

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 14 November 1984

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Unleaded Petrol Bill.
2. Transport Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Grill (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.
3. Loan Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Bryce (Deputy Premier), and read a first time.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

MR CARR (Geraldton—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [2.23 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

In moving the third reading I will take the opportunity to make a few introductory comments because a number of events have occurred in the past week that perhaps changed the position a little and it is appropriate that members be acquainted with these developments.

Members will be aware that this House dealt with the Committee stage of this Bill last Wednesday. Following the completion of the Committee stage a telex was forwarded to me and was distributed through the media by the Police Union. This changed the position quite dramatically because the telex appeared to say that the Western Australian Police Union was prepared to agree to amendments being made to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act to provide the power to the Ombudsman to investigate complaints against police officers. I quote the relevant paragraph of that telex as follows—

This then allows the Ombudsman to investigate complaints made to him regarding the actions of the Police Department and the actions of individual members, in the same manner and with the same authority as he exercises over other public departments.

The important part of that paragraph is that the union indicated that particular amendments could be moved in order to allow the Ombudsman to

investigate complaints made to him regarding the action of individual members of the Police Force. The very clear import of that telex was that the union was prepared to agree to appropriate amendments.

Members will recall that the Premier responded to a question without notice on the same day as the receipt of the telex. He responded favourably to the concept that the Parliamentary Commissioner Act be amended to enable the Ombudsman to investigate complaints against individual police officers.

Mr Old: And that the Opposition will have egg on its face.

Mr CARR: He may have said that, but I do not recall it.

Mr Old: He did say it.

Mr CARR: I have held discussions with the police officers and Police Union representatives and during the course of those discussions it was made clear that the particular words proposed by the union would not achieve the intent or import of that telex as interpreted by everybody who read it; that is, that the insertion of a couple of words would not give the power to the Ombudsman to conduct investigations in regard to complaints against individual members. The Government advised the union that if the Act were to be amended in the way it suggested there would be a need to move further amendments.

Mr Clarko: Will you explain that to the House?

Mr CARR: I will come back to it.

During the course of my discussions with the union it indicated to me that it was not prepared to agree to the amendments to give the Ombudsman power to inquire into complaints against individual police officers, but it insisted upon an amendment to add "Police Force" to the schedule of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act. The nub of the problem is that the two words—"Police Force"—would not achieve anything.

While those words may have been proposed to be inserted into the Act by the Tonkin Government we have received legal opinion to the view that inserting those words into the schedule of the Act would not give the Ombudsman the power to inquire into complaints regarding the actions of individual members. The reason is that the Parliamentary Commissioner Act relates only to administrative actions. A more substantial amendment would be required to give the Ombudsman the power to conduct investigations into complaints against individual members.

We received differing legal opinions and I sought advice from the Crown Solicitor who has provided me with a copy of an opinion which I am prepared to table for the information of members. It states that the amendment proposed to add the words "Police Force" to the schedule does not give the power to the Ombudsman to conduct investigations into complaints against individual police officers.

Mr Rushton: That is not in conflict with the Police Union's statement that it would agree to the overview by the Ombudsman, is it?

Mr CARR: The member for Dale appears not to understand. What I am saying is that those two words do not give the necessary power to the Ombudsman.

The Government has said that it is prepared to stand by the concept referred to last week to give the Parliamentary Commissioner power to investigate complaints against individual police officers. The Government is prepared to ask the Parliamentary Counsel to draft amendments which will enable the proposed concept to be put in place. The Parliamentary Counsel will come up with the words which will do that.

The Northern Territory Government has amended its Parliamentary Commissioner Act to give the Parliamentary Commissioner power to investigate complaints of actions, or failure to act, in relation to individual police officers.

Mr Clarko: Are you saying that those two words will not achieve anything? Is there a package of words that would achieve it?

Mr CARR: The member for Karrinyup has reached the point. The Government is saying that if words can be found by the Parliamentary Counsel to enable the Parliamentary Commissioner to investigate complaints, it is happy to amend the Act accordingly.

The Government is not committed to its Bill if the union is prepared to agree to amendments to give the Parliamentary Commissioner the power that was referred to in the telex I received last week. The Government would agree to the position.

The reality is that since last Wednesday there has been a complete about-face by the union and it is not prepared to allow the Parliamentary Counsel to draft the amendments to give that power to the Ombudsman.

Mr Rushton: You want more—

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: That is of no consequence.

Mr Rushton: It is very serious.

Mr CARR: Police officers are not the same as people in other departments. It is very important to make this point clearly for all concerned. The Parliamentary Commissioner Act relates to administrative matters. Every other department is an administrative department. The person in charge of the department is the departmental head. He or she can instruct persons right down the line in that department. The Minister is the head of the department and he can also direct the departmental head and people all the way down.

Mr Old: While they are under investigation by the Ombudsman?

Mr CARR: If the Ombudsman conducts an inquiry and finds something administratively wrong, the Minister can direct the departmental head to rectify that error.

Mr Old: You had better check that.

Mr CARR: We are talking about operational questions as far as the police are concerned; the Minister does not have the power to direct individual police officers—

Mr Rushton: Nor should he.

Mr CARR: I agree, no-one is saying he should. When the member says police officers should be the same as people in other departments, it is not as simple as that because the Police Force has a totally different structure.

Mr Old: So they should have; they are a paramilitary force.

Mr CARR: I am not arguing about that. I am explaining that police officers are in a different situation.

Mr Old: The force should be kept that way.

Mr CARR: I agree, it should be kept that way. One cannot just turn round and say they are to be treated differently, but they are the same. One cannot have it both ways.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: That is a very interesting interjection from the member for Karrinyup. He says we can treat them the same, we can treat them worse, or we can treat them better. The whole concept of the Complaints against Police Bill is that in several circumstances it does assist the police officers. It gives them protection which they do not presently have. It gives them protection which they would not have if the Ombudsman had complete control.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: The question, of course, is why the Police Union has had this turnaround since it adopted its position last week when it was quite prepared to have an investigation by the

Ombudsman. The union has had a look at it and said, "If we really let the Ombudsman have this full authority he will have more power than he has under the Bill presently before the Parliament". As a result they say, "We do not want the Ombudsman to have all that power; we want something which will be of absolutely no consequence whatsoever".

Mr Clarko: You are trying to reduce the position.

Mr CARR: That is false. If the member read the Bill and looked at the present situation, he would be able to identify—even the member for Karrinyup would be able to identify—at least six or seven areas where police officers individually would be better off in terms of their own civil rights. More and more police officers are recognising that, and the union representatives are going further and further out on a limb, in terms of their distance from the provisions in the Bill.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: I will tell members something else about the way this union has responded to this measure. I made it clear to the union this morning we are still prepared to look at compromise proposals. If something new comes up we will look at it to see whether we can find common ground, but we do not intend to throw out the effective scrutiny of internal inquiries.

The member for Dale will probably parrot the union's line that the Ombudsman should now have power to conduct investigations. We want an overview as well, but if there is to be an effective overview, the Ombudsman has to be able to look at the inquiry all the way through while it is being conducted.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: It is pointless to say there must be an overview, but that the Ombudsman must not look at the file until it is finished, and must not order his own inquiry. That gives him no power whatsoever.

Mr Clarko: Of course he has a lot of power.

Mr CARR: In most cases the Ombudsman would not want to see the file—he would be happy to have the investigation conducted by internal investigators—but the effect of the overview is that the Ombudsman can do something about it if necessary.

Mr Clarko: If you are saying that the Ombudsman on occasions needs to have the power to go in right at the beginning, why don't you specify that in the legislation?

Mr CARR: The legislation spells out that point exactly. It is obvious the member for Karrinyup

has not read the Bill. I will tell the member how far the union went this morning. I said I was still prepared to make amendments. One particular amendment related to a compromise situation. I referred to the provision where the Commissioner of Police dealt with disciplinary matters. The commissioner has the final say on disciplinary matters after consultation. I said to the union that we were happy about an amendment to remove the need to consult the Ombudsman on disciplinary matters.

I said, "If we took out every clause in the Bill and left the staples stapling together blank pages you would not accept the Bill if it was called the Complaints against Police Bill", and they said they would not accept it.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: They will not accept anything whatsoever; they are being totally unreasonable.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARR: They said they would not accept the Complaints against Police Bill if it were amended to take out everything bar the staples.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARR: It is very clear we have an extraordinary reaction from the union and an extraordinary reaction from the Opposition, which, rather than study the Bill, is happy to go along and follow whatever the union says.

Mr Bryce: How long is it since you fellows followed the union line?

Mr CARR: All the discussion in the last two weeks has made it more and more clear to us that the Bill is the proper way in which to approach the problem. It is a mild and moderate Bill, a Bill which sets out clearly what the procedures will be.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: That is the sort of situation where the procedures—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CARR: I do not know what the Bill has to do with socialism.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: I would like to make it very clear that I personally stand by this Bill. I have been called a few things but I have not yet been called a trendy left-wing socialist.

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: It is my Bill, I stand by the Bill, and it is my judgment that this is a fair, reasonable, mild and moderate Bill.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Members, it is not my intention to try to stifle debate today. I can understand there is some need for a number of interjections to take place. At times they will not even be orderly, if any interjections in this place can be called orderly. It is not my intention to stop those interjections. It is my intention, though, to allow the member who has the call to be heard before those interjections. If interjections are to carry on at such a level as to preclude the member on his feet from being heard, I will stop them. I ask members, therefore, to make them slightly more orderly than they have been in the last few minutes.

Mr Clarko: You are not one of the long-haired socialists.

Mr Williams: I disagree.

Mr CARR: I regret that the debate has become a bit intemperate. I am sorry I was shouting, but I was having difficulty in being heard over the noise coming from the other side of the House. This is a serious matter and I would have preferred it to be debated in a quiet, orderly way.

It is very interesting that during the last week we have seen very little discussion by the Police Union about breaches of civil rights and civil liberties. A couple of weeks ago the union was very aggressive and excited in the way it spoke about breaches of civil rights and civil liberties, and it placed advertisements in the Press along those lines. It is interesting to note that since the Government has placed its own advertisements clearly and logically spelling out the falsehoods contained in the Police Union's advertisements, the union does not seem to be continuing its criticism of civil rights because it sees there is a far wider acceptance in the community that the Bill is reasonable and in no way infringes civil rights.

The Government regrets that it cannot proceed with the Bill with union agreement, but it has found it simply impossible to reach that agreement. I emphasise that the Government has bent over backwards in attempts to reach an agreement, but has simply been unable to do so. We are satisfied that we have done everything reasonable to reach an agreement and we find ourselves in a position where we believe the Bill in its present form should proceed.

MR RUSHTON (Dale) [2.42 p.m.]: I will commence by making a few general observations. We have seen demonstrated this afternoon a lack of goodwill by the Minister towards his own Police Force. This is deplorable and it is regretted certainly by me and my colleagues.

Mr Davies: The Minister could not have gone further than he did to reach some agreement. You are a small minded politician.

Mr RUSHTON: Whom does the union represent? The Minister talks about the union as if it were just one person. My understanding is that its council is made up of 15 policemen representing the rest of the force.

Mr Bryce: It is strange that you are swinging to the defence of a union.

Mr RUSHTON: I am speaking the truth. The Minister really is attacking the entire Police Force in Western Australia.

Mr Bryce: Where are the radicals?

Mr RUSHTON: The Deputy Premier can join the Minister in attacking the police if he wishes, but that would do nothing for law and order and the well-being of this State. We certainly do not accept what has taken place.

The Minister has been making great play about consulting and reviewing and about receiving the points of view of the commissioner and the Police Union. He said that this had gone on for 20 months. However, the Minister has not accepted that there can be any point of view but his own. He has had one of the advisers prepare this legislation.

Mr Williams: Comrade adviser.

Mr RUSHTON: But the Minister has provided the commissioner and the Police Force generally with a static situation, a take it or leave it proposition, and then later has withdrawn a few points when they have not liked what he has presented.

Mr Carr: How can it be static when we have made amendments?

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister should have sat around a table with the union; he should have been prepared to accept its input on the legislation; he should have sought to obtain an agreed position. But, no, the Minister has not been prepared to do that.

The Minister had the Ombudsman look at the legislation, and previously the Minister told us that the Ombudsman agreed with it. But what does the Ombudsman have to lose by having a Bill drawn up according to what he wants to be able to carry out while performing a certain task? Surely it is the Commissioner of Police and the Police Union, which represents all the members of the Police Force, who should have been able to provide meaningful inputs. Their views should have been the highlight of the Minister's considerations. However, that has not been the case.

The Minister and the Government have a propaganda machine and the Minister has been able to sell the view to the public that he has taken a stand which gives members of the public certain rights. It must be understood that the police are not rejecting that. In fact, I received a telegram at lunchtime today in the form of a Press release from the Police Union, and it reads as follows—

The Western Australian Police Union met the Minister for Police today and again presented its acknowledgement of the Government's requirement for some form of scrutiny to satisfy the public concerning allegations of "whitewash" or "coverup" by police in internal investigations.

The Ombudsman is accepted by the Union as the person suitable to have the power to review such allegations in the same manner as he has reviewed other Government bodies and employees for the past thirteen years.

This responsible proposal has been rejected by the Minister.

It should be noted that the Commissioner of Police has also opposed the current legislation.

The Western Australian Police Union proposal satisfies that stated intention of the Government and should be recognised and supported for this reason.

That seems a rational point of view.

From the beginning the Minister set out to denigrate the Press release which came to me last Wednesday in which it was indicated that the police were willing to accept the Ombudsman's overview of complaints against police. The Government grabbed that position wholeheartedly because at the time the Minister had been trying to indicate to the public that the police were split on this matter. He knew they were not split, but that was his form of attack. When he realised that he was not being successful in splitting the police he used his propaganda machine to push his point of view.

We had a dorothy dix question from the member for Scarborough, and the Premier made some misleading statements and indicated that he would have the Bill delayed. The Minister had already indicated to me that because he would not be here on Thursday he would have the Bill debated on Tuesday, so the Premier was misleading when he said he would arrange for the Bill to be delayed. The next point the Premier made was that the Minister would meet with groups of police officers and discuss the Bill at his direction. But those meetings had already been arranged.

In the Press release that came to us last Wednesday, the police made some very genuine offers, and it is deplorable that the Minister has denigrated those offers. One wonders why he is attacking the police. He seems to be treating them as the enemy, as the opposition. Have we ever had a Minister for Police like this? I do not think so.

When the Parliamentary Commissioner Act was going through the Parliament 13 years ago, the then Minister for Police crossed to the other side of the House to try to protect his police from what he thought was a move in the wrong direction. Thirteen years later experience shows that we can accept the Ombudsman's activities; we have found that his work has been satisfactory. He is acceptable to the police, and this should be recognised. Instead of that, the Minister told us last week that our requests for a delay in order for the Government and the union to have meaningful negotiations were just attempts to drag red herrings across the trail to confuse the issue.

The Minister also accused the union of doing something of the same kind. In September, it said that it would accept a form of overview by the Ombudsman. I would like everybody to remember that the union said that in September. The Minister pooh-poohed that and said it was just another delaying action. Then he received the union's Press statement last Wednesday, and the Government got into a huddle. The next thing, we heard from the Premier. That is a common tactic; he seeks to divert public attention from the Government's stand. Then we saw the results in the last few days. The Minister said to the police, "We will get a legal opinion from Crown Law, and we will discuss it with you. Then we will either act in accordance with what you are proposing, or we will proceed in the way that we are going." We now find that the Minister is proceeding in the way that he intended, so obviously there has been no goodwill towards changing directions. Of course, the opinion received by the Minister was in the direction of carrying out what the Government intended to do—that is, to intrude into the responsibilities of the commissioner.

The Minister wants to pursue an individual policeman without any intervention from the Commissioner of Police. In fact, he wants to destroy the morale of the Police Force. Why would the Police Force, represented by the union and a council of 15 people drawn from all sections of the Police Force, and the commissioner, be resisting this "God-sent" legislation which the Minister tries to indicate is so acceptable and so appropriate?

I put to the Minister that a legal opinion, other than the one he has received, indicates that the

Ombudsman could carry out his responsibilities as he does today. The opinion is that it could be done by a simple amendment to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act. An overview of the complaints and investigations into police officers could be carried out independently.

What should have happened? Over so many months, we should have seen the acceptance of the Police Force in this State and a concern for its well-being. The Police Force is relied on tremendously by the public of this State. However, the Minister has helped to destroy a Police Force which had a very high place in the minds of the public. Unfortunately, recent events have changed that, and it behoves us to work very hard to retrieve the position that has been lost, because the alternative is anarchy. We see a rape here, somebody battered there, camping on Heirisson Island, and 800 women intending to camp at Rockingham. If this sort of thing is allowed to continue, it encourages people to be lawless because they believe they can get away with it.

We need to take the other step: We should do everything possible to retrieve that situation and let the police understand that we as a Parliament stand behind them and we want them to carry out their duties in a compassionate but practical way.

The Minister should have adopted the position that he had some confidence in his Police Force, but he has taken the opposite step by being opposed to anything that is practical and sensible. The Minister should have made the police aware of what his Government intended to do. In simple terms, that was to have an independent overview of complaints against the police. Then he could have had a person nominated by the commissioner to work with the Minister in order to put legislation together. He should not have obtained the services of an adviser who was considered by the police to be anti-police. That adviser has drawn up legislation, and we have seen confrontation along the way.

If steps had been taken in the right direction, we would not have had this problem in the Parliament. We would have harmony, and no discord. There would not have been unhappiness within the Police Force or the public arena.

The Minister need only have taken a simple approach to try to achieve what he said he wants to achieve. If a complaint were made, be it in Perth, Marble Bar, or Esperance, the person involved could get in touch with the officer in charge at the local station and say, "Look, I think this is wrong. I think the police have over played their hands in this regard, and I am making a complaint". Then the local sergeant, or the officer

in charge of the station, would have a discussion with the person making the complaint, and by negotiation and discussion he would reach a solution on what was of concern to the person making the complaint. This could take place in different ways throughout the State. That seems a sensible thing to happen.

Another method of receiving complaints is through the Minister. I have made complaints to the Minister; and in such cases he would receive the complaint, and send it to the Commissioner of Police, who would investigate it and respond to the Minister with his findings. Those findings would be conveyed by the Minister to the person making the complaint. If a grievance arose at that stage, the person would have the right to make the complaint known to the Ombudsman. We know him as the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, but I will use the name "Ombudsman".

At that stage, the Ombudsman would make the Commissioner of Police aware of the complaint and seek a response and a report from the commissioner. The commissioner would investigate the complaint and send the findings to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman would read the report and agree or disagree with it. If he disagreed with it, he would write to the commissioner and say, "I want this extra investigation done".

The commissioner would respond, "Yes, and this is the report". At that stage, the Ombudsman might say, "Well, I am satisfied that everything has been done properly", and he would respond to the person making the complaint. The problem would be remedied at that time. The Commissioner of Police would carry out the remedy if something was to be done at his level, and the Ombudsman would respond to the complainant and tell him the findings in that regard.

If the Ombudsman was not satisfied that the Commissioner of Police had complied with his requirements, he would write to the Premier and report to the Parliament. That is what has taken place in the past, and it should take place in the future. Public opinion would be available, and at that stage the Commissioner of Police would do his damndest to satisfy the situation; and the Ombudsman would have the independent, external investigation or review capacity. That would be a satisfactory position.

If the Minister is not satisfied with that, we could have a sunset clause, in the appropriate legislation, which would provide that after one year or two years—whatever is thought to be ap-

propriate—provision which would allow a review to see how it was going.

As I understand it, that would satisfy the Police Force as represented by the union. I do not know about the Commissioner of Police; I understand he would like the present position to continue, but that he would accept something of the nature I have outlined. That needs to be discussed and understood and introduced into this House, and then carried. Then the Government would have what it set out to do—an independent investigation and review, and it would be able to answer the public in that way.

So much for that matter. It is a simple solution to what has turned out to be an unacceptable piece of legislation which is strongly objected to. It is objected to by the very people who have responsibility for upholding law and order in this State. It would be a very bold Government and Minister who ignored that view and risked being seen as unresponsive to their duty to support the Police Force. The Government and the Minister should bend over backwards to hear and understand that which the Commissioner of Police and the members of the Police Force are saying to them. It should not be the other way around; they should not be listening to the wrongdoers and the transgressors or those who want to make complaints. The Government and the Minister should not be doing other than giving the public an opportunity to be heard after a complaint has been examined and they are not satisfied with the outcome. There should then be an independent inquiry by the Ombudsman who would report in the way I suggested.

I have been very unhappy about the fact that in recent times because of the strength of the Government's media section or its propaganda machine I have been unable to put out a release in response to a close associate of Mr Peter Ward. Last Saturday we saw a couple of letters to the editor in *The West Australian*. I have responded to one and I hope that in due course my reply will reach the readers' eyes. Only by having both points of view expressed in the paper and distributed can the public reach a clear understanding.

The police believe the Minister has been deceitful, and when one reads the things that have taken place and the matters which have been reported one could come to no other conclusion. In the last couple of days the Minister stated that the union had had another turnaround. Nothing could be further from the truth, but I suppose it is good copy. The secretary of the union rebutted that claim and indicated they had reached a position with the Minister where they believed it was fruit-

less to deal with him and that they should deal only with the Premier. That is the conclusion reached by a responsible group of people—the Police Force—which is made up of dedicated men and women and some very senior people with a great deal of experience. The Minister will say that it is only the union, but let us not write off the union too quickly. I understand the union's council is elected by the total Police Force. The council has 15 members and they have met and sent out their opinion by telegram; they are speaking for the force.

I want to refer again to Mr Malcolm Hall who attacked the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition for their position in relation to this Bill.

Mr Clarko: Is he the former Labor candidate?

Mr RUSHTON: I do not know. I think Mr Peter Ward who drafted the legislation did his articles under him.

Mr Clarko: He was a Labor candidate a few years ago. He was noted for the amazing things he said and the amazing cars he drove.

Mr RUSHTON: He gets headlines in the Letters to the Editor column, and my response to him was as follows—

Our high priority is for the upholding of law and order. Consistent with this is the Opposition's strong support to maintain a police force capable of discharging its heavy duty of enabling our citizens to go about their lawful business in peace.

The Opposition is pleased the Government has at last agreed to negotiate an alternative to the Bill before Parliament.

That was the spirit of goodwill I thought would be acceptable to the Government. To continue—

We are hoping the Government will now withdraw its ill-conceived Bill and bring forward another which allows an external appeal to the Ombudsman for people who feel aggrieved after a police inquiry into their complaint, but doesn't deter the police from doing their duty.

The Opposition believe that our citizens want an independent appeal right, but that even more strongly they want the protection of the police force against wrongdoers and transgressors.

Those were the points I made; I stand by them, and the Opposition stands by them. The Minister put himself further into the mire with his remarks this afternoon. He indicated that he does not have any confidence in the Commissioner of Police—

Mr Carr: I beg your pardon?

Mr RUSHTON: —or in the Police Force.

Mr Davies: Absolute rubbish! You cannot understand plain English, can you? You are as thick as two short planks.

Mr RUSHTON: Members opposite believe the Police Force does not understand.

Mr Evans: You are a disgrace. You are a Hans Christian Andersen—sit down!

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister for Agriculture would like that, he would like to be the strongarm man.

The public should be aware that the Commissioner of Police's proposition allows for an overview by the Ombudsman, but it has been completely rejected by the Government. The Police Union's position is that it would allow investigations by the Ombudsman into official complaints as exist for other employees of Government departments and bodies. That has been rejected by the Government. The union has told the Minister it would accept the Government's strengthening of the position of the Ombudsman if that were done for every other department and body which comes under him. They have asked that members of the Police Force not be made into second-class citizens by being specially singled out.

I make a plea to the Minister that he withdraw the legislation and replace it with simple legislation which will accomplish what he set out to do. Our legal advice is that that can be achieved. If he does not do that he will be under suspicion. There can be only one reason for not doing it, and that is that he wants to retain an opportunity for people to bypass the Commissioner of Police in the carrying out of his duty and give people with mischief in their heart who are anti-police an opportunity to make complaints which will go through the Ombudsman to the Minister. If that situation came about the police would be demoralised, and as far as we are concerned it would be a sad day altogether.

I have put the point of view in relation to what is simple and acceptable to the union and ourselves. The setting up of a Select Committee would have allowed the Commissioner, of Police and senior officers to give us a full understanding of their position. We do not have that Select Committee, but we think the opinion of some very dedicated policemen who represent their members through the union should be taken into account. The Minister should be aware that the Legislative Council will obviously need to give this legislation a full review. I hope it will adopt the position of seeking more information if it is not satisfied with that which the Minister has put forward.

I believe the Legislative Council should satisfy itself completely about the claims being made by the Commissioner of Police and the Police Union. They are not satisfied with this legislation, and believe it will do more than the Minister claims it will do and it will be so destructive to the morale of the Police Force because members will seek further information.

I could raise many more points, but I have said many things that add up to the fact that the Minister has been unsupportive of the Police Force. He has not had the right attitude towards it and there appears to be no goodwill between him and the force. I believe he should be removed from his portfolio, and that is something his own Police Force would like to see happen.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I advise members that it is the practice of this House that debate on the third reading of Bills will not be as wide as that which takes place in the second reading debate. In view of the nature of this Bill, I have allowed the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to range fairly wide and, as a result of that, I have allowed the first speaker on the Opposition side to do the same.

I would appreciate it if members take cognisance of the fact that third reading debates are not as wide as second reading debates, and from now on, in this debate, comments must relate to the subject matter of the Bill.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.12 p.m.]: I congratulate the member for Dale for the manner in which he has handled this legislation on behalf of the Opposition. He has expressed clearly, not only the Opposition's point of view, but also the point of view shared by the Police Force and the general public.

It is strange for me to be standing in this House on 14 November, barely one week after the Premier, in an answer to a question in this House asked by the member for Scarborough, made a statement about the comments of the Police Union. I refer to question 512, and it is obvious that the Premier had the answer to that question prepared for him. The member for Scarborough asked the following question—

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the most recent expression of opinion by the Police Union about the Complaints against Police Bill?

That is the Bill that we are debating now at the third reading stage. In reply to that question the Premier said—

... In other words, the Police Force would be added to the list of authorities capable of investigation by the Ombudsman.

The Government intends to react very positively to the statement of position by the Police Union.

I sat in this House, as I am sure did other members, and said, "That is very good, the Premier seems to have come into line and has agreed with the union". As the Premier enunciated his answer further, it was clear the answer had been prepared for him.

The intent of the union was quite clear and was understood by the Premier, and at that time—less than a week ago—his attitude to the Bill which is before the House was clear. He said—

In saying that we are reacting positively and taking very seriously the position of the union, I draw to the attention of members one or two interesting facts. The first is that proposal by the union in fact gives more power to the Ombudsman to investigate complaints against police officers than is proposed to give the Ombudsman under the legislation currently being considered by the Parliament.

They are not my words and they are not the member for Dale's words; they are the words of the Premier of Western Australia who had been given prior notice of the question and had had the answer prepared.

He said that he was prepared to accede to the proposal by the unions. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has rejected that proposal out of hand—the proposal that his Premier, less than a week ago, in a prepared answer to this House, indicated publicly that he would accept.

Mr Carr: The proposal has changed a bit since last Wednesday, in case you had not noticed.

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier went on with what was probably the nail in the coffin. He said—

I remind members that it is in fact the Labor Party's policy that the Ombudsman should be able to investigate complaints against the Police Force and initially when we introduced the legislation to establish the Ombudsman's position, we provided for legislation that would see the Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints against police.

The member for Dale has clearly outlined what the Opposition would support in this regard. The union's position was clearly outlined in a statement on 7 November, and the Premier responded, in his words, "very favourably".

To really cap it off the Premier finished his answer by saying—

I would think that we may well see a very short-lived debate—

A vain hope I would think. He continued—

—about the legislation for investigating complaints against the police, because it seems to me that the Police Union has made a suggestion that goes further than the Government wants to go in the legislation it has before the House.

I repeat that it was a prepared answer. In fact, one of the reasons the legislation was introduced in its present form was that it was not expected that the schedule of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act should be amended to give the Ombudsman the necessary power to inquire into complaints against police officers.

Mr Carr: You have not seen the prepared advice.

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier did not have to give that answer, but he had to stand up and grandstand in front of the members of this House, as he is wont to do. He had plenty of time to check the answer, and he did not have to make the statement if he had not wanted to. The Premier falsely led the Police Union, the Opposition and the people of this State to believe he was reasonable, when all along the Minister, as the member for Dale pointed out, knew the Government's position was one of inflexibility. It was not prepared to move, it was not likely to move, and it has not moved.

One must ask, "What is the rush? Why does the Government want to rush with this proposal?" Why cannot we take another month or so to examine the legislation and make sure it has the support of the Opposition, the union and the public? We are confident that common ground could be reached. I do not know what the Government has to fear. The Opposition believes that if the proposed investigatory power is put in place it must be supported not only by the Opposition, but also by the Police Union, the officers of the union and the general public. However, the Government seems to want to go blindly ahead and to destroy the morale in the Police Force and, I think, in due course to destroy the confidence the public of Western Australia has in a fine force.

I join with the member for Dale in urging the Minister to reassess his position, withdraw the legislation, and to make sure that commonsense prevails; then, hopefully, a consensus viewpoint may be reached after consideration is given to all points of view.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [3.19 p.m.]: The National Party is prepared to support the third reading of this Bill. It does not accept the point of

view expressed by the Opposition that the public is concerned about this legislation. It believes, from its involvement with the public, that, on the contrary, it supports this type of legislation.

I accept that the public, by and large, have confidence in the Police Force and that it has realised, and still realises, that the Police Force is made up of a cross-section of the community and that, unfortunately, everyone in the Police Force is not necessarily without blemish. The public feel that it is important there be an overview of internal investigation in the Police Force.

Mr MacKinnon: So does the Opposition and so does the Police Union.

Mr STEPHENS: The National Party believes that the mechanism envisaged in this Bill is an attempt to achieve that overview.

I believe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked what the Government had to fear. I pose the same question to the Police Union and police officers: What do they have to fear? After all it is only an overview and if everything is aboveboard they have nothing to fear.

Since the second reading debate and the Committee stage I have had the opportunity of speaking to several ex-police officers. One of them expressed the view that many members of the force support the legislation because it will give them protection. For the first time they will have an independent body to which they can appeal for protection if necessary.

An Opposition member: Are you speaking for the National Party?

Mr STEPHENS: Yes, I am. I stated that when I started my speech.

An Opposition member: Which one, the new or the old party?

Mr Cowan: Both.

Mr STEPHENS: I do not think the House is interested in whether it is the new or the old party.

The ex-police officer also indicated that the internal investigation branch has been known to be used in the past to get rid of police officers who were creating problems because of their integrity. On other occasions the branch has been used to protect people in the force who would have been better out of it. It is vitally important that we have a system which provides for an overview. The public feel there should be an overview and this legislation will provide that.

Reference was made to a sunset clause but I do not think that is necessary. When the legislation becomes law and if any members of the force feel that in the operation of this Bill some injustices occur, I appeal to them to let us know. This matter

can easily be raised in the House and reconsidered with a view to amending the legislation. It would not be the first time that this Parliament has amended legislation.

Mr Rushton: Do you think the Commissioner of Police has no part at all to play?

Mr STEPHENS: I do not know what the member for Dale is getting at.

I am an elected representative of the people. I am in this place to hear all points of view and to make a judgment. I am not here to rubber-stamp the opinions of the union, the Minister or the Opposition. I am here to look into the situation and to make my own value judgment. That is what the National Party has done on this occasion. We believe several of the amendments made have overcome some of the complaints which the Police Union made, which complaints I believe were valid. The union may still not be quite happy with the legislation. I accept that. I also accept that the people I represent want some form of overview. Having looked into this matter closely and heard opinions from both sides, I believe this is a reasonable approach to the matter. We support the legislation.

However, if it is found during the operation of this legislation that it has some of the weaknesses claimed by the Police Union, it can bring them to our attention. I will certainly be prepared to debate them with a view to amending the legislation.

We support the third reading.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [3.24 p.m.]: Western Australia has an excellent Police Force and it is a force of which the Government has tried to be consistently supportive throughout the 22 months we have been in Government. I refer to the Perth City Council garbage workers' dispute when the Police Union and its members in the carrying out of their duties came directly into conflict with what might be traditionally referred to as, or presumed to be, the political base of the Labor Party; that is, the formal union movement. I recall on that occasion meeting with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the commissioner, and representatives of the Trades and Labor Council. At the meeting I can recall telling the Trades and Labor Council quite clearly and directly what was the right thing and that was simply that the police were doing their job, they had a brief to keep the peace and in that situation they were consistently supported by the Government.

It is also true that in another matter—the retirement at 55 years of age for police officers—the Government has been roundly criticised by many of the people with whom it works for showing

supposedly preferential treatment to the members of the Police Force. Those acts of support seem to be conveniently forgotten during this debate as members of the Opposition attempt to label the Government anti-police. That is not the case and it is clearly not the case when one considers that the Bill we are now debating pays tribute to a plank in our party's platform that has been there for many years.

The Opposition in its position in respect of this Bill lacks credibility when one considers that it consistently says it wants an overview of the inquiries carried out as a result of complaints against the Police Force, while in the same breath the Opposition advocates adding to the legislation that has been establishing the Ombudsman's position words which will not effectively provide for any overview whatever.

Mr MacKinnon: You said a week ago that it would.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: With due respect, that is not the case. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition fails to understand the relatively mild sophistication in adding different words to the Bill under consideration; that is, the Bill establishing the Ombudsman's position. The Crown Solicitor's opinion forwarded to the Government indicates that the acceptable words to be added in the view of the Opposition will not provide any overview as opposed to the presumption based on reported comments of the union that would have, had certain words been added, provided an adequate and appropriate overview. Whether the union knew the circumstances of those words and the breadth of the words, I do not know. Perhaps it was trying to be coy and deceptive in representing its members as it thought was its job. The truth is that the addition of the words that the Opposition believes are appropriate will not give any effective overview at all. Had the union in its reported comments been prepared to add the words that would have provided the Ombudsman with an effective form of overview, he would have been given more power than it is proposed to give under the Bill we are debating.

In case the Opposition is under any misapprehension, I am afraid it should start to try to understand the public's perspective of this Bill. Generally it seems to me that the public has received quite favourably the proposition put forward by the Government. That is not to say that the public generally is critical of the Police Force or that the public generally believes the Police Force is not doing its job. Two points are at issue: Firstly, whether the force is doing its job—and the Government is satisfied and more than pleased with the way the force discharges its obli-

gations—and, secondly, whether those of us who support the force in its efforts to discharge its responsibility also believe there is scope for some appropriate overview of complaints against policemen, if not to right wrongs done as a result of the present system of investigation, then to demonstrate to the public that the investigation of complaints is carried out visibly in a fair and proper manner. The subtlety of that difference seems to have escaped the Opposition. Those people who support the Bill before the House are not necessarily cast among those who would pull down the Police Force or criticise its members.

Many right and proper thinking people who, in supporting the force, see the Government's Bill as a means of expressing further support for the force and a means of demonstrating publicly that anyone who complains against a policeman—

Mr Rushton: Why do you go on like this when the Police Force is against you and the Commissioner of Police does not think you are right?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: On the basis of the argument put forward by the member for Dale, there would be no need for a Government because many unions say things should be done in a certain manner, but their propositions are rejected by the Government, whether it is a Labor Government or a Liberal Government.

The member for Dale puts forward a proposition that we should not take any account of this matter because the Police Union and/or its members and/or the commissioner believe the action is not necessary. If the action we take from time to time is considered, in its effect, to be unnecessary, there would be no need to have a Government except to do things that people believe should be done. The difference is that time and time again Governments propose certain legislation that is not always welcomed by the people affected by it. For example, while the retirement of policemen at age 55 was modestly supported by some other public workers, it was not greeted rapturously by those to whom an age 55 retirement on a full pension was denied. But, one cannot cut one's cloth according to the response that a particular proposition receives from a particular union or its members.

The member moved on to talk about what the public want. As I have explained to him—

Mr Rushton: You try to manipulate public opinion to support your actions.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It is not very long since the member for Dale said that the public were vehemently opposed to this Bill.

Mr Rushton: They still are.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We cannot be doing what the public want if they are vehemently opposed to this Bill.

Mr MacKinnon: That is our view. You are saying the public support it, so obviously we have different opinions of what the public want.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That is perfectly true. Those are two different opinions from two different people. However, two different opinions reside in the one person, the member for Dale.

Mr MacKinnon: No, he is not trying to be contradictory.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We are proposing a cautious and modest piece of legislation that does not go as far as the impression created by the previous intermediary position of the Police Union which indicated that investigations by the Ombudsman were an acceptable method of internal inquiry. What we are proposing does not imply any criticism of the force, or any dissatisfaction with the way in which it performs its duties. It is possible for the supporters of the Police Force to support the force and seek a visible and clearly public demonstration that investigations into complaints against policemen are carried out in a fair manner. Perhaps we are putting a proposition that the public do not ask for; perhaps the public are strongly opposed to this piece of legislation; but I suspect that is not the case. In any case, I guess that at the next election we will answer for this legislation, as we will answer for each of the other things we have tried to do and, in some cases, that we have done.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [3.34 p.m.]: In his closing remarks, the Premier tried to twist the argument around. He tried to say that if the public do not like this, they can do something about it at the next election. That is twisting it around, because the proponents of this legislation argue that the public want external investigations of the Western Australian Police Force. The member for Stirling said something along that line—"Produce the evidence". Where is the evidence that the public of Western Australia want external investigations of our Police Force?

Mr Stephens: It is a pity you did not spend last Saturday with me at the Albany show where I met the public—

Mr CLARKO: The member for Stirling has a record of being anti-police.

Mr Stephens: Come on!

Several members interjected.

Mr Stephens: Back it up with substance. That is typical of you and the Liberal Party. If you have

not got any logical argument, you just smear and denigrate.

Mr CLARKO: The mouse that roared! The member for Stirling has a record of making many complaints about the way the Police Force acts.

Mr Brian Burke: Do you think you could stop arguing amongst yourselves?

Mr CLARKO: He is not one of ours. On many occasions he supports Government legislation. He is a classic rural socialist.

What needs to be said is that there is no evidence of a public outcry for external investigations. The Premier cannot produce such evidence, so in his usual skilled debating way he turns the argument around the other way and says, "Well, if they don't like it, they can protest about it". The truth is that there is no desire or call by the community of Western Australia to change the system in respect of the investigations that take place in relation to the Police Force. It is a civil libertarian argument advanced by the long-haired trendies, most of whom are socialists based on philosophies from 200 years ago—of course, the philosophy of socialism is foreign. The heart of the matter is that the people in the back rooms of the Labor Party who put that philosophy forward at their conferences are the people who want to restrict the powers of the police at a time when the task of the police is becoming more and more difficult.

The Premier referred to the Perth City Council garbos' strike. In that case, the policemen behaved like saints in the way they were able to put up with the hobos, the yobbos, the larrikins, and the louts who used physical violence against the police. This Government is a great lover of strikes. The Labor Party embraces strikes and talks about the right to strike. Of course, we have all sorts of pickets at gates where strikes occur. Almost invariably the strikers are 100 per cent laborites; and it is the job of the policeman—he does it in a very responsible way—to try to smooth down or to cool the situation.

Last weekend I read in the paper about the representatives of the British coalminers who came here and had the bloody gall to say that policemen in plain clothes standing amongst the coalminers were throwing the stones. What a heap of nonsense. I hope he read the paper a couple of days later or saw last night's television news where they showed the cars being burnt, and so on. I suppose he thinks the police set fire to the cars, too.

There is no public cry for legislation in respect of police internal investigations. There is only the policy of the long-haired trendy socialists who

have put this into the Labor Party's platform and who want to restrain the police. They are the people who demonstrate in our streets and push the police to the limits. They do not understand what it is like to be in the centre of a conflict and do not understand the emotions which are aroused then.

Since this legislation was introduced, and no doubt before its introduction, the Police Union said that it would accept a degree of outside investigation. After all, the Police Union is the body that is in the best position to make that sort of judgment.

I must also say that I am amazed at the way the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has attacked the Police Union and its executive. I have regarded him as, normally, a very responsible person. Today the Minister has accused the union of publishing false information. In effect, he has called the members of the union liars. That is bad from the point of view of this issue; but it is worse from the point of view of the long-term relationship between the Labor Government, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and the Police Force.

The main argument the Minister has put forward today—an argument he should not have been allowed to introduce as new material in the third reading stage—rested on the legal opinion he has which says, in effect, if I can encapsulate it, that it would be insufficient to have a reference to the Police Force in the Parliamentary Commissioner Act because it would not be sufficient to do what the Government is trying to do with this legislation. Even if the legislation does not go as far as the Government wants it to go—which is obviously the case, despite the wishes of the Police Union—the insertion of such words would give this matter an opportunity to be examined over time to see whether it went far enough.

The other thing that everyone in Western Australia should appreciate is that the Government wants to go further than it has done. So, when the day comes when the ALP has all the powers, if by some mischance it ever controls both Houses of the Western Australian Parliament, it would be interesting to see how far it goes in this matter.

This legislation is aimed at restricting the police. I must say about the legal opinion the Minister held up that I have been in Parliament for the same time as the Minister, and of those 11 years, nine were spent on the Government side. In that time I regularly heard Ministers of the Crown say that they had legal opinions from Crown Law which said that certain things had to be done—I

am sure the member for Dale will remember this—but sometimes within a year, and from that same Crown Law Department, we would get another opinion which said the exact opposite of what the department had said previously. I would not like to bet my salary, not even \$5, on the fact that the Crown Law Department invariably comes out with what is the quintessential truth, because it does make mistakes just as often, it seems to me, as any person who has a bet.

Mr Watt: It is an opinion—just that.

Mr CLARKO: I am sure the member would agree that over the nine years we were together in Government, time and time again we would get opinions from Crown Law and then within one, two or three years we would get a different opinion—and I see the member for Floreat, a legal man, nodding.

I would not hold a candle to that opinion. It may be right but it may just as well be wrong. Why does the Government not go ahead and amend the Parliamentary Commissioner Act to include a reference to the police and just try it out and see how it goes?

Another thing is that perhaps the Government could decide that it wanted to have more external investigations of the police if it were found in Western Australia on a regular basis that the internal investigations by the police were in some way producing miscarriages of justice. If the present internal system had a notorious public reputation for producing bad results, for siding with the policemen when that should not have been the case and letting the policemen off and giving them an easy go, it would be fair enough for the Government to begin to change the system. But we do not have that situation in Western Australia; that does not apply here.

This legislation is being introduced only because it is Labor Party policy. It is the policy of the long-haired socialist yobbos who have put this policy into legislation. I do not think Government members in this House played a part in putting this together, but they have to follow the party line because that is the way of the Labor Party. They do otherwise at pain of expulsion. They have to follow what is set down by the party, and that is the reason, the only reason, we have this legislation before us.

In trying to carry out that directive the Minister has got himself into all sorts of trouble. If he goes ahead with this, he will have a monster to deal with. It would be a monster that I hope when my party returns to Government we will get rid of. I hope we will get rid of this iniquitous legislation and then move to something along the lines

suggested with amendments to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act.

The job of the policeman is a most onerous one normally and it is worse now in 1984 than it has ever been. Policemen are put in the position where they are confronted with all sorts of peculiar people in our society making unsubstantiated claims against them. As a member of Parliament for 11 years I have had a heap of people come to me making all sorts of accusations and allegations against the Police Force, but as far as I can gather, not one of those claims has been proved. These people are not necessarily bad; they are misguided and have all sorts of peculiar arguments in defence of what they are doing. We are moving into the realm where that sort of person will ride rampant through our society. The person who is a perennial complainer, the person who wants to have a go at society chooses as one of his ways of doing that to attack the front line of the representatives of our civilised society—the policemen.

Mr Williams: And the problem is that he does it anonymously.

Mr CLARKO: That point has been debated by others and I did not want to follow that up.

The Government has made a complete mess of this legislation. I wonder whether it really believes in it. Had it not been in the Government's platform I doubt whether it would have been bringing it forward.

The Government has alienated the Police Force of Western Australia. It has done something about which the citizens of Western Australia certainly have not complained, because the citizens of WA do not complain about very much of the legislation that goes through the Houses of Parliament, so that argument of the Premier will not stand up for one second.

If the citizens of this State find that in time the police do not come to their aid when they get hit on the head in Northbridge or when someone is raped in one of our many parks, they will not appreciate this legislation. As the member for Dale said, if ever the situation had been reached where we needed to give our Police Force more power and more freedom, it was right now.

That is where I will conclude. We should be giving our Police Force more power. We should not be putting the members of the force in a position where they can abuse their powers, and there is no record of internal investigations by the Police Force either this year, last year, or the years before which indicates that this legislation is required. So why have the legislation when it is not needed? In any case, it is poor and second-class legislation.

The people who will be involved with it will find they will back off after a while if they find that their colleagues have been put in a position where they have tried to do the right thing and something has gone wrong.

I gave an example of this once before. Anyone who has played football or indeed most other team sports knows the situations that can arise. Many of us know the various situations we face playing football when an opponent is near us and the ball is kicked over our head. We start running for the ball, we find ourselves two yards in the clear and then a great big hulking bloke starts coming at us. We have to decide whether to baulk, whether to turn left or right, whether to grab the ball, or whether to push it on over the boundary line. Our mind races along at fever pitch, and all this is just when we are playing a game of football. But members opposite should consider the situation faced by the police perhaps when someone has a gun and has just threatened someone in a bank. Perhaps the police are in a situation where they are dealing with a demonstration or a picket line and perhaps a man has fallen under a vehicle. All these tensions occur. The possibilities run rapidly through the mind of the policeman as he makes a decision.

We should not consider this legislation and the way it will affect policemen as though they had to make these sorts of decisions sitting down quietly in their lounge rooms. Those of us who have spent time in country towns, as I have, will have experienced the situation where the local policeman and often his wife as well have to bear the onus of the responsibility when problems occur.

They are actually at the heart of the protection of the rights of the people. So, when the Government and civil libertarians, people such as Brian Tennant—and I have no regard whatever for his opinions—are talking about the rights of the citizens, they should realise that those rights are being protected by the policeman and his family as well.

MR WATT (Albany) [3.50 p.m.]: I do not usually speak on third readings but unfortunately I was not able to be here on the evening when the second reading debate was concluded. I only want to query the reasons for the existence of this Bill in any form, because I do not believe it is necessary.

I have a number of friends who are police officers, some holding a commission and some who are ex-policemen, and because of that, I may have perhaps a better perception of the role of a policeman than some people in the community who, we must be led to understand from the Premier and others, have complained about the present method of internal investigations within the Police Force. I

can honestly say that in the years I have been in Parliament no-one has complained to me about the lack of proper investigation of a complaint against a policeman. Perhaps this is a coincidence, but it seems to me that if it were a widespread occurrence, I would have received at least the odd complaint. However, I can state quite categorically, certainly to my memory anyway, that I have never received a criticism that a complaint against a policeman has not been adequately dealt with.

Mr MacKinnon: I have had the same experience.

Mr Williams: So have I.

Mr WATT: Of course, there are two sides to every story and let us not pretend for even a second that perfectly legitimate complaints are not made against policemen, because while the majority of policemen carry out their duties under, at times, most difficult and trying circumstances, others occasionally do not play the game. Of course, I would be the last to suggest that those people should not be dealt with in a proper manner.

I ask the question: Has a complaint been made that justice is not being done—I have not heard it—or is not being seen to be done? Successive Ministers of Police know that the method of internal investigations which is carried out by the Police Force is very thorough indeed; and on almost every occasion these matters have been correctly dealt with.

Mr Stephens: How do you know that?

Mr WATT: Because of conversations I have had with people who work in the internal investigations branch. If the member listens he will understand the situation about those complaints.

Mr Stephens: Did you make confidential inquiries?

Mr WATT: That is a stupid thing to say. To talk about a principle behind something is quite different.

Mr Stephens: A principle, but not an investigation.

Mr WATT: We are talking about the principle behind the thing and not about details at all. I say quite categorically that no retired or practising policeman has ever conveyed to me any confidential information, so let us put that point to rest. That is a stupid thing to say.

Mr Stephens: You cannot make a judgment.

Mr WATT: Yes, I can. I am equally as capable of making a judgment as are members of the National Party.

Mr Blaikie: No, better.

Mr MacKinnon: Much better.

Mr WATT: Some members of the Police Force do act wrongly, but the present method of internal investigations needs to be understood. I made it my business to make inquiries about this matter when this Bill was introduced. As I understand it, four reasonably senior commissioned officers make up the internal investigation section. They are appointed only after they are carefully screened. Indeed, I am told that it is not at all uncommon for nominations to be submitted to the Commissioner of Police for people to join that section. A number of names can be knocked back before the commissioner is satisfied that the most suitable person will be appointed to that position, so one can assume only that within the broad experience and qualifications of commissioned officers—who, generally speaking, have to be fairly intelligent people to get to that office—the internal investigations branch is made up of highly competent people. More importantly, most of them are towards the end of their careers and they are certainly not going to engage in any sort of cover-up or malpractice that might occur within that section purely and simply for the sake of protecting one of their police colleagues. They would not entertain such a proposition. It would not be a reasonable suggestion. Most of them are still seeking promotion and, indeed, if the recent promotion of a chief superintendent from the internal investigations branch to the rank of assistant commissioner is anything to go by, it would seem to demonstrate that highly qualified and respected people within the Police Force are placed in that job.

Mr Brian Burke: A moment ago you said that most of them were nearing retirement and would not want to cover anything up and now you are saying most of them are seeking promotion.

Mr WATT: That is correct. There is no reason that a person nearing retirement should not still be seeking promotion.

Mr Brian Burke: I guess not.

Mr WATT: In fact, I am surprised that the Premier should make that comment because with two, three, or even five years to go until retirement, nearing the end of a policeman's career, if an opportunity is still available for a commissioned police officer to aspire to the heights of chief superintendent or assistant commissioner, even if he holds that position for only a couple of years, I would still think that was a perfectly legitimate thing for him to do.

I do not wish to prolong my remarks. I simply place on record the point that from the inquiries I have made, I know that the procedures followed

with internal investigations are not only very thorough, but also when the officers being investigated are found to be guilty of the accusations made against them—that is apparently reasonably common—they are severely dealt with internally, if not dismissed from the Police Force.

The Police Force has a special place in our society that should not be brought under public scrutiny. The reputation of the Police Force as a whole does not need to be brought into disrepute by the actions of a few people who do not play the game.

MR CRANE (Moore) [3.57 p.m.]: I would like to add to the remarks I made the other day on this legislation. It is of great concern to me that the Bill should even have been brought before this House.

I also from time to time have had inquiries made of me by people who felt that in the carrying out of their duties the police were perhaps a little over-exuberant or a little keener than they should have been. Whenever anyone makes a complaint to me I always assume that the complaint is correct. Based on the fundamental of British justice that everyone is innocent until proved guilty, I believe everyone is also honest until proved dishonest. We must go through life with this attitude otherwise we would have a chip on our shoulders and we would look sideways at everyone. We must give people the benefit of the doubt. Most people are honest.

If someone comes to me with a complaint I presume the complaint is legitimate, that the person making the complaint is doing so honestly and sincerely, and I make the necessary inquiries. I have done this on every occasion and I have found that the police have gone to a great deal of trouble to research the complaint, and to get down to the very core or root of the problem, or what was supposed to have been the problem. They have come back to me. On several occasions we have spoken together with the person who made the complaint.

In other instances I have found that there was no real basis for complaint in the first place. Concern was expressed, of course, but once the inquiry was made it was evident that the police were acting in a proper manner and that they were carrying out their responsibilities in a responsible manner and should be commended rather than criticised.

Some people unfortunately fear the police. I have never been afraid of the police or have never felt fear when a policeman was in my vicinity, even though I am not as big as some of them. I have never thought that I was abusing the law or

doing anything in an unlawful manner which would attract the attention of the police or give cause for concern. I must confess there have been times when I have been very thankful that police officers were in my vicinity.

This legislation will undermine the good, responsible feeling within the Police Force and therefore it needs to be viewed very suspiciously.

I am not particularly interested—in fact I do not give a damn for the Liberal Party, the Labor Party, the National Country Party, or any other political party, but I am concerned about law and order in this country and that the people who are the custodians of law and order have a feeling of security in the work they are doing on our behalf. That is the important aspect.

The fact that a motion is moved and passed at the annual conference of a political party that the police must be curtailed or their wings clipped does not carry any weight at all with me. We should concern ourselves with the responsibility and way in which they are carrying out their functions. I am very proud of our Police Force, and I am prepared to stand up here and defend them.

We all know the complaints that have been made by one body, the Aboriginal Legal Service. We know some solicitors would do anything to earn money for themselves and bring complaints against the police.

Mr Hassell interjected.

Mr CRANE: I did not specifically refer to the Leader of the Opposition but, if the cap fits, he can wear it.

Many unfounded complaints are made against police because they are scapegoats just as politicians are. It is so easy because a percentage of the public is opposed to politicians and police simply because they are members of those professions.

I have been a member of Parliament for the same length of time as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and I have always respected his attitude towards legislation brought to the Parliament. He must agree that over 11 years we have heard many attacks on members of the Police Force by members of Parliament; in most instances, if not all, those attacks were unfounded. They were political and should never have been made.

The police have indicated they are prepared to accept, and have in fact suggested, an overview by the Ombudsman in cases where people are still not satisfied with the results of an inquiry. The Ombudsman will then be able to go into the situation with the police. What is wrong with that?

However, for the Ombudsman to be given authority to take over the running of the police inquiry as far as discipline is concerned is something we cannot tolerate. I will not tolerate it. This Bill will undermine the Police Force and they will not in future be able to go into any serious situation feeling confident that they have the public behind them. They must have the public behind them because, without that backing, we will be reduced to a state of anarchy. Once that happens the nation is defeated. We all know many people would like to see our nation defeated. The only way to do so is to attack it from within, because we know it is impregnable from the outside. One of the ways of defeating a nation and breaking down a society is to break down law and order. We have a responsibility to defend law and order. If the Government wishes to destroy the Police Force, it will have to bloody well shoot me first.

Mr CARR: Mr Acting Speaker!

Point of Order

Mr MacKINNON: As I understand Standing Order No. 164, the Minister has no right of reply. That Standing Order says that on the third reading each member may speak for 30 minutes. The Minister has spoken previously and, as a consequence, is not entitled to speak again. I ask you to rule on that.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Burkett): The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is correct. I apologise but I only came into the Chair at 3.55 p.m. I was not here, and I was not aware that the Minister had spoken for 30 minutes.

Debate Resumed

Question put and a division taken, with the following result—

Ayes 25

Mrs Beggs	Mr Hodge
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bridge	Mr Tom Jones
Mr Bryce	Mr McIver
Mrs Buchanan	Mr Parker
Mr Brian Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr Terry Burke	Mr Read
Mr Carr	Mr P. J. Smith
Mr Cowan	Mr Stephens
Mr Davies	Mrs Watkins
Mr Evans	Mr Wilson
Mr Grill	Mr Barnett
Mrs Henderson	

(Teller)

Noes 14

Mr Blaikie	Mr Mensaros
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Old
Mr Clarko	Mr Rushton
Mr Coyne	Mr Trethowan
Mr Grayden	Mr Tubby
Mr Laurance	Mr Watt
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Williams

(Teller)

Pairs

<i>Ayes</i>	<i>Noes</i>
Mr I. F. Taylor	Mr Thompson
Mr Gordon Hill	Mr McNee
Mr D. L. Smith	Mr Court
Mr Bateman	Mr Spriggs
Mr Troy	Mr Peter Jones
Mr Tonkin	Mr Crane
Dr Dadour	Mr Hassell

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ACTS AMENDMENT (COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE) BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Carr (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), and transmitted to the Council.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Amity House Hostel: Ministerial Statement

MR PEARCE (Armadale—Minister for Education) [4.11 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

Mr PEARCE: Yesterday in this House, during question time, the Leader of the Opposition raised a matter with regard to a complaint received from a parent of a year 8 child at Amity House Hostel, Albany. The purpose of my statement this afternoon is to clarify that issue. On 25 October of this year I received a letter from a parent of a year 8 child who had been boarding at the Amity House Hostel, Albany. It was alleged in the letter dated 19 October that the child had been mistreated. I instituted an immediate inquiry into the allegation.

A thorough investigation has satisfied me that there was no maltreatment of the child by staff or by students. I will quote from the relevant document; that is, from the letter from the parents and the report from officers at the hostel. Because of the time limitations I will not read all the documents but only the key one. For the information of members I will table all the documents. I have deleted names from all documents and have called the child "A" for his own protection. The parents' letter stated—

Dear Sir,

I wish to make an official complaint regarding the lack of supervision at the Amity House Hostel, Albany.

My son, "A" has been boarding at the Hostel for the past 18 months.

On the 23rd August 1984 we picked "A" up from the Hostel for the August Holidays. He was disorientated, confused, didn't recognise us—in a word he was a mess. His teacher Mr Anthony Purcell was waiting for us—he said "A" had been disorientated all day at school.

Whilst in Albany we took "A" to see Dr. M. Zafir who said he had a high temperature—take him home, give him 2 aspirins and a hot drink, also to buy a cough mixture. If he was no better over the week-end to bring him to Albany Hospital as he'd be on duty there.

By the time we got to Mt Barker "A" was worse. We stopped at the Hospital and the Sister on duty called Dr. Owen. She examined him and booked him in. Around 9.00-9.30 p.m. we got a phone call from Dr. Owen. "A" was covered in bruises—arms, back, stomach, legs and feet. At a later date the Mt. Barker police took photos of the bruises. It was also suspected he had L.S.D. He was in Mt. Barker Hospital for 5 days. Tests carried out showed no trace of L.S.D.

When we brought "A" home he didn't recognise where he was or who we were except the names Mum and Dad.

I rang Dr. Owen re the result of the tests carried out at the hospital and was advised to take "A" to Fremantle Hospital. "A" was in Fremantle Hospital for 5 days and was seen by the Consultant Dr. A. M. Partridge. He was then transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital.

Whilst in Fremantle Hospital all possible tests were carried out e.g. X-rays—skull, E.E.G. and C.A.T. scan, blood tests etc.

At P.M.H. he had a further E.E.C. and a lumbar puncture. He was an inpatient for 11 days. Diagnosis Psychosis—probably related to environmental stress—see enclosed final discharge letter.

Note.

When "A" phone me after school on Thursday 22/8/84 he sounded alright. He was packed and ready to come home. I told him we were not picking him up until Friday. He said O.K. and put the phone down.

Facts.

"A" insists he went to the Royal's wind up. Got drunk. Hostel staff says he did not leave the hostel.

At the hostel he was shut in a wardrobe.

Stripped and sprayed with deoderant. Sprayed on private part and up the back passage. etc.

Hair dyed different colour.

Threatened with a knife.

Locked in shower etc. Water bomb under the bed. Clothes soaked etc.

If you call this ordinary teasing I'd like to know how come he was covered in bruises and in such an acute state of fright.

We pay \$960.00 a term to keep 'A' at the hostel. It is the hostel's responsibility for the well being of the child. This is child's negligence.

This should not have happened with proper supervision.

No complaint has been made to the Administrator of the hostel—I did not think I had to as he is fully aware of the above facts.

For further information on the state 'A' was in when admitted to the hospitals, I suggest you contact Dr. Dixon—Suite 13, 1329 Hay St., West Perth. 6005. Phone No 322 6994 & Dr. A. Partridge at Fremantle Hospital. We were also told it was not advisable to send him back to the hostel.

I am very sceptical that anything will come out of the complaint—but as I have been told over the phone by one of your staff, you have to have a complaint in writing.

We come up against unco-operation and it is very frustrating e.g. When we picked 'A' up from the hostel we were told he'd been beaten up whilst on a school errand. Yet when I rang the school for the names of the boys who had beaten him up I was told he was not beaten up but only shaken up.

Complaint to the police was made by the school—instructions given to scare the lads but no action to be taken.

When we found out and queried this we were told by the Police that did not want anything made of it. When I queried this with the constable involved he said no parent permission was required—it was up to the child—yet he's only 14 yrs old.

If a 16 yrs old youth is picked up by the police they cannot question him until the parent or guardian is present. I told the Albany Police that I wanted something done about it and was told to go to the Gnowangerup Police Station, make a complaint then they would forward the complaint to the Albany Police Station.

Unfortunately everything depends on 'A' and he is not in a fit state to be questioned by the Police. So I have had to drop it. As his welfare is at stake I have no option.

With all the worry and stress of this, my husband ended up in the Hospital with a High Blood Pressure and suspected Ulcers: He has been off work for 3 weeks.

As I have previously mentioned I am very sceptical of the outcome of this complaint. As I mentioned over the phone I am willing to go through the proper channels—but as I also said, if all this fails I'll go to the Media e.g. "60 Minutes" & to the News Papers. At least I shall have the satisfaction of knowing I may be able to help another child (of this type of thing not ever happening again), by giving the parent something to think about before sending their child to the Amity House Hostel.

Yours faithfully.

'A's Mother

c.c. Hon. B. Burke—Premier.

c.c. Opposition Leader—B. Hassell.

N.B. APPARENTLY THIS TEASING HAS BEEN GOING ON CONTINUOUSLY IT IS NOT A ONE OFF THING. 'A' HAS TRIED TO TELL THE STAFF BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO BE LISTENING. EVERYONE SEEMED TO TAKE IT AS ORDINARY TEASING.

I WANT A FULL INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE SUPERVISION AT THE HOSTEL IN RESPECT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO 'A'. FOR YOUR INFORMATION HE HAS BEEN THROUGH HELL—THIS CAN BE CHECKED WITH THE DRS CONCERNED.

I then sought a report from the hostel. It reported as follows—

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter referring to 'A'. I wish to make the following answers to the letter sent to you by 'A's Mother—see attached sheets.

'A' came to Amity House at the commencement of the 1983 school year from Gnowangerup to attend the Special Class set up at Albany Senior High School by the Education Department. When he arrived, 'A' had great difficulty in performing the usual living skills of a Year 8 student. These included—dressing himself, shampooing and combing his hair, making his bed, folding

clothes and other everyday living skills. 'A' was very unfit when he first arrived and the short walk from the High School (less than 200 metres) took up to 15 minutes.

'A's fellow Hostel students were very protective of him at school and when they took him down town. Because 'A' had trouble finding his way around school and town, his fellow students from the Hostel, took turns at going with him. Improved greatly and was liked by fellow students and staff.

It became obvious half way through 1983 that 'A' was using his disabilities to get out of chores. Fellow students realized that he could make his own bed and perform other tasks that they had previously been helping him with. Soon mastered these skills and was fitting in to everyday Hostel life. His Hostel friends encouraged 'A' to play sport and he was a member of a Basket Ball team. Although lacking ability, 'A' loved Cricket and was taken down to the Oval with other students to practise.

'A' was encouraged to participate in all Hostel activities including the Fashion Parade (modelling), Camps, Sport and other recreational outings. As 'A' improved he was treated as an ordinary student by his peers and therefore came in for the usual teasing, jokes and pranks of his peer group. As a result, 'A' became more self reliant.

It was noticeable that many of 'A' learned living skills deteriorated after an absence from the Hostel and the beginning of each term saw a re-education of these skills.

When 'A' arrived at the Hostel, he had difficulty in expressing himself verbally and lacked the necessary communicating skills. This, added to his very poor eyesight, lack of physical fitness and lack of reliance, made 'A's introduction to Hostel and High School life very difficult. It was with satisfaction that my staff noted the enormous improvement in 'A's development during his stay.

We are concerned about the allegations made by 'A's mother and would welcome an independent investigation if you feel one is necessary. Albany Senior High School will furnish any information regarding 'A's improvement during his stay at Amity House.

I trust that this covering letter and the attached reports will satisfy your request. I am concerned about 'A's health and well-being and was very disappointed when 'A's mother would not speak to me. 'A' has been in my care for eighteen months and I feel I

could have been of assistance with his recovery.

Yours faithfully,

W. J. GRAHAM

Administrator: Amity House.

Mr Graham attaches a specific rebuttal, if I can put it like that—an explanation of the section headed "Facts" in the mother's letter of complaint. That reads as follows—

The following are comments on "Notes and Facts" listed in the above letter. I was absent for the week prior to the August holidays so these comments are based on information from staff and students at the Hostel at that time.

"NOTE: When 'A' phoned me after school on Thursday 22.8.84 he sounded alright. He was packed and ready to come home. I told him we were not picking him up until Friday. He said O.K. and put the phone down."

Comment: It appears that when 'A' returned home from school on Thursday, the 23rd August, he seemed his usual self. However, upon noticing a student packed and ready to go home for the August holidays, he became concerned, asking when he would be going home. 'A' was advised to ring his parents for confirmation. He was visibly upset after his telephone call to his mother, claiming she was not going to pick him up because she couldn't afford to. 'A' was definitely not packed and ready to go home when he made the telephone call to his mother.

FACT 1: 'A' insists he went to the Royal's Wind-up. Got drunk? Hostel staff says he did not leave the Hostel."

Mr Hassell: There was a question mark after "drunk".

Mr PEARCE: The Leader of the Opposition is quite right. I supplied the Leader of the Opposition with a copy of this material in the normal period of notice. The comments continue—

Comment: There was no Royal's Wind-up on Thursday, the 23rd. Railways Football Club had their Annual Medal Count on Thursday, 23rd. Two of our senior students who played for Railways attended the Colts Medal Count. Both had their parents' permission and returned to the Hostel by 9.30 p.m. 'A' did not leave the Hostel during this time—he was watching a Video in the foyer with Supervisors and students.

FACT 2: "At the Hostel he was shut in a Wardrobe."

Comment: This was not substantiated by any of the students. On occasions, Year 8 students hid in each other's cupboards and jumped out to scare their mates. No one recalls 'A' hiding in a cupboard or being locked in one.

FACT 3: "Stripped and sprayed with Deodorant. Sprayed on private part and up the back passage, etc."

Comment: A Year 9 student (the same age as 'A') admitted spraying 'A' under the arms and between the legs while he was fully dressed after breakfast on Thursday, 23rd August in the Junior Boy's Dormitory.

FACT 4: "Hair dyed different colour."

Comment: Some students are in possession of hair "spray" used for fancy dress discos. The spray washes out in water. At no time was 'A's hair ever dyed. On one occasion some students pretended to 'A' that they had sprayed his hair, and when he said he didn't want it, they pretended to "brush it out".

FACT 5: "Threatened with a knife."

Comment: (Medieval Feast) On Friday, the 24th of August, the Year 8 students of Albany Senior High School held a (dress up) Medieval Feast. 'A' and other students from the Special Class were invited to take part. On the night prior to the feast, students concerned made costumes, cardboard swords, etc. and played with them. Some students purchased food and drink for the party.

FACT 6: "Locked in shower, etc."

Comment: 'A' was cleaning his teeth after breakfast on Thursday in the supervisor's shower area, which also has a wash basin. One of his fellow students closed the door, (has no lock), when 'A' yelled the door was opened.

FACT 7: "Water Bomb under the bed. Clothes soaked, etc."

'A' claimed there was a bomb under his bed on Friday morning, the 24th August. But at no time mentioned a water bomb or commented on his clothing getting soaked. A Supervisor who searched in and under his bed to convince him there was no "bomb" did not notice any water or signs of a water bomb.

FACT 8: "If you call this ordinary teasing I'd like to know how come he was covered in bruises"

Comment: Last year I took 'A' to Dr. Jeffs because of the many bruises he always seems to have. The doctor gave him a "bruise test"

and explained to me that he bruised very easily and far more than the average child.

As well as playing hockey—goalie—'A' also attended Boys' Brigade on Monday nights where he played such games as British Bulldog and Dodge Ball.

'A' also had very poor co-ordination and poor eyesight, resulting in his bumping into objects.

FACT 9: "This should not have happened with proper supervision."

Comments: High school Hostels operate on a 1:20 ratio staff to students, which means that when one Supervisor is off duty, there is a 1:40 ratio. Students usually respond favourably to the supervision provided. This includes regular dormitory checks, and checks to foyer, recreation room, and outside areas. Because of 'A's educational background, he was given more supervision time than any other student at the Hostel, but not 24 hours individual attention.

FACT 10: "No complaint has been made to the Administrator of the Hostel."

Comment: When I returned from Shark Bay on Friday, 24th, at approximately 1 p.m. I was informed by staff of 'A's strange behaviour. On Friday morning, this behaviour was backed up by Mr. Purcell, 'A's teacher in the Special Class, when he returned with 'A' in the early afternoon. 'A' appeared distressed, so I took him to his cubicle and told him to lie down on his bed till his mother came to pick him up. 'A' asked me if I had heard about the "party" and pointing to his teeth, which were all there told me he had had them knocked out at the "party". I told him he was lucky that the dentist was able to put them back and not to worry about it as his parents would be picking him up soon.

When 'A's Mother & Father arrived, we make a Doctor's appointment for 'A' with Dr. Zafir. That is the last I have seen of the family.

I was concerned for 'A's welfare because he had been under my care for eighteen months and made regular phone calls to Dr. Owen and Mr. Purcell regarding 'A's condition.

I rang Fremantle Hospital while 'A' was there to check his progress and was informed by the hospital that they were instructed not to discuss 'A's condition.

I then asked to speak to 'A's mother who was at the hospital and she refused to talk to me.

This I thought was very strange, as for eighteen months 'A's Mother had seemed very pleased with 'A's progress at the Hostel.

As to being aware of the list of alleged "facts", this is an exaggeration, e.g. I was not aware of the water bomb incident until I received a copy of the letter from 'A's Mother.

There is supporting documentation from other staff members at the hostel, and it is my intention to table these documents, and not to leave them out because of the short time I have left.

I wish to make two comments on the information provided. One is that on the basis of the hostel's response to my request for information, and on the basis of what I saw when I visited the hostel in the past, I am satisfied with the response to the allegations. There was definitely a sad, unfortunate incident on the last day of term, but this was not as a result of poor supervision by the hostel or any mistreatment of the child at the hostel or at the school. However, if the parents are able to produce evidence to further support the allegations made in their letter, which in my view have been rebutted by the hostel report, I am certainly prepared to organise an independent investigation of this matter by a person who would be satisfactory to me and to the Leader of the Opposition.

The second point I make is that I am disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition raised the question in the House in the way he did yesterday. I say this in fairness because the Leader of the Opposition has, on other occasions, raised with me matters of this nature privately, and has not sought to accuse anybody of anything. Because of the Press publicity and the constant requests for information from me in respect of this matter, I thought the only course open to me was to read the statement to the House and make all the documents available to all members.

I seek leave to table these documents.

Leave granted.

The documents were tabled (see paper No. 314).

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [4.28 p.m.]: At the outset, I say that the use of the name of the boy in the question I asked the Minister last night occurred with the complete consent of his parents, and that was checked on two occasions.

Mr Pearce: I was unaware of that.

Mr HASSELL: The naming of the boy was the only way that we could effectively identify the

problem to which we wished to draw the Minister's attention.

The statement by the Minister for Education in relation to the alleged maltreatment of a student at Amity House is totally inadequate. The Minister has failed to act properly in response to allegations about the serious maltreatment of a 14-year-old child who was in his care and custody. All he did was to refer the matter to the staff who, it is alleged, may have been involved in a neglect of duty.

The Minister has taken so little interest in the case that he could not even remember it when I raised it in Parliament yesterday.

Nobody who had read the mother's complaint or the staff response with even passing interest could possibly have forgotten the case so quickly. The Minister has clearly been derelict in his duty. The allegations concern a boy who was severely disorientated when collected by his parents for the August holidays. He was badly bruised all over his body to such an extent that the police thought it serious enough to photograph him all over.

He spent five days in a country hospital and was then sent to both Fremantle and Princess Margaret Hospitals. I have been informed that the boy has identified three 17-year-olds, at least one of them closely related to Amity House, who were involved in maltreating him. I have been informed that a Fremantle Hospital report indicates clearly that sedative drugs may have been used in the maltreatment.

The boy's parents asked the Minister and the Premier for a full investigation. There has been no proper investigation and the Minister stands condemned from his own mouth. It is not enough for the Minister to say he is satisfied that there was no maltreatment of the child by staff or students at the hostel. He utterly fails to establish the validity of this assertion, because the only people he has asked are those same staff.

But more importantly, what is indisputably established is that there was serious maltreatment of the child.

Mr Pearce: That is not established at all. Rubbish!

Mr HASSELL: The Minister, the Country High Schools Hostels Authority, and the staff of Amity House bear a real measure of responsibility for that maltreatment, even if none of them was personally involved. All of them had both a statutory and common law responsibility for the care of the child, especially when it is understood, as the tabled documents disclose—and I remind the House that those documents were tabled by the

Minister—that this child was at the hostel because of his special need for care.

I point out to the Minister that, if he is suggesting that there was no maltreatment of the child, then he underlines, even more clearly, the need for a genuinely independent inquiry.

I emphasise that I make no allegations as to personal involvement against any member of the staff of the hostel. What the parents requested in their letter to the Premier and to the Minister was a "full investigation". That is the request they also made of me in seeking my assistance.

That request has been ignored by the Government, and the Minister has made a statement that is inadequate in its failure to respond to the legal, moral, and political obligations of the Government.

The Opposition demands, as will the public of the State, that the Government immediately institute a complete and genuinely independent inquiry.

Mr Pearce: All I can say is that you are sinking lower every week.

LOAN BILL

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Treasurer) [4.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Each year through a measure such as this, authority is sought for the raising of loans to finance certain works and services as detailed in the Estimates of Expenditure from the General Loan Fund as tabled on Tuesday, 9 October 1984.

The main purpose of this Bill is to provide the required borrowing authority for the raising of loans to help finance the State's capital works programme. It seeks to provide borrowing authority for the raising of loans not exceeding \$122.42 million for the purposes listed in the first schedule.

In accordance with usual practice and to ensure continuity of works in progress pending the passage of next year's Loan Bill, it is necessary to have sufficient borrowing authority to enable works of a continuing nature to be maintained for a period of about six months after the close of the financial year. In addition to doing this the Bill takes into account the unexpended balance of previous authorisations and seeks to provide the necessary borrowing authority where previous authorisations have been exceeded or where a provision has not previously been made.

Details of the conditions of the various loan authorities are set out in pages 42 to 45 of the

Loan Estimates. These pages also show information relating to the appropriation of loan repayments received in 1983-84 and the allocation of Commonwealth general purpose capital grants.

As usual the borrowings will be undertaken by the Commonwealth Government which acts for all States in arranging new borrowings, conversions, renewals, and redemptions of existing loans.

This function of the Commonwealth Government is exercised under the terms of the 1927 financial agreement and within the total borrowings programme for all States as determined by the Australian Loan Council. The Loan Council also prescribes the terms and conditions attached to the loan raisings under Western Australia's Government borrowing programme.

As I indicated in the Budget speech, this borrowing authority includes the \$96.5 million nominated by the State Government for public housing. These funds are advanced on loan by the Commonwealth to the State at the concessional interest rate of 4.5 per cent and are repayable over 53 years.

This arrangement commenced in 1982-83 when the Commonwealth provided the States with the option of nominating amounts from their Government borrowing programmes to apply to public housing, provided that the States had first met their matching requirements under the Commonwealth-State housing agreement.

Western Australia nominated \$7.2 million under this arrangement in 1982-83 and \$7 million in 1983-84. This year, and in line with the high priority we place on meeting community needs for public housing, the Government has earmarked the full Government borrowing programme of \$96.5 million.

In addition, the Commonwealth Government provides to the States a proportion of the total programme by way of a capital grant. These grants constitute one-third of each State's approved general purpose programme to assist in financing capital work.

At its June 1984 meeting the Australian Loan Council approved a total State Government general purpose programme of \$1 564.5 million for 1984-85, a 6.5 per cent increase over the level of the previous year, made up of two-thirds borrowings—\$1 043 million—and one-third—\$521.5 million—capital grant. Western Australia's allocation is \$96.5 million and \$48.3 million respectively.

In addition to seeking to provide authority for loan raising, the Bill also makes provision for an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund on loans

raised under this and previous Loan Acts. It also seeks authority to allow the balances of previous authorisations to be applied to other items.

The second schedule sets out the amounts to be reappropriated and the Loan Acts which authorised the original appropriations. The amount of \$29 092 411 shown on page 45 of the Loan Estimates includes \$477 445 allocated from loan repayments and \$1 200 787 of Commonwealth capital grants. As loan repayments and Commonwealth capital grants do not require legislative authorisation, the amount to be reappropriated is therefore reduced to \$27 414 179. The items to which the funds are to be appropriated are set out in the third schedule.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr MacKinnon (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (2): ASSENT

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

1. Acts Amendment and Repeal (Disqualification for Parliament) Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Local Government Electoral Provisions) Bill.

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEES BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT BILL

Council's Request for Select Committee

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgas—Premier) [4.43 p.m.]: In response to the request contained in Legislative Council message No. 48, I move—

That the Legislative Assembly declines to refer the Conservation and Land Management Bill to a Select Committee of its members.

The Opposition spokesman on this Bill has indicated there will be extensive debate on this matter, so I presume I will seek leave in a few minutes' time to continue my remarks at a later stage of the sitting but, before doing so, I think I should make one or two points to illustrate the

Government's attitude towards the request of the Legislative Council.

In the first place, at no stage during the debate in this place did Opposition members indicate that they believed a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council should be established. This Bill came before the Parliament as one of the most debated and best canvassed pieces of legislation ever to see the light of day in the Legislative Assembly. Not only that, but the Government accepted—and I will stand corrected as I am quoting from memory—10 of the 14 amendments proposed by the Opposition during the second reading and Committee stages of the debate. I do not believe the Opposition can say that the Government was less than accommodating.

We have a piece of legislation that was very widely canvassed in the public arena before coming to the Parliament; that was amended as a result of submissions received by different interested parties in the public arena; that was debated over a period of many weeks in the Legislative Assembly; and, that was subject to amendments moved by the Opposition on 10 different occasions and accepted by the Government on each of those occasions. The Bill went to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Council established a Select Committee of its members at a particular stage of the debate to consider the general purposes of the Bill.

It is not appropriate for the Legislative Council to request the Legislative Assembly to establish a Select Committee of its members. It would have been much more appropriate for the Legislative Council to have suggested that a committee of the Parliament as a whole be established to consider the legislation, if it was in the minds of Council members to have a committee of some sort con-

sider the Conservation and Land Management Bill.

Nevertheless, the Legislative Council has established a Select Committee and I understand that it has already advertised, seeking submissions from people who are interested, with a 30 November deadline, and that, according to the assurances given to the Government by Hon. Sandy Lewis, the Council Select Committee will report on 13 December to allow the legislation to be dealt with.

Mr Blaikie: Is the Parliament going to be recalled for the legislation to be dealt with?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That depends. My presumption is that the Parliament will still be sitting then.

Mr Blaikie: Really? Your colleagues apparently have not been advised.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not know. Perhaps the member for Vasse knows better than I do, but I presume the Parliament will still be sitting then.

Mr Blaikie: The dogs are barking.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The dogs might be barking but—

Mr Blaikie: You are cranky today. It is not like you.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I am not cranky. The member for Vasse just carries on all the time.

The Chairman of the Select Committee (Hon. Sandy Lewis) has informed me that his committee will make its considerations by 13 December and on that basis it is not appropriate, not possible, and not desirable, for this Assembly to constitute a committee of its own members to do what the Legislative Council is already doing.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

[Questions taken.]

House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Local Equity

1561. Mr PETER JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) With regard to the written reply to question 890, dated 23 October 1984, by what methods is the Western Australian Development Corporation able to overcome barriers to growth as referred to on page 3 of the reply?
- (2) How is the Western Australian Development Corporation overcoming the "low level of local equity" referred to in the reply?
- (3) Is the Western Australian Development Corporation currently seeking to increase "local equity" in already established local industry?
- (4) If (3) is "Yes"—
 - (a) what industries are the subject of such endeavours;
 - (b) did the industries concerned approach the Western Australian Development Corporation for greater local involvement?
- (5) What results have so far been obtained by the Western Australian Development Corporation in obtaining greater local involvement?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (5) This matter has been referred to the WA Development Corporation who will reply direct to the member.

1595. *Postponed.*

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

John Curtin Foundation

1596. Mr RUSHTON, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government directly or indirectly made a contribution to the John Curtin Foundation?
- (2) Have any of the reported major contributors to the foundation received any contracts or financial guarantees personally or with companies of which they are major shareholders from the Government since the election of the Labor Government?

- (3) If "Yes" to (2), will he please list the value of the contracts and guarantees between the Government and each of the major contributors?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) The answer to this question would require a considerable amount of research. Support for any political party has never and will never be a consideration in decisions made by this Government. If the Minister has any specific concern and is prepared to provide details, the matter will be investigated.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Sanitary Land Fill Sites

1642. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he and his Government considered the petition I presented to Parliament on 29 May 1984, requesting the Government to legislate to prevent sanitary land fill sites within 10 kilometres of the Western Australian coastline?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the Government's decision?
- (3) If "No", when is it envisaged this matter will be considered by the Government?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (3) To the best of my knowledge no legislation as proposed by the petitioners is currently envisaged by the Government. At present, every application for a sanitary land fill site is carefully evaluated and considered by the relevant authorities.

STATE FINANCE

General Loan Fund

1677. Mr COWAN, to the Treasurer:

With reference to the General Loan Fund allocation for miscellaneous departments (Marine and Harbours) there is an estimate of \$200 000 set aside for land acquisition at Lancelin: can he give precise details of the area and location of the land to be acquired and the purpose for which it will be used?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The land is required as shore support for a jetty to service the fishing industry at

Lancelin. (There is no public jetty at Lancelin.)

The preferred site for the jetty is adjacent to Miragliotta Street and the land required to service a jetty at that site is Lot 110 on the corner of Miragliotta Street and Gin Gin Road.

ROADS

Mandurah Bypass

1679. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is he aware of the fishing landing required for the new bypass bridge at Mandurah?
- (2) If so, would a fishing landing be a tourist attraction?
- (3) If so, is he prepared to review the grant from the Government to the Mandurah Shire Council as—
 - (a) the fishing landing is outside the 50:50 residential usage guidelines; and
 - (b) the cost of the fishing landing will finish up costing the Mandurah Shire Council closer to \$250 000?
- (4) Is he also aware of the public statement (*Coastal District Times*, 11 October 1984) that the Government provided \$100 000 in the Budget for the fishing landing when, in fact, only \$50 000 was provided for by the Government?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The provision of a fishing landing was included in the design concept for the bridge.
- (2) The fishing landing will serve recreational interests.
- (3) A 50:50 funding arrangement for the fishing platform is considered appropriate and the level of the State's contribution was initially based on a preliminary cost estimate of \$100 000. The contribution will be reviewed having regard to actual cost. Shore-based facilities are seen as a direct local authority responsibility although the Tourism Commission has received an approach from the shire for financial assistance and the matter is under consideration.
- (4) The \$100 000 referred to was the estimated total cost of the project, to be funded \$50 000 State and \$50 000 Shire of Mandurah.

HEALTH

Alcohol

1680. Mr TRETOWAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much in both dollar and percentage terms of the Western Australian Alcohol and Drugs Authority budgets for 1983-84 and 1984-85 is related to the treatment of alcoholism?
- (2) What treatment centres are involved in the assessment, detoxification and therapy of alcoholics?
- (3) What percentage of patients at each of those institutions are being treated for alcoholism?
- (4) What is the nature of the treatment provided at each of those institutions?
- (5) What other Government-run or financial institutions, outside the control of the Western Australian Alcohol and Drugs Authority, are involved in the treatment of alcoholism?
- (6) What is the cost to the community of those non Western Australian Alcohol and Drugs Authority treatment programmes?
- (7) What numbers of beds in—
 - (a) teaching hospitals;
 - (b) other public hospitals,
 are used for the treatment of alcoholism?
- (8) What is the average length of stay during treatment for alcoholism in—
 - (a) each of the Western Australian Alcohol and Drugs Authority hospitals or clinics;
 - (b) teaching hospitals;
 - (c) other public hospitals;
 - (d) other Government-funded programmes?
- (9) What is the length of outpatient treatment in (8) (a), (b), (c) and (d)?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) 1983-84, \$2 891 000—69 per cent
1984-85, \$3 501 000—73 per cent.
- (2) The only Government treatment centres exclusively providing assessment, detoxification and treatment to alcoholics are those operated by the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Authority.

The specific facilities operated by the authority for alcohol related problems are:

Aston Hospital—detoxification and assessment

Ord Street Hospital—medium term rehabilitation

Carrellis Centre—outpatient clinic, counselling and assessment.

- (3) Answered by (2) above.
- (4) Answered by (2) above.
- (5) All Government run hospitals treat alcohol-related disorders.
- (6) Cost to the community is not possible to calculate since many of the services and programmes for alcoholics are provided by voluntary, religious or charitable associations. However, if the honourable member means the cost of Government-provided, hospital-based services (other than Alcohol and Drug Authority programmes) this is not identifiable since alcohol related disorders are not separately identified from other disorders treated in public hospitals.
- (7) Answered by (6) above.
- (8) (a) Aston Hospital—5.9 days
Ord Street Hospital—36.4 days.
(b) to (d) Answered by (6) above.
- (9) In relation to the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Authority hospitals and clinics, the length of outpatient treatment varies widely depending on the severity of the disorder.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES: ACCOMMODATION

Leased: Kings Building

1684. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) How many floors of the Kings Building in Hay Street, Perth are currently being leased by the Government?
- (2) Will he list those floors?
- (3) From whom is the property being leased?
- (4) Since 1 September 1983, have any Government departments or agencies been located in this building?
- (5) If so, which departments or agencies, and over what period of time was the building so occupied?
- (6) Which floors were so occupied?

- (7) Since 1 September 1983, what has been the total rental paid for the lease of the sections of the Kings Building leased by the Government?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) 4.
- (2) 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- (3) Managing agents—Richard Ellis. Owner—Western Growth Trust.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Smoking and Health Project, Health Department of WA, since 10 January 1984.
- (6) 5th.
- (7) \$249 312.00.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Loss

1686. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Did the State Housing Commission operate at a loss during 1983-84?
- (2) If so, what was the amount of that loss?
- (3) What is the budgeted outcome for the commission in 1984-85?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) As the member will well appreciate, the assessment of a profit or loss in accounting terms is subject to variations arising from short-term operating circumstances. For example, income from interest earned can vary substantially with the intensity of the construction programme and the need to deploy more funds, and profit from sale of assets will vary according to external market conditions.

I therefore believe that it is pointless to use short-term accounting procedures to measure the efficiency of an organisation pursuing long-term social and economic objectives.

Notwithstanding those inherent operational and accounting vagaries, the anticipated outcome for 1984-85 is an estimated loss of \$887 000. This will compare favourably with the accounting losses of around \$4 million in 1982-83, \$3.6 million in 1981-82 and \$2.6 million in 1980-81.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

Police: Complaints

1692. Mr MENSAROS, to the Premier:

Does his public statement in the media that the Ombudsman will have more initiative to start investigations into Police Force matters according to the Police Union's latest proposal than he would have had under the Government's Complaints against Police Bill 1984 mean that the internal investigation within the Police Force, as it exists today, will be phased out?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The Police Union has retreated from its position of last week when it indicated that it supported the Ombudsman having the power to conduct inquiries into the actions of individual police officers.

Accordingly, the question does not arise.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Board of Redeployment and Retraining

1693. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Who are the members appointed to the Board of Redeployment and Retraining described in the diagram enclosed in his "Circular No. 3 to all staff" dated 11 October 1984, to the then architectural division, Public Works Department?

Mr McIVER replied:

Mr W. M. Mitchell—chairman

Mr R. Broom—career development officer

Mr M. Bowler—Civil Service Association representative

Mr R. Bone—Public Service Board representative

Mr P. Steiner—career development officer

Mr C. R. Edwards—male staff representative

Mrs J. J. Rodgers—female staff representative

WORKS: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Architectural Division

1694. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Who are the members appointed to the Board of Restructure described in the diagram enclosed in his "Circular No. 3

to all staff" dated 11 October 1984, to the then Architectural Division, Public Works Department?

Mr McIVER replied:

Mr W. M. Mitchell—chairman

Mr D. W. Norman—executive director, Building Management Authority

Mr K. M. McKenna—chairman, Public Service Board

Mr R. Broom—career development officer

Mr L. Friday—builder

Mr B. Tomlinson—architect

Mr P. Bruechle—engineer

Mr M. Begent—staff member

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Board of Restructure

1695. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Where can the statutory provisions be found for the aims, duties, responsibilities and organisational structure of the recently announced Building Management Authority of Western Australia?

Mr McIVER replied:

The Building Management Authority of Western Australia has been established pursuant to Section 21 of the Public Service Act 1978. All matters alluded to by the honourable member in his question are being addressed as part of the process of putting the authority on an operational basis.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Building Management Authority of WA

1696. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

What are the conditions and remuneration of the employment/contract of the newly appointed executive director of the Building Management Authority of Western Australia?

Mr McIVER replied:

The permanent executive director of the Building Management Authority who will be appointed once the restructuring programme has been finalised will be employed in accord with the Public Service Act.

However, the pro tem executive director, Mr D. Norman has been engaged for a period of nine (9) months as an integral part of the agreement presently being formulated with Allied Westralian Ltd., as described in my response to question 1697.

For technical and legal reasons Mr Norman has been appointed to the pro tem position by the Public Service Board for \$1 per year.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Building Management Authority of WA

1697. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he now in a position to disclose the amount and conditions of remuneration being paid to Mr W. M. Mitchell for his activities in connection with the dissection of the Public Works Department and the reduction and transformation of the architectural division of that department?

(2) In particular, can he say whether the total or part of the remuneration has any connection with the measurable saving to the Consolidated Revenue Fund as a result of the exercise mentioned in (1)?

Mr McIVER replied:

(1) and (2) Mr Mitchell is a director of Allied Westralian Ltd., a wholly owned West Australian company that has been engaged by the Government to perform the complex task of restructure and redeployment. Allied Westralian Ltd., will be providing all the expertise required to undertake these tasks.

I am not in a position to discuss the amount and conditions of the fee to Allied Westralian Ltd., as it has not been finalised or documented at this point in time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Architectural Division

1699. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Would he please describe in detail the "proper consultation of appropriate authorities and staff organisations" which he has undertaken between the time he sent his "Message to all staff

from the Minister" on 17 April 1984, and the time of his further circular on 11 October 1984, in which he announced the complete demise of the architectural division, Public Works Department.

Mr McIVER replied:

My message to all staff of 17 April, 1984 stated that no decisions as to the future of the architectural division or with respect to staffing implications have been made or will be made without proper consultation with appropriate authorities and staff organisations.

There has been ongoing consultation with the Public Service Board and, in addition, the Chairman of the Public Service Board is on the Board of Restructure, and there are representatives of both the Public Service Board and the Civil Service Association on the Board of Redeployment and Retraining.

1706 and 1707. *Postponed.*

DAIRYING

Milk Price

1708. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Would he indicate the individual rises in the price of—

(a) milk;

(b) cream,

in all categories, as expressed in—

(i) monetary;

(ii) percentage,

terms, and the actual date of each increase since 30 June 1979?

Mr EVANS replied:

(a) MILK

Metropolitan Area—1 litre Carton

INCREASE

Date	(i) Monetary c	(ii) Percent- age c
1 Nov. 1979	2	4.16
1 May 1980	2	4.00
1 Nov. 1980	3	5.76
1 Feb. 1981	3	5.45
1 June 1981	2	3.44
1 Dec. 1981	3	5.00

1 April 1982	2	3.17
1 Sep. 1982	3	4.16
1 Nov. 1983	2	2.94
1 Sep. 1984	1	1.42

(b) CREAM

metropolitan area—whipping cream,
40% BF 300 ml cartons

INCREASE

Date	(i) Monetary c	(ii) Percent- age c
1 Nov. 1979	2	3.5
1 Feb. 1980	2	3.38
1 May 1980	2	3.27
1 Nov. 1980	3	4.76
1 Feb. 1981	3	4.54
1 April 1981	4	5.79
1 June 1981	2	2.73
1 Dec. 1981	8	10.66
1 April 1982	3	3.61
1 Aug. 1982	5	5.81
1 Sep. 1984	2	2.19

DAIRYING

Dairy Produce Marketing

1709. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Can he indicate whether there have been any circumstances where Western Australian-produced dairy products have been subjected to market pressures as a result of, or possible result of, a similar produce being imported from either interstate or overseas sources, and if so, would he detail and provide the category of products concerned?

Mr EVANS replied:

Western Australian dairy products are continually subject to market pressures as a result of the import or possible import of similar products from overseas or interstate.

ROADS: ENNIS AVENUE

Cost

1710. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Transport:

What was the cost of the recently completed Ennis Avenue duplication of

the Perth-Mandurah road, and would he indicate the amount of—

- (a) State;
- (b) Commonwealth;
- (c) local government;
- (d) bicentennial road programme, funding in this project?

Mr GRILL replied:

The estimated cost of the duplicate carriageway in Ennis Avenue, including some sealing work to be undertaken early in 1985, will be \$1.650 m.

- (a) At this stage it is proposed that all funds will come from State sources.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Nil.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Dr David Bennett

1711. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

- (1) On what date did the Government write to the Federal Minister for Science and Technology requesting seconding the services of Dr David Bennett to the Department of Premier and Cabinet?
- (2) What are Dr Bennett's qualifications?
- (3) Was the position advertised, and if so, where?
- (4) What salary and expenses and conditions, i.e. motor car, will be provided as per the position?
- (5) What are Dr Bennett's duties and is he "classified" as an adviser?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) 9 July, 1984.
- (2) B.Sc. (Agric Hons), London University, 1956. Ph.D. (External), London University, 1968, in Animal Husbandry.
- (3) See reply to question No. 1488 of 1984.
- (4) Currently being negotiated.
- (5) (a) It is proposed to appoint Dr Bennett as executive officer to the Land Resource Policy Council.
- (b) This position is not classified as an adviser.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

National Parks Authority

1712. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What is the current number of staff and employees of the National Parks Authority?
- (2) Would he provide a list of all national parks in Western Australia showing staff levels, where applicable, and density of public visitation?
- (3) When was the five-year staffing numbers first submitted and would he give details of changes to date?
- (4) How many vehicles currently in service are—
 - (a) owned;
 - (b) leased;
 - (c) operated,
 and for what purpose; that is, patrol, firefighting etc., by the National Parks Authority?
- (5) Further to (4), how many of the vehicles were purchased as new or used vehicles, and are purchases obtained through the Government Tender Board?
- (6) What is the yearly expenditure on vehicles purchased since 1976?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) 102 approved positions comprising 21 public servants, 81 wages and other staff.

National Park	Rangers	1983/84 Approx. Visitation Not Known (nk)
Alexander Morrison		nk
Avon Valley	1	nk
Badgingarra		nk
Boorabbin		nk
Cape Arid	1	12 000
Cape Le Grand	1	30 000
Cape Range	1	21 000
Collier Range		nk
D'Entrecasteaux	1	nk
Drovers		nk
Drysdale River		nk
Eucaly		nk
Fitzgerald River	3	nk high
Frank Hann		nk
Geikie Gorge	1	22 000
Goongarrie		nk
Gooseberry Hill		nk
Greenmount		nk
Hammersley Range	1	25 000
Hassell		nk
Hidden Valley		nk
John Forrest*	8	70 000
Kalamunda		nk
Kalbarri	3	140 000
Leeuwin Naturaliste	3	nk
Lesmurdie Falls		nk
Milkstream Chichester	1	18 000
Moore River		nk
Nambung	2	nk high
Neerabup		nk
Peak Charles		nk
Pemberton	1	nk

Porongurup	1	nk
Rudall River		nk
Scott		nk
Serpentine	1	53 000
Sir James Mitchell		nk
Stirling Range	2	25 000
Stokes	1	nk
Tathra		nk
Torndirrup	2	300 000
Tunnel Creek		nk
Walpole Nornalup	3	nk
Walyunga	2	70 000
Watheroo	1	nk
William Bay	1	nk
Widjiana Gorge		10 000
Wolf Creek Crater		nk
Yalgurup	1	nk
Yanchep**	20	230 000
+ 13 Reserves	4	
+ 14 Caravan based Mobile Rangers		

*8 comprising 1 Supervisor and 7 Rangers

**20 comprising 1 Supervisor, 2 office staff, 1 mechanic, 16 Rangers (1 being an Aboriginal trainee funded by the Commonwealth).

N.B. Many national parks have a number of entrances and therefore where applicable the visitation level can only be estimated from gate takings (in Metropolitan Region), vehicle counts from road counters and fees gathered from campers where possible.

- (3) 1977. Over that year as a consequence of the CTCRC and EPA recommendations on the system studies, the staff increased by 17 positions a number of which were temporary employees made full-time. Since 1978, the authority has received a further 4 positions.
- (4) Owned 89
Leased —
Operated —
- (5) 72 purchased new through Government Tender Board.

17 S/H purchased from other departments.

All but 8 of the vehicles used for patrol maintenance and fire fighting.

(6) 1975-76	61 000
1976-77	166 000
1977-78	124 500
1978-79	120 000
1979-80	133 000
1980-81	103 000
1981-82	115 000
1982-83	215 000
1983-84	100 000
1984-85	132 000

DAIRYING

Milk Levy

1713. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Government discontinued with the dairy assistance plan levy of 1c on each pint of milk sold, introduced as a means to provide stability and guarantee assurance of product to consumers, and if so why?

- (2) How much money was accrued to the fund in each year since its commencement?
- (3) Would he give detail as to how the funds have been distributed in each year since 1982?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) I will obtain the details required from the Dairy Industry Authority and provide them to the honourable member as they become available.

1714. *Postponed.*

DAIRYING

Cream: Liquid Artificial

1715. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any dairy companies in Western Australia manufactured "artificial" liquid cream, either in experimental or commercial quantities?
- (2) If "Yes", what are the brand names of the companies concerned, and the year and quantity produced?
- (3) Was the product destined for the home trade or catering industry?
- (4) Is the product currently available?
- (5) Can he advise whether artificial liquid cream is manufactured in any other Australian States?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Imitation cream has been produced by Masters Dairy, as Masters Devon Imitation Cream, for several years but the quantities produced are confidential to the manufacturer.
- (3) The product is produced for the catering industry.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) I am advised that imitation cream is currently manufactured in at least one other Australian State.

1716. *Postponed.*

DAIRYING

Milk Surplus

1717. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the State Government given any consideration to a scheme to underwrite the cost of dairy products produced from surplus milk in this State?
- (2) Has the Government made any proposal to the Commonwealth Government to extend production underwriting on export sales, to include sales on specified products achieved within Australia as a means of maintaining market stability during this period of world dairy product surplus?
- (3) If "No" to (2), why not?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The Government has supported the continuation of Commonwealth underwriting of dairy products and at the State level has through the Dairy Industry Authority provided a degree of revenue support for manufacturing milk producers.

ROADS: MANDURAH BYPASS

Peel Inlet Bridge Construction

1718. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Regarding the new bridge to be constructed over the Peel Inlet at Mandurah, what has been the—
 - (a) contract price for the bridge;
 - (b) cost of land resumptions?
- (2) When did land resumptions commence?
- (3) Have all necessary land resumptions been concluded?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) (a) The recent contract price for the part of stage 2 of the bypass, which includes the bridge was \$5 154 004.67.
 - (b) The cost of land resumptions to date is \$194 630. Negotiations are continuing with one owner.
- (2) Notice of intention to resume was gazetted on 22 October 1982.
- (3) No. However this is not inhibiting construction.

TRAFFIC

Census Recorders

1719. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to the recent advertisement in which the Main Roads Department sought traffic census recorders—
 - (a) how many applications were received;
 - (b) how many appointments were made;
 - (c) were all applicants interviewed;
 - (d) if not, on what basis were applicants chosen for interviews?
- (2) Apart from those requirements stated in the advertisement, what criteria were used to select successful applicants?
- (3) Specifically, was any special consideration given in regard to an applicant's—
 - (a) age;
 - (b) current employment status;
 - (c) period of unemployment?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) (a) 189.
- (b) 1.
- (c) No.
- (d) Thirty applicants were shortlisted taking into account:

Experience in living in remote areas;
Mature age and habits;
Family and marital status;
Possession of a four-wheel drive vehicle and caravan for use in conjunction with the job; and
Availability to commence work in Geraldton on November 29.

From this shortened list 11 persons were interviewed.
- (2) See (1)(d) above.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.

HEALTH: HOSPITALS

Woodside

1720. Mr TRETOWAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the State Government considering the introduction of sessional payments for doctors at Woodside Hospital?

- (2) If so, who will be subject to sessional payments and who will be subject to fee for service?
- (3) How many beds does Woodside Hospital have and how many of these are in obstetrics and gynaecology, respectively?
- (4) How many births were recorded at Woodside Hospital in—
 - (a) 1980;
 - (b) 1981;
 - (c) 1982;
 - (d) 1983; and
 - (e) to 31 October 1984?
- (5) What is the nearest public hospital to Woodside Hospital having specialised obstetric beds and how many such beds does it have?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Discussions are being held with medical practitioners who currently provide medical services to Woodside Hospital to introduce a system of formal appointments to the hospital. Access for general practitioners who practise obstetrics and specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists will be maintained. Remuneration by sessional payment is only one of the matters which are under discussion.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.
- (3) Forty beds (normally around four beds are occupied by patients for treatment of gynaecological conditions).
- (4) 1980 911
1981 1049
1982 882
1983 961
1984 764 to October 31.
- (5) King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women which has 124 specialised obstetric beds.

PLANNING

Majestic Hotel Site

1721. Mr TRETOWAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Minister seen the article in the *Sunday Times* of 11 November headed "Majestic Plan likely to be Approved"?
- (2) Has the Town Planning Department recommended a medium density plan for the site?

- (3) If so, what "R" code density was recommended and were any maximum height levels suggested?
- (4) When is the City of Melville Town Planning Scheme No. 3 likely to be approved?
- (5) (a) Is this to be dependent on the receipt of an environmental report about a Bond Corporation proposed marina for Point Dundas adjacent to the Majestic site;
- (b) if so, why?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, but the Town Planning Board has made recommendations to the Minister for Planning about density zoning, proposals in the proposed Melville Town Planning Scheme No. 3.
- (3) These matters are currently being considered by the Minister who will advise Council in the first instance of his decision.
- (4) The Minister will relay his decision to Council as soon as he has satisfied himself about all aspects of the scheme and the environment (See (5)(b)).
- (5) (a) Yes;
- (b) he is concerned about environmental effects from development of a marina contiguous with the site.

GAMBLING: TAB

Radio Station 6PR: Purchase

1722. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services:

- (1) Further to question 1132 of 11 October 1984, will the Minister give a breakdown of the expenditure of the section 26 reserve for 1982-83 and 1983-84?
- (2) Which funds of the Totalisator Agency Board would be used to purchase 6PR if the decision to purchase 6PR by the Totalisator Agency Board is agreed to?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No. The Totalisator Agency Board operates along commercial enterprise lines. The information requested is subject to the Board's audit requirements in

accordance with the provisions of the TAB Act.

- (2) Specific funding requirements have not yet been determined, however as section 26 anticipated funds for the next three years are fully committed, it will be necessary to borrow funds if the decision to purchase 6PR is agreed to.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Holyoake

1723. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Youth and Community Services:

- (1) Has he received a submission from Holyoake?
- (2) (a) If so, has he provided the funding required by Holyoake;
- (b) if not, why not?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) If the member is referring to the proposed programme for children—Yes.
- (2) (a) No;
- (b) the appropriate government funding agency for Holyoake's activities is the Alcohol and Drug Authority. The submission was received too late for inclusion in the authorities 1984-85 Estimates and as a consequence funds could not been made available with the 1984-85 Budget allocation. Holyoake has been invited to submit its request for additional financial support for inclusion in the 1985-86 Budget Estimates.

ENERGY: ALUMINIUM SMELTER

Impact Studies

1724. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to question 1552 on 6 November 1984, is it fact that Croft and Associates Pty. Ltd. are involved in preparing information for an economic and social impact study of the smelter project?
- (2) Are Professor Greg McColl of the University of New South Wales, and Miss Diana Gibbs also involved?
- (3) On whose advice were Professor McColl and Miss Gibbs invited to become involved in the smelter project?

- (4) Why is it considered that the Stanford Research Institute should advise the Government on the international aluminium industry?
- (5) On what basis was Stanford Research Institute chosen for this task ahead of several other organisations which could lay claim to a greater knowledge and closer involvement with the international aluminium industry?
- (6) By what group or organisation is the review of energy tariff options and structure being undertaken?
- (7) When is it anticipated the revised energy tariff proposals will be available for public consideration as undertaken by the Premier?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (7) As the member for Narrogin was very recently advised in response to question 1552 a number of studies are being undertaken into aspects of the proposed aluminium smelter and power station developments. The studies impact directly on negotiations now in progress. I am not prepared, at this time, to divulge the nature of the specific studies or the organisations involved.

At this time the member for Narrogin should know that a number of consultants are engaged in the initiatives including some engaged by the member during his former ministry.

The member for Narrogin should realise the need for commercial confidentiality. The information will be provided to the member when the appropriate stage has been reached with the smelter negotiations. It is not prudent to put a date on this stage.

ROADS

Main Roads Department

1725. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to the 1984-85 Budget for the Main Roads Department, what allocation has been made for—
 - (a) new staff appointments;
 - (b) equipment replacement; and
 - (c) total administration costs?
- (2) Is it intended to reduce total staff numbers, including wages personnel?

- (3) How many persons are involved in administration within the department?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) (a) There is no specific amount for new appointments and the only additional funds provided over 1983-84 were for changes in salary rates;
- (b) \$1.75m has been provided for new, replacement and lease equipment. \$1.4m was for computing and the remainder for general office equipment including word processing, photocopiers, drafting, calculators and hearing testing equipment;
- (c) \$21.6m was budgeted for engineering and general administration which includes \$1.525m of the \$1.75m mentioned above.
- (2) It is planned to maintain salaried staff numbers during the year. Wages numbers have risen slightly since June. These will continue to fluctuate depending on the work programme.
Overall total employment levels are unlikely to vary significantly.
- (3) At 31 October 1984 there were 995 salaried staff. Of these, three were in the special, 397 in the professional, eight in the administrative, 349 in the clerical and 238 in the general classifications.

ENERGY: OIL

Barrow Island

1726. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the Government's attempts to obtain greater royalty revenue from the Barrow Island oilfield, have discussions with the operator and the Federal Government reached finality?
- (2) If so, what result has been obtained and what additional revenue, if any, will accrue to the State Government?
- (3) If not, what discussions are still proceeding and with what end in view?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (3) There are ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth and the operator directed towards arrangements which will encourage the optimal recovery of petroleum from the field.

ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf

1727. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the requirements of the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Act, and the preparatory work being undertaken for the LNG second stage, is the Government monitoring the level of design work being done offshore in Yokahama and in Holland?
- (2) Is the Government aware of the manner in which this design work is being done, and its eventual effect upon local construction capacities?
- (3) What initiatives has the Government taken to ensure that the project managers and the participants are fully aware of local design capacities availability of Western Australian products and skills?
- (4) What regular meetings are held with the project managers and the participants in order to ensure that the maximum design work is being undertaken by Western Australian companies rather than in Yokahama by JGC and in the Netherlands within Royal Dutch Shell?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Close consultation is occurring between Government and the joint venture participants and manager on this matter.
- (4) I—and the involved State departments—have regular bi-monthly meetings with Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty. Ltd. on the status of the project. The steps being taken for maximisation of local content is an agenda matter at those meetings. The most recent meeting of this type was held on 2 November 1984. The JVP were represented at this last meeting. Separate meetings are also held with the manager on specific local content and other matters as necessary. There would rarely be a week in which I do not meet with the JVP, or a member thereof, on project-related issues involving local content. It is noteworthy that the first significant contract for the second development stage of the project has been let to a Western Australian company. The contract, worth more than \$300 000, is for the re-design of the jetty

on Burrup Peninsula to handle LNG tankers. It has been awarded to Australian Port Consultants, of South Perth. The letting of the contract is a further sign of the project's gearing up for the \$8.5 billion export phase. The aim is to progress certain critical aspects of the project so they can move quickly once the export phase gets the green light.

ROADS

Farrington Road: Approval

1728. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to the Farrington Road extensions, have the—
 - (a) Cockburn Town Council;
 - (b) Melville City Council,
 agreed to the suggested road specifications and designs of the carriageway?
- (2) If "No", what agreement remains to be reached?
- (3) Is he involved in reaching agreement between the relevant local government authorities?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) As far as I am aware both councils agree that the current road construction should be confined to a single 7.4 m carriageway constructed to the design and specifications produced by Cockburn City Council.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The majority of outstanding issues are matters to be resolved directly between the two councils. At this stage I am not involved in these discussions.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Narrogin

1729. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) With regard to the administration of the State Emergency Service in Narrogin, is it proposed to establish a headquarters building in Narrogin?
- (2) Is a "regional" administrator or executive officer to be appointed?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) It is understood that the Narrogin Town Council is in the process of applying for

a Commonwealth grant, obtainable through the natural disasters organisation, Canberra, to assist council in establishing headquarters at Narrogin for the State Emergency Service unit.

- (2) Consideration is being given to establishing a State Emergency Service regional co-ordinator at Narrogin, responsible for the central south region. However, decision on this appointment, which is salaried by the Commonwealth, has not been finalised.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

36-hour Week

1730. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Does the State Government support a further reduction in working hours per week?
- (2) If "No", will the Government oppose any arrangements entered into or proposed which grant a 36-hour week?
- (3) Does the Government require any successful tenderers for Government works to abide by the Government's industrial relations policy and decisions of the State Industrial Commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) The wage fixation principles of the State and Commonwealth industrial tribunals preclude any reductions in working hours below 38 per week.
- (3) Employers whether they are working for the Government or not have to comply with conditions as determined by the State or Federal commissions.

ENERGY

Industrial Relations Working Party for Smelter Development

1731. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) For what purpose has an industrial relations working party for smelter development been formed?
- (2) What is the membership of the working party?
- (3) On how many occasions has it met?
- (4) To whom does it report and make recommendations?

- (5) What are the working party's terms of reference?
- (6) When is it expected to complete its required work?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No such working party has been formed.
- (2) to (6) Not applicable.

NUCLEAR PROTESTS

Rockingham

1732. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Youth and Community Services:

- (1) Has the Government completed its negotiations with the Shire of Rockingham in connection with finding a suitable camp site for the peace protestors "Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament"?
- (2) If "Yes", what location has been approved?

Mr WILSON replied:

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

PLANNING

Northbridge

1733. Mr COURT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the Government to be involved in the proposal to redevelop the Northbridge city block bounded by Stirling, James, Beaufort and Roe Streets?
- (2) Are any Trades and Labor Council properties to be part of this redevelopment?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is preparing proposals for submission to the Minister for Planning. The detailed proposals are not known at this stage.

1734 and 1735. *Postponed.*

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Appointments to Government

1736. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Are there any senior Australian Labor Party officials or ex senior Australian

Labor Party officials yet to receive senior Government appointments?

- (2) If "Yes", how many will be appointed in the 1984-85 financial year?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) Declaration of political party membership is not a prerequisite of employment by my Government.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Western Australian Development Corporation

1737. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Development Corporation reached agreement with the Industrial Bank of Japan on the establishment of a new bank in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Western Australian Development Corporation submitted an application for a new banking licence with the Federal authorities?
- (3) If "No", has the Western Australian Development Corporation notified the Federal Government of its intent to apply for a banking licence in conjunction with the Industrial Bank of Japan?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (3) The member should be aware by now, given the replies to previous questions on the Western Australian Development Corporation, that it is the Government's intention to see that the corporation operates on the same basis as other corporations.

Clearly, this means that even if WADC had reached agreement with any party on a commercial matter, it would not be for the Government to comment on or disclose any information on the commercial activities of WADC which would, in any normal business undertaking, fall within the scope of commercial confidentiality. Furthermore, it is not the Government's intention to be drawn to comment on this or any other matter in circumstances that might undermine or prejudice the commercial activities of WADC or any other similar business institution.

UNIONS

Australian Council of Trade Unions

1738. Mr COURT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Why did the Government support the application of the Australian Council of Trade Unions before the Commonwealth arbitration commission on job security when it has said it has not made up its mind to support similar provisions in an application to the State Industrial Commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

The support by the Government of Western Australia for the Australian Council of Trade Unions' application before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was given in relation to the principle behind the application only. No submissions were made in support of the specific claims contained in the application.

The Government has not expressed a view concerning the application before the State commission because the details of that application have not yet been notified.

NUCLEAR PROTESTS

"Peace Train"

1739. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many males and how many females will be manning the "peace train" chartered by the group "Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament" during its Western Australian travels?
- (2) Are these different manning levels than those normally used?
- (3) What time and date is the train expected to arrive in Perth?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Arrangements for this chartered train are being made through the State Rail Authority of New South Wales, on behalf of the other systems involved.

It is proposed that in addition to the normal locomotive crew and guard, two male conductors will man the train between Kalgoorlie and Perth in both directions.

- (2) Yes.

- (3) Proposed arrival time at Perth Terminal is 1000 hours Saturday, 1 December, 1984.

NUCLEAR PROTESTS

Rockingham

1740. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Tourism:

Will the protest camp organised by the "Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament" from 1 to 15 December at Point Peron, discourage families from holidaying at this popular holiday centre this Christmas?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The question is hypothetical and therefore inadmissible.

ROADS: KWINANA FREEWAY

Judd Street Entrance

1741. Mr GRAYDEN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that traffic congestion occurs each weekday morning during peak traffic hours at Judd Street entrance to the Kwinana Freeway?
- (2) If so, what plans, if any, are in hand to alleviate the problem or prevent it continuing to worsen?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Consulting engineers have been commissioned to investigate the practicality of widening the Narrows Bridge. However, it must be appreciated that it is not a practical objective to provide a road system that avoids all congestion in peak traffic periods.

GRAIN

Blackwood Grain Co-operative

1742. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to question 1675 of 1984 will the Government consider introducing legislation to enable the Blackwood Grain Co-operative Ltd. to borrow funds with similar Government guarantees as given to the Grain Pool?

Mr EVANS replied:

The guarantees provided to the Grain Pool are to cover finance requirements

for the barley and lupin pools. These grains are compulsorily acquired by the Grain Pool under the Grain Marketing Act. No guarantees are provided to the Grain Pool for oats and hence Blackwood Co-operative is not at a disadvantage when trading in this commodity.

SHOPPING

Trading Hours

1743. Mr COURT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations and Administrative Services:

- (1) Has the Government approved any extended trading hours for Christmas retailing?
- (2) If "Yes", what are these extended hours?
- (3) What consultation has taken place with retailers?
- (4) Why are decisions left so late in the year when staffing arrangements, promotions, etc., are closely allied to such decisions?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) A recommendation by the retail trade advisory and control committee has been made to the Minister for Industrial Relations for one additional night of trading on Tuesday, 18 December, 1984 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Executive Council approval is expected to be given on Tuesday, 20 November 1984.
- (3) Through the representative of retailers on the retail trade advisory and control committee.
- (4) It was initially expected that the report of the Kelly Inquiry into trading hours would have been available to the Government prior to Christmas.

EDUCATION

Aborigines

1744. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) On what advice has the Government planned to establish five secondary schools for Aborigines in the north of the State?
- (2) Does his department plan to establish separate secondary schools for Aborigines in the metropolitan area?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) On the advice of the Aboriginal communities concerned.
- (2) No. The member should know that the five schools referred to in (1) are not separate Aboriginal schools. They are secondary schools located in Aboriginal communities to serve the number of secondary-age students there who are not currently getting a secondary education. Primary schools are located in the same communities (and many others) for the same reason.

All these schools are open to all students irrespective of race.

- (2) How much money was received for irrigation charges in the south west in—
 - (a) 1982-83;
 - (b) 1983-84; and
 - (c) anticipated for 1984-85?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) \$650 435
(b) \$703 765
(c) \$841 100
- (2) (a) \$1 437 250
(b) \$1 682 476
(c) \$2 136 800

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Western Australian Industrial Lands Development Authority

1745. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Industrial Lands Development Authority purchased or does it intend to purchase land in the Harvey Shire?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) where;
 - (b) for what purpose is the land to be used?
- (3) If so, how much land is anticipated to be bought or has already been purchased?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Between Old Coast Road and the Wellesley River near the Alcoa Kemerton site.
(b) The land is being purchased to keep the option open for a smelter site at Kemerton.
- (3) The precise amount of land required is yet to be determined.

WATER RESOURCES: DRAINAGE

Costs

1746. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) How much money was received from the south-west for drainage charges in—
 - (a) 1982-83;
 - (b) 1983-84; and
 - (c) anticipated for 1984-85?

1747. *Postponed.*

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Western Australian Diamond Trust: Sale of Units

1748. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Is the Minister or his department aware of any complaints to—

- (a) State Government;
 - (b) Western Australian Development Corporation; and
 - (c) Ashton Joint Venturers,
- over the sale by the Western Australian Development Corporation of the Western Australian Diamond Trust units to the public, and if so, would he provide the details?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (a) to (c) No.

1749. *Postponed.*

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Argyle Diamond Venture

1750. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister or his department received any complaints from any person regarding the advertising for the sale of the Government held shares in the Argyle Diamond Venture?
- (2) If so, would he please provide details?

Mr TONKIN replied:

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

1751. *Postponed.*

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Western Australian Diamond Trust: Complaints

1752. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister or his department received any complaints from any person regarding the marketing of the Western Australian Diamond Trust units by the Western Australian Development Corporation?
- (2) If so, would he please give details?

Mr TONKIN replied:

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

1753. *Postponed.*

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Argyle Diamonds

1754. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

What investigations have been carried out by his department into the report in the *Western Mail* 10 to 11 November 1984 that "The other reality is that Argyle gem diamonds are proving hard to sell on the world market—something that should have been highlighted in the trust prospectus, because it was known before the document was prepared." and the last paragraph of the article, "But in the Argyle case we had a Government join in the act of over promotion to try to justify the dud deal it was sold when it first bought the floating 5 per cent."?

Mr TONKIN replied:

It would appear this matter is not within the department's jurisdiction.

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Murdoch University: Law School

1755. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In which year is it envisaged that the first law graduates from the proposed Murdoch University Law School will enter the profession?
- (2) Is he satisfied that a large percentage of such graduates will find accommodation within the Western Australian legal profession?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) The question has been referred to the Minister for Education for his direct reply to the honourable member.

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA: BUSINESS

National Companies Securities Code

1756. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General received a submission from the Uniting Church in Australia (synod of Western Australia) asking him to support making certain amendments to the National Companies and Securities Code and change in policies of the National Companies Securities Code, in order to alleviate additional costs and time spent for charitable projects like homes for the aged?
- (2) If so, will he lend his support to obtaining the aim of this request?
- (3) If he does not support it, could he please disclose why?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I have already done so; and
- (3) Not applicable.

1757. *Postponed.*

WASTE DISPOSAL: WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Subiaco

1758. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Have there been any odour complaints received in connection with the Subiaco waste water treatment plant during the last three months?

- (2) With the new rebuilding work continuing is he in a position to give an assurance that there will be no cause for complaints during the forthcoming summer months?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Odour problems are not anticipated with the works progressing at Subiaco wastewater treatment plant.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Point Peron

1759. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Are there any odour problems now or are any envisaged for the future at the Point Peron project particularly at the pump station and the tower at the transition point?
(2) If so, what is the remedy applied by the Metropolitan Water Authority?

Mr TONKIN replied:

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

WATER RESOURCES

Connections

1760. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

How many new connections for—

- (a) domestic water;
(b) non domestic (non residential) water;
(c) sewerage,

services have been made during the year 1983-84 and during the two previous financial years?

Mr TONKIN replied:

In respect of the Metropolitan Water Authority, it is not possible in the time available to provide accurate information on the number of properties actually connected. However, applications made under the following headings are:

	1983-84	1982-83	1981-82
(a) Applications for domestic water services	11 600	6 832	8 470
(b) Applications for non-domestic water services (non-residential) water	286	291	207
(c) Applications for sewerage connections	12 750	9 744	10 050

Collation of the statistics for country areas has not been completed. When available the information will be provided direct to the member.

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Funding

1761. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In connection with the reported concern expressed in the Eastern seaboard academic circles, is the Government satisfied with the amount of Commonwealth finances for Western Australian tertiary institutions?
(2) If not, would he please indicate the reasons and particular institutions which would need additional financial support?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Commonwealth Government will provide an extra \$65.15 million for Australian tertiary education for 1985 and I am satisfied that Western Australia will receive a fair share of these additional funds. It would certainly be desirable for funding levels for tertiary education to be increased further, but in the present financial context this will be difficult to achieve. It should also be pointed out that the extra funds provided for 1985 represent the largest single increase in funding in this area since the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission was established in 1977.

WORKS: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Reorganisation

1762. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Would claims by a number of professional and clerical staff of what was known to be Public Works Department that they have not received internal departmental or ministerial information about reorganisation and retrenchments prior to media report, be factual?
(2) If not, would he please describe the type and number of information which was disseminated to staff prior to the public announcement?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Staff were kept informed through the normal administrative processes at div-

isional and branch level. For example, in December 1983, staff were invited to submit any ideas they may have concerning the reorganisation of the Architectural Division. Subsequently, I personally addressed a gathering of staff on 13 June 1984 and issued circulars to staff on 31 August, 11 September and 11 October.

In my circular of 11 September, staff were advised that the scaling down of the range of functions and activities would have an effect on overall staff numbers. This predated the article in *The West Australian* newspaper of Monday, 24 September.

1763. *Postponed.*

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Rentals

1764. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission rental units—

(a) cottages;

(b) units,

as part of multiple complexes are in the Mount Claremont-Graylands-Swanbourne part of the Floreat electorate?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) and (b) Unfortunately the structure of the member's question does not allow the specific information sought to be clearly identified. Rather than reply on assumption I would appreciate it if the member would clarify the question.

In any event it would appear that the information required will take some time to compile and accordingly it will be my intention to reply by letter.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Albany Sporting Fields

1765. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that the sporting fields built for the North Albany High School are on land belonging to the Albany Technical College?
- (2) What was the reason for building the sporting fields on that site?

- (3) As the balance of the technical college site is filling fast, is it envisaged that the college will need the sporting fields for future expansion, and if so, for how long?
- (4) Where would replacement playing fields be built when this occurs?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (4) Reserve 29114 of 19.248 9 hectares, the site of the Albany Technical College and North Albany High School, was originally acquired as a combined site for a technical college, a high school and a primary school.

When layout planning was undertaken for the North Albany High School to open in 1982, space was left for a primary school on the eastern portion of Reserve 29114.

As a result of a recent analysis it was determined that a primary school will never be needed in this area of Albany. This means that the Albany Technical College will be able to expand to the east onto some of the high school's playing areas. These will be relocated to the east of the school buildings on the land previously earmarked for a primary school.

No timing has been proposed for the relocation of any of the high school's active recreation areas, however, all new facilities will be properly established prior to relinquishing present ones for alternative Albany Technical College use.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Complex near McGillivray Oval

1766. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of the proposed \$20 million sporting complex to be built near McGillivray Oval—

- (a) from where did the proposal for such a facility originate;
- (b) which sports are to be catered for in the complex;
- (c) how many—
 - (i) teams; and
 - (ii) individuals,
 are registered or estimated to belong to each association;
- (d) what feasibility study was carried out for the proposed complex;

- (e) who carried out the study, and at what cost;
- (f) were tenders called for the study; if not, why not;
- (g) is it expected the complex will be self supporting;
- (h) will interest or loan repayments be required to be paid;
- (i) if running cost losses are sustained, who will meet the cost of any such losses?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) The Sports Council and the Western Australian Sports Federation.
- (b) and (c) Details of the sports centre's components and the user groups are currently being confirmed.
- (d) The demand for the centre has been established through the findings of a Western Australian Sports Federation survey of its member associations' needs, and advice provided by the Sports Council.
- (e) As above.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) The complex will operate on a "user pays" basis, however some shortfall is expected.
- (h) The normal conditions pertaining to General Loan Funds for Government capital works will apply.
- (i) The Government sees its contribution to the recurring costs of the centre as a very very important and practical way of ensuring that sportsmen and women in this State have the high quality facilities needed if they are to be able to compete in top level competitive sport.

The centre will also greatly increase the chances of attracting major international events to Western Australia.

I feel confident the honourable member would share the Government's view that it is appropriate for it to be involved in helping to bring about such developments.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Expenditure

1767. Mr TRETHOWAN, to the Premier:

- (1) In regard to the Estimates of Expenditure for the Public Service Board for the year ending 30 June 1985, how are the

19 vacancies in an establishment of 135 arrived at?

- (2) Do they represent 19 new full time positions to be filled?
- (3) Is the \$483 000 estimated expenditure for the 19 vacant positions an example of proposed real expenditure or only an accounting provision?
- (4) What are the information services provided for and why has the estimate risen from \$44 032 to \$231 000?
- (5) What is "additional assistance" and why has it risen from \$132 801 to \$304 000?
- (6) Why have central administration staffing costs risen from \$223 931 to \$294 000?
- (7) What are the "services and contracts" that have risen from \$188 589 to \$324 000?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) These are actual vacant items.
- (2) No.
- (3) The amount of \$483 000 represents gross annual salary. A deduction for delays in filling the vacancies has been made separately in the Estimates.
- (4) The Information Services Branch was established in early 1984 to develop and provide computerised management information to the board and departments; e.g. personnel information management system, records management system, updated word processing facilities.

The majority of the nine (9) staff were appointed in May/June 1984. Hence the increase for 1984-85.

- (5) Detailed in answer to question 1768.
- (6) The increase is due to payroll tax and travel costs.
- (7) Detailed in answer to question 1770.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Expenditure

1768. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) What additional assistance will be provided to the Public Service Board (Division 10 of the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 1985) for the \$304 000 estimated for this item in 1984-85?

- (2) How many people will in fact be employed under this item?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The following additional assistance is/will be provided:—

9—officers on loan from other departments to cope with increased workload in establishment, industrial and staffing branches, and to replace permanent staff engaged in special projects.

1—clerk for one month during the busy Christmas period to process applications for employment from school leavers.

10—clerks for six months to assist in implementing personnel information management system in the board and other departments.

1—officer for nine months for implementing service-wide broadbanding.

4—officers for six months to undertake special projects that are presently under consideration.

- (2) Answered in (1) above.

FORESTS DEPARTMENT

Assistance

1769. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) What additional assistance will be provided to the Department of Forests (Division 13 of the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 1985) for the \$110 000 estimated for this item in 1984-85?

- (2) How many people will in fact be employed under this item?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) None. This item covers existing contract staff whose salaries, plus overheads, are recouped in full from non-Government sources.

- (2) Seven.

STATE FINANCE

Consolidated Revenue Fund

1770. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Will he please provide for me a breakdown of the services and contracts for the item of \$324 000 as listed under Div-

ision 10, Public Service Board, of the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 1985?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Consultants fees—Development of Corporate Planning in the Service; Assistance to the Functional Review Committee; Regionalisation of Government Departments	\$160 000
Data processing—Public Service	
List costs etc.	\$26 600
Legal fees	\$9 000
Motor Vehicles	\$6 000
Mowing and Gardening	\$200
Office equipment	\$21 700
Printing	\$84 500
Miscellaneous	\$2 000
WAOPA—special project	\$14 000
	<hr/>
	\$324 000

HOUSING

State Housing Commission

1771. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Police inquiry into certain aspects of the property contract maintenance operations of the State Housing Commission been completed yet?
- (2) If so, what were the results of these investigations?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) There is no police inquiry into any aspects of the property contract maintenance operations of the State Housing Commission. However police investigations into the possibility of false pretences by a contractor to the Commission have been carried out.
- (2) The Commission has been advised that no evidence of an offence could be established.

STATE FINANCE

Consolidated Revenue Fund

1772. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) Under what item in Division 4 of the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 1985 are the contract payments to Darcy Farrell and Ray Young included?
- (2) In each case how much is the estimate of what will be paid to each of the above during 1984-85?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Contract payments to D. Farrell and Associates are under item 4 Services and Contracts.

Contract payments to Ray Young are under item 12 Royal and other Commissions of Inquiry.

- (2) D. Farrell and Associates \$37 200 per annum as a maximum.

Ray Young \$62 640 per annum as a maximum.

STATE FINANCE

Consolidated Revenue Fund

1773. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) Who is producing the video on democracy that he referred to during the Committee debate on Division 4 of the Estimates for the year ending 30 June 1985?

- (2) How much will the production cost?

- (3) What will the video be used for?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) No producer has yet been appointed.
- (2) Final quotations have not yet been obtained.
- (3) Education purposes.

1774. *Postponed.*

GOVERNMENT

Motor Vehicles

1775. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Referring him to question 1290 of 18 October, what cost savings, other than fuel costs, were included in the estimated \$2.1 million savings referred to?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The \$2.1 million represents the estimated amount saved on the cost of motor vehicle replacement as a result of the containment and pooling measures. It has not been possible to estimate the additional amount saved on fuel costs as a result of these measures.

1776. *Postponed.*

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Community Employment Programme

1777. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Would the Minister provide me with details of the Commonwealth Employment Programme project grant made to the Native Animal and Bird Rehabilitation Association?

- (2) Has this project yet been completed?

- (3) How many people have been employed to date on the project?

- (4) Who is involved in supervising the project?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I remind the member yet once again that it is the Community Employment Programme not the Commonwealth Employment Programme.

- (1) A CEP grant of \$138 657 was allocated to the Native Animal and Bird Rehabilitation Association for the purpose of providing a metropolitan centre for the accommodation, quarantine and rehabilitation of injured wildlife and the breeding and rearing of endangered species.

- (2) No.

- (3) 10.

- (4) Barker Berry Consulting Engineers and Designers in conjunction with members of the Native Animal and Bird Rehabilitation Association.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Caravans and Camping

1778. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the regulations and by-laws pertinent to caravan parks, camping areas and chalets currently under review?

- (2) If so, who is carrying out that review?

- (3) If there is no review, are any changes to the regulations and/or by-laws planned?

- (4) When will these changes be made?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Caravan parks and camping grounds regulations made under the Health Act are under review. By-laws are the re-

sponsibility of Local Government Departments.

- (2) Health Department of Western Australia.
- (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) Early next year.

1779. *Postponed.*

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Annual Report

1780. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) When does he expect to table the annual report of the South West Development Authority?
- (2) If it is not anticipated that the report will be tabled during the current session of Parliament, what are the reasons for the report not being completed to allow this to be done?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) The South West Development Authority Act provides that the first annual report of the authority be compiled for the year ending 30 June, 1985.

This report will be tabled in Parliament as soon as it becomes available.

1781. *Postponed.*

POLICE: OFFICERS

Staffing

1782. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

How many police officers were employed in the Western Australian Police Force as at—

- (a) 31 October 1982;
- (b) 31 October 1983; and
- (c) 31 October 1984?

Mr CARR replied:

- (a) 2 752;
- (b) 2 793; and
- (c) 2 920.

1783. *Postponed.*

EDUCATION: SCHOOL

Oakford

1784. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has he now received advice from the Oakford Parents and Citizens Association of land available to site the new school?
- (2) If "Yes", what action has been taken to purchase the school site at Oakford?
- (3) What is the location of the land and the area being purchased?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Advice on land suitable for a school site came from the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and informally from the Parents and Citizens Association.
- (2) The land and property branch of the Public Works Department is negotiating the purchase of the replacement site on behalf of the Education Department.
- (3) The proposed replacement site of approximately six hectares is located to the south west of the intersection of Thomas and Nicholson Roads, Oakford.

WATER RESOURCES: DAMS

Wandering

1785. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What quantity of water is held in Wandering town dams—
 - (a) now;
 - (b) same time last year?
- (2) What are the findings of the investigation into the holding capacity of the dams?
- (3) What action is being taken to rectify the holding capacity of the dams which causes unnecessary water restrictions even in a good year?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) The quantity of water in Wandering dams was:
 - (a) On 7 November, 1984—

No. 1 Dam	4 766 cubic metres
No. 2 Dam	8 768 cubic metres
Total Storage	13 534 cubic metres
 - (b) On 9 November, 1983—

No. 1 Dam	3 780 cubic metres
No. 2 Dam	10 510 cubic metres
Total Storage	14 290 cubic metres

The lower quantity of water this year is due to the fact that the dams were full, holding 19 840 cubic metres on 14 September, 1983 compared to a maximum capacity of 16 620 cubic metres on 19 September, 1984.

- (2) Monitoring of the dams prior to last winter indicated that No. 1 dam had excessive seepage and suspect areas adjacent to the offtake pipe and the inlet chute of this dam were lined with a butynol rubber membrane in April 1984. This has resulted in a reduction in leakage in No. 1 dam and monitoring following this winter has shown that No. 2 dam now has excessive leakage at upper capacity levels with normal loss at lower levels.
- (3) Investigations are proceeding to find a suitable and safe phosphate based chemical agent to be added to the water to enhance the water holding characteristic of the clay banks. Results of these experiments are expected shortly and, if successful, may obviate the need for restrictions in the coming summer.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Wages

1786. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Education:

Who is paying the salary of Mr J. Budby, the newly appointed Aboriginal education co-ordinator?

Mr PEARCE replied:

Since his appointment on 1 August 1984 Mr Budby's salary has been paid from PEP funds available to this Department.

As from 1 January 1985 Mr Budby's salary will be paid from State sources.

1787, 1788, and 1789. *Postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES

Accommodation: Dumas House

559. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Is it correct that the Government is considering the sale of Dumas House to the Superannuation Board or to some other party?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I know of no such considerations. I can only say that those people reorganising the Public Works Department and the building management authority have indicated to me that the building management authority will not have need of all of the places presently occupied by the Public Works Department in Dumas House. I know of no consideration to sell Dumas House or the Superannuation Building.

HEALTH: ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Conference on Multiculturalism

560. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Health:

I understand a major conference on multiculturalism attended by the Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Bruno Corti, and the Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Hon. Stewart West, was held in Melbourne recently and that one of the important issues raised was the matter of health services for ethnics in Australia. I ask—

Can the Minister advise if Western Australia was represented at this conference and, if so, what benefits may flow from that representation?

Mr HODGE replied:

I am pleased to advise the member for Gosnells that the conference to which she refers, namely, "The experience of multiculturalism in Australia", was the first at which a substantial representation of Italian regional Governments have officially met with Ministers of the Victorian Government and the representatives of the Italian community in Australia.

I was represented by Dr Franco Boranga, psychiatrist superintendent at our multicultural psychiatric centre who has since reported to me that Western Australia is leading the nation in the provision of specialist assistance to people suffering from psychiatric disturbances who come from environmental and cultural backgrounds which are different from those of Australia.

Our multicultural psychiatric centre was presented as an example for other States to follow and I am pleased to advise

Victorian authorities have now sought our assistance in establishing a similar centre.

TECHNOLOGY

Investment

561. Mrs BUCHANAN, to the Minister for Technology:

What scope is there for Australians to become involved in investments supporting research and development?

Mr BRYCE replied:

I thank the member for Pilbara for some notice of her question. In fact, I welcome this question because earlier today I was a guest at a function which really represented a milestone in the development of management and investment companies in Western Australia.

Westintech Innovation Corporation Ltd, which won a valued MIC licence earlier this year, and in which the State Government has a 10 per cent equity, announced it had invested \$580 000 in the high technology company, Steedman Limited, of Subiaco.

It was Westintech's first investment since receiving the licence, and it was fitting that it was made with a Perth-based company which produces a first rate product and has already carried out a number of assignments in South-East Asia.

Such investments by companies such as Westintech are an essential process in the general process of modernising Australian industry which is heavily dependent on the development of a research and development tradition in Australia.

It is essential that we maximise local investment in local companies to ensure we have an expansion of industry which can employ highly trained people such as engineers, physicists and mathematicians being produced by our tertiary institutions.

It is essential that we retain the best brains in these fields to the maximum extent possible if Western Australia is to be moved to the forefront in both the industrial and technological development areas in this country.

I might add how timely was the Prime Minister's promise in his policy speech yesterday of an important further measure to assist investment in new developments in Australia.

He said that after 1 December his Government, during its second term, would introduce a 150 per cent tax deduction for "genuine expenditure within Australia on research and development". This expenditure must be outside the provisions of existing grants schemes, and would reduce the cost of research and development to the investor to 31 per cent of the increased expenditure.

This will provide the fillip for which traditional industry has been looking—the application of technology to existing industry to produce new products, new processes and new designs, which will make Australian industry more competitive overseas. Modernisation of existing industry is a very important part of the State Government's programme.

The Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, coming on top of Federal legislation earlier this year creating the management and investment programmes, is a further step in the right direction, and we welcome it.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Heirisson Island: Squatters

562. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a camp at Heirisson Island?
- (2) If so, is the camp legal?
- (3) Has the Minister, his department, or the Government been approached by the Perth City Council to resolve the problem?
- (4) If so, has the Minister or the Government attempted to resolve the problem?
- (5) As the Minister has a responsibility to Aborigines, has the Minister tried to resolve the problem?
- (6) Does the Minister condone the camp?
- (7) If the Minister is not prepared to resolve the problem, is it because of the forthcoming election and the Minister does not wish to stir up the Aboriginal land rights issue?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (7) I thank the member for the question, of which I received no notice. However, I will attempt to answer him. It has been made plain on many occasions that responsibility for supervision of Heirisson Island is a question for the City of Perth. The City of Perth has approached—

Mr MacKinnon: The Government is gutless.

Mr WILSON: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to query that fact, we will let him do it; it will get him nowhere, because it is a matter of established fact.

Mr Old: Who is running this place, Bob Hawke?

Mr Tonkin: You halfwit. The City of Perth is responsible.

Mr WILSON: The city council is responsible for the supervision of Heirisson Island. The city council is the authority responsible for resolving the issue.

Several members interjected.

Mr WILSON: It is not a question of the fact that it cannot. The responsibility rests with it to resolve it.

Mr Mensaros: The Minister for Minerals and Energy said yesterday that there is no legal method of getting rid of them. That is what he said.

Several members interjected.

Mr WILSON: I have no indication of that. I cannot refer to it in any case. If the member wishes to raise that with the Minister for Minerals and Energy, he can do so. The situation is as I have described it. I think the member would be acting correctly if he referred all his questions to the City of Perth.

Several members interjected.

Mr WILSON: Let us get this straight. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition often speaks and hangs his mouth open in ignorance. He is doing so again, much to his shame and discredit. He just does not understand so many things which are the responsibility of Ministers and the responsibility of other authorities.

His ignorance amazes me, because he has served as a Minister. It never ceases to amaze me that he can indicate such ignorance on so many occasions. That being as it may, he cannot help that, and we cannot help him to resolve his personal problems.

Mr Brian Burke: He changed his mind about Leeming.

Mr WILSON: Yes, he did change his mind about Leeming. I think he was wrong in questioning that decision as well. He was proved to be wrong in all counts, as usual.

The Opposition does not really want an answer to these questions. The Opposition, as is usually the case in these matters, is seeking to provoke controversy and division, and to exacerbate the situation among people of ill will—and leading among those people is the Opposition.

Several members interjected.

Mr WILSON: The responsibility rests with the City of Perth. The City of Perth has sought the co-operation of the Government; the Government has offered its co-operation, and that is the end of the matter.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Narrogin: Downgrading

563. Mr READ, to the Minister for Health:

As assertion was made yesterday by the member for Narrogin that the Government was planning to downgrade the local hospital. I ask—

Has the Minister investigated this complaint, and can he advise the facts of the situation?

Mr HODGE replied:

The member for Narrogin inaccurately asserted in Parliament yesterday that the Health Department had approved a downgrading of Narrogin Hospital.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to set the record straight and advise the House there are no plans now or in the long-term to reduce staff or close beds at that hospital.

For members' further information, I can advise that, like other country towns, Narrogin from time to time experiences some difficulty in attracting nurses.

My department has for some time been looking at several options for overcoming the shortages and making the best use of existing staff at the hospital.

I am advised the hospital put forward a plan which would have closed 14 beds

but this proposal was firmly rejected by my department.

Because of concern expressed locally as a result of the hospital's proposal, the Health Department's Director of General Nursing Services visited the hospital last Friday and assured local doctors and all concerned that the department will not accept the proposal to close beds.

I might add we are offering a refresher course for nurses who have left the profession and may want to return and that this course based at Narrogin Hospital has been exceptionally well received. Twelve nurses are now on that refresher or reregistration course and more are expected to join it in the new year.

MEAT: MUTTON

Sale to Egypt

564. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Can the Minister advise of the progress being made with the sale of mutton to Egypt?
- (2) In the event that some progress has been made, can he advise the possible advantage to mutton producers in Western Australia?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) I am unable to give the full details. I am sure the member for Katanning-Roe will appreciate that negotiations have been proceeding, but the matter comes back to the price situation and the acceptability of the price specification which the Egyptians require.

I am not sure at what stage the negotiations are at the moment. I did receive a report from Mr Ian Flack, who was a member of the party which travelled to Egypt. On his return he gave me a briefing on his trip.

The initiative, of course, rests with the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth being the major mover in this matter. It appears that negotiations with the Egyptians are proceeding, and have reached the stage of looking at price, quality and general specifications. As soon as there is anything positive, I will certainly make it known.

PARLIAMENT WEEK: POSTER COMPETITION

Winners: Notification

565. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

I remind the Minister that on 25 September I raised, by way of a question without notice, a matter concerning the disgraceful conclusion to Parliament Week when young people from my electorate—600 miles from Perth—were invited to attend a presentation at Parliament House 12 hours before the actual event. At the time the Minister indicated that he would make inquiries. I ask—

When can I expect to receive a reply and when can the people in my electorate expect an apology?

Mr TONKIN replied:

I did undertake to provide the member for Gascoyne with some information about this matter. I would have thought that he would have received the information by now. I must admit I have not seen any information about it, but I will follow it up.

The member would be aware that the matter does not fall strictly under the control of my department. An interdepartmental committee ran Parliament Week and it included representatives from the WA Museum and the Education Department. I do not know whether that is the reason it has fallen between several stools, as it were. Certainly, I will make further inquiries and provide the member for Gascoyne with the information.

If he has not received any communication I apologise because I thought he would have received something by now.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Land Claims

566. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

My question follows a question on notice to the Minister on Tuesday, 23 October when I asked him about the land that would be available for claims under the Government's land rights legislation, but he failed to answer the specific question, "What area of land is included in the categories of land which may be claimed . . . ?"

In reply to part (3) of the same question he said, "It was impossible to give a precise percentage figure" in relation to the total area of the State. In view of these answers, I now ask the Minister—

- (1) Has any work been done by his department or anyone else in the Government to determine the area of land that will be available for claim?
- (2) Is it possible to express that area as an estimated percentage of the State, say, within the range plus or minus five per cent?
- (3) If it is not possible, will the Minister tell the House when we can expect that the Government will know how much of the State it is proposing to make available for claim on racial grounds?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) to (3) I am not aware of any current examination being undertaken by officers of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The information required by the Leader of the Opposition will take quite a while to compile.

I will check this matter with the Under Secretary for Lands and will advise the Leader of the Opposition accordingly. However, I request the Leader of Opposition to put this question on notice because it does require a great deal of research.

with the rights of the rest of the population?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) and (2) As the Leader of the Opposition would know the Government is currently examining requests by respected Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. This was being undertaken before this Government came into office and it is still proceeding. In order that I may give a specific answer, I again ask the Leader of the Opposition to place his question on notice.

Mr MacKinnon: You do not know.

Mr McIVER: It is impossible to answer the question off-the-cuff. I have not seen the legislation that will be brought into this Parliament. It does not do the Deputy Leader of the Opposition any credit to interject. If I had any knowledge of the question I would reply to it, but it takes quite a lot of research. I will supply the answer to the Leader of the Opposition when it is available. Off-the-cuff I would not know in what form the legislation will be.

Mr Hassell: We are wondering, because the Premier said "30 per cent of claims".

Mr McIVER: I object to the snide remarks of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I am sure that if he were in my position he would not have been able to reply to the question.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Civil Action

568. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Does he consider it proper for a public servant to threaten to take action against a journalist for writing about him?
- (2) What action would he take as Minister responsible, if such an incident were reported to him and proved to be correct?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) I do not mind answering any questions, but I do not know whether I understand or follow the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It appeared to me that the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition was hypothetical. If he feels that that is not correct, perhaps he could ask it again. It

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Land Claims

567. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

As the Minister for Lands and Surveys is unable to indicate that the Government knows how much land it is proposing to make available for claim by Aborigines, I ask—

- (1) How has the Government determined that this unknown amount of land will actually measure up to the "rights" it believes Aborigines have to land because of their aboriginality?
- (2) How has the Government determined that the claiming of this unknown area of land will not interfere

seemed to me it was a hypothetical question, but I was not really listening closely.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Civil Action

569. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

I understand that perhaps you, Mr Deputy Speaker, are concerned about the second part of the question. I am asking the Premier whether, as a matter of fact, he would consider it proper for a public servant to threaten to take action against a journalist for writing about the public servant.

Mr Pearce: It is seeking an opinion.

Mr HASSELL: No, it is not. I am asking the Premier for his view of the matter.

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

It would depend on the circumstances. If, for instance, the public servant was at the football and the journalist punched him on the nose and broke his spectacles it might be appropriate for the public servant to sue the journalist for damages to his spectacles. I do not know. I would think it would depend on the circumstances.

Mr Clarko: It could be his monocle.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It could be his monocle.

Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could give me some of the details of the circumstances involved in this case. It is hard, without knowing the circumstances, to confiscate rights from public servants, journalists or others. I do not know that I know the circumstances off the top of my head.

MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Commissioner

570. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

In view of the Premier's difficulty, I ask him a further question.

Several members interjected.

Mr HASSELL: I ask—

- (1) Has the Premier investigated allegations by the *Sunday Times* journalist, Mr Robert Bennett, that he received threats from the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commissioner (Dr Ralph Pervan)

to have dorothy dix questions asked about him—that is, Dr Pervan—if Mr Bennett wrote anything about Dr Pervan?

(2) If "Yes",—

Mr Pearce: I think you have the name wrong.

Mr Bryce: You can do better.

Mr HASSELL: —with what result?

(3) If "No", will he investigate the allegation and advise the House of the outcome?

(4) As Bennett has now written about the commissioner, is he aware of anyone having been briefed to ask a dorothy dix question?

Mr Burkett: Is there any truth in the rumour that today is Wednesday?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1) to (4) I perhaps have a peculiar or particular view about columnists and the things they write. I am not aware of any investigation into the writings or columns of Robert Bennett and Dr Pervan. I have no reason to believe that Dr Pervan has asked anyone to ask a dorothy dixer. He certainly has not asked me. Perhaps I could ask other members, but it is a bit dull, deady and boring.

Mr Parker: I do not think anyone takes Robert Bennett too seriously.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I read his column, but I did not think that I should rush out and launch an investigation on the basis of it.

Mr Clarko: It is an interesting column.

Several members interjected.

Mr Hassell: Is it not a serious point? The point at which it is serious is that somebody in the Government is alleged to have tried to silence a journalist.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If Robert Bennett wants to complain to me that this has happened, I am certainly prepared to take it up with Dr Pervan. In the past, I have not run around checking the veracity of different allegations.

I will give the Leader of the Opposition a tip: If I had followed it up the first time Robert Bennett mentioned it in his column, there probably would not have been a second column. On that basis, I would have done Robert Bennett a disservice.

The world of journalism is a strange business. I think maybe there is a third or fourth column about this matter—maybe even a fifth column!

ENVIRONMENT: BUNGLE BUNGLE

Warman Aboriginal Community

571. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is it correct that Aborigines are in the process of erecting a building at Bungle Bungle?
- (2) Is this not pre-empting the Government's decision to be made on the future of Bungle Bungle?
- (3) What action, if any, does the Government intend to take in this regard?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) to (3) I refer the member to an almost identical question which was answered in this House or the other last week.

EDUCATION: TEACHERS

Promotion: Beazley Report

572. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Education:

It was proposed in the Beazley report that "a person in a promotional position serve at least four years in a metropolitan location or three years in a country location before being eligible to transfer to an equivalent position in the same category. I ask—

- (1) Does the Minister agree with this recommendation?
- (2) If "Yes", when would he expect it to be implemented?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) I have not taken a personal position on every single recommendation in the Beazley report. In the process of implementation, I have been taking recommendations in groups and putting them to working committees, in which I take an interest, to try to come up with a package.

In general terms, I support what Beazley proposes for the promotional system in an endeavour to avoid the rapid turnover of people in promotional positions in pri-

mary schools which has done a disservice to those schools. However, any change to the system requires the unravelling of industrial agreements made by various Ministers, including the member for Karrinyup when he was the Minister for Education.

The process of implementation of the promotional provisions has not moved very far along the track. I will be looking at it as a package. In general, I support the issues behind the recommendations, but I do not know if I would support, in absolute terms, each particular recommendation.

As soon as the promotional proposals are clear, I will give the member a copy of them so that he may reach his own conclusion about their desirability or otherwise.

STATE FINANCE: GLF

Government Instrumentalities

573. Mr MENSAROS, to the Treasurer:

As a policy, would he be prepared in the future to allocate a nominal sum—say \$1—from the General Loan Fund to the Government instrumentalities which do not use GLF borrowings in their capital works programmes, in order to enable parliamentary debate on their affairs, thereby submitting them to more public scrutiny in the system of open government?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I understand that in years past this was a practice in the case of certain authorities.

Mr Tonkin: You cut it out.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I will not and cannot give the member a commitment to do so, but I give him a commitment to consider the point he has raised in time for next year's Budget.

Mr Mensaros: If the Public Works Department becomes an authority—

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I understand the point made by the member. We will give full consideration to the matter and report back dutifully, unlike the other matter he raised, before the next Budget.