

# Legislative Council

Thursday, the 16th November, 1978

The **PRESIDENT** (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COAL INDUSTRY TRIBUNAL BILL

### *Receipt and First Reading*

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

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. This Bill becomes necessary as a consequence of proposals to repeal the Mining Act. It seeks to re-enact existing legislation covering the Western Australian Coal Industry Tribunal which at present is contained in division 1 of part XIII of the Mining Act.

This action is in accordance with a recommendation by the mining inquiry committee that separate legislation be effected to cover the industrial aspects of the coal mining industry as it does not relate in general to the Mining Act.

Apart from that aspect, the Bill contains two amendments of any significance—

Firstly, the reference to the National Security (Coal Mining Industry Employment) Regulations which are no longer in existence, has been deleted and a saving provision has been inserted in lieu. The saving provision refers to the Interpretation Act, 1918, and preserves the continuance of the former tribunal and the decisions, awards, and orders made thereunder.

Secondly, the penalty provided for failure to attend a conference when directed by the chairman has been increased from \$200 to \$500, a deterrent which is more in line with today's monetary values than those of 1948 when the section was incorporated.

It is not proposed to re-enact part 11A or division 2 of part XIII of the Mining Act. These sections provide for a coal miners advisory board and a coal committee to assist in matters regarding the development and distribution of coal.

Neither the board nor the committee have operated during the last 20 years and there is no reason to revive them now. If the need arises either or both could be reconstituted.

Other minor amendments contained in the Bill are of a general nature updating the legislation. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. W. Cooley.

## MINING BILL

### *Receipt and First Reading*

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

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. This Bill is for an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to mining. It will have the effect of replacing the present 74-year-old Mining Act with new legislation designed to meet the needs of modern prospecting and mining, while at the same time providing adequate protection for other land usage and for the environment generally.

The measure is a most important one and follows a careful re-assessment of the results of the 1970 Mining Inquiry Committee.

A previous Bill of this nature was introduced into Parliament during the autumn sitting in 1975 with the expressed intention of affording interested parties ample time to study the legislation and to make submissions on the proposals.

Since that time a great number of submissions both written and verbal suggesting amendments have been received from such parties as the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia (Incorporated), the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders' Association of WA (Inc.), the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the Institute of Surveyors, local government authorities, the Law Society of WA, the Minister for Agriculture, the Protect Aboriginal Land Campaign, the Liberal Party Minerals and Energy Sub-committee, the Labor Party, and many individuals.

All amendments suggested have been carefully considered and in some instances have involved lengthy discussion between the Minister for Mines or senior officers of the Department of Mines, with the party making the particular submission.

No doubt it will be appreciated that it would have been impossible to agree to all amendments that have been proposed, as some of them were in direct contradiction to each other and some would have denied the main purpose of the Bill to make administration of exploration and mining more speedy and efficient, commensurate with present-day conditions.

Nevertheless, agreement has been reached in a large number of cases, and in many others there has been a compromise.

Some of the main features of the Bill are as follows—

The right of the finder or his successor to mine the minerals, the principle of "finder's keepers". This has always been the intention but will become totally secure by inserting clear provisions in the legislation whereby no other party can have lesser conditions for the development tenement—the mining lease—than the holder of the exploration tenement related to that lease, should the holder not accept the mining lease on account of the harshness of conditions.

The prohibition to transfer prospecting licences after having acquired them, has been reduced from one year to six months. It is also specifically spelt out that when furnishing information in support of applications for prospecting and exploration licences, prospectors do not have to supply to the department their assays or other results of testing or sampling carried out on the ground applied for.

An appeal to the Minister against some of the warden's decisions has been introduced to doubly safeguard the interest of miners.

As well as gravel, sand, and rock; shale, clay, and limestone have been excluded also from this legislation, when these materials are on private land.

Although not a provision in the Bill, the Minister for Mines has given an undertaking that the new Mining Act will not be promulgated before the main provisions of the regulations, which will contain many detailed conditions, have been discussed with interested parties.

The Bill contains provisions to ensure that prospecting and mining can be carried out under clear and concise conditions which will assist and accelerate the discovery of the mineral wealth of Western Australia.

It provides the necessary environmental controls required in regard to prospecting and mining in reserves of all kinds, including national parks and those for the protection of Aborigines, flora, and fauna, State forests, and also on private land.

Generally speaking it can be said that the provisions of the Bill create an equitable balance between mining and other legitimate land uses. Mining does not override other land uses, neither is it, with few exceptions which will be mentioned later, subservient to them. The general principle is for consultation with and/or the consent by other interests represented by their respective Ministers. In the case of no consensus the matter will be decided by Cabinet; that is, the Government itself.

The Bill reduces the 39 different types of titles provided in the present Act to the three basic requirements of a prospecting licence, exploration licence, and mining lease; with the additional two—ancillary general purpose lease, and miscellaneous licence.

An important improvement on the present Act, which was drafted in the pick and shovel and wheelbarrow days of goldmining, is the elimination of labour conditions. For quite some time these conditions have been considered anachronistic and inequitable in today's highly mechanised conditions of prospecting and exploration.

Members will no doubt agree that to compel tenement holders to continuous employment of physical labour is not practical today and does not at all enhance the continuous endeavour of the State to obtain the most rigorous exploratory activities on most of the ground available.

These labour conditions are replaced with expenditure conditions which do not have to be proportioned to daily or weekly outlays. For example, to hire a plane or helicopter for an aero-magnetic survey could involve considerable expenditure in furthering exploration, yet it is expended during a comparatively short period of time. In between such expenditure there must be time for work outside the ground such as evaluation, assaying, etc. Even the smallest prospector has to take time off for such important exercises.

However, to ensure that all tenements are genuinely used for the purpose for which they are granted, quarterly and annual reports are envisaged.

Rights to prospect for all minerals except iron will be granted in prospecting and exploration licences, and in the latter case provision has been made for gold and precious and semi-precious

stone prospectors to obtain small areas on exploration licences in certain circumstances. Mining leases will give to the holder the exclusive right to all minerals other than iron.

The right to prospect, explore and mine for iron may, however, be specifically included in prospecting and exploration licences and in mining leases. This control is considered necessary to ensure the rational and orderly development of this vast industry.

Safeguards and compensation to pastoralists have been provided while retaining the right of prospectors to seek minerals without unduly restrictive prohibitions and conditions in regard to entry on pastoral leases.

Provision has been included in the Bill to prevent other Governments from obtaining control of mining tenements in Western Australia and to ensure that while due consideration is given to town planning schemes and local government by-laws, these will not statutorily prohibit prospecting and mining authorised under this legislation.

The rights of holders of existing mining tenements are protected by transmission provisions allowing ample time for conversion to appropriate titles under the new Statute, or in some instances under the Lands Act. Details are contained in the second schedule to the Bill.

The Bill is divided into nine parts, which I will now explain.

#### Part I—Preliminary:

This part deals with the legal requirements in connection with the introduction and proclamation of the new Act and the protection of the State's mineral agreements which have been ratified by Acts of Parliament, and which will accordingly remain in force.

It refers to the relationship with the Environmental Protection Act and also includes the definitions to be used in the new legislation. Here it should be noted that the term "mining" includes "prospecting and exploring for minerals".

#### Part II—Administration, Mineral Fields and Courts:

The administration of the Act and the procedures for the creation of mineral fields and Warden's Courts are set out in this part.

#### Part III—Land Open for Mining:

Subject to and in accordance with the Act, all Crown land is to be open for mining. The Bill authorises general prospecting thereon in similar terms to the existing provisions.

Provision is made, however, to exempt any Crown land from mining and the purpose of the provision is to allow such land to be examined in some detail by the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department and, where prospects for further exploration and development appear feasible and desirable, applications for mining tenements may be invited.

The Bill also allows the refusal of mining tenements where prospecting and mining would not be in the public interest. Instances under this provision are the farcical demonstrative pegging of the War Memorial or grounds of Parliament House, which in the past—until the Act was amended in 1970—had to be dealt with by the full machinery of administration despite the undoubted nuisance-causing desire of the peggers.

The Bill sets out the terms and limitations of general prospecting in regard to Crown land and particularly where such land is—

Under crop or used as a yard, garden, orchard, vineyard, cultivated field and the like; or is within 100 metres of the foregoing land.

Land specified under the classification of reserves is open for prospecting and mining only under very special provisions.

In brief, it is not proposed to grant mining or general purpose leases on class "A" reserves or national parks in the South-West Land Division of the State, or in the municipal district of the Shire of Esperance or Ravensthorpe, without the consent of both Houses of Parliament.

It is considered logical, however, to permit prospecting and exploration on such reserves and parks with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for them, and with adequate restrictions to protect these areas. In this way the mineral potential can be established to enable Parliament to consider whether or not development should take place and, if so, under what terms and conditions.

The Bill prohibits the granting of mining tenements on State forests or timber reserves without the concurrence of the Minister for Forests, and in all cases adequate protection and rehabilitation conditions may be imposed as the circumstances require.

In regard to Aboriginal and other reserves, water catchment areas, navigable waters, etc., provision is made for consultation with the responsible Minister, vested authority, council, or other body in control of the land, before prospecting or mining is permitted. If consultation does not lead to consensus, the final decision—as I previously

stated—has to be made by Cabinet where all interests are represented through respective Ministers.

Private land is also open to mining only under very specific restrictions which are similar to those having been in operation since amendments were made in 1970 to this part of the Mining Act. These include—

A permit to enter limited to 30 days for surface sampling and marking out mining tenements;

notice of entry and application to the occupier and owner;

notice of application to the clerk of the council of the municipality;

no prospecting or mining on yards, gardens, orchards, vineyards, or land under cultivation, etc., nor within 100 metres of such land, without the consent in writing of the occupier and owner unless the warden is satisfied that such consent has been unreasonably refused; and

no prospecting or mining on the surface or within 31 metres of the surface of private land unless adequate compensation has been arranged.

Mineral ownership in land alienated before 1899, as set out in the present Mining Act, has been provided in the Bill and the existing method of bringing such land under the Act by petition has been repeated in a simplified form.

#### Part IV—Mining Tenements:

The prospecting licence is a two-year tenement to replace the present prospecting area, claim, or small temporary reserve held for prospecting.

The area of land in a prospecting licence shall not exceed 200 hectares or 2 square kilometres—that is, 494.2 acres—and such licences may be granted by the warden after public hearing in his court. Provision for appeal to the Minister is included where the warden refuses an application for a prospecting licence or grants one on conditions considered unreasonable by the applicant.

The warden may grant up to 10 prospecting licences whether contiguous or otherwise to any one person. However, additional licences can only be granted with ministerial consent.

Where more than one application for a prospecting licence is made for the same land, the applicant who first correctly marked it out retains priority over the other applicants, and the holder of a prospecting licence has, while the prospecting licence remains in force, priority over any other person to have granted to him a lease or leases of the land the subject of the licence.

To prevent holders defeating the two-year term and to make the ground available to other prospectors, a cooling-off period of three months is provided upon expiry of a prospecting licence; that is, if the holder of the prospecting licence has not applied for a mining lease regarding the ground of the prospecting licence. During this time, application by or on behalf of the last holder for a prospecting or exploration licence is prohibited. In exceptional circumstances the term of a prospecting licence may be extended beyond the two-year period.

The Bill sets out the rights authorised by the grant of a prospecting licence, and the restrictions under which such rights may be exercised.

Exploration licences for a five-year comprehensive exploration of a large tract of land, similar to the present temporary reserves, ranging from a minimum of 10 square kilometres—3.8 square miles—to a maximum of 200 square kilometres or 77.7 square miles. More in line with present day thinking, similar to the petroleum exploration permits and following the pattern in other places in Australia, the exploration licence has provision for 50 per cent relinquishment at the end of the third year, and again 50 per cent relinquishment of the residue at the end of the fourth year.

Expiry is envisaged at the end of the fifth year and a similar three-month cooling-off period is provided to allow opportunity for new thinking and methods to be introduced by other people. In exceptional circumstances, however, the term of an exploration licence may be extended beyond the five years.

Application is to be made at the Warden's Office of the mineral field or district where the land is situated, and after a public hearing the warden will forward his recommendation to the Minister who makes the final decision.

This differs from the present practice where temporary reserves have been applied for at the department which makes a recommendation to the Minister. Under this Bill the application will be subject to procedures in the Warden's Court and is therefore entirely under public scrutiny.

The Bill spells out the rights and restrictions involved in the grant of an exploration licence and ensures that genuine exploration will be carried out by the holder, without material disadvantage to other land users and with as little damage to the environment as possible. The holder of an exploration licence has, while the licence remains in force, priority over any other person to have granted to him a lease or leases of the land the subject of the licence.

In accordance with representations by the prospectors' association, special provision is made for gold, precious, and semi-precious stone prospectors to obtain small 10 hectare—or 24.7 acre—prospecting licences on exploration licences where such prospecting will not interfere with the large-scale exploration.

The exploration licence replaces the present temporary reserve system with similar provisions to those applicable to current rights of occupancy to prospect. Whereas, however, under the 1904 Act temporary reserves are dealt with solely by the Minister, applications for exploration licences under the new legislation will in the first instance be heard by the warden in open court, following which he will make a recommendation to the Minister.

The Bill provides for the grant of mining leases for the development and production of ore bodies discovered by prospecting and exploration. The maximum area of a mining lease is 10 square kilometers, or 3.8 square miles, and any number of them may be held.

Applications are also submitted to the warden for open hearing and transmittal of his recommendation to the Minister.

These leases are to have an initial term of 21 years with provision for renewal for successive terms of 21 years.

The Bill sets out the covenants and conditions which a lease shall contain and further conditions may be imposed to suit each individual case. Reasonable conditions may also be imposed during the life of a lease to prevent, reduce, or rehabilitate injury caused to the surface of land by the mining operations.

Land to be held for purposes ancillary to mining is required at times for treatment plants, mineral stockpiles, tailings dumps, etc., and accordingly, provision has been made for the holder of a mining lease to obtain a general purpose lease for uses directly related to development and production from the mining lease.

The general purpose lease will be limited to 250 hectares, or 2½ square kilometres, that is 617.7 acres each, and will remain in force during the life of the relevant mining lease.

The usual hearing in open court and the warden's recommendation to the Minister will enable all applications and objections to be thoroughly examined before title is granted or refused.

Provision is made under the miscellaneous licences section for the grant of licences for such things as access roads, pipelines, tunnels, bridges

and so on. The Bill empowers the warden to grant such licences after due notice, particularly to the shire council, and open hearing in court. Here again a miscellaneous licence remains in force only for the life of the mining tenement for which it was granted. In the event of a warden refusing an application for a miscellaneous licence the applicant may appeal to the Minister.

The Bill provides, as at present, that the holder of a mining tenement may surrender it, or part of it, at any time, and allowance is made for the forfeiture of mining tenements should the covenants and conditions not be complied with.

Fines, in lieu of forfeiture, may be imposed where considered more appropriate.

Prospecting licences and miscellaneous licences may be forfeited by the warden provided he is satisfied that the requirements of the Act in relation to such licences have not been complied with in some material respect and that the matter is of sufficient gravity to justify forfeiture. Depending on the circumstances, the warden may, as he thinks fit, impose a fine not exceeding \$500 in lieu of forfeiture or, alternatively, impose no penalty at all.

Provision is also made for exploration licences, mining leases and general purpose leases to be forfeited by the Minister for non-compliance with the appropriate conditions. An application of this nature is first heard by the warden who, if he is satisfied that non-compliance with the conditions has occurred and the circumstances of the case are of such gravity to justify forfeiture, may recommend forfeiture to the Minister or, alternatively, he may impose a fine not exceeding \$500, or dismiss the application for forfeiture.

Where a warden recommends forfeiture the Minister may, instead of forfeiting the tenement, impose a fine not exceeding \$500, or determine not to forfeit or fine, depending on the circumstances.

The Minister is also empowered to forfeit leases for non-payment of rent or royalty or for breaches of any covenant inserted in a lease, but provision is made for him to reinstate leases that have been forfeited for any cause he deems sufficient. This follows a long-standing practice of forgiving a lessee for an oversight such as not paying his rent on time.

Exemption from expenditure conditions periods have been increased from six months to 12 months, because a yearly review is considered adequate in such cases. This provision will also reduce administration to a large extent.

Total or partial exemption from expenditure conditions of a mining tenement may be granted where good and sufficient reasons such as those set out in the Bill are demonstrated.

#### Part V—General Provisions Relating to Mining and Mining Tenements:

This part of the Bill deals in detail with many of the matters previously referred to in other clauses, such as marking out, surveying of mining tenements—other than exploration licences and water which could not be effectively pegged—and the control of iron ore. It also contains provisions to protect pegs and notices, and for rents and royalties to be prescribed in regard to mining tenements and minerals.

The Bill covers the situation where mining plant, equipment, tailings, etc. are left on a mining tenement after it ceases to exist. Departmental officers are also authorised to enter any land for geological surveys, samplings, and drilling, with reasonable notice and compensation to owners and occupiers for any damage.

Provision has also been inserted to prevent other Governments from obtaining controlling interests in mining tenements without Western Australia's consent through the Minister.

It will be noted that, while due account will be taken of town planning schemes and local government by-laws, these shall not prohibit the granting of mining tenements or veto mining duly authorised under this Act. Provision is made, however, for consultation, where necessary, with the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning before lease applications are dealt with. Should that Minister not consent in all practical sense the final decision is left with Cabinet.

#### Part VI—Caveats:

The usual provisions relating to caveats have been included in the Bill to afford protection to people claiming an interest in a mining tenement.

#### Part VII—Compensation:

The extensive compensation sections of the present Mining Act in regard to private land have been retained to provide adequate protection for landowners and occupiers. In addition, provision has also been made for compensation to pastoralists for damage and loss resulting from mining operations.

#### Part VIII—Administration of Justice:

The establishment of Wardens' Courts throughout the State is continued as they provide a very conveniently decentralised system of mining justice, and the existing provisions which have operated satisfactorily under the present Act have not been departed from in the Bill.

#### Part IX—Miscellaneous and Regulations:

In this part of the Bill the usual law enforcement provisions, general penalties, and regulatory power have been written. Penalties have been increased generally, and it is noteworthy that provision has been made for company directors and officers to be also guilty of offences committed by companies with their authority, permission, and consent.

The Bill provides a special penalty of \$1 000 for unauthorised mining on public reserves, State forests, and private and Crown land, plus a further fine of \$200 for every day such offence continues.

Obsolete provisions in the present Mining Act have been deleted. Some other provisions are considered more appropriate in the regulations which the Governor has the usual power to make.

The first schedule lists the Statutes to be repealed and those to be amended.

Transition provisions already referred to are set out in detail in the second schedule, as well as additional provision for the Governor to correct any transitional anomalies by Order-in-Council.

There is a specific provision in the second schedule to confirm the longstanding departmental practice through the wardens not to regard a break in the continuity of a miner's right as fatal, but to allow mining tenements to subsist upon the holder taking out a new miner's right, providing of course that there has been no other breach of the Act.

However, legal opinions in recent years that upon lapse of a miner's right, mining tenements taken possession of by virtue of a miner's right, are automatically lost with no redress available to the holder whatsoever or any formal procedure through the department, have been confirmed in the Supreme Court and this has placed in jeopardy the validity of many mining tenements because most holders have had breaks in their miner's rights at some time or other due to inadvertent oversight. This provision removes the uncertainty in this regard by providing retroactive validation of such titles which otherwise are open to challenge.

The east locations listed in the third schedule to the Bill are those purchased by the Hampton Lands and Railway Syndicate Limited by agreement with the Governor of the Colony of Western Australia in 1890, which are also the subject of the Special Mining on Private Property Act, 1899, whereby the company is authorised to work all the metals in these Crown grants. This freehold

land was accordingly excluded from the present Mining Act, and the status quo has been maintained by a similar exclusion under this Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

## **CONTROL OF VEHICLES (OFF-ROAD AREAS) BILL**

### *Third Reading*

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

## **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

### *Consideration of Tabled Paper*

Debate resumed from the 9th November.

**THE HON. R. G. PIKE** (North Metropolitan) [3.09 p.m.]: I rise in this debate to deal with some matters of concern not only to my electorate, but also to the whole of the metropolitan area and, indeed, the country areas of Western Australia.

The matter I refer to in the first instance concerns street trees which, of course, come mainly under the jurisdiction and the authority of local governments in Western Australia.

I will refer to that subject under the title of "The butchering of the Western Australian street trees". I make an appeal to all local authorities, where practicable, not to trim severely the street trees on the side of the street where there are no overhead electric light wires. It seems to me that there is a compulsion on some town and shire gardeners to carve back the trees in the street each year so that they achieve a uniform, rose-garden-cum-typical-hedge clip. It is a great pity the Western Australian eucalypts and the jacarandas planted in our streets suffer an annual haircut which makes the trees appear unsightly and provide insufficient shade. The provision of shade is one of the purposes of the trees. Such cutting also removes the aesthetic appeal of the trees.

On the side of the street where there are no electric wires overhanging, and no other obstructions, local authorities should give serious consideration to not trimming the trees and allowing them to assume their natural sizes and shapes.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Even where there are wires, they can do it properly. Some of the authorities do.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I agree. Some authorities do; and some authorities leave the trees in a terrible shape. I am not criticising any local authority in particular. This is a problem which is common throughout the whole of the State.

Most local authorities are now planting Western Australian eucalypts rather than the imported trees. Imported trees create various problems. The Queensland box trees are a practical example of trees not suited to our climate. In the Nedlands area, many Queensland box trees died during the recent drought. The use of Western Australian trees is conducive to better growth and less maintenance.

The next matter deals with the verges in the streets. It is a pity that, as we enter our 150th year, we are faced with the situation where throughout the State the verges on the boundaries of some of our suburban properties and country properties are now very brown, and they are drying off. This is not a problem which can be overcome very easily. Therefore I suggest that local authorities and/or the Kings Park Board should consider the establishment of "display plots" of ground covers using native vegetation. Many ground covers do not need clipping, and they provide colours ranging from green to grey. There are many varieties available, but the one which comes immediately to mind is the *Grevillea bitemata*. That plant is used fairly extensively, and it provides a permanent, green ground cover. It is drought resistant.

There is a reluctance on the part of householders, and in some instances there is non-cooperation by local authorities in relation to the provision of this type of ground cover. From a practical point of view, the residents should be able to observe an area of land planted with ground covers—to see the result, how high the plant grows, what the maintenance is, and how drought-resistant the plant is. The only practical method of achieving that is for the local authorities or the Kings Park Board to plant and maintain a series of ground covers so that property owners can observe them growing, and make a choice of the plants they wish to use.

Finally, I wish to deal with a matter in my electorate. I call upon the State Government and the City of Stirling in part—although the city has met its responsibilities in this area in the main—to consider the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of King Edward Road and Hector Street, Osborne Park. This is an arterial intersection which at present has no traffic light facilities. A number of accidents have occurred on the intersection.

There is a long-term plan for the upgrading of that intersection. However, this problem needs immediate attention notwithstanding the fact that planning is advanced to rebuild the intersection.

With those few pertinent comments, I support the motion.

**THE HON. I. G. PRATT** (Lower West) [3.15 p.m.]: I have pleasure in supporting the motion to take note of tabled paper No. 321, which of course is the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

There were three points that I found extremely pleasing, amongst many others. Firstly, there was the increase of 15 per cent in funds for education. The next pleasing point was the 19 per cent increase in the allocation for health services; and the third point was the increase of 13.4 per cent in the funding for the police and the RTA. In relation to some of these aspects, the province that I represent has been treated very generously this year, and I am happy with the Estimates in this year's Budget.

In the Lower West Province, the areas of Mandurah and Rockingham are amongst the fastest growing areas in the State. In those areas, a total of \$4.376 million has been allocated to be spent on eight educational projects. Some of these projects are of particular importance. The sum of \$525 000 has been allocated for the commencement of the Rockingham Technical School. This facility has been needed in that area for a long time. I join with the people in that area in expressing my satisfaction at the fact that work is now to commence on it.

I would like to make a few comments about this facility, and the courses it will cater for. The college will be built on a site between Dixon Road, Simpson Avenue, and Hennessey Avenue. It will have an internal area of 10 000 square metres. Education in the following trades will be provided: automotive mechanics, metal fabrication, fitting, machining, electrical trades, and instrument fitting. In addition, there will be courses in commercial accounting and management studies. Courses in computer studies, engineering, and science will also be provided.

There will be provision for art and adult education courses of various types. The courses will range from the adult education classes, which will be non-examinable, to trade and other skilled occupation qualifications and full technical college diplomas.

Members will realise that this college will be a tremendous asset to the community—a community in which many residents are involved in industry in the Kwinana area.

In the first stages, the teaching appointments will total 70. These appointments should be made towards the end of next year, and the staff will commence duties in the following year.

In addition to the workshops and classrooms the first stage will provide the administration block, staff accommodation, and general storage facilities. The second stage, the construction of which will depend on the enrolments in the first stage and the availability of funds, will consist of a laboratory, a student cafeteria, an amenities block, and an art block. The third stage would provide more classrooms and laboratories. The college is designed so that extensions can be made at any time they are needed.

The construction of the college will be a tremendous boost to the community, because the young people presently involved in trade training have considerable distances to travel.

Another educational facility which will benefit under the Estimates is the Mandurah High School. There is an allocation of \$2 392 000 for the completion of that school. I was pleased recently to inspect that school with the Hon. Neil McNeill, Mr Shalders, and the Minister. It is a truly wonderful facility which has been built on a design-and-construct basis.

When I recall my high school days at Northam High School, and compare the conditions there with those provided for the education of young people today, I find the changes that have been made are quite remarkable. The design is such that use is made of all natural light, and prevailing winds were taken into account when corridors and ventilation were planned. It is truly a building of which the department and the Government can be proud.

An amount of \$260 000 has been allocated for additions and improvements to the Hillman School, \$133 000 for the Dudley Park School, \$70 000 for the Safety Bay school, \$25 000 to finish the new Baldivis School, and \$18 000 for the final stages of the Cooloongup School.

These amounts indicate a tremendous amount of interest in education in this area. Sometimes we hear people say that the present Government does not have an interest in education, but this is not borne out when we study figures like those I have just given. The Government is doing a good job.

In the area of health, I was interested to learn that \$90 000 had been set aside for a day-care centre in Mandurah. I will comment on other health matters later.

An increase of 13.4 per cent—or \$7.3 million—has been allocated to the police and the RTA. Included in the allocation is provision for 56 additional officers, 43 to the Police Department and the rest to the RTA. There are also 20 clerical and support staff to be provided. These figures interest me, particularly the increase in the Police Force, because in Rockingham there is a strong feeling that we need more policemen.

Just prior to the time I prepared my speech—a couple of weeks ago—I received a letter from the Rockingham Shire Council expressing concern, because it considered more policemen should be made available to cope with the high level of vandalism and small crime in the area. I hope that some of the increased staff will be made available to the Rockingham Police Station to ensure that as the town continues to grow, so will the provision of protection through the Police Department.

I am aware that we cannot at all times keep up with the pressures of growth, but in areas which are developing as quickly as this one is, and where we have a large proportion of unemployed young people, temptations exist because they do not have anything with which to occupy their time. So, we need to ensure we keep up our standard of protection to the community.

The matter of clerical staff is of importance. I have my office in Armadale very close to the RTA office and vehicle inspection section, and I know that often there are tremendously long queues of people waiting to receive attention. The staffing is a little below what it should be. On several occasions I have had people, who spent some hours waiting, coming to me to express dissatisfaction. I hope that at least one of the extra clerical support staff will be stationed at Armadale.

With regard to sewerage and water supplies, I am pleased that a considerable amount is being spent in the rapidly developing Mandurah and Rockingham areas. An amount of \$80 000 is provided for sewer mains in Safety Bay, \$284 000 for sewer mains in Mandurah, \$109 000 for sewerage headworks in Mandurah, and \$246 000 for sewerage at Pinjarra.

Also of importance is the amount of money being spent on beach erosion work, because again this is an important factor in the coastal areas of my province. An amount of \$462 000 has been allocated to the PWD for investigation into erosion and remedial work at the beaches. Of this, \$277 000 is for the purchase of equipment and \$109 000 is for beach rehabilitation in the Mandurah area. The interest shown in beach

rehabilitation and management in that area is praiseworthy. I refer to both the work which has been done in Mandurah where there was bad beach erosion, and the work done in co-operation with the Rockingham Shire Council in the Warnbro beach area.

I was pleased to inspect this work when in progress. I was with my colleague (the Hon. Neil McNeill) and the then Minister (the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon). A badly eroded area has been corrected by the realignment of the road, the planting of grass and shrubs to maintain the realignment, and the rebuilding of the sandhills; this demonstrates a great concern for these fragile beach areas. It is a concern which I hope will continue and is greatly appreciated by the people who live in the direct vicinity and have been troubled for many years, because the road has been covered in sand every time there is a storm. In the past the shire has been involved in high maintenance work in co-operation with the department and the problem is being overcome. I hope, a permanent basis.

Earlier I said I would again refer to health matters. Recently I was pleased to attend the opening of the children's ward of the Armadale-Kelmscott District Hospital. This is something the community has been working towards for many years, and a large sum of money was raised by the community for the facility. I make the comment though that this is not the end of the needs in the area. There is urgent need for geriatric services at that hospital. I am aware that the Minister has acknowledged this, but it is one of those facilities which must await the availability of money. I ask him to keep this facility in mind, and I hope in the near future—perhaps in the next Budget or the following one—there will be an allocation for the commencement of geriatric facilities.

The community has taken great care of the aged. We have the Dale Cottage area for aged people, and it is a tribute to the people involved. We also have the Jack Murray frail aged home, which again is a wonderful facility. However, in order to complete the necessary facilities for our elderly people we do need a geriatric ward at the hospital and it is something to which we look forward.

With the rapid expansion in the Rockingham area there is a need for a continuing expansion of medical services, and in the next couple of years I hope the Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital will be extended.

A matter I discussed earlier in the year during the Address-in-Reply debate was the provision of cultural facilities in Rockingham. I mentioned

that we had many organisations involved in the production of plays and musicals, and the other day I was told of another organisation which is being formed after Christmas to produce plays. However, we are short of facilities. At present the Rockingham High School generously makes its gym available, but problems arise when the children are using the gym during the day and the various clubs are endeavouring to produce scenery and must shift it out of the way. I am looking forward to the time when we will have Government assistance for the provision of the cultural facilities required.

I was pleased to recently hear from the Minister that this is a matter at present under review by the Government, and I hope that the consideration it is receiving at present will have fruitful results so that these people who spend so much of their time providing cultural entertainment for the area will be given encouragement to continue. They also provide a lot of money for charity. Most of the money they raise goes back into the community in this way. So they need encouragement by the provision of proper facilities.

I have been deeply concerned recently about certain happenings in my area, and I feel they should be mentioned. Newspaper reports, particularly of prostitution charges, publish the names of the people concerned and also the names of the streets in which they live, but they do not give house numbers.

A young couple in my electorate recently suffered tremendous distress, because in a report of a young woman being fined in court for offering her services through the personal column only her surname and the street name were used. Nobody in the street knew of that young lady but they knew of the young couple, and the wife was subjected to a couple of terrible days. The day the report appeared in the newspaper she had received some 30 telephone calls by four o'clock because certain people, seeing the name and the street, probably went to the telephone directory, looked up the name of someone in that street, and started ringing. The lady was subjected to all sorts of obscene proposals over the telephone.

When her husband arrived home from work she was a nervous wreck. They had to have the telephone disconnected from their house, which was a great disadvantage to him in his business. It also led to people in the community who did not know them particularly well wondering whether this young woman—who was a very moral and clean-living person—was, in fact, the one mentioned in the newspaper report.

The matter was taken up with the police at the time. They had all the sympathy in the world but could do nothing. It is a terrible thing to happen to an innocent party, and I hope something can be done about that sort of reporting which can cause considerable personal distress.

Another matter which has concerned me is the attitude of the Metropolitan Water Board to rural users within the metropolitan water supply area. I have taken up with the previous Minister two particular problems, without a great deal of success, and I will relate them.

One of the problems concerned the provision of a non-ratable service, with which members are probably familiar, where a water main comes close to a property but the property is not serviced, and the owners are then allowed to have a meter placed on the main and provide pipes to their house. The people to whom I am referring were very upset when they were called upon to pay for headworks. They did not require any extensions: they merely wanted to have a meter placed on the pipe. They provided everything else themselves.

When I took the matter up with the board I was told that as the land was zoned rural the board had no responsibility to provide water and the owners had no right to the water, so if they wanted to use it they had to pay for the headworks, despite the fact that no work was involved. This reply was accepted very reluctantly.

The next objection came from a man on a rural property who did not want water. However, the board wanted to put a pumping station close to his property, and to service it the board had to put in a pipe to provide water to the pumping station. As the pipe went past the man's property, which was zoned rural, he had to pay water rates. He said he did not want water but he was told, "It does not matter; it is there and you have to pay rates."

I pointed out to the board the inequity of one man on a rural property wanting to use water, being told he had no right to it, and having to pay for headworks, and another man on rural land who did not want water being told he had to pay for it purely and simply to suit the convenience of the board. I believe it is morally wrong. However, I was told that was the situation and the people had to accept it. I do not believe it is correct or that it should be accepted.

I am very sad to mention that the closure of the Hopelands Primary School has been announced. It is a very good little one-teacher school in the middle of my electorate. I visited

it recently to present a shield in the small schools competition on behalf of Mr Rushton. We had schools entering this competition from the other side of Narrogin. All the small schools on either side of Perth competed. It was a wonderful atmosphere, because at these small schools there is a very good relationship between the teacher, the children, and the parents. Everyone seems to belong. It took my mind back to the days when I attended a little one-teacher school, travelling seven miles to and from it each day in a horse and sulky. It is a life which is disappearing from our country.

It is a shame when a small school like this, which provides education for the children and a focal point for the community, is closed down because of the waxing and waning of the number of children in the area, when some grow up and others are not old enough to go to school. I am concerned that the Hopelands School is being closed at a time when that general area is subject to subdivision and there is hope in the area that the numbers will rise again. But once the school is closed and a bus service is instituted, it will be too late to go back. I think it is a great shame and I register my disappointment.

A matter about which I am happy is the possibility of the development of Secret Harbour between Mandurah and Rockingham. It is at present in the embryo stage but it seems to me to be a worth-while project and I wish the developers well.

Early in the year the Hon. Neil McNeill and I had the pleasure of taking Mrs Craig on a tour through the Rockingham part of the electorate. One of the facilities we visited during the day was the Active Industries factory where less fortunate young people are trained to perform duties to enable them to earn some money, and to teach themselves skills and learn to belong to society. It is a very well-run establishment and it is a rather moving experience to be among these young people, to see them coping with their disabilities and producing things within the limit of their abilities.

The parents to whom we spoke at the time stressed the need for a special school in the Rockingham area itself. In fact, some land has been set aside for a building to house Active Industries when it moves out of the old bakery it is at present using. I do not think the area is large enough to accommodate the relocated industry and a special school, and I hope a move will be made to acquire other suitable land, because many young children in this category,

and some not so young, at present have to travel from Mandurah and Rockingham to Fremantle for schooling. We need to apply ourselves urgently to the provision of a facility of this standard in Rockingham to serve the Rockingham and Mandurah areas.

I said I had pleasure in supporting the motion. I have spelt out some of the things with which I am pleased, some of the things for which I think we should be aiming in the future, and a couple of matters about which I am not very pleased. However, generally speaking it is a good Budget and I am happy to belong to the party in Government which has produced it.

**THE HON. W. M. PIESSE** (Lower Central) (3.40 p.m.): Since last we examined the Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure for this State, the long-awaited Southern Western Australian Transport Study report which we had been expecting has been tabled and circulated for comment in various areas of the community.

In fact, so long was the wait for this report that many people expressed the opinion that when it did arrive it would be a non-event or a white elephant; in other words, it would be quite useless.

It is my opinion that remarks like these can only be true if the Government and the community make no further effort to improve the transport system in this State. I believe in all sincerity that the system needs to be improved.

In relation to metropolitan transport, recently I had occasion to use a taxi. During my journey the taxi driver told me he had been a resident of this State for less than 12 months. I asked him how he found running a taxi business in Perth as compared with running a taxi business in the Eastern State from which he had come. He replied, "It is splendid for a taxi business here in Perth because, of course, you do not really have a public transport system, do you?"

It is not my intention to speak at length on metropolitan transport. It is the country areas that concern me at this time. It is true that many changes in transport have occurred throughout the country since the SWATS began its long investigation. So, already some things commented on in the SWATS report are no longer relevant. Most of the changes that have taken place have not improved the conditions under which people in our country areas exist. For example, we have been given facts and figures to prove it is no longer desirable for Westrail to serve certain

areas, because of financial losses. People living in these areas understand that deficits cannot continue to be absorbed at an increasing rate indefinitely.

But what they cannot tolerate is having a facility removed from them without proper consideration, and without being given alternative measures to cover their needs.

To illustrate my point, Mr Deputy President, I will tell you of a specific case in the Lower Central Province for, I believe, it is indicative of the problem in several areas.

On a branch railway line the train services have been reduced from several trains a week to one train a week. A farmer in this area, about 20 miles from the siding, completed his shearing and rang the main line station to request trucks in which to load his wool the next day. He was told that he was too late, that the train had gone for that week, and he would have to hold his wool on his farm for another week. He endeavoured to acquire trucks on another branch line some 35 miles away, but that proved unsuccessful also. He then rang the Transport Commission to request a permit to cart his wool to Fremantle by road. The permit was refused, because his farm was not within the defined area to which permits can be granted.

I have investigated the defined areas which qualify for permits to cart wool to store, and I find they were defined originally in 1934 and many of them have not been altered since then. In 1934, apparently the criteria for defining a boundary of a permit area were based on location distance from rail sidings. Many of the sidings that were in operation then are not operative now and others, as the one I mentioned, are on an absolute minimum service.

While I appreciate the motive behind the regulation which prevents farmers from carting their own wool to store, I believe that where there is only one train a week, or even none, then a farmer who is beyond 25 miles of a main line should be granted a permit to cart his wool to store if he so wishes, without delay in the granting of it.

Every farmer will not wish to do this, particularly if he has a spring shearing programme in the south of the State, because he will find it much more convenient on most occasions to use the one train available; so, the loss of revenue to the railways would probably be small, indeed, but the convenience to the one-man farm could be of great significance.

He may already have had to contend with an upset shearing time due to weather conditions. He is usually waiting on finance following the next wool sale; and because of various delays when he finally finishes his shearing he finds he will miss a sale, because there is no train and he is not permitted to cart his wool.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.01 p.m.*

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I hope the Minister for Transport gives serious consideration to the practical effects of the delays caused to primary producers, and I hope he gives that consideration to the matter with a view to granting permits to producers to cart their own wool from the areas that are suffering a loss of rail services.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: It would be better to upgrade the service.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I quite agree, but the point I am trying to make is that during the interim period every effort must be made not to disadvantage those people but to make things as convenient as possible for them. I know we must have a plan. We realise the service will not be perfect for these people, but they already have to put up with a lot and we must be very careful about removing essential services.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: As you take the service away the volume is not there and the services cut themselves out.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: That is not entirely true; it is true up to a point. There are ways of removing services so that people can use alternatives. In the case to which I have referred I am sure most of the farmers would want to use one train a week; but if a farmer is delayed and is not able to arrange his programme to coincide with the train he finds he has to hold back his wool for another week, and that is really a great inconvenience. In case Mr McKenzie does not know—not being a farmer—a one-man farm usually has a large shed which is used for shearing, storing superphosphate, storing grain, sorting stock and sheep on difficult days, and for all kinds of other purposes. A one-man farmer needs his shed and he cannot afford to have it filled with wool while he is waiting for another train.

Not all farmers will want to cart their own wool. I believe, as a train service is discontinued or greatly reduced, the Minister should make regulations so that the Transport Commission is notified; and if anyone from the area in question rings up and has a need to cart wool, he should not be delayed in obtaining a permit. Not every farmer will ring up; there would be no need to put out circulars asking farmers to ring up to

see if their wool could be carted. However, these little inconveniences are so irritating to the farmers.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: I can understand that; but what happens? You have a train once a fortnight, and then you have nothing at all.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: No, when the grain harvest begins the trains are back on the rails again. If a month or two later one asks how many trains there are, one finds there are probably two or three a day, because grain is being carted. Then the line is earning money and paying for itself.

In the meantime, while a better programme is being arranged, every effort must be made not to inconvenience these people.

Another matter dealing with transport and concerning people in the Lower Central Province and areas beyond is the alteration and termination of Westrail's road truck and bus services on the Kewdale-Esperance and Perth-Hopetoun routes. The area in Lower Central Province affected by the curtailment of these services is the Kukerin and Moultyinning area. The cancellation proposed is Westrail's road truck service which operates from Kewdale to Esperance on Wednesday and returns on Thursday, and the Westrail road bus service which operates from Perth to Hopetoun on Thursday and returns to Perth on Friday.

It is quite obvious good use has been made of those services. It is possible the buses are of a size which is not warranted, but it is terribly inconvenient to terminate this service completely. People in isolated areas have been able to receive their mail from Perth on Thursdays. They have been able to write answers and mail them back to Perth on the Friday instead of having to wait until the following week.

However, when the service is terminated and there is only one mail delivery a week, members can imagine the great inconvenience which will be caused to the people in the area.

Because I am known through the area affected I have been petitioned and requested to give my support to the retention of the services. I know the Minister for Agriculture and Leader of the National Country Party has been petitioned also in relation to this matter. I know he has approached the Minister for Transport on behalf of these country people. As you know, Mr President, the very reason I am here in this place speaking on this matter is my concern for people living in country areas. The very reason I am airing the matter here and now arises from

something I read in the SWATS report. I refer to page 53 of that report, paragraph 4.2.9 headed "Business Interests". I quote as follows—

*The majority of business representatives expressing opinions were sole traders or those who employed only a small staff. They often expressed dissatisfaction with allegedly high rail rates (which made small town businesses less competitive) and with alleged rail staff inefficiency. Improvements in the quality of transport services were thought necessary, with frequency of service paramount.*

There is no denying that. In addition, on page 54 of the same report under the heading of "Metropolitan Interests" paragraph 4.2.12 states—

*People within the Perth metropolitan area appeared to be indifferent to freight transport policy and regarded it as a problem only for country people. The economic viability and quality of life in remote country towns attracted little interest.*

It is my belief the reason that a statement like that can be made can only be that people in the metropolitan area, particularly the women, do not understand the difficulties faced by women in outback areas. If metropolitan people did understand the difficulties I am sure that at least the women would be very concerned about this matter.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: The Government doesn't seem to understand it either.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: That is why I am airing this matter. There is another matter in the SWATS report dealing with computerisation of data which can be extracted and examined. However, can one put into a computer the inconvenience caused to a young mother with one or two children who must travel 25 or 35 miles into a town on the day the bus arrives and brings the bread, the mail, and the newspapers? On that day she may wish to post a letter to friends, relations, or business connections in the metropolitan area. But her whole life is disrupted when she is told the service will not be available any more. I do not think the inconvenience she suffers can be put into a computer.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: I am sure it can't.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: If you think she has a problem, just consider the problem of people in State Housing Commission areas such as Lockridge.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: We have people in State Housing Commission homes in country areas.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You said metropolitan people would not understand her hardship.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I am sure metropolitan people would not be unsympathetic if they knew of the situation.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They understand hardship all right.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I do not doubt that. Country women understand hardship too, and they understand the problems of metropolitan women.

I wish quickly to list reasons for the concern at the withdrawal of the service to which I refer. These reasons have been stated by the Lake King Progress Association. The first is that private mail bags will be delivered once a week instead of twice a week; and bear in mind there is no delivery service to farms. I am sure Mr Cooley would agree that two mail services a week are not too many, and one service is practically no service at all.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: It should be better in this day and age.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I agree; we are going backwards. When I first came to this Chamber the Lake King area had a mail service at least three times a week. Now it has a service only once a week.

Newspapers arrive once a week. They may be delivered to a town on a Tuesday but are not distributed to the people before Thursday. Therefore one can imagine that the newspapers are eight or 10 days old before the farmers get them. While we do have radios, we hear only a small amount of the news because not all news is put on radio and television—and the people down there do not have television that they can view. Therefore in some instances they are completely cut off from news.

Bread supplies are delivered once a week or in some cases not at all. The bread supplies are delivered largely to the local siding, and many people have already been travelling 25 miles to get their bread once a week. Now in some cases there will be no bread. Fruit and vegetables were delivered once a week, but now none is delivered at all.

I received a submission from the Lake Grace Shire in respect of the removal of this service, which I quote as follows—

#### 1. Australia Post

Inward and Outward mail will be reduced to one service per week to Lake King and Lake Varley. Considered alternative arrangements appear to be unsatisfactory.

#### 2. Lake Grace Bakery

This Bakery serves many towns throughout the district not only in bread supplies but also in delivery of small parcels etc.

The cancellation of the Thursday service to Hopetoun and return Fridays will reduce bread sales by 2 250 loaves and deny delivery of small parcels.

The value of that bread is \$2 009 a week.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: There is not much difference between bread and money.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: There is when one has to eat it. The bus travelling down eastwards used to deliver loaves of bread to the Ravens-thorpe district, the Lake King agencies, the Newdegate district, and return westward to the Dumbleyung road house, the Kukerin store, and the Moulyinning district. So largely because of the costs of transport, no matter how the one baker who serves the area bakes his bread, it will not be delivered. Therefore, it is a serious situation. As I have said, the people in the area have geared their social and business activities to Wednesday, the day the bus arrives; because Westrail has provided a regular timetable, which as you will understand, Mr President, is most important.

Also, on the day the bus arrives the child health clinic sister visits the towns. When that happens mothers do not have to make an extra trip into town, because they can collect their goods from the bus, see the clinic sister, and attend to their other business. This saves them making additional trips to town, and bear in mind petrol is becoming more and more expensive. Quite apart from the cost in dollars and cents, which is something that seems to be uppermost in all our lives, other costs are involved. It is the cost in human wear and tear, the inconvenience, and the time spent travelling to and from these places that worry me.

This Government has repeatedly mentioned it favours decentralisation. No doubt when the SWATS report was organised one of its aims was to assist decentralisation. I believe the greatest factors affecting small business in country towns, the quality of life of country dwellers, and the setting up and or continuation of industries, both primary and secondary, are transport and communication. When I say communication I mean matters such as mail services and the written media.

Without Westrail the cost of goods has increased considerably, and in some cases the use of other transport has increased prices over 100 per cent.

However, it is not the cost in dollars and cents that is bothering me so much as the cost in inconvenience and disadvantage.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: The Minister said there was a wide range of services by a local carrier.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: That does not work out too well as the carrier is not always on time. The Westrail bus comes at a known time while the other carrier comes at any time of day or night. If groceries, milk, greens, and vegetables are carried by the private contractor they can be left at the side of the road at any time of the day or night without anyone to look after them. They could be left out under the glare of the sun without anyone knowing the carrier has been. People arrive at the drop-off point and find goods have been delivered. This situation is not satisfactory.

I do not wish to detail the future cost in dollars and cents as a result of the withdrawal of the Westrail service without adequate alternatives. The cost to the State will not be estimated in dollars and cents.

These are recommendations of the SWATS report; we do not know if they will be accepted fully. The recommendations are proposed to be introduced over nine or 10 years in three stages. This is fair enough in theory but if insufficient consideration is given to an adequate cover of needs during the implementation of the recommendations it may be that before the 10 years are up there will be so few people left in the outlying areas it would not bear thinking about. I say this in all sincerity, because it seems from listening to many people in those areas they have just about reached the end of their tolerance.

The number of townspeople is diminishing, and farmers have left the country districts. As these people leave, so too do the teachers and stock agents. The number of bakeries and grocery stores decrease and so there is an overall reduction in the population.

This is good wheat country, but like all wheat areas the people have one good year and have to wait perhaps another two or three years before another good season arrives. However, they are prepared to put up with that if they are provided with reasonable services.

My next comment relates to heavy road haulage and the haulage of timber and wood chips in the Warren electorate. Much of the milling of timber has moved from the smaller mills in the lower south-west of the State to the Bunbury region.

More consideration should be given to moving the logs for milling by rail rather than by road. If the pine forests in the lower south-west survive as anticipated the milling of the timber near Bunbury will surely be a long-term project.

It is all very well to say that the logs can be loaded in the forests where they are cut and transported to the mill by road so that only one handling on and off is necessary. I appreciate that is a good saving of labour. However, if the road trucks could be routed to the mill without having to travel on public roads I would have no complaint, but such is not the case.

We have suffered one tragedy in the Manjimup Shire due to log trucks having to share inadequate public roads. There have been other accidents less tragic but indirectly caused by these trucks using roads that are not suitable for the purpose. The accident I referred to was reported in the *Warren-Blackwood Times* of the 4th October, 1978. I shall read portions of it as follows—

#### Log Truck, Car Collide—Baby Killed

An 11-month-old Manjimup girl was killed when the car in which she was a passenger collided with a log truck on Graphite road about 20 km west of the town last Thursday.

Further on it reads—

An RTA patrolman on his way to the scene of the accident lost control of his vehicle and rolled over where the Graphite road surface changes from bitumen to gravel.

It is probably not very costly to pay for the upkeep of this road if it is used only for domestic passenger vehicles, school buses, and the like. However, once log hauling trucks use these roads it does not take long for dangers to become apparent.

I have inquired about the movement of the heavy logs to the mill and I have been told the cost of providing rail for timber haulage is too great, but when we realise the cost of building a road suitable in width and surfacing for heavy haulage traffic is between \$60 000 and \$80 000 per kilometre, if we start from scratch, then it must be accepted it would be a very costly railway.

I have been told that the cost of widening a sealed bitumen road an extra 12 ft., to make it suitable for heavy haulage vehicles to share with private vehicles, is something like \$20 000 to \$30 000 per kilometre, which is also very costly. I am a little fearful when the Government can look at these costs and say it is too expensive to build a railway.

I do not believe the Government is looking at the safety angle in a realistic way. People tend to say that a bitumen road is suitable if the cars take to the gravel when they want to pass one of these large trucks. I do not believe that is truly estimating the cost.

On top of the cost of resurfacing the roads is the cost of maintenance, which is continuous and very expensive. Such a road would need to be completely resurfaced every 10 years. If a suitable road would cost \$60 000 to \$80 000 per kilometre to construct now, what price would be involved in 10 years' time? Apart from that I do not believe any comparison of costs can be made when considering safety and heavy haulage by rail rather than by road. Nowhere can two men move a large amount of freight with the same ease and degree of safety as they can by rail.

With our road toll being what it is the Government must take greater note of the safety factor in relation to roads and heavy haulage vehicles. This applies not only to the Warren area but also everywhere where large trucks and jinkers are used for hauling heavy loads all over the south of the State. I realise the situation in the north is different where we cannot do anything about it, but we can help the situation in the south.

Finally, I cannot end without making some mention of the Donnybrook Hospital. I think all members have heard about it before; if they have not it is through no fault of mine. Mr Lewis has made mention of this and has said there is no allocation made for the hospital in the Estimates and that no plans have been drawn up. It must be within the last 12 months to my knowledge that plans were submitted to the Donnybrook Shire Council. They were said to be plans for the possible upgrading of the hospital.

I understand the shire councillors have said they were not looking for a magnificent edifice. They were merely wanting the hospital to be upgraded so that it would be a reasonable place for maternity cases, minor surgery, and child care. They were not looking for a specialist centre—just reasonable accommodation.

So far nothing more has come of it and I believe our current Minister for Health is about to pay a visit to the hospital. Since I have been in this place three Ministers for Health have admitted the situation is bad.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Not me.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: Mr Baxter was before my time. At least three Ministers have inspected the hospital since I have been here; and I am a vintage nurse.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Did you say a vintage nurse?

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: That is very different from a newly-trained nurse. It has certain connotations.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Was it a good year?

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: A very good year. When I first came to this place the people in Donnybrook were in a state of anxiety, because they did not have a permanent doctor. There was a doctor from Bunbury who visited Donnybrook once a week. He said the hospital facilities were not good and patients could go to his surgery in Bunbury. By the by he said he would no longer be able to come to Donnybrook and patients would have to go to Bunbury if they wanted to see him. He indicated they would have to do this after the next three months, because he would be unable to come to Donnybrook after that time.

At that time a doctor arrived in the town to start a practice. The doctor from Bunbury found he was able to extend his time a little longer and so the town had two doctors for a while.

The Bunbury doctor has now returned to Bunbury permanently and the doctor who came to be the resident doctor has said it would be difficult to deliver babies or take out an appendix safely in the Donnybrook Hospital. Both he and I hope something will be done.

It is all very well to say Bunbury is only 30 miles away from Donnybrook, but imagine the situation of a young farmer living 30 miles the other side of the town. He would have to drive 30 miles to Donnybrook and another 30 miles to Bunbury; this should not be necessary.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Thirty miles the other side of Donnybrook would make it 10 miles from Bridgetown.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: This is an indication of the quality of life experienced by people who are not very wealthy. They could be more than 10 miles from Bridgetown and, in any case, I believe they should have facilities in Donnybrook.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: If they were 30 miles the other side of Donnybrook they would be near Greenbushes.

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: The Leader of the House knows they cannot travel the way the crow flies; they have to travel along gravel roads.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I thought storks brought babies!

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: I could tell the Leader of the House a thing or two about that.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: What happened to the Flying Doctor from Augusta?

The Hon. W. M. PIESSE: Perhaps he saw how bad the Donnybrook Hospital was. In all seriousness, I am hopeful I shall not die before I see Donnybrook Hospital suitably upgraded.

I support the motion.

**THE HON. GRACE VAUGHAN** (South-East Metropolitan) [4.30 p.m.]: We support the presentation of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. I want to speak today on the obvious needs of the State in regard to the paucity of revenue received from the Commonwealth for special services and for the people in our community who are battling to keep up with a competitive society which is racing ahead of them. A very large proportion of our society is advantaged and an even larger proportion is disadvantaged. The disadvantaged section of people has to keep up with those who are ahead.

It is ironical to hear that this Government is annoyed with Mr Anthony, the Minister for Trade and Industry in the Commonwealth Government, when he attempts to rationalise the negotiations in regard to the export of minerals which now earns 25 per cent of Australia's income. In regard to the disadvantaged people it is ironical to find this Government is doing nothing about approaching the Commonwealth Government with the same vehemence it approached them in regard to the rationalisation of the negotiations for the export of minerals—matters which are so important to a number of people. In particular, I am referring to the following: Firstly, let us look at the business of oil and petrol and how much it costs in Western Australia. We live in a very large State and we use a great deal more petrol per head of population than do other States. Therefore, this matter is important to us, particularly to the people who live outside the metropolitan area.

The inquiry into the petrol industry cost over \$1 million and was carried out over a long period of time. The inquiry took 18 months and a great deal of resources—both financial and information—were channelled into the negotiations on oil. Big oil business, like other big businesses, seems to be more important to the conservative Governments which are in power than is the matter of the welfare of the people. In fact, the welfare of the people in our society seems to be equated by conservative Governments with the interests of big oil business and other big businesses—but particularly with big oil business.

The oligopoly of the big oil business has been an obvious factor in the economy of this country for a long time. There is little that the conservative Governments have done to try to counter that. In fact, the Chamber of Commerce sector of the West Australian automotive industry has said that under present circumstances petrol retailers are in the same position as farmers were under the feudal landlords. Almost every service station manager in Western Australia would agree with that statement.

This Government does not exert anywhere near the amount of energy on criticising the Federal Government on its stand in relation to small businesses as it expends on criticising the Federal Government in relation to mineral export negotiations. A tremendous number of small businesses are going bankrupt. Recently the Federal Opposition Leader spoke to the Victorian Chamber of Commerce. He said that under a Labor Federal Government a special department would be set up to look after small businesses. I am referring again to the Chamber of Commerce sector of the WA automotive industry and its publication of November, 1978. It said that small firms have a valuable contribution to make. I am sure no member would argue about that.

Another comment made is as follows—

They are exceptionally flexible and innovative in response to market change and because they are small they have a high capacity for work involvement in their operations.

This is most important in this day and age when we need to be able to change with ease from one type of production to another, and when we need to be able to do so without a great deal of investment in capital goods.

Small businesses are able to meet this challenge. They know the market is small for their products and they are able to change to meet the circumstances. However, the main problem experienced by small businesses is obtaining capital. The Labor Party has promised when it comes into power that it will see that small businesses have a source of capital in order that they may use their flexibility and innovative ability to assist the economy.

Why has this Government not asked the Commonwealth Government what it is doing about the people who are battling in this country in attempting to live on the unemployment relief benefit?

What has this Government done to counter the terrible agony unemployed people suffer not only in regard to the paucity of financial benefits allocated to them, but also in regard to the venomous attacks made upon them as to their inability to find jobs? Very little has been said by conservative Governments in this country to counter that villainous and wicked attack which heaps coals of fire on top of the agony experienced already by the unemployed.

Only the people who have been unemployed for long periods can hope to understand the real problems. Recently it became obvious from the figures produced by the Bureau of Statistics in regard to the Social Security Department that 96 per cent of people on the dole have no other income. If any member here imagines he could live on the unemployment relief benefit, he would have to be able to exist without proper food and be fortunate not to show signs of malnutrition. Perhaps some members in this place could live on their fat—both physical fat and the money they have in the bank—for a while. However, most of the people who are unemployed fall into the lower socioeconomic strata and have been unable to garner any fat of this nature around them.

The age category which is affected most severely by unemployment is a cause for great concern. I should like to quote some figures from the Institute of Public Affairs to indicate that the number of unemployed young people escalates from the younger age group to the higher age group. The Institute of Public Affairs is hardly a radical, socialist, left-wing organisation. It reports that in May, 1978, 32 per cent of the total unemployed came from the 15 to 19-year-old group and 52 per cent of those unemployed came from the 19 to 24 age bracket.

The people in decision-making positions are in the older age bracket and they find it hard to understand the situation. They perhaps have forgotten the last depression and they do not worry very much about the next one. These people make the decisions and determine the level of unemployment benefits and how we shall tackle the problem of increasing the number of jobs available. It can be seen that they do not have their hearts in attempting to solve the matter.

If we read from the notes on the economy of Western Australia which the Premier presented to us and on which the Estimates are based, we can see the enormous increase in unemployment in particular groups. We find an increase of 54.9 per cent in rural unemployment and 102.3 per cent in the skilled building and construction field.

It is frightening when one thinks about the waste of talent at a time when there is so much to be done to make the environment in which we live more comfortable and more productive, and to ensure a secure future.

What is the Government doing about the people who live on pensions? Approximately 85 per cent of people living on aged pensions receive the full pension which means they do not have very much money with which to buy little "extras", because they do not want to eat into the small amount of capital they may have and which may give them a little income.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It does not mean that at all. You are quite wrong.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I should be grateful if the Leader of the House will tell me why I am wrong.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It means that the conditions for securing the pension have now been made so easy that practically everyone gets the full pension.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Leader of the House may consider that is an easy life—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I did not say that it is an easy life; that is the sort of untruth you state. That is the sort of smart politics you go in for, but it is not good.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: As usual the Leader of the House has introduced a red herring.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am talking about the conditions for pensions.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I know all about the conditions for pensions. I am talking about the way of life.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You do not keep up to date with the social services.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am not talking about how much money is involved or anything else—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are talking through the back of your neck.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am talking about the fact that because these people receive the full pension they are not living the easy life.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It does not mean that. It indicates that the conditions for obtaining pensions have been eased over the years by successive Governments.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The conditions have been eased.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am glad you admit it. If you apologise to me I will accept your apology. You have admitted I was right.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I think the Leader of the House needs a talking to.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You have just admitted I was correct.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Leader of the House is correct in saying the conditions have been eased; but I am correct also, and if he apologises to me I shall apologise to him.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I will not apologise, because you are not correct.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am correct, because I am saying this Government is not doing anything very much—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This Government does not handle old age pensions. They are handled by the Federal Government.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Federal Government likes also to handle the matter of negotiations on minerals.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Export of minerals is a Federal affair, if you look at the Act.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The message has not reached all the State yet.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: This matter concerns all the people of Australia who receive pensions.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Just get your facts right.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The important matter I am trying to get across here, and Mr MacKinnon seems to be determined to try to make me stray from it, or make the House stray from it, is that in our battle to get more money and justice from the Commonwealth we should not forget those people who are disadvantaged and who, in fact, have been forgotten. This matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Leader of the House. I should like to refer to an interesting letter from an old aged pensioner who wrote to the *West Australian* in which it is said how important it is that the old people of Western Australia should not be forgotten. The letter reads in part as follows—

In their struggle to exist on a weekly income that barely covers the price of a pair of shoes, are they expected to join in the celebrations and feel pride in the achievements of the State in which they barely manage to

survive? Or should they just sit at home and forget as they themselves have been forgotten?

She goes on to say how much better are the conditions in New Zealand. She could talk also about how much better conditions are in every other part of the world.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What rubbish!

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: If only the Leader of the House will let me finish. The rate of income in those countries is lower than it is in our country. If the Leader of the House were to learn a few facts about other countries he would hang his head in shame as I did a couple of months ago when I attended a conference overseas.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There is no need to be ashamed about this country.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: My word! I was when I heard about the social welfare programmes available in other countries which have a much lower gross national product than we have.

Anybody who is chauvinistic and jingoistic enough to think that this country cannot be improved, is not worthy of being a decision-maker.

Further, let us look at what the Commonwealth Government is doing about the allocations for the training of our students in Western Australia. The allocations to colleges all over Australia show that the per head allocation to Western Australia is lower than that of any other State in Australia. The highest allocation is in Queensland where it is \$3 777 per head, whilst in Western Australia, which is the lowest, the allocation is \$3 082. What is the State Government doing about asking the Commonwealth Government to improve that position? What is the State Government doing about the criticism in this area—and which was so admirably presented by the Hon. Lyla Elliott when she summed up the housing situation? When a very reliable body—WAIT-Aid—presented a report to the Minister for Community Welfare, the Minister said he would not do anything about it, because he was concerned about the methods used in the research. WAIT-Aid had carried out very good research and investigation.

The people involved in the investigation are expert in this particular field. Their methodology is unquestionable; that is their business. If they were not trusting in the efficacy of such research, why did the Government commission them in the first place? The cost of the investigation was \$8 475, but the Government intends to

do nothing with the report and the findings. The State Government does not intend to pursue the matter, because it would mean the Government would have to go to the Commonwealth Government and complain.

What validity is there in this Government trying to claim it is doing so much in welfare housing? It is a miserable effort. It should be remembered that the Government is supposed to provide welfare housing for people who are battling, and people without their own resources to borrow enough money to acquire their own homes. They have to apply to the Government for help, and if they are in the appropriate category they receive assistance from the State Housing Commission. However, only 47 per cent—less than half—of the State Housing Commission tenants are, in fact, paying rebated rents. The rest of the tenants are capable of buying a home from their own resources, and they are capable of paying the market value rent.

That demonstrates the validity of the actions of this Government in trying to cope with a very real area of need; that is, the people who cannot afford to house themselves. A percentage of people living in SHC homes should not be there.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Should we evict them?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Yes, or we should charge them the market value rent. People move into these houses, and their fortunes change. They may have been struggling temporarily, but many of them eventually reach the situation where they can afford to pay the market value rent. The purpose of SHC funds is to assist people who are in need, and not to make life more comfortable for those who are clever enough to stand on their own feet.

The SHC is quite happy to have tenants who can afford to pay the market value rent, but that is not the job of the SHC. It has been set up to provide welfare housing for people who do not have the resources to house themselves.

Another area in which this Government could be making loud noises to the Commonwealth Government on behalf of the battlers—instead of on behalf of big business—is in regard to Meals on Wheels. The only time this Government does scream to the Commonwealth Government is when it wants to assist its friends in big business. The subsidy for Meals on Wheels is not realistic. It is nowhere near the cost of maintaining and producing meals. You, Mr President, would know of the problem, because you are closely associated with many organisations which provide meals, and with senior citizen centres. You know the struggle the organisers have to raise

funds to ensure that people receive meals in their homes. Those who deliver the meals are able to see the people who are living under threatened conditions, and they are able to obtain help for those people. One organisation—the League of Home Help—has to cover a \$10 000 deficit by the end of this year. How it will find that money, heaven knows. Perhaps it will buy lottery tickets. It will be virtually impossible for that organisation to raise \$10 000 by the end of this year.

I come now to another area which is of particular concern, because it demonstrates that people do not stand equally before the law. I refer to the changes in legal aid. I had great misgivings in the first place when the Attorney General announced that this State was to have a separate legal aid organisation and a separate Family Court. I asked the Attorney General many questions both inside this House and outside of it. I must say that as usual the Attorney General was very helpful. He wanted me to understand the position and to be in favour of it.

I must say the Attorney General certainly proved that he did the right thing. He foresaw that the Commonwealth Government would be niggardly with its handouts for legal aid. The money made available for legal aid at least ensured that the States received a reasonable sum, but the restrictions which the Commonwealth Government has placed on its advances for legal aid to certain people at certain times and to those who are charged with certain offences, has been drastically reduced.

The funding has been so drastically cut that we have the situation in Western Australia where even judges are halting procedures in the courts to ask why people are not receiving legal assistance. The people in Western Australia are not standing equally before the law at all. A person may have to defend himself absolutely without any knowledge of the law at all. He could face a serious charge, and he could face a long term of imprisonment. There were two cases in recent days; one where a man was charged with rape and another where a man was charged with breaking and entering and assault. Those are the types of offences which could bring a 10-year or 15-year gaol sentence. Yet, we still have this niggardly approach by the Federal Government to the matter of funding for legal aid.

This is an exceedingly important area, and it has been one of the prized claims illustrating the difference between our country and other countries. We have always claimed to have adopted British justice where every man stands equally before the law. A person, who has to conduct his own

defence in a case where, if he is found guilty, he could be locked up for a very long time, is not equal before the law.

What sort of little bone has been thrown to the battlers by this Government in the matter of excess water charges. This is one claim which really made me laugh. On the 17th October, the Leader of the House—who is also the Minister for Water Supplies—said he would ensure that people could claim their water rate charges as a deduction in their income tax. He said that if people exceeded the statutory deduction figure in their taxation assessments—which last year was \$1 590—they would be entitled to claim to a maximum of \$300 for rates, including excess water charges.

The Minister said this matter had been discussed with the Taxation Department. I ask: How many battlers in Western Australia have deductions exceeding the statutory figure of \$1 590?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is the reason there is no particular rush about it. They are not the only people who will be affected.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Big deal! That is the type of bone which has been handed out by the Government—people will be able to claim to a maximum of \$300 for excess water charges. However, we are talking about only a handful of people as far as the battlers are concerned. This is where we see the inequity of the taxation system. It is almost the cessation of progressive taxation. Australia—under conservative Governments and socialist Governments—has always had a scale of progressive taxation. That has always been seen as an equitable distribution of income. Now, however, the lowest income earner pays exactly the same rate as the higher income earner up to \$16 000 per annum taxable income; 31.5 per cent. The change occurred a couple of years ago after the Labor Government went out of office. The system has not been altered, and it is not likely to be altered, because it is the battlers who have to pay it.

May I remind members that somewhere in the vicinity of 60 per cent of the income tax revenue of the Commonwealth Government is derived from people earning less than the average weekly earnings. Something in the vicinity of 60 per cent of income tax, which the Commonwealth Government receives, is paid by the battlers. So, do not let us run away with the idea that the big income earner is the one who is carrying the country; it is the battler.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Where did you get those figures?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: From the Commonwealth Taxation Department and the Bureau of Statistics.

What will happen in this so-called fight between the Federal Government and the State Government? It will be a knock-out for the State, as usual, because it cannot get any money out of the Commonwealth.

What will the Government do? It will increase its own revenue by the usual regressive taxes, and again this will hit the battlers. The person on a high income may grizzle a bit about increased charges, but it will not really make much difference to him. However, increases in the charges for gas, electricity, water supplies, sewerage, and State Housing Commission rents—and the State Government will need to raise an extra \$34 million this year—will hit the people who are battling. This does not seem to concern the Government because most of the people who support it are advantaged people. They are smug and self-satisfied like most of the members of this House.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Obviously you are speaking for your side of the House.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: These people think they have got on very well in life through their own moral rectitude, and that their success is not just due to chance, to the fact that they had better contacts, that their parents were behind them, or that the financial resources of their families were quite good. We do not think about those contingencies. We believe that the people who are battling must have done something wrong for which they are paying penance. We never stop to think about these matters because they are too depressing. However, when figures are presented to us such as those I have given today, it is very depressing. I have given general figures only, but if anyone wishes to research the matter, he will find far more depressing statistics available.

We must face the fact that something like 65 per cent of adult males are earning less than the average weekly earnings; that is, about \$125 a week. I would like members to try to imagine what it would be like to live on that amount of money. We cannot ignore the fact that many people are really battling. The more advantaged people may think, "Oh, they must use their money gambling or drinking". No-one will admit that they are battling because of the system, the system for which our fathers and grandfathers are responsible. I will not blame our grandmothers, because they did not have much to say in those days. Women are just commencing to have a bit more of a say now.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I would have thought they were the most productive of the lot!

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Productive in terms of producing children, but not productive in terms of changing the system. We can make our system better. Let us not be smug and self-satisfied about what we are doing and how affluent the country is. Most of the people we move among are fairly well advantaged. The battlers are often so resourceless that they do not know where to go to get help. The people who do come to us are the ones who have a little bit of push and know where to go for assistance.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do not know what sort of electorate you work in; you are so out of touch it does not matter.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: It is good that these people do come to us. We then know that there are others in the same position but who do not have as much of a get-up-and-go attitude to approach their local member for help.

My next comments relate to these disadvantaged people, and I will leave behind the fact that the Government is not doing anything appreciable to battle with the Commonwealth Government for more assistance for these people. It is not doing much in regard to health, housing, or pensioners. It is not doing anything about reducing taxes for the battlers. We as members of Parliament can afford to pay more taxes, but a person on \$125 a week cannot afford to pay 3½ per cent of that salary in taxation. There are enough school teachers in this Chamber to work out that that would not leave very much. Just imagine having that sort of take-home pay to live on each week. As one lady said to me, her weekly pension would purchase one good pair of shoes.

If we could see a little of the vehemence, a little of the fire, that has gone into the criticism of Mr Anthony for his daring to say we should speak as one nation when negotiating to sell minerals overseas, being used to express the situation of the battlers in our society—

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Don't you think Mr Anthony speaks for the people who are battling too?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am sure he does, but I am not talking about Mr Anthony. I am talking about the fact that this Government is not doing anything for the battlers. The State Government should approach the Commonwealth Government to improve conditions for the disadvantaged people living in our State.

I now wish to turn to a matter which is clearly a State responsibility; the question of compensation for people affected by blue asbestos. It is about time we talked about the morals of those involved in mining, milling, and selling asbestos. We have our friend, Mr Hancock, wanting to bury all the uranium waste in his backyard, and yet he has the audacity to say that blue asbestos had to be produced; look at all the good things it did for people! Of course, it did all sorts of good things, but just because cars are good for people to drive around in we do not condone the road toll. Why do we not do something about making Mr Hancock pay compensation to the people affected by asbestos? Why has he not set up a decent fund for compensation? Instead of doing that, he is getting ready to move into nuclear mining, and a whole new generation of people may suffer ill-effects from that in another 20 or 30 years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Why did you not say this when Mr Tonkin or Mr Hawke was the Premier? It was happening during all those years too.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Leader of the House is always looking backwards. I am making my comments in view of our present knowledge.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: What did Mr Hancock have to do with blue asbestos?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mr Hancock did not buy it until the mining was stopped.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: He made a lot of money when he sold it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What are you talking about?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am talking about Mr Hancock and the profits he made out of blue asbestos.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: When was this? When did Hancock make this profit?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am saying that Mr Hancock is now advocating we should try something new, something that represents a health hazard.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Will you tell us the history?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: No, I will not.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You know absolutely nothing about it that is why.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: The usual red herrings again.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mrs Vaughan made a colossal blunder.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You know Hancock mined asbestos up there long before CSR did.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: We know that the Leader of the House is very quick to come to the assistance of Mr Hancock.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I could not care less; I do not even know the gentleman.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: What would have happened if the firm which manufactured thalidomide had wiped its hands of the whole problem and said, "We will not pay any compensation"?

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Are you saying Mr Hancock mined asbestos?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am saying that.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am saying that Mr Hancock, with all his money, ought to accept some responsibility for the misery and suffering of the people who are victims of blue asbestos.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have no particular brief for Mr Hancock, but why are you singling him out?

The Hon. G. E. Masters: All you have to do now is to mention BHP and Mr Cooley will go into a frenzy!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You do not know anything about it.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am sure members of the Government find this very amusing.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I hope you are going to give me an hour to answer this.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am sure there will not be any broken hearts on the other side of the House about what is happening to the people who have lung afflictions caused by asbestos, although possibly there should be a few broken heads! We should have quiet moments so that we can really consider problems such as this.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: We are very sensitive about the problem, but why are you mentioning Mr Hancock?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am using the example of Mr Hancock because of his association with blue asbestos and the statements he has made recently.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: He made some disastrous statements.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The company that manufactured thalidomide did not manufacture it to do harm; this drug was introduced to stop women from vomiting while they were pregnant.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is quite right; it is the first factual statement you have made.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: However, that did not absolve the company from the responsibility of the side effects of the drug, and the fact that the company mining blue asbestos did not know that it was a health hazard does not absolve it from its responsibility.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It has been accepted; what are you going on about?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Hancock's public attitude has been that we should think about the benefits rather than dwell on such matters as the horrible condition of the lungs of the people who worked with asbestos.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Who has said this?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Mr Hancock.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Hancock said this on television the other night.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: I am sure he did not say anything like that.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: It is amazing the way members are so willing to jump to the defence of their friends.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Masters is ready to leap to his feet to defend this environmental monster, this man—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Nobody is jumping to his feet.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: —who is willing to jeopardise the health of future generations. He tells us there is so little harm in nuclear mining that he would have all the residue in his backyard for the rest of his existence.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We do not like gross distortions.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You should be the first to recognise them.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: One thing comforts me, the fact that the Leader of the House has deigned to answer shows that he has some vestige of conscience.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I would not say that.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I think he has, otherwise he would simply ignore me.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You are stinging him to the raw.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Your comments are so grossly unjust that somebody has to take them up.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: He does have a vestige of conscience.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are the sort of person who does the environmental cause a great disservice.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am glad the Leader of the House realises that I am talking about the environment as well as people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You mentioned the environment a moment ago.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: That is right, I am talking about the environment all the time, and what Mr Hancock and his friends have done to the environment and to the people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Just stick to some facts here and there.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: As Mr Anthony's name has been mentioned, I must say that at least he has realised the potential market we have in China. It is amazing the turnaround we have seen amongst the conservatives in the last few years in regard to China. It really is a laugh. The conservatives have always acted in the belief that those 850 million people just do not exist, and that Chiang Kai-shek and his gangsters were just going to row across the China Sea one day and everything—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What rubbish!

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: For 20 years Mr Anthony has been saying we should sell every Chinese a pair of woollen socks.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Hon. David Wordsworth is a lot younger than me, so perhaps he does not remember the conservatives' attitude and their vehemence and hatred of the Chinese when, during an election campaign, they produced leaflets depicting great yellow hordes with arrows pointing down at Australia. They all had horrible looking faces, ready to devour our children with slaving lips. It was much the same as we did with the Japanese in the Second World War.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Where did you see this?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Withers is very young, too, so he would not remember it. These were the propaganda leaflets the Liberals produced at the time, particularly when they were dominated by the League of Rights.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you remember that the ALP forbade anyone employing Japanese labour in the mines?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Yes, I remember that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: All political parties forbade the use of Japanese labour.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Let us not dig too deeply into people's minds. Let us go back to the Whitlam era, when he decided to open negotiations with the Chinese. There was an outcry from the Liberals that Whitlam would support these people who were going to knock over the first domino which would knock the rest down, and everyone soon would be under communist domination. This was the great domino theory. China was going to tip the first domino over and all the other countries of Asia would lie down and be Communist. Mr Whitlam was actually going up there and wooing these people who were to start the domino trend which would be the end of Asia.

We are now recognising—as we should have recognised many years ago—that China is a magnificent country. Mr Withers explained this more eloquently than could I in his report on his visit to China. He gave us a very graphic demonstration of how an observer—who is perhaps a little more objective than most members opposite—can visit a country and recognise its potential for development.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I also recognised the economic mess they were in, by trying to implement socialist and communist policies.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Withers is like a lot of conservatives who return from a communist country and express admiration for that country. They are soon told they must not be too loud in their admiration, because it might be interpreted that they have some pink leanings. Mr Withers obviously has changed his mind a little since he came back from China. However, if members read his report in *Hansard* they will see he described China in glowing terms. He made the point that he did not agree with its politics but that he had to admit the enormous development and potential for development which existed in China.

If Mr Withers wants to talk about the economic mess of China, he should look at the terrible mess the Chinese were in before liberation. That could also be a good lesson for us. We have even reached the stage now where our trade with China has increased so greatly and is likely to increase even more in the future that Dr Fitzgerald, who

was Australia's first Ambassador to China and who was there until 1976, has left his prestigious post as professor of oriental studies at the Australian National University and has set himself up as a consultant to people who wish to trade with China. It is a measure of how important is our trade that one of the leading professors in Australia should choose to leave a safe and prestigious academic post to set himself up as a consultant. I am sure that with his knowledge and experience of China and his admiration for its development—and, more importantly, the involvement of its people in that development—he will be very useful to people wishing to trade with that country.

I wish now to discuss the position of our prisoners in Western Australia. I have made some inquiries and obtained some figures which would be of interest to the House. Members can see by a cursory glance at the *Australian Year Book* the difference between the punitiveness of the various States and Territories. Apart from the Northern Territory, which has an exceptionally high rate, Western Australia has a far higher rate of imprisonment per head of population than any other Australian State.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We all know that, but do you have any explanation?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Yes, I believe it is probably a reflection of the punitive attitude of Western Australians.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is rubbish. Give us some real reasons without all this dialectic nonsense.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: As the Minister has flattered me by asking for my opinion—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I did not flatter you. I think you are quite an intelligent woman when you try.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr President, one does not have to try to be intelligent; one either is intelligent, or is not intelligent. I do not claim to be highly intelligent. I come from peasant stock, and I have worked hard to acquire some knowledge. I do not spend a lot of time on detail.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: We all know that.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I get people who can cope only with that sort of thing to do the detailed work for me.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Do you have a farming background, in saying that you are a peasant? Do you come from Woodanilling or somewhere?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Would the honourable member proceed with her speech and ignore interjections.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr President, I would have to be deaf to ignore the interjections.

The PRESIDENT: Please ignore them.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I will telephone you at Dalkeith tonight and tell you what I said.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is that where she grows her vegetables?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I have been asked for the reason for the high rate of imprisonment per head of population in Western Australia. In this context, I should like to quote to the House a newspaper report of statements made by Mr David Biles, Assistant Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology in the Australian Capital Territory. The article states as follows—

Mr Biles, who is assistant director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, said WA had Australia's highest rate of imprisonment per head of population.

He said he had noticed a similar trend during a two-month study tour of the US.

Latest figures from the Department of Corrections showed that WA had 97 prisoners for every 100 000 people.

The Australian average was about 63, and Victoria 40.4 was lowest.

Mr Biles said studies in both Australia and overseas had shown that an increase in the number of prisoners did not result in more protection for society.

"About the only thing that results from an increase in the number of prisoners is a decrease in the number of people committed to mental hospitals," he said.

"It is difficult to give a single reason for the high number of prisoners in WA, but I am sure it is not because of an unusually high crime rate.

"The crime problems in WA are no worse than those in New South Wales and Victoria where the imprisonment rate is much lower.

"There seems to be a tendency among WA magistrates and judges to give longer sentences, and to gaoil people who would not be imprisoned for the same crimes in other states.

That was the reason I was about to give in answer to the interjection by the Leader of the House. The article continues—

"WA still allows justices of the peace to imprison people in country areas, and this could be another contributing factor.

"The numbers could be pushed up by the numbers of Aborigines being sentenced to gaol by country courts."

Mr Biles said a solution could be a greater use of the community service system.

WA introduced the system last year, and it is now being used successfully in Tasmania.

Fears were raised during the week about outbreaks of violence in WA prisons as a result of overcrowding.

It is to our everlasting shame we have an overcrowding problem.

Everybody has been grizzling about prisons, parole conditions, and that sort of thing. I hope a few members have read the report concerning community service orders which was distributed by the probation and parole office. This is a very admirable way of dealing with offenders, rather than costing the State an inordinate amount of money. Even if they are fed on bread and water—which, fortunately, they are not; we have come a long way since those days—and even if they are not housed in the best of prisons—which they certainly are not, at Fremantle—the cost of custodial care for offenders is not an economic proposition, and the use of community service orders and parole and probation is to be advocated.

It would seem that our problem lies rather with the courts than with the prison service or the probation and parole service. After all, only in this morning's paper there was a letter from the Chairman of the Parole Board (Mr Justice Jones) in which he said that the conditions under which parole was granted were circumscribed, because prisoners could not come up for parole until such time as was dictated by the presiding officer of the court who sentenced them. So, the fuss about people out on parole—I am not saying it is unjustified—perhaps can be traced back to the courts and their punitive attitude and the long sentences they have been handing down rather than to the parole services, the rate of crime, and the conditions in our prisons.

Prison officers have a great deal about which to complain. It is not very pleasant trying to look after prisoners in antiquated penal institutions. The same sort of problems do not arise in modern prisons, such as Bandyup. I would not mind

spending a weekend there. Most people would agree that the deprivation of freedom is the big punishment when sentences are handed out. Prisoners can tolerate being fed bread and water and they can tolerate the uncongenial conditions in the cells. The deprivation of freedom is most important. Some people have written letters to the newspaper asking why prisoners should be so well looked after. Such letters are a lot of nonsense. It is less expensive for prisoners to be looked after properly than not to be looked after properly. Prison officers have a difficult time looking after prisoners in the conditions which exist at the Fremantle Gaol.

I do not know how many members have visited that horrible institution; but I should like to see the person in charge of the Department of Corrections organising a tour for parliamentarians.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: It was done a couple of years ago. We went down for a look.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Nothing has happened as a result of that visit. Nobody has set fire to it or dropped a bomb on it.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Your party was in government at the time we went down there.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The Liberal Party has been in power ever since. Let us stop laying the blame for these matters. Let us do something about the situation. We should get rid of these establishments. The Fremantle Gaol is a disgusting establishment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Have you ever been in a prison which is not disgusting and which you would say is a beautiful establishment?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I have been in a beautiful prison. Bandyup Prison is an example of one.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Get yourself locked up in a prison sometime, and see if it is any good.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: As usual the Leader of the House half hears and goes off half-cocked.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do not.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: The deprivation of freedom is the most important aspect and not the conditions in which the prisoners live. Bandyup is a beautiful prison. It is the women's prison at Caversham. It has everything that opens and shuts. I believe the girls' protection centre at Bentley is a beautiful place also.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: So is Albany and Bunbury.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are all prisons.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I have not seen the prisons at Albany and Bunbury, but I have seen the Fremantle and Bandyup Prisons. The contrast is very marked.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The other day a prisoner called the Fremantle Gaol a home-away-from-home. He said he had tried all the prisons in Australia and the Fremantle Gaol was the best. The prisoners go there for a holiday.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am afraid the interjections in this debate have thrown me off my line of thought.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I can scarcely look sideways at anyone.

I should like to make a final plea to the Government which is that if it feels it can take up the cudgels on behalf of this State because of what is deemed to be interference by Mr Anthony in regard to the export of minerals and the negotiations thereon, if the Government feels it can take up the cudgels on behalf of the big interests in Western Australia, which is good—I am not saying whether the Government is right or wrong—it should take up the cudgels also to ensure that extra money is obtained for legal aid.

It is right that the Government should stand on its dignity and say, "We want a say in this. We will not just lie down and do whatever you want to dictate to us." However, it is very sad that we see this sort of enthusiasm only when it relates to big business and I appeal to the Government especially to obtain extra money for legal aid which is in a very sad state.

**THE HON. O. N. B. OLIVER** (West) [5.36 p.m.]: I should like to tell the Hon. Grace Vaughan that I came from peasant stock, but prior to that in 1850 my family had a stock and station firm. Therefore, we were actually servants to the peasants, as such.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They did not have saddles in those days.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Briefly in reply to the Hon. Grace Vaughan—

The Hon. G. E. Masters: They used to ride side-saddle.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: —I should like to say I am a great believer in the aspirations of the Women's Liberation Movement and the fact that women should have equal status with men in the community. However, the member

made an emotional outburst in regard to the manner in which a product should be marketed. It would appear from her comments that one would need to embrace and love everybody to do business. That is not the way international trade operates nor, in fact, is it the way in which any commercial transaction takes place. It is not necessary to embrace a person's philosophy, religion, or anything else when undertaking a commercial transaction.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Nobody said it was.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I travelled behind the Iron Curtain to the East German Republic in 1956 to carry out various business transactions. I should not like to deprive anybody in the world of the opportunity of trading with Australia. We cannot deny people the right to trade with us because we do not share their philosophies.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The honourable member who has just interjected would not understand anything about commercial transactions. From my observations of Press comments, Budgets do not appear to be particularly popular. We had a good example of this following the introduction of the Howard Budget. The Hon. Des Dans moved an urgency motion in order that we could speak about it. He had a great sheaf of papers which he had cut from the front pages of the various newspapers on the day following the announcement of the Howard Budget. He had collected these meticulously and wanted to refer to the great horror of this Budget.

Some politicians try to seek popularity by appealing to our consciences.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Whose consciences?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: These politicians wish to be popular. If they feel they can become popular by criticising a particular subject through the media, they will do so. The particular politician—not the parliamentarian—jumps on the bandwagon because he wants popularity.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How did you go in East Germany speaking German?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The politician wants popularity because he wants votes. This Government has brought down a responsible Budget. From the criticism expressed by some of my fellow members, it would appear the Budget is not popular. However, I disagree with them. I believe it is a very popular Budget and, in addition, it is a very responsible one, because it deals with taxpayers' funds.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not know of any Budget which does not deal with taxpayers' funds. If you ever get one, let me know.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: My wife has one, and it deals with my funds.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I often wonder whether Mr Cooley is in fairyland, completely covered in fairy floss.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: If I was, I would not come back.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: If members turn to page 25 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, they will find a figure of \$1 099 239 000 has been allocated of which over \$372 933 000 is to be spent on health and community welfare about which the previous speaker has spoken with reference to legal aid.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: That has nothing to do with legal aid.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: In the summary of expenditure there is a figure for education also.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: The Estimates talk about it, but it does not necessarily mean the money will be spent.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am disappointed with that interjection. It is an estimate. I know the member who interjected has been wrapped in cotton wool in a place of learning.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Do not talk rot!

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Estimates and Budgets happen to be estimates. If one wishes, one may obtain the *Oxford Dictionary* and look up the definition of "estimates".

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Now I know how you got around the East German Republic—using a dictionary!

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: If members look at the Estimates—

The Hon. R. Hetherington: There is \$9 million one year and \$5 million the next. I can read which is more than you can. I have not always been wrapped in cotton wool.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: When the Hon. Robert Hetherington spoke he said, "I do not understand Estimates and Budgets, but I hope the longer I am in this place the more I will learn." It appears that in the last six days he has accumulated that knowledge and does not need to learn anything more. I would have imagined that as a result of his academic background the member would realise learning is carried out on a continuing basis.

I should like now to refer to the expansion which is occurring and which will occur in the future in Western Australia. No doubt members are aware that G. J. Coles has undertaken a nation-wide expansion programme which will take it through the 1980s. In fact it is anticipated that particular chain will be the first company in Australia to have a retail turnover of \$2 billion in any one year. It is the most successful of the retail companies which have operated in the past financial year.

The expansion programme to be undertaken by G. J. Coles, which will continue into the next decade, will result in 30 per cent of its total budget being spent in Western Australia. Obviously that company has confidence in this State, because it must be responsible to its shareholders for its decisions.

In addition, we have the Wagerup proposal. It has been announced that project will proceed. We are asked, "Why do you not change?"

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Because you are conservatives and they do not change.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: We are in a continual state of change. The bauxite mining issue was opposed, and the Opposition wanted a moratorium on it. It wanted an investigation and all manner of action to be taken. It is obvious members opposite wish to undermine the growth of employment opportunities in Western Australia.

The following appeared at page 530 of volume 30, No. 16 of *Overseas Trading* which is the journal of the Australian Department of Trade Resources—

#### ALUMINIUM IMPORTS

If the United States economy is to meet future needs for aluminium, it will become more dependent upon imported metal but a real metal squeeze is not expected until 1982, according to aluminium analyst, Stewart R. Spector, in *American Metal Market*. In his special five-year forecast compiled for Oppenheimer and Co. Inc., Spector said the import needs of the United States should be met easily by overseas suppliers through 1979.

The significance of that article is that if we held back as the Opposition wished, we would miss the opportunity of those markets.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We signed the Wagerup agreements.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The Labor Party will keep changing its mind as it did on the Ranger project. The Whitlam Government was

in favour of that, but now the ALP wants a moratorium. In 1977 the full conference of the ALP reversed the decision. Now we have the Yeelirrie project and I suppose the ALP will oppose that, even though it was part of its policy and it actually participated in the Ranger project.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is why your policies are still those of 1934—you never change.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: It just so happened for a short period the Australian public decided they wanted the ALP in office, but they quickly changed their minds.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And they will do so again quickly—devastatingly.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I will disregard that remark about a former Governor General of Australia. If members wish to defame a person who held that high office, let them do so and thus degrade themselves.

With regard to employment, the Western Australian work force is growing at twice the national average.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: Tell that to the 34 000 unemployed.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Of the main major developing countries, Australia has the largest percentage of its work force under the age of 30 years. Only the United States and Canada have a higher percentage of people under 30 years of age in their work forces. West Germany ranks extremely low, and so does Japan.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: What does that prove?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Let me continue. The point I would like to make is that our work force is growing.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: So is our unemployment and population.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Our work force is growing and so is the number of migrants. The number of migrants is growing at double the national average.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: That is true.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And our costs are higher than any others.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I will cover costs in a moment.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member proceed and take no notice of interjections?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Thank you. The reason the number of migrants is increasing is that we have an attractive State for employment. During the period of the previous Labor Government the number in the work force actually fell, but now the work force is increasing. The problem is that people are coming from not only overseas, but also every other State in Australia and New Zealand.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: As we are all aware, extensions are being made to the southern section of this building. The other day when I was outside I saw three utilities parked; two workmen got into one car which had an ACT number plate, and two people got into another one which had a Victorian number plate. All the people involved were workers.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They were up seeing their local members of Parliament in an effort to obtain employment!

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am concerned that the Federal Government seems to be pre-occupied with inflation. This is all right, but there is also a need to provide for expansion of private enterprise.

It has been said that there is far too much interference by bureaucrats in the running of private enterprise. Last night we heard the Leader of the Opposition speaking about these bureaucrats and the growth of bureaucracy, and the previous speaker stated that we needed more—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I did not refer to the bureaucracy once.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I remind members that interjections are completely out of order.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: One of the attributes of Australians—whatever their country of origin—is that they have a great desire to advance themselves, but the situation has got out of hand. I have many overseas friends who visit Australia regularly. Some of them have been coming here to transact business for some 30 years, sometimes two or three times each year. The question which most of them ask me is, "What has happened to Australia?" The trouble is that our trade union movement—

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Here we go again.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Here it comes.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The following is from the minutes of an ACTU executive meeting held on the 3rd July, 1978, and it deals with wages—

The fundamental basis of our wages policy determined in accordance with A.C.T.U. Rules and implemented by the Executive is the need to maintain the real purchasing power of wages and salaries, and through time to increase that real value in line with improvements in national productivity.

What a wonderful public relations statement! Members should read the document, because further on it indicates that productivity means nothing and all the executive is interested in is demanding higher wages.

Mr Dans, who says he does not often agree with me, will surely agree that wages and productivity are tied together. Some trade unionists do not believe this. However, the responsible trade union officials understand that wages are locked in with productivity. The point I am trying to make is that we should come closer to trade unions and get their co-operation in order that we might remove the uncertainties about productivity. That was the point I was making when interjected on from behind before I had an opportunity to make it.

Another point to which I wish to refer concerns academics and the great aspirations of Australians to improve themselves. It appears that the ultimate these days is for a person to have a degree, and the status of tradesmen and craftsmen is declining. Many people who graduate with academic degrees associated with industry find there is no employment for them—for example, in the area of agricultural science—purely because of the economics of our agricultural and associated industries. These people are returning to university to obtain a degree in education so that they can teach. This is a sad situation.

Only recently in my electorate the parents of the head prefect and dux in one of our major schools rang me in relation to their son who wanted to become a plumber.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He wanted to be rich!

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: He had matriculated. I arranged an appointment for the boy with a leading plumbing company in Perth. After the interview the plumber rang me and told me that the boy was far too good to go into the plumbing trade. He said he was destined for better things. I said, "I cannot understand you, Bob. You are living in Karrinyup and you go

overseas every year. I know you started as a plumber in a ditch. I do not think there is anything wrong with a person wanting to be a tradesman". He saw the point and apprenticed the boy.

We need to upgrade the status of our tradesmen or craftsmen, call them what we will.

Another problem is that the apprenticeship system dates back to the time when the employer signed papers with a mark. The system is so out of date it is unbelievable and it is abused by some employers and certain trade unions. The reason is that the longer the apprenticeship period, the greater is the base wage. For an employer the first two years of an apprentice's time with him are not really productive. In fact, the apprentice costs him money. However, later as he becomes more experienced it becomes worth while to the employer for the employee to have a longer apprenticeship. I am completely opposed to this and to the trade unions which want to extend the apprenticeship period merely in order that the base rate of pay might be increased. Also the employers who appreciate a long apprenticeship, take advantage of the training the apprentice has received.

If a medical student can be involved in an operation on a person after he has completed his five-year training an apprentice, after four years' training should be qualified and be permitted to work without supervision.

I believe our technical education system needs to be updated. All these differences of opinion between employers and unions should be put to bed and we should get back to teaching people what is required. I am astounded that there is no validation of the syllabuses to the ultimate requirements of an industry for a particular trade classification.

I would have thought after three years one would have looked to where the student had gone to find out whether what he was taught was relevant to his occupation, but that does not occur. The idea is to vamp up the syllabus and make it as big and bright as possible, teaching apprentices everything, although 40 per cent of it is not even used. It is a complete waste of the time of the students and a waste of the education system.

Technical education has been the poor child of education and I am pleased to see the Budget contains a programme to increase spending on technical education by \$9.4 million in 1977-78 compared with \$12.8 million in 1978-79.

The works programme in the Budget amounts to \$453.6 million compared with \$403.2 million last year, which is an increase of \$51.3 million

or 13 per cent on the expenditure for 1977-78. In the confines of tight budgetary control, if that is not a responsible Budget I would like to know what is.

I must extend congratulations to the Treasurer on initiating the overseas borrowings proposal. It is a breakthrough in State relations. As Mr Hetherington speaks so much about Mr Deakin, I might equally speak about Mr Wise. I believe it is a great breakthrough but I sound a note of warning, because a change in interest rate structures is occurring at the moment. In other words, the interest rates in other countries are rising while in this country they are dropping. We could therefore have problems with devaluation.

There has been criticism of borrowings by public utilities, yet in most other States, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria, as far as I can see there is nothing new about those loans. They have been going on for 20 or 30 years, so I cannot see why anyone should become upset about these borrowings.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Overseas?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am talking about the public borrowings within Australia. When borrowing overseas it is sometimes possible to get onside an exporter or a banker to allow hedging of the exchange risk factor, which is probably easier for Governments to do than for individuals.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Time is the essence.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on initiating this programme. It will not come into operation for at least two or three years, but the proposal is firm and those borrowings can go ahead. There is no requirement to initiate more than the preliminary discussions to those borrowings so that the funds will be available when they are needed, which I believe will be about 1982 for the pipeline.

I am pleased to see we are now abolishing probate. This is a matter in which the Opposition seems to be out of step. People of substance who wish to make arrangements for probate can do so, but in the West Province, particularly in the vineyard areas in the Swan Valley and at Gidgegannup and Toodyay, small holdings have become almost totally unviable.

Mrs Vaughan spoke about the problems of people in the metropolitan area, but some of my constituents in Gidgegannup are living in pathetic circumstances. It is absolutely heartrending and one could become emotional about it. One will see in the Swan Valley a woman with a vineyard of 20 acres whose son has to work in the Midland

workshops to keep the vineyard operating. The next thing the boy reaches marriageable age and wants to be married, and because he is working on the vineyard on a part-time basis in order to sustain it he desires to build a house on the property. These people then find they cannot go ahead with the house, because there is a mortgage over the land to pay the probate incurred on the death of the woman's husband some years earlier. Yet they are living in houses which were built 40 or 50 years ago.

I am extremely pleased to see probate abolished, and if members of the Opposition do not want any part of it that is their affair. If any member wants other examples of the hardship caused by probate, I have here a list of half a dozen cases extending from Bolgart down to the Swan and out to Roleystone.

The next matter about which I am concerned is housing. The booklet "The Western Australian Economy 1977-78" accompanying the Budget, which was prepared by the Treasury at the request of the Treasurer, refers to the state of the building and construction industry. It says on page 11—

Following a near-record year for dwelling commencements in 1976-77, the number of commencements in 1977-78 fell by 22.3 per cent to 15,109. Dwelling completions followed the same pattern with the number of completions totalling 17 302, 18.8 per cent below the previous year's record level.

It also says—

Activity in the home building industry in 1977-78 was down on the high levels of the previous year, with the number of both commencements and completions lower than the figures for 1976-77. Nevertheless the number of dwelling completions during 1977-78 was slightly above the recommended goal of the Indicative Planning Council for the Housing Industry.

By invitation, I joined the first Indicative Planning Council. At the time, I was involved in the industry and the other representatives on the council were similar people from all the various sections of the industry. We put together our views on what the state of the industry was in Western Australia at that time, but our views were totally disregarded by the bureaucrats in Canberra. The people in the industry who were invited to participate on the council did a great deal of research and put the facts together. In fact, some incredible research was done. Australian Consolidated Industries, for instance, has excellent research facilities and spends a tremendous amount of money each year on research.

When that information reached Canberra the bureaucrats disregarded it and made their own decisions, which were then conveyed to private enterprise. The people who knew the industry were told what should be the levels of activity in the industry. We told them they were wrong but they would not accept it, because they had demographic models and all sorts of ways to enable them to work it out better than the people who were actually engaged in the industry could. In time, they were proved to be wrong.

We have a situation where the bureaucrats are really battering the new-home buyer. At the time about which I have been speaking we had a backlog of over 6 000 homes in Western Australia, and when this was pointed out to the bureaucrats—the people with a purely academic background who had never served in the industry—they told us they could not see anyone living on the streets. One might have thought they were talking about Calcutta or Bombay in saying that as there were no people living on the streets there was no need for housing. The Hon. Lyla Elliott will tell us there was a need. Aboriginal housing had also been taken into consideration, but because no people were living on the streets there was no need for housing. What an incredible statement!

They are the people who are telling the State Governments, through the Federal Treasury, how to run this country. The bureaucrats are battering the consumers. I recently noticed that the Labour Government in the United Kingdom is even contemplating forming a ministry for marriage. When marriages are about to break up an inspector will be brought in to try to reconcile the couple and bring the family together. I imagine the bureaucrats will soon be telling people they must have a bath on Friday nights to bring them into line with the European Economic Community. The husband and wife will flee from the house and be completely reconciled, but it will take two years of bureaucracy to get rid of the inspector so that they can move back into their own home. That is the state of the bureaucracy.

Bureaucrats are battering the young new-home buyers in this country. The advice given to the Treasury has brought about the greatest downturn ever experienced in the housing industry. It was seven quarters previously; it is now 10 quarters, and it will continue to go down. As sure as night follows day, after a downturn—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you realise I have to move an adjournment motion?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am just about to finish.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think you are too late.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: When the boom occurs, 4 500 to 5 000 new-home buyers will be denied home ownership and will live in caravan parks and rental accommodation for the rest of their lives. In 10 years' time we will need more bureaucrats to resolve the resultant social problems.

I support the Budget, and in doing so thank members for their indulgence.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. H. W. Gayfer.

### CLOSING DAYS OF SESSION: SECOND PART

#### *Sitting Days and Hours: Ministerial Statement*

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Leader of the House) [6.15 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a statement relative to the sitting times next week.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have it in mind that on Tuesday we might start an hour earlier, at 3.30 p.m., and on Wednesday the 22nd we might start at 2.00 p.m. and finish at 5.30 p.m. to enable members to go home and change for the dinner that evening; also that on Thursday we might start at 2.30 p.m. and sit after tea.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What about Friday?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If necessary we might have to remain for Friday, but I anticipate we might still have to come back for a couple of days the following week. However, I want to restrict the time in the following week as much as possible.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Leader of the House) [6.16 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st November.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### EDUCATION

#### *High School: Craigie*

438. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Minister, in reply to parents of students attending Craigie High School who have written expressing concern at the lack of facilities at the school, has stated that the Stage 4 additions will not be ready for use until 1980?
- (2) What is the closing date for tenders for the above extensions?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) It is considered that the Craigie High School already has an adequate number of teaching spaces for its anticipated enrolment in February, 1979.
- (2) The 28th November, 1978.

### EDUCATION

#### *Department: New Building*

439. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister received a request from the Shire of Wanneroo to have located at Joondalup the proposed new Education Department Headquarters?
- (2) Would the Minister advise the reasons for the decision to locate the building at East Perth instead of Joondalup?

- (3) Is it a fact that the Perth City Council withheld approval for construction at the proposed site for reasons of inadequate provision for parking?
- (4) Will the Minister advise what arrangement has been made to overcome the Perth City Council objection?
- (5) Is the lack of progress by the Joondalup Development Corporation in providing serviced sites a factor in preventing decisions to decentralise Government departments at this locality?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) to (5) Matters relating to determination of the final site of the proposed new headquarters building for the Education Department are still being determined and will be announced in due course.

### EDUCATION

#### *Department: New Building*

440. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Town Planning:

Was the proposal to site the new Education Department Headquarters considered by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority as to its impact on the Central Business District and regional transport patterns?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

Yes.