

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 3 April 1984

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

ELECTORAL

Country Areas: Petition

On motions by the Hon. Tom Knight, the following petition bearing the signatures of six persons was received, read, and ordered to lie upon the Table of the House—

TO the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

WE, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia:

Declare that just as the Australian Senate recognises the representational needs of the remote and less-populous areas of Australia, so too does the Western Australia House of Review recognise the representational needs of the remote and less-populous regions of Western Australia.

And ask that the State's House of Review should vote against any proposition that aims to decrease or weaken the representation of country people in the State Parliament.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(See paper No. 732.)

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE: SELECT COMMITTEE

Interim Report and Extension of Time

HON. J. M. BROWN (South-East) [5.26 p.m.]: I seek leave to present an interim report of a Select Committee.

Leave granted.

Hon. J. M. BROWN: I have the honour to present an interim report from the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the need for additional committees. I am further directed to move for an extension of time within which the committee's final report is to be presented.

I move—

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed and that the time within which the Committee is to present its final report be extended to Tuesday, 25 September 1984.

Question put and passed.

STANDING ORDERS

Restoration

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.28 p.m.]: I move—

That the resolution of this House, passed on Wednesday, 16 November 1983, whereby Bills might be put through all or any stages at one sitting be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that this motion, in accordance with Standing Order No. 188, requires the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT: I have counted the House, and there being an absolute majority present with no dissenting voice, I declare the motion carried with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Question thus passed.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Continuation

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.29 p.m.]: I move—

That unless otherwise ordered, all Select Committees of this House appointed, or yet to be appointed, during this current Parliament, be so appointed, without further authority being required than this resolution, for the duration of the Thirty-First Parliament.

Question put and passed.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS REPEAL BILL 1984

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 March.

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West) [5.30 p.m.]: The Opposition agrees with the Bill and will support it, but I will make a couple of comments about it. It is titled the War Relief Funds Repeal Bill 1984, and let us hope we do not ever have to reactivate that fund to provide for war relief in the future.

Hon. D. K. Dans: There won't be time in the next war.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Let us hope we do not have another war. In his second reading speech

the Leader of the House said that in October 1981 the council considered winding up and distributing the remaining funds. I do not intend to press the point, but does the Leader of the House have any indication of the amount of the remaining funds? He said further that the balance of the remaining funds should be divided among the eligible recipients. Again I do not press the point, but, if the Leader of the House knows, I would appreciate an indication of the amount of the funds to which he referred.

Other than that, the Opposition does not oppose the Bill and, indeed, supports it.

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.32 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its support of the Bill. In the notes supplied to me no amount was mentioned, but the member has made a good point and I undertake to ascertain how much was involved.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I do not think it would be much, but you never know with these things.

Hon. D. K. DANS: The Auditor General has been through the figures very carefully, but for my own edification I will find out the figure and let the member know.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

FATAL ACCIDENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 March.

HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.33 p.m.]: Lord Campbell's Act, as it was known, was passed in England in 1846 to alleviate the public conscience in relation to the previous law which provided no relief for the loss suffered by dependants where the breadwinner was killed, or died as a result of some other person's wilful act or default.

Lord Campbell's Act was adopted throughout the British colonies and in Western Australia in 1849, and in recent times it has been replaced by the Fatal Accidents Act. This old Act, as modernised, contains a category of dependants of a deceased person who may claim where the breadwinner was killed or died as a result of the wrongful act, neglect, or default of some other party, and where the deceased person himself or herself would have been entitled to bring a claim

but for his or her death. The damages are equated with the annual income or financial loss that is suffered by the relatives or dependants. Therefore, irrespective of who is included in the category, there must still be some economic loss or some possibility of economic loss in order to sustain a claim.

In assessing damages various factors are taken into account by the court, including the possibility of ill-health of the claimant or unemployment and, in the case of a woman, the possibility of her re-marriage. Other factors as laid down in the Statute, however, are not to be taken into account, such as payments from insurance and superannuation funds, pension payments, and other social welfare payments generally.

However, it is to be noted that the claim which, in the first place, must be made by the personal representative for the benefit of relatives, depends upon the deprivation or loss suffered by the relatives where the deceased would have had a right of action. The purpose of the legislation which has been introduced by the Government and which is now before the House is basically to extend the category of eligible claimants under the Act.

In general, the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission based on its report in project No. 66 have been put into effect. I may say that the previous Government had in fact initiated action to, in general terms, implement the same proposals and had instructed Parliamentary Counsel to prepare this legislation. Therefore, the Opposition clearly does not have any objection to the legislation before the House and, indeed, would support it in principle.

The additional persons who will be included as relatives entitled to claim under the Act will now include children who have been treated by the deceased as his own. Such children might well be the children of a brother, sister, or relative of the deceased whom the deceased had, for one reason or another, agreed to bring up with his own family. We all know that these cases occur.

The additional claimants would also include, in rather rare cases, a situation such as that where a foster child was supporting his or her foster parents or was contributing to his *de facto*, adoptive, or foster parents' support and the child was killed. In such a case the adoptive parents would have suffered an economic loss and would have a claim.

Brothers and sisters, including half-brothers and sisters, are also to be included, as well as the spouse of a deceased person who has ceased to be the spouse by virtue of divorce.

However, in the case of a divorced spouse, it is to be noted that, although such a person does not have to show there was at the time of death a legal obligation to contribute to that person's support, the court would have to be satisfied that such a person had a reasonable expectation, possibility, or probability of financial support had the deceased lived.

Finally, *de facto* spouses are to be brought within the ambit of the legislation. Already illegitimate children are included and it would be wrong in principle if the mother of the illegitimate child should be denied a right of claim in a bona fide case.

The Bill before the House has adopted the Law Reform Commission's recommendations, with the exception that the period of bona fide domestic relationship between the deceased and the *de facto* must not be less than three years, whereas the Law Reform Commission recommended five years. The Opposition would not quarrel with the reduction as we had, when in Government, already adopted the three-year period and made a public announcement to that effect.

The effect of the Bill will be that a *de facto* will be included where there is a child of the union and also where there is no child, provided the relationship has endured for not less than three years.

However, one should note that the Bill has omitted a reference to the *de facto* in specific terms. The Bill refers to "any person who although not married to the deceased person", but does not specify that such a person must have lived with the deceased person as wife or husband. The Law Reform Commission recommended the inclusion of this phrase, but the Bill omits it.

In our view, this phrase should be included in two places in paragraph (h) of the second schedule. You will forgive me, Sir, for going into details which one would normally expect to do only in the Committee stage, but I believe it is desirable I should draw attention to that phrase and its apparent omission.

Another point in which the definition affecting a *de facto* differs from the Law Reform Commission's report is that the person—that is, the claimant—need not have lived with the deceased, unless there was a child of the union, immediately before his or her death.

The Law Reform Commission thought the *de facto* relationship should exist immediately before the death, but that point has been omitted in this Bill; hence the *de facto* definition has been greatly broadened and could include a very old *de facto*

relationship which ceased some time ago where there is no issue of that union.

I draw attention to this omission and seek the Attorney General's explanation as to the reason that the Government has seen fit to thus considerably broaden the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission.

In other respects the legislation is supported as, apart from the deletion of the recommendations of the commission in relation to "loss of assistance and guidance" which the Attorney General has sufficiently dealt with, there is no other objection and the proposals substantially follow the commission's sensible recommendations.

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.41 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his general support of this legislation. As he has pointed out, it is consistent with an interest in the Act which he has earlier expressed. It would appear that only two matters require some comment from me at this stage. In the first place, it is true that the period of a *de facto* relationship as expressed in the Bill is three years as compared with the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission of five years. The shorter period, however, is consistent with provisions made in a number of Acts which recognise the *de facto* relationship and which adopt the three-year period. I think the Leader of the Opposition—

Hon. I. G. Medcalf: We accept that.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON: —accepted that. Reference was also made to the wider definition of "*de facto* relationship" than appears in the report of the Law Reform Commission. It is said in particular that the wider definition of the term extends to a *de facto* relationship which was a past *de facto* relationship. That is true enough, but it has to be considered alongside the provision which permits a claim to be made by former marriage partners after the marriage has broken up or by present marriage partners where there has been a separation for some time. In that respect the provisions are consistent.

The overriding consideration in this context is that, whatever the period of separation as between the deceased person and the claimant, there must have been a situation of dependency at the time of death. That provides the necessary protection in the position that the Leader of the Opposition has quite properly brought to attention. That is the overriding requirement, and without dependency as at the time of death, the Fatal Accidents Act is not brought into play whether in its present form or as now proposed to be amended.

With that comment, I again thank the Opposition for its indication of support and I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth) in the Chair; the Hon. J. M. Berinson (Attorney General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Schedule 2 added—

Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I draw the attention of the Attorney General to the other point I made earlier, that paragraph (h) in schedule 2 does not contain any specific qualification that the claimant must be the wife or husband of the deceased person. The Law Reform Commission believed that that provision should be included and in fact the Law Reform Commission report specifically includes the phrase, "as wife or husband" in both (h) (i) and (h) (ii) after the word, "person" in the first line of each of those subparagraphs. Paragraph (h) would then read—

Any person who although not married to the deceased person lived with the deceased person as wife or husband on a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis . . .

The same would apply in subparagraph (ii). That phrase has been omitted and I do not know why. I can only assume that the counsel who prepared the Bill believed that the rather negative phrase "although not married to the deceased" would imply that the relationship was as between husband and wife, but in my book, that does not necessarily follow, and I ask the Attorney to explain why that phrase has been omitted.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON: I think the Leader of the Opposition has anticipated the answer to his own question. We have the combination of two factors; firstly, that the preamble to paragraph (h) introduces the notion of marriage, and secondly, that the body of the provision relates to the existence of a domestic basis to the relationship. Those two factors would go to explain the terminology, it being relevant here again to draw attention to the fact that we are looking at a domestic relationship of financial dependency. The combination of those various matters goes to the heart of the terminology used in paragraph (h).

Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I appreciate the argument which the Attorney General has made. I am of course, well aware of the qualification of financial dependency, but I still believe that this has widened the scope beyond "wife or husband"

or "wives or husbands". For example, it seems to me to be quite possible that a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis could include other people besides a wife or husband. I do not know that the word "domestic" is necessarily one which must be restricted to conjugal arrangements; in fact, I am sure it is not. Reliance would therefore have to be placed on the qualification in the preamble, "although not married to the deceased". If one examines that phrase he will realise that a lot of people may not be married to the deceased—for example, housekeepers and others, where there is no conjugal relationship at all. I wonder whether thought has been given to the fact that this may well have included housekeepers and other people who may have been in a permanent domestic relationship with the deceased if the word "domestic" is given its normal meaning.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON: Frankly, I have not previously put my mind to this question, and since it has been raised I am happy to pursue it by way of seeking further advice.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by the Hon. J. M. Berinson (Attorney General).

JUSTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 March.

HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.52 p.m.]: The Opposition has no objection to this Bill; indeed, we support it. The object of the Bill is to clear up doubt as to whether the police have been doing the right thing by permitting a person to have his driver's licence returned, after the granting of the order *nisi* to review.

In the interim period before the order *nisi* is heard, police practice has been to cancel the licence. The Bill will regularise this practice which is fair and proper, and is supported by the Opposition.

HON. TOM KNIGHT (South) [5.53 p.m.]: I thank the Attorney General and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for bringing this Bill before the House. Some time ago it was brought to my attention by a firm of solicitors in Albany that it was common practice for a person convicted of a driving offence to be granted the right of appeal. If the appeal took three to four months to be heard the driver, in most cases, had already served the period of disqualification. The police were aware of what was happening and

were happy to allow the driver to continue driving. However, had the driver been involved in a drunk driving charge or a driving offence which was subsequently taken to a court of law, he would be charged with driving without a licence. It could have been the fault of the police to allow him to continue driving and the person who could have been charged with a second offence would have found that the penalties were horrendous. This situation is most unfair to the public and it is also an unfair burden to place upon members of the Police Force.

I drew this matter to the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and he in turn placed it before the Attorney General. I can only say that the attention the matter received from both gentlemen was "A1". I thank them for keeping me up to date with what occurred until this legislation was introduced into the House.

I, like my leader, support the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. J. M. Berinson (Attorney General), and transmitted to the Assembly.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 March.

HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.57 p.m.]: In general the Opposition supports this legislation, but I wish to draw attention to a number of matters and particularly to indicate that one item requires further explanation from the Attorney General and may not be subject to Opposition support, depending upon the answers which we receive.

As the Attorney indicated in his second reading speech, the modified procedures in the Bill will simplify the administration of small estates. This is desirable and has Opposition support.

It is also necessary from time to time to review monetary limits. For example, the amount payable to the widow on behalf of the children under section 18 is to be changed from \$200 to \$1 000.

It should be noted that the Public Trustee is relieved from liability to see to the application of the funds by the widow, but one can assume that in such cases the liability will be minimal and there is little point in the Public Trustee exercising further supervision. This is set out in clause 3 of the Bill.

In clause 5, the Public Trustee is authorised to pay funeral expenses and debts and to pay the balance to claimants or beneficiaries without production of letters of administration or probate of the will. This was the provision of section 29, but clause 5 changes the monetary provision so that the Public Trustee may use this section where the estate does not exceed \$6 000, whereas previously the figure was \$1 200.

The Public Trustee is also given additional powers under section 49 by the simple expedient of increasing the value of property which he may sell when otherwise unauthorised, from \$2 000 to \$50 000; an increase of 25 times. He may exchange or join in a partition of property up to \$25 000, whereas previously the figure was \$500—an increase of 50 times—and borrow to an amount exceeding \$20 000, whereas previously the figure was \$2 000, an increase of 10 times. Exactly why these particular figures have been taken is not explained.

One can well assume that inflation is the major cause, but why the figures should all be different may possibly depend upon other factors which are not set out in the second reading speech.

In addition, some of the time limits in the Bill have been increased, and we do not quarrel with those provisions. For example, the Public Trustee will now have 28 days—in lieu of 14 previously—to act after a medical examination by two doctors in the case of infirm persons. That provision is contained in clause 6.

There will also be increased time for setting aside a transaction made by incapable patients under clause 4. The time is increased from one month to two months.

Other provisions which seem generally unexceptionable are that a detrimental purchase may also be set aside and there are complementary provisions in various sections to achieve this object. Provision is made also for a reduction of fees in particular cases and this can apply to fees which have already accrued but have not yet been paid. I believe this answers a need in certain indigent or relatively indigent estates, and I am aware of problems which arose from time to time during my own administration of the Public Trustee Act in which other devices, such as the granting of ex

gratia amounts, had to be resorted to in order to achieve this purpose.

There may be some conflict between the inclusion of section 38(2a) appearing in clause 7 and the inclusion of section 40(3a), appearing in clause 8. Under the latter clause, the Public Trustee is entitled to deduct by way of fees, six per cent of the total interest or income earned by the common fund. But under the previously referred to clause, no fee shall be payable to the Public Trustee in respect of income earned by an estate by way of interest payable to the estate in respect of moneys held in the common fund.

There is no interrelationship between these clauses so as to make one dependent on the other. Parliamentary Counsel has relied upon a general interpretation of the sections. Whether this is adequate only time will decide.

The Attorney General may wish to comment and is no doubt satisfied with the present Bill. I do not propose to take any issue on this matter, merely to point out that there could be arguments in the future as to the entitlement of the Public Trustee in such circumstances.

However, there is one matter to which I draw specific attention and in relation to which I do request that the Minister should provide some substantial reason for his proposal. This is contained in clause 9(a) where additional power to purchase land for any trust or estate—not only for incapable patients or infirm persons—is given to the Public Trustee.

The relevant new paragraph empowers the Public Trustee to purchase land in fee simple in the course of the administration of any trust or estate. It is true that the Public Trustee must first obtain

the approval of the Minister, but one may well inquire why the Public Trustee is to be given powers which do not apply to private trustees.

The Public Trustee has already had conferred upon him the powers and authorities under the Trustees Act, and one would have thought that those powers which apply to private trustees and trustee companies should likewise be adequate for the Public Trustee.

The purchase of land by a trustee has always been regarded as being in a special category, because such an activity is not connected with or usually necessary in the administration or winding up of an estate, as is the case with the sale, exchange, or partition of land. This is a new venture of buying land, and traditionally trustees have been required to justify such purchases. Indeed if a trustee wishes to purchase land he must have that power specifically conferred upon him either by the trust instrument or the will, and no general power to purchase has been available to trustees under the Trustees Act. Such a power can only be exercised in special cases for the benefit of certain persons entitled to the trust funds or by order of the court.

I should be grateful to receive the Attorney's explanation as to why the Public Trustee requires this exceptional power in all cases.

I indicate that the Opposition reserves its position in relation to this particular provision and may not agree to it unless a thoroughly satisfactory explanation is forthcoming. In other respects we support the legislation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Fred McKenzie.

House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

Securities Register

813. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is it intended to have a computerised vehicle securities register in this State?
- (2) Will such a register provide for easy access by way of search by telephone as well as in person in relation to vehicles that are subject to mortgage, hire-purchase, charge, lease or other security interest?
- (3) When is it anticipated that a chattel securities Act or other appropriate legislation will be introduced for that purpose?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The Government is examining a proposal for such a register. The details and timing have yet to be decided.

TOURISM: HOTELS

South-west: Commitment

814. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister with special responsibility for "Bunbury 2000":

In regard to the proposed establishment of new high class hotels of international standard in the south-west of Western Australia as publicly indicated by the Director of the South West Development Authority, Dr E. C. Manea—

- (1) What is the nature of commitment to build these facilities in—
 - (a) Bunbury;
 - (b) Busselton;
 - (c) Dunsborough;
 - (d) Manjimup; and
 - (e) any other locality in the south-west?
- (2) What are the expected commencing and completion dates for each project?
- (3) What Government involvement is associated with each venture?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) (a) Developers of an office complex for Government have undertaken to build an atrium style high class

hotel for their own resources as a condition of their agreement;

- (b) to (e) no commitments have yet been made.
- (2) The Bunbury project has now commenced. Completion is due in October 1985.
- (3) None, other than stated for (1)(a).

RECREATION

Western Australian Sports Federation: Referendum

815. Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Would the Minister advise whether he is now in a position to provide the information requested in question 440 of 21 September 1983, and requested again in question 757 of Thursday, 1 December 1983, when the Minister replied that I "could expect a written response within a week"?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Yes. A written response has now been forwarded in answer to the member's questions 440 and 757.

816. *This question was postponed.*

STATE FINANCE: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DUTY

Savings Accounts: Lost Deposit Books

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

- (1) Is FID charged on the full credit balance in a savings bank or building society account should the depositor lose the deposit book and a replacement has to be issued?
- (2) If so, was this the intention of the Government when the legislation was introduced?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, as in other States the legislation makes the savings bank or the building society liable for FID in these cases. I should mention, however, that this is one of the areas which the Government will be examining in its six-monthly review of the operation of the legislation.

LAND: ABORIGINES

Rights: Inquiry

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

Further to my question 553 of Wednesday, 19 October 1983, concerning the Seaman inquiry, will the Minister provide—

- (a) the details of any additional financial assistance provided to those organisations listed in his reply; and
- (b) the names of any additional organisations which have been assisted, and the amount of financial assistance provided to each?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (a) The following organisations listed in my reply to question 553 have received the following additional funds:

	\$
Balanggarri Aboriginal Association, Kununurra	5 000
Kimberley Land Council	10 000
South West Monetary Compensation Commission	4 602
Ngaanatjarra Council Inc.	10 000
Warmun Community	10 000
Walunguru Council	8 020

- (b) The following additional organisations have received the following amounts:

	\$
Aboriginal Lands Trust	5 150
Wankatjunga Community	1 100
Conservation Council of WA	2 150
Wyndham Amenities Club	1 000
NAC Area WAB	21 385
NAC Area WAF	10 000
Marra Worra Worra	6 500
Bombers Softball Club	1 800
Bombers Softball Club	1 800
F. G. Collard	500
Mr J. Harold Panaka	8 000
Southern Aboriginal Corporation	1 500
Bombers Softball Club	1 800
Murray Districts Aboriginal Association	4 000
N. A. Phillips	3 000
Central Midlands Aboriginal Progress Association	2 591
Southern Area Aboriginal Corporation	4 000
Aboriginal Boomerang Council	2 300
R. F. A. Isaacs	2 500
Bombers Softball Club	1 800
Bibulmun Community	4 870
Mr Jack Nelson	3 500

819. *This question was postponed.*

ROAD

Scenic Crescent

820. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) How much property does the Main Roads Department own in Scenic Crescent in South Perth?

(2) For what purpose is the land being held?

(3) What is its current market value?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) Lots 4 and 5 and Lot 37 totalling 1.086 8 hectares.

(2) The land is surplus to requirements and action to dispose of it has commenced.

(3) A detailed valuation of the land is not presently available, but it is believed the current market value could be in the order of \$900 000.

LAND: ABORIGINES

Rights: Inquiry

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

(1) What was the closing date for written submissions to the Seaman inquiry?

(2) When was the Kimberley Land Council's written submission received?

(3) How much State Government financial assistance was made available to the Kimberley Land Council to have the submission prepared?

(4) Will the Minister provide details of how this financial assistance was used?

(5) Did Mr Seaman refuse to accept any written submissions because they were submitted too late?

(6) If so, which submissions were refused?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) The closing date for outline submissions or written notices of intention was 2 September 1983, as stated in the discussion paper section 1.10.

(2) On 16 May 1983 the Kimberley Land Council gave notice of intention to make a submission. The council's formal submission was eventually received on 17 February 1984, after a series of letters from the commissioner had expressed concern at the delay.

Copies of the abovementioned letters are available.

- (3) \$60 000.
- (4) This financial assistance has been given to enable the submission to be made to the Seaman inquiry. I will provide a breakdown of expenditure when it is available.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Mr Richard Fisher at Beverley;
Mr Otto Mueller of Wembley Downs;
Mr P. F. Mohr of Carey Park;
Mr M. H. Dale of Albany;
Mrs B. Locke of Country Downs Station;
Mr L. J. Turner, President RSL (WA);
Australian Fishing Industry Council.

None of these individuals or organisations had given notice of intention to make a submission.

All who were not obviously members of an organisation which had made a submission to the inquiry have been invited in writing to comment on the discussion paper.

One other individual wished to make a submission upon the basis that no-one but the commissioner would see it. His submission was not accepted.

MEAT: LAMB

Marketing Board: Producer Returns

822. Hon. W. G. ATKINSON, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

With respect to the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board, could the Minister give details of the likely increase or decrease in returns to producers if—

- (a) the board were allowed to move all or part of its kill from Robb Jetty to Linley Valley;
- (b) the board, as directed by the Minister, continues to use Robb Jetty for a significant part of its kill; and
- (c) the board accepts the \$10 000 offer of compensation for continuing to use Robb Jetty?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (a) The cost savings were originally estimated by the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board to be \$1.30 per lamb if all lambs delivered direct to the board

were slaughtered at Linley Valley. However, as a result of discussions between the Government, the WALMB and the Western Australian Meat Commission, the slaughtering fee for lambs at Robb Jetty was subsequently reduced to a level similar to that at Linley Valley.

- (b) On the assumption that 50 per cent of lambs delivered to the WALMB are slaughtered at Robb Jetty and 50 per cent at Linley Valley and on the basis of the reduced slaughtering fee at Robb Jetty, the WALMB estimated that it would incur additional identifiable costs of \$24 000 between 19 March and 30 June 1984. These additional costs are due mainly to the drafting of lambs by the board's field staff in order to ensure that the right types of lambs are directed to the appropriate abattoir.
- (c) \$14 000 estimated decrease.

APPRENTICES

Number

823. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training:

What was the number of apprentices in training in Western Australia as at—

- (a) 31 December 1979;
- (b) 31 December 1980;
- (c) 31 December 1981;
- (d) 31 December 1982; and
- (e) 31 December 1983?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

	Registered	Probationary*	Total
(a) 31.12.79	13 356	357	13 713
(b) 31.12.80	13 129	488	13 617
(c) 31.12.81	13 388	540	13 928
(d) 31.12.82	13 095	280	13 375
(e) 31.12.83	11 355	398	11 753

*Probationary apprentices are those people who have recently been employed with a view to entering into an indenture.

MINERAL SANDS

Industry: Inquiry

824. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Government appointed committee of review, headed by Dr Murray Winn, into radiation protection in the

mineral sands industry completed its work?

- (2) If so, when will the findings be made known?
- (3) If not, when may the report be completed and findings made public?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The report is expected to be presented to the Minister for Health around the end of April and it is anticipated that the findings will be released as soon as the report has been assessed.

HEALTH: DENTAL

Subsidy Scheme: Funding

825. Hon. W. N. STRETCH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) In view of increasing financial hardship in many rural areas, will the Minister give urgent consideration to the allocation of further funds to the country dental patients' subsidy scheme?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that there is a long delay, up to four months in some cases, of approval for dental treatment under the country dental patients' subsidy scheme?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) I am aware that there are waiting lists both under the country dental patients' subsidy scheme in some rural areas, and in the metropolitan area at the clinics of the Perth Dental Hospital and its annexe clinics, owing to the creasing demand on the service.

The issue is under consideration at the moment.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Lake Argyle: Aboriginal Community

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

Further to my question 582 of Thursday, 20 October 1983, will the Minister advise—

- (1) Has a final decision been made on the composition of the social impact and assessment group, and if so,

who has been appointed to the group?

- (2) Which Aboriginal communities will benefit from the \$5 million expenditure over the next five years?
- (3) Has a decision has been made on how the initial expenditure of \$1 million will be spent, and if so, how will it be spent?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) A final decision has not yet been made.
- (2) That is still the subject of discussion.
- (3) Up to \$250 000 will be allocated as a loan to the Warmun Aboriginal Community for the purchase of Bow River Station. It has not yet been decided how the remainder of the funds will be allocated but that matter is the subject of consideration by the Government, in consultation with local Aboriginal communities.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Libraries: Funding

827. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Is it correct that State funding to public libraries has reached its lowest level for 14 years?
- (2) Has there been a drop in the number of library books available as a result of State funding?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The State Government gives no direct funding to public libraries. Its Budget allocation to the Library Board of Western Australia in 1983-84 was 11.3 per cent greater than the previous Government's vote in 1982-83.

The State Library indirectly funds public libraries by supplying them with their books free of charge.

In the 1983-84 Budget, the allocation for acquisition of books increased by 17 per cent to \$3 416 million, the first time it has ever been more than \$3 million.

The administration of these funds is in the hands of the Library Board, an independent statutory authority. I am informed that it started the current financial year with a relatively high level

of new book acquisitions and supplies to public libraries; it followed this with a dramatic cut-back; and it has now increased its rate of supply again.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Country Towns Assistance Scheme: Laverton

828. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to include Laverton in the country towns assistance scheme?
- (2) If so, when will the take-over occur?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes. The State Energy Commission has approved the take-over in principle and provided the agreement referred to in (2) can be achieved.
- (2) As soon as a satisfactory arrangement for the purchase of power from Western Mining Corporation Ltd. has been finalised.
- (3) Not applicable.

TOWN PLANNING

Manning: Tip

829. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What is the progress through the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority of that portion of land comprising the old Manning rubbish tip to be vested in the South Perth City Council?
- (2) Will the Minister undertake to expedite the vesting because of the pressing needs of the South Perth Rugby Club which is to be relocated on part of the site?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The MRPA has requested that the council submit a concept and management plan before considering this further. No plan has been submitted to date.
- (2) Vesting will depend upon (1).

PASTORAL INDUSTRY

Leases: Kimberley

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

Further to my question 561 of Wednesday, 19 October 1983—

- (1) Will the Minister advise if any decisions have now been reached on any further excisions referred to in his reply to part (2) of my question?
- (2) If so, will he provide details of the pastoral stations concerned, and the area, in hectares, involved in each excision?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Lake Gregory 260 hectares; Billiluna 260 hectares
(Areas in each case subject to survey)

EDUCATION: COLLEGE

Bunbury

831. Hon. W. N. STRETCH, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to move some of the operations of WAIT from Perth to Bunbury to form the basis of a tertiary college there?
- (2) If "Yes", what faculties and courses are expected to be relocated from WAIT?
- (3) Has a timetable been established for any such move?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

HOUSING

Flats: Granny

832. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Local Government:

What local by-laws exist in Western Australia which would prevent the easy installation of detached "granny flats" on suburban blocks which already carry normal dwellings?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

By-law 53.5 (3) of the uniform building by-laws made under the Local Govern-

ment Act deals with the question of the provision of self-contained additional accommodation to a single dwelling.

CREDIT UNIONS

Trustee Status

833. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Government made any decision on the granting of trustee status to credit unions?
- (2) If so, what is the decision?
- (3) If not, when will a decision be made?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) The Government has been waiting on a report on the Trustees Act which is being prepared by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia before taking the matter of trustee status for credit unions further.

STATE FORESTS: PINE

Treloar Report

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

- (1) Will the Minister table the working papers showing budgets, etc. for the Treloar report on leasing land for pine planting?
- (2) (a) How many properties has the department purchased in the Manjimup Shire in the last 12 months, and how many are presently under negotiation;
- (b) what is the hectareage in both cases?
- (3) (a) Has the Manea committee on pine planting yet reported;
- (b) if so, will the Minister table the report?
- (4) Are working plans for regenerating degraded hardwood forests yet available at the State Information Office in the Superannuation Building as stated in his letter to me?
- (5) (a) Has the Minister seen the Manjimup Shire Council's pamphlet "Save the Shannon Sensibly";
- (b) if so, is he or are his officers going to discuss the issues raised in the pamphlet with the shire council?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) The working papers supporting the report on a feasibility study concerning the lease of Manjimup farmland for pine forests by the Centre for Applied Business Research contain budgets provided in confidence by private parties. I am therefore unable to table them. However, I assure the member that anticipated average returns for *Pinus radiata* plantations are at least equivalent to those from grazing in the area.
- (2) (a) Two have been purchased and three are under negotiation;
- (b) 176 hectares and 368 hectares respectively.
- (3) (a) and (b) Communication with the committee has been maintained by discussion and correspondence, but in view of the amount and calibre of the technical information now becoming available for consideration it will be some time before definite recommendations are available.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) (a) and (b) Yes.

ABORIGINES

Aboriginal Lands Trust: Leonora

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

- (1) Has the Community Welfare reserve at Leonora been transferred to the Aboriginal Lands Trust?
- (2) If so, why was the transfer made, and at whose instigation?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) It is presumed that the question refers to Reserve No. 24481 at Leonora. The purpose of this reserve was changed from "community welfare purposes" to "use and benefit of Aboriginal inhabitants" and vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust *vide* Order-in-Council issued on 24 January 1984 and *Gazette* notice dated 3 February 1984.
- (2) The transfer was made at the request of the Department for Community Welfare and with the agreement of the Leonora Aboriginal Movement Body and the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The reserve is used as a living area by transient Aboriginal people and in view of planned mining

operations affecting the reserve, it was considered that it would be more appropriate, and in the interest of the Aboriginal people, for negotiations as to mining encroachments to be conducted within the terms of the provisions of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act rather than the Community Welfare Act.

HEALTH

Podiatry: Pensioners

836. Hon. W. N. STRETCH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that some country pensioners receive free podiatry treatment from a regular mobile clinic, whereas pensioners of other towns such as Wagin and Katanning, pay for treatment, albeit at a subsidised rate?
- (2) As both groups are, or have been taxpayers, will the Government take steps to ensure that this excellent service is provided for country towns on an equal basis?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes, there are several schemes providing funding for chiropody services.
- (2) Yes, the Government is anxious to extend the services, but this is dependent upon the availability of resources.

WATER RESOURCES

Laverton

837. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it a fact that water from the old Gladiator mine is being added to the Laverton town water supply?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide an analysis of the arsenic and nitrate content of the water from the Gladiator mine?
- (3) Why have water restrictions been imposed on Laverton residents?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Water is not being supplied from the old Gladiator mine but currently approximately 10 per cent of the Laverton town water supply is being drawn from the Gladiator well which is

located approximately 1.5 kilometres from the Gladiator mine.

- (2) The arsenic content of the Gladiator well is less than 0.01 mg per litre. This compares favourably with the National Health and Medical Research Council limit of 0.05 mg per litre.

The nitrate content of the well water has varied between 39 and 73 mg per litre during the period December 1982 to September 1983. In this period four samples were tested.

As is typical of almost all Murchison and eastern goldfields underground supplies, the nitrate content of water supplied to consumers in Laverton is sometimes above the National Health and Medical Research Council limit of 45 mg per litre. However, the Public Works Department has a long-standing arrangement with the Public Health Department for the infant health sisters to advise nursing mothers to ensure that infants under 12 months of age do not drink this scheme water. The nitrates present are not harmful to the health of older children or adults.

- (3) The restrictions have been imposed to reduce the rate of extraction of water from the Beasley Creek borefield until such time as a supplementary underground source of water can be proved and commissioned.

The Beasley Creek borefield is the principal source of water for the Laverton town water supply. It was commissioned under the terms of the Poseidon nickel agreement seven years ago, and funds for the construction of the scheme were provided by both the Windarra Development Mining Company and the State.

At the time of the development of the Beasley Creek borefield it was known and agreed that should this source prove inadequate, the company would prove and financially assist to develop another source which could be as far as 30 kilometres from the town.

Since commissioning of the Beasley Creek borefield the level in the aquifer has been dropping at a rate of more than one metre per year and the salinity content has increased from approximately 1 200 to 1 600 mg per litre.

The extraction of water from this source is therefore exceeding the safe yield and

arrangements have been made with Western Mining Corporation for exploratory drilling to be undertaken to locate a supplementary source which will hopefully be closer to the town than was earlier believed possible.

In the meantime it is imperative that the rate of water extraction from the Beasley Creek borefield be minimised to avoid its total failure.

It should also be noted that the supply problems are partly due to the high average annual domestic consumption in Laverton of 737 kilolitres per service 1982-83. Comparable figures from Leonora and Kalgoorlie are 452 and 442 kilolitres respectively.

EDUCATION

University of Western Australia: Medical School

838. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

Is it intended to appoint a Fellow in Occupational Medicine to the Medical School at the University of Western Australia?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Not at present. For financial reasons it is not possible to appoint a Fellow in Occupational Medicine to the Medical School of the University of Western Australia. The division of social and preventative medicine within the University Department of Medicine, as part of its teaching and research programme for undergraduates, covers some aspects of occupational medicine.

The Department of Community Practice also stresses the importance of the occupation of the patient in diagnoses of disease and disorder.

The Australian College of Occupational Medicine has arranged with the University's Faculty of Medicine for the annual award of a special prize in occupational medicine. The prize is to be awarded to the undergraduate student in fifth year medicine for a student research project in aspects of occupational medicine.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Bunbury

839. Hon. W. N. STRETCH, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister with special responsibility for "Bunbury 2000":

- (1) Is it yet decided which Government departments will be decentralised from Perth to the new Bunbury Government Office complex?
- (2) If so, will the Government publicise the list?
- (3) How many employees is it envisaged will be involved in such a change?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) 400 approximately in stage 1.

WATER RESOURCES

Dam: Menzies

840. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Why did the Minister close down the No. 2 water supply dam at Menzies?
- (2) Why did the Minister take this action rather than direct the operator of the tailings dam located in the catchment area of No. 2 dam to relocate his activities outside the catchment area?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) The No. 2 dam at Menzies was closed down as an absolute safeguard against any contaminated water entering the town water supply while the treatment of mining tailings is being carried out on the catchment area of that dam.
- (2) The treatment plant operator was given a licence to treat tailings on the catchment by the previous Government without consultation with the then Minister for Water Resources or the Public Works Department.

Although that licence expired in August 1983, the licensee had an expectation that it would be renewed.

In these circumstances the Minister for Water Resources agreed to the renewal of the licence to treat tailings in the knowledge that the town can be adequately supplied with water from the

No. 1 dam for the expected duration of the treatment operation.

As an additional safeguard, stringent controls and conditions have been imposed to prevent any likelihood of contamination of the water supply.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Staff: Number and Salaries

841. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Westrail employees—

- (1) What was the number of wages staff in—
 - (a) 1963;
 - (b) 1972; and
 - (c) 1983?
- (2) What is the estimate for—
 - (a) 1985; and
 - (b) 1987?
- (3) What was the total amount of salaries paid in each year in question (1) to wages staff?
- (4) What were the numbers of other executives and staff employed in—
 - (a) 1963;
 - (b) 1972; and
 - (c) 1983?
- (5) What salaries were paid to them in each of the three years mentioned?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) (a) As at 30/6/1963 10 080;
 (b) as at 30/6/1972 8 221;
 (c) as at 30/6/1983 6 464.
- (2) Planning has not been determined and neither Westrail nor the Government is committed to any given planning option at this stage. However, Westrail's preliminary planning indicates that, depending on the rate of natural attrition, the number of wages positions could be 5 900 in 1985 and 5 300 in 1987.
- (3) Year ending 30/6/1963 \$20 259 498;
 year ending 30/6/1972 \$30 931 711;
 year ending 30/6/1983 \$109 873 182.
- (4) (a) As at 30/6/1963 \$2 015;
 (b) as at 30/6/1972 \$2 215;
 (c) as at 30/6/1983 \$1 927.
- (5) Year ending 30/6/1963 \$5 390 534;

year ending 30/6/1972 \$11 840 152;

year ending 30/6/1983 \$41 161 860.

LAND: ABORIGINES

Rights: Television Advertisement

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

- (1) Did the Minister give approval for the land rights advertisement that has been shown on commercial television?
- (2) If not, who authorised the advertisement?
- (3) What has been the detailed cost, so far, of this advertisement?
- (4) How does the Minister reconcile the production and showing of the advertisement whilst the Seaman inquiry is still hearing evidence?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) The total cost of the advertisement to date is \$74 517.21. Of this amount, \$31 441.87 was paid to McCann Erickson Pty. Ltd. for production costs and \$43 075.34 was paid to McCann Erickson for media costs.
- (4) The advertisement was produced and shown for the purpose of encouraging Western Australians to think about and develop an understanding of the issues being examined by the Aboriginal land inquiry.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: SERVICE

Appointment: Mr Barry Gilbert

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

Can he confirm that Mr Barry Gilbert, a former Electrical Trades Union leader, has been appointed or is to be appointed to the Western Australian Government Industrial Relations Service?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The Director of the Industrial Relations Service told me he had received a number of applications for a job that was to be funded by the Commonwealth, and he considered Barry Gilbert was the

best applicant. The job was for 12 months and with it went a typist and a word processor at Government expense. I told the director I saw no reason that his recommendation should not be accepted—in other words that Gilbert should not be disqualified simply because he had been a trade union leader.

If we were to start that kind of thing I may have to disqualify people who had been members of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Inc.).

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: SERVICE

Appointment: Salary

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

Can the Minister confirm that the job carries a salary of \$29 000, and did he say it was funded by the Commonwealth?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

I can only go on the director's advice that Mr Gilbert initially has been appointed for 12 months, and the money being used is supplied by the Commonwealth. I do not know the salary. I did not get down and grovel in that area. If the director sees fit to appoint somebody, that is his business. In normal circumstances these appointments certainly would not come to me. As this is rather a sensitive area, I am not in the business of disqualifying people because they happen to be this or that. If the director thinks a person is good enough to do the job and is the person he wants, I will go along with his recommendation.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: SERVICE

Appointment: Source of Funds

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

The Minister is a bit touchy. I am trying to get some answers. Will the Minister confirm that the Commonwealth funds being made available are from the unemployment relief fund?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

I have never heard of a fund called the unemployment relief fund. Whoever has been blowing in Mr Masters' ear is up

the creek, which is not unusual. I do not know how much Mr Gilbert is being paid and I certainly do not know where the money is coming from. I have the utmost confidence in the director, and it is up to him to make the appointment. If Mr Masters puts a question on notice about where the money is coming from I will find out. At the same time I may arrange a couple of Dorothy Dix-ers about some of his appointments.

Hon. G. E. Masters: A bit sensitive, aren't you?

Hon. D. K. Dans: No. I think Mr Masters is getting down in the gutter.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

STRATA TITLES

Legislation

216. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

Has any further progress been made in the preparation of legislation relating to the Law Reform Commission report on strata titles? What has been done since the Attorney last reported to the House on this question?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

A substantial amount of work has been done on this report. I have reached the stage of specifying the elements of a draft submission to Cabinet, but there are many questions involved and even the drafting of that submission will take some small time. I am hopeful that I will be in a position to put a submission to Cabinet within about a month and that, given Cabinet approval, legislation can be introduced in the Budget session.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Economy: Improvement

217. Hon. C. J. BELL, to the Minister for Employment and Training:

Does he agree with the Federal Treasurer's comment that there has been a stunning turn around in the economy?

The PRESIDENT: Order! The hon. member knows he cannot seek an opinion.

Hon. C. J. BELL: When does the Minister expect that the described "stunning turn around" of the economy will have a ben-

official effect on the 10.8 per cent of Western Australians who are unemployed?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

I said previously in the House, in answer to a series of questions by the Hon. Norman Moore, that we expect a lag of about four to five months in the effect of any reversal of the recession in the Western Australian economy, compared with that of the Eastern States. As a period of growth has occurred in the economy in recent months, measured by a number of indicators, I would expect to see some movement in those indicators in Western Australia over the next few months. The total number of jobs available in Western Australia in the last 12 months during which our Government has been in office has grown by more than 20 000. No-one is happy about the level of unemployment, but there are some signs to indicate that the economy is improving and we would expect not only the gross number of jobs available in Western Australia to improve, but also that there will be some beneficial movement in the unemployment figures.

GAMBLING

Casino: Burswood Island

218. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Planning:

Does the Minister have any knowledge of any proposals for a casino on Burswood Island in my electorate, and if so would he give details?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Since I became Minister for Planning I have become aware of proposals in every town in Western Australia with more than a small wooden shire hall to establish a casino. One would have to go around blindfolded, as some members do, not to know—

Hon. P. G. Pendal: Answer the question. Some of your colleagues are embarrassed about it.

Hon. PETER DOWDING:—there have been proposals for casinos in a number of areas.

Hon. P. G. Pendal: I am not interested in other areas.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: Throughout the metropolitan area and the country areas of Western Australia there have been proposals. Until a decision is made about any one of these proposals it would be inappropriate for me as Minister for Planning to make any comments, since it is not a matter which falls within my ministerial responsibility.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

[Interruption from gallery.]

Hon. P. G. Pendal: I am paid by my constituency.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The President will take some appropriate action if the honourable member does not cease to interject while I am speaking.

ROYAL SHOW

Showgrounds: Relocation

219. Hon. W. G. ATKINSON, to the Minister for Planning:

My question relates to the Royal Agricultural Society. Is it still seriously being considered that the showgrounds for Perth be situated at Burswood Island?

Several members interjected.

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The Royal Agricultural Society was kind enough to have some discussions with me about a number of proposals which had been received both as to their occupancy of the Claremont Showgrounds and the problems occasioned there. Also, specific proposals were then being examined for uses of Burswood Island. At this stage I found the society's approach and its preparedness to enter into discussions most helpful, and I understood its position was that it had no desire to move from its present location. Those discussions have given food for thought, both as to the proposal and the possible alternatives, and I hope that discussions will continue if there is any suggestion that that type of development ought to be proceeded with.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is far too much audible conversation, which is not only unparliamentary but is also out of order.

PRISONS*Prisoners: Juveniles*

220. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware of the concern which has been expressed in the community concerning juveniles kept in maximum security institutions and prisons?
- (2) Would he say that the State can adequately handle the detention of minors

other than putting them in prisons and other maximum security places?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The imprisonment or detention of juveniles is a matter of continuing concern and always has close attention. Cases would be rare where juveniles are detained other than in institutions specifically designed for them, and to the maximum extent possible that situation will continue.
