

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 16 August 1983

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

BILLS (3): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Business Franchise (Tobacco) Amendment Bill.
2. Supply Bill.
3. Local Government Amendment Bill.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: SPEECH

Use of Italian: Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): To avoid any misunderstanding caused by an article published in *The Western Mail* dated 13-14 August relating to a speech to be made in this House, I would like to state that I was asked by the honourable member concerned if the last paragraph of his speech could be delivered in Italian. I agreed subject to the member—

- (1) advising the House what he intended to do;
- (2) providing an oral translation immediately afterwards; and
- (3) giving *Hansard* a transcript in Italian.

I was somewhat at a loss, therefore, to read in *The Western Mail* that the whole of the member's speech would be delivered in Italian.

This House is a debating Chamber. If there is to be debate it must be that would-be participants understand the views and opinions expressed; that is, there must be a common language requirement. If numerous languages were to be used in this House it could not be doubted that such diversity reflected the ethnic and racial diversity of our society, but it would not produce debate, which is a primary function of this place. Accordingly, English being the official language of Australia, it is the language to be used in this Chamber. Hopefully it will enable us to understand each other.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

RECREATION: ACTIVITIES

Select Committee: Motion

HON. TOM McNEIL (Upper West) [5.24 p.m.]: I move—

That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into sport and recreation activities in Western Australia, with particular reference to:—

1. Examining the equality of sport and recreation services between the metropolitan area and country.
2. Ascertaining the quantity and quality of communication and interaction between country and metropolitan sporting organisations.
3. Detailing the extent of local government involvement in the delivery and provision of services to country sport.
4. Investigating the role, relevance, and costs of establishing regional and local sport and recreation councils outside the metropolitan area.
5. Examining the relationship between the provision of these services to those already provided by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation.
6. Recommending any other proposals that would assist in the development of country sport in Western Australia.

The terms of the motion are self-explanatory, however, I shall add a little more in order that the position may be clear. I have a great concern for the development of sport within this State and, indeed, Australia as a whole.

The Government has stated its intention to re-organise the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. In its policy statement the ALP states—

The enhancement of the W.A. Sports Federation as the peak organisation for sports associations and agencies in W.A. as an independent, autonomous organisation representing Sports Associations and Regions within the state to ensure more direct access to the Minister and the Government.

It goes on to say—

Association Presidents or their deputies will be the direct representatives of their associations and regions on the Sports Federation.

I am concerned such a move could have disastrous effects in country areas. The main objectives of a Select Committee would be to consider the consequences of any move to diminish the effectiveness

of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

The Government's policy statement goes on to say—

The development of Regional Sports Councils to ensure greater consultation and attention with regard to specific localised problems and needs.

The reduction of Departmental staff to a small secretariat so that much greater emphasis may be placed on providing full-time administrative, consultancy and sports development staff support for the W.A. Sports Federation and Sports Associations.

People in country areas would be greatly concerned about such a development. I do not think it is any great secret that the majority of people connected with the WA Sports Federation, certainly at the executive level, have a metropolitan background and, all things being equal, it would be only fair to assume that, when decisions were made or advice given to Government, in the majority of cases country sport would be affected detrimentally.

I do not argue with the suggestion that we should enhance the WA Sports Federation. I do not maintain it is not a worthy body or that it makes decisions detrimental to sport. However, I ask why should we enhance the WA Sports Federation at the expense of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation which, over a number of years, has demonstrated its effectiveness in administering country as well as metropolitan sport? The department has always operated to the benefit of country regions.

If the position were taken to the nth degree sports organisers currently stationed in country regions could be taken away, which would mean a further reduction in people representing country areas.

I do not knock the WA Sports Federation; that is the furthest thing from my mind. However, I am greatly concerned that the Government has called for a report from an interim sports development committee and that that report will be tabled in November. In the hope that I can preempt that report and take action to safeguard people involved in sport in country areas, I believe a Select Committee should be formed to look at the implications of the move which is planned by the Government.

I could never accept the suggestion that the number of people employed in the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation should be reduced in order to facilitate the work of the WA Sports Federation. I do not say that because we do not

have a great deal of input into the WA Sports Federation. We all know it represents 82 sports and has 360 000 members. However, if the Government were to follow the recommendation that will be forthcoming in November to the effect that a sports council should be formed, it is clear it would be metropolitan based and controlled. Therefore, the input from country areas would be confined, at the most, to the organisation of regional sports councils which would represent approximately nine country votes as opposed to 82 metropolitan votes.

That illustrates my concern and the reason I have moved this motion. I hope Government and Opposition members will see the wisdom of investigating this matter thoroughly before we decide to accept the Government's move, which it obviously sees as a method to streamline sports and their funding.

When we talk about the basic facilities to be provided for sports, it is important that we consider the equitable distribution of those facilities to all sports.

[Resolved: That motions be continued.]

Hon. TOM McNEIL: Records show that of all sports 50 per cent of the participants are based in country areas, yet country people represent only 27 per cent of our population. It is far more difficult to assume that a country shire with five or six small communities can provide basic facilities than it is to assume that a metropolitan authority can provide a sports complex such as the one at Melville, for the people in its immediate area. People in country areas have just as much entitlement to basic sports facilities as people in the metropolitan area.

There should not be any attempt to weaken the voice of country people. We have always had a voice through the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, but that right will be taken away from us and the responsibility for these facilities will be handed to the WA Sports Federation. It is a backward step which I hope members realise will have an impact on their own areas.

The supporters of this motion do not ask that something be taken away from the metropolitan area; we ask for the formation of a committee to give careful consideration to the implications of the establishment of the federation as the advisory body to the Government. Once the responsibility has been given to a body based in the metropolitan area, country people may be disadvantaged.

We all know that the federation was evolved as a common forum, and in that respect it is obviously a lobby group. It is unthinkable that on the one hand we have a lobby group, and on the other

we have an advisory body in the same organisation. Obviously the federation could not act in an unbiased manner. I ask members to compare the names of the people in the federation with the names of those responsible for the distribution of instant lottery funds. We have been asked to set up an advisory body that would have a lot of money at its fingertips. We must safeguard this money—certainly, I want it safeguarded—so that a fair percentage of it is distributed in the right direction, and not just distributed to the metropolitan region.

The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation through its financial aid programmes has had a tremendous impact in all country areas. In my province of Upper West I know, and probably the Hon. Margaret McAleer would know, that with a one-third input from the Treasury, one-third from local authorities, and one-third from the sporting organisations concerned, we have been able to provide some tremendous facilities for country areas. It is abhorrent to me to think that those means may be taken from us—that we will have minor input from the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

All I am saying is that we should never agree to a reduction in the operation of the department so that it can be used as a future small liaison group for the uplifting of the WA Sports Federation. To do that would be a backward and retrograde step, and we must make sure we do not take it.

Funds provided from the sports Instant Lottery distribution account, should be used to extend the department's facilities and funding capabilities in order that we have a fair and equitable distribution of funds in this State, and that funds do go to country areas. Anybody who has read the annual report of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation would know how many times the name of his or her area pops up, and the statement is made that a grant has gone to that area to help small sporting groups. One of the reasons I am concerned about the current operation of SILDAC is that we do not know how much of the money it provides to sporting groups goes to country areas.

We know that most of these sporting organisations are based in the metropolitan area and are under metropolitan control. We should find out how much of, say, \$7 000 going to a yachting association, or \$900 to a canoeing club, actually goes to country participants. The Government should keep a tight rein on this distribution, and should maintain a close interest in the funding provided from SILDAC, because the money provided is public money, and should be used to the

benefit of the whole State, and not just to the benefit of a select few.

We must consider the problems associated with country sport and encountered by country sportsmen and women, and younger competitors. The difficulty they have is to obtain recognition in State sides. We have our hockey, football, soccer, tennis, badminton, etc., competitions and championships, and the country kids involved have to travel to the city sometimes for four weekends in a row. This imposes a high cost on parents, many of whom do not have the necessary money.

Many of the children have to fall by the wayside because it is not financially possible for their parents to meet the transportation costs. In the metropolitan area these problems are not encountered. No suggestion has been made to take the metropolitan kids to country areas to train, it is always the case of bringing country kids to the city.

The recent football championships are an example. Mr President, I could not talk about sport without mentioning football. Once again we saw the cream of country footballers come to the city to display their skills to our city friends, the West Australian Football League, whose members select players to represent Western Australia in the future. I am not knocking anybody, but I do know about the huge costs involved to send, say, the Geraldton, Central Midlands, or North Midlands teams to the city. Twenty-seven players and administrative staff cannot be sent to the city for five days in a row without the cost totalling thousands of dollars.

We are faced with the circumstance that every time we have a Country Week championship, all the top country players have to transport themselves to the metropolitan region. The cream of our sport gathered together may be the only solution, but there should be formed a committee to consider the alternatives and to safeguard the rights of country people. This matter is very important.

It has been pointed out that members of the interim sports development committee have not been appointed to directly represent any particular sport, but to cover a broad spectrum of sports. That is all very well. I have to be fair and say that in the terms of reference of the federation it is suggested that the federation will look after country sports, but I envisage that a Select Committee would be able to safeguard the rights of those sports and ensure that the group to become the spokesmen for all our future sporting needs will take the proper action. It is our duty to ensure that country sport is not overlooked.

I commend the motion to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Mines).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 4 August.

HON. GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [5.39 p.m.]: I support the motion and congratulate the Government for seeking to honour in the short time it has been in office the key promises it made during the election campaign. Politicians are quite often criticised for making pre-election commitments and, as soon as the election is over, attempting to break those promises.

Hon. Peter Dowding: That's only the Liberals.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Malcolm Fraser set the standard for breaking election promises.

Hon. P. H. Lockyer: He pales into insignificance compared with your lot.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: The broken promise that stands out in the record of Malcolm Fraser is that Medibank would be maintained. To a certain extent it was maintained, but he should have qualified his promise by saying that only the name "Medibank" would be retained. In fact, Medibank was split, and we had Medibank Private. We had also Medibank mark I, which was Bill Hayden's version; Medibank mark II, which was some Health Minister's version; and Medibank mark III and mark IV. I am not sure which mark we are up to now. The way Malcolm Fraser behaved in dealing with election promises has taught many people not to trust political parties and politicians when they make promises before elections. The same cannot be said of the Burke Government.

Opposition members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Opposition members may well laugh—

Opposition members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. GARRY KELLY: This cannot be said of the Burke Government.

An Opposition member: It has broken every promise it made.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I disagree. If Opposition members care to listen to what I have to say they will find out what my Government has done.

Opposition members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. GARRY KELLY: At the time of the closure of the Perth-Fremantle railway line in

September of 1979 the Labor Party gave an undertaking that when it was elected to office it would reopen that line. When the Burke Government was elected it set the date for the reopening of that line. During the election we made no secret of our intention.

Soon after the election was won—in some quarters it was lost—we announced that the reopening would take place at the end of July this year; but we heard screams and howls from Opposition members who said that the reopening would be a waste of money, and how terrible it was that the Government intended to honour its election promise.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: We objected to the waste of public funds, not to your carrying out your promises.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Man does not live by bread alone, or by money alone; but I do not mean that the reopening has not involved a cost.

Hon. I. G. Pratt: Did you hear Mr Grill say what he did about our public transport system?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I do not say that public transport does not cost public money, but the public demonstrated its support for that reopening. A social factor is involved, which cannot be denied.

Opposition members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. GARRY KELLY: If the peanut gallery would keep quiet those in it might learn something. I refer members to the patronage figures of that line since it has been reopened. On the first normal day of operation, Monday, 1 August, 8 735 people used the train.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: Fred McKenzie did 7 000 of those trips.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: On Monday, 20 June, 7 258 people used the buses, and on Tuesday, 2 August, 9 756 people used the train. On Tuesday, 21 June, 7 200 people used the buses. These figures indicate that there was a substantial increase in the number of people using the train in the first two days of its operation. As the Minister for Transport, Mr Julian Grill, has said in another place, there has been a very auspicious start to the reopening of the line. As I said, the cry from the Opposition was that the reopening would cost too much, but the point is that the Government had a clear mandate to reopen the line.

Opposition members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Opposition members may laugh, but we on this side take our mandate seriously and intend to keep our word. A cost is involved, but the people of this State voted for the

Labor Party, and did so with their eyes open and knowing that a Labor Government would reopen that line. The people of this State are prepared to pay the cost to keep the line open.

Hon. I. G. Pratt: Which Government tried to close it in 1972?

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: There is one difference with the reopening of this line, and if Mr Pratt cares to listen for a moment—

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Before the line closed in 1979 we had a situation where the buses and the trains were competing for passengers in the same transport corridor. However, since the line has been reopened we have the bus service complementing the line more than it did in the past. As new rolling stock becomes available for the train, and as the service develops, more complementation will occur so that we will not have people travelling along Stirling Highway in the same direction as the train—they will be directed to the trains. A more rational use of transport in the corridor will occur.

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I would like the Opposition to consider those organisations in the Perth-Fremantle corridor which have some need for the train service, particularly during the Royal Show.

During the Royal Show many people converge on the Claremont area and nothing can move people as efficiently and as quickly as a train service. During the four years the train service was closed down the traffic congestion in the area caused chaos.

In September, when South Fremantle continues its inexorable march towards another premiership—

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: —I thought I would get that one in—we will need the train service for those supporters from the Fremantle region who wish to go to Subiaco Oval.

Hon. W. G. Atkinson: Is this your subsidy to football?

Hon. I. G. Pratt: How many days a year have you now given?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: These are the only figures available since the train service reopened. It costs a lot of money to take out figures, and if we did that the member would complain about the waste of money.

Hon. I. G. Pratt: How many days have you spelt out? So far you have mentioned the Royal Show and the football finals.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: They are times when the train service will be supported heavily. I have mentioned the figures for the days of the first week when the train was used.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You missed the 19 000 on Saturday.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I left that out deliberately because that was the day of the reopening.

I will illustrate the figures for 4 and 5 August when an electronics exhibition was held at the showground. On 4 August 11 700 people used the train and on 5 August 14 444 people used the train service to go to and from the showground. So, for those special events, large numbers of people were moved quickly and efficiently by the train service.

The reopening of the service and the link between Perth and Fremantle will restore some flexibility to the metropolitan transport line. Previously people could travel to Armadale and Midland but there was no link between Perth and Fremantle. However, with the reopening, at last we have closed the hole in the metropolitan passenger train service.

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Getting away from trains for a moment, I remind members that one section of the Governor's Speech dealt with the matter of electoral and parliamentary reform. If members oppose care to they may get a copy of *Hansard* and refer to my maiden speech last year.

Several members interjected.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: During that speech I mentioned that I believed this Parliament to be a toy Parliament with no moral authority.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: That is an old one. Mr Bryce used that. It's pretty boring.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: But it is true. I said also that the Parliament represented the facade of democracy in which we have all the trappings, we have the elections, we have voting, we have polling booths and the paraphernalia of a democratic electoral system, but the whole thing is tainted and we have gerrymandered boundaries. Under the system that exists one cannot be guaranteed that a party or group with 50 per cent plus one of the vote will necessarily form a Government.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. GARRY KELLY: The electoral laws in this State mean that the citizens of Western Australia are not equal before the most basic of laws; and the most basic of laws, I submit, is the electoral laws by which members of Parliament—the legislators—are elected.

Point of Order

Hon. V. J. FERRY: Mr President, I question whether the honourable member is entitled to refer to electoral laws when there is legislation in this Parliament dealing with those laws.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member ought to take heed of Standing Order No. 84 which suggests that he ought not to refer to a debate in another place. I would ask him to refrain from doing so.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: Yes, Mr President.

Several members interjected.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I will refer to something which I think impinges on the political arena. I would like to refer to the in vitro fertilisation programme which has been carried out in Australia over the last two years or so. This is the procedure in which an egg is fertilised outside the female body and reimplanted.

There has been a lot of what I call, for want of a stronger word, hogwash talked about this procedure. That is my impression because all I can glean from this programme is the happiness it brings to couples who for so many years have had no chance of having a child. At the moment not many children are available for adoption so I cannot understand the reasons that certain churchmen have raised objection to this programme on so-called moral grounds.

I cannot see how in any way, shape or form the IVF programme can be attacked on moral grounds, especially when the couple involved are married and the egg has been fertilised by the husband's sperm.

Some theologians and moralists seem to object to the fact that instead of subjecting the female to numerous operations to recover an egg from the ovary, each time the procedure is carried out three or four eggs are fertilised and those that are not reimplanted are frozen. For some reason that has shocked some people because at the end of the process, if the egg implants, sometimes the other frozen embryo may be discarded. Some people look on this as murder.

While I do not want to offend people's sensibilities, I believe that calling that action mur-

der is drawing a long bow because many miscarriages occur early in a pregnancy. This happens countless times in women throughout the world and happens naturally for a variety of reasons at an early stage of pregnancy.

I cannot understand the reason that people object to this programme. I can understand, however, that people may object to the programme if donors are involved. I understand that in Victoria there is a donor egg programme where women who have ovaries that are not functioning are given an egg from another female. As I understand it, a moratorium has been placed on that programme in Victoria. I suppose that is okay because that material is from another source, but if a moratorium is being placed on the donor egg programme, why in the world is there not a moratorium on the AID—or artificial insemination by donor—programme because those two programmes are the opposite sides of the same coin?

I can understand the reason that there is some misgiving, but the only thing that has been done in Victoria is to place a moratorium on the donor egg programme. I do not understand the logic of this.

For what it is worth, I think members of Parliament and the Government should be supportive of the IVF programme because it gives people a chance to have children. I am aware of this from personal experience, because I have been married for 11 years and although I do not want to make it too public, I will be a father in November this year—not through the IVF programme, I might add. However, I can appreciate some of the pain and suffering that couples go through when they find it difficult to conceive a child.

I think any procedure which enables people to have children should be supported, and if it needs some Government support or public funding support, that should be given. It would be a small enough price to pay.

Another matter which is not discussed very often in this Chamber is that of foreign affairs. Although I do not think the situation will cause a world war, one area in the world concerns me greatly. A great deal of tension is present in Central America. If members wish to refer to one of the adjournment debates in this House last year, they will note I referred to Patrick Cook's column in *The National Times*. I am referring to the "Not the News" column.

I believe he is one of the best satirists in Australia at present. He has a name for just about everyone. His name for Ronald Reagan is "Crockett". Bob Hawke is known as "Little Caesar", Andrew Peacock is known as "Lord Pea-

cock" and Brian Burke is known as "Brian Bloke". Ronald Reagan is known to have a very black and white view of the world, and what worries me is that perhaps the only Government in Central America which is doing something for its population—the Nicaraguan Government—is about to be invaded by forces which have been supported by the United States.

An American senator made the statement that the population of Nicaragua is something like 2.8 million, and if they exerted their national will and resources into subverting the United States they would have no effect.

Any influence that Australia can bring to bear—not that the Australian Government has much influence in Washington—on the Central American issue to cool the situation should be pressed. Of course, situations such as that in Central America do divert domestic attention from other issues. One of the methods commonly used by Governments to divert attention from affairs at home is to become involved in foreign affairs. I conclude my remarks on that note.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

HON. GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan) [7.31 p.m.]: I support the motion; and in so doing it is indeed an honour to rise, metaphorically speaking, in this institution of convention, tradition, and practice, to add my humble thoughts and words to those who still sit and to those who have passed before me.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff of Parliament House for their kind consideration and offers of advice and assistance. I also thank you, Mr President, in a similar vein.

I record my thanks, initially, to the Australian Labor Party, for the opportunity given to me in the endorsement to contest the election for North Metropolitan Province. I well recall my preselection speech, in which I stated that, given a chance, the Australian Labor Party could inflict a decided and massive defeat on the conservative members and candidates in the northern suburbs. History clearly shows that this forecast was much more accurate than that provided by some of the pundits and supposed experts who made public comment and prediction in the period leading up to the election.

Of course, for that win, tribute must be paid to my colleagues in another place who ran excellent campaigns, on which I fed. These campaigns were backed by clearly pronounced and enunciated policies. The wins in Scarborough, Whitford, and Joondalup reflect admirably on the character of the now elected members, Graham Burkett, Pam

Beggs, and Jackie Watkins. All three are already receiving public recognition for the energetic, hard working approach they are adopting in meeting the respective challenges their individual electorates present. The calibre of these members will ensure fair representation of people in their electorates on a level of parliamentary service rarely experienced or provided by former members of the previous Government.

Grenville Pitts, the ALP candidate in Karrinyup, ran a token campaign to assist my efforts in the Council contest. His efforts and approach came very close to causing a major upset win, and I have no doubt that Grenville will put the experience gained in that election to future good use.

The part played by Brian Burke in the State election will never be diminished by time or history. I would suggest to members opposite, that, try as they may, they will never sustain a charge of false or misleading advertising in the slogan—

Brian Burke

The best new leader in Australia.

I have no doubt that under his leadership the ALP in this State will be in Government for many years to come.

I thank particularly the electors of the North Metropolitan Province. To my knowledge, no other person in this State has been elected to serve in Parliament with a physical disability as evident as mine. This is not a boast, Mr President, but an expression of humble gratitude for the trust and faith those electors have vested in me by giving me the opportunity to represent them. I must say that the problems that are evident in this electorate, and its inherent responsibilities, sit none too lightly on my shoulders.

I believe the major challenge facing this Government is that of unemployment, particularly among the young. There is no doubt that the impact of unemployment is felt heavily across the community and we have seen the devastating effects unemployment can have on the middle-aged breadwinner. Unemployment manifests itself in all age groups, but leaves its particular scar on the youth of this nation, many of whom feel they have been made redundant by society before ever having the opportunity to become useful. It is unfortunate that, through this malaise, many young people are losing faith in the future. It is equally sad that many adults, most of whom should know better, have lost faith in our youth.

It is easy for those who sit in comfort and security, far removed from reality, to conjure up all-embracing insults like "dole bludger", "drop-out", etc., and, without thought of the harm they are

doing, apply them to every young person who happens to have the misfortune to be unemployed.

I am not denying that amongst our unemployed youth there are those who seek to take advantage of the system. They are however, in the minority. The people who, in self-gratification, seek to apply certain stigmas to our youth, would perhaps be better served by contemplating the damage done to our nation by tax evaders and manipulators of tax laws who work to cheat the system of many millions of dollars. Attack them for a change and get off the backs of our youth!

This Government is facing up to its responsibilities of creating and providing work. It will be some time, however, before the full, positive effects flow across the board and arrest the tendency for youth to move from school to the dole.

In the interim, I believe that the Community Youth Support Scheme and the education programme for unemployed youth are providing a valuable buffer between hope and complete despondency. These programmes, however, deserve more consideration from the community—particularly from service clubs such as Rotary, Apex, and Lions, where much expertise exists. This expertise could be plugged into the programmes to provide far greater recognition and acceptance of the problems of unemployed youth and provide many more avenues toward solving those same problems. Scarborough Rotary Club is already considering input in this area, and I understand others may do likewise. Our youth need to know that we are aware of their plight. They need to know we are supportive of their aims and ambitions.

I can well recall when I left school I had the choice of a number of jobs and had the opportunity of testing different areas of employment for long-term satisfaction. Today, young people are forced to grab at whatever work opportunity they can, often without regard for future career prospects, educational achievements, responsibilities, or job satisfaction in the tasks they are performing. Employment of this ilk, of course, presents dire social consequences for the future.

The only way to diminish unemployment and its associated problems, is through real economic growth and revitalisation. Between now and that realisation, however, lie many unpopular decisions for this Government; but the fact of the matter is that our youth cannot afford to be socially alienated any further. They must come to know that they have a stake in the future of this nation; they must come to know that the aims and ambitions they hold for their futures are achievable. We all

have a responsibility to share their challenge. To do otherwise is to cast a whole generation adrift.

Given the current problems that confront our youth, I would not be adverse to seeing the establishment of a peace corps on a national or State-wide scale. It could be set up on a volunteer basis, involving males and females on attaining the age of 18. The peace corps could be established to implement community-based or self-sufficient and productive programmes. It would contain an educational facet and a skills development facet. It could provide a ready reaction group to respond to natural disasters, in hand with and trained by State Emergency Service personnel. Most importantly, perhaps, it would be run to assist in the development of character, initiative, and self-sufficiency.

I see regional centres being set up in key country areas so that youth are given the opportunity to leave the city and learn the full magnitude, harshness, and challenge this great nation presents. In terms of self-sufficiency, programmes and exercises in navigation, orienteering, living off the land, etc., could be implemented. Obviously, much more work on and development of this proposal is needed before anything formal could be presented. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the idea with any member of the House who considers such a scheme would benefit our youth.

Among other improvements I wish to see implemented by this Government, and fairly high on my list of priorities, is equality for disabled people in the work force and an equality of opportunity for those who seek to join the work force. It is unfortunate that this State, unlike others in this nation, and despite the opportunity to have done so, as yet has no legislation to make discrimination against disabled persons an illegal act. No doubt anti-discrimination legislation in itself, in isolation, is not the complete answer.

However, legislation with an ongoing programme of education, encouragement, and incentive, directed toward prospective employers, is a positive step towards providing work opportunities for the disabled members of the work force. There are positive rewards for employers who are prepared to take on disabled employees. The disabled people are generally much more appreciative of the opportunity to work. They are acutely aware of their responsibilities, much more loyal to employers, take fewer "sickies", and work harder than the average person to prove their worth. These facts will become evident to electors of the North Metropolitan Province over the next six years.

Since being elected I have had drawn to my attention a number of blatant acts of discrimination. I have also experienced, at first hand, discrimination in the work force. I have had the opportunity to fight those acts of discrimination, and on each occasion I have won. It is my intention to use my position in Parliament to further the fight against discrimination applied on the basis of disability.

My philosophy in this area is best expressed by these borrowed words—

I am only one—but I am one.

I cannot do everything—but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do—and by the grace of God—I will do.

To be a member of the Australian Labor Party is to formally adopt, as a personal challenge, the same challenge that Australia as a nation faces, and the same challenges that Australians as a people face.

The Australian Labor Party is the only political party in this country that can lay the legitimate claim of being the party with its roots deeply embedded in Australian soil, and its aspirations reflective of the aspirations of Australian people. As our citizens want, and express a wish to have, a greater equity as Australians in the future of Australia, so do we. As our citizens want, and express a wish to have, a greater equity and equality in parliamentary representation, so do we.

We have heard, thanks to the knowledge of the Leader of the Opposition in this place, an interpretation of the word "mandate". I wonder if he has ever researched, and shared with the same diligence in Parliament, the word "democracy". In case he has not, let me share the definition applied to that word by the *Australian Oxford Dictionary*—

Democracy—

Government by the people.

State in which this prevails.

The principle that all citizens have equal political rights.

Now that is democracy. While Mr Medcalf can challenge, and play word games with, the word "mandate", based on an American dictionary's interpretation, I challenge him to play word games with this definition of "democracy", based on an English-Australian dictionary, because after all, is not our system based on the English model?

Last year, the City of Stirling unveiled two unique memorials—unique because one is dedi-

cated to veterans of all wars, and one is dedicated to veterans of Vietnam. The memorials are situated adjacent to the council chambers. People attending, for instance, citizenship ceremonies at the city walk past these unique twin memorials and cannot help but observe them. A member of the Opposition from this Chamber decided to capitalise on the memorials, and he mentioned them one evening in an address to residents adopting Australian status. Of course, he did not say that the Government, of which he was a member, refused point blank to make a small financial contribution towards their erection. He did, however, say words along these lines—

Those memorials you walked past this evening are a reminder of the sacrifices our fighting forces have made for their country.

He then pointed to the Australian national and Western Australian State flags adorning the wall and further said—

The spirit of their sacrifices is embodied in these flags.

That is quite a dramatic statement and one that he obviously holds to be true. As he was speaking on behalf of his party, I assume he was also representing that party's views. Now, if that member and those of his persuasion do indeed believe that statement to be true, they must, in sincerity, believe something further to be true; that is, if the spirit of those sacrifices is embodied in our flags, then equally, and undeniably, the same spirit of those sacrifices should be embodied and reflected in our parliamentary system of democracy. For, surely, those men and women who gave their lives were making a sacrifice for freedom, a sacrifice for equality, a sacrifice for justice, and a sacrifice for democracy.

I have a long-held belief, implanted by my father, that these qualities and principles were, indeed, what men and women were prepared to fight for; they were, indeed, qualities and principles these men and women were prepared to die for. Until the principle of democracy is reflected, expressed and embodied within our parliamentary system, we are perpetrating an injustice on our fallen.

Mr President, I have approached my maiden speech with some regard for convention and have not taken advantage of the licence generally accorded new members in this situation. Opposition members should not read into my "playing the game" any lack of resolve on my part in regard to introducing parliamentary democracy and seeing its application to the Legislative Council. I will pursue this aim and private principle with due vigour and enterprise, fully aware that its achieve-

ment will probably result in my own demise from this Chamber. That, Mr President, is my commitment to this matter of principle.

[Applause.]

HON. W. G. ATKINSON (Central) [7.47 p.m.]: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise in the Chamber for the first time, especially as I am following in the footsteps of the Hon. Norman Baxter, a man who served this Chamber well over a long period. It is with a combination of feelings that I stand here this evening: Pride, nervousness, and humbleness.

Pride, first of all, to be able to follow in the footsteps of the honourable member who preceded me. The Hon. Norm Baxter was first elected to this House in 1950 and served until earlier this year. He had a long and distinguished career, serving as Minister for Health in the Brand Government from 1971 to 1974, serving as Chairman of Committees for two periods, from 1963 to 1965 and from 1971 to 1974, and finishing his career as Chairman of the Honorary Royal Commission into racing and trotting. It gives me a great deal of pride to be able to congratulate him for his years of service in this House and to wish him well in his retirement.

I have a feeling of humbleness following in his footsteps as the member for Central Province and entering this House, where parliamentary democracy takes its rise. It certainly takes its rise in the history of this House. I have just one worry: I enter the House at the time when its very existence is under attack and threat.

I thank the electors of Central Province who have placed their confidence in me. I trust I can repay that confidence by working in as able a manner as did the former member.

The threat that the House is under and that falls on its representatives comes from the Government's stated moves to alter the Constitution. Over the years that this House has been in existence it has been known for the quality of the legislation that has emanated therefrom. I trust it will continue its resistance to damaging change and its responsibility to encourage progressive reforms for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Mr President, I congratulate you on once again being elected to the Chair of this Chamber. I congratulate the honourable members who have been elected or re-elected following the recent elections. I congratulate the Ministers on their appointment and the Hon. Des Dans for his appointment as Leader of the Government in the House. I express appreciation for the help I have received from members and for the help I have received from members of the staff. I have appreciated

their help as it has enabled me to settle into what is a new occupation.

As most members are aware, I am a farmer, a practical person. We have several other farmers in the Chamber and it does well to balance the intellectual side with a few practical people. I am a country person, having lived in the country all my life. I received my education in the country, starting at the Ballidu Primary School, then the Dalwallinu Primary School, then the Northam High School, followed by the Muresk Agricultural College. I live in Dalwallinu and I enjoy country life and country people.

Country people hold high the moral values of family life and community service, a combination which holds up in the face of adversity, something which country people seem to face so often with the natural disasters they have faced so regularly, it seems, over the last decade; disasters such as droughts, floods and fires. We have seen the effects of drought over the last seven or eight years; we have seen the disastrous results it has had on the country's economy. Not only a large part of the area I represent has suffered from this natural infliction; so too have large areas of the Eastern States. Naturally the country's economy has suffered from the downturn in the export income thus lost.

We saw the effects of floods in the south-west of Western Australia in the summer of 1982 and also recently. A most prophetic warning from Professor Parker recently appeared in *The West Australian* when, just several days before the Swan River flooded, he said that Perth faced a flood threat. The article stated—

PERTH'S long run of flood-free winters could change drastically in the next few years.

All it needs is an unusually high rainfall over the degraded land in the huge Avon River catchment

The result could be horrific inundations along the Swan River.

The catchment area of the Avon River basically covers the area I represent, so members can see the extent of this problem. We could easily return to a series of wet winters such as we experienced in the middle 1960s.

Another of the natural disasters that often hits country people but which very rarely hits city people is fire. We also had the case in this State of cyclone Alby several years ago and the damage that caused. We have recently had the experience of the devastating fires in the Eastern States, and—needless to say—we all realise the damage and heartbreak they caused to many people, and

the tremendous loss they caused to the country in terms of the economy.

As a farmer I am pleased to say that this season is much better than recent seasons, although we had a late start and finishing rains are essential. This has given country people a much better outlook, and it should flow over into the rest of the community generally.

I would like now to give members a little detail of Central Province. The province covers a huge area. I know it is not equal in size to some of the areas in the north, but it has a scattered population over virtually all of it and is only partially developed; it is a huge area. It covers 112 000 square kilometres. To illustrate its size, it is nearly half the area of the State of Victoria, which covers an area of 227 000 square kilometres. Central Province encompasses 29 shires, one town council, and part of the Yalgoo Shire. It has 68 schools and the Muresk Agricultural College. It has 27 500 electors on the roll.

As a wheat grower I am pleased to point out that, of Co-operative Bulk Handling's 202 receival points in this State, 102 are in Central Province. Of the 1981-82 wheat harvest of 4.5 million tonnes, some 55 per cent, or 2.4 million tonnes, was produced and delivered within Central Province. Unfortunately it is a bit difficult to ascertain the quantity actually carted to the ports from the province, but it could rise to the 60 per cent mark. So, some 60 per cent of the State's wheat is produced in the area I represent.

It is with a great deal of pride that I join the Hon. Mick Gayfer in this Chamber, he being the Chairman of CBH, the company that means so much to farmers. Besides producing all that wheat, some 22 per cent of the oat production and 16 per cent of the barley production of the State occurs in this province. So it can be seen that the Assembly electorates that make up the province—Mt. Marshall, Merredin and Avon—play an important part in the export earnings of the State and contribute very heavily to the revenue of the railways. As a point of interest, in 1981-82 one of the largest receival points was Kalannie in the north of the province, where 49 800 tonnes of wheat were delivered. Another large receival point is Kulin, where 48 762 tonnes of wheat were delivered. It would be remiss of me if I were not to mention the home town of the Hon. Mick Gayfer, because 42 600 tonnes of wheat were delivered to the Corrigin receival point.

Mineral production in Central Province has played an important role over the years. However, the recent closure of the charcoal iron industry in Wundowie and of the Koolyanobbing mining ven-

ture has meant that mineral production in the region once more depends on goldmining in the Yilgarn area, in such places as Bullfinch and Marvel Loch. It is now an important part of mineral production in the province.

The province is well served with services such as water, electricity, railways, roads and communications. We have a tractor manufacturing company at Merredin, where the Phillips-Merredin company has been manufacturing the Acremaster tractor for some years. Regrettably the company has had financial problems recently, but hopefully it will overcome them, so allowing its 35 employees to once again have work.

In such a huge area we naturally have problems providing the services and amenities that city people take absolutely for granted; things like roads, water, electricity, medical and educational facilities, TV and radio, and sport and recreational facilities. Over the years, successive Governments have helped local governments to provide these facilities, but rising costs have slowed down this development. These rising costs are contributed to by high interest rates and constantly rising wages.

We are faced with huge costs just to employ a person these days. We must meet long service leave entitlements, holiday loadings, superannuation and workers' compensation. More recently we have the case before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission involving redundancy payments. If a farmer wants to take on an employee who is in the 40-years-of-age bracket, and if after a year the farmer is hit by a drought and must put off that employee, he has to pay that person another year's wages. That is hardly conducive to healthy employment.

Other costs are holding up works programmes in the country. Fuel levies have been imposed to fund the ARBD grants. Unfortunately, by reason of distance, and the large amount of fuel used on farms, country people contribute very heavily to this fund. The restrictions that the Main Roads Department places on them by means of road counts ensures that insufficient funds are returned to the areas from whence they are generated.

I now turn to a matter that is worrying the local shire councils in the area: the rapid rise in workers' compensation insurance. One shire in the area has this year experienced a rise of \$10 000 in its workers' compensation premium, which represents a 62 per cent increase over 12 months. Another has had an increase from \$20 000 to \$33 000 in one year, or a rise of \$13 000; this is on \$2 000 less wages. The rates have climbed from 4.6 per cent in 1981-82 to 6.22 per cent in

1982-83 and to 9.82 per cent in 1983-84; so in a three-year period we have seen the rates for workers' compensation more than double. When this is combined with the other costs of labour, such as the provision of housing, which employers in the country must provide, holiday loadings, and the possibility of very heavy redundancy payments, it means local councils need to inflict a very steep rise in rates upon their ratepayers unless they are prepared to make quite drastic cuts in the services they provide.

These costs are placing a real burden on all employers of labour, not only in the country, but also throughout the community, causing people to be out of work and prices to rise.

I now turn to a great problem in the country, one of the essential ingredients for life in the country—water. Water is essential not only for people living in the country, but also to farmers for stock. The action of turning on a tap which most people in the city would take absolutely for granted—that if one turns on a tap a stream of good quality water will issue forth—is not available over large areas of the province that I represent. This is a huge social problem. I trust honourable members have read in the Press about women having to cart water during the period when their husbands are out with the harvester. They must try to get enough water for household use and have a little left over for the garden so they can have a bit of greenery around instead of the dry red dirt we have seen so much of over the last few years.

Many households in this area depend entirely on rainwater which is caught off the roof and held in tanks provided at their own cost. We then have the cost of providing water for stock—sheep, cattle and piggeries—and also in this day and age with chemical farming becoming more and more the in thing, the need to provide good quality water to use with sprays.

Over most of the area we have the goldfields scheme which covers most of the lower half of the province; indeed, it covers the area right up to the Shire of Dalwallinu where I reside. Where it is not available farmers and other people have been forced to provide their own supplies and they have made, in some cases, considerable financial sacrifices in constructing dams only to find that after the dams fill they leak almost as quickly as the water runs into them. Numerous bores are put down on properties, only to find that the salinity of the water is too great to be of any use for the stock. So we have a combination of lack of suitable clays for dams, saline waters and, over the last few years, lack of rains to fill all the dams which do hold water; and all this means that the

provision of water has become a very real problem.

Mundaring Weir has been stretched to its limit to provide water for the area. I again remind honourable members of the Agaton water scheme which could cover a fair proportion of this area. I would like to read a summary of this scheme because I regard it as a very important one for the area. The summary reads as follows—

For a number of years, moves have been made to develop and utilise the underground water reserves from the area known as the Agaton groundwater resource—West of Watheroo.

In May 1979 the then Government of Western Australia approached the Federal Government for funds to develop The North Eastern Agricultural Water Supply—Agaton Project.

A Joint Commonwealth-State Committee was established and their subsequent report in July, 1980 called for a Study of the benefits and costs of the Project as well as the development of the On-Farm alternative.

During November, 1981 the cost-benefit Study of the North Eastern Agricultural Water Supply (Agaton Project) and the On-Farm Alternative, was released.

Indications were quite clear at this point, that the Scheme had little likelihood of proceeding, unless there was a farmer contribution to cost at a high percentage rate—30 per cent.

Members of the Rural Water Council of W.A.—Shire Council delegates, C.W.A. and Farmer Delegates—having spent a considerable amount of time and effort in working towards the implementation of the Scheme, felt compelled to pursue and investigate the principle of Farmer contribution.

Subsequent surveys conducted during 1982 established the fact that the principle of farmer contribution, whether it be 25 per cent, 20 per cent or lower, was generally unacceptable, not only to potential consumers of the water but to Parliamentarians and to the public at large. It must be stressed at this point, that despite the general rejection of farmer contribution, a significant number of farmers, in a desperate bid to establish secure water supplies were prepared to contribute to the cost of the Agaton project, even to the extent of mortgaging their properties.

The Agaton Scheme would service approximately, one million hectares of farming

land with water from an assured continuous water supply, using less than 50 per cent of the source available.

Water to supply 334 000 hectares would be transferred from the Mundaring Weir source, thus reducing the demand from that source.

The remaining 664 000 hectares of farmland including several townships with very poor water supply, would be then supplied with reticulated water.

This area has been designated and recognised as having the highest priority in terms of need for a secure water supply due to the difficulty of establishing on-farm water supplies whether they be from an underground source or surface water storage.

I could read from that report at length, but I believe what I have read out illustrates the point we want to get across.

I remind the Government, and I would like it incorporated in *Hansard*, of a quote from an article in the *Central Midlands Herald* of 10 February 1983 which reads as follows—

Opposition would move on Agaton

In conjunction with the Australian Labor Party candidate for Mt Marshall, Mr Bob Couzens, and the ALP candidate for Central Province, Mr Roy Little, the Opposition's spokesman for Water Resources, Mr Parker, gave firm commitments on the party's attitude towards the implementation of the much discussed Agaton water scheme.

He announced at Mukinbudin that the ALP would move immediately to have the scheme listed as a No. 1 priority for application for Federal funds and that on gaining government the first stage would be put into operation.

"The scheme", he said, "was an essential service to the people who would be served by it, and therefore should have the priority listing it so deserved.

"For far too long the needs of country people have been neglected, and a State Labor Government would rectify this injustice.

"People living in areas not now reticulated are equally entitled to Government regard to provide those services at a fair and equitable cost, the same as those areas already serviced," Mr Parker concluded.

I believe that that is a firm promise and I urge the Government, particularly because of the reintroduction of the Perth-Fremantle railway

passenger service—and in doing so, stressing the social value of reintroducing that service—to place equal emphasis on the social value of implementing this scheme which over a period of approximately 10 years would not cost a lot more than the loss that will be made on that railway.

I now turn to some old problems that confront the area. Because of the vastness of the area, we have problems with television and radio reception, another thing that city people take for granted. A large portion of the north-east and south-east sectors have either very poor television reception or none at all. For the area in between, very expensive masts and boosters must be employed to gain any reception at all.

We have recently seen Telecom unions pressurising the Federal Government to try to stop something which promises to provide some sort of reliable service for these people—AUSSAT. Fortunately—and I commend it for this—the Federal Labor Government has seen fit to go ahead with this scheme and hopefully it will improve reception in those areas.

While giving the Federal Government a pat on the back for one thing, I must deplore its actions in breaking an election promise in which it gave an undertaking earlier this year to keep down telephone charges. Despite that promise we have heard a recent announcement of a \$10 rise in the rental charge for telephones and a 15 per cent rise in STD charges, again a big factor in the cost of living for country people.

Freight is another problem faced by country people caused by the distance factor. Farmers in the outlying areas of Central Province and the Yilgarn pay \$22 a tonne for wheat to be freighted to the port. These people are probably facing a rise this year in the vicinity of eight per cent. They also have to pay this sort of money to get fertiliser to that area and these charges place in jeopardy the viability of growing wheat over a large part of the north-eastern area of Central Province. Not only is the cost of freight leading to problems there, but it is also increasing the number of farmers carting their own wheat and fertiliser, and this compounds the problem of traffic on the roads.

Another serious matter facing the area, which harks back to the mention I made of the Avon River and its flood problems, is land degradation. Because of a series of dry seasons we now have severe erosion problems; with overworked land, and high winds causing frequent dust storms over this area. We have a steadily increasing salinity problem. Over the years research has been carried out by the Department of Agriculture, but unfor-

fortunately in recent years there seems to have been a conflict of direction between that department and private interests which are trying to do something to stop the enormous loss we are facing. In recent weeks it has been suggested that the State is losing something in the vicinity of \$94 million a year because of this ever-increasing salinity problem.

I could not sit down without mentioning some of the problems farmers face outside their farms. I am talking about industrial problems that have occurred on the wharf at Kwinana. Some of these problems may have been avoidable and some may not have been, but unfortunately the unions there have seen fit to lay a log of claims on CBH which, in some cases, are absolutely ridiculous.

I would like to refer to a few of the clauses in this log of claims. Clause 1 seeks \$300 wages for 30 hours' work a week; clause 2 refers to shift work, 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday—what about the railways in the meantime? Clause 4 is for shift work only with the approval of the Waterside Workers Federation; day shift normal time, evening shift double time, and night shift treble time. Clause 9 seeks an unconditional travelling allowance of \$20 per week paid to all workers—already we see wages going up. Clause 12 is for annual leave of six weeks plus 50 per cent loading. Clause 13 seeks long service leave of 13 weeks after 10 years' service, 13 weeks after 20 years and 13 weeks after 27 years. Now the crunch comes: plus 50 per cent. Clause 19 refers to stop work meetings and seeks that employees be paid for 12 times four hours of stop work meetings per annum—48 hours of stop work time to be made up by the farmers. Lastly, and I am not sure whether it will be affected by the Medicare programme, is the welfare fund—the employer to fund all health costs.

The strike at Kwinana during the last summer cost the farmers in this State in direct costs \$250 000. In indirect costs—extra rail freight, and loss of wages to railway workers—it probably cost this State \$500 000. It is a very expensive exercise and one that farmers cannot afford to pay.

I remind the Government of the comment made by the Hon. Mark Nevill when he said, "The ALP represents the light on the hill to agriculture". I believe that remark could be true because of the actions of some ALP Governments in the past, and their establishment of a number of boards. Certainly, I cannot deny that these boards have been of benefit to the farmers, but they have also affiliations with the Labor movement and I only hope the Government can control the unions so this country will not be brought to

its knees by the industrial action we see so much of today.

Mr President, I thank you for the opportunity of speaking for the first time in this House and I thank honourable members for listening to me in the manner they have done.

I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Margaret McAleer.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Questions: Answers

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West) [8.20 p.m.]: I believe the House should not adjourn until I make a few comments about answers to questions that have been given in this House over the last two to three weeks by the Government—or should I say lack of answers. One can only assume that for some reason the Government is trying to hide some of the facts that should be presented and made available to the public in this State by either the Opposition or other members of Parliament.

I raise this matter because of two questions to which I failed to obtain a reasonable answer. The Opposition deplores the actions of the State Government in relation to the effects of its wages and salaries decision on Treasury and departmental budgeting since the Government came into office in February 1983.

I refer to questions numbered 42 and 47 and the astounding answers given by the Leader of the House, the Minister for Industrial Relations. The questions related to decisions made by the Minister regarding salaries and wages increases since he became Minister. I simply asked on how many occasions did he make certain decisions relating to sections 4 and 13(2) of the Salaries and Wages Freeze Act. The answer I received was that the information was not readily available and would take some considerable time to collate. This is a ridiculous answer and should be subject to some sort of censure from this House.

The Minister said that he and his Government supported the wages freeze, but I believe he said this with tongue in cheek because he has weakly caved in to the TLC in recent disputes. I guess his action was the result of the advice of his advisers, who are definitely supporting wages and salaries increases. The Minister may well smile, but he

should think of the facts of the case and the answers he has given to this House.

In fact, the Minister has said to the House that he does not know how many increases he has granted since he became Minister. In *The Sunday Times* on 3 April this year the Minister is reported as saying, and I quote—

... rulings he made on 18 applications by unions for increased wages or shorter hours could encourage others to follow suit.

He has already admitted that at least 18 increases were granted. However, he refused to answer in this House the questions I directed to him regarding how many increases were made. I asked in that question, how many Government departments were directly affected by his decision; how many persons benefited; how high were the increased rates, remuneration, etc.; and I also asked him what effect this would have on the Treasury for the 1982-83 financial year and for the 1983-84 financial year. He said that the information was not readily available and that it would take time to collate.

Surely, the Minister would know how many times he has used his discretion in these areas and how often he has exercised his powers under the Salaries and Wages Freeze Act. The answer he gave is quite ridiculous; it is extraordinary, and he may well be trying to mislead the House. I do not know whether that is the proper thing to say but I can only interpret the answer he has given as being a deliberate way of refusing to give information to which this House is entitled—the public of this State are entitled to know, because after all they are paying for what is being done.

Anyone in this House who has been a Minister—several members have been Ministers and others are Ministers—would know that the information which I sought must be available. The facts and figures must be there, otherwise the Minister could not make a decision.

Again I draw the attention of the House to the Minister's answer that, "The information requested by the honourable member is not readily available and will take some considerable time to collate..." If Mr Dans has departed from the accepted practice of gaining information from departments, let him say so; if he is making judgment on the advice of officers, let him say so. If the Minister has not obtained the requested information he is guilty of disgraceful mismanagement and it is no wonder the Treasury figures seem to be up in the air at the moment, or at least the Treasurer's figures seem to have been lost.

As an example I mention the recent statement made by the Premier when he said that the in-

creased Government charges would result in an additional \$57 million for the Treasury. After a great deal of pressure from the Opposition he agreed that the figure was more likely to be \$120 million—a \$60 million mistake.

The Government did not give us an answer to questions asked during the debate on the tobacco legislation. The matter concerning the return the Government will receive from this legislation has not been resolved. We see that the Government has initiated a 50 per cent replacement of employees who resign or retire from Government departments—this is an absolute shambles. I have asked a question relating to that policy and I believe I am unlikely to receive a satisfactory answer. I will be fobbed off and be told that the information is not readily available. However, there are two Ministers—the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education—who have said that the 50 per cent replacement policy does not apply to their departments. The Government says that it will get rid of 1 500 jobs and will save in the order of \$121 million. It is no wonder the Treasury is in a mess and the Treasurer does not know where he is going.

I admit that Mr Dans has not had to take responsibility for financial consequences in the past. As a union leader he was successful, but he never had to face financial consequences. When in Opposition he knew he could say and do what he liked because again he did not have to face financial consequences; but he is a Minister now and he does have to face financial consequences. The questions I have asked are reasonable, and a proper course of action for the Minister to take would be to give me the answers. It is approximately three weeks since I asked those questions.

The Minister could say to the House that he made a decision to increase the wages and salaries without reference to the Budget, the cost to the State, the effects of the increases on Government charges, and the effects of the increases on the private sector. We would appreciate it if he gave an honest answer. He could say also that he made a mistake in the answer he gave to the House, or he could say that he was given details, in which case, obviously the information was available. Of course, he could say that he received the information and he made a judgment on that basis, but the facts and figures are not available.

In this case we could ask what the Minister has to hide. We know that he has broken the wages freeze. He has caused an impost on Government revenue and if there is any doubt at all about it I could give the Minister some background on the four increases he has already allowed. They include increases to MTT workers, hospital or-

derlies and domestics, and Metropolitan Water Authority employees, and shift allowances to SEC engine drivers. The increases involved would amount to \$7.4 million—

Hon. D. K. Dans: Rot!

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: —in a full financial year.

The Minister must be saying that the information is not readily available to him, and therefore, in four instances he made decisions that cost over \$7 million without that information. When we look at the other large number of increases he has granted, we are talking about tens of millions of dollars and yet the Minister says that the information is not readily available.

I would think the normal procedure in this State—procedure followed for the last 50 to 100 years—would still apply. This is what happens when a Minister is faced with an application, a request, or a demand for increases in the Government work force from employees, and there are some ex-State union members in this House who know the procedure: The union simply goes to the Government and says, "We want an increase", and then gives reasons for the increase.

The first thing the Minister does is to seek the advice of his department. In this particular case it is the Western Australian Industrial Relations Service—or that is what it was called. The head of that department is Mr Bob Georges, and the 2IC is Mr Bob Cooper. The Minister would go to that department, which was especially set up to advise him, to seek advice about the increase. Of course, the Government is now employing advisers, and that may create some difficulties. The advisers threaten the Public Service because they are the middle men, and the way the system is operating now is quite wrong. Nevertheless, the Minister would take to his advisers an application, a request, or a demand. Most certainly he would go to the department and the departmental officers would have the information at their fingertips.

The Minister would be given information about the departments that would be affected, the number of people concerned, and whether the request was justified. The Minister would be told also the way in which granting the request would affect the Budget and whether it would affect the private sector. If the advisers did not give the information to the Minister, they would not be doing their job. Yet the Minister here tells us that the information is not readily available.

I have here a list of the type of information I was given when such a request came to me during my period as Minister. It sets out the award, the

number of employees affected, the background of the claim, all the options and, of course, the cost involved. That is the normal procedure which the department follows, and the departmental officer says to the Minister, "Here are the facts of the case"; and yet the Minister has said the information is not readily available and that it will take some time to collate.

We know that the Minister has granted increases over a number of areas and I have just given some details of these. I said that these increases I quoted amounted to more than \$7 million, but the Minister said that is rubbish. It is still a cost to the public. I challenge the Minister to clear up this matter. He can do that if he wants to—if he is prepared to give the House the information that we know is available. He could bring forward the appropriate files because the matter will be recorded on them. I know this as an ex-Minister, and anyone involved in departmental procedures would know about it. We know very well that this information is recorded on the file.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: When you were Minister you gave us some pretty inaccurate information at times.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am telling the House that the Minister has said that information I know to be available, is not available.

Hon. D. K. Dans: How do you know it is available?

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I go back to what I said earlier: If the information is not available, then the Minister made decisions which will amount to tens of millions of dollars without sufficient information. That will result in a cost to the public by way of increased charges. He has made these decisions without reference to the facts and figures. That is totally irresponsible mismanagement. So the choice is his: Either the facts are available or they are not. In either case it shows a gross incompetence on the part of the Minister.

I ask him again to forward the files—if that is the way he wants to clear himself. I know there are some finer details, but the main facts of the case—the costs and charges—are available to the Minister.

So finally I say this: The Minister should come clean and I ask him again: Did he make the decisions with no reference to the consequences, with no information, or did he make decisions with the full facts? If he made the decisions with the full facts, why does he hide the facts? Either the Minister is misleading the House or he is grossly negligent.

I shall continue to speak on the adjournment when questions raised by the Opposition are not correctly answered, when the queries we raise are not answered properly or correctly. The public are entitled to such information. After all it is public money that the Minister is spending, that the Government is spending; and it is crucifying the public with additional charges to pay for this expenditure.

Natural Disaster: Bunbury Storm

HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [8.34 p.m.]: I make no apologies for taking just a few minutes of the time of members tonight before we adjourn to touch on the subject of natural disasters. Last week the City of Bunbury and its environs were subjected to a very violent storm which caused considerable damage. I want to pay tribute to the Bunbury volunteer emergency group that slipped into gear magnificently and handled a very nasty situation.

The Bunbury volunteer emergency service is one of several set up throughout the Western Australian community. The group to which I refer in Bunbury has had some experience in recent years in regard to natural disasters, the more notable experience of course was with cyclone "Alby", in 1978, if my memory serves me correctly. That was the catalyst to improve the situation, and many improvements have flowed from that experience.

I would like to pay a particular compliment to the Bunbury volunteer emergency service which handled the emergency last week. It received an unprecedented 57 emergency calls commencing at 11.00 p.m. on the Thursday. As well as these calls, minor damage was caused to many other buildings and property and this minor damage was not reported to the State Emergency Service—the people concerned handled repairs themselves, and full credit to them.

As I said, the service received 57 calls in a very concentrated period of time and this caused some temporary communication problems as so many reports of damage were received. I pay tribute to the co-ordinator of the Bunbury group (Mr Ray Hall) for the job he and his workers did. One thing I noticed particularly when I was inspecting the damage was that the group has only one official vehicle. Quite obviously this is hopelessly inadequate—at least one more vehicle is needed. Members of the group use their own vehicles voluntarily, but this is certainly not ideal.

Because of the nature of the work, the vehicles of the volunteers are at risk and I hope that the

Government will give consideration to providing more transport.

Superimposed on that emergency service situation, there is the South-West Great Southern Co-ordinator of the State Emergency Service. His job is to look after the whole south-west and great southern region and to superintend the volunteer organisations in centres throughout the region. In last week's emergency situation the superintendent attempted to operate from his own home because, as the regional representative, he does not have any headquarters. The Bunbury group does have its own headquarters, but of course, it was fully occupied with the local emergency and the regional co-ordinator was off the air. He had nowhere to go really, and as I say, he tried to operate from his own home, but because of the blackout, he was knocked out of effective operation. So there is a very real need for the regional co-ordinator to have his own headquarters and backup. There could be an emergency, not only in Bunbury, but in other areas such as Kojonup, Katanning, and Collie. The co-ordinator needs to be equipped so that he can co-operate with those centres.

In last week's emergency, the co-ordinator eventually found his way to the Bunbury headquarters and operated as best he could from there, but in the knowledge that he was completely in the way of the local group that was working flat out. It was a somewhat unsatisfactory situation, so I make the plea that the Government give urgent consideration to providing a proper base from which the co-ordinator can operate, a base which is properly equipped for communication.

Also arising out of cyclone "Alby" was the knowledge of the necessity for improved communications, and a certain number of radio transmitters are now available. Although there are still not sufficient transmitters, the situation has improved enormously right throughout the region. I feel the proper long-term move to make would be to change from VHF to UHF transmitters to give us a better system of communication in times of national disasters. In the interim, I hope the Government will move quickly to provide a permanent building for the South-West Great Southern Co-ordinator. I suggest that these headquarters should be in Bunbury because of the other facilities already there—the co-ordinator should have a backup system until an alternative permanent backup system can be provided. At least the co-ordinator could be provided with a properly equipped caravan-type base. This would allow him to keep in touch effectively with the regions for which he is responsible and he

would not be in the way of the local organisation when it is flat out.

I would like to commend the service generally throughout the State, and especially the Bunbury group. This group worked well beyond the call of duty—in fact, the people worked into the next day. A great deal of extra work was undertaken quite voluntarily—the emergency workers did not need to do it, but because people were in need of help, they slipped into gear and got the work done, at a cost to themselves. I hope the Government takes note of that particular exercise just as the Government of the day took note of the cyclone “Alby” problem. I hope very quickly it will provide at least a caravan and very shortly afterwards a proper headquarters from which the regional co-ordinator can service the south-west area.

Questions: Answers

HON. P. H. WELLS (North Metropolitan) [8.42 p.m.]: I rise to speak on the adjournment because I feel I should draw the attention of the House to what I detect as a purposeful attack on the ability of members to examine the Government of the day. Some of the actions taken in this session so far have resorted almost to browbeating and threatening the members. Members have been discouraged from doing the very job for which they were elected. For instance, in some of the messages that come from another place, we are told to bow and obey and do everything we are told, or we will be hit with a big cane.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: The bully boys!

Hon. P. H. WELLS: Yes, the bully boys' approach. I want to draw the attention of the House not only to the answers we have received from the Ministers to the parliamentary questions we have asked, but also to the way in which the questions we have asked during debates on Bills have been dealt with.

Hon. G. E. Masters: With contempt.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: For instance, I would like to refer to the Firearms Amendment Bill. We agreed to the suspension of Standing Orders to allow this Bill to be debated because of its urgency. Then we came under the attention of a past master at browbeating—a man who really knows how to turn the screws and to make one feel that one does not know anything legal. He is probably using tactics that he learnt in the courtroom, and he wants to discourage and browbeat members so they cannot get the answers and understand legislation in the way they really should before they make decisions. For instance, the Firearms Amendment Bill will give police

officers as well as agricultural people the authority to have firearm silencers, and yet I cannot find any explanation of the reason the police officers were given that particular authority. One finds this Minister implying, “Look, you do not know anything about this. You should not be asking that type of question”.

We go even further than that in terms of muzzling, because the suggestion was made by a back-bench member that we should not ask questions. In other words, a member asks a question and, without even checking the type of question, the Government attacks and tries to discourage the Opposition from asking questions. However, Government members forgot to check the position in 1981-82, when the present Government was in Opposition; because the average number of questions asked per ALP member was 89.

Hon. Lyla Elliott: You discouraged our people when you were in Government.

Hon. Tom Stephens: You asked the same question, Mr Wells—

Hon. P. H. WELLS: At the fourth effective sitting when questions were taken—

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: Let us look at the situation which obtained during the first four days of the session as far as questions were concerned. I have carried out an analysis of this matter. In the last two years the largest number of questions asked in any one day by the ALP, when in Opposition, in the first four days of the session was 57 in 1980-81. Last year the number was 40. During this session, because a change of Government has occurred, Government members do not think we should ask the same number of questions over that period. Even if we did, I suggest that here, at the beginning of the session—not at the end of the session—members opposite are saying to us, “You are not to have the rights that we had when we were in Opposition”. Let us consider the railway man, the Hon. Fred McKenzie, who happens to be the champion of that cause. He should take a bow, because he asked 152 questions in 1981-82; that is the greatest number of questions asked by a member of the ALP.

The suggestion is that we should not have the same right as we gave the Hon. Fred McKenzie when we were in Government. He was followed very closely by the past master of questions, the browbeater and muzzler who now finds himself on the front-bench, the Hon. Peter Dowding, who asked 150 questions during that time.

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: When members on this side of the House ask questions the inference drawn by the back-bench member opposite is that perhaps we should ask the Minister's office. It might be quicker to do so, but I remind him that, when we asked very simple questions in the House, the Minister, under instruction from the hierarchy of the ALP advisers—can members opposite hear me?

Opposition members: What rubbish!

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: The Minister stood up and very quickly said he should not answer the question. The back bench member suggested we should check with the Minister, but when we asked the Minister in the House whether he had made a decision, he stood up and said, "If the honourable member puts that on notice I will have it looked into". Surely the Minister knows whether he has made a decision.

If that is the type of answer we get from a Minister in this House, what type of answer can we expect to get from his secretary on the telephone? I suggest we would be referred to an adviser in any case; therefore, I believe the intimidation of members while asking questions discourages them from having the same opportunities we extended to members when we were in Government.

I am aware, without looking at a number of questions, that when we were in Government on odd occasions questions had to remain unanswered.

Hon. Garry Kelly: Just on odd occasions?

Hon. P. H. WELLS: However, the previous Government sought to answer those questions immediately; but, now that we are in Opposition, we find continually that it takes longer and longer to obtain answers to questions.

I draw attention also to other types of questions. Frequently the answer does not provide us with the information or perhaps it is suggested in the answer that we should have checked the position, because someone else asked a similar type of question. However, I notice when a question is asked which reflects upon the Opposition, if Government members want that subject to be aired, the question is asked and answered in both Houses. Members opposite do not worry about duplication in those cases. They say, "It is all right for use to do this when in Government, but you members in Opposition should not dare to ask those bad questions, you bad boys! You should check up. Go and talk to your shadow Minister".

Hon. Tom Stephens: You should be on the stage!

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: In conclusion, I indicate that each member of this House has a right to ask questions and receive fair answers regardless of whether such questions refer to current issues or the Committee stages of Bills. Members deserve to be given adequate answers not in a brow beating fashion, but with dignity and in the time of the House.

It is an insult to the House to threaten members and make insinuations as has occurred and certainly we indicate we will not stand for it.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.50 p.m.]: To answer the last speaker first, let me assure him he will not be muzzled when he seeks to ask questions. We shall continue to answer the questions asked of us in the same high standard as that displayed by the present Opposition when in Government.

Hon. Robert Hetherington: What could be better than that?

Hon. D. K. DANS: As members know—certainly the Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Gordon Masters know—Ministers do not have to answer questions. Let me assure the Hon. Peter Wells that I have not heard any brow-beating in the House. I have not heard or experienced any indication on the part of any Minister that he will not answer questions. In fact, we are giving members opposite very good service with our answers.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. E. Masters: Rubbish! Three-quarters of the questions asked have not been answered.

Hon. D. K. DANS: If members draw some comparisons between the puerile answers given to us when we sat opposite and those provided by this Government, they will see we are already miles in front of members opposite.

Several members interjected.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Let me get back to the remarks made by the Hon. Gordon Masters. I hear my friend, the Hon. Graham MacKinnon, interjecting. When that member has sat in the House and listened to speeches of the calibre of that made by the Hon. Gordon Masters, he has got to his feet and huffed and puffed and said what a disgraceful situation it was. That was his standard reply. He would then go into all the gyrations and shaking that the Hon. Peter Wells adopted when he was on his feet. After that he

would sit down thinking that he had done a good job.

The Hon. Gordon Masters said, "I will speak on the adjournment on every occasion". I hope he does, but I can give him no guarantee that I will sit here and listen to him, particularly if he makes the kind of speech he made tonight.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Are you going to answer the questions?

Hon. D. K. DANS: I shall return to that matter in a minute. We are as fair as fair can be. Members opposite can speak once, twice, or four or five times an evening on the adjournment debate if they want to.

Hon. G. E. Masters: We will.

Hon. D. K. DANS: However, I cannot guarantee that I or any of my colleagues will be here listening to the kind of tripe they trotted out tonight.

Let me return to the remark made by the Hon. Gordon Masters to the effect, "Let the Minister come clean". The Minister has nothing about which to come clean.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Yes, you have.

Hon. D. K. DANS: The Hon. Gordon Masters must get it into his head that we are now the Government and we have a completely different policy from that of the previous Government.

Hon. G. E. Masters: You're telling me you have.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Things have changed and our order of priorities is quite different from that of members who sit opposite.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Including misleading the House.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Rubbish!

Hon. G. E. Masters: Misleading the House and not giving answers to questions.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not know how anyone can mislead the House by not answering a question.

Let me refer to another matter mentioned by the Hon. Gordon Masters.

Hon. G. E. Masters: How about just reading the answer you gave me and then reviewing it?

Hon. Peter Dowding: You are tiresome!

Hon. D. K. DANS: I gave the Hon. Gordon Masters a very complete answer the other night.

Hon. G. E. Masters: You said the information was not available and it was.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I said I would supply the Hon. Gordon Masters with a complete answer at the appropriate time. I am the Minister in charge

of that department and the appropriate time will be decided by me and not by the Hon. Gordon Masters. He can put that in his pipe and smoke it for a start!

Hon. G. E. Masters: The information is available, Mr Dans.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Deputy President, let me tell you a few things—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth): Order!

Hon. D. K. DANS: I wonder if members opposite noticed a report in the Press the other day by an independent organisation. That report referred to the effectiveness of the wages pause and the organisation which conducted it was Drake International. I presume the member read that report.

Hon. Peter Dowding: I doubt that he did.

Hon. D. K. DANS: The report indicated that the wages pause in Western Australia was 99.7 per cent intact. The Minister can check that figure with the Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Inc.), because it has never grizzled; in fact, it has made statements contrary to those made by the Government in relation to the effectiveness of the wages pause in other States.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Mr Dans, I simply asked you for the information on which you based your decision.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I am on my feet now—

Hon. G. E. Masters: Are you frightened to give it to me, Mr Dans?

Hon. D. K. DANS: I have told the member he will get his information at the appropriate time.

Hon. G. E. Masters: When is that, Mr Dans?

Hon. D. K. DANS: When I decide to give it to the member.

Several members interjected.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Why are you hiding the information, Mr Dans?

Hon. D. K. DANS: I am not hiding any information. It will be nicely typed for the member. I will tell members opposite one of the reasons the information will be provided at the appropriate time: It is that I am still in the process of adjusting some hours.

Hon. G. E. Masters: That is not giving me the answer.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Deputy President, let me look at the different approaches. The previous Government went into a wages pause situation with the most inequitable base in all of Australia.

Its idea of making sacrifices was outlined well by the Premier of our State. The previous Government believed that making sacrifices meant that the blue collar workers—the lowest paid workers in this State—would have their belts tightened until their eyes popped. However, that is not our way.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Someone else's sacrifices—that is what you are about! Someone else can make the sacrifices.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would like honourable members to cease their unruly interjections and allow the Leader of the House to close the debate.

Hon. D. K. DANS: The Hon. Gordon Masters asked how I came to those decisions. I came to those decisions in exactly the same way that the Hon. Gordon Masters did.

Hon. G. E. Masters: So the information is available then?

Hon. D. K. DANS: I came to those decisions, firstly, by seeking advice from the WA Government Industrial Relations Service. Let me tell members here and now that my advisers do not come between me and those people.

Hon. G. E. Masters: That is different from what I have heard.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not care what the member has heard. He can check the position with Mr Georges if he likes.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I would not do that.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I give the Hon. Gordon Masters permission to do that. Indeed, I shall go one better than that. One matter the Hon. Gordon Masters did not mention tonight was that I instructed Mr Georges, the director, to talk to Mr McCarrey, the Under Treasurer, and any movement we made in order to obtain an equitable wages base to go into a long-term wages freeze situation—if that is what we want to call the national wages case—was made with the cognisance of the Treasurer. I did not just settle for the advice of the WA Government Industrial Relations Service, and that is on record.

Hon. G. E. Masters: All the facts are on record.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I have the Treasurer's report and all of that material belongs to me, so

members opposite should not tell me I do not know in which direction I am travelling.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Why don't you bring forward the information if it is available?

Hon. D. K. DANS: The member will receive a nicely bound copy of the information at the appropriate time when I have finished obtaining an equitable wages base and adjusting the hours—

Hon. G. E. Masters: Why won't you give it to us now?

Hon. D. K. DANS: Members opposite cannot get it into their heads that they are no longer in Government; there is a new Government with a different policy. I challenge the Hon. Gordon Masters to get to his feet and say that I have done anything illegal, because all the actions I have taken have been in conformity with the Bill that the previous Government passed through both Houses of the Parliament.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I am asking for the information on which you based your decisions. You know it is available and so do I. All I am asking is that it be produced.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I have told the member that he will receive it when I decide to give it to him, and not before. He has forgotten that he is now not the Minister. I will give him the information when I am ready.

I will give the same sort of service in respect of the supply of information as I received from Mr Masters time after time when I tried to get information from him. I have it all recorded—

Opposition members interjected.

Hon. D. K. DANS: —and if Mr Masters wants to start playing funny fellows I will speak on the adjournment and blaze away with both guns.

Opposition members interjected.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I hope that when Mr Masters exercises his right to speak on any adjournment, he does better than he did tonight, because what he said was the greatest load of tripe I have ever heard from someone who pretended to be a Minister during the term of the last Government.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.02 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

"Zoo Kids"

110. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) When was the "Zoo Kids" organisation formed?
- (2) What response in terms of numbers has there been to the public invitation to become a "Zoo Kid" by paying \$10 to sponsor an animal?
- (3) Do children joining the organisation have more preference for one type of animal over another?
- (4) If so, what are the preferences?
- (5) What amount of money has been raised under this scheme?
- (6) What is the current level of fund-raising achieved for the big cats appeal?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) The "Zoo Kids" which is an entirely independent voluntary organisation was publicly launched on 26 April 1983.
- (2) Information available indicates that approximately 900 applications have been received and processed by the "Zoo Kids" organisation.
- (3) and (4) Apparently, of the 28 animals that are available for sponsorship, preference has been shown from the applications received towards sponsoring lions, tigers, chimpanzees, elephant and baby llama.
- (5) Approximately \$10 500.
- (6) Donations of money and materials \$180 000, plus Government contribution of \$250 000, leaves \$70 000 still to be raised.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ravensthorpe Shire: Loan

111. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Ravensthorpe Shire Council received approval from the Treasurer to raise a loan for a State Emergency Service operations centre?
- (2) How many other country shires have raised loans for this purpose?

- (3) How many metropolitan councils have raised funds for similar facilities?
- (4) How are such loans to be financed?
- (5) Are ratepayers in rural shires financing services that are otherwise supplied by the State for those in the metropolitan region?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes. The Treasurer gave approval on 14 June 1983 for the Shire of Ravensthorpe to raise a loan for a local emergency operations centre.
- (2) Twenty.
- (3) Six.
- (4) Such loans are serviced by the shire. To assist in repayment, however, a dollar for dollar subsidy of up to \$10 000 is available from the Commonwealth Government to assist in the development of local emergency operations centres.
- (5) No. The same procedure applies to metropolitan shires and rural shires.

POLICE

Dowerin

113. Hon. W. G. ATKINSON, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Has the Minister received a letter from the Shire of Dowerin regarding poison bait laying and shooting, expressing concern at the staff levels of the Dowerin police station?
- (2) If so, will the Minister consider urgently, in the light of the danger of poison bait laying and shooting to children and residents, an immediate upgrading of the strength of the police force in Dowerin?
- (3) With the Dowerin machinery field days being held at the end of August, will the Minister consider urgently the strengthening of the police force in Dowerin before these field days particularly in view of the value of exhibits at this event?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. The letter was received by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on Thursday, 4 August and the matters raised are currently being examined.
- (3) Arrangements are already well in hand to provide additional police protection

for the Dowerin field days following a letter received by the Commissioner of Police from the Dowerin Field Day Committee.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Tattoos: Children

115. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Youth and Community Services:

- (1) What prompted the department's advertisement on child tattoos published in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 23 July 1983?
- (2) How many cases of illegal tattooing of children have been reported during each of the last two years?
- (3) How many children were involved?
- (4) How many cases of illegal tattooing have resulted in prosecution?
- (5) What penalties were given to the offenders?
- (6) What age was the youngest child in the reported cases?
- (7) What instructions does the department provide to hospitals, doctors, schools and infant health centres regarding illegal tattooing?
- (8) Does the department consider existing legislation or regulations sufficient to prevent illegal tattooing of children?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Concern expressed in medical circles about young people regretting that they had been tattooed and the difficulty in removing them.
- (2) No cases have been reported to the department in the last two years.
I understand that some complaints have been received by the police and I am informed that a person was prosecuted approximately 14 months ago on two charges and was fined \$50 on each charge, and that a further prosecution has been commenced and has been adjourned to a hearing date.
- (3) to (5) See answer to (2).
- (6) Not known.
- (7) Nil. Legislation is usually circulated at the time it is proclaimed and periodically drawn to attention hereafter as the situation requires.

- (8) Existing legislation is minimal, however it is considered adequate provided complaints are made.

The department would follow up on any information received about the illegal tattooing of children.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Personnel: Protective Clothing

118. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) How many volunteer units are associated with the State Emergency Service, and how many personnel are attached to each unit?
- (2) Is it a practice to provide all emergency service volunteers with protective clothing?
- (3) If so, what clothing is issued?
- (4) In each unit, how many members are awaiting protective clothing, and for how long have they been waiting?
- (5) In view of the emergency services' value to the community, will the Minister ensure that adequate protective clothing is available to volunteers?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) There are some 100 local voluntary emergency service units associated with the State Emergency Service. Although precise figures of personnel attached to each unit are not determined, the overall volunteer figure throughout the State is in the order of 4 000.
- (2) The organisation endeavours to equip all volunteers with basic items of protective clothing.
- (3) Normally basic protective clothing issue include safety helmet, overall and boots.
- (4) Approximately 50 per cent of volunteers are awaiting issue of protective clothing. Issues of clothing are made as these become available. It is not usual for volunteers to remain unequipped with protective clothing for more than 12 months.
- (5) The Government is making every effort to ensure that adequate clothing is available.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Western Australian Activities

136. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Government aware of recent statements attributed to a Mr John Bailey of the Wilderness Society that an inventory was being prepared of areas said to be under threat in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the Government's attitude to these and other similar recent statements in relation to Western Australia's tourist development, agricultural or mining projects, following the Tasmanian dams judgment by the High Court?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) While the Minister for the Environment is unaware of recent statements attributed to Mr John Bailey of the Wilderness Society, he is aware of an application for a national estate grant submitted by the Australian Conservation Foundation to the Australian Heritage Commission for the making of an inventory of wilderness areas in Western Australia. The application is being considered by the State Heritage Committee.
- (2) If the member will advise details of statements attributed to Mr Bailey and similar recent statements, the Minister will endeavour to respond further.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: BUILDING INDUSTRY

Disruption

137. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Does the Minister know that the Builders Labourers' Federation intends to disrupt all possible building sites in WA?
- (2) Does the Minister accept these stoppages may cause danger, chaos and expense in the building industry?
- (3) Will the Government support those people employed on building sites who choose to work?

(4) What does the Government intend doing to alleviate the difficulties that will undoubtedly arise?

(5) Will Mr Thomas, the adviser to the Minister for Employment and Administrative Services, and Mr McGinty, adviser to the Minister for Industrial Relations, be asked to negotiate on behalf of the State Government?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (5) I am aware that there are negotiations between the Builders Labourers' Federation and employers in the building industry. The Government has discarded the previous Government's practice of seeking industrial confrontation for political purposes and will not be interfering in the normal processes of industrial relations.

"BUNBURY 2000"

Preferential Treatment

138. Hon. TOM KNIGHT, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Regional Development and the North West:

- (1) Does the Government have any proposals for Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Busselton, Esperance, or any other major regional centres, similar to the "Bunbury 2000" concept?
- (2) If not, why was Bunbury singled out for this preferential treatment over other prominent regional centres?
- (3) Does the Government concede that the need for regional development, by way of industry and commerce, was a greater priority to the other suggested centres?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) The "Bunbury 2000" concept is a major regionalisation and decentralisation initiative of a type and on a scale unprecedented in Western Australia.

It involves the establishment of a South West Development Authority, which operates within the new Department of Regional Development. Busselton is within the jurisdiction of the South West Development Authority.

The history of previous attempts at regionalisation and decentralisation, except for certain isolated mining communities, have not been successful in Western Australia or Australia wide.

The "Bunbury 2000" concept is, therefore, very much of a pilot scheme and when it is operating successfully, the blue print, with necessary modifications, will be used in other regions.

Previous conservative Governments have merely paid lip service to their limited regionalisation and decentralisation policies and by and large these Governments have presided over a considerable drift of people from country areas to the Perth metropolitan area.

Those familiar with the State of Western Australia are aware that over a huge land mass of one million square miles there are scattered about 1.3 million people. Of these 975 000 are concentrated in Perth.

If this drift is to be arrested and the regional concept further promoted it is essential that the Government has one success under its belt.

I consider the south-west area, centred in Bunbury, has an excellent chance of success and all country communities will be looking forward to seeing it does succeed.

In the meantime the Government will be pursuing any feasible regional project for other areas.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

Army

139. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What is the current status of the move to get the Australian Army to move off Rottnest Island?
- (2) What additional accommodation would become available to tourists as a result of the Army's departure?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) I refer the member to the statement made by the Premier on 8 July 1983, as follows—

The Premier and Minister for Tourism, Mr Brian Burke said proposals to relocate the Army away from Rottnest Island were being investigated.

"We are looking at a wide range of possible solutions and when I am in a position to release details I will do so," he said.

NOONKANBAH STATION

Burial Ground: Drilling

140. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

Will the Minister advise if, at any time during the Noonkanbah dispute in 1980, Aborigines were forced to stand by as an ancient burial ground was fenced off with barbed wire and drilled for oil?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

If the member is prepared to provide more details the Minister is prepared to have the matter investigated.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL BUSES

Contract System: Alteration

141. Hon. J. M. BROWN, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Why was the method of tendering for school bus contracts altered recently?
- (2) What is the present method for renewal of contracts?
- (3) What is the position for contractors who are anxious to purchase new buses?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The review of school bus contracts arrangements was instituted by the previous Government. Initially it was proposed to have open tendering for all contracts at the point of expiry, but after negotiations with the Road Transport Association and many meetings between bus contractors and the Minister for Education, a limited tender system has been agreed. Final details of the agreement are still being negotiated.

Until this revised system is finalised, no changes to existing tendering arrangements will be made.

- (2) Contracts which expire after 12 May 1983, are being extended to the end of the year pending final decisions on the review. It is proposed that under the new arrangements existing operators will be able to have their contracts renewed at a price based on their direct operating costs, plus a margin for profit. If an agreed price cannot be negotiated, the contract would go to open tender.
- (3) Replacement of buses for current contracts are still being approved under existing policy.

LOTTERIES: INSTANT

Distribution

142. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) What is the name of each organisation which has received funds from the instant lottery since the Government has taken office?
- (2) What date was the approval given for each allocation?
- (3) What was the amount of each allocation?
- (4) What is the name of each organisation which received funds from the instant lottery prior to the Government taking office?
- (5) What date was the approval given for each allocation?
- (6) What was the amount of each allocation?
- (7) Since taking office, what other funds has the Government granted to art and cultural groups?
- (8) What is the source of funding for these grants?
- (9) Which organisations have received these grants?
- (10) What are the dates of application and approval for each grant?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (8) The information requested is contained in Schedules Nos. 1, 2 and 3, which I lay on the Table of the House.
- (9) The source of funding for these grants is the Western Australian Arts Council Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- (10) Applications for instant lottery Grants are received at any time.

Applications closed on 28 February 1983 for Western Australian Arts Council grants which were approved in April.

Applications closed on 30 June 1983 for grants which will be approved in August, and applications will close on 31 October 1983 for grants which will be approved in November.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 217).

143. *This question was postponed.*

LAND

Joondalup Development Corporation: Debt

144. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Is any money owing by the Joondalup Development Corporation to the Lands Department?
- (2) If so, what amount was outstanding on—
 - (a) 30 June 1981;
 - (b) 30 June 1982; and
 - (c) 30 June 1983?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) \$9 545 209;
- (b) \$9 444 817;
- (c) \$9 189 544.

FISHERIES

Snapper: Traps

145. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

I refer the Minister to question without notice, No. 120, of Wednesday, 5 August 1981 (*Hansard* page 2463).

- (1) Will the Minister reconsider the decision made by the then Minister for Fisheries to continue to allow the use of snapper traps in Shark Bay?
- (2) If so, will the Minister consider banning the use of traps pending the outcome of the inquiry into the snapper industry?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) By notice under the Fisheries Act, the taking of all fish by means of fish traps in Western Australian waters in the Shark Bay area is already prohibited.

TOURISM: ACT

Financial Incentives

146. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has an approach been received from the Gascoyne regional development com-

mittee with requests that the proposed new Tourism Act contain financial incentives for development of tourist facilities?

- (2) If so, what is the Government's attitude to this proposition?
- (3) Is it correct, as asserted by the regional committee, that traditional commercial financial institutions are reluctant to finance tourist-related developments?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) To the Minister's knowledge the approach from the Gascoyne regional development committee on the subject of financial incentives for developing tourist facilities has not yet been received by his office.
- (2) However, the Government is very aware of the need to develop an incentive package to stimulate and encourage tourist plant and infrastructure development, particularly in the vital area of regional tourism. To this end, the Government, in conjunction with the private sector, is currently working on the formulation of investment incentives in this area. Should the Opposition have suggestions and input into this important area, the Minister would be pleased to receive them.
- (3) It appears that there is some reluctance for financial institutions to finance tourist-related developments in regional areas and this situation is also receiving close attention and review at present.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Pre-start Agreements

147. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Did the Minister, on a visit to Melbourne recently, have a look at the Victorian Government pre-start agreements for building projects?
- (2) Is the State Government contemplating pre-start agreements with such unions as the BLF on Government building contracts?
- (3) Will the agreements vary in any way from the existing award conditions in the building industry?
- (4) What pre-start arrangements have been made with unions for the construction of the SEC building?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) Which building?

LOTTERIES: INSTANT

Funds and Distribution

148. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the date and amount of each entry in the Treasury's "Sports-Culture Instant Lottery" account?
- (2) At what intervals has the Lotteries Commission been requested to forward instant lottery funds to the Treasury?
- (3) What was the balance of the "Sports-Culture Instant Lottery" account on both 19 February 1983 and 31 July 1983, and what portion of these funds is available for allocation to the arts?
- (4) What amount of interest on the funds held is or will be credited to the "Sports-Culture Instant Lottery" account?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Details of the dates and amounts of transactions on the "Sports-Culture Instant Lottery" account since its establishment in January 1983 are provided below.
- (2) Initially, proceeds were remitted on a monthly basis by the commission but, with the Treasurer's approval, reverted to a quarterly basis commencing from March 1983.
- (3) The balance of the "Sports-Culture Instant Lottery" account as at 19 February and 31 July 1983 and the respective amounts available for allocation to both sporting and cultural bodies as at these dates was as follows—

	Sport \$	Culture \$	Total Funds in Account \$
19 February 1983	745 500	585 087	1 330 587
31 July 1983	2 173 350	1 579 573	3 752 923

- (4) None.

SPORTS-CULTURE INSTANT LOTTERY ACCOUNT			
DATE	DEBIT \$	CREDIT \$	BALANCE \$
10/01/83		900 000.00	900 000.00 CR
14/01/83	255 000.00		645 000.00 CR
25/01/83		500.00	645 500.00 CR
04/02/83		1 100 000.00	1 745 500.00 CR
07/02/83	414 913.00		1 330 587.00 CR

DATE	DEBIT \$	CREDIT \$	BALANCE \$
08/03/83		1 000 000.00	2 330 587.00 CR
16/03/83	79 370.00		2 251 217.00 CR
11/04/83	800.00		2 250 417.00 CR
19/04/83	2 050.00		2 248 367.00 CR
21/04/83	490 595.00		1 757 772.00 CR
10/05/83	70 000.00		1 687 772.00 CR
11/05/83	40 000.00		1 647 772.00 CR
12/05/83	2 500.00		1 645 272.00 CR
17/05/83	420 738.00		1 224 534.00 CR
19/05/83	5 000.00		1 219 534.00 CR
31/05/83	50 000.00		1 169 534.00 CR
07/06/83		2 700 000.00	3 869 534.00 CR
10/06/83	16 989.00		3 852 545.00 CR
15/06/83	17 792.00		3 834 753.00 CR
29/06/83	28 920.00		3 805 833.00 CR
01/07/83	3 050.00		3 802 783.00 CR
14/07/83	15 000.00		3 787 783.00 CR
22/07/83	34 860.00		3 752 923.00 CR
01/08/83	48 090.00		3 704 833.00 CR

"BUNBURY 2000"

Population Increase: Effect on South-west Towns

149. Hon. W. N. STRETCH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

In view of reports that some Forests Department staff and ancillary services are being moved to Bunbury from Manjimup, will the Minister give an assurance that the build-up of Bunbury's population under the "Bunbury 2000" project will not be achieved to the detriment of other south-west towns?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Four officers comprising part of the Forests Department dieback mapping section have been transferred, without replacement, from Manjimup to Bunbury to improve the operational efficiency of the section.

The concept of "Bunbury 2000" is to stimulate co-ordinated development thereby increasing population throughout the south-west region.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Electorate Visits: Notification

150. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Has the Premier issued instructions to his Ministers not to inform local members of Parliament of the Opposition parties of visits to their electorates until the last possible moment, or is he going to instruct them to continue the courtesy of notifying members as was done by the previous Government?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

All Ministers have been requested to inform members of Parliament when

undertaking official visits to members' electorates.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

36-hour Week

151. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Does the Minister know that some major building construction companies are now applying a 36-hour working week?
- (2) Would the Minister expect these arrangements to be pursued in the home building industry?
- (3) What would be the anticipated additional cost per new average home at say \$32 000 if a 36-hour week was applied to the home building industry?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I have no evidence to suggest that such arrangements can be expected.
- (3) That question ought to be referred to the appropriate employer organisations.

LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

Authority: Staff

152. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

What extra staff are to be allocated to the National Parks Authority to control the proposed Shannon national park?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

As indicated in the answer to the member's earlier Question 123, the Shannon River Basin will remain under the Forests Department's control and management pending the outcome of a review by the task force on land resources management. This review is expected to take about one year, and in the meantime the Shannon Basin is to be managed as if it were a national park.

No decisions have yet been taken in respect of National Parks Authority staff if the Shannon Basin eventually passes into the authority's control.

STATE FORESTS: PINE

Planting: Labour Force

153. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What is the estimate of the number of people to be employed in pine planting in the Manjimup area?
- (2) Will they be on—
 - (a) day labour; or
 - (b) contract?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Direct employment in plantation operations is expected to be in the order of 16 to 20 people on a seasonal basis in the first five years, increasing to the order of 60 as the programme develops to its full scale.
- (2) (a) and (b) Both day labour and contract labour will be employed.

MEAT: CATTLE AND SHEEP

Statutory Marketing Authority

154. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

Is it the Government's intention to legislate to place—

- (a) other sheep meats; and
 - (b) cattle carcasses;
- under a statutory body such as the Lamb Marketing Board?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (a) It is the Government's intention to declare part IV of the Marketing of Lamb Act which will enable the Lamb Marketing Board to trade in mutton on a non-acquisition basis;
- (b) no.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Government Initiatives

155. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Administrative Services:

- (1) Is it the policy of the Western Australian Government to engage in schemes to encourage employment opportunities?

(2) If so, what schemes or contributions or actions has the Western Australian Government taken to encourage such employment?

(3) Is the Government aware of Federal employment creation schemes and job training schemes, and does the Government give these Federal schemes its specific support?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Since the Government came into office—

(i) It immediately convened an employment summit at which the statement of agreement on prime areas of employment concerns was issued.

(ii) A State employment task force has been established for proposing policy initiatives in the employment and training area.

One of its first tasks was to address the question of appropriate administrative machinery through which employment programmes could be instituted. Secondly, the task force proposed a series of Western Australian policy objectives and administrative arrangements and asserted a State role in how the Commonwealth wage pause programme should be implemented.

In conjunction with the work of the task force, a start has been made on the collection of a comprehensive statistical data base on employment and unemployment at an industry and regional level.

(iii) Established a job creation unit within the Department of Employment and Administrative Services to administer the wage pause programme and the community employment programme as well as implementing Government employment policy.

(3) Yes.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: BUILDING INDUSTRY

Disruption

44. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

This question is supplementary to question 137 answered by the Minister today.

- (1) Will the Government support those people employed on building sites who choose to work?
- (2) What is the Government doing to alleviate the difficulties which will undoubtedly arise?
- (3) The Minister said he would not interfere in the industrial processes. Does he consider that protecting the rights of subcontractors to work is interfering with the industrial processes or is it carrying out the normal functions of his department?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) I really do not understand the question asked by the Hon. G. E. Masters. If he puts the question on notice I shall do my best to answer it.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: BUILDING INDUSTRY

Disruption

45. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

In his answer to my question the Minister said that the Government would not interfere in the normal processes of industrial relations. Would his involvement in the Perth City Council dispute, where he interfered by ignoring and, indeed, overriding the mediator, be regarded as interfering in the normal industrial processes?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

At no time did the Government interfere with or override the role of any mediator.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I will remind you about that later.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: BUILDING INDUSTRY

Disruption

46. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Referring again to question 137 and the Minister's answer, would he not consider it his duty and that of the Government to protect public safety where it is affected by industrial activity?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Again I do not quite understand what the Hon. G. E. Masters means when he refers to protecting public safety. If he is referring to the use of the police during the Perth City Council strike, I indicate I made a number of public announcements that the law must be upheld. If that is the answer the member wants, that is the one I am giving him.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: BUILDING INDUSTRY

Disruption

47. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Part (2) of question 137 reads as follows—

Does the Minister accept these stoppages may cause danger, chaos and expense in the building industry?

The Minister has the ability within his department to ensure that inspectors are used where safety factors are involved in industrial disputes or stoppages or where complaints are made.

I simply ask the Minister whether he would direct his departmental officers to become involved in those circumstances. Surely the Minister would not consider that as interfering in the processes of industrial relations.

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Where a dangerous situation occurs on any building site the officers responsible for ensuring that that building site is rendered safe will be instructed to do so.

Let me add a little sting in the tail: That measure has already been used to good effect.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Lake Argyle: Townsite

48. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Referring to the Argyle diamond mine, what is the present position regarding the provision of a town for the employees as opposed to the employees travelling from Perth to the mine?
- (2) If a problem exists in regard to this matter, is it delaying the finalisation of an agreement between the operators and the State Government?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The question of compliance by the company with the Government Agreements Act passed by the previous Government is a matter for the Minister for Resources Development, and if the member likes to place any question on notice I shall ensure it is directed to the appropriate Minister.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Pre-start Agreements

49. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

My question relates to the answer to question 147. Part (2) of that question reads as follows:

Is the State Government contemplating pre-start agreements with such unions as the BLF on Government building contracts?

The answer to that question was, "Yes". Part (3) of the question read—

Will the agreements vary in any way from the existing award conditions in the building industry?

The Minister answered, "No".

I simply ask this: Why is there any need to make pre-start arrangements if the award conditions are to prevail, because surely a pre-start agreement would vary those conditions; therefore, why bother?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

When the Hon. G. E. Masters was the Minister for Labour and Industry he did not understand the portfolio. Since he has gone into Opposition, he has not

improved one inch. The answers are quite concise. I answered, "Yes" and, "No". If the member researches the answers he will realise they are perfectly correct answers to his questions.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Pre-start Agreements

50. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

As usual, the Minister has not answered the questions. He has just skirted around them.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Don't make a speech! You were the most hopeless Minister.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I ask the Minister again—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member knows he cannot ask the Minister the same question again.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I will not ask the same question. Is there any purpose at all in making pre-start arrangements if the existing award conditions are going to prevail? Why is it necessary to make those arrangements?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

I shall try to assist the Hon. Gordon Masters. Before he asks those sorts of questions it would be a good idea if he read the relevant awards. If he did so, he would find those conditions are in the awards and he may learn something if he reads them.

Hon. G. E. Masters: So you are not going to answer.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I have answered. That is the correct answer.

Hon. G. E. Masters: It is not.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Lake Argyle: Progress

51. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Mines:

Is the operation of the Argyle diamond mine at Kununurra proceeding at the present moment?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

To the extent that the question deals with matters under my portfolio, I was there on Saturday and the alluvial

gravels are being processed by the company in accordance with its plans for development of the alluvial gravels.

MINING

Wilderness Society: Activities

52. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of recent statements attributed to Mr John Bailey of the Wilderness Society to the effect that mining is a threat to the State?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Wilderness Society has placed CRA's new mining operation near the Drysdale River on its hit list?

(3) Is the Minister aware that the Argyle diamond project near Lake Argyle is also under investigation by that society?

(4) If he is not aware of any of the above matters, will he take action to investigate and counter any such moves?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) to (3) No.

(4) This Government is determined to ensure that appropriate development proceeds. I am not aware of any action being taken by any organisation of which the member spoke, which would prevent appropriate exploration and development.