use of unroadworthy rather than unlicensed vehicles.

I appreciate that the proposals, of which I have attached a copy along with all relevant correspondence, are well beyond the existing scope of legislation, and may hold too many inherent problems to be acceptable in their present format, however I believe that in recognition of the vital role played by volunteer Bush Fire Brigades within local communities and the necessity on occasions to resort to utilisation of unlicensed vehicles that legislation changes are required to provide a measure of protection for those personnel involved.

Accordingly I placed the proposals before the Minister for Police offering further suggestions. The Minister, having consulted with the Minister for Local Government advised that the proposals were clearly opposed and unacceptable to the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust. Further consultations with the Trust substantiated this. The reasons are outlined in the attached.

I still consider, however, as do the majority of Shires in my electorate that it is most important we look at ways of offering protection to personnel called upon to use their unlicensed vehicles to travel to and from and participate in the fighting of bush fires.

I consider, as do the majority of the shires within my electorate, that the Government should look at ways of offering protection to persons called upon to use unlicensed vehicles in order that they can participate in the fighting of bushfires.

At the time of a bushfire breaking out every possible movable vehicle that can assist in the control of a fire should be used, and at present they are used in cases where the vehicles do not have to cross roads. What intrigues me is that if

an unlicensed vehicle used in controlling a bushfire crossed the road from one gate to another opposite and was involved in an accident, no third party cover is available. No cover is provided for the driver of the vehicle or for the driver of the other vehicle, who might be driving on the road despite the poor visibility due to smoke and dust.

As a Government we should look at this because the circumstance could arise where during a major bushfire not all the available vehicles could be utilised because of the existing legislation. People could lose their lives or costly property and machinery, and unfortunately until this happens we will not consider altering the legislation. I hope the Government and the appropriate Minister will look into this matter.

Another problem that has arisen because of legislation passed by this Government concerns clearing bans which have been implemented in the Great Southern region in relation to the encroachment of salinity on the farms due to overclearing which has allowed salt to come through and stop pasture growth.

This legislation was supported in principle by me and the shires concerned. However, one of the shires which was badly affected had a large percentage of area made unratable; the land was handed back to the Government and could not be used as farming property. Some of the land was unviable and the Government purchased the balance of the farms from the farmers concerned and assisted them in establishing farms elsewhere. This left little pockets of land spread through the shire that were not being used but which previously had been farming land and were still accepted as such.

Subsequently, that land has been leased by the Government back to adjoining farmers who may have lost a section of their farms, but they are not paying rates on it. I have received the assurance of the Minister that details of the land leased back to farmers will be passed on to the shire concerned. This will enable the shire to collect rates from the farmers. However, this situation has existed for two years and the shires are disturbed by the fact that the Public Works Department has not given them details in order that they may send out rate notices to the farmers.

Perhaps the Government could give the land to the shire on a leaseback basis. If this occurred the shires not only would get the benefit of the land but also would receive fees for the lease of the land, instead of rates. This would compensate the shires for the rates they have lost in the past.

Because at the moment we hear that Western Australia's grain harvest will be better than any previous record and the return will be in excess of \$2 billion, members in this Chamber would be unaware that certain parts of my electorate are severely drought affected.

However, Shires in my electorate, such as the Shires of Jerramungup, Gnowangerup and Tambellup, are severely drought-affected and some farmers will not have crops to harvest this season. With the lack of rain the farmers have no pasture and are sending stock out of the area for agistment. The longer the Government takes to declare the areas drought-affected the higher the cost will be in relation to the purchase of grain and transport of stock to other areas for agistment, the cost of which is subsidised when the area is declared drought-affected.

I would like the Government to consider offering some assistance to the farmers in my area. Farmers have either a bounty or a famine and I have a famine in some of my areas while other areas in the State have the best crops they have ever had.

I would like to mention the proposed closure of the Denmark Research Station. It is proposed that the station will close down within the next 12 months and that 14 full-time and part-time staff will lose their jobs or be relocated in another area. This would be a loss to Denmark. The station adjoins the Denmark Agricultural School and perhaps the Government should look seriously at leaving one or two staff at the station and making provision for the boys from the agricultural school to take over some of the duties at the station. This would mean that the research station would continue to operate and the boys would gain valuable knowledge from their duties which would assist in making them better farmers. The amalgamation of these two centres could be valuable to farming and to research and it would retain in Denmark the research station which has been in existence for many years. If this proposal were adopted the additional research education would benefit boys from the agricultural school in regard to taking over their fathers' farms or a farm of their own.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House one or two other points. I will be brief and I hope the Ministers concerned will consider the matters I will raise.

Firstly, I refer to concessional licences for fishermen's vehicles. We have concessional licences for farmers' vehicles, and farmers exploit natural resources just as fishermen exploit natural resources. Fishermen require the use of off-road and four wheel drive vehicles—even though they

do not require the degree of roadworthiness that is required for our vehicles—for use on beaches. About two years ago some concession was made to the fishermen by way of legislation, but it has been withdrawn. The fishermen of Western Australia who utilise natural resources should be given assistance by way of concessions in licensing their vehicles.

Secondly, and I have brought this matter to the attention of the Minister concerned, I refer to traffic offences, demerit points and fines. This was brought to my notice recently, when I was apprehended for speeding by a traffic inspector who advised me I was doing a particular speed. Fortunately, I saw the traffic inspector at the same time he saw me and I immediately took note of my speed. However, he told me that I was travelling 12 kilometres per hour faster than I actually was from my own visual reading of 122 kilometres an hour. He claimed I was travelling at 134 kilometres an hour.

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: Couldn't you ask him to show you what was on the gun?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: Yes, but he does not have to show a person the gun if he does not want to.

The Hon. Fred McKenzie: That is unfair.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I understand also that I could have the gun checked and I did have a very serious discussion with him which I will not go into at this stage. However, I was prepared to accept the fact that I was speeding but I was not prepared to accept the figure that the traffic inspector gave me. I decided to go to court and to plead not guilty to travelling at 134 kilometres per hour but I would still have to plead guilty to speeding.

I was told that the best thing for me to do was to plead guilty and accept the fine because if I did not I would be charged and convicted anyway. By doing this I would have a court conviction recorded against me; but if I pleaded guilty and paid the fine I would lose some demerit points but would not have a conviction recorded.

I have heard of another case when the magistrate asked the person charged whether he had had any previous convictions. The magistrate was told by the prosecuting sergeant that he had no court convictions where in fact he had lost eight demerit points.

This forces a person out of going to court to prove his innocence because it could result in a recorded conviction. I do not think many people know about this and several police officers to whom I have spoken have said it stunned them

and worried them that this sort of thing was unknown to the public and was unfair.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Do you know what they will do about it? They will end up recording every time you pay a fine.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: You want to pay the infringement notice quickly or they might withdraw.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It has been paid.

Another point which I believe must be aired is the confusion that exists in the southern coastal area about radio communications. As members are aware, emergencies have arisen on several occasions in the last 12 months. People have been washed off rocks, boats have been in distress or missing, etc. The radio communication system at present is so fragmented that delays frequently result. The Albany sea rescue service has its own system, the bushfires board has a radio two-way system, and the police have access to their own communication system. Yet most distress calls are relayed from the ships through the Canberra communication system. The information is then fed back to the organisations in the area, and any communication from these organisations to the craft in distress must go back through Canberra.

Over the last 12 months many suggestions have been put forward to overcome the problem. It is hoped that some system can be organised and that more lives will be saved in the future. However, I feel the matter is of such importance that it must be recorded here; we must do something about it. Many of these groups agree that the present system is wrong, but as members are aware, difficulties arise when there is a feeling that one organisation may take over the duties of another.

As the Albany Police Force has direct communication with Perth, the suggestion was made that it could use the same radio band as the Albany sea rescue group and the bushfires board. In fact, the Police Force could be responsible for all organisations operating with wireless communications.

The sooner the message gets through, the sooner rescue operations are put into effect and the more opportunity there is to save lives. Members will recall that recently a young man was washed off the rocks. A fisherman who was operating his fishing boat close to the area believes that, had he been given the information earlier, he could have reached this part of the coast about three quarters of an hour before a rescue boat actually arrived.

I have meandered through my electorate. I believe I have raised some points that needed to be recorded. Hopefully the Minister concerned will

look into these matters for the benefit of the people and the Government itself.

I support the tabled papers, and I appreciate the effort put into the preparation of the Budget by the Treasurer in the interests of the people of Western Australia in creating much needed employment opportunities.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. P. H. Lockyer.

JUSTICES AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. R. G. Pike (Chief Secretary), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. R. G. PIKE (North Metropolitan—Chief Secretary) [10.34 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In recent years it has become widely recognised that the role of a school has broadened and a significant advance has been made in the pastoral activities of schools. This caring approach to education which is to be found in schools throughout Western Australia has done much to reduce the problems of indiscipline of students. However, despite this more understanding and caring attitude in schools, there remains a small number of highly disruptive students who represent a serious and growing problem, particularly at the secondary level.

Attempts by school administrators and guidance officers to solve this problem by counselling, parent interviews, course variation, home rooms, schools within schools, withdrawal, formal discipline, and even short-term suspension, have failed with this very small percentage of highly disruptive students.

Such students can harass other students and will even harass teachers. Many staff members, including senior staff, are fearful of confrontation because in the final analysis they are powerless to deal with such students and any physical handling of the children can lead to successful charges of assault being brought against the teacher by parents.

It is clear that deviant students are able to destroy the learning environment in a classroom and

reduce seriously the opportunities of other students to learn. Some of the negative school and community outcomes of severely disruptive students include—

normal students resent having their education impaired by disruptive students, but are powerless to control them;

parents whose children share a class with a disruptive student are apprehensive about the environment and the quality of schooling their children are receiving; some remove their children and send them to private schools;

the severely disruptive student has a damaging effect on teacher morale; even highly competent, experienced teachers are faced by discipline problems which they cannot solve with respect to a few incorrigible children whose behaviour is characterised by persistent and wilful disobedience, disruptive behaviour in class, constant foul language, and physical violence towards teachers and other students.

High schools use a range of professional people and a variety of techniques to deal with disruptive students, but successful rehabilitation of a small number of severely disruptive students frequently is beyond the resources of a school.

For many years departmental regulations have provided for suspension of students. This action has proved to be effective in those instances where a student recognises the value of a formal education and modifies his behaviour patterns following a brief suspension. For the highly disruptive student, a suspension is a recognition of his ability to upset the system and he returns to school with his attitudes and behaviour unchanged.

The failure of in-school counselling, changes to school organisation, and even suspensions, to solve this serious problem has been of concern to principals of secondary schools for some time. Regional committees have reviewed the problem and it was discussed in detail at the 1982 April conference of the High School Principals' Association. Since then, the matter has been the subject of discussion among senior officers of the department, the Teachers' Union and the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations.

There is unanimous agreement that action must be taken to protect the rights of the majority of students from the excesses of a small minority whose impact is out of all proportion to their numbers. Currently, departmental regulations, while providing for suspension, prevent expulsion. Such a restriction is totally appropriate where expulsion denies a child access to education, but

that situation no longer applies in this State, which is a leader in the field of correspondence education.

It is now possible to exclude a student from attendance at a school and thereby prevent him from disrupting the education of other students without denying him access to education. For this reason senior officers in the department, the Teachers' Union, and the parent organisation have agreed that for some students, as a last resort, exclusion from schools is an appropriate action.

It is relevant to note that the Education Acts in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia make provision for the Minister for Education to exclude students from State Government schools. In New South Wales this power is assumed under the general power of the Minister and this assumption was upheld in a challenge to the Supreme Court some 10 years ago—*McMahon v. Buggy and Ors*, 1972.

The Western Australian Education Act appears to be deficient in this area and this Bill therefore seeks to give the Minister power to exclude a student from a school or schools. At the same time the Act is strengthened to support the regulation providing for suspension lest this regulation be subject to challenge and found wanting.

Members are reminded that exclusion from a school or schools does not deny a student education, but it does prevent him from denying other students an education and that is the purpose of this proposed change to the Act.

It is proposed that students will be protected from unwarranted exclusion by vesting the power of exclusion only in the Minister upon the recommendation of the director general and by establishing recommending and review panels involving community representation.

It is unusual in an area as contentious as education to be able to bring forward a recommendation which is supported by teachers, students, their parents, and the community at large.

It is believed that this is one occasion where there is a high level of agreement on the need for action and also on the action being taken to provide for the exclusion of highly disruptive students and to ensure that the current policies on suspension are beyond challenge.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Robert Hetherington.

BORROWINGS FOR AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [10.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

When the Borrowings for Authorities Act 1981 was passed last year, it was envisaged that the powers so conferred on the Treasurer, would be used principally to co-ordinate and consolidate the infrastructure borrowings of smaller semi-Government authorities. Since then several developments in the market have resulted in a marked deterioration in the longer-term outlook for loan raisings for all authorities in the semi-Government area.

For some time there has been a gradual change in investment emphasis by the traditional supporters of semi-Government loan programmes. These supporters, which include banks and insurance companies, have been looking more to portfolio management in their funding operations and as a consequence have been placing greater emphasis on liquidity and marketability in the investments they hold.

However, more recently, with the experience of more volatile interest rates, these institutions have moved even further in that direction and now wish to invest only in securities which have strong market appeal and which are in a form that is able to be traded readily.

For the State's smaller, less known semi-Government authorities, most of which can only issue debentures as security against their loans, the implications of these developments are decidedly unfavourable.

Since the Act was passed last year there has been released the report of the Campbell committee of inquiry into the Australian financial system, which contained many recommendations of significance to the future of semi-Government funding. The general thrust of the report favoured a freeing-up of the financial market with capital being left unhindered in seeking its most efficient allocation amongst alternative uses. Amongst its recommendations was a call for the removal of statutory controls which have in the past provided captive sources of funds for semi-Government authorities.

In line with these recommendations, the Commonwealth Government has moved already to

amend the asset ratio regulations of savings banks to the detriment of our authorities. Whereas previously the regulations required savings banks to invest 40 per cent of their deposits in Commonwealth or semi-Government securities, the new regulations require them to hold 15 per cent in this form and then only in Commonwealth securities. Thus, this particular captive market has completely disappeared.

The Campbell committee recommended also the abolition of the 30:20 rule, which currently provides taxation benefits to certain institutions through their investments in Commonwealth and semi-Government securities. Given the Federal Government's apparent leaning towards the findings of the inquiry, it may well not be long before this recommendation is adopted. Should this eventuate, semi-Government authorities will be shut out from another captive source of funds.

At the June meeting of Loan Council the decision was made to remove the major electricity authorities from the constraints of the gentlemen's agreement, for a trial period of three years. As a result, Loan Council no longer controls the size of these authorities' programmes, nor the interest rates and terms and conditions of their borrowings. It has been left to the State Governments to determine these matters either on an individual or collective basis.

Although there is general agreement amongst the States that this new-found freedom for electricity authorities should not be used to the detriment of the market for other semi-Government borrowers, some electricity authorities have already taken a very aggressive approach in their loan raisings. Given the substantial demand for funds by these authorities in the foreseeable future, it is obvious that the freer scope they now have will impact heavily on the ability of other semi-Government authorities to fill their programmes.

In view of the highly competitive market environment now facing semi-Government authorities, the Government has decided to consolidate its loan raising efforts. It is not alone in this view, as most other States have similarly assessed the situation and are moving to consolidate their borrowings through the establishment of central borrowing authorities. Such action also was recommended by the Campbell committee which saw centralised borrowings as the means to meet the challenge of a freer market situation.

Of course the Borrowings for Authorities Act provides a ready vehicle to effect the desired consolidation, and therefore it has been decided that future borrowings on behalf of our semi-Govern-

ment authorities will be undertaken by the Treasurer of Western Australia in accordance with his powers under the Act. It is intended to exclude the State Energy Commission from the centralised arrangements; but the loan activities of the Metropolitan Water Authority, Westrail and all smaller authorities are to be absorbed.

The State Energy Commission will be excluded because of its unique position in the market, the diverse nature of its funding requirements, both domestic and overseas, and its new freedom from Loan Council constraints.

The few smaller authorities which operate bank accounts outside Treasury and have established relations with banks also will be excluded to the extent that they are able to raise their programmes separately, but the central borrowing authority will be used to pick up any shortfalls. As a result of this decision, steps are now being taken to launch the Treasurer of Western Australia as a borrower on the public market.

In examining the administrative arrangements and devising the marketing strategy necessary for the successful launching of the new borrower, it has been found that certain amendments to the Borrowings for Authorities Act 1981 would be helpful in meeting those objectives. Three of the amendments can be described as dealing with promotional aspects of the new borrowing operation.

On the best market advice, the Treasurer of Western Australia is seen as a prime borrower, with a status above that of other semi-Government authorities throughout Australia. Accordingly, the promotion will seek to place the Treasurer in his true market position offering a unique product of national appeal to lenders.

In considering this matter it has become apparent that it would be helpful, for promotional purposes, if the activities of the Treasurer in his loan raising capacity, could be referred to in terms of a "central borrowing authority". This would allow scope to devise an appropriate marketing theme for the securities issued by the Treasurer. Unfortunately, the present Act makes no mention of an "authority" and advice is that legally it would not be possible to adopt a theme which incorporated such a reference.

As noted earlier, most other States have established or are in the process of establishing various forms of "central borrowing authorities" which has become the accepted generic name for such authorities and has had common usage in the Campbell inquiry and Loan Council. Our legislation was drafted well before other States moved in that direction, and because of concern with the attitude of the Loan Council to the concept of

central authorities, the establishment of an authority was avoided deliberately, and instead provision was made for the Treasurer to stand as a borrower on behalf of authorities.

The major fear at that time was that the Loan Council would regard borrowings by a central authority as being within the "larger" authority programme and therefore subject to the allocation constraints applicable to that programme. However, since then, with the adoption of the concept by other States, the Loan Council has accepted the role of central authorities as agents for other authorities without any adverse implications for the programmes.

Although it is firmly intended to retain the Treasurer of Western Australia as borrower from the point of view of market strength, it would be desirable to be able to describe him as a central borrowing authority to enable the market to better understand the Treasurer's role under the Act.

The amendment proposed to section 4(1) of the Act will permit this usage which correctly describes the Treasurer's function in the terminology now being used in the market.

For promotional reasons, also, it is considered that it would be helpful if the definition of "debt paper" were expanded to provide explicitly for the issue of securities such as bonds. An appropriate amendment to section 2 of the Act is provided.

As part of the overall marketing strategy for the new authority, it would be desirable also to provide existing lenders, particularly stockholders of the Metropolitan Water Authority and Westrail, with the opportunity to convert their securities to those of the "Treasurer of Western Australia". These stockholders will be urged to support the new borrower, and they are more likely to do so if they consolidate their holdings in the form of the new securities and have the benefit of access to the active secondary market which is to be developed.

As this facility could not be offered under the current provisions of the Borrowings for Authorities Act, the amendments proposed to sections 3 and 4 of the Act provide for the surrender and cancellation of existing securities and their re-issue in the name of the Treasurer of Western Australia.

A further proposed amendment could be considered an administrative matter. This relates to the existing registry facilities of Westrail and the Metropolitan Water Authority which, as a result of the centralised borrowing initiative, will run down over time. It is considered there would be merit in centralising these facilities also.

Treasury is in the process of establishing a central registry facility in-house for borrowings by the Treasurer, using a computerised system designed by the State Energy Commission. When fully operational, this system will have the capacity to readily accommodate the registry requirements of Westrail and the Metropolitan Water Authority, and savings would be achieved through amalgamation.

The current provisions of the Borrowings for Authorities Act do not allow for other registries to be conducted by the Treasurer, and therefore amendments are proposed to permit amalgamation.

The final amendment proposed by the Bill is consequential to the introduction of the Companies (Western Australia) Code. When general legislation was introduced last year to amend all Acts containing reference to the Companies Act 1961 and substituting the Companies (Western Australia) Code, the Borrowings for Authorities Act had not received assent and was therefore unaffected by the change. This situation should now be remedied and the Bill provides for the required amendment to item 3 of the schedule to the Act.

It is believed this Bill will allow the Treasurer to approach the task of borrowing centrally for other authorities in the most efficient manner.

I commend the Bill to the House.

THE HON. J. M. BERINSON (North-East Metropolitan) [10.51 p.m.]: The subject matter of this Bill is certainly important, but that is largely for technical reasons which are outside the State's own control. The Opposition has no argument with the proposal and, as we understand some urgency is attached to the Bill, I indicate we also have no objection to its passing through all stages without delay.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [10.52 p.m.]: I support the Bill, but I should like to make one or two comments in passing. I compliment the Leader of the House on his comprehensive second reading speech which covered the intent of the Bill very fully. Therefore, one can add little and I shall not comment unnecessarily.

The Leader of the House drew attention to the Campbell report which is an important document reviewing the Australian financial system. It has been studied by many authoritative people and students of finance throughout Australia. The Campbell report produced some far-reaching recommendations, some of which are embodied in the Bill before the House tonight.

I see merit in the central borrowing authority as proposed in the legislation, but I am a little dis-

appointed in the changing circumstances which have necessitated this new system. It will have advantages in assisting those authorities which experience difficulty in raising funds for their needs, but we in Western Australia by and large have had a rather good record in relation to authorities being able to borrow their requirements from a number of sources in the financial system.

As I read the Bill, provision is made for certain authorities to be able to raise their own funds from traditional avenues or avenues of their choice; they do not have to patronise the proposed central borrowing authority. I commend that provision and trust in the future all authorities may be able to use the avenues of finance which have been open to them traditionally, whether through their bankers, superannuation funds, or insurance companies. That is a procedure which I would guard very jealously as far as those authorities are concerned.

Recently in this House I commented on another measure regarding finance in relation to two Bills which allowed the merging in the State of commercial trading banks. By way of interjection on one occasion when I was talking about the changing scene in the Australian financial system, it was suggested I was referring to something which was not related to the Bill. This is another situation where the changing Australian financial circumstances necessitate this piece of legislation in a manner similar to the necessity for the Bills to which I referred in relation to the banking system. It is a case of bringing oneself up to date and meeting the challenges across Australia.

I support the legislation.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [10.55 p.m.]: I thank the Hon. Mr Berinson and the Hon. Mr Ferry for co-operating in supporting the Bill at short notice, because I have been informed the matter is urgent.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Leader of the House), and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [10.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

North Province By-election: The Hon. Tom Stephens

THE HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (East Metropolitan) [10.57 p.m.]: I cannot let the House adjourn without making some reference to remarks made earlier in the day about my friend and colleague, the Hon. Tom Stephens, who is at present in hospital in Port Hedland.

It seems to me in this whole matter the Chief Secretary has himself confused the issue by the nature of his reply yesterday; that he has failed to separate some of the issues involved; and that he has been less than charitable to Mr Stephens.

First, I shall go back to the Dorothy Dixer asked by the Hon. Mr Ferry yesterday, which reads as follows—

Would the Chief Secretary please explain the circumstances regarding the statement by the Hon. Tom Stephens that he had been told it appeared that he had not voted in the recent by-election held in North Province?

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: It was a very proper question.

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am not objecting to that. That was the question and I ask members to note it.

The Chief Secretary replied—

Yes. I immediately asked the Chief Electoral Officer for a report on this news item. He advised as follows—

- (1) Inquiry of the Returning Officer discloses that the rolls used at Karratha for the North Province by-election shows that Mr Stephens' name was ruled through to indicate that he voted.
- (2) The returning officer missed this entry when preparing the list of persons who appeared to have failed to vote.
- (3) The Electoral Department sent notices (form 40) to all persons listed by the returning officer.
- (4) The electoral roll had been endorsed "set" alongside the entry of Mr Stephens' name. This could have caused confusion as the return is prepared in Port Hedland from material furnished by the presiding officer.

- (5) The Electoral Department did what was required of it by law. It must act on the returning officer's return, even though some defect may later be found in the return.
- (6) The notice sent to Mr Stephens is headed "Notice to persons who appears to have failed to vote". It seeks an explanation and in the event of an error this is corrected.

So far so good; I do not think these facts are in dispute. However, this remark is then made—

Seldom do people use such occasional human errors to attack the institution of Government.

Seldom is a newly elected member of Parliament put in the position of receiving such an inquiry, and seldom are others in a position to make such inquiries, but I think more than that was involved.

The Minister had answered the question, and had he stopped at that point no problem would have been created. He set out the facts in a way that did not differ in any material way from the facts set out by Mr Stephens. But then the Minister went on to say things which had nothing to do with the question asked. His following remarks were irrelevant—

- (7) Mr Stephens was previously enrolled for the Kimberley electorate under the name Thomas Gregory Stephens. He later claimed enrolment for the Pilbara electorate under the name Tom Stephens.

Mr Stephens telephoned the Chief Electoral Officer after the issue of the writ for the by-election to advise that he was still shown on the Kimberley roll. Arrangements were made for this entry to be deleted. The Electoral Department was not aware that Mr Stephens had changed his name. If he had used the one name when applying for enrolment in Pilbara the computer would have deleted the Kimberley entry automatically.

The only fact at issue here—it is not an important one—is that Tom Stephens has told me he advised the electoral officer that he had made an error with his name by putting "Tom" instead of "Thomas Gregory". I spoke to him earlier today by telephone; obviously I could not go to Port Hedland.

Part (7) of the Minister's reply was not relevant, bearing in mind Mr Stephens was not here, he was in hospital at Port Hedland with a bad back. *The West Australian* of today's date at page

10—I think the Minister has a copy of this—states in regard to this matter—

THE Labor MLC for North Province, Mr Tom Stephens, had been recorded twice on the State electoral roll in two different names, State Parliament heard last night.

The Chief Secretary, Mr Pike, told the Legislative Council that Mr Stephens, enrolled in the Kimberley electorate under the name Thomas Gregory Stephens, later enrolled as Tom Stephens when he transferred to the Pilbara.

Consequently he had received a notice asking why he seemed not to have voted.

"If he had used one name when applying for enrolment in the Pilbara the computer would have deleted the Kimberley entry automatically," Mr Pike said.

"The electoral department was not aware that Mr Stephens had changed his name," Mr Pike said in reply to Mr V. J. Ferry (Lib. South-West).

As sometimes happens with newspaper reports which are condensed and edited, the report does not report precisely what was said. By reading the newspaper report one gathers the impression that the Chief Secretary had said Mr Stephens had been sent the notice because he had enrolled twice. It is not surprising that Tom Stephens from his hospital bed made a fairly outraged reply. He denied the allegation and said that Mr Pike should be ashamed of himself. He was reported as saying that the story was a complete distortion of the truth; that when he first became aware of the fact that he was entered twice on the electoral roll he had rung the Electoral Department and confirmed the conversation in writing; that he had notified the office of his change of address; and that he had inadvertently used the shortened version of his Christian name on the nomination card. The report of the member's remarks is strictly in accordance with what he told me today. The remarks made by the Chief Secretary about Mr Stephens were not warranted, bearing in mind all the circumstances. Had the Minister not tried to be a little smart, and include part (7) of his reply, which was not relevant to the question asked, this situation may have been avoided. That would have been desirable.

Electoral Rolls: North Province

The Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It concerns my friend and colleague, the Hon. Tom Stephens, that of the 22 000 people in the Pilbara, 7 300 have either received or been sent notices of their apparent failure to vote. That is a lot of

people, and it suggests that something may be wrong. Mr Stephens has said that a number of people known to him did vote, but have received these notices. He was a bit surprised to hear that from some people, but then found he had recorded one as well.

Something he said which is quite important is that he had complained that people notices were sent to residential addresses. The Chief Secretary mentioned this matter today. In many places in the Pilbara letters are not delivered to residential addresses. Even if people go to post offices to collect their pension cheques, that does not mean all people go to post offices to obtain letters. If they do not obtain their notices they could be inadvertently struck from the roll.

I make the serious suggestion to the Chief Secretary that one way of attempting to overcome this problem is to alter the enrolment card so that space exists for not only the residential address to be included, but also the postbox numbers of any person who has one. This might mean more people will receive their notices, or, at least, we will feel that more people have received their notices.

In general it is still arguable that evidence is available of a great number of problems in relation to the whole question of voting and enrolment in the Pilbara. It is quite possible that many of those 7 300 people will find themselves off the roll. I must say that when I was in the Pilbara I was told that some people enrolled three times, but did not manage to get a vote. I have no way of checking these statements, but they were made to me. Some people said they were enrolled, and produced their Commonwealth enrolment cards. In fact, I have argued that we should have a joint Commonwealth-State roll.

The whole situation is quite unsatisfactory. The Chief Secretary muddled the water himself, and between him and the newspaper report, the Hon. Tom Stephens—lying in a hospital bed with a bad back—could be forgiven for making the reply he made on the report he was given.

I remind the House that this is one occasion on which it is quite proper to mention that the member was not here; he was in Port Hedland for a valid reason, and still is. It is no good the Chief Secretary saying, "What I said is this." I could hear what he said, and had access to his recorded remarks; however, the Hon. Tom Stephens was not here, and was hardly in a position to whip up to *Hansard* to obtain a copy of what was said. I do hope the Chief Secretary will no longer pursue his castigations of the honourable member.

North Province By-election:

The Hon. Tom Stephens

THE HON. R. G. PIKE (North Metropolitan—Chief Secretary) [11.11 p.m.]: I think the House ought not to adjourn until I have made the following points. The first is that in *The West Australian* of 30 October the headline appeared, "New MLC told he did not vote". The article states—

He received a letter from the State Electoral Office advising him that he had not voted in the July 31 North Province by-election.

The notice clearly states that the receiver of it appeared to have failed to vote.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: There may be another misreport there.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: The facts are the facts. I always try to be factual. The Hon. Tom Stephens was not told that he did not vote, he was told it appeared he had failed to vote, and that if there was a reasonable reason for his not voting, no further action would be taken.

After I had spoken in the House I discovered that not all the words of my reply were communicated to Mr Stephens. The particular report communicated to Mr Stephens—this is the nub of the matter—apparently did not inform him that I had been totally factual in my 2 November remarks to the House. I emphasise that the reply given by me to the question asked by the Hon. Vic Ferry was preceded with the comment that I had asked the Chief Electoral Officer for a report on the news item, and he had advised me. The totality of the comments were made on advice given to me by the Chief Electoral Officer and was a direct quote from his advice.

I had read an article appearing in the Press the day before, and had telephoned the Chief Electoral Officer at his home. I said, "I would like to be informed of the circumstances surrounding the matter." That is exactly the light in which the question was answered. The circumstances surrounding the statement included the fact that Mr Stephens had enrolled twice—under different names. When I spoke with the Chief Electoral Officer I said that he had better give me the details of that double enrolment because I did not know about it.

Mr Stephens had gone to the Press in regard to the matter, but he should have spoken to the Electoral Department first. He would have been told what every other person in a similar situation is told. It was not a big deal. The department acknowledged an error had been made by the returning officer in Pilbara—a human error. On oc-

casions when a human error is made, and the constituent who receives the notice says that he did vote and gives evidence of it, that is the end of the matter. No big deal is made about it. The big deal was made by the member going to the Press with these statements. As the Minister, it was proper for me to answer in the way I did. The Hon. Robert Hetherington has pointed out what I said.

The essence of the matter is that it is not for me or this House to judge on the fact that the Hon. Tom Stephens enrolled once as Tom Stephens, and once as Thomas Gregory Stephens.

It was made very clear by me, when I quoted the Chief Electoral Officer's statement, that Mr Stephens did tell the Chief Electoral Officer that he had been enrolled twice. That was a statement of fact regarding the complaints made by the honourable member. It was never intended to be other than a statement of fact. However, the problem came about in this way: When the Hon. Tom Stephens made his reply in this morning's paper concerning his dual enrolment it was in substance exactly the same as the comment I made in this House the day before.

I did not know the Hon. Tom Stephens had a bad back. I did not know he was such a dedicated follower of our Prime Minister and suffered from the same ailment. I did not know about that and was not in a position to make any other comment when he made the allegation. It had to be answered and the best way was with the Chief Electoral Officer's report. The real problem is the member was not told that I had made the facts known to this House the day before. They were the same facts that he used in his reply the day after.

The member says quite rightly that it is really a non-issue and it is unfortunate it has developed in the way it has. The honourable member took the proper action in advising the Chief Electoral Officer of the situation. Had I determined not to include the reference to the dual enrolment of the member I expect someone would have asked about it later and queried why I had not informed the House of this.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington made mention of addresses of electors. My information is that no other State in Australia sends notices to other than the residential address. In Western Australia, as in other parts of Australia, we have small towns that do not have mail deliveries. From the inquiries I have made to date, anyone who lives in those towns goes to the post office to collect his mail, even those persons who do not regularly go to a post office do so to collect their pension and social service cheques. Therefore, it

appears that it is not an unreasonable basis on which to send out notices.

I repudiate the Hon. Robert Hetherington's suggestion that I was trying to muddy the water.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: I said you did.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I make the point that it was a factual statement of the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Hon. Robert Hetherington: Then he made the water muddy in that case, but you are responsible.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: The statement made by the Chief Electoral Office was factual. I have the reverse view of the Hon. Robert Hetherington: It seems to me to be a fair and proper thing to say to the House that a member, after having found out he was enrolled twice, informed the Electoral Office accordingly. I see no imputation or any muddying in that statement of fact. If we bear in mind the items (1) and (2) of the Chief Electoral Officer's report we have no question as to what were the facts. I do hope that statement will end the matter.

Ministerial Statements: Notice

THE HON. J. M. BERINSON (North-East Metropolitan) [11.20 p.m.]: I think the Chief Secretary's statement can be taken to have ended that particular matter but I would like to discuss one other matter arising from the events to which reference has been made already.

Earlier today the Chief Secretary requested leave to make a ministerial statement on electoral matters. On leave being granted, the Chief Secretary embarked on what might reasonably be described as a frolic of his own. It was a sort of personal explanation and a sort of claim to have been misrepresented. It bore very little relationship to a ministerial statement as that is generally understood. That, in my opinion, was an abuse of the privilege which the House had granted to the Chief Secretary, and having already made that point earlier, I need not elaborate.

The incident does raise for consideration a related matter which is the desirability of Ministers giving at least some reasonable notice to the Opposition of the actual statements they intend to make. That is an accepted practice in at least some other Parliaments and has at least two considerations to support it:

In the first place it avoids the need for the Opposition either to give a blank cheque to a ministerial request by granting leave, or secondly, to be obstructive by trying to deny it. Secondly, and more importantly, a practice of that sort would

give to the Opposition at least some reasonable opportunity for an early preliminary comment on the subject matter of the statement.

Putting aside the Chief Secretary's statement today, I give as an example a recent statement by the Attorney General on the proposed crimes commission. I do not say that statement came directly in response to an earlier suggestion I had put to him that such a statement should be made. The reason for making that statement is irrelevant for present purposes.

If at least a half-day's notice of the content of that statement had been given the Opposition would at least have been in a position to decide whether it wanted to make an early contribution on that subject and if so would have been given at least a minimum opportunity to prepare itself for that contribution.

I suppose it could be argued here as it is argued in other contexts that questions of confidentiality can conceivably arise—all sorts of things can conceivably arise. I have never known of a situation where even the most sensitive and confidential matters handed in confidence to a representative of the Opposition has led to that confidence being abused.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* does allow a ministerial statement, and debate on it on the adjournment as is happening now.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I am not really addressing myself to what Erskine May says is permitted. I am addressing myself to the possibility of a procedure being adopted as a matter of practice and not as a matter of Standing Orders.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: As long as you know it is permitted.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: Of course it is permitted because the adjournment permits discussion of practically anything.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: So does a ministerial statement.

The Hon. J. M. BERINSON: This does not cover the problem of adequate advice to the Opposition for the purpose of allowing members to prepare themselves for that sort of contribution.

I put this to the House as a serious suggestion towards an improvement of our procedures and the ability of the two sides of the House to engage in a decent and reasonable discussion on matters which both agree are important enough to justify that.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.24 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Rates: Koolyanobbing-Kwinana

658. The Hon. GARRY KELLY, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to *The Western Mail* of 16 October 1982, page 21, in relation to freight concessions to BHP for carrying iron ore from Koolyanobbing to Kwinana—

- (1) Is the iron ore concessional freight rate in the vicinity of \$6 per tonne?
- (2) If not, what is the rate?
- (3) Since re-railing the Kwinana-Koolyanobbing line began, and in each year, how much has been paid to BHP, or its subsidiaries, for—
 - (a) rail; and
 - (b) other steel from BHP in any form for this section of track?
- (4) How many kilometres of track have been completed?
- (5) How many kilometres of track remain to be completed?
- (6) When will the project be completed?
- (7) How many tonnes of iron ore is expected to be carried in the year ending 30 June 1983?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) and (2) Information on the freight rebate arrangement would involve Westrail's commercial interests and, therefore, cannot be made available.
- (3)

(a) Calendar Year	\$
1978	21.085m
1979	4.071m
1980	10.794m
1981	6.840m
1982	5.667m
(b) 1978	120 000 approx
1980	350 000 approx
1981	300 000 approx.
- (4) 495 kilometres.
- (5) 85 kilometres.
- (6) July 1983.
- (7) 450 000 tonnes.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Useless Loop

659. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has an agreement with the Shark Bay joint venture at Useless Loop and the State Government been finalised?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated to be completed?
- (3) Is the subject of school building facilities at the Useless Loop townsite part of the discussions?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) In the near future. Several matters are still outstanding.
- (3) The company has already indicated as part of the proposed agreement, a willingness to accept the costs of providing a new school building and facilities.

TOWN PLANNING: MRPA

Membership: "Declared Interest"

660. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Referring to the Minister's replies to question 515 of Tuesday, 28 September 1982, will the Minister advise—

- (1) The items which support the answer that Mr Wilkins has "declared an interest"?
- (2) Has Mr Wilkins, whilst Chairman of the MRPA, "declared any interest"?
- (3) Is there any recorded evidence to support a "declaration of interest"?
- (4) Has the Chairman, or any member of the MRPA or the Town Planning Board, declared any interest in relation to matters associated with Servetus Street?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) Mr Wilkins, as trustee and registered proprietor for a syndicate owning land at Gooseberry Hill declared his interest as a member of the Town Planning Board. The board was considering a rezoning application. The declaration of interest is recorded in the minutes.

- (2) Yes, as owner of residential property, previously where his mother lived in Havelock Street, West Perth, Mr Wilkins declared an interest in relation to the parliamentary precinct deliberations.

- (3) Yes, recorded in the minutes.

- (4) No.

On his appointment as Chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, Mr Wilkins retired from an active real estate practice, supplied the Minister with a list of properties in which he had an interest and has taken no further part in valuation practice or development on his own behalf or on behalf of any of his previous associates. I understand that Mr Wilkins would be prepared to supply the member direct with any additional information which he may require.

HEALTH: MENTAL HOSPITAL

Swanbourne: Death of Patient

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

- (1) Is it a fact that the body of a woman found in the Swan River at Peppermint Grove on 4 October 1982 was that of a patient from Swanbourne Hospital?
- (2) Is it also a fact that the woman concerned had been forced to transfer from one ward where she had been located for many years, to another ward, despite her pleas to be allowed to remain where she was?
- (3) Has Highgate ward been closed at Swanbourne Hospital, and six men with a history of violence been transferred to another ward which mainly houses women?
- (4) Have women in that ward been subjected to physical assault since the inmates of Highgate ward have been transferred there?
- (5) Are men and women toileted in the same ward at the same time?
- (6) If the answers to (1) to (5) are "Yes", will the Minister order an immediate inquiry into what is taking place at Swanbourne Hospital to ensure the protection of patients and respect for human dignity?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) No. The woman concerned was requested to move to an open ward following treatment for a physical condition.
- (3) Yes. Six men were transferred. One has since died, one is confined to bed, two have been discharged to nursing homes and two have caused no problems.
- (4) No.
- (5) No, except in an emergency when a commode has to be used. This would be done behind closed curtain screening.
- (6) No, but if the member has any questions concerning the changes which are occurring in Swanbourne Hospital, it is suggested she contact the Minister for Health and he will arrange for the superintendent of Swanbourne Hospital to discuss them with her.

RECREATION

Mt. Magnet

662. The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Education Department having discussions with the Mt. Magnet Shire Council with regard to a sporting complex?
- (2) If so, at what stage are these discussions?
- (3) When will discussions be concluded?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) to (3) The matter is at a very preliminary stage at present. Further discussions are to be held with a view to possible joint developments.

RAILWAYS: SLEEPERS

Concrete

663. The Hon. GARRY KELLY, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Referring to *The West Australian* of Thursday, 7 October 1982, Southern Supplement, page 15—

- (1) How many concrete sleepers will be purchased?
- (2) What percentage of the \$14.5 million does this represent?
- (3) In what location will they be used?
- (4) Will any additional men be employed in producing concrete sleepers?
- (5) If so, how many men, for how many months?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) 7 000.
- (2) 1.4 per cent.
- (3) Between Merredin and Koolyanobbing.
- (4) and (5) No. All sleepers have been supplied and are stockpiled.

RAILWAYS: CROSSINGS

Donnybrook

664. The Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to the Donnybrook town-site railway crossings, how many accidents between trains and motor vehicles have there been at—

- (a) Fleet Street;
- (b) Marmion Street;
- (c) Reserve Street;
- (d) Golf club crossing; and
- (e) Victoria Parade; in the last 20 years?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

The Main Roads Department's accident records for railway crossings only extend back to January 1977. From that time to December 1981, reported train/motor vehicle accidents at the rail crossings in question are listed below—

- (a) Fleet Street—nil;
- (b) Marmion Street—nil;
- (c) Reserve Street—two (1977 and 1978);
- (d) Golf club—nil;
- (e) Victoria Parade—no rail crossing, however, if the question refers to Victory Lane the answer is "Nil".

FLORA

Wildflowers

665. The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Agriculture.

Concerning permits to harvest wildflowers on Crown land—

- (1) Are they available?
- (2) How are they applied for?
- (3) How many permits have been issued?
- (4) What are the general terms and conditions of such permits?
- (5) Who polices the harvesting operations?

- (6) Have any permits at any time been withdrawn?
- (7) If "Yes" to (6)—
 - (a) how many; and
 - (b) for what reasons?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) By application in accordance with wildlife conservation regulation 56E.
- (3) Since November 1981 there have been 514 commercial purposes licences issued.
The commercial industry consists mainly of an itinerant work force of pickers employed seasonally or part time. It has been estimated that at any one time about 200 commercial pickers operate in the peak season and about 120 in the off season.
- (4) A copy of the licence with conditions endorsed on the back is tabled herewith.
- (5) Wildlife officers.
- (6) I am not aware of any licences being withdrawn.
- (7) (a) and (b) See (6).

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 507).

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Consultants

666. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Referring to the *Daily News* of Friday, 22 October 1982, page 12, will the Premier advise—

- (1) How much, in each of the last three years, has been spent by the Government, its associated bodies and statutory authorities, on private consultants?
- (2) What departments and the associated amounts are involved?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) The information requested by the member is being collated and a considered reply will be provided in due course.

FUEL AND ENERGY: SEC

Contingent Liabilities

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

Referring to question 605 of Wednesday, 20 October 1982, will the Minister advise—

- (1) Is it a fact that only about one-third of the yearly gas purchased by the SEC would replace all the industrial diesel fuel and fuel oil used on land in Western Australia in any one year?
- (2) If not, what precisely is the proportion?
- (3) What arrangements have been made with West Australian Natural Gas Pty. Ltd.—
 - (a) to relinquish its field; and
 - (b) what amounts of compensation are involved, if any?
- (4) In "the provision for gas not taken in any year"—
 - (a) what are the payments incurred in that year;
 - (b) what are the payments incurred in future years; and
 - (c) what rate of interest is to be paid on deferred payments?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) to (4) As the Minister for Fuel and Energy has already indicated to the member, it would simplify the task of interpreting and answering his request if the full purport of the questions was clearer.

Relative to question 667, some two-thirds of the contractual quantities involved would be required to replace liquid fuels for non-transport purposes, and the Minister has already indicated the commercial confidentiality of the contractual arrangements.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Term Dates, 1983

668. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the dates of terms for Government schools for 1983?

- (2) Do these vary in different parts of the State?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) Government Schools—
First Term—7 February-13 May
Second Term—30 May-26 August
Third Term—12 September-14 December.
- (2) No. All Government schools in Western Australia have the same term dates.

GRAIN

Freight Rates

669. The Hon. FRED MCKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to question 563 of Wednesday, 13 October 1982, will the Minister advise—

- (1) What was the revenue to Westrail for grain to the year ended 30 June 1982?
- (2) What was the tonnage hauled in that year?
- (3) What is the expected tonnage to be hauled to June 1983?
- (4) Since the grain rates are said to be increased by 13.9 per cent, can correlation be advised as to the true overall total revenue to Westrail in terms of percentage increase?
- (5) What are the tonnages hauled, or expected to be hauled, and their matching yearly revenues for each of the four years to 30 June 1983?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) \$46.05 million.
- (2) 3.64 million tonnes.
- (3) 4 million tonnes.
- (4) The total revenue and the average rate per tonne for the financial years cannot be directly related to the rate increase due to the fact that—
 - (i) the total tonnes hauled are not common;
 - (ii) the increase applies to only 8 months of the financial year; and
 - (iii) the distribution of grain varies from season to season.

(5)

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Tonnes	3.53m	2.53m	3.64m	4.0m
Revenue	\$37.25m	\$27.68m	\$46.05m	\$57.2m (Estimate)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1983

670. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

What are the gazetted holidays for 1983?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

The following are public and bank holidays for 1983, in accordance with the second schedule of the Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972-1976—

New Year's Day	Sat, 1 January Mon, 3 January*
Australia Day	Mon, 31 January
Labor Day	Mon, 7 March
Good Friday	Fri, 1 April
Easter Monday	Mon, 4 April
Anzac Day	Mon, 25 April
Foundation Day	Mon, 6 June
Celebration Day for Anniversary of Birthday of Reigning Sovereign	Mon, 3 October**
Christmas Day	Sun, 25 December Mon, 26 December*
Boxing Day	Mon, 26 December Tues, 27 December***

* When New Year's Day, Anzac Day or Christmas Day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the next following Monday is also a public holiday and bank holiday.

** In lieu of Monday, 10 October (the second Monday in October) Changed by proclamation published on page 4059 of *Government Gazette* dated 15 October 1982, pursuant to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of section 8 of the Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972-1976.

*** When Boxing Day falls on a Sunday or Monday, the next following Tuesday is also a public holiday and bank holiday.

The details of public and bank holidays are not published in the *Government Gazette* other than as required by section 8(2) of the Act—as they are stipulated by and printed in the second schedule to the Act.

RAILWAYS: FREMANTLE-PERTH

Assessment

671. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Referring to the Premier's statement reported in *The West Australian* of Wednesday, 20 October 1982, page 4, in relation to the Perth-Fremantle railway, will the Premier advise—

In view of the fact that more rail cars are available and less rail passengers are carried than 10 years ago—

- (a) is the figure of \$2 million correct, or is the figure of \$0.62 million correct;
- (b) can the method of assessment of the \$2 million be tabled; and
- (c) do similar methods of assessment apply to the remainder of the suburban rail system as a basis for charging costs to the Metropolitan Transport Trust?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (a) and (b) For 1981-82 the suburban rail operating costs are estimated to be \$2.14 million less than would have been the case had the Fremantle line continued to operate.

In addition, for the Fremantle services to have continued it was considered essential that 10 new railcars would have had to be purchased, in addition to those which were actually purchased for the other two lines. The annual cost of servicing the capital for these additional railcars would have been \$1.2 million. This amount has therefore also been saved.

Against these savings, there was additional expenditure on bus operations to provide the "linc-line". The total cost of operating the "linc-line" services, including the leasing charges of the buses, was estimated at \$1.33 million for 1981-82.

The estimated net saving for 1981-82 from not operating suburban rail services between Perth and Fremantle is therefore \$2.14 million plus \$1.2 million, less \$1.33 million; that is, \$2.01 million, which was rounded to \$2 million in the Press report.

- (c) The figure of \$2.14 million is the difference between the amount which Westrail has requested from MTT for the operation of the present system in 1981-82 and the amount which Westrail estimates it would have requested, on a similar basis, for the operation of all three lines.

EDUCATION: NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Term Dates, 1983

672. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

What are the dates of the terms for independent schools for 1983?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

*Catholic Schools**

First term	8 February—12 May
Second term	31 May—25 August
Third term	13 September—15 December.

*Other Schools**

First term	8 February—12 May
Second term	31 May—25 August
Third term	13 September—7 December

*May vary from institution to institution.

TRANSPORT

Passengers: Subsidies

673. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to question 609 of Wednesday, 20 October 1982—

- (1) Will the Minister make a public elaboration on his statement "that the Government was already subsidising the public transport system by more than 50 per cent"?
- (2) Will the Minister correct the figure in the answer from 127 per cent to 227 per cent?
- (3) In the general areas of North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and in relation to city-suburban travel, can the Minister advise—

- (a) what bus systems spend \$2.84 or more, to get \$1 of revenue; and
 - (b) what rail systems spend \$6.71 or more, to get \$1 of revenue?
- (4) Will the Minister table the methods of assessment used to obtain a figure of \$6.71?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) and (2) Such an elaboration has already been given in answer to question 609. The subsidy of \$56.7 million estimated for the year ended June 1983 is 2.27 times the estimated fare revenue of \$24.9 million. That is, the subsidy will be \$31.8 million higher, or 127 per cent higher, than the fare revenue.

- (3) (a) and (b) Recent figures are not available on which to answer the question as put. However, figures produced for the Commonwealth Grants Commission show that expenditure per dollar revenue in 1980-81 was higher for metropolitan buses in South Australia and Tasmania than in Western Australia. It was also shown that the cost per bus-kilometre is lower in Perth than for Government buses in other Australian capital cities.

For rail, the expenditure per dollar of revenue in 1980-81 was lower in all other Australian capital cities having rail systems than in Perth. This is a reflection of Perth's low density and the correspondingly limited patronage available.

Results of an international survey published in 1981 for bus and rail services showed that the expenditure per dollar revenue was greater in Perth than for the international average.

- (4) The figure of \$6.71 expenditure per dollar of revenue was obtained by dividing estimated expenditure on suburban rail for 1982-83 of \$18.8 million by the corresponding estimated revenue from fares of \$2.8 million.

RAILWAYS: SLEEPERS

Secondhand

674. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any second-hand or used sleepers been purchased by Westrail?

- (2) How many, and for what total price?
- (3) How old were the sleepers?
- (4) Of what type of material were they made?
- (5) What tonnes had been carried on the sleepers?
- (6) What life remains in the sleepers?
- (7) In what sections of track will they be used?
- (8) From whom were they purchased?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 77 000—\$320 000 including attached sleeper plates and lockspikes.
- (3) Average age approximately 5 years.
- (4) Preserved heavy duty timber.
- (5) Approximately 200 million tonnes.
- (6) Approximately 20 years.
- (7) Kwinana-Mundijong-Picton Railway.
- (8) Hamersely Iron Pty. Ltd.

RAILWAYS: ARMADALE-PERTH AND MIDLAND-PERTH

"Light Rail Bus Vehicles"

675. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to *The West Australian* of Wednesday, 20 October 1982, page 4, and relating to statements indicating that the feasibility of "light rail bus vehicles" for the Armadale and Midland lines was being examined—

- (1) Have any Westrail staff proceeded overseas to examine these vehicles?
- (2) If they have departed, or are about to depart—
 - (a) what are the terms of reference; and
 - (b) what are the considerations specifically excluded from their terms of reference?
- (3) To what places will they travel?
- (4) What firms are involved, and have they been informed?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Prior to departure of the Westrail officers involved detailed consideration was given to the information

which should be sought overseas and the people concerned were thoroughly briefed.

In general terms the officers are to consult with overseas light rail vehicle operators and suppliers of equipment with a view to obtaining detailed operational and technical criteria of light rail vehicle systems in use or under development; also, to obtain associated details of capital, operating and maintenance costs.

- (b) Technical details of electric light rail vehicles.
- (3) United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Canada and USA.
- (4) The firms involved have been informed and they are—

UK—

British Rail
Tyne and Wear System
Leyland Bus Plant

Ireland—

Irish Railways

Germany—

Duewag
Link-Hoffmann—Bush
Verkehrsverbund—Hamburg
Stadtinerke—Karlsruhe
Stadtinerke—Munich

USA—

San Diego Metro Transit Board
Vertol—Boeing
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority—Boston

Canada—

Edmonton Transit—UMA Group
Calgary Transit—Deloon Consultants
B C Transit—Vancouver.

RAILWAYS: RAIL CARS

Maintenance

676. The Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to question 563 of Wednesday, 13 October 1982, will the Minister advise—

In each of the years from 30 June 1974 to 30 June 1982 inclusive what amount has been spent on the maintenance of suburban passenger rolling stock in respect of—

- (a) direct labour;
(b) material; and
(c) overhead expenses?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

	(a) Direct Labour	(b) Direct Materials	(c) Overheads and other
1974-75	1 375 000	386 000	1 886 000
1975-76	1 435 000	391 000	1 941 000
1976-77	931 000	380 000	1 646 000
1977-78	986 000	753 000	1 680 000
1978-79	957 000	867 000	1 604 000
1979-80	1 024 000	898 000	1 723 000
1980-81	1 500 000	1 140 000	2 867 000
1981-82	1 415 000	1 205 000	2 847 000

TOWN PLANNING: MRPA

South-east Corridor

677. The Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Chief Secretary representing the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

In regard to the Ministers answer to question 656 of Tuesday 2 November, 1982

- (1) How many submissions were received by the MRPA on the South-East Corridor Stage B Report?
- (2) Has an analysis of these public submissions been made?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes"—
- (a) when was this analysis completed;
- (b) when was it first presented to the authority; and
- (c) when is it likely to be considered?
- (4) In relation to the Ministers answer to (3) (a)—
- (a) in regard to what specific authorities or individuals is difficulty being experienced on—
- (i) road structures;
- (ii) staging of sewerage and drainage;
- (iii) protection of the escarpment; and
- (b) what are the specific difficulties being experienced in regard to—
- (i) road structure;

- (ii) staging of sewerage and drainage; and
- (iii) protection of the escarpment?

The Hon. R. G. PIKE replied:

- (1) 30.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) April 1982;
- (b) the analysis was placed before group "C" district planning committee in May 1982; the committee forwarded its comments and recommendations to the authority in July, 1982;
- (c) December 1982 or January 1983.
- (4) (a) (i) to (iii) Although the report on the submissions is nearing completion, there are many other factors which require detailed consideration. Various aspects of the stage "B" report, such as road structures, staging of sewerage and drainage, and protection of the escarpment require further study before proposals are put forward as statutory amendments. It is unlikely that a single final report will be published; however, each major amendment proposed will be supported by an updated report.
In the interests of the public, it is not the practice of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority to divulge specific proposals possibly affecting individuals' land unless these are firm proposals incorporated in a statutory amendment which conveys rights of submission, appeal or compensation.

- (b) (i) The main issues are the ultimate location of the South-West Highway, the alignment of the stage "B" highway to the west of the proposed corridor, links with stage "A", in particular to Armadale subregional centre, and detailed definition of all routes in the proposed regional road structure.
- (ii) The sewerage and drainage systems of stage "B" will be wholly new. No firm proposals for collection and disposal of sewage and stormwater have been made. Much planning and design work needs to be done in future years. Possibilities for temporary works are under study in relation to rezoning proposals put forward by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale in the Byford area.
- (iii) The authority's proposals for parks and recreation reservation protecting the escarpment are under review as a result of the disallowance of amendment No. 328/33. The authority is also investigating proposals for the Darling Escarpment as a whole as well as alternative methods of land management and methods of securing long-term supplies of basic raw materials.