

Legislative Council

Thursday, 18 October 1984

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

ACTS AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (DISQUALIFICATION FOR PARLIAMENT) BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Planning), and passed.

CREDIT UNIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Planning), and passed.

MACHINERY SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Planning) [2.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been introduced to increase the level of penalties prescribed by the Act, and to extend the statutory limitation on the time for commencement of prosecutions for offences relating to failure to notify accidents.

The Act was introduced in 1974 to replace the Inspection of Machinery Act. It came into operation on 1 September 1978, and the penalties prescribed in 1974 have not been increased during the intervening 10-year period.

A comparison of Western Australian penalties and penalties for similar offences in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania has been carried out. The level of penalty in Western Australia is generally low, and significantly lower than that applying in New South Wales and Victoria.

THE PRESIDENT: Order! There is far too much audible conversation and it must stop.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: The levels proposed in this Bill are considered appropriate in view of inflation during the period under review. They also reflect this Government's determination to ensure safety in the workplace.

The Justices Act requires formal proceedings for prosecution to commence within six months of the date of an alleged offence.

Owners of machinery are required to notify the Chief Inspector of the occurrence of accidents causing injury or death to persons or damage to machinery. On numerous occasions the Chief Inspector has become aware of such accidents on receipt of correspondence from lawyers acting on behalf of accident victims seeking compensation.

Often, such correspondence is not received until a date close to or beyond the statutory six-month period. The Bill proposes an extension of that period to two years. The extension will allow a prosecution to commence at any time within two years of an offence, and owners should therefore become more responsible in this sensitive area of liability and compensation.

The Government's ultimate aim in introducing the amendments is to reduce the incidence of accidents in the workplace. If all accidents were reported, they could be investigated by inspectors, and appropriate measures taken to reduce the risk of further accidents.

The machinery safety advisory board has considered these amendments, and is in agreement with them.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Planning) [2.40 p.m.]: On behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been introduced to increase the level of penalties prescribed by the Act, and to extend the statutory limitation on the time for commencement of prosecutions for offences relating to failure to notify accidents.

The Act was introduced in 1972 to replace the Inspection of Scaffolding Act. It came into operation on 8 February 1974, and the penalties prescribed were reviewed and increased in 1978. A comparison of Western Australian penalties and penalties for similar offences in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and

Tasmania has been carried out. The level of penalties in Western Australia is generally low, and significantly lower than those applying in New South Wales and Victoria. The levels proposed in this Bill are considered appropriate in view of inflation during the period under review. They also reflect this Government's determination to ensure safety in the workplace.

The Justices Act requires formal proceedings for prosecution to commence within six months of the date of an alleged offence. Employers are required to notify the chief inspector of the occurrence of accidents causing injury or death. The chief inspector has on numerous occasions become aware of such accidents on receipt of correspondence from lawyers acting on behalf of accident victims seeking compensation. Often, such correspondence is not received until a date close to or beyond the statutory six-month period. The Bill proposes an extension of that period to two years. The extension will allow a prosecution to commence at any time within two years of an offence, and employers should therefore become more responsible in this sensitive area of liability and compensation.

The Government's ultimate aim in introducing the amendments is to reduce the incidence of accidents in the workplace. If all accidents were reported, they could be investigated by inspectors, and appropriate measures taken to reduce the risk of further accidents.

The construction safety advisory board has considered these amendments, and while the members unanimously agreed to the extension of time limits for prosecution, the employers' representative objected to the increase in penalties. Nevertheless the Government believes that the increases are both reasonable and appropriate.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

LOTTERIES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Planning) [2.43 p.m.]: On behalf of the Minister for Administrative Services, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide that the expenses of distributing Instant Lottery funds from the sports culture Instant Lottery account be paid from the balance of funds obtained from the conduct of Instant Lotteries. A prescribed amount of 20 per cent up to a maximum of \$6 million of all moneys received by the Lotteries Commission

in respect of Instant Lotteries is paid into the sports culture Instant Lottery account annually.

The administration expenses of distributing funds generated by the sports culture Instant Lottery for the benefit of sporting and cultural bodies is currently being met from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The net effect of this Bill is to save the Consolidated Revenue Fund that amount of expenses with a corresponding reduction of the amount paid into the hospital fund.

The Bill provides that the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Minister for the Arts may, out of the Instant Lottery moneys, pay persons or bodies consulted for the purpose of deciding on the distribution of those moneys such remuneration and allowances as are determined to be appropriate. The Bill also provides that the two Ministers may pay to bodies or Government departments engaged in the distribution of the Instant Lottery moneys the costs and expenses of that distribution.

Payment of the costs and expenses of distribution of the Instant Lotteries moneys will be additional to the sum of \$6 million paid into the sports culture Instant Lottery account and will not be deducted from that amount. The Bill will allow the Minister administering the Lotteries (Control) Act to determine the amount of the costs of distribution.

In distributing moneys from the sports culture Instant Lottery account, the Minister for the Arts has indicated a need to allow individuals as well as organisations to receive grants. This need is not evident in the sports area as clubs and organisations exist through which funds can be satisfactorily distributed. The Minister for the Arts will therefore be given the power to distribute moneys to individuals.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. John Williams.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from 17 October.

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Planning) [2.45 p.m.]: In rising at this point, I seek to make a statement on a matter related to the Budget. It was intended by the Treasurer and Cabinet that Ministers would make detailed statements on items within their ministerial responsibilities in amplification and expansion of matters contained in the Budget papers. In another place, the mechanism for making such statements is by way of a ministerial statement. That may be an appropriate way to proceed here

but, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, I have agreed to make the statement in this form.

In the Treasurer's Budget speech, he indicated that the Government's aim is to maximise employment opportunities through economic growth. The Budget recognises that this can only be achieved substantially through the private sector, and provides a range of measures designed to assist the private sector to take maximum advantage of the economic recovery currently under way. Those measures include taxation concessions to assist private businesses—amounting to \$38.9 million in a full year—and an overall employment-generating capital works programme of more than \$1.1 billion. The Government will also provide \$12 million to encourage high technology industries to come to the State, and a significant additional boost to tourism by the provision of assistance to small businesses. All these measures have been received favourably by the business community and the trade union movement. They will provide the stimulus required for long-term job creation.

I remind members that these initiatives should be seen alongside the Government's already successful record of creating a total of 31 000 jobs since it was elected. Our overall economic package for 1984-85 provides the basis for a continuing substantial recovery in the labour market.

As the Treasurer emphasised in his speech, the Government remains concerned at the unacceptable high levels of unemployment, particularly amongst our young people. Historically, unemployment amongst youth has been higher than that for the older age group. When the Government came into office after nine years of conservative Government, it agreed to address the state of the economy and improve the deteriorating state of the labour market. Years of economic neglect by the previous Government and the absence of concomitant employment and labour market policies will take some time to correct; but I am pleased that the policies of the State and Federal Labor Governments are achieving the desired results and putting the economy back onto a growth pattern while improving the labour market situation.

I need not remind members that the previous conservative Government, which held the Treasury benches for nine years, was more concerned with union bashing while the Western Australian economy deteriorated around it, and the rate of unemployment became the highest since the great Depression. When the Burke Government came into office, the overall unemployment rate in Western Australia was 11.1 per cent, and the rate of youth unemployment was 24.2 per cent.

Point of Order

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I fully appreciate the fact that a Minister in charge of a Bill or introducing a Bill is able to read his speech. That is perfectly proper. I understand the Minister making the speech should be acting in the same way as any of the rest of us who might make a speech would have to. I draw your attention, Mr Deputy President (Hon. John Williams) to the fact that without any attempt at subterfuge, the Minister is plainly reading his speech. I would like your comments on that situation. He is quite capable of making the same speech without doing that.

I am quite sure exception would be taken if the rest of us had the temerity to take such an action under those circumstances.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): This was to have been a ministerial statement by the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition was notified. Consequently, the Minister decided on this particular course, in presenting the facts to the House. At the time that he was on his feet, the President was in the Chair and he gave him leave to make that statement within the context of this debate. As leave of the President has been given under Standing Order No. 63, I am prepared to allow this to continue.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: With your leave, Mr Deputy President, I happen to be aware of the history of the situation and that has nothing to do with it at all. That history, as related, did not take place. I paid particular attention when the President called on the item, and in actual fact, what happened was that the Minister slightly beat the gun, and he then sat down while the President read the question. The President called on the Estimates of Expenditure for 1984-85, and he then named the Minister purely as he would have named me had I risen to speak. So far as this House is concerned, whether or not it was intended to be a statement, leave was never asked to make it. Leave might have been asked last week or last night, but it was never asked so far as this House is concerned. That history is of no interest to this House. The President permitted the Minister's call to make an ordinary speech. If the Deputy President sees fit to make it perfectly all right for the Minister to read his speech, then that is a totally different matter. The Deputy President sets that precedent of his own accord.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will be setting no precedent, but I do give the Minister leave to continue his speech and to read it if necessary.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Hon. PETER DOWDING: In September 1984, after just 20 months of the Burke Government, the overall unemployment rate for Western Australia had gone down to 9.3 per cent whilst the full-time unemployment rate for Western Australian 15 to 19-year-olds had fallen to 17.6 per cent—a most significant percentage drop. This was the lowest teenage unemployment rate of any Australian State.

On a yearly comparative basis, total 15 to 19-year-old employment in Western Australia increased by 1 900 or 3.4 per cent between August 1983 and August 1984, whereas over the period of August 1982 to August 1983, it declined by 4 100 persons or 4.6 per cent.

It is not difficult for members to see, even those on the Opposition benches, that the previous Liberal-Country Party Administration had presided over and watched youth unemployment grow and continue to grow unabated.

The previous Government did little about youth unemployment and now its members have the gall and temerity to criticise our policy in the area.

The turn around in the economy and in the labour market has come just in time. Indeed, the election of the Burke Government also came just in time for our youth, our unemployed, and for the economy as a whole.

The 31 000 jobs that have been created since the Burke Government came into office in February 1983, represent an increase in employment of 5.3 per cent and compares favourably with employment growth for Australia as a whole over the same period of 4.9 per cent. However, the State Government remains concerned that teenagers have not yet benefited fully from this employment growth.

My Government is committed to improving the employment prospects of young people. Some commentators have wrongly argued that youth wage levels are the most significant cause of continuing high unemployment amongst young people. I cannot over-stress the dangers of this very simplistic view.

Let me just say that, apart from the disastrous economic policies of the previous Government and the associated significant reduction in job opportunities for young people, other factors are worthy of mention.

The introduction of new technology in large amounts into industry has changed employer expectations of young people entering the labour force. There is now a higher level of general education and skills required of young people to compete effectively for available jobs.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): I have given the Minister certain leeway. If the Minister goes outside the bounds of his department in presenting his notes, then I will have to call him to order.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I accept your ruling, Sir, except may I say that there is no move outside the areas of my ministerial responsibility.

Lowering the wages of young people will not overcome this problem. What will overcome it is the improvement of their standard of education and their skills. This is a much more appropriate and logical remedy.

On the question of youth wages it has to be said that, during the early 1970s, a compression of youth wages relative to adult wages occurred. However, since the onset of the recession in the late 1970s, the evidence is that youth wages have in fact declined relative to adult wages.

Opposition members should take note that this wage compression has not resulted in a reduction of youth unemployment. In fact, the reverse has taken place under the policies of the previous Government.

It should also be noted that in the absence of significant or dramatic economic growth, the immediate consequences of a substantial reduction in youth wages—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order!

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: What portfolio of the Minister's is he talking about now, or on what has he been talking about up to date for which you gave him permission to talk on?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I understand the Minister is talking about the employment department, if that is correct.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I find the interruptions from Hon. Graham MacKinnon and Hon. Mick Gayfer evidence of their embarrassment at the failures of the conservative policies in employment. In case the House did not pick it up I will repeat what I said a minute ago. It should also be noted that in the absence of significant or dramatic economic growth, the immediate consequences of a substantial reduction in youth wages could lead to the substitution of youth workers for older labour in parts of the labour market. In effect, this would put a lot of older workers now in jobs on the unemployment scrap heap.

A reshuffling among the young people in the labour market without increased job opportunities would also result.

There would also be a reduction in the living standards of many independent young people, and those families reliant on the incomes of their young people.

It probably would lead to an increase in the already high levels of job turnover among young people in their early employment.

There is also the prospect of lower productivity in industry because of the lower skill levels of young people, should these people be substituted by employers for older workers because of their relative lower wage rates.

There is abundant evidence, and virtually unanimous agreement, that a lack of employment skills and inadequate preparation for the workplace has seriously disadvantaged young people in their efforts to receive stable and worthwhile employment.

In recognition of this, the Burke Government has chosen to introduce structured employment and training arrangements for work force entry outside traditional trade areas.

I point out that this is the first time this has been done on a large scale in Western Australia and that the step is consistent with the directions that appear to be emerging from the Kirby committee of inquiry into labour market programmes.

Before turning to the details of the programmes, members should note that the strategy for employment generation is contained within the overall Budget strategy.

This involves the holding down of the rates of growth of Government taxes and charges to less than the inflation rate where this was possible, to foster economic growth and encourage the business sector through such things as a reduction in payroll tax, and the continuous striving towards the greater efficiency in the delivery of Government services.

The State Government's economic policy and Budget strategy is a significant and practical means by which we can assist the national economic recovery currently gathering pace and the maintenance of the prices and incomes accord.

So while on the one hand we are addressing the question of economic and employment growth and the provision of job opportunities, we also need to address the question of the way in which young people could best take advantage of the new job opportunities.

It is with the second aim in mind that I now turn to the details of the employment programme.

The Youth Employment Programme: The Government has allocated \$3.5 million in 1984-

85—\$5 million in a full year—for a major attack on problems confronting young job seekers.

The programme to be introduced will complement the already existing Commonwealth and State education and labour market programmes for young people.

While there will be a necessary link with existing programmes, the distinctive feature of the youth employment programme will be its focus on the direct involvement of business, trade unions, industry, and the community.

The Government proposes to provide funds to business, industry, and community organisations to develop and implement structured activities to increase the placement of young people in long-term employment.

Specifically the objectives of the programme are to increase the competitiveness of young people in the labour market by—

- Improving their job search and placement skills; providing training in basic skills related to the work situation; including an awareness of what employers expect from their employees; and, providing training in vocational skills that are currently in demand and will continue to be in demand.

The strategy of fostering economic and employment growth coupled with improving the skills and labour market information of young people can mean more jobs and greater job placements.

The programme will be promoted under the umbrella campaign, "Skills WA Year", which is specifically designed to raise community awareness of the need for higher work skill levels.

The "Skills WA Year" campaign and youth employment programme are particularly timely as 1985 has been designated by the United Nations as International Youth Year.

There are two key components to the programme—

- A "bridging the gap" type of scheme to be called "job link"; and,

- A job placement and training scheme.

Job Link Scheme: This scheme will provide intensive personal development and the teaching of job search techniques and basic work-orientation skills for young people.

The scheme is aimed at bridging the gap between the expectations of young people, their personal attributes and those required by employers.

The emphasis will be on the use of employers, trade union representatives, secondees from industry, service clubs, and retired business people to

assist us in providing support to young unemployed people.

Projects selected for funding and support will need to provide the following—

Work selection skills—the range of skills, knowledge, and information awareness necessary for young people, and their parents, to make better decisions on the range of occupations that will be required by the economy.

Work search skills—the range of personal skills necessary for locating and securing employment.

Personal effectiveness—attitudinal and skill development to enable young people to interact more effectively with others and their community, including employers.

Job specific and broadly related skills—those skills that enable young people to acquire job specific skills as well as a broad range of skills related to a family of occupations.

Awareness of the world outside employment—such awareness provides young people with an understanding of their community and ways they can contribute to it; the nature of unemployment and appropriate skills to cope with it whilst searching for a job.

These activities will occur in both a community centre setting and within industry, with industry-community representatives acting as sponsoring “agents” to a group of young people.

It is envisaged that the participants will mainly be young job seekers, many of whom will be seeking their first jobs. It will not exclude young adults who have experienced lengthy periods of unemployment.

Here, I should mention and commend the good work done by the Education Department and Tertiary and Further Education.

The programmes being outlined today will complement those already being conducted by the Education Department.

Based on overseas experiences, it is anticipated that a significant number of participants will obtain employment. Others will be referred to further education and for training. Others will be provided with the opportunity to participate in the next major element of the initiative.

In this regard, I point out that the Government has already taken action to support the “bridging the gap” project about to be launched under the sponsorship of rotary groups.

This project was inspired by a 71-year-old retired business consultant from Victoria, Mr Fred

Phillips, who has had great success in finding jobs for 1516 hard-to-place young people in Melbourne.

I was pleased to note his praise of the Government's quick decision to financially support the project.

I now turn to the second part of the scheme.

Job Placement and Training Scheme: This second component will complement the job search and work orientation skills provided in the “job link” through structured training and work experience.

The emphasis will again be on workplace experience within specific industry settings, but with provision for some short-term institutional training where this is considered appropriate.

The major objective will be to ensure a commitment from industry to longer term employment stability for the participants.

The design and implementation of these specific industry based projects will require the active co-operation and participation of industry representatives.

At this stage I want to mention the very good support and positive response from industry for our policies and programmes.

Indeed, private industry will be an important element in the implementation of the programmes being outlined.

The central co-ordination will be provided by the State Department of Employment and Training—within my portfolio.

While it is intended that the scheme will have application across a broad spectrum of industry, an emphasis will be given to those industries identified as having the potential to generate new employment opportunities or the capacity to employ large numbers of young people.

Priority under the scheme will be given to those projects which include the following features—

An emphasis on unemployed young people between 15 and 24 years of age referred either through the Commonwealth Employment Services or through the “job link” programme;

Projects of structured employment and training arrangements which have industry support; and

An emphasis on areas of employment which have the potential for longer term employment stability.

Programme Management: The overall programme will be administered by a steering committee for Skills WA Year 1985.

Assisting this steering committee will be planning and administrative committees—management committees—for the two schemes. It is envisaged that the chairpersons of the management committees will be drawn from the steering committee.

The management committees will be assisted by existing groups such as industry training committees, industry associations, and regional groups such as the south-west metropolitan local group.

A central youth employment working party will be established in the Department of Employment and Training and will draw on staff from the division of industrial training, the community initiatives employment unit, and the employment division to administer the programme, to provide links between the management and subgroups; to promote and liaise with subgroups on the establishment and funding of proposals.

Projects which fit the broad objectives and parameters of the programme will be recommended to the management group by either the subgroups or directly from the administrative team—particularly in relation to enterprise-based contractual arrangements. Projects will be funded on their merits and broad criteria-guidelines shall apply.

As it is important to ensure that participants in the projects receive recognition for the qualifications, skills, and work experience acquired, arrangements will be made for the award of appropriate certification.

The Government intends a major public launch of the programme towards the end of 1984.

It is at that time that the specific details of funding arrangements and participation will be announced.

The Department of Employment and Training is currently preparing more detailed information, which will be available to members and to the public closer to the end of the year.

Apprentices: I now want to turn to the Government's initiatives in the area of apprenticeship employment.

Firstly, the Government recognises the importance of providing training opportunities for young people and in this regard it has decided to provide funding for the employment of 100 additional apprentices in the State public sector.

Secondly, we recognise the critically important role that private industry plays in the training of young people.

The Government also recognises the need to give employers relief from some wage "on-costs".

The Treasurer has announced already that significant payroll tax concessions will be introduced.

I inform members that employers of first-year apprentices will not only get those concessions, but also they will be exempted from payroll tax on first-year apprentices' wages.

Going even further, the Government will be introducing a rebate scheme for workers' compensation premiums to all employers of first-year apprentices.

The Government has also allocated \$247 000 to support and encourage the establishment and maintenance of group apprenticeship schemes in the building industry, the hospitality industry, the furniture industry, the plumbing industry, the metal trades and the electrical trades.

I would also assure members that if other industries, through their peak employer and/or trade union industry group, seek the establishment of a group apprenticeship scheme in that industry, then the Government will be delighted to offer resources and financial assistance.

Community Employment Programme: Finally, members should note that the State Government will continue to participate in the community employment programme.

The Government has allocated \$2 million to ensure full access by departments to the State Government component of the grants.

In total, \$32 million will be available to sponsors for 1984-85.

This will mean that, in addition to the 4 000 jobs already approved under CEP, a further 2 600 Western Australians should find jobs through the implementation of the scheme.

In conclusion, it is now only left for me to call on the assistance and co-operation of all members, including the members opposite, together with assistance from business, trade unions, and community organisations. That assistance and co-operation will be essential to the successful implementation of the programme.

I call especially on members opposite to stop their negative attitudes to the plight of young people and to join with us to work to generate new jobs and help Western Australian youth find their way into lasting employment. The young people of this State represent our future.

It is most important that we do everything we can to ensure that they have the firm foundations upon which they can take advantage of life's adventure and the potential opportunities in this great State of ours.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): I hope the Minister will follow the tra-

ditions of this House and pass that speech on to *Hansard*.

Point of Order

Hon. PETER DOWDING: On a point of order, Mr Deputy President, I have just done that. I also make it clear, so that Hon. Graham MacKinnon's wrath might be assuaged, that I gave a copy of the speech to the Leader of the Opposition almost an hour before I made it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of order.

Personal Explanations

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Leader of the Opposition) (3.13 p.m.): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Hon. Peter Dowding's secretary, at least an hour before the House met, passed me a copy of a speech. I was advised that it was a ministerial statement. I was told that the Minister intended making a ministerial statement, and I was handed a document. I did not have a great deal of time to look at it. However, after quickly perusing it, I advised the Minister that I certainly did not consider it to be a ministerial statement. I therefore gave him the clear indication that, if he sought leave to make that statement, I would oppose it. I did say after that that if the Minister wished to make any sort of statement or speech in the normal process of the Estimates debate, I would not stand in my place, but I would allow him to make his speech at that time. Those are the events that led up to this situation.

HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [3.14 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I want to explain that I am not in the slightest bit angry about the Minister's reading his speech. I still believe that what I said was correct. However, Mr Deputy President (Hon. John Williams), I accept your ruling. I take it that the precedent is now established that, if any of us has a complex or political speech to make, we are now entitled to read that speech.

Hon. Robert Hetherington: If you get permission first.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We do not have to have it because the Minister did not obtain it.

Hon. Peter Dowding: The Leader of the Opposition was delivered a copy of my speech an hour before it was delivered in this House.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That has nothing to do with this House. I am not in the least bit angry. However, I am anxious to establish that, in future, when I wish to make a very deeply researched speech which lampoons the Labor Party or a political speech such as that made by the Minister, I will be able to stand up and read it. If anyone takes a point of order, I will be able to quote the precedent established on 18 October in relation to a speech made by Hon. Peter Dowding. He made his speech in his capacity as a member of the Government. He did not introduce the Bill; he was not the Minister in charge of the debate.

It is not a matter of my being angry. I simply wanted the matter clarified.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): I will clarify the situation even further. I made the ruling allowing the Minister to make his speech under Standing Order No. 73. I did not create a precedent. No presiding officer ever creates a precedent when he makes a ruling. When Hon. Graham MacKinnon seeks to read a speech, I am sure that the presiding officer in the Chair on that day will judge his request on its merits under Standing Order No. 73.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [3.16]: We have seen the dawn of a new era today where a Minister in charge of a department knows so little about that department that he has to read to this House details of actions being taken by his department. So poor is he that we have seen him sacked from one portfolio already. He has now come into this House and read a speech relating to the activities of his department.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: He did not make a personal explanation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order! Hon. Kay Hallahan has been spoken to on the matter of interjections before by the Chair. She will cease her interjections. Otherwise, I will be compelled to enforce the Standing Orders.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister has been sacked from one portfolio. He had the hide to stand up in this place and say that the Opposition had a negative attitude. It shows how much he knows about his department that the majority of the concessions he read out about apprentices were handed to his department after meetings at which I took a leading part. The ideas relating to apprentices came from those meetings, not from the Minister. He took no lead at all. In fact, he had a dead-handed attitude on most of the suggestions

we made. The Minister has now had to read a speech relating to concessions.

[Quorum formed.]

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: This man has had the hide to accuse the Opposition of having a negative attitude. I can produce the minutes—not today, because I did not get an hour's warning that the Minister was going to read his speech—at the next sitting of the House. Those minutes will indicate to the Minister where the ideas about which he just enlightened us were formulated. Yet, in the cowardly way for which he is known, he has accused the Opposition of having a negative attitude. He stood in this place and, as he usually does after making a political speech, then disappeared from the House.

This place is a shambles. Not a Minister is in the House. We are meant to respect the Government. The Government Whip is in charge. He is the senior person. He is not in his seat.

Hon. Neil Oliver: Where are all the Ministers?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We would not have any of that sort of nonsense from the Ministers of the previous Government—

Hon. Lyla Elliott: It must be a good Budget if this is all you can find to talk about.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: At 8.15 p.m. I shall still be talking about this Budget. The Budget is the greatest con I have ever witnessed imposed on Western Australians. When I have finished—and I have plenty to go through; I will deal with it section by section—Government members can continue to interject or sit down and take their medicine.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Government has conned the people of Western Australia with this Budget.

Hon. Garry Kelly: It is a brilliant Budget.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The member thinks that, does he?

Hon. Garry Kelly: I know it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We know Mr Kelly thinks it is a brilliant Budget, but as I deal with it part by part that brilliance will dim, like Mr Kelly. It will dim so far that it will fade out of sight.

Hon. Garry Kelly: It takes one to know one, Sandy.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We cannot all be brilliant!

Hon. Garry Kelly: You should know that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Government has conned electorate after electorate. Now we will expose a few of the cons. We will see whether the

ALP honours its pledges and obeys the instructions of its fellows. We will follow a few of these things down the line and see whether the few members of the Labor Party who are here will be able to front up to the next conference.

Hon. Lyla Elliott: There are more Government members than your members here.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is all very interesting. I always thought it was the Government's job to keep the House, and it had nothing to do with the Opposition.

Hon. Neil Oliver: That is true.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Kelly wants to be in Government, how about it? That is typical of the Labor Party. Members want to be in Government, but they do not want to take any of the responsibilities when those responsibilities are pointed out to them.

Hon. Lyla Elliott: With fair electoral boundaries there might be better representation.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Hon. Lyla Elliott is onto her old subject. She has failed to convince anybody on it, inside or outside this House. That is why the Labor Party is in such a mess.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Members stick to their dogma; the record goes on and on and we hear it year after year.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): I remind members once again of the Standing Orders. I regard interjections as being totally unruly and I shall follow Standing Orders if members continue to interject.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: In the last 10 minutes I have been explaining a little about Hon. Peter Dowding's read statement, which unfortunately I have not been allowed to see, because, apart from the Leader of the Opposition, he did not have the courtesy to circulate it through the House. I bet the Press has a copy of it, but not the members of the House.

I want to make my Budget speech for the next hour or so, and then I will return to deal with Hon. Peter Dowding and some of the things he commented upon. Obviously I shall not have had time to research what he said, but I will deal with it and probably read only 50 or 100 pages in rebuttal—not reading a speech; I would never do that—but quoting where Hon. Peter Dowding may be misled, or where he has tried to mislead this House.

Point of Order

Hon. PETER DOWDING: On a point of order, you have given a ruling which is appropriate under Standing Orders about interjections, but Hon. Sandy Lewis is being highly inflammatory. I take exception to the suggestion that the House has been misled by my remarks, written, printed, or verbal. I ask that he withdraw that assertion.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): There is no point of order.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you. I guess when the biter is bitten he does not like it. Many people can throw mud and make comments, but they cannot take it back again.

As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted, it would be unusual for me to talk on the Budget without meandering around my electorate.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We now have the Dumbleyung police station. We had a good Government in those days.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: After five or six years we now have the Donnybrook hospital. With a little persistence things come about, although it may not be what we all wanted.

One thing about this Budget is that the Government has not given my electorate anything in comparison with what happened with previous Governments.

I will deal with two areas where the seats are held by the ALP.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I thought plenty had been done for the Shannon River basin.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I told that story before.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Deputy President, I believe that type of interjection is denigrating the Chair, and I take strong exception to it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): I too take strong exception. I would remind Hon. Graham Edwards I will deal evenly with both sides of the House, as has been my practice for the past five years.

Point of Order

Hon. S. M. PIANTADOSI: During the Minister's speech we on this side of the House had great difficulty hearing the Minister through the interjections from the opposite side. Those members were not asked to be silent.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is no point of order. The member will resume his seat.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I was worried that my friend was going to say that he could not hear my speech.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi: We have no choice.

Hon. Peter Dowding: He hasn't got to the substance of it, because it seems to be lacking somewhat.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is good to see the Minister is back.

Hon. Peter Dowding: I regret having had to listen to the last five minutes of your speech, Mr Lewis.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: One sees some very interesting things when one goes around one's electorate in a quiet way. If one reads the Budget papers, one sees the Government has taken many things for granted. The Labor Party thinks it can buy votes in some areas, while it believes that other areas are so safe that it does not have to do anything.

Approximately four or five years ago, Hon. Graham MacKinnon was Minister for Works. We had a problem with deep sewerage in the Collie area. In those days the amount allocated to Collie for that purpose was approximately \$450 000 to \$500 000. So Hon. Graham MacKinnon, being a wise and effective Minister, said, "We shall have to have half as much again if we are ever going to get anywhere over the next six or seven years".

However, what did the Labor Government do in its first Budget? It cut the allocation in that area down to \$76 000. Even now it has only reached the stage which should have been reached four or five years ago, rather than the whole project being completed. When one looks at the town and electorate of Collie, one sees the ALP has taken it completely for granted.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I shall deal with a school a little later, a school about which Hon. Robert Hetherington made a lot of fuss. I think it was Belmont High School. What happened about that? Out went the Minister and he gave the people what they asked for.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: That is not true. I know the situation intimately and it is not true.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I shall deal with that a little later.

The allocation to water supplies at Collie has been cut by \$6 000 and the figure has gone from

\$54 000 last year to \$48 000 this year. The allocation for irrigation—just for bridges and culverts—has been reduced from \$53 000 to \$44 000.

I guess some people would say, "But look at Muja 'D'. Look at all the money being put into the power station". I guess Collie will obtain a little benefit from the power station, but the major benefit will be enjoyed by the whole of the State. The power station is not for the people of Collie.

What has been done in the areas where funds are needed? Nothing has been done in respect of schools. As far as building blocks are concerned, the Government is trying to get \$150 000 from the Collie Shire Council for the western cell land. At the same time it is trying to take the credit for allocating that land to Collie. The credit for that should go to the Premier before last—Sir Charles Court. He called all the departments together and said, "Unless you have any complaints or can prove to me that you have justifiable complaints, that land will be developed for housing". However, this Government is trying to take the credit for that.

The Minister for Local Government wrote to the effect that, as far as his Government was concerned, it was not on. At least the Minister for Lands and Surveys came down and looked at the position before he wrote anything about it. After all the hard work has been done, what does this mob want to do? It wants to rip off the shire for \$150 000. It is a disgrace.

I turn to the position in respect of the Harris River dam. That project was approved and the approval was announced by the Fraser Government. What happened when the Hawke Government came into power? It told Mr Tonkin, "No money".

We do not need the Harris River dam as a water supply. We want to be able to give the people of Collie some rural blocks, but this Government has knocked back that project.

Of course, we are having an election on 1 December. Bearing in mind the way the Labor Party is trying to buy votes in my electorate, it is quite likely the Government could promise to proceed with the Harris River dam. However, it would be doubtful whether it would ever go ahead and that the promise would be fulfilled, because the Government has no interest whatever in Collie. It is not interested in enabling the people of Collie to get the facilities to which everybody else has access. The Government takes Collie completely for granted to such an extent that the ALP candidate for Collie does not even live in the electorate. Imagine a town like Collie having a candidate who lives outside the electorate!

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Do you live in your electorate?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: How often?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is none of Hon. Kay Hallahan's business, but on average I would be there four days a week.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Said with a straight face.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Said with a very straight face. I may have a house in the city, but I have a residence in my electorate and I think I would spend more of my time in my electorate than in the city. However, if Hon. Kay Hallahan wants to check on me, she has only to ask to borrow my diary. I do not want to borrow her diary, but she can borrow mine.

Hon. Graham Edwards: It would take a lot of time to go through it with all that work.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: My diary is full of work. I spend my time looking after my electors and that is what I am trying to do here.

It is interesting that, bearing in mind the knowledge I have after representing the Collie electorate for 12 years, the Labor Party has pushed aside any candidate from the Town of Collie, or anyone who has lived there, in favour of a bloke who comes from 60 or 70 miles away.

I can see the Government Whip shaking his head in wonder about things like this, because it worries him in the same way as it worries the people of Collie.

It appears to me that the Labor Party thinks it can get away with anything at Collie. It thinks it can get away with not giving the people of Collie a fair go. Well, let me tell this Government that it is in for a big shock.

Hon. Garry Kelly: John Bird will be a fine member for Collie.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is his name, is it? We did not even know his name, because the papers have not yet been circulated. There is one man who should be a candidate for the Labor Party—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I remind honourable members about the rule relating to reading newspapers in this House. That rule has not been changed.

Hon. Graham Edwards: I apologise, Mr President. I am just cutting out from the paper some extracts which are pertinent to this debate. I would not attempt to break the rules of this House.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Labor Party shears are working again. They are always cutting something.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Cutting wages and expenditure.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If members read my report, they will see everyone agreed. Hon. Fred McKenzie was involved and everyone was on our side. Hon. Graham Edwards may use his scissors as much as he likes, as long as he does not use them on us.

Let me move from one area in which the Labor Party has taken the position for granted to another. I turn now to the electorate of Warren. We must remember that the Minister in charge of the Commonwealth employment programme overran his budget by 100 per cent in respect of repairs and renovations to the Manjimup Primary School.

Hon. Peter Dowding: What absolute rubbish!

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the Minister would like me to quote the figures I will obtain them for him after the afternoon tea suspension. I thought he was in charge of the Commonwealth employment programme.

Hon. Peter Dowding: It is not called the Commonwealth employment programme and I am not in charge of it. I happen to be a joint administrator with the Commonwealth of the community employment programme. Is that what the Minister is talking about?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about a waste of money. The Minister has admitted he is joint administrator of the programme. I encourage the Minister to read the answers to my questions on the Manjimup Primary School. The Minister for Employment and Training, no less, took eight painters from the city to Manjimup—

Hon. Peter Dowding: I did not take eight painters from the city for any purpose at all.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It hurts, does it not? The Minister took eight painters to Manjimup, paid them living-away-from-home allowances, full trade wages, and the two apprentices employed by the local painter did not have work to do.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Get your facts right.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have my facts dead right. The Public Works Department in fact had to accept the work of these imported painters. Here is the man who has admitted that he is the administrator of that programme.

Hon. Peter Dowding: I did not administer that programme. You should know that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister said that he jointly administered the programme with the Commonwealth Government. The whole House

heard him. Now he is trying to wiggle off the hook again.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Don't be pathetic.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Wait until we really get down to some of the things this Minister has done.

Hon. Garry Kelly: Don't be childish.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Does the member think the wastage of \$50 000 is childish?

Hon. Peter Dowding: I think you are childish.

Hon. Garry Kelly: Your attitude is childish.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about painters and apprentices. Apprentices employed by private enterprise are needed and wanted by this country. With one stroke of the pen this Government is trying to put them out of work.

I want to make a congratulatory comment about the Warren shire; it has at least started to spend some money on the research station. I wonder whether it is really much use spending \$280 000-odd on the horticultural research station when the Government is busily buying up the land to plant pine trees. It seems to be passing strange. I will return to that matter when I discuss forests.

Hon. Garry Kelly interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Kelly, this happens to be my speech. When Mr Kelly gets the opportunity, if he is allowed on his feet, he can make his speech. I do not need any help, but he may encourage me if he wishes.

An amount of \$107 000 has been provided for a Forests Department building. I hope that is not the one that the Premier is alleged to be opening on the 26th of this month. None of the local members has yet been invited to the opening, but that is not unusual for this Government because the courtesy of its Ministers to Opposition backbenchers has not yet been noted.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 p.m.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Prior to the afternoon tea suspension I was about to delve into some parts of the Budget. I called it a con job, and I believe it probably is. I want to point out a few matters which I believe ought to be referred to.

If one looks at one part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet—the policy secretariat—one sees it has been allocated \$380 000 for the next financial year. I ask members to compare that with the allocation of \$169 000 for the total staff for the Leader of the Opposition. This policy secretariat is a new body introduced by the Burke Government as is the Cabinet secretariat and a few small things like that.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Would you like to compare it with the \$280 000 allocation for the South West Development Authority?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order! The Hon. Graham MacKinnon knows interjections are disorderly.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is another aspect—\$280 000 for the South West Development Authority. The policy secretariat, which I believe overrides everybody in every department, gets \$380 000. Media staffing costs are to rise from \$213 526 to a potential \$385 000. The cost of the Government media office is to increase from \$95 920 to \$152 000, and services and contracts from \$263 838 to \$597 000.

Let us go back and look quietly at the media. I quote from the Institute of Public Affairs review, winter 1984, in an article headed, "Innovation in Political Communication—Premier Cain's Media Unit". I ask members to listen and they will realise how closely this aligns with the situation here. The article says—

Despite serious internal party difficulties and problems in some key areas, the Victorian Government has effectively conveyed a positive message about its record to the electorate. The principles of communication it has developed hold lessons for all Governments and Oppositions.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I hope you learn from it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. N. F. Moore: I am not sure we could afford it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: To continue—

Even at the State Government level half-a-million dollars is chicken-feed these days.

Mr McKenzie heard the figures—in a State more than twice as big as Western Australia in terms of population, Mr Cain spends \$500 000. The figure for this State is already \$537 000, so the Burke Government could teach the Cain Government a thing about spending money.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: We have a larger State.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, but with fewer TV channels, newspapers, and radio stations. The article continues as follows—

That's what Premier John Cain's media unit costs Victorian taxpayers, and for the Government this investment has yielded political gold.

Consider what it does. First, it provides a unified front of propagandists whose job it is to influence journalists. In fact, a number of unit's staff are both charming and competent

people, and that creates all the more of a problem for those who deal with them regularly.

Second, it constitutes a single front of newsmakers with the task of determining the rhythm and the order of State Government news. On a given day there will be something for morning radio and the first edition of the afternoon dailies—new port facilities, prison renovations, or the like. Television gets the next nod, and Cain generally gives each crew a separate grab. This leaves the afternoon for the morning dailies and creates a good chance that there will be something in tomorrow's papers to balance the revelations that the media unit does not yet know about.

Third, it serves as a centralized control point for the dissemination of Government news. It is not hard to see the political advantages of the media's internal orientation. Those politicians trying to excuse what they did not do in government often talk of being obliged to continually put out bushfires. That's what the media unit is for. It often burns fire-breaks so that bushfires do not get out of hand in the first place.

Ministers are sometimes allocated media unit "minders" whose job it is to see that they do not step out of line. Departmental recommendations often go via the media unit for corporate vetting before they see the light of day as ministerial 'initiatives'. Because media unit staff may be rostered on to numerous portfolios at once, and because their rosters change, the loyalties of the publicists are directed to Cabinet before individual ministers. The press releases, and for that matter the ministerial briefings prior to interviews, overshadow an individual minister's style with the general concerns of the body corporate.

Let us compare that with this State. Even the finance for the corporate body in the Premier's department—that low spending department—is just about double that of Victoria. It is fascinating, is it not? This is going on all around Australia.

The Premier is also Minister for Forests and he has made numerous statements about the allocation of money for forests, national parks, and wildlife. If one reads the Budget—and I am sure Mr McKenzie will be as worried as I am—one sees the increase for the Forests Department is less than five per cent. The increase for national parks also is less than five per cent.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: We will put them together and they will be much better off.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not think Mr McKenzie can prove they will be any better off if they are lumped together. Mr McKenzie sat on the committee with me and studied that aspect, and he knows we did not make that recommendation. We made part of the recommendation. Mr McKenzie is one of the most experienced men in this Parliament on this subject, if not the most experienced, but he asks more questions about it than the rest of us. He knows the committee did not even think about combining the Forests Department because we knew it was the most efficient department in this State.

Mr McKenzie knows that—

Hon. Fred McKenzie: We agreed to amalgamate.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —the Government is doing the wrong thing. However, to keep his position as Government Whip, he cannot get up and say so. I appreciate that fact, but his name is on the report, the same as the rest of us who were on the committee.

It is interesting to look at the Forest's Department's budget. I said earlier that I believed a con job was going on because in all the Budget papers there is an allowance for overtime, higher duties, annual leave loading, etc. However, the Forests Department shows the increase in allowances as being one thirty-fifth of one per cent. In the tourism budget the increase is over 15 per cent and in the Treasury Department it is 40 per cent. I have not had a look to ascertain the increase in allowances in relation to Parliament House, but the Labor Party does not worry about Parliament. It does not give Parliament a go at all. It has done nothing about air-conditioning for the staff and this has been asked for. It has not done a thing.

Hon. Graham Edwards: How long ago was that asked for?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was since this Premier asked for his own office to be air-conditioned.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: This excellent Premier.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I was just discussing the Premier and I was saying that not a bob is to be spent on capital works for this Parliament, but we will sweat it out.

I was referring to the overtime, higher duties, annual leave loading, etc., allowance for the various departments. It is just under 40 per cent for the Treasury which is run by the Premier. The Department of Consumer Affairs, which comes under the portfolio of the Minister who is sitting in this House, is down by 10 per cent.

I must congratulate the Minister for Budget Management. In most cases he has a reduction in these allowances. On the surface it looks magnificent until one looks at the budget section for the Taxation Department where there are six vacant positions and a \$201 000 increase over last year's expenditure. The allowances that have been obtained from other places have been conned from the Budget Management section—and when I say conned, I mean conned.

On looking at the Budget Management division of the Treasury, we see that the allocation is 33 1/3 per cent greater this year. I can see the Minister for Consumer Affairs going white. He is trying to keep his allocation down to 12 per cent and yet Budget Management is one-third greater. Where is the example? Why is there an increase of \$3 million for the Forests Department land purchase? I am sure the Government should buy land to plant pines—and I will say something about this subject at a later stage. The reality is that money is needed to rationalise the boundaries of the Forests Department and to do the job recommended by the professionals and not by the ALP policy.

Let us look at the Budget Management miscellaneous items. Earlier today the Minister referred to the number of unemployed youths in Western Australia. I refer to the vote for the Salvation Army and I am sure my friend, Hon. Peter Wells, would agree with me. It is the same as last year, but the work of the Salvation Army increases and increases because of the mismanagement of this Government.

The allocation of trust funds for cultural and recreational facilities have increased by 12 per cent, but no notice has been taken for the appointment of a Select Committee of this House to investigate the suggestion of having one committee to allocate this money.

An amount of \$180 000 has been allocated to the Karratha airport. Why has not money been allocated to the Bunbury airport? The local community has been raising funds to undertake work at the airport. The Manjimup airport has been stifled by bureaucracy. The local community has paid for the sealing of the airstrip, the lights, and everything else. It has received only \$7 000 or \$8 000 from the Government. The bureaucrats now say that the landing strips as shown on the printed plans do not run the correct way and that they must be redone until they are correct.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: Has "Bunbury 2000" helped the people of Bunbury?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It has not helped the people of Bunbury or anyone else. It is a waste of time. There has not been one project by private

enterprise that has not been underwritten by the Government.

Hon. Peter Dowding: You are knocking them all.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Oh, what rot! Again the Minister tries to mislead the House.

Hon. Peter Dowding: We will tell them.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: As late as this morning I gave some help to the South West Development Authority regarding a private enterprise scheme which may keep our beef industry in this country viable, and this man says that I am knocking them all the time. Of course, every member is working to get the south-west going, but it cannot be done with the dead hand of socialism centralised in Bunbury. Do not talk absolute nonsense. It is the third time today that Hon. Peter Dowding has interjected and has made a dastardly mistake. No wonder he sits where he does.

Hon. Peter Dowding: On the Government benches!

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the Minister says that, so do I! I would not laugh about that—unfortunately, I was seated here because it was thought I could handle Hon. Peter Dowding.

Hon. Peter Dowding: You do not have the quality.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is a matter of opinion and we have seen the quality of Hon. Peter Dowding.

The vote for the acquisition of land has increased by \$5 million. What will the land be used for? One must compare it with the rents of offices which have increased 20 per cent. Of course, this Government, after 12 months, cannot make a decision about leasing space close to Parliament House for the benefit of the people in Parliament House. It is a low spending Government!

An amount of \$500 000 has been allocated to media organisations for telexes. Telex charges have increased from \$29 000 to \$450 000.

It is fairly laughable when one considers that the Government doubled that. I challenge the Government to do the same with the Leader of the Opposition's telex accounts.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Is that the one your Government refused to have in Parliament House for the Leader of the Opposition, even if the Opposition paid for it?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is that not interesting?

Hon. Peter Dowding: Had you forgotten that?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Again the Minister does not know who refused it. The Joint House Com-

mittee refused it; the refusal had nothing to do with the Government. As soon as it is realised that this Parliament is run for the members, not for the Government, the better.

Hon. Peter Dowding: It was your stupid idea, was it?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: More allegations. You, Mr President, know how I voted. So does Hon. Lyla Elliott. The Minister again puts his big foot in it by interjecting on matters about which he knows nothing. I wish Hon. Fred McKenzie would take control of the Minister, as he does when the real Leader of the House is here, and then we could get on with the speech.

Take tourism. The amount is doubled. We all believe in tourism. I wonder why the administration figure has doubled. Why can we not get grants?

I have a problem concerning an entrepreneur who wants to build a "Big Apple"—not the New York version—on the top of a hill outside Donnybrook. It is impossible to receive any assistance from the Tourism Commission. Inside the apple every tourist region in the State will be advertised. Hon. Peter Dowding does not understand, judging from his grins. The Premier has been down there. He dined with the gentlemen concerned and had a very good time. He thoroughly approved of the project, but one cannot expect Premiers to do all the work. With the standard of Ministers he has he cannot hand it over to them to follow up. This is a great tragedy. This man cannot get a grant.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: How much does he want?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think the project is worth something like \$180 000. As Hon. Vic Ferry knows, the "Big Apple" will be seen for miles. The idea is eventually to have a restaurant in the apple. That gives the Minister who is trying to be facetious an idea of the size of the project.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: The Minister thinks it is nothing.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister thinks it is nothing because it was not initiated by him. The budget was doubled. The Government underspent last year while people were crying out for more funds. Only two or three weeks ago I had a deputation to the Premier for a regional officer, yet the tourism department underspent by \$1.4 million.

Look at the National Parks Authority; the increase for that authority is for less than five per cent; wildlife, 10 per cent; Forests Department, about a five per cent increase. Why, in the name of goodness, has the Minister budgeted for a decrease in income in national parks?

Hon. Fred McKenzie and I gave leads as to how to increase the income, and most of those leads were taken up. Since then the income has gone up about 40 per cent. This is because our suggestion of charging for the Yanchep Golf Course and things like that was taken up.

Where did the CEP money go in national parks, I would like to know? I did not hear of any national parks CEP money. I had better call the employment programme.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: They did not get the money, but that was quite separate.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was to be used on what?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: To do some of the work which had not been done over the years.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Where?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: In many places.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not have a detailed list here. I think the member and I should have a detailed list to look at.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You can get that easily.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will ask the Minister to provide it.

We talk about budgeting accurately. There are 81 rangers and other staff working for national parks. The estimated increase in salaries for those 81 rangers is \$22 000 a year, or \$250 each. Let us compare that with the estimate for the 51 clerks, typists, and assistants who administer the land tax provisions. There is to be a rise of \$88 000, or \$1 600 each. Let us look at town planning. In the Minister's office, the 63 typists are to get a rise of \$121 000, something like \$1 900 each.

Remember that the rangers are getting a mere \$250 rise, and members know how hard they work, doing everything from guiding the public to cleaning the toilets and fighting bushfires at all hours of the day and night.

Let us go one step further. Does this Government really believe in looking after our national parks rangers? Of course it does not. It believes only in the city, and probably only in advisers. The 12 ministerial advisers go up from \$264 000 to \$390 000, an increase of \$126 000. That is \$10 000 a head for advisers as against \$250 for the rangers.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: No comparison.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is a shocking indictment of this Government, that it will give its politically appointed advisers \$10 000 a head, and treat the rangers like this. These people are working in all sorts of conditions, and some of them live in mobile homes. Hon. Fred McKenzie knows what I am talking about. I am sure that if Hon. Fred

McKenzie was still working for a union, he would be jumping up and down and screaming as much as I am. It is a shocking disgrace—\$10 000 for ministerial advisers and \$250 for national park rangers!

Hon. Fred McKenzie: A ranger should get double that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Double? That is \$500 a year?

Hon. Fred MacKenzie: Yes.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They should get \$2 000, at least as much as the clerks and typists.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Are you talking about a year or a week.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about the increase in salary over a year.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: As Mr McKenzie knows, we worked with the union and we obtained an increase in salaries. So Mr Piantadosi should talk about something of which he knows.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi: I am talking about something about which I know.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr McKenzie knows the situation.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi: They were members of my union.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We worked with a lady who was far better looking than Hon. Sam Piantadosi. She is a very nice woman and we worked very well together.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Previously in this House I have referred to the rudeness of members of the present Ministry in respect of notifying members when they intend to visit their electorates. You, Sir, have heard this mentioned not only in respect of this Government, but also in respect of previous Governments. However, it seems that the present Ministry has got it down to a fine art. Ministers give members a week or 10 days' notice—usually by phone and in a hurry—that they are coming. In the last week, one Minister did not even tell us he was coming to our electorate and the other gave

I refer here to the Premier. He is going to visit my electorate—if he turns up, because we know that this Premier has a record of accepting invitations and not turning up. He does not even appear.

Hon. Peter Dowding: That is rubbish.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Many members of this Chamber could refer to a function held in Albany a couple of weeks ago to which the Premier accepted an invitation—

Hon. Peter Dowding: You said he makes a habit of it, and I said, "Rubbish".

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have had this out previously with the Minister. The Premier does this all the time.

Hon. Peter Dowding: You like tipping a bucket over people when you know they can't respond, especially when you are being totally inaccurate.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The poor Premier cannot respond with a \$500 000 media machine!

Hon. P. G. Pendal: A \$500 000 media machine! There is a lot more than that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right, but I am just talking about what was allocated. I have referred to how the media machine is being handled. However, the Minister says, "You are good at tipping a bucket", but that the poor Premier cannot reply. The Premier cannot reply despite his staff of 22 media people! However, the Premier is not good at turning up at functions.

I am interested in this next alleged trick. The Premier is going to Manjimup allegedly to open the Manjimup regional Forests Department building. Of course, the Minister for Forests has not thought of asking local members to the opening. On the same day, in the evening, he is giving a dinner, and members will be very interested to hear that it is to be held at Barringtons Restaurant and 100 community leaders have been invited. The tab is being picked up by the Premier's Department.

Hon. P. G. Pendal: That is why he got a 61 per cent increase in his budget this year.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Maybe the same thing happened up north in places like Derby. I just wonder whether there is such a thing as a free feed. Maybe under this Government there is—free for some, but very costly to the taxpayer.

I guess that, at that dinner, the Minister for Forests will announce, firstly, that the Government intends to buy 700 hectares of agricultural land and, secondly, that it will release 7 000 hectares of Crown land as long as the bush is assessed as being good enough for farming.

How does that sit with the ALP's policy? In this business of buying up 700 hectares of agricultural land to plant pine and releasing 7 000 hectares of bush land, what will happen? Will that bush land be under restrictions from people who take it up? Will it then go back into pine? Bearing in mind the moratorium on buying land for two years, to which the Minister for Forests will also agree, what will happen after 1986, or is this Government not worried?

I guess that were I in this Government's position, knowing how fast it is going downhill, I would not be very worried about what will happen after 1986. However, by entering into this deal until 1986, the Government has left the community up in the air.

The member for Warren said, "We will not let Warren down". He went on radio and told the people before the last election how Warren would be lifted up. I might deal with the Warren unemployment figures some time after dinner.

This Government could not care less about Warren. It is prepared to sell its own Minister down the drain. It is not prepared to tell the people of Warren what it is doing. Probably good money after bad is going into the Shannon townsites. What a glorious mess that was. Previously I told the story of the shingle roof on the barbecue, and I referred to the fact that another \$3 000 or \$4 000 had to be spent on a chimney because people did not realise that a shingle roof over a barbecue will catch fire.

I am told that some money might be put into the timber park; but all this is being done to try to buy off the people of Warren. What the Premier will not tell the people of Warren is that the release of bush land is against ALP policy. Indeed, the idea to buy cleared land and release bush land came from Councillor Ross Young. He is the person who should be the member for Warren, because he had that idea. In the last election, he was the candidate who stood against Mr Evans. He had the idea to do that; it had nothing to do with the Government. The Government picked up the idea from Councillor Young.

Does the Premier still intend to lease land to grow pines? Is that part of the moratorium? We do not know. Where is the Premier going to get the 30 000 hectares which will be needed in order to make a pine plantation and mill viable? That is what we are not being told. We are looking at 700 hectares, when we should be looking at 30 000 hectares. Where will the Premier get that land if there is a moratorium for two years? The Labor Party has instructed the Premier that he is not to continue with the Donnybrook sunkland project where the professional advice was that pine should be grown. He has got himself into this mess and he cannot expect to get off the hook.

At times I have suggested that we ought to have a public debate about the Shannon to give the Premier a chance to tell us what he thinks, but, of course, he ran out of the public meeting at Manjimup so quickly last time that he would probably run out of the public debate also. From memory, I would say that the Premier was

outvoted 400:2 in a Labor seat. That was a rather massive defeat and it was probably the same sort of defeat as the one this Government will get when it next goes to the polls.

Hon. Garry Kelly: That is wishful thinking.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Hon. Garry Kelly makes all sorts of statements. He says, "That is wishful thinking". I do not think he really understands yet what politics is all about.

When he has been here for a few years, he may realise that politics is about looking after people, not lying to them, not misleading them, and not conning them. That is what this Government has done. The Government has done that with the farmers and the people of Warren. This Government has tried to con people, and it is falling into a hole and getting deeper and deeper into that hole.

Hon. N. F. Moore: It is being exposed for what it is.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: This Government made promise after promise which it could not possibly keep.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you talking about Peacock?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about people like Mr Dowding. He is one of the people I would not think would be the prize person in the Aboriginal community at the moment. He is one of the people who made all sorts of statements when he was in Opposition. The promises will come back to haunt him. This promises, promises, promises business always comes back and winds itself around the neck of the person who made the promises, and it hangs him. Mr Dowding will be one of the first to hang.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: That was the experience of the Liberal Party.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mrs Hallahan said it was the experience of the Liberal Party, but it took nine years to happen. It will happen within three years with the Labor Party. I can see Mr McKenzie becoming quite white as I point out, one by one, the things this Government is doing.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Take your glasses off!

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the member wishes me to take my glasses off to read my speech, I will do that, too.

The Government has totally disregarded professional advice and has followed the dictates of the ALP conference. The people of Warren have been led up the garden path, and the Premier has gone back on his policy of releasing land, and on his land rights promise. One wonders where one can go in this State and Commonwealth when

leaders will not make decisions based on professional advice, but only through ALP dogma.

We talk at times about the use of Government money. I will give a prize example of Government money being wasted. Just this week, an ALP candidate flew around the State in a Minister's aircraft, at the expense of the taxpayer, when he was meant to be working for another member, also at the taxpayers' expense. The ALP defends that action. The party thinks that it is all right. I do not.

If that man is being paid to work for a member, he should stay and work for that member and should not flit off to another electorate in a Minister's plane, paid for by the taxpayers. Of course, we have seen this occur before. The previous Government tried to do something about it, but this Government altered that. Of course, that will come back on the Government time and time again. It will come back and clobber Government members, because the public will not stand for that sort of political abuse.

The Minister spoke about youth unemployment. Actually, he read about it.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: He took on my ideas of last night.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He did not have any ideas of his own. I wish to quote from an article written by Mr Peter Ritchie who is the Managing Director of McDonalds. I hope the Minister has read this article, because I think it should be compulsory reading for all Ministers for Employment. Mr Ritchie stated—

I am amazed that the Government and the nation could spend so much time and effort debating how we will divide the unbaked cake, while right before our eyes, the oven has broken down and the mix is looking very doubtful.

In a nation of only 15 million people, how can we spend so much national effort debating how well we are going to retire when our youth are going jobless to this extent—

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, MARCH 1984 (Per cent, 15-19 age group)

New South Wales	28.9
Victoria	22.2
Queensland	23.1
South Australia	27.2
Western Australia	26.9
Tasmania	32.3

These numbers are staggering, but not surprising when you consider that the unions, the industrial courts, and to a certain extent State Governments, have all colluded to increase the proportion of young people unemployed.

Compare this current rate of youth unemployment with national rates in the 1960s.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, 1964-1969

(Per cent, 15-19 age group)

1964	2.2
1965	2.8
1966	3.0
1967	3.8
1968	3.7
1969	3.0

What went wrong in the 1970s? A large part of the answer is that until the early 1970s the number of young people staying at secondary school until final year was rising. Since the mid-70s this trend has reversed and more teenagers are joining the labour market before completing high school.

This in itself is a concern—approximately 35 per cent of our young people remain in secondary school until their final year. In the United States, Canada and Japan by comparison, more than 70 per cent of young people completed their last year of high school, and the retention rate in most of the OECD countries is also much higher than in Australia.

Australian statistics show that retention of students in the later years of high school is very closely related to the socio-economic status of parents. Retention in non-catholic, non-government schools is nearly 90 per cent whereas it is under 50 per cent in catholic schools and under 30 per cent in government schools.

(The Commonwealth Government has recognised this problem and has attempted to alleviate it by funding a Participation and Equity Programme, which is aimed at raising the participation of disadvantaged groups in secondary education and TAFE.)

This is something we at McDonald's have been closely in touch with during the past 10 years. Through regular meetings with the parents of our young casual employees we have become very aware of how significant the income from a casual job is to the young employee and to the family who must otherwise support their son or daughter during the later years of education.

It seems to me that the number of such casual jobs available to teenagers in Australia has been falling over the years to the point where they are now almost non-existent. (When we open a new McDonald's we hire

about 70 casual employees—we have on average more than 700 applicants for those jobs.)

From my own observation I can contrast the Australian situation with the United States and Canada where casual jobs for young people are readily available and, it seems, almost every high school and college student has a casual or vacation job.

I have found it very difficult to convince State Industrial Commissions that McDonald's employment of young casuals can have a significant impact on the 15-19 year old unemployment levels. However, the trend of numbers falling in the upper levels of secondary schools and the statistical evidence regarding the co-relation of socio-economic level and retention in secondary education, as well as my regular contact with parents, has made it very clear to me that the availability of casual jobs for young people can have a direct and meaningful effect on the 15-19 year old unemployment rate in Australia.

When we look at the actual number of permanent jobs available for young people it almost appears as though there has been a conspiracy among employer bodies, large employers, Industrial Commissions and State Governments to discriminate against young people.

—Junior rates of pay have been eliminated in most awards in Australia. An award with junior rates is now a rarity.

We are forcing a 15 year old, straight out of school, and maybe not out of puberty, to compete in the job market with a 21 year old who is at a completely different stage of physical, emotional and vocational development.

—In those few awards where junior rates are retained they have been increased relative to adult rates, making them much less attractive.

—In many cases where junior rates are maintained, the adult rate of pay has been introduced at 18 years of age. There is some logic in this when we consider young people to be adults for the purposes of electing our Governments, but it does not make much sense when you consider that many of our young people are first entering the labour market at that age, with no job skills or experience.

—“Proportion clauses” are one of the most illogical aspects of our current award treatment of young people. These clauses are in most awards where junior rates are

provided and from my experience the unions are trying to add to them or strengthen them, despite the fact that they discriminate against the employment of young people. These clauses restrict the numbers of young people that can be employed by a particular employer to a minimal proportion of the total workforce.

I have often wondered in fact whether these clauses would stand up to a challenge under our anti-discrimination legislation.

- The N.S.W. Government has announced its intention to do away with junior rates of pay in the retail industry from January 1, 1986.
- The A.C.T.U.'s general policy on youth wages is that they should be increased relative to adults.
- Despite enormous growth in public sector employment young people have not benefited. Public sector employers have preferred more experienced and better educated people.

These changes over the last 15 years have come about largely as a result of a number of pressures, but employer bodies, employers, and governments have all played a part.

The risk of winding up with a poorly trained and poorly motivated workforce in years to come is very high.

It is understandable how, in the past, each of those groups could have believed they were either protecting jobs for adults or stopping exploitation of young people, but times have certainly changed and we need to reassess the situation.

Protection of adult jobs

Now that the rate of unemployment of young people is three times that of adults, and the nation's future is likely to suffer, I think we should recognise that if there really is to be a trade-off it would be better in the long run to have fewer young people out of work.

The risk of winding up with a poorly trained and poorly motivated workforce in years to come is very high.

When a present State Government Minister, Barrie Unsworth (ex Secretary of the N.S.W. Trades and Labour Council), can say that the smart unemployed teenagers are those who spend their days at the beach surfing; when the costs of employing and training young inexperienced people are

high and rising; when the apprenticeship system is falling down around our ears; and when the work skill of our trades people is declining relative to many countries of Asia—surely it is time we reviewed rates of pay, and recognised that the early years of a young person's employment are really training years and in fact "education on the job" provides an alternative to continued secondary education.

The traditional apprenticeship system is obviously declining because it has been applicable only to the traditional trades, most of which are shedding people.

I think we should regard the early years of employment, at junior rates of pay, as an apprenticeship system which could apply to those industries where employment is growing—the service industry, tourism and entertainment, retail and wholesale trade, and finance and banking.

Exploitation of youth?

The retail industry is one of the few left with junior rates. McDonald's employs a large proportion of junior employees and yet our average rate of pay in Australia is still higher than all but three other countries of the world:

A comparison of McDonald's rates around the world seems to indicate that our rates of pay, are unnecessarily high.

It is hard to compare rates of pay, and relative rates, around the world but in a situation like McDonald's where the work environment and physical tasks are identical from country to country we have the best possible opportunity.

This comparison of McDonald's rates around the world would seem to indicate that our rates of pay are unnecessarily high.

JUNIOR EMPLOYEES (av. hourly rates*)

Country	\$A
Sweden.....	6.57
Denmark.....	6.43
Switzerland.....	6.37
Australia.....	5.98
Holland.....	4.93
England.....	4.49
United States.....	4.29
New Zealand.....	4.25
Spain.....	4.14
Canada.....	4.09
France.....	3.46
Germany.....	3.37
Japan.....	2.77

**Average Hourly Rate is total weekly payroll divided by total manhours employed (excluding management but including all junior, casual and part-time employees). Payroll cost includes holiday pay and penalties but excludes cost of payroll tax and workers compensation premiums.*

A recent in-depth study was conducted throughout Australia and the resulting Commonwealth Government report "Youth Wages, Employment and Labour Force" reached the major conclusion that "youth employment has been adversely affected by the increase in relative youth wages in the 1970s". (This report on such a vital topic seems to have fallen down behind a cabinet in Canberra. Nothing has been heard of it since its release last year.)

Far from exploiting young people, junior rates of pay actually protect jobs for juniors, give them an advantage in the market-place to help compensate for their lack of maturity and experience. All our statistics indicate that the young people of Australia are being priced out of work!

Those words were written by a man who has had a great deal of experience all around the world. When that is compared with the piffle which was read to us by the Minister earlier today, it can be seen that all he did was make a political speech to justify his position. That speech was similar to the speeches he made in this place before he was sacked from his previous portfolio.

The Minister and his Government must stop trying to con the people and stop trying to tell us what is good for us. It has to get on with the job of following sound advice given by experienced people in commerce.

We have heard of some funny experiences relating to taxation, especially since the ALP Governments have come to power. Is it not fascinating how the Treasurer (Mr Keating) will not comment on capital gains tax or any sort of wealth tax being imposed by the Federal Government? Recently, Mr Hawke called the whole of his Cabinet in and told them not to make any gaffes during the election campaign. He told them that they had to be very careful not to spring any leaks and that they had to keep close together.

The campaign is now one week old. In tonight's *Daily News*, the Prime Minister strongly advocates the imposition of a capital gains tax after the next election.

Of course, the Federal ALP is a little different from this State Government which does not obey its conference. Mr Hawke has followed exactly

what the conference told him to do. How many other things will Mr Hawke do? The quotation also reads—

But the family home would never be part of it, he promised.

That sounds like Senator Grimes, when talking about the pensioners' assets test. I heard Senator Walters tackle him and ask if a woman's engagement ring would be considered part of her assets. She said that she had never considered her engagement ring to be part of her assets. Senator Grimes consistently refused to answer her so, therefore, we assume a woman's engagement ring is part of her assets under the pensioners' assets test. It should be remembered that an engagement ring would gain in value over the years. The Federal Government will not give a direct answer to questions.

Hawke has now dropped the bomb today with hints of a capital gains tax. Senator Button said that a wealth tax and death duties might also be considered. Fifty demonstrators booed and jeered Mr Hawke today. I do not know how many booed him in Bunbury—probably more than 50 because that is the region from which the winegrowers come. This mob is going badly and I do not think it will recover from the con job it has tried on the Australian people.

I now refer to uranium. The Government has only a few weeks in which to decide whether to deliver uranium to France. At the moment it has a lid on it, and because of that famous and wonderful ALP conference, it is holding a lid on it. What will happen to Roxby Downs when it starts producing? One does not know. Does the Government imagine that France will say, "Very well, Bob and Paul, we will forgo delivery of that uranium. We had a contract, but we will take no action against you"? I think that the Government in France will say, "Here we are, we have a contract with Australia, we have protected many of its agricultural products and we have heaps of meat and butter in store". The last time France dumped butter it told Lee Kuan Yew that it would allow him as much credit as he wanted so long as he paid freight. What would that do to the butter industries in Australia and New Zealand? Mr Lange has been very quick to say that he does not want the Yanks visiting New Zealand with nuclear armed ships.

What will it do to the wine industry if France dumps wine in Australia? Recently by accident I picked up a bottle of French wine from Narrogin in my electorate. The price was \$5.44 and at the moment the French are playing fair! What would

they do if they were dumping wine and what would happen to the local wine industry?

Here again is the fallacy of allowing the Government to proceed with its idiotic policies. We do not know where we are going as a nation. The public have been conned. I have pointed out the various tactics that the Government has used, transferring moneys and making allowances on the one hand and creating new positions on the other so that it can continue to expand the State Budget.

Hawke has gone back on most of his promises and Burke has gone back on a lot of his, including land rights. One wonders where the State and the nation are heading with such leaders in the State and Federal spheres. They will not make decisions, and they spend enormous amounts of public money. For example, I refer to the dinners held at Manjimup. Government members' attitude seems to be to provide free meals and grog to their associates and supporters, paid for from the taxpayers' purse. I would not mind if the Premier paid for such things from his extra \$12 000 allowance, but I object to taxpayers' funds being used in this way.

The Government has conned the Australian public. It has not followed the policies it advocated and it has broken virtually all its promises. It does

not deny that it will increase taxes and it does not give a damn about either the State or the nation.

One expects members in this House to support the Budget and because I am a traditionalist from way back, I will support it. However, it goes against the grain to support the con trick contained in this Budget. I wish that I had sufficient numbers in my own party to send this Premier and his Government to the electorate. The people have woken up throughout the State to the con job that has been pulled on them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. Kay Hallahan.

JAPANESE HYOGO PREFECTURE DELEGATES

Welcome

The PRESIDENT: Honourable members, I take the opportunity to advise you and to welcome the Japanese delegates from the Hyogo Prefecture with whom we in Western Australia share a sister State relationship. These delegates are currently sitting in the President's Gallery and I welcome them to the Legislative Council of Western Australia.

Members: Hear, hear!

House adjourned at 5.08 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: LEASE

Mt Anderson: Transfer

310. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Has the lease of Mt. Anderson Station been transferred?
- (2) If so, to whom?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

TOURISM: BUNGLE BUNGLE

Warman Aboriginal Community

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

- (1) Are there any Aborigines living in the area known as Bungle Bungle?
- (2) If so, who are they and how long have they resided there?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am informed that a group of 10 to 20 Aborigines from the Warman community have been living at Bungle Bungle for approximately 12 months.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Seaman Inquiry: Cost

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

- (1) What was the total cost of the Seaman inquiry?
- (2) What was the total amount expended by the liaison committee to assist individuals and organisations to prepare submissions to the inquiry?
- (3) Will the Minister now provide an itemised summary of expenditure involved in each grant?
- (4) Why was it necessary for the Kimberley Land Council to purchase a motor vehicle from the grant provided by the liaison committee?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) As at 30 September 1984, \$583 897 had been expended by the Aboriginal land inquiry.
- (2) As at 30 September 1984, \$440 214.98 had been expended by the Aboriginal Liaison Committee in grants.
- (3) I am not in a position to provide this information at present, as some groups which received grants have not yet submitted their final returns.
- (4) The Kimberley Land Council needed to purchase a vehicle in order to enable it to consult with Aboriginal communities throughout the Kimberley in preparing its submissions to the Aboriginal land inquiry.

TRADE: EXPORTS

Live Sheep: Albany

316. Hon. TOM KNIGHT, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport:

Following the Minister's reply to question 275 of Tuesday, 16 October 1984 part (1) wherein he states, "However, it must also appreciate the position of the exporters who have established significant infrastructure facilities based on exports through Fremantle"—

- (1) Is he aware that the Fares Farid company has established a conditioning plant at Kojonup, 140 km from Albany at a cost in excess of \$0.75 million and now has to road freight 260 km to Fremantle?
- (2) Is he further aware that this plant was set up to condition up to 120 000 sheep at a time for live sheep export and was established exclusively to ship through the Port of Albany?
- (3) Could the Minister advise that if the State Government has no plans to establish a sheep loading facility south of Fremantle, whether or not the Fremantle Port Authority is investigating such a possibility?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware that Fares Rural Co. Pty. Ltd. established a pellet feed plant at Kojonup.
- (2) Yes, I am aware that Fares Rural Co. Pty. Ltd. was aiming to export live sheep from Albany. Its smaller ships can

readily be handled at Albany and the port authority has offered to reduce port charges for live sheep to the same level paid by exporters using Fremantle, but this offer has yet to be taken up by any exporter of live sheep.

- (3) The Fremantle Port Authority is not investigating the establishment of a sheep loading facility south of Fremantle.

HEALTH: NURSES

Shortage

317. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

In view of the apparent shortage of nurses, particularly in country towns, and the statement by the Federal Minister for Health (Dr Blewett) concerning advertising overseas—

- (1) Is the Government giving those persons trained and previously employed as nurses, but who had to curtail practising their profession due to pregnancy and/or the need to bring up their children, the opportunity to return on a part-time or job-sharing basis?
- (2) If not, why with the Government's emphasis on anti-sex discrimination is it not possible for a shorter working day to be programmed so that participants gradually enter the work force while giving them time to attend to their children's needs?
- (3) Is part-time work offered to those in a similar situation seeking work in other Government departments and agencies?
- (4) Do conditions and awards laid down by the arbitration court preclude such part-time and job-sharing work?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes—part-time employment has been in operation for many years.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Answered in (1).

FORESTS: ELECTRICITY POWERLINES

Poles

318. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) How many licences to cut telegraph and electric light poles are granted in the State?
- (2) Who holds such licences?
- (3) Can anyone apply for a licence?
- (4) What cost are the licences?
- (5) Do they cover only a certain area of forest?
- (6) Can anyone apply for a smaller area?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) There are no current licences to cut telegraph poles in the State. Two companies are from time to time issued with licences to cut poles for the State Energy Commission.
- (2) R & N Palmer Pty. Ltd.
V & D Ridolfo Pty. Ltd.
- (3) The licensee is one to whom the State Energy Commission has given an order to supply poles.
- (4) The licences are issued on a royalty per pole basis.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Answered by (3).

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR PLANNING

Wittenoom Visit

319. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Regional Development and the North West:

- (1) Will the Minister be visiting Wittenoom during November?
- (2) If so, what is the purpose of his visit?
- (3) Does he propose to announce the closure of the town?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Meet with Wittenoom health and works committee and address public meeting.
- (3) No.

AGRICULTURE: PESTS

Argentine Ants: Derby

320. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there is a severe problem with Argentine ants in Derby?
- (2) If so, what action is being taken to overcome this problem?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) The ants causing the current problem in Derby are Singapore ants.
- (2) Control of such ants is the responsibility of local shire councils. The Department of Agriculture has offered technical advice and assistance to the shire councils.

ROADS: BRIDGES

Ord River

321. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government propose to build a bridge over the Ord River where the river crosses Great Northern Highway north of Halls Creek?
- (2) If so, when will work commence?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes, but not for some years.
- (2) No date has been fixed.
- (3) The Commonwealth Government provides the funds for the improvement and maintenance of national roads. Great Northern Highway south of Halls Creek is part of the national highway system. The construction of a bridge over the Ord River would require the approval of the Commonwealth Government.

There are many national highway projects in the Kimberley which are considered to have a higher priority than the construction of a bridge over the Ord River.

HEALTH: NURSES

Retraining

322. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Do persons returning to nursing after more than five years' absence have to take a retraining course?
- (2) If so, where are such courses available?
- (3) Is there any cost to the individual taking such a refresher course?
- (4) Is there any restriction on numbers accepted for such retraining courses?
- (5) Will retraining courses for nurses wishing to return to nursing be available at any hospitals outside the metropolitan area?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Western Australian School of Nursing—Kalgoorlie commenced 1 October; Narrogin commenced 22 October; and, Bunbury—arrangements are in progress.
- (3) Western Australian School of Nursing programme cost is \$200 per student.
- (4) Yes—Western Australian School of Nursing restricts to 30 places for each course so that maximum clinical supervision can be given.
Country course at Kalgoorlie only able to attract eight applicants, and Narrogin nine.
- (5) As in (2) with possibility of Albany and Northam if sufficient applicants available.

323. *Postponed.*

WORKS: BURSWOOD ISLAND

Royal West Australian Bowls Association

324. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has an application by the Royal West Australian Bowling Association for the use of Burswood Island as a major bowls-sporting complex been refused at any time in the past six years?
- (2) If so, on what grounds was this refusal made?

- (3) Will the Minister table any of the correspondence or records of inquiry by this organisation?
- (4) If no formal request was made or refusal given what informal advice was given to the organisation in question?
- (5) What has altered from that time to now that would allow the Government to consider allowing Burswood Island to be used for a casino?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (5) The Department of Lands and Surveys is unaware of any application by the Royal West Australian Bowling Association for the use of Burswood Island. Departmental inquiries do not reveal the source of any "informal advice" which may have been given to that organisation.

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor Vehicle Dealers Board: Licences

325. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What are the various categories of licences issued by the Motor Vehicle

Dealers Board and how many are licensed in each category as at—

- (a) 30 June 1980;
 - (b) 30 June 1981;
 - (c) 30 June 1982;
 - (d) 30 June 1983; and
 - (e) 30 June 1984?
- (2) What was the prescribed fee for each category as at the dates mentioned above?
 - (3) What are the reasons for any increase in licence fees over the periods mentioned above?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The information requested is supplied in the following schedule—

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Dealers licensed	651	802	784	771	751
Prescribed fee—Application	\$ 60	75	75	120	120
Yard managers licensed	343	326	352	356	389
Prescribed fee	\$ 30	40	40	60	60
Salesmen licensed	736	631	667	715	736
Prescribed fee	\$ 18	25	25	40	40

- (3) It is not appropriate for me to speculate on the reasons for increases in fees before this Government came to power.

Increases in fees in 1983 were necessary in the overall total budgetary context. These increases were forced upon the Government by the size of the deficit we inherited from the previous Government.