

The reinstatement of some if not of all developmental concessions that have recently been removed from the farming community would give a great boost to the rural areas. The rural contracting firms would be able to employ more men and, therefore, we would not see the decline in production which, I believe, could well eventuate. This decline in production will, I venture to say, be very, very rapidly reflected in the city.

The people in the country towns and those on the land cannot meet the spiralling costs and production will consequently decline, and of course, the shortage of supply will force costs up and we will all be called upon to pay appreciably more for necessities.

I ask members today to be appreciative of all our problems and those that confront the other country areas. If we do not progress with a sensible, planned, scheme of decentralisation then we might well find ourselves in the situation of the lone Elijah, and here I will borrow from Holy Writ: Elijah, seated beneath the Juniper Tree was asked, "What doest thou here?" He replied, "I even, I only am left, and they seek my life to take it away."

MR COWAN (Merredin-Yilgarn) [3.55 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [3.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m., on Tuesday, the 30th July.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.57 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 30th July, 1974

The **PRESIDENT** (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

1. POLICE

Securities and Exchange Committee Report

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Western Australian Police Fraud Squad investigate Western Australian stockbrokers and companies named in the

report released by the Senate Select Committee on Securities and Exchange?

- (2) Will any investigation be subject to a Government decision?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) To date the report has not been brought to the notice of the Western Australian Police Force. No decision will be made as to possible investigations until a complete appraisal has been made.
- (2) No.

2.

PENSIONERS

North-West Air Transport

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Health:

With reference to the pre-election promise given by the Premier, Sir Charles Court, to provide one return air fare per year to Perth for persons living north of the 26° Parallel who receive any type of pension, as reported in *The West Australian* newspaper on Thursday, the 21st March, 1974, will he advise—

- (1) The number of persons resident in Western Australia north of the 26° Parallel who receive pensions of any kind?
- (2) The estimated number of persons who would use the scheme each year?
- (3) The estimated annual cost of the scheme?
- (4) Has the scheme been implemented?
- (5) If the reply to (4) is "No" when is it intended to commence the scheme?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) to (5) The questions are based on a wrong premise.

The Hon. Member will find that subsequent reports to the one he quoted clarified the correct position of the proposed pensioner travel for those living north of the 26th Parallel.

I invite his attention to the following extract from the nine-page Liberal Party policy statement released by the Premier (then Leader of the Opposition) March 20th, 1974, on North West policy, as a supplement to the main policy speech—

"Pensioner Travel. We will grant eligible pensioners one free return trip from the North to the metropolitan area by appropriate means of transport once a year".

It was not, at any stage, claimed to be for "any type of pensions", nor need travel be related solely to air travel, as many elderly pensioners do not necessarily like to fly.

It was aimed at those pensioners disadvantaged, compared with their counterparts in the south of the State.

The form of the scheme and qualifications for eligibility will be announced either during the State Budget, or when the study of all pensioner State travel and other concessions promised during the election, is complete, and decisions made on recommendations.

3. HEALTH

Septic Systems: Cleaning Contracts

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is the Minister aware that due to the State Housing Commission letting contracts for the cleaning of septic systems to contractors not licensed by the local authority for the particular area, that a serious health hazard has existed for occupants of State Housing Commission homes who have been unable to use their toilets for periods of up to two weeks?

(2) If so—

(a) does this situation still prevail;

(b) will the Minister take the necessary action to ensure that no further delays or inconvenience shall continue to be caused by this anomaly?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) Yes. However the Health Model Bylaws do not require the licensing of a contractor, but preclude a contractor operating in a particular local authority district, unless approval in writing is first obtained from that local authority. Although most local authorities have approved the contractors engaged by the State Housing Commission, some preclude all operators other than those contracted to their council. In this situation the SHC contractor must sub-contract to the approved company and delays in providing a service have occasionally occurred.

(2) (a) No.

(b) Action has already been taken to prevent such potential health hazards occurring.

Officers of the Public Health Department in co-operation with local authority health officers constantly supervise all matters related to collecting and disposing of the contents of domestic disposal systems, and where delays in providing a service have occurred action is taken to expedite the service.

4.

TRAFFIC

Driving Tests: Migrants

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Health:

(1) In order to facilitate the granting of a driver's licence to mechanically proficient migrants, would the Minister give sympathetic consideration to those people who are required to submit to a written test to be given that test in their mother tongue?

(2) Would the Minister consider waiving any form of written test where the applicant for a driver's licence can prove his driving capabilities over the preceding five years?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) Yes; providing the present oral test to establish the minimum English required for traffic safety is retained.

(2) No; the only circumstance where a written test is waived is where a language difficulty exists.

5.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Mr Martin: Appointment

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice:

(1) Did the Government consult with the Trades and Labor Council of Western Australia, or the Employers' Federation before appointing Mr G. J. Martin, a former employee of the Employers' Federation, to the position of a Commissioner of the Industrial Commission?

(2) Will Mr Martin's duties at the Commission be confined to apprenticeship matters exclusively?

(3) Does the Government favour the establishment of a single apprenticeship authority outside the control of the Industrial Commission?

(4) Have either the Trades and Labor Council or the Employers' Federation, or both organisations, expressed to the Government support for a single authority?

- (5) Has Mr Martin in his former role as Deputy Director of the Employers' Federation expressed opposition to the establishment of a single authority?
- (6) Has the Director of Technical Education expressed his views on this matter?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The future method of control of apprenticeship is currently before the Western Australian Apprenticeship Advisory Council.
- (4) The Trades and Labor Council has expressed support for a single apprenticeship authority. The Employers' Federation does not see the need for a single apprenticeship authority at this stage. Both organisations are desirous of updating the Apprenticeship Regulations and action is in hand to obtain the view of the parties for discussion on the amendments.
- (5) When Mr Martin attended the Apprenticeship Council as the deputy of a member, he took the same view as the other employer member of the Council mentioned in (4) above.
- (6) The Director of Technical Education has not, to my knowledge, expressed his considered views.

6. MARGARINE

Restrictions on Production

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice:

Does the Government intend to lift restrictions on the production and sale of margarine?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

Controls over the production and sale of margarine are a matter for consideration by the Australian Agricultural Council.

The Government is not considering unilateral action on this matter at the present time.

7. HOUSING

Pensioners: Lower North Province

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Justice:

Does the State Housing Commission or any other Government department intend constructing accommodation for pensioners during the current financial year at any of the following centres—

- (a) Mt. Magnet;
- (b) Yalgoo;
- (c) Cue;

- (d) Meekatharra;
- (e) Wiluna;
- (f) Leonora;
- (g) Carnarvon;
- (h) Denham?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

Subject to the availability of funds it is the intention of the State Housing Commission to erect six (6) units at Meekatharra, under the Aboriginal Housing Scheme. Six (6) units are programmed at Carnarvon under other schemes. As there is relatively insufficient demand it is not intended at this time to programme units in the other centres.

8.

POLICE STATION

Warburton Range Area

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the population of the Warburton Range area for—
- (a) Aborigines;
- (b) Europeans;
- (c) tourists visiting the area annually?
- (2) Where is the nearest police station to this area?
- (3) How often is the area visited by Police Officers?
- (4) Are the Public Health Department and the Department of Community Welfare in favour of the establishment of a police station in this area?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) (a) Approximately 400; at times increasing to 700.
- (b) 20.
- (c) Not known.
- (2) Laverton.
- (3) Fortnightly.
- (4) Yes. Providing the Council of Elders at Warburton are in agreement, and funds are forthcoming.

9.

DEATH DUTIES

Revenue

The Hon. T. O. PERRY, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How much revenue was collected in Western Australia from death duties in each of the financial years ended the 30th June, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973?
- (2) What was the cost of collection in each of those financial years?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

	\$
(1) 1968-69	6 364 180
1969-70	9 499 064
1970-71	8 469 741
1971-72	7 751 816
1972-73	7 656 340

- (2) 1968-69 and 1969-70—Not available. The State Taxation Department commenced operation on 1st July, 1970.

1970-71—1.9 cents in the \$.

1971-72—2.4 cents in the \$.

1972-73—2.7 cents in the \$.

The foregoing are total costs of collection, which include not only the direct costs of operating the Probate Duties Division but expenditure on administrative services provided by the Department and cost of valuations carried out by the Valuations Division for death duty purposes.

10. COMMUNITY WELFARE

Assistance to Disadvantaged Persons

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

In view of the increased cost of living and continuing inflation, will the Government make an immediate increase to the disadvantaged recipients of Community Welfare assistance, namely wards, foster parents, group homes, institutions and missions, to restore their purchasing power to the level granted by the Tonkin Government in 1973?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

As the Hon. Member would know, the Government will shortly be presenting a Budget and these matters will be dealt with at that time.

11. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Freeways

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) During the period the 1st January, 1974, to the 30th June, 1974, how many traffic accidents have occurred on—

- (a) Kwinana Freeway;
- (b) Narrows Bridge;
- (c) Narrows Interchange;
- (d) Mitchell Freeway; and
- (e) Hamilton Interchange?

- (2) (a) How many vehicles were involved in each accident;
- (b) what was the total number of persons injured; and
- (c) what periods of time show the highest accident rate?

- (3) What factors are considered to be the main causes of traffic accidents on the freeway system?

- (4) (a) Are any changes in traffic regulations being considered in the light of accident statistics; and
- (b) If so, what are the recommendations?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) (a) 41
- (b) 33
- (c) 11
- (d) 9
- (e) 10

- (2) (a)

Vehicles Involved	Accidents
1	20
2	72
3	6
4	5
5	1

- (b) Records of total number of injured persons are not available. However, 14 of the accidents involved injured persons.

- (c) The period 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. showed by far the highest accident rate for any two hour period, recording 35% of the total number.

The 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. period was the lowest two hours at 6%, while the period 12 mid-night to 7 a.m. gave 10%. Other periods were reasonably uniform.

- (3) 12 separate causes were reported for these accidents, over half of which were rear end collisions caused by driving in a manner unsuited to prevailing conditions. The next highest reported cause was incorrect changing of lanes.

- (4) (a) Traffic Regulations are under constant review in the light of traffic management and accident statistics.

- (b) No amendments are proposed at present.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved:

That the Hon. J. Heitman be elected as Chairman of Committees.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Appointment of Trustees

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved:

That pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act, 1970-71, the Legislative Council hereby appoints the President (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) and the Hon. V. J. Ferry, to be Trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House granted to the Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs (South-East) on the ground of private business overseas.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 25th July, on the following motion by the Hon. J. C. Tozer—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

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

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.05 p.m.]: Mr President, I have already congratulated you on your election to the presidency of this Chamber, so I will not dwell on that point. However, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Neil McNeill who is now the Leader of the House and the Minister for Justice. I also congratulate the Hon. Norman Baxter and the Hon. Graham MacKinnon. In one respect Mr MacKinnon is fortunate because he has had previous ministerial experience.

In the short period of time since the announcement of the new ministry the two new Ministers will have probably learnt how to work 18 hours a day for seven days a week. If they have not done so, they will certainly know by the end of the session that a Minister of the Crown must put in very long hours to do his job efficiently. Of course, it is the job of the Opposition to see that the Ministers do their jobs as efficiently as possible. The drive and capacity of a Minister is reflected in the efficiency of his department.

I wish all the Ministers well, although I am not saying I will agree with them at all times.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You disappoint me.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Ministers will be very disappointed if they think I will be in total agreement with them. However, in a short period of time they will hear my objections to some of the actions already taken by the Government.

I would like to welcome all the new members to this Chamber. I am sure they will get satisfaction from their work as

members of this House and as the representatives of their provinces. New members will discover that the easiest part of politics is their election; the hardest part is to carry out their work efficiently and to satisfy their constituents.

I welcome particularly the new lady members—the Hon. Grace Vaughan and the Hon. Margaret McAleer. It is good to see more women in the House. The Hon. Lyla Elliott must be pleased to know that she is no longer the only lady member in this Chamber—at times she must have felt rather lonely. To the lady members I say: sometimes we will treat them as ladies, and at other times we will treat them as members, because we are all equal in this Chamber.

I was rather intrigued with a question foreshadowed this afternoon by the Hon. Clive Griffiths. He proposes to ask the Minister for Justice whether the present Government will continue the policy of the Tonkin Government or revert to the policy of the Brand Government in regard to advising the representatives of the various electorates and provinces of ministerial visits to their areas. I suggest that before replying the Minister for Justice should confer with members of the Brand Cabinet because in the 12 years of the Liberal-Country Party Government I was advised of a ministerial visit on one occasion only. This was a visit made to my area by the Hon. Edgar Lewis, the then Minister for Education.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Probably he was the only Minister to visit your province.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, my province was visited frequently. I say this in defence of the Ministers of the Tonkin Government, and I speak for myself too; we never visited a province without informing its representatives of our intention. Sometimes the local member was invited to a particular function, or he was advised of the Minister's itinerary on a particular trip. I advised my secretary to inform local members before I visited a particular area, and I trust that my instructions were carried out faithfully. If this system was not followed on every occasion, it would have been a matter of a human error and not an intentional action.

Mr President, the motion moved by the Hon. J. C. Tozer is a traditional one at the opening of every Parliament. At this stage I make it clear that I support the motion; although I may change my mind by the time all the speeches to it have been made. I have some reservations about the speech made by the honourable member, but I will refer to those at a later stage.

I wish to refer also to the Address to Parliament which His Excellency the Governor delivered on behalf of the

Government of Western Australia, and I shall comment briefly on the Governor's Speech. As is usual, the Governor made a few personal remarks, but in general, his Speech was compiled by the Premier and his Cabinet. In 15 paragraphs of the preamble, before dealing with the new Government's legislative programme, we find the Governor's Speech was used to castigate, to criticise, and to cajole the Federal Government. This is the first time in the history of Western Australia the Governor's Speech has been used in such a manner.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Of course, we have never had such a bad Government.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: That is a matter of opinion.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is a disgrace that the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers allowed this Speech to be read. I hope it is the first and last time that such action is taken. I hope the Governor takes note of my remarks and puts a red pencil through similar comments in the future. This is virtually a Liberal Party manifesto. It shows the Government's inherent hatred of the Commonwealth Government. Sir Charles Court's hatred of the Australian Government will do Western Australia much harm.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You are the one who is talking about hate, you know.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is doing Western Australia no good.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Nor is the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Commonwealth Government has been re-elected as a Government since the 30th March. It is the Government which has been democratically elected by the people.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Get your facts right; the Commonwealth Government was not elected on the 30th March.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I said it has been re-elected since the 30th March, when the present State Liberal Government was elected. I feel the Commonwealth Government has its policies to pursue and, generally, it is experiencing the same sort of trouble that is being experienced by the Governments in the major countries of the world; those which have a standard of living comparable to that enjoyed by us in Australia. This is the result of inflation which has hit all the countries in the world.

It is unparalleled for a Premier to present such a speech to His Excellency the Governor to be read out publicly. I feel sorry for the Governor and I regret he was placed in such a position.

The broad outline of the legislative programme deals with 11 Bills; although we find 15 paragraphs were devoted to the abuse of the Commonwealth Government

or to its shortcomings. Of course, when one looks at the election propaganda of Sir Charles Court one finds he was the person who was going to stand up to the Commonwealth Government. He was the knight in shining armour who would slay everything before him. He would put things right. But what has he put right? I am waiting to hear that the State Government has made one constructive step since becoming the Government on the 30th March.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Allowances for isolated children's hostels; that is one.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am pleased the honourable member has got one; and I am hoping to hear that members opposite will start moving as a team. I am sure that even members of the Government must have been sadly disappointed when they saw in the Governor's Speech the 11 proposed Bills enumerated for presentation to the Parliament in the present session.

Of course, I am not saying that other Bills will not be forthcoming. It would be foolish to predict what Bills will come forward; but the programme outlined in the Governor's Speech is the most empty and hollow programme I have ever witnessed at the opening of Parliament in the past 16 sessions.

Let us consider the Liberal Party policy speech. It was printed in book form, and when one looks at the cover of the booklet one reads that it is the Liberal Party policy for 1974 to 1977. Of course, the Premier has already started to make some denials; and now he is saying that it will take longer to implement his policies. Yet the booklet states that these are the policies for 1974 to 1977. As time goes on we will deal with many of the policies which were enunciated by the Liberal Party in an effort to win the government benches.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: We were swept into government.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Mr Griffiths may put his own interpretation on that; unfortunately I have not in front of me the exact voting percentages. At present I can honestly say that I do not know by how many votes I won.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It was not many.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, it was not many; it was a little over or under 16 000!

The Hon. N. McNeill: The result was a bit more conclusive than the result in the Commonwealth sphere, wasn't it?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: When one refers to the booklet of the Liberal Party policy one finds that it reads a little like *Mein Kampf*—an infamous book written by

a megalomaniac some years ago. I feel that Sir Charles Court should reassess his policies right now so that Western Australia will know where it is going.

The Labor Party costed the policy programme it put before the people; we knew where we were going, we knew what we could finance, and we knew what the people wanted. However, our policy was rejected in favour of words, words, words, and a policy which is impractical to put into operation.

However, what do we find now—and I refer not only to the Governor's Speech, but to every occasion on which Sir Charles Court appears on television or is reported in the media? We find that he is making an incessant attack on the Commonwealth Government. Why is he making this incessant attack on that Government?

The Hon. N. McNeill: Haven't you found the reason?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is because he put forward a programme which was out of all proportion to that which could be financed either by the Government of Western Australia or by any other State Government; and now he finds he will be some \$47 million in the red, and he cannot finance his programme. It would cost hundreds of millions of dollars to finance the whole of the Liberal Party programme.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Whose fault is that?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The only fault that can be found lies with the author of the programme who would not listen, who would not be told, and who could not be told. Probably it is unfair of me to try to blame members of his Cabinet, because I feel sure they had very little to do with the compilation of this document.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: That is incorrect; the Liberal Party compiled it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Even when he delivered his policy speech Sir Charles Court did not say that members of his party had assisted in its preparation. He said the programme had been released after much investigation by panels of experts; but as far as I am concerned the Liberal Party has no experts within its ranks.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Who told you that?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Therefore the programme could hardly have been released after much investigation by a panel of experts. So it is quite obvious that right from the start this was an inflationary and impracticable programme. I think it is about time Sir Charles Court stopped squealing about the Commonwealth and started to reassess his own capacity to govern in the interests of Western Australians. The media are sick

and tired of him; the people of Western Australia are sick and tired of his squealing; and it is about time something was done to put things right. The first person who should put things right is Sir Charles, and he should put himself right.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You are critical of him because he expressed his intention to stand up to the Commonwealth.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am critical of him because he made such extravagant promises to the people of Western Australia—to the voters of Western Australia—promises which he cannot now finance and, accordingly, he wants the Commonwealth to finance them. Yet it was he who made the promises, not the Commonwealth. The Labor Party could have made extravagant promises, but we are a responsible party and we acted responsibly inasmuch as everything we promised was possible of implementation within a three-year period.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You were responsible for being the first State Government since goodness knows when to be tossed out after only three years. That is how responsible you were.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I cannot deny that. Why were we tossed out?

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Because the people had had you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Let us consider that issue. Can the honourable member point to a single item of any importance in the policy speech of his party in which the Tonkin Labor Government was attacked for its shortcomings? In its propaganda in the Press the Liberal Party attacked the Commonwealth Government because it took some stringent action, with all of which I do not agree. I think it would be foolish to say that every member of my party agrees with every policy of the party. We do not always agree with every policy, and I hope the day will never come when members of parties will be tied to all the philosophies of their respective parties. However, the attack made in the Liberal Party propaganda was made against the Federal Government and not against the Tonkin Government, simply because members opposite could find no real issue upon which to attack the Tonkin Government for its shortcomings.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Because it didn't do anything.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Its shortcomings in standing up to the Commonwealth in the interests of Western Australia.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Now we hear an interjection and, unintelligent as it may be, I think it is worthy of an answer. I recall reading in the Press only last week an article which reported that Sir

Charles Court was castigating the Commonwealth Government for being favourably disposed to the State Labor Government when it was in office, and he said that he was not getting the same treatment. If the previous State Government could talk to the Australian Government and obtain benefits for Western Australia, would it not be better for Sir Charles Court to start talking to the Commonwealth instead of blaspheming in respect of every action it takes?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: When did you ever hear Sir Charles blaspheme? Be specific.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I will tell the Minister privately.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You just have not heard him blaspheme publicly. We are talking about his public utterances, and he just does not blaspheme.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I mean with respect to his statements against the Commonwealth Government; it is a matter of definition.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We use one definition, and that is the one in the *Oxford Dictionary*. Sir Charles does not blaspheme.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Perhaps we had better find a dictionary and ascertain what "blaspheme" means.

Certainly I have made the point that I consider the policies of the Liberal Party were of its members' own making, and the State Government must take full responsibility for financing them and putting them into operation. I repeat: Sir Charles Court made the promises, not the Australian Government.

Enough of the policy speech of the Premier. Let us turn now to the speech delivered by Mr Tozer who outlined some of the difficulties being experienced by residents in the north of the State. Of course, those of us who have been to the north of Western Australia have realised and appreciated for years the difficulties and harsh conditions under which the residents up there live, and the disabilities they encounter every day of the year.

Certain statements in Mr Tozer's speech amazed me. For instance, he referred to the cost of goods and services in the north and he said that too many decisions are being made in St. George's Terrace. I understand that he was Administrator of the North-West and therefore these statements are surely an indictment of the department over which he had control and which was established by the then Minister for the North-West (Sir Charles Court) to do all the things that Mr Tozer now claims have not been done.

Did the administrator or his staff make recommendations to the Government during the 10 years the department was under the control of the now Premier? If recommendations were made, what was the hold-up; or were recommendations never made?

I presume the Minister would have hand-picked the men for that department to ensure he got the best available. This was certainly the case in regard to Mr McGuigan and then Mr Tozer. Their task was to work on behalf of the people in the north-west and the department was designed to do something of a constructive nature. However, we now hear a complaint concerning the situation.

Has the taxpayers' money been going down the drain? Is the department worthy of support? Now we find a new programme extolled by the Premier and Mr Tozer. Both men have said that on-the-spot decisions will be made in the various offices to be set up. This was part of the policy speech and involved decentralisation. It was stated that adequate and efficient staff would be appointed in those areas of the State deserving of such a service.

However, already a bit of back-tracking has been done because it has been stated that it is difficult to find the personnel with the knowledge to establish these offices, and that one may be established by Christmas. This indicates to me that a good research programme was not undertaken before the promise was made, because if such a programme had been undertaken the Premier would have ascertained then that insufficient numbers of officers of the necessary calibre were available for such information and decision-making centres.

Of course, I feel the whole question is possibly another sham. In view of Mr Tozer's speech, this applies also to the establishment of the position of Administrator of the North-West. I do not want to be critical of Mr Tozer personally, but I was surprised to hear him make what I regarded as some amazing statements.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Can you tell me when Sir Charles made the back-tracking statement?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. It was stated in the Press last week that there was likely to be only one information office established before Christmas because difficulty was being experienced in obtaining capable personnel to man such offices.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: He said that before the election.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I read it in the Press again last week.

When I first referred to Mr Tozer's speech I said we are aware of the disabilities experienced by the people living in the north-west. I know that when I first became the Minister for Community Welfare one of my initial actions was to meet the Minister for Social Security (Mr Hayden) at a conference at which I raised the matter of pensioners living in the north-west. I pointed out that the cost of living in that area was 30 to 40 per cent dearer than it was in the southern sector of the State. He asked me to deal with the matter in a letter and said it would then be given due

consideration. I did this on my return to Western Australia and at a later stage I received a copy of a letter on similar lines from Mr Withers who had also made a comparable submission to Canberra. It is obvious that Mr Withers and I are in agreement concerning what is necessary for those living in the north-west.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I backed you on your statement that it should be the Federal Government's responsibility.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The State just does not have that type of money. Those in disadvantaged areas of the State—farmers, etc.—get special subsidies and I cannot see why all people who are disadvantaged should not get a differential payment. The people most disadvantaged are those who must rely on social security or community welfare payments, pensions, or allotments, and it is my fervent wish that these people will receive differential treatment in the next Budget. I am sure Mr Withers will agree with me on that point.

At times I do not know how people can afford to live in the north-west. They obviously eke out a living of some sort, but the costs are astronomical. The situation has not been improved much either by this Government because just recently we have been told that a very steep increase will be made in shipping freights to the north-west. This will add a greater burden to the people who can ill-afford to bear it. In addition to the increased costs an increase will occur in sales tax and a multiplicity of other charges as a result of the actions of this Government—the Liberal-Country Party coalition Government.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: As well as the previous Labor Government!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The honourable member has referred to the previous Labor Government. If we delve into the history of the State Shipping Service and freight charges we will find the previous Labor Government was responsible for modernising the service and for instilling a lot of drive and initiative into it, because it was the Labor Government which successfully approached the Commonwealth Government regarding the purchase of the two ships new to our coast; that is, the *Nyanda* and the *Wambiri*. This enabled a quicker turnaround of shipping and we were all hopeful that a reduction of freight charges would occur. However, this has not been so. But let it be borne in mind that if it had not been for the assistance of the Australian Government those two ships would not have been operating on our coast.

We are all aware that during the latter period of the Brand Government's regime Thomas National Transport was negotiating for the purchase of the State Shipping Service, but, thank God, the negotiations fell through. Had they not fallen through and had the people of the north-west been obliged to rely on a private operator they

would not have been able to obtain goods and services in the north-west at anywhere near the present rates. Even with the increased cargo rates, of which I do not approve, the people are better off now than they would have been with a private operator. If the negotiations had been successful with TNT the people of the north-west would now be in a bankrupt position.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Will you comment on why the increased rates have been necessary?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I could go into the whole ambit of the steep increases which this Government, in its first 102 days, has levied against the people of Western Australia. I could refer to the charges for electricity, gas, and water, and the proposed increases in the cost of motor vehicle licenses, and so forth and so on. I know the answer the Leader of the House will give me when he replies to the debate will be to the effect that the action had to be taken because the Commonwealth Government has cut down the funds on this, that, or something else.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Plus what?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Inflation has probably played its part too. But the true situation is that the Government's policies were so extravagant that in order to save face and put some of its promises into effect, the Government finds it necessary to raise these charges, some of which will go to finance certain of the extravagant policies which were not realistic.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Not at all!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You have to be joking!

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Are you suggesting we are doing what the Whitlam Government is doing?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not think this State Government would have the ability.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You say that we have not done anything.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Other than raise charges, costs, and freights. What else has the Government done?

The Hon. N. McNeill: You are saying we have used this finance to carry out the promises.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Much of the increased revenue has not been collected yet, but I said the Government will be using it to put into effect its extravagant policies. That is what I said.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: What a joke!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Of course the present Government will be in office for three years and, as time progresses, we will see whether what I am saying is a joke or fact.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Do you realise what the wages percentage will be during this 12 months?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. We realised that when we submitted our policy.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: And how far the increases will go towards relieving that situation?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We did not go to Canberra and say that we were \$47 million or \$53 million in the red. We were realistic because we knew what the programme would be. We knew the world trend concerning inflation and we could visualise the situation and therefore we made provision for increased wages and salaries.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Did you?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We had done our homework.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You should have left enough in kitty then.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: What is this inflation you keep talking about? Is that the thing the Prime Minister said did not exist?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No. The Prime Minister did not say it did not exist. Nobody said it did not exist.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: He said it was of no consequence.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I want to make some points by referring to the statements regarding inflation which were made in Liberal Party advertisements. I do not have copies of all the Liberal Party advertisements which were inserted in the Press throughout Western Australia, but they all said much the same thing. They said something like this—

Throughout Western Australia

Improved education, recreation and cultural facilities. Control of inflation—

That appeared in *The West Australian* on the 20th March, 1974. On the 27th March there was more propaganda regarding the control of inflation. In the file of cuttings I have, it states nine or 10 times that a Liberal Government would control inflation.

That is the policy the Government proposed; and what is it doing about it? All it is doing is squealing to Canberra for more money to create more inflation. It is not doing its own housekeeping. It does not know how to do its own housekeeping, but it must learn how to do it. That is what government is all about—efficient housekeeping.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The long break has not suited you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Here is another Liberal Party advertisement—

New Style Liberalism Stands For:

A stop to Canberra control of gas, oil, and mineral resources.

The Government knows that will not happen. The advertisement continues—

Expanding job opportunities in W.A. That is carrying on Labor Party policy. It continues—

More real value in pay packets.

Yes, we increased the pay packets of those who had suffered for a long time under the previous administration, and we brought the real wage level up to what it should have been. In most cases we were criticised for doing just that. We were criticised for taking administrative action, and the Employers Federation, which is the master of the Liberal Party—

The Hon. N. McNeill: He said it with a smile.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am delighted that you smiled. At least you know you are a humourist.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You have not lost any of your old humour.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We took administrative action to place the workers in a favourable position, and we took that action through Government departments where it was possible to do so. Of course, there was a flow-on which increased to an acceptable level the minimum wage and the wages of policemen, nurses, school teachers, and others. I will even go so far as to give the Liberal Party credit for mentioning this matter in the Governor's policy speech, which stated 862 teachers had joined the Education Department.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: That is not the Liberal Party's policy speech; it is the Governor's Speech.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It was the Liberal Party's policy speech, there is no doubt about that. This is said in the Governor's Speech—

An additional 862 new teachers took up appointments with the Education Department in 1974, and 42 guidance officers are being trained for employment within the State School system.

Of course, that is to the great credit of the Labor Government.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That speech is a statement of fact from beginning to end.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The rubbish which the Liberal Government puts out against the Commonwealth Government is not a statement of fact. Let us return to what the new style of liberalism stands for. It stands for —

Special home purchase finance for low wage earners.

Home ownership as the key to security for everyone.

Better education opportunities for your children.

These are matters which the Tonkin Government had well in hand, and for that reason the Liberal Party could not

criticise the Tonkin Government. It did too good a job, and that was the problem. The new style of liberalism also stands for—

A stop to attempts by Canberra to take over . . . private hospitals.

That is a beauty! It continues—

A stop to indiscriminate rises in Government charges and taxes.

This advertisement was put out by the Liberal Party on the 20th March, 1974; and what do we find? There have been about six increases up to date.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Were they indiscriminate? They were not indiscriminate.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: What is the meaning of the word?

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Look it up in the dictionary.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Why was the word "indiscriminate" used? I do not have to explain it. It was used—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Apply it properly.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: How would the Minister apply it properly? I would like to hear an interjection from him.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I made an interjection.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: One would think he was a Liberal. I thought he belonged to the National Alliance.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: No. I am in the Country Party.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No member of this Chamber is in the Country Party.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Do you not read the newspapers?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Members were elected as belonging to the National Alliance.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I was elected in 1971 as a Country Party candidate.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Minister did not resign; he went along with the alliance. I can imagine the outcry had the Labor Party formed an alliance with, say, the Communist Party, the Australia Party, or any other party which might be slightly left-wing. Yet we found the Country Party forming an alliance with the most right-wing party which ever existed in Australia—more right-wing, conservative, narrow, and sectarian than any other party. When they went to the polls they were going to sweep all before them. Possibly the only good thing that came out of it was the destruction of the DLP. I do not think the DLP destroyed itself; I think the alliance with the Country Party destroyed it because the faithful DLP followers would have continued to follow the DLP. However,

many people became disenchanted with the alliance, and the Country Party suffered considerably.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It lost nearly as many seats as did the Labor Party.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is right, and it did not have many to lose. The Labor Party had plenty of seats. The Country Party—if that is what it calls itself—is perhaps at its lowest ebb in history. It is no longer a party in Parliament as such.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Two of our seats disappeared in the redistribution. Do not forget that.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I know that happened, but the National Alliance contested many seats—the greatest number ever, I would think—and took a very big hiding. It got a thrashing.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Nevertheless, we do not have our tails between our legs.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: The only party which did not get a thrashing was the Liberal Party.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Country Party might not have its tail between its legs. It might not have a tail.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: It is a sad tale.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Many tales could be told about the alliance. It was not a happy marriage. It was a de facto relationship which did not last very long. The parties did not seem to click. The bed was not of the right springing to suit both sides. Perhaps one side of the mattress contained wool and the other sawdust.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You have had a great deal of experience in this business.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Of course, I have had a great deal of experience with beds. These are the matters which caused the disenchantment of the electors of Western Australia. In spite of all the "blah" in the media about what the Court Government would do when elected to office, we now find it will be unable to put its policy into operation because of the extravagant nature of its claims.

I would like to say a few words to the new members, particularly, and to some of the old members who may have forgotten the time when the Brand Government came to office. Every member who rose to his feet would say within his first two sentences, "I think the Government is doing a good job."

The Hon. J. Heitman: They all knew that.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not know whether or not members were instructed or coached in the party room, but the speeches are recorded in *Hansard* and what I am saying can be borne out. I think Mr Berry started it. He began

all his speeches by saying, "I think the Government is doing a good job." Eventually that statement wore thin. Everybody was sick and tired of hearing it. We knew in the end that the Brand Government was not doing a good job at all. When the Tonkin Government first came to office it had to face rising unemployment, increased taxes and charges, and a host of other problems which had been brought about by a large migration programme.

The Hon. N. McNeill: We did not have inflation.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Brand Government was responsible for those problems. We overcame the disabilities before we went out of office. We lost office because of the type of representation which exists in Western Australia. I trust this situation will be changed and that the Electoral Act will be amended. I advocate one vote, one value.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Tell us about the Forrest Place meeting and how that affected you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The honourable member asks how the Forrest Place meeting affected me. My reply is that it did not affect me a great deal.

The Hon. J. Heitman: No, but it affected the Labor Party.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Did it? I think there are other factors which have to be taken into consideration. If we are realistic about the situation I think it will be appreciated that we lost Merredin-Yilgarn because of the redistribution of boundaries; and Albany was lost to us because of an extension of the Albany electorate. The redistribution definitely had an effect.

The Hon. J. Heitman: The redistribution in the Gascoyne did not help you.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The kangaroos did that.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is probably correct, but the position was summed up very well by Phil Pandal in the *Daily News* prior to the election when he said that there is usually a change in these areas when a member resigns, retires, or dies. I think this has been traditional for many years. It has been the pattern in the Gascoyne seat and, in all probability, as I have said the Gascoyne seat could be hard to win back. However, the Liberal Party could not capture this seat from the Labor Party while Danny Norton was the member.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: What about the Pilbara?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I have no answer to that. There are probably other factors which have to be taken into consideration in so far as the Pilbara is concerned.

The north-west electorates are similar to my province. The electors like to see their members from time to time, and this is not always possible. The member for Pilbara at the time was a dedicated and hard-working member who did all he could for the people in his electorate; but, of course, there was a change in the turnover of electors.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You do not think it had anything to do with the fact that he was a member of the Labor Government.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not think it is possible to pinpoint any one particular reason. In all justice I feel the previous member for Pilbara should have been returned, particularly when one considers the amount of good he did, and the manner in which he worked, for the people in his electorate. He was untiring in his efforts. I cannot find an answer to the problem and I do not intend to try.

Sitting suspended from 6.03 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I directed a question today to the Minister for Community Welfare. My question was—

In view of the increased cost of living and continuing inflation, will the Government make an immediate increase to the disadvantaged recipients of Community Welfare assistance, namely wards, foster parents, group homes, institutions and missions, to restore their purchasing power to the level granted by the Tonkin Government in 1973?

As the Minister would know, the answer I received was that shortly the Government would be presenting its Budget and at that time these matters would be considered. Of course, that is not a sufficient answer, for the simple reason that the most disadvantaged people in Western Australia are those who must rely on welfare payments from the Department of Community Welfare. Over the years, somebody—irrespective of whichever government was in office—has not been fair and just in making adequate payments, particularly to the wards of our State. Under law, we have something like 3 000 wards and many more children who are in private foster homes and institutions. I know that during the last Budget, the Tonkin Government was possibly the most generous government Western Australia has ever known in respect of trying to do everything it was possible for it to do. We did not do all we wanted to do. We had to live within a deficit that was projected at the time. We would like to have made many more substantial increases to these welfare payments. However, I think it is fair to say that these people should not be disadvantaged any further and that periodic reviews of their payments should be made.

As we all know, in the last few months there has been an escalation in costs and services to crisis point. I have tables and figures in my possession with which I do not wish to bore the House. However, I should like to refer to the period from 1963 onwards. I make the very valid point that in 1963, institutions received \$3.60 a week for every child in their care. In 1970, with the progressive increases which had taken place in the intervening years, this amount had increased to \$7.50 a week; and in 1974 the institutions received the major increase of \$4 a week which made the benefit payable \$11.50 a week, plus a \$1 a week payment from the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia.

In 1963, the foster parents of children received \$4.50 a week for the care of each child. In 1970 they received \$7 a week and, with the very substantial increase implemented in the last Budget, their payment is now \$13 a week.

I am concerned that in this marvellous document, which members of the Liberal Party claim is their policy for the next three years, no mention is made of community welfare. Community welfare is not something for which people should go on bended knees to receive; it is a right of every person when he becomes disadvantaged and is in circumstances which force him to seek payments from the Government. Let me illustrate my point in this way: A very successful Western Australian professional man died about 18 months ago and left a large estate. However, the estate was tied up in such a manner that his wife and children were unable immediately to benefit from it. They struggled along for about two months, spent all the money they had in their possession and, from that point on, were penniless, despite the fact that they were the beneficiaries of a huge estate. I met the wife of this professional man. She was most concerned at having to seek payment from the Department of Community Welfare. It touched me that here was a person who should have had no need to call upon the State but, because of the views expressed in her husband's will, she was forced to do so. I make that point merely to illustrate that even the most affluent in our society at some time or other may have to resort to community welfare assistance.

The people who should receive community welfare assistance are those who, through force of circumstances, such as broken marriages, becoming orphaned or a deserted wife, and so on, must make application for assistance from the State. We are not a social welfare State. I think we are a long way from being a social welfare State. I realise that we must live within our means and Budget. However, I feel there must be a change of policy, irrespective of the Government in power. As the cost of living increases, those most deserv-

ing of help should be paid increased benefits. I am not referring to my own figures but those of Sir Charles Court. Inflation is escalating at 15 per cent a year. I do not intend to make this a political issue and I hope it never becomes one. However, in the dossier of advertisements I have in my possession, one will find advertisements of the Liberal Party stating, "You can only half fill your shopping basket because of inflation".

There are many people in this State who are looking after foster children; these are the kindest and most dedicated people one could imagine. Because of their love for children, they continually take them into their homes and give them something better than the State can offer. All the State can provide is institutions, which are not the right places in which to bring up children, but these foster parents can take the children and place them in a normal home environment. This is a marvellous service being provided by the people of Western Australia. However, I feel that an immediate increase of 15 per cent should be implemented to maintain the purchasing power which has been eroded by inflation. I have spoken to hundreds of these foster parents. I have seen circumstances where people were virtually on the verge of bankruptcy and were about to do the last thing they wanted to do; namely, to send the children back to a Department of Community Welfare institution because they could not afford to keep the children under the scale of benefit which applied. They were receiving \$8.50 a week and just could not afford to keep them. As parents, we all know that we just cannot keep a child on \$8.50 a week.

Rather than offer these people an initial grant of \$40 for clothing and other needs—a grant which is paid only once—we implemented an annual grant of \$40 for each child and this has been of benefit to the foster parents. As I mentioned, the subsidy paid to foster parents was increased last year by \$6 for each child. Of course, a lot of that money has disappeared. As the Budget proposals will not come into effect until some time in October or November, depending upon the Budget session of Parliament, I would ask the Minister to have another look at this situation before the Budget is brought down.

It is not a matter for the Department of Community Welfare. That department operates within a very tight budget and I think it is one of the most efficient organisations in the Government service. It spends money wisely and carefully. However, the department cannot afford to grant any further increases on its current allocation. This decision must come from the Treasurer for a special increase to the area of community welfare from Treasury funds. I am deeply concerned about this matter. I know the people concerned have expressed the view that they are returning to the situation which existed prior to the last increase of \$6, but it goes beyond that. The

missions in the north-west and generally throughout Western Australia also operate on this fixed type of payment. For instance, I know the Budget restrictions on the Pallottine Mission. I know that the Seventh Day Adventists have just relinquished one of their missions at Wiluna. The voluntary groups are under extreme pressure and had I remained the Minister, I would have sought a new method of payment so that we could increase payments commensurate with cost-of-living increases. However, so much for that point.

The next matter I am concerned about is the takeover of traffic control by the police. Because of the discussions I had with the Minister for Justice I will not speak at length on the subject because it would take me possibly 1½ or two hours to explore the whole avenue of the proposed takeover.

It has not been stated as yet, but I think it should be noted what the state of the Police Force was when we became the Government in 1971. The Police Force was run down and starved from a lack of funds. Back in 1959, the strength of the Police Force in Western Australia was 1 061 officers. In 1971, after the Brand Government had been in office for 12 years, the total increase in police personnel was 519, which represented an annual increase of 43.

From 1971 to 1974, the three years the Labor Government was in office, we increased the membership of the Police Force by 382, which represented a total average increase of 127 a year. To this figure must also be added the 98 recruits who passed through the Police Academy at the end of June, 1974. This is the highest number of recruits that has ever been inducted into the Western Australian Police Force since its inception. The school through which those recruits passed was the last school in this financial year and it was brought about as a result of raising the number of officers usually added to the Police Force each year, thus making available an extra 50 officers to ensure more efficient traffic patrol work and to staff the extra patrol cars the Tonkin Government financed and placed on the roads.

So in this respect it can be seen that we made a substantial contribution to the growth of the Western Australian Police Force which was most necessary, but I still say it is not completely adequate at the present time. The force still lacks the numbers necessary to police many areas and to carry out the duties which police officers are called upon to perform on behalf of the public.

From 1959 to 1971 the number of personnel taken into the traffic branch of the Police Force during the 12-year period of the Brand Government was 137. Of this number, 14 were transferred from the Police Force. This represented an increase of 11 patrolmen a year. During our period in office 97 officers were enlisted in the

traffic section which represented an increase of 32 officers a year. So our record, in making a contribution to the safety and security of the people and an increase in the personnel of the Police Force, was quite outstanding; perhaps the most outstanding performance Western Australia has ever seen.

Turning to the Criminal Investigation Branch, during the 12 years the Brand Government was in office the personnel of that branch was increased by four. During the three years we were in office a further increase of four was made. Therefore during the 12 years the Brand Government was in office the increase in personnel represented one-third of a person, but during the three years we were governing this State the Criminal Investigation Branch had its personnel increased by 1½ officers; that is, if it were possible to split individuals into fractions.

I would now like to refer to the four-wheeled vehicles that are used by the Police Force. From 1959 to 1971—the years the Brand Government was in office—there was an increase of 236 in the number of these vehicles, which represented an increase of 20 vehicles a year. During the three years the Labor Government was in office—from 1971 to 1974—the number of four-wheeled vehicles was increased by 207; an increase of 69 vehicles a year.

The position is much the same in relation to police motor cycles. During the 12-year regime of the Brand Government the number of motor cycles used by the Police Force was increased by 115, which represented an increase of nine motor cycles a year. During the period we were in office the number of motor cycles was increased by 41; an increase of 14 a year.

In dealing with radio units for motor cycles used by members of the Police Force, I would point out that we installed 165 complete sets. Although no sets were used by motor cyclists during the period of the Brand Government, I believe that these units were not available at that time. In regard to radar units, only two were put into use during the period the Brand Government was in office, but during our term in office we introduced 19. From 1959 to 1971 the Brand Government brought into use only four amphotometers, but during the three years we were in office we increased this number by eight, making a total of 12.

I make that point to stress that we just cannot allow the Police Force to run down, thus not ensuring the people of this State the security and safety to which they are entitled. I therefore hope the policy of this Government will be to ensure that the Police Force will be kept to maximum strength, that more commissioned officers will be appointed, and that the force itself will be raised to a standard to ensure complete supervision of the whole of the State, and particularly of remote areas.

We find that from time to time people are somewhat critical of the actions of police officers, but they are the first to complain if a huge number of policemen are not made available at a minute's notice to carry out any duty required. This was well borne out during the "bikie" incident on the 5th March, this year. I am sure all members are aware of that happening. It commenced at Brookton and the matter was blown up out of all proportion by the media. In saying that I would point out that I am not on the side of the "bikies" in any shape or form.

Nevertheless if members read the Press reports of the incident I think they will agree that one could have been excused for expecting open warfare to break loose. However I am certain it was the cool judgment and the capable handling of the situation, shown by members of the Police Force that contained the incident which, incidentally, was a new experience to the members of the force. The first move by the "bikies" surprised the police, but over the weekend they rapidly rallied their forces.

Members of the force were subjected to a great deal of criticism over the handling of a very delicate situation, but I still think they dealt with it in the best manner possible. Nevertheless the matter goes a little further than merely criticising the members of the Police Force. When an incident such as the "bikie" incident at Brookton takes place it comes as something of a surprise, and this is brought about by the tactics adopted by such people when they go on a rampage. I saw a similar incident in New Zealand. They ring up various hotels and order liquor in large quantities. They may say to the publican, "We want to order 30 gallons of beer for Saturday evening." They will ring up four or five places at various locations to order their beer requirements, and usually the publican endeavours to fulfil their requirements. The object of this tactic is to fool the police and everybody else concerned, because at the last minute they visit a different venue and it is impossible for the police to know their destination.

I would point out that even if every publican where beer had been ordered telephoned the police advising that "bikies" may arrive at his hotel it would be impossible for 100 or more policemen to be despatched to that point.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Are you intimating that the hotels at Brookton were telephoned about this incident beforehand?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, I did not say that. I said that these are the tactics that "bikies" adopt. I also said I saw the same being done in New Zealand. However, seeing the honourable member has mentioned the publican at Brookton, I

would point out that I examined the reports of the incident very thoroughly, and I found the Press made no mention of the fact that no complaint had been made to the police by the publican at Brookton. He did not object to the "bikies" being there. Before they left Brookton, they did pay for all the breakages that took place. When I say that, however, members should not think for a moment I am defending the "bikies", because we just cannot have such people going around terrorising country towns, or cities for that matter. I am not defending their actions at all.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I am not questioning you on that point. I merely asked you whether you were intimating that the publican at Brookton had been telephoned beforehand.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, I was not. I was saying that it would be impossible to deploy 100 policemen to any given spot in such a short time, and I did refer to the tactics employed by these people to fool the police and prevent adequate protection being given to the country centre involved.

I believe the public criticism of the Police Force was quite unfounded and it must have left members of the force a little daunted because, as far as I am concerned, they acted in the correct manner, although such action may not have been to the satisfaction of everybody.

As I said earlier, I support the motion and I will now conclude my speech. However before resuming my seat I trust that the new members who will be making their maiden speeches in this House will do so with a great deal of confidence, because it is an experience which affords the member concerned an opportunity to debate those subjects he would like to get his teeth into. Before concluding I congratulate the new members on their election to this House and I also congratulate those who went before their judges and masters and were returned to office as members of this Chamber.

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West)
[7.58 p.m.]: I rise for the first time in this House with a great deal of pride but not, as the previous speaker said, with a great deal of confidence. Firstly, Mr President, I add my congratulations to the many you have received over the last few days and which have been bestowed upon you on your having been elected to the President's Chair in this House. I know you have served in this Parliament for a period of something like 21 years with great distinction. Further, you have served as Leader of the House and as a Minister of the Crown, and I personally thank you for the help you have been able to give me over the past few weeks when I have been trying to find my feet as a member of Parliament, and I suppose I can honestly say you have guided me along the right path.

I would also congratulate the Leader of the House, the Hon. Neil McNeill, on his election to that position and his promotion to Minister for Justice. I congratulate the Hon. Graham MacKinnon and the Hon. Norman Baxter on their appointments to the Ministry and also the Hon. Ron Thompson on his election to Leader of the Opposition. My congratulations go to those members who have been newly elected to offices and various duties in this Chamber, and also to those new members who, like myself, are keen to find their way and probably very anxious to say a few words.

I would like to thank the staff, and the Clerks in particular, for the great help I have received from them over the last few weeks. Once again, I think a new member is somewhat at a loss in finding out how to go about things and how to deal with the problems and questions which arise for new members. I give my sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the staff for the help I have received.

I also take advantage of this opportunity to pay a great tribute to my predecessor, the late Hon. Fred White. He served as a member of the Shire Council in Kalamunda and eventually became the shire president. For a long time he was regarded as one of the best shire presidents in the district. He was elected to the West Province and served for a period of six years, and during that time he gained great respect from members in this House. Such was his dedication to duty that he eventually gave his life in the service of his community. I hope I earn as much respect from the province and from members in this House, and I hope I do the job as well as he did.

I am a comparative newcomer, not only to this House, but to the State of Western Australia. I have lived here for just over 12 years and many people refer to me not only as a newcomer, but possibly as a new Australian. However, I am sure I will overcome any small problems which might arise and represent the West Province to the best of my ability.

The West Province is not the largest in this State, but it most certainly is not the smallest. It does not have the greatest population, but it does have a great variety and offers greater challenges than do most provinces in this State. The province stretches from Yanchep to Toodyay and includes Whitfords and the State housing area of Girrawheen, Swan View, the vineyards of the Swan Valley, the hills of Kalamunda, and Mundaring. It takes in Bickley, Pickering Brook, and the agricultural areas of Toodyay and Bindoon.

I think my province could justifiably be split into two areas: primary and urban. The province stretches in a great arc north and east of Perth, and reaches right to the metropolitan area. As far as the primary producers are concerned it could well be called the larder of Perth.

The Wanneroo market gardens have for many years produced a great proportion of the market produce for this State, both for the metropolitan area and for the country regions and they are also responsible for much of the export trade to neighbouring and Asian countries.

The Swan Valley is certainly rearing its head and is now recognised as one of the finest wine-growing areas in Australia. I think that members realise that only 10 or 12 years ago it was very rare to go into a restaurant and see people drinking wine; they were usually drinking beer. However, since then there has been a tremendous upsurge in interest in and consumption of wine; the Swan Valley has grown and accepted the challenge. The wine growers have raised the standards of their wines and those wines now compare favourably with wines produced in the Eastern States. I emphasise that the potential for wine growing is excellent, and the potential in the export trade is very great, and will be of benefit to this State.

During the last year the Swan Valley produced 74 per cent of the unfortified wines in the State; it produced 70 per cent of the fortified wines; and 99 per cent of the wine used for distillation. It also produced 98 per cent of our table grapes so it can be seen that the Swan Valley has a great bearing on our way of life in this State.

The Pickering Brook and Bickley areas have long been regarded as producers of fruit of a high standard. This is recognised throughout Asian, European, and Arab countries. I think these areas will go on producing and will continue to maintain their high standard. The areas are close to the city and the producers are able to supply their produce in good condition. At the same time there are a large number of cold stores in the area which enable the producers to supply the metropolitan area and ships under the best possible conditions.

The egg producers of this State are, again, centred around the metropolitan area, and poultry meat is now within the reach of every household whereas once it was considered to be a luxury. The lush farmlands in the West Province are probably some of the finest in this State and for a long time they have been responsible for producing beef, lambs, wheat, and wool. These products are known throughout the world and, again, represent a large proportion of our exports.

I am shocked that many people adopt the attitude that once the world market for a particular commodity seems over-supplied they should hold back and restrict production. This attitude, in my opinion, is a tragedy and I believe that the State Government and the producers should get together and receive advice from the best experts and salesmen that money can afford. The Government, and

the producers, should adopt a vigorous and aggressive policy and go out into the world to sell our products. The produce of Western Australia must be sold to other countries and we have to fight for those markets; if we adopt a negative attitude we do not deserve to sell.

His Excellency the Governor, in his Speech when opening Parliament, drew attention to this fact and said—

The Government intends to review, and step up organisation and techniques for marketing primary products.

This would involve people going out and striving to sell our produce on the world markets. A good example would be the announcement made on Friday, the 26th of this month, to the effect that lamb sales to Iran totalled 4 000 tonnes with the possibility of the sale of another 2 000 tonnes. This represents between 65 and 80 per cent of our estimated production for the coming season.

Apple growing spreads through the Bickley and Pickering Brook areas and, of course, Donnybrook should be included amongst the major apple producing areas. They are facing great problems in the European markets and I believe we have to get into the Asian and Arab markets, and concentrate more on the Japanese market where I believe there is a demand for such fruit.

I will now deal briefly with urban development in the West Province. The development is such that it can be referred to as a population explosion. For example, in June, 1970, Wanneroo had a population of 4 725. In 1974, four years later, the population had reached 39 865. I would imagine that such an increase could compare favourably with the old gold rush days.

The population of Kalamunda, in June, 1970, was 16,500 whereas in June, 1974, it had increased to 24 850. In Mundaring the population in June, 1970, was 11 000 whereas it is now over 15 000. I believe the West Province has a greater growth rate than any other part of Western Australia.

The growth of Wanneroo Shire may be greater than that experienced anywhere else in Australia. The people in the area come from all walks of life and from all parts of the world. I would probably know better than most people that they come to this country to create a new life with their families. They bring with them old traditions and they create new ones which add to the richness of our way of life. These people come to this country and accept the challenge. Western Australia is still regarded as a very remote area. Perhaps "time-wise" it is not so great, but the remoteness is there because of the distance from other countries and as a result of this new settlers do face many problems.

I am worried because those people with young families need encouragement. They have come to Western Australia for a very

good reason: they believe Australia to be a free country. I hope that, in this regard, we never disappoint them.

While campaigning during the early part of this year I travelled through the urban areas to a great extent and I was greatly concerned with some of our State Housing Commission areas. I do not say that all State Housing Commission areas are particularly bad, but I do believe the density is appalling in some parts of Girrawheen. That is quite unnecessary in this day and age. It seems that the maximum number of houses are constructed on the minimum of area in order to provide cheaper services and keep down prices. This worries me a great deal and I believe it is a short-term approach. The social and health problems will be much greater under such conditions than they are in areas which are already established. In fact, we hear many people in Government and in Opposition—people who should know better—referring to such developments as depressed areas. Some of them are termed "depressed areas" even before building is completed.

I am worried at the density of the housing, and also the lack of facilities in the initial stages of development; facilities such as recreational areas, kindergartens, halls, and the sorts of things necessary for a good social life. These facilities should be provided at the same time as the initial development.

The Wanneroo Shire Council has spent something like \$300 000 over the past three years in developing reserves, but it is often too late. It is a struggle and children who have to wait four or five years for recreational facilities miss these amenities at a very important stage of their lives. We have to look very carefully at development and provide these facilities in the early stages.

Dr Neil Beck, in a speech which he made about six or 12 months ago, said that if he could have the necessary recreational developments in the areas of Balga, Girrawheen, and Nollamara he could cut his doctor's bills by half. Added to this is the cost of social problems and even colour problems. On the one side of the road there is private housing and on the other side there is housing provided by the State Housing Commission, and the social rift is growing wider.

We now hear that the Federal Government intends to develop 200-acre areas to house 6 000 to 8 000 people. I cannot understand the attitude regarding this sort of development. It seems to me that it is intended to create areas of discontent; I cannot think of any other reason. In time we will be ashamed of these areas. People are trying to get away from slums and ghettos which we are tending to develop. We should be able to take advantage of experiences throughout the rest of the world and realise that we deserve something better. Ours is a new country.

The Wanneroo Shire Council recently conducted a tour of its area with the Minister for Local Government and Town Planning. The shire suggested that in the development of the many areas in the Wanneroo Shire the State Housing Commission could possibly be responsible for 15 per cent; not 50 per cent but 15 per cent of the development. The State Housing Commission areas could then be integrated with private housing and the people could enjoy associated facilities. There would not be a line of demarcation. I think this is something worth striving for. High density development produces low quality housing. I again say this does not apply to all housing development. Development has occurred in some areas, at Forrestfield, High Wycombe, and Malda Vale without creating problems. Urban development creates many different problems, and I refer to communication, the lack of local industry, leisure, and retirement. Two good examples of this type of disability exist in the Wanneroo Shire and the development of the Kalamunda Shire. I refer to Wanneroo Road and Welshpool Road which would be the two most heavily and over-used roads in this State. They just cannot cope with the traffic. Traffic to Kewdale uses Welshpool Road. Improvements to Wanneroo Road have taken place over the past four or five years but it is still in a chaotic state with increasing usage.

A major cause of the problem could be that the work which is available for people living in these outlying areas is centred around Perth. I believe that local authorities should be able to establish industries within their own areas. I refer to light industries which might employ 10 or 20 people.

Small businesses employ a number of people and this takes the load off the roads and communications. The local authorities should be able to purchase land, either from a State or Federal grant, before its rezoning potential becomes apparent, before someone says, "This will be industrial land. We will grab it now to make some money." The local authority should have the power to decide on a particular area for this purpose, and it should then be given the money to purchase the land, and perhaps revitalise the Industrial Land Development Authority. The land could be developed and marketed at a reasonable cost.

Many advantages would flow from such a scheme. The stability of the area would be improved and a load would be taken from transport problems. By creating a pool of industrial land the local authorities would also keep the price down.

It is stated in our Liberal Party policy speech that we should give added strength to local government. This sentiment was repeated last week and it is laid down in our own policy.

At the moment the small man, who is being crucified by the inflationary tendencies, is suffering the most. One possible way to help him is to encourage the local businessmen to have a go in their own area rather than forcing them to pay exorbitant prices for industrial land elsewhere.

The use of leisure time is a major problem in our life today. The MRPA has a proposal to develop an area eight miles long by one mile wide at Lake Joondalup. This is one step in the development of a recreation area in the metropolitan region. Before it is too late we should develop other areas. A wildlife sanctuary will be developed at Lake Joondalup as well as facilities for sailing, rowing, golf, and nature walks. A theatre also is to be provided.

Now is the time to make such plans, before it is too late. The MRPA is also planning for a third metropolitan university. This is a long way ahead, but it is good thinking. It is intended to build a regional hospital in the not-too-distant future, and Wanneroo certainly needs this facility. With such hospitals in the outer metropolitan area, we could stem the growth of the vast hospital complexes in Perth, and cut back the hospital empires which seem to be developing.

Problems develop when people retire. We teach people to earn a living without teaching them how to live. We see people of about 55 to 60 years of age literally fade away through lack of interest. They have a wealth of experience to give to the community, and they should be encouraged to do so. I believe the local authorities in Kalamunda and Mundaring have been active in their efforts to create rural subdivisions. Many retired people would like to live on small holdings of two, five, or 10 acres. They like to grow their own vegetables and perhaps to keep a cow and poultry. This proposal to set aside small acreages between the urban and rural areas has a lot to commend it.

The local authorities should have more say in their own development, and as long as they work within their own district schemes, they should be encouraged to take more responsibility in decision-making, without frequent reference to the Town Planning Board in Perth. Sometimes weeks or even months are lost whilst decisions are sought; and time is money these days, so prices escalate and inflation takes over. I urge that local government authorities be given much more say in their own affairs, and particularly in planning, as long as they work within set guidelines.

I do not intend to say much more tonight. It is my privilege to represent the West Province. As I said before, I hope to earn the respect of members of this House and of the people of my electorate. I intend to work very hard for my

constituents. I know we are facing major problems, and these problems will increase. I thank members, and particularly you, Mr President, for the courtesy you have extended to me by listening to my speech.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. A. A. Lewis.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 8.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 30th July, 1974

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the member for Kalamunda (Mr Thompson) be appointed Chairman of Committees.

Mr McPHARLIN: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that I have appointed the member for Vasse (Mr Blaikie), the member for Katanning (Mr Old), and the member for Canning (Mr Bateman) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Digest 1973: Tabling

THE SPEAKER: I have for tabling a document entitled *The Parliament of Western Australia: Digest 1973*. As a brief explanation of the presentation of this paper, I would explain that it is the result of a decision made by the Joint Printing Committee of last year; and it contains some valuable information in the form of a synopsis of the proceedings of the 1973 session. I submit it to the House as an additional and I think valuable service to members.

The paper was tabled (see paper No 1).

QUESTIONS (39): ON NOTICE

HEALTH

Atmospheric Pollution: Monitoring

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the atmosphere of the Perth metropolitan area been tested in 1974 for the amount of—
 - (a) nitrogen dioxide;
 - (b) ozone;
 - (c) nitrogen oxide;
 - (d) nitric dioxide;
 - (e) carbon monoxide;
 - (f) particle matter?
- (2) What were the results of such tests?
- (3) In what areas were they carried out and on what dates?
- (4) What monitoring of the atmosphere for pollutants is carried out at Medina?
- (5) What are the results of such monitoring, if any?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) to (d) Yes. Total oxides of nitrogen area measured.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (e) Yes.
 - (f) Yes.
- (2) The most recent results, for June 1974, for the Perth city area are as follows:

Total oxides:

Mean for month—53 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 24 hr. reading—142 micrograms per cubic metre.

Ozone:

Mean for month—32 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 8 hr. reading—120 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 1 hr. reading—128 micrograms per cubic metre.

Carbon monoxide:

Mean for month—2.9 parts per million.

Highest 8 hr. reading—6.5 parts per million.

Particulate matter:

Mean for month—10 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 24 hr. reading—35 micrograms per cubic metre.

- (3) Essentially in the central business district, with supplementary results from suburbs, on a continuous basis.