

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 7 April 1982

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (9): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Parliamentary Commissioner Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Premier), and read a first time.

2. Stamp Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Treasurer), and read a first time.

3. Government Railways Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Rushton (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

4. Companies (Administration) Bill.

5. Companies (Consequential Amendments) Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Rushton (Deputy Premier), and read a first time.

6. Local Government Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mrs Craig (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

7. Seeds Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

8. Public Service Arbitration Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Young (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

9. Local Government Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Tonkin, and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 6 April.

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [2.25 p.m.]: The

Address-in-Reply debate allows members to roam far and wide, which I intend to do in my few remarks this afternoon.

Firstly, I would like to comment on the departure of two members of Parliament since the end of the last session. One of those was the former Premier (Sir Charles Court). I would like to record the tremendous contribution that he has made to the progress of this State, and the mark he has left on this Parliament. Sir Charles will go down in history as the greatest Premier we ever had. During the time that he was our leader and a Minister, we had the greatest progress that could possibly have taken place in the State of Western Australia. His mark will be seen, and he will be remembered, for many years to come.

The other member who left the House was the former member for Swan (Jack Skidmore) who retired prematurely after eight years in the House. I had a great admiration for Jack. He was a very sincere chap, and he tried hard and battled for what he believed was right. However, he left this place a very despondent man, feeling, perhaps, that in spite of all his efforts to change the system, he departed without leaving his mark.

I knew the other side of Jack Skidmore in the sporting field, through our bowling carnivals. I can say that, outside of the House, both Jack and his wife were really great company.

I congratulate the new members—the member for Nedlands and the member for Swan. By their contributions in their maiden speeches, they have established images in this House that will stay with them for quite some time. In his maiden speech, the member for Nedlands very ably—

Mr Pearce: Do you realise it is traditional not to comment on members' maiden speeches?

Mr TUBBY: —displayed his ability, his sound business knowledge, and his background. He will make a very important contribution—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much audible conversation, and too many interjections.

Mr TUBBY: I am sure he will make a very fine contribution to this House and to the running of the State of Western Australia. I know how honoured he must feel by being elected to follow such a tremendous member of the Parliament as Sir Charles Court. I experienced that myself when I was chosen by my party and by the people of my electorate to follow another former Premier (Sir David Brand). I assure the House that that is a great honour indeed; and I wish the member for Nedlands all the very best during his time in this Parliament.

The member for Swan has established his image in this Parliament; but he has established it in a different way.

Mr Tonkin: Thank heaven!

Mr TUBBY: Based on the image that he has created, if he continues in that line he will leave in a manner similar to that of his very despondent predecessor.

Mr Tonkin: Yes, he must not tell the truth, must he? The truth really hurts you, doesn't it?

Mr TUBBY: I know by the remarks the member for Swan made—

Mr Tonkin: He is supposed to get up and be hypocritical and talk a lot of bull.

Mr O'Connor: Fair go!

Mr TUBBY: The transition between the previous Premier and the present one has been very smooth and has been the subject of a degree of favourable comment throughout my electorate and, I believe, throughout Western Australia. I must compliment the new Premier on the way in which he is handling matters and the allocation of portfolios. I am sure the Ministers he has chosen will perform well in their particular areas of interest.

It is clear the Premier has made the right choice as far as the Cabinet is concerned and everyone is working well together. What a great contrast there is between a change of leadership in the Liberal Government and the recent leadership transition which occurred in the Opposition. That created a very bitter division in Opposition ranks and it has done much harm to the Labor Party. It will take a long time to heal the rift created by that change of leadership in the Opposition.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. I find it very difficult to hear the member for Greenough and I would ask that interjections cease.

Mr TUBBY: It was sad to see experienced Labor members, who comprised the backbone of the party, relegated to the back benches.

Mr Davies: Fair go!

Mr TUBBY: Their positions have been taken by academics, with the exception of three members.

Mr Tonkin: There is not one academic in the House. Do you know that?

Mr O'Connor: Fair go!

Mr TUBBY: The recent change of leadership in the Opposition and the reshuffle which occurred was an exercise in window dressing.

When we have a repeat performance of that, the three non-academic members who currently sit on the Opposition front benches will be relegated to the back benches. We then shall have a complete line of academics with no experience—

Mr Tonkin: There is not one academic in the House. Do you realise that?

Mr TUBBY: Last night the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Tonkin: There is not one academic in the House!

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: If you can write your name, apparently you are an academic. If you clean your fingernails, you are an academic!

Mr Nanovich interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the members for Whitford and Morley to cease interjecting.

Mr TUBBY: Last night the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the close co-operation and communication which exists between the Opposition and the business community. I do not doubt the accuracy of the remarks he made. Business people are polite, and if anyone wants to assist them in any way, they are very receptive. However, as a result of their experience in businesses, particularly in small businesses, these people are very shrewd and they will use to their advantage the comments which have been made.

However, I do not think the Opposition will achieve the result for which it hopes; that is, the vote of the business fraternity. Such men and women are influenced by people experienced in particular fields and they will not pay a great deal of attention to the remarks made by those who are inexperienced. Small businessmen achieve success the hard way and they will not take the advice or guidance of academics which would result in the loss of ground gained previously.

Fortunately my electorate has experienced a much better season this year and the position is much brighter than it was previously. It is gratifying that people in my electorate have been able to spring back and retrieve the losses incurred over the last five very difficult years. Apart from the years I have been in Parliament, my entire life has been involved in farming, and the last five years were the most devastating I have ever seen. The Government can take great credit for the assistance and encouragement it gave to the people concerned during those exceedingly difficult times. As a result of that assistance, people were able to remain on their farms, business people continued to operate in the

towns, and shires were enabled to create employment which had a stabilising effect.

As a result of the assistance provided by the Government, the people in my electorate have been able to take advantage of the improved season we are enjoying and the Government should be commended for that.

However, many farmers are still in debt and are finding it difficult to service their payments, bearing in mind today's high interest rates. One great saviour has been that land values in the drought-affected areas have not suffered in any way and this has contributed to the present viability of the region. Unfortunately banks will not advance money to the same extent as they did previously, based on a percentage of asset value. At one time it was possible in certain circumstances to achieve finance to the tune of 70 to 75 per cent of assets. Today the figure is more likely to be 25 to 30 per cent on bank overdraft and the balance of the finance must be obtained on the open market. Interest rates on that money are at a level of approximately 22 per cent. As a result of my experience in farming, I can say categorically that, unless we are blessed with very favourable seasons, the margin of profit obtained is not sufficient to service the types of debts incurred. Therefore, the effects of the last few drought years will be felt in my electorate for a number of years to come.

Tourism is an important industry in the area I represent, bearing in mind the long stretch of coastline and the fact that Kalbarri attracts many people as a holiday resort.

Last week I had the privilege to take the new Minister for Tourism to Kalbarri and this was the first occasion he had visited the town. The Minister was absolutely amazed at the amount of private investment which is being poured into this holiday resort. Kalbarri has an advantage over most other holiday towns in Western Australia in that it has a good all year round climate. People from the north travel to Kalbarri in the summer where they enjoy a respite from the intense heat without the major climatic adjustment required when travelling further south. People from the south go to Kalbarri during the winter and enjoy very relaxing holidays in a moderate climate.

A number of day trippers travel to Kalbarri by bus and private cars. At the present time, after a journey up the Great Northern Highway, it is necessary to travel a further 40 miles into the town. On the first occasion, that is a rather interesting trip, but it can become rather boring when it is repeated, particularly if the journey is undertaken in one day. There is much to see

during a one-day trip to Kalbarri and the reputation of the area would be boosted greatly if the road between Kalbarri and Port Gregory were upgraded. It is a very beautiful and scenic drive along which I have travelled often, but it is in a poor state at the present time and is not suitable for general use.

The Kalbarri business people showed their genuine support for the upgrading of this road by contributing in excess of \$11 000 to it. Approaches are being made to the Minister and the Main Roads Department for the allocation of funds at least to match the local contribution, in order that the road to Port Gregory can be upgraded and tourists can undertake that interesting journey.

About five miles towards Kalbarri on the Port Gregory Road is situated the Target Minerals NL mine. The company is mining for garnet, which is a type of abrasive material of which there are very few deposits in the world, and a high demand exists for this material. During the wet weather the company is experiencing difficult times with contracts and in meeting its daily output targets. This company is strongly pushing to have the road upgraded. The mine will be there for many years to come because, although a full survey has not been done, it is known that the deposit is substantial.

Another road which affects tourism, rock lobster and other facets of the fishing industry is that from Freshwater Point south to Coolimba. The Coolimba townsite is approximately 12 kilometres north of Leeman. The road is used daily by factory trucks which pick up the rock lobsters from various points along that route. The road also is used a good deal by people from Leeman travelling to Geraldton. The road is in a very rough state and is in need of upgrading. The sooner this is done the better because we will then have access pretty well all the way up the coast to Geraldton on to Kalbarri. If townsites are developed along this section of the road, fishermen will be more tempted to live nearer their fishing grounds. This would be a much more economical arrangement for them instead of their having to travel the present excessive distances.

People involved with the rock lobster industry in Dongara have become concerned because of the interest shown by CRA in the possible development of harbour and port facilities just north of Dongara. This area is a very important one to the fishing industry as it is located on one of the main breeding grounds for rock lobsters, not only for the Dongara area, but also areas both north and south of it.

I have some information here which I will read to members to give them some idea of the importance of this industry not only to Dongara, but also to the State as a whole. I quote as follows—

• Dongara forms the focal point of the rock lobster industry in Western Australia which is Australia's largest single fishery and is worth approximately \$80 million annually to the fishermen. The industry also supports a comprehensive infrastructure including processing plants, bait suppliers, boat builders etc., and many coastal towns in the area between Geraldton and Fremantle are dependent on the industry for their continued viability.

Approximately 21 per cent of the total Western Australian catch of rock lobsters is taken within a 50 mile radius of Dongara, thus making it the most productive area in the Western Australian rock lobster fishery. In 1980/81 rock lobsters valued at \$7.8 million to the fishermen were processed in Dongara.

The port site in which CRA is interested is to be used for an alumina refinery and takes in approximately one-fifth of the main breeding area. It is a deepwater area surrounded by extensive reef. The fishermen from the area have registered great concern and have asked me to bring this matter to the attention of the Parliament, particularly for the information of the Minister. I continue quoting as follows—

On average over the season 20 boats working approximately 1800 pots will be found in this area. During the 'whites' 28 boats working approximately 2520 pots will be in the area and the peak fishing period, November, will find up to 35 boats working 3150 pots in the area.

The area immediately around the Bonniefield site (29.2, 0-10 fms) produces 40 per cent more catch than the equivalent area surrounding Oakajee.

Oakajee, north of Geraldton, is an alternative site, but CRA is reluctant to commit itself to proceed with that site at this stage because of the additional cost involved in the construction of a breakwater. At the Dongara site, a two-mile breakwater would be constructed on a reef. It would give a sound base and could be built for about \$20 million less.

Mr Bertram: What is the total cost?

Mr TUBBY: I do not know that total cost. The problem at Dongara is that the breakwater would be two miles long, and all the rock lobsters feed

up and down the coast and move north and south according to the tide. The projection of a two-mile breakwater into this coastal area would interfere greatly with the flow of the tide, or so believe the fishermen in the area. Rather than allow the young rock lobsters to come into this particular area, the construction of the breakwater may force them to go further north or south or continue out to sea and be lost to the industry. To continue—

The area to the north of Bonniefield (28.6, 29.1) is very heavily utilized compared to the area north of Oakajee (28.3). Thus any inshore navigation by large ships would be far more disruptive at the Bonniefield site.

According to surveys which have been taken, in the area between Dongara and Geraldton there are approximately 27 000 animals a hectare. It is not hard to visualise that that is a large number of rock lobsters. It is not hard either to visualise the great disturbance that would occur with the movement of shipping in these protected waters.

At a dinner the other evening, representatives of CRA listened intently to Mr Fred Connell of the fishing industries council when he alerted them to the problems that would be caused by the establishment of a port at Dongara.

I am grateful that the Minister for Mines, who also has had experience with fisheries, has accepted an invitation to come to Dongara and speak with shire councillors and people involved in the fishing industry to ascertain whether anything can be done to allay the fears and overcome the problems visualised by the fishermen with the establishment of a port. With the Minister's experience in these fields he will be able to assess the situation and, we hope, be able to persuade CRA to look to the Oakajee site for its operations. In no way do the people of Dongara wish to discourage development, but the situation is serious and could have a great effect on the viability of this very important industry.

Already extensive benefits have rubbed off the development of the North-West Shelf to the advantage of my electorate and the people of Geraldton. Indeed, it is pleasing to see this taking place. The land on which the pipeline will lay has been surveyed and pegged, and the necessary water bores have been sunk. In quite a number of cases phenomenal bores have been discovered, bores with large quantities of high quality water. This development no doubt will prove to be a great asset to surrounding areas; the people in those areas know that their water supplies are assured. The survey of areas so that accompanying dams can be built has been carried

out, and those dams will be sited near the bores, and will act as reservoirs for the large volume of water to be used in the testing of the pipeline.

Another great development has been the construction of the pipe-coating factory at Geraldton. It is well under way to commencing production in July this year. It is a \$7 million development, although at present the only contract it has is with the North-West Shelf developers; but it is hoped the factory will obtain other contracts at a future date, and that it will establish itself as the pipe-coating centre of Australia and, possibly, South-East Asia. If that is the case the factory's operations will be ongoing to a considerable degree and will improve greatly the number of jobs available in Geraldton. The factory will employ in excess of 100 men when it is in full operation, and will benefit not only people seeking employment in Geraldton, but also the port of Geraldton as a whole.

In Geraldton the construction of modules is well under way, and it is a great credit to the Geraldton building company and the tradesmen of Geraldton that this kind of work can be carried out in such a town. Everyone is very happy with the quality of work that has gone into this construction. Many people were amazed to find that construction of that magnitude could be carried out in Geraldton. However, it is rather disappointing that follow-up contracts are in doubt as a result of the initial and excessive union demands which the building company and its American partner were forced to accept because they were in a situation of having to complete a contract within a specified time. To be able to get on with the job they gave in to union demands. At present it seems a great deal of concern exists as to whether, as a result of those union demands, the building company and its partner will be able to compete successfully for future contracts. It is sad that some members of a union have been greedy to the detriment of long-term employment prospects for the people of Geraldton. Certainly it is of great concern to the building company.

Mr Carr: It has been the delay in the second platform.

Mr Rushton: The self-inflicted wounds locally are the worst.

Mr TUBBY: The concern is that the company will not be able to compete successfully to obtain future contracts, not that contracts will not be available or have been delayed.

Mr Carr: There is no second platform at this stage; it has been delayed. That is why they are not in a position to compete for it—there is no contract for which to compete.

Mr Rushton: They have just about priced themselves out of business.

Mr Carr: You know that's not true.

Mr TUBBY: Whether the contract will be available is not the point; the point is that it is doubtful the company will be able to compete successfully.

Mr Carr: With similar projects elsewhere throughout Western Australia the company has come out quite a lot better than others.

Mr TUBBY: I want to raise another matter, and I am sure the member for Geraldton will support me. I refer to the proposition that a hostel be attached to the Geraldton Technical College.

Mr Carr: I support it.

Mr TUBBY: The matter is of great concern to me because it affects my area probably more than it does the area of the member for Geraldton. My constituents and constituents of surrounding electorates seek the type of accommodation proposed which is now more important than it has ever been because a new wool and shearing instruction building and a catering section are being constructed. It is sad to realise that such wonderful facilities provided for Geraldton and surrounding areas will not be utilised fully because sufficient accommodation is not available for the many people from outlying areas who wish to make use of the facilities. It will be of great benefit to Geraldton to have a hostel provided because the college would be utilised fully not only by people from Geraldton and nearby areas, but also by people from the north of our State. I know many people seek that facility to be made available so that they can take advantage of the wonderful technical college at Geraldton.

A great deal of progress in regard to student instruction has taken place at the Morawa Agricultural Centre. A hostel is now available and is being completely renovated; however the demand for accommodation far exceeds the amount available. The centre has wonderful facilities for student instruction and could cater for many more students to be involved in that instruction, but many students are turned away because of the lack of appropriate accommodation.

The Morawa Agricultural Centre is attached to the Morawa District High School, and attracts students from as far as Kununurra and places in the far south of the State. The courses being provided at the school and the general supervision of students are excellent. In fact, the hospitality of the people of Morawa has been highly commended. It is of the utmost importance that a

hostel be constructed to provide accommodation for students attending the agriculture centre, and that that accommodation be made available in the very near future. It is again of the utmost importance that we have people qualified in the handling of stock and machinery, and anything else associated with agricultural pursuits.

A course suggested recently and not available at any other agriculture college in Western Australia would provide instruction in such things as well and stock management; windmill and well maintenance; four-wheel drive vehicle handling and maintenance; station motorbikes; and fence construction and maintenance. The course was suggested by the pastoral industry and it is proposed that it be made available at the Morawa Agriculture Centre, but it would be useful only if appropriate accommodation were provided for the students wishing to undertake such a course.

The course could be provided by the centre. In a submission by the Morawa District High School it is stated that the pastoral industry's most pressing need at the moment is for the development of a young, trained work force. As a result of the present cost of labour a farmer or pastoralist cannot afford to employ untrained people while he supervises and trains them in the necessary skills required on a farm or pastoral property. The pastoral industry requires people who have a good base knowledge of the industry through a training process, which I believe could be provided at Morawa.

The submission further states—

Morawa District High School has the capacity to:—

provide for some of the employment/training needs of the Pastoral Industry.

prepare students for immediate employment where job opportunities presently exist.

focus on 15-19 year olds who may have difficulty in obtaining work in academic fields.

present a programme where the impart is clearly identifiable and achievable almost immediately.

develop a programme in consultation with pastoralists and graziers and an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The agricultural design committee has worked very hard in the establishment of this agricultural centre. I am a member of that committee which has been very active for almost 20 years. It is only recently that we have seen a considerable degree

of progress and at last we are recognised as being an agricultural centre catering for the needs of agriculture and the pastoral industry throughout this State. Ours is the only agricultural centre offering these types of facilities north of the Northam to Kalgoorlie railway line. That is a large area of the State which is not being served with a suitable type of agricultural education. The submission continues—

Morawa District High School has an Agricultural Centre which has a present enrolment of 25 Year 11's and 8 Year 12's. It is served by a hostel which provides for boys from widely diverse areas of the State including boys from stations at Carnarvon and Meekatharra.

These boys from the stations presently would be receiving only normal agricultural advice on subjects which do not equip them for the type of employment they will be seeking later.

Mr Pearce: Did you say 12-year-olds and 11-year-olds or year 12 and year 11 students?

Mr Tonkin: That is an academic kind of question.

Mr TUBBY: Twenty-five year 11's and eight year 12's. Morawa is located on the border of the wheat and sheep belt and the pastoral stations. The school has access to stations nearby for work experience. Kadji Station, for instance, is only 30 kilometres away and a number of other stations would be no more than 50 or 60 kilometres away.

The school has a very good office for its use and with the practical aspects of the course that is offered, students will be very aptly catered for and I am sure it will receive the co-operation of those station owners. The characteristics of the proposal are as follows—

It focuses on activities clearly relevant to the transition of young people to working life.

It will indicate how the programme fits into the context of other relevant activities and transition projects conducted by the school.

It is based on current research conducted by M. Jefferson.

Recently I was invited to the opening of some very important developments in Geraldton, Northampton and Perenjori.

Mr Tonkin: Tell us about the Northampton one!

Mr Pearce: Yes, there is quite a story about the Northampton Community Recreation Centre. Is it true?

Mr Brian Burke: Is that a true story?

Mr Pearce: It is true all right!

Mr TUBBY: The Government has been very actively involved in it.

Mr Pearce: You could get headlines by telling us the story on that!

Mr TUBBY: All too often, the credit that is due to the Government for this type of assistance is not recognised.

Mr Brian Burke: Get the tape recorder!

Mr TUBBY: In the case of Northampton the Government made \$112 000 available to development that was worth over \$450 000.

Mr Bertram: The Liberal Party!

Mr TUBBY: It is now a very great facility to serve that district, and I am sure it will do so for many years to come.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr TUBBY: In the interests of the use of this wonderful facility the council has offered to make land available in the proximity of this new recreation complex for the resiting of the Northampton District High School.

The majority of the buildings at that school are in a very poor state indeed and will need to be replaced soon.

Mr Tonkin: With the tape recorder!

Mr TUBBY: Because of the area where the old school is situated, any development will create a severe disruption to the school because of the lack of a suitable area on which buildings can be sited. For the few buildings within that school that are worth retaining, the additional cost involved in resiting them would be well and truly offset by a move to the new site offered by the Northampton Shire Council and this will mean that the sporting facilities that have been provided could be used jointly by the public and the children attending the district high school.

Mr Pearce: Where is the new site?

Mr TUBBY: The new site is directly to the east of the present site approximately a kilometre and a half away. It is a marvellous gesture on the part of the council. The Minister for Education has inspected the site and is very impressed with the proposition. He is having a thorough survey of the situation made and I think he will come up with a decision that it is viable to commence resiting the school in stages to this new site. It will be wonderful for the children to have the benefit of this fine sporting complex and the facilities that have been offered.

The other complex is at Perenjori and the Government's contribution there was \$113 000 on a \$400 000 investment. The people are proud of

the sporting facilities which are now provided and have the benefit of the new recreation complex which caters for squash and a number of other sports, such as swimming, golf, bowling, and tennis, all of which are sited within the one sportsground area.

It was tremendously impressive to see the work that the Perenjori Shire has done in setting up the complex, carrying out kerbing and other earthworks. It looked a real picture at Friday's opening.

Mr Pearce: Did the band play "God Save the Queen" this time?

Mr TUBBY: It was great to hear the announcement that this kind of assistance will be available and it is good to see shires taking advantage of this type of finance to provide these very useful facilities. If it had not been for Government support, these local authorities would not be in a position to provide these types of facilities for their people.

I thank members for the opportunity to make those few comments. I support the motion.

Mr Tonkin: He has no discretion in the matter!

Mr Pearce interjected.

MR BLAIE (Vasse) [3.09 p.m.]: I wish to make some remarks in the Address-in-Reply debate. I applaud Sir Charles Court for the contribution he made to Western Australia in his involvement as a member of Parliament and for the very positive standards he set in this House. In time, history will record that Sir Charles Court was not only a great man, but also a great politician. All members of Parliament, in due course, will come to recognise the contribution that he made, not only to the State of Western Australia, but to all Western Australians.

Mr Pearce: Another Sir Thomas Playford would you say?

Mr BLAIE: I want to place on record my tribute to the involvement of Sir Charles Court since I have been a member of Parliament. During my first election campaign, Sir Charles Court played a very dramatic part. I one can recall the situation in 1971—

Mr Tonkin: He didn't make mistakes all the time.

Mr BLAIE: —when I was a very nervous candidate with Sir Charles Court at Augusta; that was one of the few times I had ever travelled on an aircraft. I remember having to land on the Augusta airstrip. It appeared that the situation could have been rather dramatic, but Sir Charles Court must have had super powers because the aircraft landed and took off safely. I was

delighted that my election campaign was successful.

So we see the passing of an era with the retirement of Sir Charles Court. I join with other members of this House and wish Sir Charles and Lady Court good health and happiness in their retirement.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr BLAIE: We have seen the retirement of the former member for Swan (Mr Jack Skidmore).

Mr Tonkin: Would you do this for all of us? You are only doing it for those who rat on the party.

Mr BLAIE: At times I disagreed with Jack Skidmore—

Mr Pearce: Not on too many matters you would not.

Mr BLAIE: I wish to have it placed on record that Jack Skidmore made his contribution in a way he believed would benefit his electors, and he made a contribution to this State. On many occasions I did not agree with him—

Mr Pearce: We agree with you.

Mr BLAIE: Many members come and go from the institution of Parliament—

Mr Barnett: Thank God!

Mr BLAIE: —and I think it is one of the sad circumstances of this place that after a member retires, within a week or so he virtually is forgotten.

I wish the new members for Nedlands and Swan every success as members of Parliament. They have a responsibility to their electors and to the State of Western Australia. Time will judge how well they accept their responsibilities.

I have been a member of this House for some 11 years and have seen members commence their careers at various levels. I have noted that the longer members are here the more they tend to mellow in their attitudes. I think the member for Morley would agree with me on that point.

Mr Tonkin: I hope not.

Mr MacKinnon: Don't hold your breath.

Mr BLAIE: I say to the two new members of Parliament that their contributions to this State will be noted by the members of their electorates and the people of Western Australia.

The Address-in-Reply debate gives members the opportunity to speak on a variety of subjects which concern their electorates and I wish to speak on certain matters which are of concern to my electorate. The first relates to the portfolio of

the Minister for Health and concerns the Augusta Hospital, which was built some 15 years ago and which has an 11 bed capacity. However, the television rooms are being doubled up to provide increased accommodation. The hospital has a average daily bed rate of eight per day which is high. The hospital lacks permanent care facilities and I have made representations about this to the Minister. It is important that the Government and the Minister make an undertaking to ensure that suitable facilities are provided at the hospital.

Augusta has a population of some 500 people and it is increasing steadily. When aged citizens in the area have to be hospitalised, they have been sent to Perth and away from their relatives and friends with whom they have had a long association. These people have had to be taken away from the area where they have retired and away from their families and this is causing concern to the community, and it is an important social problem. Recently, the Augusta community, led by the Augusta Ratepayers Association, canvassed the area and a petition was raised which I intend to present to the Minister. The petition calls for permanent care facilities at the hospital.

Of a community of 500 people, 492 have signed this petition which is most indicative of the feelings of the community. Although the petition does not conform with the Standing Orders of the Parliament, it is my intention to present it to the Minister for Health now and ask him to pay further attention to the matter.

The Minister has written to me stating that it is recognised that the hospital is operating very close to its capacity and that officers are undertaking a detailed analysis of the need for additional facilities. That may well be the case, but my point is that the time has come where this matter should be dealt with urgently and the programming the Minister has indicated must be speeded up so that the needs of the community are acknowledged.

Whilst speaking to the Minister for Health I wish to raise a matter concerning the Margaret River Hospital. This concerns a different problem because the Margaret River Hospital is worn out and in need of replacement. It is most important that the Minister and the Government give this matter priority. The hospital was built in 1924, and the original weatherboard building has been repaired, renovated, and patched up. The current bed average is 13 per day. The hospital is long overdue for replacement. So, within my electorate we have a lack of permanent care facilities at Augusta and a need for a new hospital building at Margaret River.

Within country communities health care and health services are vital and important to residents' well-being. In an endeavour to give the people the type of security they need the Government must prove positively that the facilities provided in the country areas are equal to those that taxpayers provide in urbanised and larger provincial settlements. The need for facilities in Augusta and Margaret River is indicative of the argument I am promoting.

Mr Young: What is more indicative is the fact that you were born in the Margaret River Hospital.

Mr Pearce: There is a suspect organisation.

Mr Laurance: It is historic.

Mr BLAICKIE: As historic as it may be, the hospital is worn out now, but I have a long way to go!

The subject of local government rating is one that has been of great concern to the shires in my electorate, particularly the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River and Busselton. The system of local government rating is in desperate need of change. Both these shires have been seriously affected over recent years because of the high land sales within both centres. In addition, because some towns within these two areas are situated on the coast, land values are exceptionally high. Both shires also have inland towns where land values are appreciably lower. This has caused much consternation to the local authorities and created a great deal of inconvenience to the people involved in the rating system, and particularly the ratepayers.

In June 1981, I wrote to the Minister for Local Government and it is important that that letter be recorded. The letter reads as follows—

No doubt you will have received correspondence from the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River regarding differential rating and minimum rate.

I am most aware and conscious of the extreme difficulty faced by the Shire.

A similar problem is experienced in the Busselton Shire. It would appear that the existing system of valuation and rating as applied to the Shire with varied interests, i.e. agriculture, viticulture, urban and residential lands, plus the effect of towns with vastly differing values, simply cannot cope.

I gave two examples which were as follows—

For example, comparative land values in the two Shires would read as follows:

<i>Augusta-Margaret River Shire</i>	<i>Top Value.</i>
Augusta residential land	\$35 000
Margaret River residential land	\$12 000

Busselton Shire

Quindalup residential land	\$50 000
Dunsborough residential land	\$56 000
Busselton residential land.	\$35 000
Busselton new subdivisions.	\$12 000

The disparity and gross unfairness of the current rating system is escalating rapidly and is causing real community problems of why one town is rated so high, another so low.

In the interim it is requested that the Local Government Act be amended to allow Shires to lift the current minimum rates of \$40 to \$150 to allow for a more equitable system of rating justice.

In view of the lack of other practicable alternatives at this stage I support the request and seek positive action by Government.

Since I wrote that letter to the Minister a great deal of work has been undertaken by myself, by way of representation to the Minister, and also by the shires concerned. The Augusta-Margaret River Shire Council canvassed not only the shires throughout Western Australia but also a number of members of Parliament. The information collected has been published in booklet form and is available for any member who may wish to peruse it.

It is significant that, of the local authorities which were contacted, 44 advised support for a system of increasing the minimum rate and only one was opposed to it. As I said, members of Parliament were contacted in relation to this matter and their answers are rather interesting. The member for Rockingham was one member who was contacted, as were a number of others.

The case advanced by the shires is very important. It is also important for this House to understand that since 1975 a series of inquiries have been conducted into the rating system as it applies to local government in this State. The first inquiry was the 1975 committee of inquiry into rates, taxes and charges attached to land values. The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River also undertook its own internal inquiry relating to unimproved capital value and gross rental value; I will refer to this inquiry later in my speech.

The Government, through the Department of Local Government, conducted a further inquiry relating to rating problems in municipal councils. A fourth inquiry was conducted by the Local Government Association and the Country Shire Councils Association into proposed differential

rating and a flexible maximum-minimum rate. The committee of inquiry into rates, taxes, and charges prepared a land value report—this of course was the McCusker report—which was made available to the public only last year. Another inquiry initiated by the Government is being carried out by the Department of Local Government concerning a further study into minimum rates.

It should be evident to members that since 1975 we have had something like five or six top-level reports looking into the question of local government rating and as yet, no answer has been found. As a result, the problem is compounding itself within local government areas, including those areas I represent and it is important that the minimum rate be increased.

Mr Cowan: You are in Government; what are you going to do about it?

Mr BLAICKIE: That is precisely what I am doing—I am doing something about it.

Mr Cowan: Are you going to make another report to the Parliament?

Mr BLAICKIE: The member for Merredin replied to the questionnaire sent by the Augusta-Margaret River Shire. Would he like me to read it to the House? I daresay he has probably forgotten the fact that he ever replied to the survey.

Mr Cowan: No, I remember.

Mr BLAICKIE: What did the honourable member say?

Mr Evans: It is not a case of what he said; it is a case of what have you done?

Mr Tonkin: You are in Government—you can do things.

Mr BLAICKIE: I can tell members what the member for Merredin said; he did not say anything. His secretary said that he was currently overseas.

Mr Evans: But he is not in Government. You are in Government.

Mr Tonkin: Don't you understand what being in Government means? It means you can do things.

Mr BLAICKIE: If I could go on, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Watt)—

Mr Tonkin: Yes talk, talk, talk!

Mr BLAICKIE: It is so important—

Mr Tonkin: That you won't do anything.

Mr Evans: Come on, what have you done?

Mr Young: They don't let you get on with it, do they?

Mr Laurance: Just wait and he will tell you in his own good time.

Mr BLAICKIE: It is important to have a system of rating and rating charges, as they apply to local government, that brings about a degree of equity for the services provided within a community. As I have already instanced, there is a wide disparity between the rate applying to land in Augusta and the rate applying to land in Margaret River, and yet both towns enjoy facilities and services paid for by the ratepayers of their own communities. The current rating system has proved to be completely anomalous and it has caused a great embarrassment to local authorities.

Mr Evans: Well, what have you done about it?

Mr BLAICKIE: What I am in the process of doing is presenting a case to ensure that the Government acts. Not only should the member for Warren support my move, but also the Warren Shire Council should make a submission.

Mr Laurance: That is one vote you can count on.

Mr Pearce: This is a standard tactic of Government members. For example, look at the upgrading of the high school in Geraldton. We made a promise about it, and then the Minister goes ahead and does something. That is the only way to get action.

Mr Laurance: You are deluding yourself again.

Mr BLAICKIE: The Warren Shire Council has made a contribution already.

Mr Evans: And the Bridgetown Shire Council, and the Nannup Shire Council also, I think.

Mr BLAICKIE: A number of shires are members of the Country Shire Councils Association—

Mr Cowan: Every country shire has made a submission through the Country Shire Councils Association.

Mr Carr: In fact, just about everyone, bar the Government.

Mr BLAICKIE: —and has said that the minimum rate should be lifted.

Mr Evans: You said there had been bundles of submissions.

Mr BLAICKIE: I am aware also that a number of local authorities have approached their members asking them to make representations on their behalf. I think the member for Morley, as the shadow Minister for Local Government, has approached local authorities in this regard. The difference is that I have made representations and I am making a contribution. That is probably the

difference—the member for Morley writes letters and I take positive action.

Mr Tonkin: You are in Government. Don't you know the difference between being in the Government and not? You great goof! Don't you understand that it is only the Government that can take action?

Mr BLAIKIE: Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Watt)—

Mr Tonkin: You don't even know what being in Government means.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order!

Mr Evans: Get it into the Cabinet room and get a decision.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BLAIKIE: Just on that very point, how many representations has the shadow Minister for Local Government made to the Government about this minimum rating?

Mr Young: That is a good question.

Mr BLAIKIE: How many representations has the member for Yilgarn-Dundas made to the Government regarding minimum rating?

Mr Tonkin: It is not our job to make representations. We establish policies which we will introduce when we become the Government. You have the numbers.

Mr BLAIKIE: Then apparently I am taking up the cudgels for the honourable member also.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Tonkin: You can alter the minimum rate in 24 hours if you like. You have got the numbers. Why don't you do something?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Vasse will resume his seat. If I call for order repeatedly and a member continues to interject, as did the member for Morley on that occasion, I will find it necessary to take action. I ask the House to come to order. The member for Vasse obviously invites some interjection by addressing his comments to the so-called shadow Minister. Interjections which are made one at a time can be tolerated, but when members interject incessantly in the way we have just witnessed, that is quite unacceptable. The member for Vasse.

Mr BLAIKIE: Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. The matter I am discussing is not a phenomenon related only to the shires I represent. I believe it affects local government generally throughout Western Australia. I am making this representation because I gave certain undertakings to the shires in my area. That is the

way I represent my area. If the member for Morley and others do not make representations—

Mr Cowan: Who said they do not?

Mr BLAIKIE: —to the Government in this regard, that is their business.

Mr Cowan: Everybody has made representations.

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe there is an anomaly—

Mr Evans: And you are part of the Government causing it.

Mr BLAIKIE: —that has expanded throughout the State.

Mr Tonkin: Why does not the Government do something?

Mr BLAIKIE: This is an anomalous system of rating.

Mr Evans: It is your Government that is doing nothing.

Mr Tonkin: You have the numbers.

Mr BLAIKIE: The problem exists in the area of the member for Warren and in every other area.

Mr Evans: That is right, but we are not the Government.

Mr BLAIKIE: I would like to return to the report. The \$10 minimum rate was first introduced in 1960 and the first time a minimum rate was applied in Western Australia. It was increased to \$20 in 1972 and to \$40 in 1978. I believe that substantiates the claim that a system relying on valuation only would not fulfil the necessary requirements as a basis for rating. I would now like to refer to page 7 of the McCusker report where it states—

There is a widespread acceptance of the principle that a local taxation system should embody principles of social equity or fairness and should be based on some form of property valuation.

That is the very nub of the matter. That is why we are endeavouring to introduce a different system of rating. We must allow local authorities in this State to increase the minimum rating at least to allow some degree of rating fairness. This does not exist currently. So I have made strong representations to the Government, and I will do all possible to ensure that the Government acts. As I said before, the current rating system is not only anomalous and unfair, but also it is outmoded completely. So while we are waiting for change, the minimum rate must be permitted to be increased.

Mr Evans: It will be changed next year.

Mr BLAIE: In those areas, where the unfairness is most pronounced, the shires should be permitted to increase the minimum rate in order to alleviate present rating charge anomalies.

While I have this opportunity I would like to refer to another part of my electorate—the town of Busselton. Members will recall that in 1978 cyclone “Alby”—

Mr Pearce: Washed the jetty away.

Mr BLAIE: —destroyed part of the Busselton jetty.

Mr Pearce: And it has never come back.

Mr BLAIE: That was a very sad loss to the community. We are in a period of progress, but we must look also at the past.

Mr Carr: On this particular matter, you have an audience that has a particular interest in the subject, I believe.

Mr BLAIE: I am pleased about that, because I notice that several of the Ministers are listening very intently.

Mr Carr: I was actually referring to the public gallery.

Mr Pearce: This has been an issue in more by-elections across Australia than any other issue I can think of.

Mr BLAIE: In this regard, the Government recently received a report which related to recreational boating facilities in Western Australia. The Shire of Busselton made an input into that report; and it was evident from the submissions that there is a lack of facilities in the area from Busselton to Augusta, and further south. The lack of those facilities has been evident to local residents for many years. However, the committee making the report has seen further evidence of that; and this is substantiated in the report. It says that the Busselton-Augusta area is the eighth most popular area for boating recreational facilities in the State.

The Shire of Busselton has made a request to the Premier; and not only will I support that request, but also I will do it by way of more substantive representations. The request is that the Public Works Department proceed with a detailed engineering and costing investigation for a recreational boat harbour at Busselton. Preliminary estimates indicate that this could cost as much as \$4 million.

It has been indicated also that one of the sites for consideration would be to the east of the main railway jetty in the centre of the town. That well may be the case; but it is important that a survey

be undertaken because a lot of engineering requirements must be satisfied.

The area is subject to erosion; so, should this facility be built, engineering techniques must be determined to ensure that erosion is not a problem. In addition, the community should have an input as to where the facility should be located.

It is important that the Government proceeds with the job by ensuring that the investigation is conducted.

The items I have raised are of great importance to the community. I trust that the Ministers will react and respond to the matters with which I have dealt relating to their respective portfolios.

I have a great deal of pleasure in supporting the Address-in-Reply.

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Resources Development) [3.43 p.m.]: Last night the Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised questions regarding industrial relations. I will not canvass the industrial relations machinery as that is the province of others who have responsibility in that field. However, I will deal with a comment that appears in the Press from time to time regarding the effect of industrial relations and the industrial situation in this country on our competitiveness in an international marketing situation. I also wish to canvass a couple of other points; but I will not dwell on them for too long.

Two cardinal points are not clearly understood. Firstly, Australia as a whole, and this State in particular, must depend on their international competitiveness in raw material marketing if we are to develop economically. That is a basic tenet; but the situation has now gone beyond that. It is not now a matter of development, but a matter of survival.

The second point that flows from that is that if we are to continue exporting and supplying the markets which we supply at present, we must be able to compete. The industrial situation is jeopardising severely our capacity to compete.

We are deluding ourselves completely if we in Western Australia or in Australia think that the other parts of the world, and our markets in particular, are not conscious of what happens in this country, either in terms of any disputation that leads to an inability to supply on a regular basis, or in relation to the industrial unrest that leads to an escalation in price to a point where suppliers can compete no longer.

In relation to the first of those two points, our customers read the newspapers and are concerned about the security of supply. It is a fact that, in discussions with our major customers overseas,

that question is the most regular single point raised.

The question of cost flows from that. When we are trying to ensure that we not only expand and open up new developments, but also maintain our market share with our existing resources, the first question raised is, "Can we trust you? How many ships are lying idle at Port Hedland, or Dampier, or off the New South Wales coast?" I am speaking on a national basis, not just in relation to Western Australia. However, I am trying to make the point that we bleed a little more than the other States of the Commonwealth.

We are not in the business of exporting coal, in the way that Queensland and New South Wales are. We do not have the economic developments that have flowed from that export trade in those places. Neither do we have a home consumption market to the same degree as the Eastern States have. Therefore, we bleed a little more than anybody else; and it is ridiculous for the unions or, indeed, for the employers, to suggest that it does not matter.

Let me make it quite clear that the various companies must accept a share of the blame. If we take the iron ore industry as an example, we are all aware that, too easily in earlier years was the industry prepared to buy industrial peace. It was too easy to say, "Okay, we'll give you a further mark-up", "We'll give a further margin", "We'll do this, or that, or do something else." The point is that, based on the profitability of the industry at the time, the industry could absorb that. However, now we are reaping the harvest of those actions.

Not only are the companies reaping that harvest, but also the work force's opportunity for expansion has been eroded. The creation of jobs in the raw materials sector is not as vigorous as it was before, simply because of the lack of competitiveness on an international basis.

A further point relates to cost; and it relates also to the fact that no longer are we alone as a source of supply to the degree that we were some years ago. Alternative suppliers are now considered to be viable and stable. Some years ago, they were not even identified as alternative sources.

We are faced with the situation that countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia have an abundance of energy and an abundance of cheap labour. They are viewed as being far more politically stable countries than they were comparatively few years ago.

It is a fact of life that at present it is cheaper to ship iron ore from the Pilbara to Malaysia, put it

through a sponge iron plant there, and then ship it to the markets for that product, than it is to build a sponge iron plant at Dampier where the energy and the raw material supplies are alongside the port. That such a situation should exist is a terrible indictment of us on a national basis.

I should like to draw attention to two disputes which are going on at the present time. The first one relates to the Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. operation where a dispute has been in progress for some days. Certain shop stewards have brought to a halt the complete operations of Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd., because they seek to be allowed to conduct their union activities in company time and on a basis which is not acceptable to the company.

The dispute has gone through the industrial machinery established for this purpose and, although some directions have been given, Commissioner Collier said that it was quite apparent the attitudes of both parties were irreconcilable. I ask members: What happens to the company's customers and the credibility of the country while that kind of excuse is being given by the commissioner—and I pity him for the job he has to do—and when one bears in mind the origin of the dispute? It is totally irresponsible that such a situation should exist.

The other example to which I wish to refer relates to the situation in regard to the North-West Shelf project. In a decision Commissioner Coleman indicated that certain margins for work on the project should prevail within particular unions. I am not arguing whether his decision was right or wrong. Actually, I thought it was ludicrous. However, the decision was made within the existing machinery and that same machinery provides for an appeal. The appeal was heard and the full bench overruled the decision.

Mr Pearce: So when you point to Commissioner Coleman's decision you are really implying the decision of the full bench was ludicrous.

Mr P. V. JONES: Why am I saying that?

Mr Pearce: Because the full bench overruled it.

Mr P. V. JONES: I am not implying that. I believe Commissioner Coleman's decision was ludicrous, but the point I am really concentrating on is that it was made within the machinery which exists. It was not made as a result of a strike situation, nor was it part of an out-of-court settlement. The decision was made within the machinery which exists.

The reason I suggested the decision was ludicrous was the same as the reason the full bench overturned it, and that is, it created an untenable situation. It was not even defensible

within the machinery, because it provided a level of project allowance for which the full bench suggested there was no basis. Indeed, the full bench supported returning to an interim margin of \$45 pending further examination of the matter.

Last night one of the union organisers—I am not sure whether he represented the BLF or the Building Workers' Industrial Union—without any hesitation said, "There will be no work. This project will stop. It will not proceed until we get returned to us that which Commissioner Coleman gave to us." In other words, regardless of whether or not the decision was made within the existing machinery and regardless of the capacity of the project to support that kind of impost, the union organiser said, "We will bring this project to a halt." He went on to say in effect, "No matter the length of time it is estimated the project will take to construct, there will be a very long delay, because we are going to see to it that that prevails."

That position has been taken regardless of the merits of the case and the point I want to make is such an attitude is damaging beyond belief, but no-one seems to worry. Instead of publishing some of the rubbish it does, the media would do us a great turn on a national basis, if it tried to remind us of how we are slowly and inexorably putting ourselves out of business as a result of the way in which we are conducting ourselves on a national and State basis where these matters are concerned.

Last night the Deputy Leader of the Opposition questioned some of the financial policies of the Federal Government. We have not been backward in taking the same action publicly, clearly, and without hesitation.

It is ridiculous that we have not been allowed to develop, and take the opportunity to make the best of some of the resources of Western Australia at a time when there has been a window in the market, because that position does not last long. We have seen two or three instances where we were prevented from proceeding as we desired, and in the way the Government and the community not only expected we would proceed, but also as we had every right to assume we would proceed. As a result, the window was denied us and someone else moved in to supply the market and fill the gap. Such opportunities do not arise twice. One then has to wait one's turn in the queue.

It is unreasonable for the Opposition to imply we support unilaterally the fiscal policies of the Federal Government, because the reverse is the case. I do not think any of us would be at all

critical of the Federal Government's desire to control inflation and to do what it is capable of doing, bearing in mind that is little enough, where interest rates are concerned.

However, I am referring to the capacity to allow development to proceed; the capacity which the Federal Government has to allow projects to get off the ground and, in that regard, to allow job opportunities to flow from them and to allow money to move which, in turn, leads to growth in service industries and has an effect right throughout the community.

It is criminal in the extreme that we have been denied some of those opportunities. It is not recognised fully that a second chance is not always available. It is all very well to say, "We will not support this project this year. We will wait until next year, because things may be better then." There is no "next year." Some other project gets off the ground and we have to get back into the queue.

We have seen this situation once already in relation to aluminium smelting in this State. We were prevented from getting such a project off the ground, because the Federal Government denied us the opportunity to borrow the funds necessary to complete the extensions to the Bunbury power station.

Mr Pearce: Are you backing Mr Fraser on Thursday, like your leader?

Mr P. V. JONES: That has nothing to do with it and the comment of the member for Gosnells demonstrates his interest in the matter.

Mr Pearce: What is your recipe for changing the Federal Government's policies?

Mr P. V. JONES: I am not talking about personalities; I am talking about policies and I am trying to get a message across to members opposite.

Mr Pearce: If I could change it for you, I would. You should realise that personalities decide policies.

Mr P. V. JONES: I have referred to the fact that we have been denied developmental opportunities by the Federal Government. I shall illustrate that is not just pie in the sky by providing a precise example. There is no secret about this matter, because it has been aired publicly. However, I remind members that the situation with regard to the establishment of an aluminium smelter in this State is an example of an opportunity which was available to us, where companies were willing to undertake detailed feasibility studies of the project, but which was denied to us.

Mr Pearce: By the Federal Government.

Mr P. V. JONES: I have said quite clearly that, for whatever reasons it gave, in our view they were insufficient. It meant that we have had to go over our tracks by different means and have lost time—at least two years. This has had a very serious effect on jobs, confidence, and a whole range of things. This should never have happened and would not have happened had there been a little more foresight and knowledge of how important it is for us to operate with a little bit of international thinking instead of just petty, inward-looking thinking.

The other point to which I will refer briefly involves another comment made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about security of supplies of energy in this State. I am well aware of the information that has been made available by the Municipal Officers' Association, whose members, for reasons best known to them, are seeking to introduce an element of doubt. I take this opportunity to put the situation on record. Again we have the position where certain elements in the community, for purposes best known to themselves, are seeking to create a situation which is far from the truth and which is not doing this State a service in any way.

The other day I was asked a series of questions about the No. 5 plant at Muja. For those who are not aware of the fact, this unit at the Muja power station was ordered by the Tonkin Labor Government on the advice of the then State Electricity Commission. I think that Government made the appropriate decision on the information given to it. It approved the order of two machines, and I do not question that, and in no comments I made have I been critical of that decision.

Nevertheless, it has been shown by a survey conducted that this generating equipment has a design fault in the operating blades of the turbines. What has not been mentioned in any of the information that has been published is that the No. 5 unit is operating at 90 per cent capacity.

One could be excused for thinking that, far from operating at 90 per cent capacity, the unit was hardly operating at all and was only spluttering along intermittently. In order to reach the maximum output from that unit it will be necessary to take it down at an appropriate time, which will not be until 1983. It will not be until then because firstly we will need to bring on some other generating equipment that is either already under construction or is in the process of being converted at Kwinana from oil to coal.

The point I make is that here we have a situation where selective data, utilised, by the Opposition for whatever purpose it has and also by Mr Court of the MOA, portrays a very misleading and erroneous situation, something which does the media no credit whatsoever. The way the media has behaved is quite reprehensible.

For example, today we have a team from the programme "Nationwide" visiting both the Bunbury and Muja power stations. Last night I spoke with a member of that team and was asked for permission to film at the power stations, and I understand they are to interview members of the MOA. At no time before I spoke to them had the commissioner been approached to be interviewed and to provide information, which he has now rightly agreed to do. When I was asked about this and discussed the matter, I indicated that not only would they be able to visit both power plants today, but also they could talk to whomever they wanted to interview, such as the engineers in charge of each station. They were given access to whatever information they wanted. That does not worry me or the SEC in any way.

What does worry me is the selective way the information will be used. What we are fast learning is that, if we take, for example, a programme like "Nationwide", it is not a matter of how much it films and shows, but how much it cuts and leaves out. I mention this to demonstrate that the media has responsibilities it does not seem to embrace in a way one would think would be in the best interests of us all.

I make the point that it is far from true to say that the SEC will be unable to meet the peak load this year. In 1981 the peak winter load was 1 172 megawatts. The total generating capacity in the system at present is 1 520 megawatts. However, because units are under construction or conversion, 2 235 megawatts will be available by 1985.

I make it clear that certain margins must be built into that; margins for safety, down time, and the various other operating aspects that must be taken into account in the same way that the increased margin that will flow from the introduction of new capacity will be absorbed by new customers. If that were not to happen we would be just standing still.

Let me make it clear: When we start reading these headlines about "shock" and "horror" and what cannot be done, it is a great pity to find that, despite the fact that information was given to the media last Friday about the number of megawatts available, the number of units available, and a whole range of information about the 90 per cent

operating capacity at Muja No. 5, the media was very selective about what information it utilised. This is the same with other bits of information that the media selectively makes available.

The MOA publishes a news release entitled *State News*. It recently reported that the SEC met with officers of the MOA and it stated that the Assistant Commissioner (Development) (Mr Hayes) had made certain comments. The article went on to say—

The assistant Commissioner (Development), Mr Jim Hayes confirmed that projects such as the North-West gas pipeline, Kalgoorlie and Mt. Newman interconnections and Bunbury Power Station are all under a cloud and there is doubt as to whether they will proceed in the near future.

It then went on to talk about the possible loss of such projects and the substantial impact those losses would have on job opportunities; and it went on to make other inflammatory comments, such as—

Policy with regard to the use of contractors is quite clear and is in conformity with the State Government directives. That is, that private contractors should be used wherever possible. Its implementation has been proceeding at an ever increasing rate, despite the fact that the SEC has the expertise and potential to carry out the majority of work required at least as economically as the private sector.

I would like to make two comments at this point. As for their statements about these projects being in jeopardy and, indeed, the inference that they will come to a stop, the assistant commissioner wrote back to the MOA in the following terms—

For the record, the statements concerning doubts that may exist in respect of the future of the North-West Shelf Gas Pipeline, the Kalgoorlie and Pilbara Interconnections and Bunbury Power Station were made by Mr Jack Marks towards the end of the meeting.

They were not made by the commission at all. I understand that subsequently this was not disputed by the MOA, yet it printed that kind of stuff and circulated to the Opposition that kind of selected information regarding the management of the SEC at the present time. The letter we sent back goes on to identify the clear changes which have been made, for example, in the rationalisation of workshop activities of the SEC. It also indicated that the associated redeployment of some of the current work force from the manufacturing and construction area to the operations and maintenance area will not lead to

any retrenchments of the present staff. Indeed, that is a main consideration because the SEC does not want to get rid of the skilled personnel it has—far from it.

In regard to the use of contractors, I will give one example. The SEC is at present undergoing major line expansion throughout the interconnected system in the rural areas of the State, particularly in the south-eastern wheatbelt area. The amount of line currently being constructed in order to bring in the various small country towns and farm holdings which wish to be connected to the interconnected grid, is quite considerable. The SEC regularly employs both private contractors and its own work force in the erection of lines.

I make it quite clear that whilst it may be thought private contractors are of the best advantage to the SEC in these activities, the reverse is the case. No SEC gains nothing in terms of financial margins by using private contractors in this particular area of its activities. It has not lost either, to a great extent, but no margin is available. Indeed, the SEC is keen to retain its own work force because it requires a nucleus of staff trained and experienced in the operations of the SEC. I do not think one member of this House would in any way criticise the work of outside gangs of the SEC, particularly in times of difficulties created by storms, cyclones, or whatever. The linesmen restore our services in times of need. We are all very well served by the SEC staff engaged in those activities.

Mr Davies: Oh, not another Minister speaking.

Mr P. V. JONES: Let me go on to indicate that the SEC and the Government make no apology whatsoever for being efficient.

Mr Davies: That's profound.

Mr P. V. JONES: If private contractors undertake some of the activities of the SEC—and I emphasise the word "some"—and do so efficiently, their services will be used. The point was made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the SEC has instituted arbitrary staff ceilings, but that is totally untrue. Two aspects are involved in the question of staff ceilings. The first is that a drop of approximately 10 per cent in productivity has resulted from the introduction of the 37½-hour week. Whether or not the SEC likes the introduction of the 37½-hour week, it must be accepted. Its introduction was opposed vigorously by the SEC because of the increased costs that would flow from it and inevitably borne by the end customer. We now have the track record to show that the 37½-hour week has meant a loss of 10 per cent in productivity.

We now have the nine-day fortnight which the State Industrial Commission wished upon us, but the nine-day fortnight just is not achieving the results suggested initially. It is leading to the further employment of additional staff.

We undertook not to impose any staff ceiling as a result of the nine-day fortnight. A clear undertaking was given by the SEC and the Government that whatever number of staff had to be recruited for the implementation of the 37½-hour week and the nine-day fortnight, that number would be recruited. I merely want to place on record that the cost of this implementation has been greater than that for which we budgeted. We have had enough time since the introduction of the 37½-hour week to show clearly that a 10 per cent decrease in productivity has resulted and must be paid for.

Mr Davies: Are you going back to the court to ask for the decision to be reversed?

Mr P. V. JONES: In the determination of future awards, most certainly the advocates of the SEC will make sure—

Mr Davies: Are you initiating anything?

Mr P. V. JONES: We are not initiating anything at this stage.

Mr Davies: At what stage will you?

Mr P. V. JONES: I ask the member to allow me to answer his first question before getting on to any others. We are not initiating any action at this stage because we have given an undertaking to abide by the decision to introduce the 37½-hour week and the nine-day fortnight. We opposed their introduction, but they were introduced, and we are honouring the Industrial Commission's decision. I am placing on record the fact that the introduction has been more expensive than was budgeted for in the first instance.

Mr Davies: Whose fault is that?

Mr P. V. JONES: It was as a result of a loss of productivity.

Mr Davies: Who budgeted it?

Mr P. V. JONES: An estimate was made and it was submitted to the court. The member would be aware that the Industrial Commission appointed Dr Duffy of the Western Australian Institute of Technology to conduct a survey on the effects of a 37½-hour week imposed on the SEC. He obtained information from the SEC and the unions, as well as from the Industrial Commission. He was aware that the SEC would honour whatever decision was made by the Industrial Commission. He put in his report, and the Industrial Commission made its determination. The SEC did win on a few points.

One example relates to the working of Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union apprentices, and other matters of that nature. The SEC did make some gain, but the point I make, and clearly make, is that we do not intend to take action to get back to a 40-hour week or 10-day fortnight; in any future hearings we will make it quite apparent to the Industrial Commission that what was expected and anticipated in regard to productivity has not come about. We were told by the union that there would be a certain level of productivity, but in reality that has not come about. In fact, the SEC is worse off and that means additional staff at an additional cost have had to be employed.

I mentioned that there are two sides to the question of staff ceilings. The second relates to the capacity of the SEC to obtain suitable staff. It is true that staff ceilings have been imposed and some guidance has been given regarding—

Mr Davies: You said a moment ago that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was wrong in claiming staff ceilings had been imposed.

Mr P. V. JONES: I did not say that.

Mr Davies: My old ears deceive me.

Mr P. V. JONES: Let me go back to that. The member came into the Chamber halfway through my remarks. I said that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggested that arbitrary staff ceilings were imposed across the board, and that suggestion was incorrect. There have been—

Mr Davies: Some.

Mr P. V. JONES: —staff ceilings imposed in certain areas of the activities of the SEC, but in no way whatsoever have staff ceilings been imposed as a result of the 37½-hour week or in any area relating to safety and maintenance. Some difficulty is involved, and that difficulty simply has been with the recruiting of people with the capacities and skills to do the work for which we are seeking to employ people.

Mr Davies: You should be asking your Premier now what happened to all the work he was going to do as Deputy Premier.

Mr P. V. JONES: Opportunities exist for employment right now in certain categories of skills within the SEC, but certainly great difficulty has been experienced in recruiting appropriate people. We even have gone to the Eastern States for people to carry out the work in areas in which openings exist. The suggestion that arbitrary staff ceilings across the board have been imposed is quite wrong, but certainly some monitoring of certain levels of the number of

people employed in some areas of the commission has taken place.

I reiterate that we make no apology whatsoever for the use of private contractors. To suggest no limit should be placed on the number of staff employed, or no watchdog used, is in fact to condone an inefficient operation which would have no regard for the cost inevitably to be borne by the end customer. Every single item of cost is borne by the customer and reflected in tariffs. The question I have tried to canvass related to those two items of competitiveness in an effort to clarify this matter of energy supplies this winter in Western Australia and the fear-mongering that went on regarding the suggestion by the Municipal Officers' Association that everything would come to a halt.

I repeat my first point: The media does us a great disservice by not ensuring that, as a nation, we are better informed as to the way in which we are slowly and inexorably cutting our own throats.

I am talking not only about the union movement, but also about the community as a whole. We are very fortunate in this country, but we take it for granted. However, the sooner we appreciate that fact that we have to earn the lifestyle we enjoy, the better. There are too few of us in the community who are keen to ensure that what we enjoy and need not only must be created and protected, but also should work better when we hand it on to the future as we inherited it in the past.

MR WILLIAMS (Clontarf) [4.22 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to welcome our two new members to this House.

Mr Parker: That is original!

Mr WILLIAMS: Firstly, I welcome the member for Swan to the House.

Mr Herzfeld: The member for Fremantle is pathetic!

Mr WILLIAMS: I welcome the new member for Nedlands. I am pleased to see he has followed in good steps.

I pay my compliment to Sir Charles Court. I believe future history books will show that he was the greatest Minister for Industrial Development not only this State, but also perhaps the whole of Australia has known.

Mr Parker: A reflection on the previous speaker, the member for Narrogin!

Mr WILLIAMS: However! I will say a few words and then perhaps get on my old hobby horse.

Mr Herzfeld: How do the member for Fremantle's constituents manage to put up with him?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Trethowan): Order!

Mr I. F. Taylor: Go out and look at the results!

Mr WILLIAMS: Are members quite finished?

Mr Parker: Ask the chap behind you. Have a word with him. Come on, your time is running out.

Mr WILLIAMS: I have been critical of our road systems and our drivers over the years and my attitude has not changed. Western Australian drivers are probably the most inconsiderate in Australia as well as being the worst. I do not think they are altogether to blame because in most cases it is the education of those drivers that is at fault. Far too many drivers persist in driving in the right-hand lane or in the centre lane and so obstruct the flow of traffic.

We have just seen many millions of dollars being spent on the freeway from the Narrows Bridge to Canning Bridge. It is well engineered by the Main Roads Department staff who are to be congratulated.

This is to no avail because we found, on the first morning that the three lanes were open, in the inward three lanes going to the city, three vehicles travelling abreast at 70 kilometres an hour when the speed limit was 80 kilometres an hour.

The speed limit is not sufficient and easily could be increased to 100 kilometres an hour thus improving the flow of traffic. If drivers recognised the 100-kilometres-an-hour limit, traffic would flow more freely.

Mr Jamieson: Where is that?

Mr WILLIAMS: On the freeway.

Mr Jamieson: You drive like an Argentine tanker driver now without the speed limit being increased!

Mr Watt: It is better than driving like an Argentine ant!

Mr WILLIAMS: Slow drivers are a menace on the road because they frustrate other drivers, impede traffic flows, and create accidents as a result of impatient drivers attempting to get past them and taking risks.

On the Friday morning of which I spoke, these drivers were travelling abreast at 70 kilometres an hour and a great line of traffic built up behind. It is against the law to honk one's horn unnecessarily; however, that did occur on several

occasions, but to no avail. These drivers believed it was their right to travel in that lane at whatever speed they chose and as the law presently stands they are correct. However it shows a lack of common sense and good manners when in front of those drivers, as far as the eye could see, there was not a vehicle in sight. They certainly impeded the traffic flow.

Police on motorbikes should be utilised on that freeway in the mornings to move in and out of traffic and, instead of stopping traffic from flowing, do their best to speed it up.

Mr I. F. Taylor: A policeman moving in and out of traffic travelling at 100 kilometres an hour would create havoc.

Mr WILLIAMS: It could be done easily if they were on motorbikes. The sooner the public become aware of the situation, the sooner the traffic will flow and fewer accidents will occur.

Mr I. F. Taylor: A ridiculous suggestion!

Mr WILLIAMS: Many accidents on country roads are caused because drivers sit on the crown of the road, their having been taught to do so. They also drive in the right-hand lane because they never learned the courtesies of the road. However, if they are taught to keep in the left-hand lane, when they are on country roads maybe they will keep to the side of the road and there will be fewer accidents.

Mr Old: Hear, hear!

Mr Davies: In the old days they had to ride on the crown of the road or they were in trouble.

Mr WILLIAMS: I concede that point, but those days are gone.

Mr I. F. Taylor: They may have in your electorate!

Mr WILLIAMS: It is an ongoing situation. What concerns me is that millions and millions of dollars are spent annually on improvements to our road systems, but it is to no avail because of the lack of consideration given to the traffic flow by drivers in this State.

I refer now to Karawara, the State Housing Commission area in my electorate which came into existence when I first came into Parliament. In my maiden speech I think I mentioned that Karawara was a fine concept inhabited by people of character and that I could see a great future for that area.

I am not so sure of that today. The design worries me. The Radbunn plan is a failure because people want open spaces, their own backyards, and privacy. The Karawara estate has no fences. People, in fact, have no backyards. They walk in the back door and out the front door into open space, open to all and sundry, and I do

not think it is right or fair. It has a detrimental effect on people's mental outlook, so problems exist in that estate. Too many of the wrong type of people, I am afraid, are being allowed to stay on the estate and are causing trouble, but the State Housing Commission, in its wisdom is trying to get rid of the troublemakers. These troublemakers create more and more problems and the whole tenor of the estate is being downgraded.

The Minister is not present now, but I ask him in the future to try to ensure that the troublemakers are dealt with expeditiously and are got rid of. I recommend also to the Minister that consideration be given to those people who are buying their own properties on that estate being able to erect their own fences so that they have some privacy. It also will create a better outlook on the estate which, in turn, will provide a better atmosphere. The people would like to be given the opportunity to buy their own properties and that is most important. I support that.

Mr Wilson: Does that include medium development units?

Mr WILLIAMS: Yes, if they want to buy them, let them do so. The problems encountered with flat developments are many and an added problem exists because the young people have nothing to do so they turn to vandalism.

In Karawara moves are afoot to provide playground areas in an endeavour to overcome the problem.

Mr Davies: Three storeys is the highest rise for a flat.

Mr WILLIAMS: That does not matter, they still have nowhere to play. The member for Victoria Park is aware of the problems that exist in the area.

There are a number of single women in the area and at night they become frightened of people knocking on their doors and of the bad element that gathers near the flats. These women would be much happier in their own environment with a picket fence surrounding their properties. It is a good area and many good people live in it. We have to help these people, and that is the essence of my suggestion.

I now refer to a matter which concerns all of us, and that is high interest rates. Inflation is, of course, the greatest cause of high interest rates. The cost of goods is increasing and this in turn increases interest rates. It must be recognised that when costs increase a landlord must increase the rents of his homes to cover the costs. That in itself creates inflation. At the same time if he invests

money and costs increase, he expects a greater return for his money.

In my opinion there are two reasons for inflation. Firstly, the Governments are living beyond their means and secondly, workers believe they can be paid more for producing less. In my view these are the most important points. The Governments should overcome their problems, which are caused mainly by the Commonwealth Government which in turn is going to the Reserve Bank; in other words, it is printing its own money.

We can, perhaps, overcome the problems in the following three ways: The first is the reduction of expenditure in all Government sectors; the second is that we can increase taxes; and the third is that we can print more money. However, the most important solution as I see it is that people must realise that if they work fewer hours, they produce less and therefore must earn less. One of the greatest causes of inflation, and this is occurring at the present time, is that workers are working reduced hours and producing less. Workers are receiving more money and, of course, the price of commodities has to go up accordingly. If a person is working less and producing less he should receive less money. Workers can overcome the problem by producing more.

While in Australia we seem to be hell-bent on working fewer hours countries like America and England are coming to grips with the situation. Workers in those countries are saying that wages should be frozen and that they should work longer hours in an endeavour to reduce inflation. Our exports are costing more because of the inflationary spiral, while overseas countries are reducing their rate of inflation. The imbalance between Australia's exports and imports is becoming most unfavourable. Governments must learn to live within their income. State Governments have no alternative but to balance their Budgets. The Commonwealth Government must come to grips with the problem and realise it has to balance its Budget.

Workers must realise, in their own interests, they must abandon the idea that they can produce less, because they must produce more. While my suggestions are socially unpalatable they are a true measure of how we can overcome the problems which exist. I support the Address-in-Reply.

MR A. D. TAYLOR (Cockburn) [4.37 p.m.]: I have a problem associated with my electorate office and wonder whether the Minister for Works is in a position to assist me. My remarks are somewhat pertinent to the speech made by the member who has just resumed his seat.

The Public Works Department looks after the car park—which holds one dozen cars—and maintains the services, lawns and buildings on the property on which my electorate office is located. It even looks after the drains on the grounds, because when a tree root found its way into a drain the Public Works Department attended to it. Therefore, I thought that as a small tree on the property needed lopping because the leaves were dropping into a constituent's garden, the Public Works Department should take care of the situation.

It is a small tree, only about 12 feet high with almost no branches at all. It has no aesthetic value, otherwise I would not want it lopped. The Public Works Department, after thinking about the matter and passing the file around, decided that while it did everything else in my electorate office and grounds, the tree did not belong to it but to the State Housing Commission. The PWD does everything else, but the tree belongs to the SHC!

The matter was referred to the SHC which was asked whether it or my constituent could simply lop the tree. The commission considered the matter for a month or so and the file must again have been passed up and down. Eventually the commission said, "No." It said that as far as its records were concerned the land was vacant—it has on it a building and a car park, but the land is vacant—because it does not have one of the commission's houses on it. The commission said that because it is vacant land the tree belongs to the Lands Department and an application should be made to the Lands Department. So an application was made and the Lands Department, which was fairly prompt off the mark, said "Yes, as far as we understand the situation the tree is our responsibility. We will see what can be done, but there could be a long delay."

Mr Wilson: This is the year of the tree.

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: Yes. If it had any value at all the tree should remain, but it is a very small tree and only a small job is required to remove it. The Lands Department said that it found it almost impossible to get tenders to lop small single trees and it was likely to be a long time before anything was able to be done about this tree.

Mr Grewar: Haven't you got a saw?

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: That is the whole point of the exercise. The tree had some extra catch as far as the Lands Department was concerned because yesterday, my secretary tells me, two men dressed in shirts and ties inspected the tree and took, I understand, six photographs of it.

Mr Brian Burke: In case it escapes!

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: There the matter rests at the moment. This job could have been carried out by the man who mows the lawn or by almost anyone, and it seems absurd that it has been going on in this way for nearly three months, through three departments, and that it has got nowhere. I cannot explain to my constituent what is happening about the tree. Perhaps some effort could be made one way or another, or permission could be given for it to be cut down.

The second matter, and a more important one, concerns transport. I want to make one or two comments—not complaints—to show what can be done when some effort is made. I was heartened recently, as was the Town of Cockburn, when MTT officers agreed to discuss with council the routing of MTT buses through the town council area. It was a new experience for everybody on the council that the MTT was prepared to do this, but it turned out to be worthwhile. So much so, in fact, that the council can now speak with quite some regard about the MTT whereas before it felt the MTT was not doing its job. We had a similar complaint in Kwinana and, again, the MTT officers were prepared to come down and discuss it. I make this point because I feel on occasions the departments should get some credit, and in this instance the people concerned should receive credit because their efforts turned enemies into friends.

No great gain was made in either instance, but at least the parties involved were able to understand the problems from both sides.

Also I would like to thank Westrail for agreeing to erect a fence at Wattleup alongside a children's playground. In this case the Minister went there to investigate the problem—either he was very worried or more likely he was passing the area! The councillors turned out in full and were most appreciative of the Minister's action and they have asked me to pass that on. It is the sort of thing one hopes any Government would do. Such action has been sadly lacking in the past, but I am sure it will be a feature when we are in Government. Certainly these three instances show what can be done if people take the time to give such matters a little extra attention.

Mr Rushton: Thank you for those remarks.

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: I am not used to paying compliments to the Minister—in fact I am not sure that it is a compliment. At least the Minister attended the area and he indicated that the fence will be built. If it is not built I will be raising the matter again, perhaps in not such a friendly manner.

The third item relates to town planning, and I hope that my comments will be drawn to the Minister's attention. They concern an area which has been discussed in this place before, and that is the Woodman Point-Coogee Beach area. About two years ago I spoke for 1½ hours on this matter when the land at Jervoise Bay on Cockburn Sound was resumed for industrial purposes. I would be the first to acknowledge that there has been a major industrial use of that area, although I am not sure it has been used to its full advantage. At the time the Government agreed to open up Woodman Point to the public as part compensation to the community at large and not just the Town of Cockburn, and it said that money would be spent on the area. I understand that the present economic climate has caused a deferment, but that is not a major worry. The initial step has been taken to acquire the quarantine station from the Commonwealth and an agreement has been reached to shift the explosives area to Baldvis.

Just north of this area a very small section of Coogee Beach still is available to the public. It is about a half a kilometre in length and it has industry to the north and Woodman Point, and more industry to the south. It is the only recreational area between the mouth of the Swan River and a small section of Kwinana beach. So, for the residents of all the suburbs to the south of the river right through to the hills and Armadale, this small section of Coogee Beach is the only ocean available to them at the moment.

The matter of pollution of this beach has been raised here before. On occasions the nearby abattoirs, Anchorage Butchers, fouled the ocean, and swimming classes and other activities on that small beach had to be cancelled. It seemed the worries were over last year when Anchorage Butchers closed the abattoirs. Of course one does not like to see that happen because the loss of jobs was a disaster on a local scale. However, all clouds have a silver lining and with the closure of the abattoirs it appeared that the industry close to the beach would be leaving the area, and that complaints of fat nodules and other materials in the water would cease. We hoped that this would be a cleaner and more pleasantly smelling area. So the people who used the beach—the only one between Fremantle and Kwinana—noted a tremendous improvement. Swimming classes were held again and everyone was very happy.

The MRPA was well aware of the need for greater recreational use of the waterfront in that area, and following discussions with the Town of Cockburn, it set up the Coogee coastal study area. This was set up by proclamation in the

Government Gazette of 19 June 1981, as appears on page 218, which reads as follows—

Notice of Resolution

Clause 32/36.

NOTICE is hereby given that at its meeting held on 27 May 1981, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority acting pursuant to Clause 32 of the Metropolitan Region Scheme resolved that in respect of the area defined in Schedule 1 hereto (defined land) in respect of which the proposals contained in the Scheme are to be reviewed by the Authority, it

- (1) requires that every application for development of any class on the defined land shall be referred to the Authority for determination
- (2) requires the City of Cockburn to forward every application for development of any class on the defined land to the Authority for determination.

H. R. P. DAVID,
Secretary,
Metropolitan Region
Planning Authority.

The land in question was all that land occupied by Anchorage Butchers and also the land to the north of that, was occupied by two tallow works. These latter are very small enterprises on the foreshore which extended right up to the natural boundary, the Kwinana-Spearwood railway line which runs to the coast and links up with the South Fremantle power station. So the study was to be carried out on the area north from Coogee Beach up to the South Fremantle power station. If that had developed as it should, it would have meant that the recreational area on Cockburn Sound would be extended by three times its present length. In all discussions with the MRPA, the council was very confident that efforts were being made for some action to be taken. The abattoir had closed, and in fact the buildings were being vandalised.

This impression was reinforced in about June 1981 when Mr Shilkins, the operator of one of the small tallow industries, applied to do some work on his establishment and the MRPA refused permission to him either to upgrade or enlarge the works because this study was to take place. There was every indication that the present industrial area could be declared a public open space and the beachfront, particularly in the area close to Jervoise Bay where an "A"-class reserve had been lost, would become available.

However, instead of that, suddenly about mid-November, an enterprise calling itself Fremantle Tanneries indicated to the Cockburn Town Council that it had been advised that there was no objection to its purchasing the old Anchorage Butchers building and to establishing a major tannery there. This has been done without any contact with the Cockburn Town Council and nothing has been said about the matter to those participating in the Coogee coastal study.

Having set about a study, having indicated in the *Government Gazette* that the study was to take place, having required the council to forward all applications to it by saying, "We require that every application for that land and any activity on it be referred to us for determination", having established a liaison committee with the Cockburn Town Council, and having talked about the area in an endeavour to decide what would happen to it, suddenly the MRPA changed its approach and said, "No; we are now giving permission to establish the tannery."

The Cockburn Town Council did not know about it until the tannery itself advised it it was purchasing the land. There was no indication by the MRPA that it had changed its approach. Who am I to believe stories? Nonetheless, it has been said that the land occupied by Anchorage Butchers was either too valuable or too desirable, and the owners of the tannery, appreciating the value of it, asked the MRPA that, if they purchased it, they be allowed to use the area as a tannery. Someone in the higher echelons of the MRPA—probably someone close to the top—said, "Yes; that will be okay."

The zoning of the area is correct and the buildings would be suitable, but the fact that a study was set up and work was proceeding with respect to the land was ignored. It appears the officers of the department were working on the Coogee coastal study with certain objectives in mind; the council was working with the MRPA with certain objectives in mind; and someone near the top of the MRPA said, "We will forgo the study altogether and we will give permission." In fact, that person did not say, "We will forgo the study"; he just indicated no objection for a tannery to be established.

This area is right next to a public beach. I emphasise that it is a small beach and the only public beach between the mouth of the Swan River and Kwinana which services all the areas south of the river right up into the foothills. For many years the people in the area have had to put up with a polluted beach. Finally, they have had a clean beach for one summer. They now find a tannery will be situated on the doorstep of the

beach and the opportunity to extend the beach will no longer exist perhaps for another 10 or 20 years. This is occurring at a time when development of the southern corridor is moving further south and the suburbs of Murdoch, Leeming, and Bull Creek are extending.

No-one can determine why a senior person or persons of the MRPA allowed this decision to be made, because it cuts across any value which may be gained from the Coogee coastal study.

Mr Old: It is zoned for noxious trades though, isn't it?

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: Yes, it is; but when a freeway or anything else of that nature is being planned, zoning exists already and the MRPA halts all activity in regard to it. It says, "There will be no more activity there, because we are going to do a study in the area." After deliberation, it says, "We have decided a freeway will go there. There will be a different type of zoning."

That sort of procedure is always followed and that is what was done in May last year. In conformity with this, in June of that year the MRPA stopped Shilkin & Son (Holdings) Pty. Ltd. from doing anything and its hands were tied. But two or three months later, someone said, "No objection," to that tannery development there. Someone in or on the MRPA said it could occur.

Mr Old: I just wanted to clear up that point.

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: The zoning is quite clear, but I should like to comment on it. The area for noxious trades in the South Fremantle region is an historical accident; that is, it was established when Fremantle stopped at South Beach and there was nothing but sand dunes to the south of it. The other area for noxious trades was around Blackwall Reach where the Colonial Sugar Refinery, CSBP superphosphate works, and the State Engineering Works were established.

During the time of the Tonkin Government, the then Minister for Town Planning (Mr Herb Graham) attempted to have the zoning changed, because he believed the land was too valuable for industrial trades. It was felt that, with the development of the area, all industry there should be phased out as rapidly as possible. My recollection is the Tonkin Government allowed CSBP to move from Blackwall Reach down to Kwinana as part of an effort to remove industry from that area. It had become a salubrious suburb with the Chidley Point Golf Club and other facilities; therefore, it was considered to be time to redirect industry to other areas.

It would be very worthwhile for the Government to rezone the area south of

Fremantle and assist in the transfer of industry away from it. The same position has occurred in South Fremantle and part of Cockburn as obtains in the Blackwall Reach area. Back in the 1800s and early 1900s these areas were on the fringe of development, but the situation has changed and they are now surrounded by housing. I understand that, in part, the reason these noxious trades remain in those areas is that, in order to move them, land elsewhere must be rezoned. No other local authority wants noxious trades within its boundaries. Therefore, they stay where they are, because no-one else is prepared to have them.

As I mentioned earlier, the MRPA appears to have changed its mind with respect to the Coogee coastal study. When the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning was away, the Minister for Lands, acting on her behalf, met with the Town of Cockburn. Very worthwhile discussions took place and it seemed an effort would be made to sort out the situation. Certainly the Acting Minister gave every indication this would happen and in fact a review has taken place since that time.

However, nothing has come from the MRPA with respect to that review. One would expect, when a review of this nature is being conducted, the MRPA would contact the Cockburn Town Council to make observations, ask questions, seek opinions, or suggest alternatives; but nothing like that has taken place. In fact, there has been a complete standoff between the MRPA and the Cockburn Town Council. Although since the Minister visited the council, the review has taken place, there has not been a single phone call. Previously these two bodies were actively involved at officer level and higher with respect to this Coogee coastal study area.

The whole matter has reached a stalemate and that is the reason I am raising it here. It appears the only avenue of progress is through the Minister and only the Minister will be able to take the action necessary to ensure the Coogee coastal study area is given adequate attention and to halt the purchase of the old abattoir by the tannery. Certainly I hope the remarks I am making will be passed on to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, because this is a very contentious issue. It appears the MRPA is not prepared to follow through with one of its undertakings and, if it suits somebody in the authority, it will do an about face right in the middle of a study.

I understand that if the site is purchased for the establishment of a tannery, but is then rezoned for public open space, the MRPA will be obliged to purchase the site from the present holders,

Anchorage Butchers. I understand the value of the land is somewhere between \$800 000 and \$1.2 million. Again I understand the Cockburn Shire Council is prepared to discuss with the Government the possibility of holding back the development of the Woodman Point area so that instead of utilising all the money appropriated for that development, some money could be used to purchase the Anchorage Butchers site. The estimated expenditure 12 months ago for the development of the Woodman Point area was \$9 million, and the council has suggested that the development be deferred for a year or two as necessary so that the allocation initially proposed can be used to purchase the Anchorage Butchers site. In that light the Anchorage Butchers site could at least be held until it is redeveloped. In fact, all that would be needed would be to have a bulldozer demolish the existing buildings so that something like another kilometre of beach is available to the public.

If the Address-in-Reply continues a little longer I hope the Minister for Local Government and Urban Development and Town Planning is present and will make some comment in respect of the matters I have raised.

I now refer to the unemployment situation in the Cockburn, Kwinana, and Rockingham areas. At some length last year during the Budget debate I made comments in relation to the closure of the Australian Iron & Steel plant at Kwinana.

To digress a little, I must say how distracting and difficult it is to assess the unemployment situation in my electorate. I found it almost impossible to obtain relevant statistics. Some years ago relevant statistics were available, and they referred not only to the number of people unemployed and the sexes of those people, but also to their ages and, to some degree, the types of skills held. From such statistics it was possible to determine the number of young, mature, or elderly people unemployed, but now it is not. The present statistics relating to parts of Cockburn, Kwinana, and Rockingham are lumped in those for Mandurah, and they all come under the heading "Kwinana". Only a small number of the people referred to in those statistics in fact live at Kwinana. No way exists to determine whether the unemployed are young, are in their 40s or 50s, or whatever.

On the 13th of this month the AIS plant at Kwinana will close down. Members may recall my Budget speech last year relating to this closure. The plant was to continue operating for another five months to build a stockpile; this has been done, and the premises are now to close.

I must pay credit to officers of the State Department of Labour and Industry who have been able to find alternative employment for all the apprentices except two employed by AIS at the time of the decision to close the plant, and that involved the redeployment of 50 young people—quite an achievement. The finding of alternative employment certainly made a big difference to the lives of those lads who were part-way through their apprenticeship courses. Only two remain to be looked after, but they are currently employed by AIS. They are mature men and are carrying on adult apprenticeship courses; and it is hoped that employment will be found for them.

The major concern now is whether the other people to be stood down by AIS will find alternative employment. I have raised this matter as a result of the comments made by the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce at the conclusion of my remarks last year. He spoke at some length and made a number of platitudes about the situation at AIS. At page 5574 of the 1981 *Hansard* the Minister said—

As I said previously, the Government does not believe in words, but in action. We have been closely working with the company for the past five or six months to find a solution to the whole problem. I totally enforce his comment—

The Minister was referring to my comment. To continue—

—that we should have co-operation between the Opposition, the unions, the workers, the company, and the Government.

At least he supported my comment that something should be done to help the 500 people to be stood down. He went on to say—

With all due respect, I do not think the member should have spoken about \$100 000 a week or civil unrest.

I had made the point that the 500 people collectively will receive \$100 000 a week, the equivalent of approximately \$5 million a year, from taxpayers by way of unemployment benefits. I reiterate the points I made in my speech during the Budget debate: The skills of those 500 people will be lost to our community and the industry involved; little industrial unrest existed at the plant; and many of the 500 people to be stood down have worked for the company for up to 25 years. Of the 500 people to be stood down, 200 are white-collar workers, and their skills and experience will be lost to that particular industry. It would be idle to suggest otherwise.

I remind the House that not so long ago we heard the comment that workers do nothing, receive too much money, and should be pushing for greater productivity. What can one do with comments like that? When the Minister answered my Budget speech remarks he chided me for my suggestions. He said they should be examined as well as the examples of what a previous Government did and what his Government would be able to do. The Tonkin Government caused work to be carried out on State ships, and other sorts of work was done to enable the employment of persons displaced from industry. The Minister agreed with such ideas and said that something would be done. He went on to say—

Before I conclude I should like to remind the member for Cockburn that over the next 10 years this Government's policies will be providing employment at such levels that I am confident that any person displaced at BHP—I hope none will be—will soon be placed in a job should the plant not recommence. However, I am confident that in the next five months the Government will find a solution to the problem in the area.

He then sat down.

The Minister's final comment needs emphasising. He said that within five months the Government would find a solution to the problem in the area, but now one week before the closure of the AIS plant the Government has done nothing. The Minister agreed there should be co-operation between all parties, including the Opposition, to find a solution. He noted what the Tonkin Government had done to find solutions, and went on to say—

However, I am confident that in the next five months the Government will find a solution to the problem in the area.

I do not make any criticism of the Minister's not being here at this stage—I did not warn him that I would raise this matter—but I would like to hear from him at a later stage.

Mr O'Connor: Who was that?

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: I am referring to the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce. I did not warn him that I would raise this matter. I hope the Premier takes note of my remarks and passes them to the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce.

Mr O'Connor: That's why I asked.

Mr A. D. TAYLOR: At the time of the Budget speech and my making these remarks, the Minister noted what had been said and stated that a solution would be found within the following

five months. He said there were good prospects of finding employment for these people, but now we are within one week of 500 people, including 200 white-collar workers, being stood down after having given good service to AIS. I only hope the Minister will have an opportunity before the Address-in-Reply concludes to make some comment on the remarks I have made tonight, and tell us what will happen to these 500 people.

I will give one example of the sorts of problems workers of AIS are experiencing. A man in his late 40s or early 50s employed by AIS in a relatively senior supervisory position is one of the handful of people the company considers to be worth retaining. He has been offered a position in Port Kembla, but a number of obstacles stand in the way of his accepting it. He has a family, with children still attending school. However, he and his wife considered the matter thoroughly and decided that the family could be split so that this man could take up the position at Port Kembla; but after further consideration and investigation he has determined that the house he has at Kwinana has dropped off in value to the point that it is worth approximately only \$28 000 or \$30 000. It is a substantial brick home with many improvements, and he has invested a great deal of money in it. If he went to Port Kembla he would find that the cost of a house would be \$70 000 to \$80 000 because of the shortage of housing in that area, and such a house would be not anywhere near as substantial as his present house. In fact, a house of that value at Port Kembla would be constructed of weatherboard or fibro. At approximately 50 years of age he is in a position of having to consider whether he should sell his present home at a substantial loss and then purchase a home at Port Kembla with a mortgage to such an extent that he would not be able to provide a sufficient deposit. He would have to find bridging finance and he would commence a large mortgage at the age of 50.

This chap has given many years of good service to the company, and reached a status in the company sufficient to persuade it to include him in the handful of people offered employment elsewhere in the AIS organisation. He must be a satisfactory worker, but he cannot afford to take the other job. At present his home loan repayments are fairly modest, so he must become unemployed and hope that his position as a senior supervisor will enable him to find a position to carry him through till retirement. Failing that it is best for him to receive unemployment benefits out of which he can meet his loan repayments, instead of accepting the position offered by the company which would mean he would have to take on two

mortgages, or try to borrow \$40 000 or \$50 000 at his age.

This example would be at the top of the range of examples, and I am sure examples at the bottom of the range will soon start to appear. From the 13th of this month many homes in the Kwinana area will be put on the market as a result of their owners losing their jobs at AIS. These people purchased their homes with the knowledge that they were employed for life by one of the biggest companies in Australia, but now they are to be stood down.

The Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce chided me for my comments during last year's Budget debate when I referred to militancy, but I will repeat those remarks—fairly calmly, I hope—so that I am understood. The people to be laid off are not people who can be classed as itinerant workers; they are people who have worked hard to establish themselves in the community. Militancy will result from any attempt to take those people's homes from them.

If a man has a mortgage of \$30 000 and assuming the house would be worth, say \$45 000 to \$50 000 in another suburb, but he is told that the house will realise \$25 000 to \$30 000 only, he will find he will lose money and may even still have money to pay out. Such a person will then have to go to the State Housing Commission for assistance. Some system must be found to overcome that problem. No-one gains if a house is sold below cost and the person has to go to the State for assistance.

It is a sorry saga if, after owning a home, a person has to start off again through no fault of his own. That saga is just beginning with AIS which is the first of the major enterprises in the area to find itself in this situation.

I hope the comments of the Minister will contain a solution because previously we were told that there would be a solution—that was five months ago—and now in a matter of seven to 10 days men will be walking out of the plant and starting off their life again on unemployment benefits. We must look at some of the social consequences involved.

I hope that the Premier will take note of my comments and that when we return after the Easter break we will hear some worth-while comments from the Government.

MR NANOVICH (Whitford) [5.17 p.m.]: I wish to participate in the Address-in-Reply debate which is drawing to a close.

Mr Tonkin: Are you moving the adjournment?

Mr NANOVICH: No. I wish to pay my respects to the former Premier (Sir Charles Court) who, over 30 years of public life as a member of Parliament, made a contribution to the electorate of Nedlands and to the State of Western Australia which cannot go unnoticed because it is one of merit.

Twenty years of Sir Charles' time in Parliament were as a Minister and eight years as a leader. Not only did Sir Charles Court make a fine contribution, but also his partner did. Sir Charles and Lady Court both played their parts in a most efficient way to uphold the dignity of a member of Parliament and his lady. They both represented Western Australia on a parliamentary level and on a social level in a very special way.

I was a little disappointed that few remarks were made by members of the Opposition about Sir Charles Court's retirement. One may certainly disagree with the comments of a political figure, but one would be hypocritical not to recognise a person who has made such a magnificent contribution over a period of 30 years.

The member for Welshpool is the longest sitting member—

Mr Jamieson: I am not the oldest; nine members are older than I am.

Mr NANOVICH: I did not say the oldest. I was trying to pay the member a compliment. The member for Welshpool has served for 30 years as a member of Parliament, and we would be hypocritical if we were not to recognise the contribution he has made. I felt the Opposition was lacking when it attempted to denigrate Sir Charles Court instead of recognising his fine contribution to the State.

I wish to congratulate the newly elected Premier. I am sure his many years as a member of Parliament and his successful handling of ministerial portfolios will stand him in good stead. To date he has proved to be an outstanding leader, and I am sure he has the team behind him. I am pleased to be one of those members and I am sure the people of Western Australia will benefit from his leadership.

I congratulate the newly appointed Ministers, the member for Karrinyup and the member for Murray. I am sure they will make a fine contribution in their portfolios.

I congratulate the newly elected member for Nedlands and I am sure Nedlands will have an outstanding member of Parliament for many years to come. He has a hard act to follow—that of his father—but I am sure his contribution will

be outstanding because he has the ability to carry on the good work of his father.

I congratulate the member for Swan on his being elected, and although I do not wish to stand here and be critical, I think his first speech to the Parliament was not very well accepted; it did not win him any respect.

Mr Parker: You would hardly be the arch parliamentary performer yourself.

Mr NANOVIK: Neither is the member for Fremantle.

Mr Brian Burke: There is a tradition that you do not criticise a maiden speech.

Mr O'Connor: There is also a tradition that you do not raise controversial issues in a maiden speech.

Mr NANOVIK: I am sure this place is one of the best levellers.

Several members interjected.

Mr NANOVIK: I wish to pay my sincere thanks to the Opposition Whip for the co-operation he has given to me since I have been appointed Whip. I am sure that that co-operation will continue and that we will work together to ensure that matters are kept moving and the standards of the Parliament are upheld.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to a matter which has been a bone of contention for some time. A great deal of work has gone into trying to solve the problem, until recent months when a lot of hard work and negotiation were undone. I am referring to the areas which are known as the nodes, which stretch north to Sorrento, on the west side of West Coast Highway, to Mullaloo. I will quote from some notes on the agreement made in respect of these areas. They read as follows—

On November 13, 1969, the Government entered into an informal agreement with Taylor Woodrow Corser Pty Ltd, Estates Development Pty Ltd and General Agency Company with respect to the development of their separate landholdings at Whitfords. In return for the rezoning to 'urban' of their land, the approving of subdivisions and the construction of major roads, a major water main and the necessary Beenyp sewerage treatment plant according to set schedules, the Companies were obliged to subdivide their land progressively, restrict the price of 55% of their subdivided lots, undertake a home building programme, cede land free of cost for major roads and contribute to major road construction, sewerage headworks and provide both High and Primary School sites

free of cost. The agreement was based on a plan which extended West Coast Highway northwards, from Sorrento but inland from the coast to provide a wide foreshore reserve exceeding twice the normal requirement. In return for this extensive reserve, certain nodal areas—'THE WHITFORD NODES'—were to be set aside between the road and the coastline and used for residential purposes.

At the time of that agreement, both the metropolitan region scheme and the Shire of Wanneroo town planning scheme were to be amended to include the nodes. At the time, the Wanneroo Shire did not have an approved town planning scheme and on 6 October 1972 the then Minister for Town Planning advised the shire it was required to zone the nodes as special development "A". In a sense, it was a direction from the Minister to include that land on that basis and then it would be given final approval.

The shire had to do this because other areas were required to be developed, and without a town planning scheme that development could not proceed. The shire continued to object to the node areas being developed for residential purposes. At that time the shire was aware that the areas were not to be developed immediately. The plans were to be lodged some time in the future and of course, residential development would take place.

In 1973, as President of the Wanneroo Shire Council, I requested a deputation to the then Premier (John Tonkin). The Premier received the deputation and sometime later advised us in writing of the outcome. I will quote the letter from the Premier, which read as follows—

Dear Mr Bennetts,

I have for acknowledgement your letter of 11th July referring to coastal nodal development. In particular, you advised that your Council had recently passed the following resolution—

"That Council rejects the creation and development of coastal nodes and recommends to the Government that suitable Crown land be exchanged with the three developers in the Whitfords area, and that the coastal areas west of West Coast Highway between Sorrento and Mullaloo be vested with the National Parks Board, the Tourist Development Authority and the Shire of Wanneroo, jointly".

That was the shire's proposal to the Premier. To continue—

In reply I would now advise that the subject matter of the foregoing resolution has been given careful consideration during which I had the opportunity of discussing the matter with my colleague, the Hon. Minister for Town Planning.

As a result of these considerations it is the definite view of the Hon. Minister that coastal nodes will not create, as your Council has suggested, partially private beaches, but that public access to the beaches will be improved.

In this direction I am advised that the Environmental Protection Authority, in a letter to the Marmion-Sorrento Ratepayers' and Progress Association, takes the converse view to Council in that it considers access to the beaches will be improved. For your information, I attach a copy of the Authority's letter to the Progress Association.

In 1976, the Environmental Protection Authority changed its view and said that the land ought to revert to public use as public open space. That related to the entire parcel of land stretching between Sorrento and Mullaoo.

The then Premier went on to say—

The Hon. Minister also feels that your Council is under the impression that all the nodes will be used to provide home lots. As has been pointed out to your Council, it has very wide powers under its Town Planning scheme to control the type of development in each node and it is hoped these powers will be used to ensure that each is not used merely to provide high priced beachfront lots.

In view of these circumstances I agree with the views of the Hon. Minister and regret that your Council's request cannot be accepted.

In a sense, the Tonkin Government agreed that if the land were developed for residential purposes, the access to the beach would be improved and not inhibited. The council was protesting that the allowance of development would inhibit access to the beaches.

From that point, the council failed to convince the Government that it would be wrong to allow residential development to take place. In 1974, when there was a change of Government with the election of the Liberal-National Country Party Government, I was elected to the Parliament and I started to put pressure on both our then leader (Sir Charles Court) and the present deputy leader (the Hon. Cyril Rushton) who was then the

Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning.

After many discussions the Minister and the Wanneroo Shire Council, the Minister felt that the council had a case, and some changes could be made to preserve the land in its entirety. As a council we approached the Minister and considered an area which was the estate of the late Mr Luisini, which was purchased by a firm called Dillingham Corporation. I took part with the shire officers in those discussions. The land was then offered to the council for sale.

I discussed the matter with councillors, and we felt that this was an avenue in which the council could acquire the land and offer it to the owners of the nodes on an exchange basis. I then asked the Minister to receive a deputation from the shire; and he agreed immediately that a deputation was the appropriate way to handle the matter. At that deputation, the case was presented to the Minister; and he saw tremendous value in the council's arguments for having the land rezoned and making land exchanges with the owners of the nodes.

The Commissioner for Town Planning (Dr David Carr) put up some resistance. He claimed that his department could not support the rezoning of the area from rural to industrial and commercial simply to enable a land exchange with the owners of the nodes. He felt it would be contrary to the Government's agreement to allow the nodes to be developed.

Other methods were then suggested; and the council took the advice given by the Minister and the commissioner. I presented the case to the council which agreed along the lines outlined by the then president (Mr Charles Searson) and the shire clerk (Mr Noel Bennetts) to proceed with negotiations to purchase the land, and then simply to make an application for its rezoning for industrial and commercial purposes.

The main object of that was to obtain funds to assist the council to purchase the nodes. We could not expect the owners of the nodes to hand over the land at no cost. They did give quite a large parcel of the land at no cost; and they were prepared to offer it to the Crown on the basis that it would be vested if certain small areas would be developed for residential purposes. However, the areas that were to be developed had to be bought. The owners said, "If you are going to pay us just for them and not the area that we are prepared to hand over to the Crown if that development was to proceed, there is no deal. You will have to pay us for the whole area." The council was aware of that, and accepted the situation.

In the meantime, the procedures to have the area rezoned continued. Unfortunately, there was never a condition that the money from the area should be channelled into the purchase of the nodes. That was the biggest mistake. Because of the complexity, the Government had agreed to allow certain parts of the area to be redeveloped; and that had been supported by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

It was decided not to impose a condition by saying that the money would be channelled towards the purchase of the nodes. The council accepted that in good faith; and I recall that I made the comment in the Minister's office, "Well, I want that condition placed on money generated from the Dillingham estate." That is now the Wangara industrial estate. The president (Mr Searson) said, "Well, there is no question about it. We'll do that. Please don't impose that condition."

Point of Order

Mr BERTRAM: On a point of order, it is extremely difficult to hear the member from up here. Would he be good enough to speak up so that we can hear what he is saying?

Mr Pearce: We are all fascinated!

Mr Barnett: I can't even hear him from here.

Mr Pearce: We wouldn't like your mumblings about the Whitford nodes to go unrecorded.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): There is no point of order.

Mr Nanovich: I am addressing my remarks to the Acting Speaker.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr NANOVICH: The shire president (Mr Searson) asked me not to impose that condition. He said, "We will fulfil all the obligations to see that money is regenerated from the future sales of that land towards the purchase of the nodes." That is how it was left. Nothing has eventuated.

Of course, land sales were moving along; and the council was making money out of the land sales. The council had to outlay quite an amount of money to have the area developed.

Mr Pearce: They hadn't done their paperwork too well, either.

Mr NANOVICH: However, the profits were there.

In 1976 the council contacted me, and I approached the then Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning (Mr Rushton) and asked him to receive another deputation from

the council because the council had further ideas that it wished to put to the Government in its endeavours to channel more money to the purchase of the nodes. During the deputation, the case was put to the Minister; and the council was made aware of approximately 100 acres or 35 hectares of land in the south-east corner of Padbury. That land was owned by ILDA, the Industrial Lands Development Authority. At the time, the council felt that any industry created there would not be of great benefit. In fact, it thought that problems could be created if the development were to proceed. Therefore, the council had purchased land in the northern part of the shire—an area of land in Flynn Drive. The council suggested that the Government exchange the area in Padbury for about 40 hectares of land in Flynn Drive. It put forward the case that it could subdivide that land into residential lots, and sell off the lots to generate further funds for the purchase of the nodes.

I made a number of representations on behalf of the council; and after much consideration, the Minister decided to take the matter to Cabinet. In 1976, the Cabinet endorsed a proposal for an exchange of land between the council and the State, to enable the council to raise money from the subdivision and sale of lots at Pinnaroo and to purchase the nodes from the proceeds. In the report to Cabinet in November 1976, the value of the nodes was estimated to be \$3.36 million. The value of the Pinnaroo land was estimated at just over \$900 000 as *en globo* residential land. However, it was noted that a study carried out by the Shire of Wanneroo indicated that a profit of \$2 million could be obtained. That would have been sufficient to acquire the central and northern nodes at that time.

As a result of that report, Cabinet resolved that the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning should take the following action—

- (a) approach The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority with a view to its considering the rezoning of the Pinnaroo land (Lot 712 and Pt Swan Loc. 3871—36 ha) from 'industrial' to 'urban' and the rezoning of 40 ha of the Flynn Drive land (lot 4) from 'rural' to 'industrial'. This latter rezoning to accord with that proposed in the M.R.P.A.'s North-West Corridor Strategy Plan, and

- (b) Liaise with the Minister for Lands to achieve the necessary land exchange between the Crown and the Shire of Wanneroo with respect to the Pinnaroo land (36 ha to be transferred to the Council) and the Flynns Drive land (40 ha to be transferred to the Crown).

Cabinet also proposed the establishment of a technical advisory group to prepare a management plan for the nodes. That group was appointed by the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning in May 1979.

In April 1979 the Wanneroo Shire Council retained Scott & Furphy Engineers Pty. Ltd.—

Mr Brian Burke: When was that?

Mr NANOVIK: That was in 1979.

Mr Brian Burke: What date?

Mr NANOVIK: April.

That firm prepared detailed proposals for the three nodes. The technical group arranged to liaise with Scott & Furphy Engineers Pty. Ltd. It has done this, although the report was prepared for and addressed to the council.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr NANOVIK: I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at a later stage of the sitting.

Motion put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: PROCEDURE

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): Following representations from the Chief Hansard Reporter the Joint Printing Committee has given consideration to the daily publication of the leaflet containing questions and answers in both Houses.

It has been put to the committee that the changes in the system for dealing with questions in the Legislative Assembly has caused severe overload on the Hansard staff at particular times of each sitting day. Part of the reason for this overload is bound up with the work necessary to meet the Government Printer's deadlines in order to publish the questions and answers leaflet.

In order to relieve this pressure on the Hansard staff the Joint Printing Committee has resolved that for the time being the publication shall continue in respect of Tuesdays' questions only,

and this leaflet shall continue to be available on Wednesdays.

Other changes related to or consequent upon this decision are—

- (1) Questions for each Tuesday's notice paper must be received by the Clerks by 4.30 p.m. on the preceding Thursday.
- (2) Ministers' replies to questions on Tuesday's notice paper will need to be in the hands of the Clerks not less than two hours before the House sits on that Tuesday if they are to be included in that day's proceedings.
- (3) Questions and answers on Wednesday's and Thursday's notice papers will be published only in the following weekly Hansard.

The Committee feels that these changes will provide a considerable relief from the pressures being experienced by the Hansard staff at the cost of only minimal reduction in the service to members. If members care to reflect for a moment they will realise that at the present time the leaflet for Wednesday is very often not available in the House before adjournment on Thursday. In any case, photocopies of questions and answers are readily available through the records officers.

The changes I have outlined will have effect from and including Tuesday, 20 April 1982.

Sitting suspended from 6.13 to 7.30 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR NANOVIK (Whitford) [7.31 p.m.]: I previously outlined areas of valuation. The technical advisory committee was formed and there was an updated valuation of the nodes prepared by the Valuer General in October 1979 resulting in a value of \$4.73 million being given to the nodes. The estimate of profit from the sale of the certified lots was somewhat difficult due to a slight recession in the selling of land and the fact that the service costs were on the increase. An estimate also was given by the Valuer General for the profit to be received from lots at Pinnaroo and this was \$1.845 million. The land exchanges were completed.

The shire anticipated that it would have serviced lots available in the Padbury land by September last year, but this was delayed. We

should not be too critical of that. Recently some land lots were available on auction. I think there were 40 fully serviced lots on the catalogue, but, unfortunately, not many of these were sold. Only two lots were sold and perhaps some more after the auction. About 300 lots will be realised from the land from the area when it is officially subdivided. This is another area where I have worked very hard in co-operation with the shire to see that the Minister and the Government supported the shire's requests. At the time the council was delighted that the Government did support it in achieving this land exchange and giving it the opportunity to sell these lots at Padbury to finance the purchasing of the nodes. It was said that the Padbury land would tie up the entire nodal land.

At Burns Beach, land was vested in the shire for leasing purposes. The council also proposed a plan to the Government which showed its keenness to continue supporting the council by looking at a proposal where the land could be transferred to the council and the council could sell this land off and generate further funds towards the purchase of the nodes. This proposal is currently still in a working committee stage because the council has not shown much initiative to try to resolve the node problem. It had all the co-operation it wanted from the Government.

In a sense, it has turned it into what I would call a political football. Councillors have made it public information that they are not prepared to co-operate under the original Government guidelines. Recently the council wrote to me and asked me to introduce a private member's Bill. I thought it was very foolish of the council to act in this way because if it does not take a responsible stand in trying to resolve the problem, it will find that the developer will go ahead and develop the areas and that will be the end of the nodes. They need to be saved from development.

If we take into account the Wangara area in regard to which the Government assisted the council in its rezoning attempts, the profits from which the council promised the Government it would generate funds towards the purchase of the nodes, we realise not one cent has been generated towards that area; in fact, the council felt that a new council building was much more important than the preservation of the nodes. It has soaked up a lot of money towards the new building from land sales from the Wangara estate. I would estimate the amount involved to be around \$3.5 million, so if we calculate the profit that came from the land sales at Wangara, Pinnaroo and the possibility of the council's acquiring the area around Burns Beach, we realise we would

probably have enough money at least to make a substantial purchase of the nodal area and if the council was still found wanting for funds, as the Minister said in 1976, it could sit down with the developer and perhaps look at the possibilities of rezoning some higher density areas on the eastern side of Whitford Avenue. The developer would probably benefit from the sales of the land for high rise buildings.

I am not talking about buildings of 15 or 20 storeys, but buildings of a size that would be acceptable to the local people. I have played my part to try to preserve the nodes by taking the shire's request to the Government and to the Ministers and the Government and the Ministers have co-operated in every possible way to ensure that the shire's requests were carried out.

It is rather disappointing when we see in 1982 the council coming back and saying, "We don't want to go along with any of those proposals or guidelines that have been set up by the Government. We will just put the pressure on the local member and say, 'Resume the land'." That is not possible because I cannot introduce a private member's Bill unless accompanied by a Governor's Message; otherwise it would be ruled out of order.

I have written to the council and advised it of this. A Press statement was issued on the outcome of my discussions with the Government. I am very disappointed at the attitude that has been taken by the shire on the nodes. It has had the opportunity to try to resolve the problem and it has not done it in the best way possible. The idea was to try to resolve the whole problem with the least amount of money being paid by taxpayers and ratepayers. Statements have been made that the Government received the profit from the sale of the nodes to developers; that it should bear the burden of its purchase is totally wrong. If we consider the situation we will realise that the land has been in private ownership since the late 1800s.

Recently one of the landowners wrote to the shire and advised it as follows—

We are however quite prepared to accept a concept of payment for the nodes area to be spread over a period of approximately five years, subject, of course, to satisfactory prices and agreement and overall development.

The developer has every right to state that he should be fairly compensated, but he has made an offer to the council which was then still open.

At the same meeting the council moved a motion that it recommend to and request that the

State Government, in co-operation with the Shire of Wanneroo, compulsorily resume the Whitfords nodes. That was offered to the council and it failed to take it. I could continue here for another hour and a half if I wanted to go into detail.

I briefly comment on a transcript from a tape-recording of "Nationwide" on 6 October 1981 when a councillor made the statement as follows—

... we have researched this, there is nothing in writing to suggest that it has, in fact, ever been the proceeds from the land be used to purchase the land down here.

He meant the nodes.

They are not my words! It continues—

That is the whole point we are making.

That statement, in fact, was made by Councillor Turley. He goes on to ask why that money should be spent.

With the original Wangara rezoning, it was the main reason for the approach to the Government. It is very irresponsible for councillors to make such statements. A report was prepared by an officer recently and was presented to the council. That report clearly indicated the whole purpose of Wangara. It was to try to resolve the nodes problem either by land exchange or by selling off Wangara and generating funds towards the purchasing of those nodes. Nobody can stand up and say that was not the original intention of Wangara, because it was. I was fully involved with it and it should have been carried out. The council has decided to ignore the attempts that were made by the Government in the matter.

I draw to the attention of the House the fact that on 20 May 1977 an advertisement of an approved town planning scheme amendment was published in the *Government Gazette*. It was listed as the Wanneroo town planning scheme No. 1, amendment No. 89, and it was signed by Mr C. J. Crearson, President, and Mr N. S. Bennet, Shire Clerk. I will read a portion of the amendment that I believe gives the council the complete right to sell land in that location without its requiring section 266 of the Local Government Act. The advertisement, as published in the *Government Gazette*, reads as follows—

The requirements of this part subsection (c) are to apply only to the part of Swan location 1586—

That is Wangara. It continues—

—which is contained within the Composite Business and Light Industrial Zone and the Council shall have the following powers and authorities:—

- (i) To dispose of lots created within Location 1586 upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit.
- (ii) To impose conditions regarding the purchase or lease of land.
- (iii) To enter into any agreements with any person or Government instrumentality for the purpose of carrying out any of the works associated with the development of this part of the Composite Business and Light Industrial Zone.
- (iv) In the event of the sale of land within this part of the Composite Business and Light Industrial Zone showing a profit, the amount of such profit shall be paid into Council's Municipal Fund to be spent on projects that will generally be of benefit to residents within the district of the Shire of Wanneroo.

I believe the council was twittering when it asked its legal advisers to give an opinion on the land sales in Wangara, particularly as the amendment referred to was never shown to its advisers. How could solicitors ever submit an opinion on this matter without considering the amendment?

The opinion of the Crown Law Department is not the same as that of the council's legal advisers. I have the fullest confidence in accepting the opinion of the Crown Law Department that it is not necessary to utilise section 266 of the Local Government Act. The latter portion of the amendment I read gives the council the power to sell the land and to do what it likes with the money provided that the transaction is in the best interests of the residents of the shire. That gives the council an opportunity to try to resolve a particular problem that has existed for quite some time. Certainly it will be held against the council if the nodal portions of the land are built on.

The council could still approach the developers and the nodes could perhaps be saved if a reasonable approach were made to the developers. I was informed recently that the nodes are now valued at approximately \$8.5 million. If the council had done its work when the Government supported it originally, and when values were not so high, it could have made a genuine attempt to say to the developer, "Let us make a start on it." It had sufficient money from the sale of part of Wangara to secure the central node area—probably the most important part. The developer is probably very concerned about having to develop the area because of the enormous expense involved. With those remarks I support the motion.

Debate adjourned to a late stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Grewar.

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [7.48 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the remaining stages of the Stamp Amendment Bill to be completed in one sitting day and to enable the aforesaid business to be entered upon and dealt with prior to the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

The Deputy Speaker called attention to the fact that the question needed an absolute majority of the members of the House.

Bells rung and an absolute majority formed.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 30 March.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balcatta—Leader of the Opposition) [7.52 p.m.]: At the outset I should say that the House is now doing what the Opposition suggested was appropriate yesterday evening; that is, that the Address-in-Reply debate should be deferred pending the consideration of urgent business. That was the simple proposition we put to the Chamber last evening, and I do not blame the Treasurer for not accepting it because he was not here. However, the Deputy Premier said we should not do that and yet tonight we are asked to do so. It is a little difficult to understand.

This relatively small amendment gives the Opposition the opportunity to touch on one or two very interesting and important aspects of the biggest development project ever undertaken in this country. Let me say at the outset that the Opposition does not intend to oppose the amendment.

The amendment proposes to relieve Crown instrumentalities, designated by the Treasurer, of the liability to pay stamp duty on credit transactions conducted in Western Australia with overseas sources. At present there is a distortion or an anomaly in the Act which means that Crown instrumentalities, although designated, may be directly liable to pay stamp duty on transactions if the interest rate involved exceeds 17.75 per cent and where the credit transaction is carried out in Western Australia. If it is carried out overseas, the stamp duty is not liable to be paid. The Crown instrumentality in this case is the SEC. The negotiations being carried out by

the commission are in Western Australia with overseas sources at rates in excess of the 17.75 per cent and hence attract stamp duty. This amendment effectively will relieve the SEC of any possible obligation to pay stamp duty on the transactions.

I will just repeat the fundamental elements of the amendment: It will relieve Crown instrumentalities of the liability to pay stamp duty on transactions involving credit loans in excess of 17.75 per cent when that credit is provided by overseas sources and when the transaction is negotiated in Western Australia. At present, if the transaction is negotiated overseas, the stamp duty is not liable to be paid.

I have said that the Opposition supports the amendment, but I would like to touch on one or two points because the amendment relates directly to the SEC's commitments in respect of the North-West Shelf gas development. I intend to point out a few relevant factors to the House.

In 1981-82 the SEC's interest bill is estimated to increase from \$38.8 million to \$55.2 million; that is, an increase of over 42 per cent. That increase will reflect itself through to the charges being levelled upon the consumers of the SEC.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is not right. If it relates to the pipeline, the interest charges are being capitalised.

Mr I. F. Taylor: That just puts it off to another day.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not mind repeating myself for the Minister—I will do it quite readily. I said that in 1981-82, the SEC's annual interest bill is estimated to increase from \$38.8 million to \$55.2 million. Now the Minister wants to say that that does not relate to the pipeline.

Mr P. V. Jones: I did not say that.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Well, the Minister said that it did relate to the pipeline, and that it had been written off or capitalised over the lifetime of the project.

Mr P. V. Jones: You said it was immediately applicable onto customers' tariffs.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The wording I used was that the interest bill of the SEC would reflect itself on the charges levied on consumers of the commission. That is a self-evident truth, even to this Minister. If he wants to deny that the charges being levied on consumers reflect the interest bill being paid by the SEC, let him do so. We are very concerned as to whether this amendment relieves the SEC of stamp duty in respect of credit transactions.

Furthermore, we have what can be described only as an alarming escalation in the estimated cost of the Dampier to Perth pipeline. So, we have tonight on the one hand an amendment that relieves some of the commission's financial burden, and on the other hand, a cost escalation in the pipeline from \$670 million to \$850 million, and that causes me some concern. We would presume it is of concern to Government members also.

As far as we are able to predict from the information available to us—and not taking into account in any way the use to which the gas from the North-West Shelf may be put in part by the commission—we would estimate that increases in electricity and gas charges in 1982-83 will be 12.8 per cent and 11.7 per cent respectively. In the economic or financial times that we are now suffering, increases of that sort should be scrutinised very closely. We are also very keen to see what will be reflected in the tariff charged by the SEC as a result of the escalation in the cost of the Dampier to Perth pipeline. We are concerned also to understand what the commission will do with that part of the gas which is excess to its needs and which it has yet been unable to sell to consumers throughout Western Australia.

It is all very well for the Government to bring amending Bills to this House to relieve the SEC of its obligations in respect of stamp duty on the basis that the stamp duty will be paid eventually by the customer but, at the same time, we have the position that, on the Minister's own estimate, 80 million cubic feet of gas is unsold.

We have seen the Minister jockeying around into a position where he is now suggesting that it is likely part, if not all, of the 80 million cubic feet will be used to generate electricity. We are here tonight engaged in relieving the SEC of a much lesser burden that would be imposed on the commission than that of the inefficient use of North-West Shelf gas to generate electricity.

As far as we are concerned, the former Premier was right when he said natural gas was a premium fuel which should not be used to generate electricity.

Mr P. V. Jones: Agreed.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Minister has agreed we should not be using natural gas to generate electricity and yet twice in the last two or three weeks I have heard the Minister say, and he has been recorded as saying, that it now looks as though electricity will be generated by the use of natural gas.

Mr P. V. Jones: At the start, in the same way as it was done at Dongara in 1972-73. It is the same thing.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: No matter how the Minister wants to prevaricate on the issue, it is a substantial change from the position he took previously under the former premiership of Sir Charles Court.

Mr P. V. Jones: We said it last August.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Tonight the Minister wants to tell us his position is, and has always been, one in which we could expect natural gas to be used to generate electricity.

Mr P. V. Jones: Yes.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That is not true.

Mr P. V. Jones: It was always an option.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Rubbish!

Mr P. V. Jones: It always has been an option.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The public need to understand that the cost of natural gas, as a fuel, is three times the cost of coal. The public need to understand also that we have plentiful reserves of coal suitable for the generation of electricity in this State.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I did not say "for generating electricity". I said that, as an input fuel, natural gas is three times the cost of coal.

Mr Mensaros: That does not matter.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the Minister wants to wait for a moment or two, he will realise I am about to say that, when one takes that figure into account, the cost of electricity to the consumer varies. However, if the Minister wants to jump in unintelligently to start with—

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Let me go back and say, as I said previously, the cost of the fuel is three times the cost of suitable coal of which we have plentiful reserves, and according to the best estimates we are able to make—they are estimates which have been aided by some of the people involved in the industry itself—the resulting increase in the cost of electricity to the consumer, because of the use of natural gas, is between 25 and 30 per cent.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is not true.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I shall explain the position for the benefit of the Minister for Fuel and Energy and the Minister for Water Resources. The Opposition understands natural gas is a much more efficient fuel. That is why we said earlier it is a premium fuel and should not be

used for the generation of electricity. However, as far as we are able to determine, if natural gas is used to generate electricity, it will cost the consumer, if the cost is passed on, approximately 25 to 30 per cent more than electricity costs now.

Mr P. V. Jones: You are quoting these figures on the best estimates available to you, and, in order to clarify the position for you, and to be of some help, I shall point out that is wrong, because electricity generated from gas will be on a price structure where the gas will be truly coal-competitive for that portion of the gas used to generate electricity. Therefore, there will be no increase in the cost of electricity produced by gas over and above that produced from coal, because it is coming in on a special price basis.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Minister is apparently unaware of his commission's attempts to ensure the Opposition is kept informed about the North-West Shelf, because he seems not to know that the coal-related price and oil-related price of the gas and the two-tiered, or perhaps three-tiered structure, according to Mr Kirkwood, which will be used to govern the price of gas, was explained to the Opposition two or three months ago.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am aware of that.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The truth remains that, despite the fact that there will be a coal-related price, and also an oil-related price for gas, the cost of the natural gas going into the power stations to generate the electricity, that the Minister previously thought was not appropriately generated by natural gas, will be three times the cost of coal.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am telling you that is not true.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That is true.

Mr P. V. Jones: You are wrong.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As far as the Opposition is concerned, I suppose we can only lay down the challenge to the Minister in one way and that is by asking him to tell us what the price of gas will be.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am just telling you it is not three times.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It is all right for the Minister to tell us things, but it is also all right for us to ask him to substantiate what he tells us.

Mr P. V. Jones: How about your substantiating what you are saying?

Mr Pearce: It is not necessary for it to be substantiated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Pearce: Any of the companies involved in this sort of thing will tell you the position as they have told it to us.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Even if it were true that it was my obligation to substantiate for the Minister the comments I have made, it does not relieve him of the obligation of substantiating what he is saying. I am perfectly happy to give the Minister the reference I am using and, of course, it is CSR—the company which is involved in supplying the coal that is presently used to generate electricity. That is the reference.

Mr P. V. Jones: We do not have a coal contract with CSR. We have one with Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not know whether the Minister intends continually to evade the question by casting doubts on companies like CSR and their abilities, as coalminers, to make calculations which are relatively simple for people of their pre-eminence in the industry. If the Minister is saying that CSR's figures cannot be trusted, all he has to do to give the lie to those figures is to tell the House the price of the gas.

Mr Bateman: Do it!

Mr Pearce: He has gone silent now.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Is it not strange that previously the Minister was so wont to interject and now he does not want to say a word?

Mr P. V. Jones: I have no intention of telling you the price.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I can understand the Minister has no intention of telling us the price and, in the absence of his demonstrating he knows what he is talking about, we are able to say that, according to the best estimates we have been able to make and according to the information CSR has made available, the cost of the coal going into the power stations is three times less than will be the cost of natural gas, and the cost of electricity coming out the other end will be 25 to 30 per cent higher to the consumer where natural gas is used instead of coal.

It stands to reason that this at least approximates the position, because the former Premier and this Minister have always said previously that we should not be using gas to produce electricity.

Mr Sibson: It is still an option.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If it were just as cheap to use gas as a fuel, why is it not being used? The reason was, and the reason is, that it is not as cost-efficient as the use of coal. That is why we have always put forward and supported the

proposition that we do not want to produce electricity by burning natural gas.

Now the Minister would have us say there is no difference any way, so we may as well go ahead and burn it. If the Minister is not setting the conditions that predispose the use of natural gas to produce electricity, I am not sure what he is doing.

Mr Sibson: It is an option which must be kept in mind and which must be available.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The other matter which I understand is the case—the Minister may confirm it if he likes—is that the proposed power station associated with the planned aluminium smelter in the south-west is to produce electricity through the use of gas turbines. Therefore, we will have an aluminium smelter and associated power station in the south-west adjacent to the coal reserves using natural gas that is three times as expensive as coal and is piped 1 800 miles.

I should like the Minister to deny that and say there has been no talk whatsoever of the use of gas turbines.

Mr P. V. Jones: The Bunbury power station which is to be built is going to be for coal. We have made that quite clear.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not know that I mentioned the Bunbury power station.

Mr P. V. Jones: You referred to the power station which will be part of the development. It is public knowledge, and I have answered questions to the effect that the power station being built for this purpose, on the assumption that a project will be developed some time in the future, will be burning coal.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Perhaps the Minister is being deliberately—

Mr P. V. Jones: Why don't you get on with the Bill?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Let me just put it to the Minister clearly that I did not mention the Bunbury power station. I mentioned the power station planned in connection with the south-west aluminium smelter—the one to which has been directed the attention of the Korean gentlemen and a Korean-Government sponsored organisation.

Mr P. V. Jones: At Bunbury.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Let me just clarify the position and I shall accept the Minister's word, if that is what he is giving us, that there has been no discussion about the possible use of gas turbines to produce electricity in the power station that is to be constructed by the Korean company,

representatives of which recently visited Australia.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am telling you the power station for any project that is being considered will be in Bunbury and that will be burning coal.

Mr Pearce: In order that it may be recorded in *Hansard* for future reference, are you denying there has been no discussions about gas turbines?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Minister knows these people have been talking to us also. That is all I am asking him. It is not unreasonable or unfair. We are simply seeking an assurance which is easy to give.

Let me make the main points once again—

Mr MacKinnon: How many power stations will there be in the south-west?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not know how many power stations there will be in the south-west.

Mr Sibson: You said you had been talking to these people.

Mr Pearce: If there is no denial about the use of gas turbines—

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not follow the point the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce is trying to make.

Let me once more refer to the major points I am making. The Opposition accepts the central proposition in this Bill that transactions involving credit lines in excess of 17.75 per cent, negotiated between Crown instrumentalities and overseas lenders in Western Australia, should not attract stamp duty. We accept that and we say that we are aware that, if those transactions were carried out overseas, stamp duty would not be attracted. Therefore, we support the proposition that that anomaly should be removed. However, at the same time we say this matter relates particularly to the SEC and, of late, the Opposition has had plenty of reason to be concerned about the way in which the North-West Shelf has begun to apply itself, if members like, to the prospects of people in this State.

We are concerned about the escalating cost of the Dampier to Perth Pipeline; we are concerned about the 80 million cubic feet of gas which the Minister admits remains unsold and for which the SEC has agreed to pay, regardless of whether it takes it; and we are concerned at the prospects of that part of the gas which remains unsold being used to generate electricity when previously we were led to believe that natural gas, being a premium fuel, should not be used to generate electricity. Tonight that was confirmed again by the Minister.

We are concerned also at what the use of that fuel to generate power will do to the cost structure of the commission and what it will do to the tariffs being charged consumers in Western Australia. We do not really understand why this Government does not admit in their entirety the details surrounding the sales of gas by the commission at the present time.

We are disturbed also to see the way in which the Minister cavorts when asked to explain the 80 million cubic feet that remains unsold. We agree to relieve the SEC of part of its burden in this measure. The burden it will be forced to pass on to customers as a result of other things happening in the commission will pale into insignificance the minor concession we are giving the commission in this amending Bill.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [8.16 pm.]: This Bill gives me and other members of the Opposition an opportunity to debate the absolute scandal presently occurring in Western Australia and supported by this Government in cahoots with the State Energy Commission. That scandal relates to the North-West Shelf gas project.

Mr Sibson: They said that about the Kalgoorlie pipeline too, but it wasn't true.

Mr Brian Burke: This is a serious matter, you know.

Mr Sibson: Yes, and so was the Kalgoorlie pipeline. It is a case of history repeating itself.

Mr HARMAN: I will not bother with the inane comments of the member for Bunbury; they are unrelated to the proposition before the House. In Western Australia we have tremendous opportunities to develop our natural resources, but we have no information from the Government as to how those resources will be developed. The Government does not tell the people of this State what they will receive from this development. We are not informed of the amount of revenue to be received by way of royalties; what the users of the gas will pay; what price the Government will pay to the joint venturers for the gas; or what the Japanese will pay for the gas. The whole scene indicates that the people of Western Australia are kept ignorant of the implications of resource development.

Last year I asked the Government a simple question relating to the trade credit arrangements the Government had made with the Bank of Japan. I was told it had arranged a trade credit of \$38 million at the LIBOR interest rate, and after receiving the answer I determined that the LIBOR interest rate at that time was 19 per cent. The best the Government could do was to organise a trade credit—really, it is an

overdraft—at 19 per cent interest. Recently I asked questions about that trade credit and determined that as a result of legal problems—no doubt, those problems relate to the Bill before us—the Government has been unable to avail itself of that trade credit. One might say, “Well, thank goodness for that. At least the LIBOR interest rate has been reduced to 16 per cent.” But who knows what it will be in the future? It could reach 17 per cent or 18 per cent in the next month or two given the fluctuations of international interest rates.

I wonder who are the advisers to the SEC who give the advice that the commission should organise trade credits at a rate of interest of 19 per cent. Who are they? Are they officers of the Treasury or independent advisers the Government has around it? We do not know who they are. They could be people not paid under the normal Public Service structure, individuals who get to Ministers at cocktail parties and other functions and say, “My name is so-and-so. I represent the so-and-so bank.” Such people float around the international financial world, and after initially contacting a Minister they visit him the next morning in his office and say that they can arrange a trade credit. The next thing we know is that the people of Western Australia are subjected to a trade credit at 16 per cent to 19 per cent interest, and the money is used by the SEC to purchase equipment for, say, the Muja power station. We do not know exactly what is happening or who is advising the Government. The Government can tell us, if it will.

Last year I requested this Parliament to establish a joint standing committee to act as a watchdog of the North-West Shelf development—to scrutinise that project. I do not need to repeat the arguments I put forward at that time as they can be read in *Hansard*. Such a committee should be established to scrutinise the activities of this Government and the SEC because, I have come to the conclusion, somebody is hoodwinking somebody else. Whether the SEC is hoodwinking the Government, whether the SEC is telling the Government something which the Government does not understand, or whether the Government understands what it is being told but is not informing the people of Western Australia, I do not know.

Mr Hodge: I think that is the most likely.

Mr HARMAN: It can be whatever option one wants to take. In respect of the North-West Shelf gas project all sorts of statements have been made by the Minister for Fuel and Energy and the Premier to the effect that the delivery of gas will be on schedule and that everything will be okay.

Mr O'Connor: That's not correct.

Mr HARMAN: However, we have had reports on the escalation on the costs of the project, and reports that delays will occur in the purchasing of that gas by Japan. We must not forget that an important aspect of the programme was that Japan would buy much of the natural gas. However, that purchase will be delayed for some period, and nobody knows what that period will be. All aspects of the project require a great deal of scrutiny.

On many occasions over the last 12 months I have said to this Parliament that the people of Western Australia—the users of the gas—will be required to pay for the escalation in costs, the mismanagement, and the wrong thinking. This project, which has been the responsibility of the SEC and the Government for the past two or three years, has not been thought through completely.

A gem of information is contained in a letter I received last year from the Minister for Fuel and Energy. The letter typifies what is happening in this whole area of resource development. I had asked the Minister a question relating to the Government's announcement of a pricing scheme for gas so that people using coal would be attracted to the use of gas. The price for gas was to be pitched just slightly below the price of coal. People using oil were to be attracted to the use of gas by pitching the price of gas just slightly below the price of oil. On many occasions I sought to establish who were the users in Western Australia. I wondered how many industries in Western Australia would like to use coal in preference to their using gas. It was a legitimate question; I asked how many industries in Western Australia were using oil but would use gas if its price were pitched at the right level. When I asked the question the Government was not, and it still is not, able to answer. To indicate the Government's ineptitude, I will quote from the letter addressed to me by the Minister for Fuel and Energy, dated 9 November 1981, and headed "CONFIDENTIAL". I ask members to keep that heading in mind.

The letter states—

With reference to your letter dated 31st August 1981, and to Question 1612 of 19th August 1981, I regret the delay in replying and offer the following general information.

One can accept his point that he regrets. On 19 August I asked a question and his answer was received on 9 November. To continue—

Almost all industries, regardless of whether they currently use coal, oil or gas,

could use North West Shelf gas following its introduction in 1984. The exceptions are those industries which burn coal or oil because they require higher carbon content of those fuels for their particular process needs.

As recently publicised, the "unique" pricing scheme which the Energy Commission has negotiated with the Joint Venture Partners is designed to allow the Energy Commission to offer natural gas to each industry at a price competitive with that industry's alternative fuel.

At this stage, the information required for the accurate development of pipeline transmission costs is not yet available. Consequently firm gas marketing approaches have not yet been made to industries other than Alcoa.

However, some large industries, principally those currently using gas or oil, have indicated a firm intent to purchase North West Shelf natural gas and many small industries can confidently be expected to use it. As soon as the pipeline transmission tariff is available, it is the intention of the Energy Commission to commence a marketing programme aimed at obtaining maximum penetration of gas into the industrial, commercial and domestic energy markets.

I trust that this information will be sufficient for your requirements.

I emphasise that this letter was headed "CONFIDENTIAL". Is there anything in that letter that could be said to be confidential? Not one word in it was confidential and that is indicative of the situation to which I referred at the beginning of my speech. What is happening with the North-West Shelf gas project is an absolute scandal. As soon as some form of monitoring process is brought to bear on this Government the people of Western Australia will be better off, but until then they will be kept in the dark.

The Government either does not know or has not thought through the implications of the spiralling costs. If it does know the implications it has not been honest with the people of Western Australia. As the Leader of the Opposition stated, we do not know what will happen after Alcoa purchases its share of the gas—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member will resume his seat. He appears to have lost me. I ask him to explain to the Chair the relevance of his argument to the matter before the

Chair. Obviously he intends to make a point, but I ask him to come to it. The member for Maylands.

Mr HARMAN: I am sorry that I must do this, but this is a Bill designed to allow the SEC to opt out of certain arrangements in respect of stamp duty. In coming to those arrangements, the Government must have had in mind the purchase of equipment for the North-West Shelf gas development. However, I am to be restricted in my comments about the developments and the costs that the SEC must find for certain items. I must disagree with you, Mr Acting Speaker.

In Western Australia we have tremendous natural resources which are being developed, but no-one seems to know—or if the Government does know it is not telling the people of Western Australia—of the advantages, the revenue to the Government and what the price will be to people who will use the gas. We are being kept in the dark and it is time people were informed because if they are not there will be an absolute scandal. The Government must take the option of having a monitoring body to scrutinise daily what is happening in this field.

Mr Brian Burke: A performance audit.

Mr HARMAN: Call it what we like. This is necessary with a project of this nature where in one year alone the Government is borrowing something like \$121 million for one project. There is a need for a public loan fund account.

For the facilities of hospitals, staff buildings, harbours, jetties, and whatever, the Government borrows a little in excess of that amount for all those items combined and it has ways of scrutinising such expenditure. The Government is borrowing almost the same amount for a single project and the only scrutiny we have is to ask the Government questions.

We do not know whether Alcoa will purchase its half of the gas and we do not know whether the other half is to go up into the air or into the ground. The Government has not said.

Mr Sibson: That is normal marketing process.

Mr HARMAN: One-half of the gas is purchased by one user, at a price we do not know and we do not know by whom the other half is to be purchased; yet, the member for Bunbury says "That is the normal marketing process".

Surely if we will be selling gas which is to cost something like \$4 per thousand Btus we should be worried. Collie coal costs about \$1.10 per thousand Btus. I am worried and I am sure many people in Western Australia are worried also because this question has not been answered. The public of Western Australia should know what

sort of blunder the Government has made. It must be a blunder, or they have not been able to interpret the advice from the SEC. Perhaps they have not been able to understand it because it is so horrendous.

Those are the reasons that this Government will fall in March 1983—because of the absolute scandal and blunder it has made over the North-West Shelf gas project.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [8.35 p.m.]: I wish to make a few remarks about this Bill. It seems to me the Government is being unwieldy in its attempt to achieve its wishes. I do not know why the Government cannot alter the Stamp Act to give the right of extension to any Crown instrumentality, Crown agency, or Government authority for the purposes of this same Act.

The policy of those departments is subject to the Government of the day. Therefore they are not likely to do anything that will cost the Government money. If it is of advantage to them not to pay duty, it would be silly of the Government of the day if it insisted on their paying it. If the Government did not wish them to pay it and wished to obtain money from another direction it would be more appropriate for the Treasury to advise the Government of the day.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): There is too much noise in the Chamber.

Mr JAMIESON: In the overall coverage of a Government instrumentality, agent, and authority, designed by the members of Parliament, there should be a provision for them to be examined—when the Government of the day gives its policy or determination—to bring them within the lines and framework of eligibility for exemption. It seems to me quite unnecessary to enter into this sort of complicated system when another way would be far easier and would overcome the problem.

MR I. F. TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie) [8.37 p.m.]: It is both interesting and pleasant from the point of view of members of the Opposition that much of the wisdom that flows from this side of the House is slowly sinking into the subconscious minds of Government members—or unconscious minds of Government members. Only last night the Leader of the Opposition suggested we should be doing what we are doing now. He suggested that we should suspend the Address-in-Reply so that we might carry on with some of the business of the House.

The Deputy Premier gave a rather weak explanation as to why that should not be so, but now we are speaking on the Stamp Amendment Bill.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Might I suggest we speak on it?

Mr I. F. TAYLOR: This amendment we have before us tonight has given us the opportunity to speak about the North-West Shelf gas pipeline. It is interesting to note that the amendment refers to provisions, where necessary, for stamp duty to be paid when interest is over 17.75 per cent.

I have no doubt that this amount of borrowings in relation to the pipeline could well be over 17.75 per cent and it must be of some concern to the SEC, considering the extent of its expenditure on that project.

I wonder whether the Premier is able to indicate to the House whether before now any lenders have been faced with the possibility, or have paid more stamp duty, in such a situation or is it just the present lender who has been wise enough to pick up this possibility of amending the Stamp Duty Act?

I believe that some years ago the SEC was forced by the Government to make a decision to buy the gas. I do not believe it was a wise decision. With the wisdom of hindsight, it would seem that the SEC was forced into doing that because the Government wished to make sure of the next election and therefore announced that the North-West Shelf Gas project would go ahead.

It would seem that at that time the SEC did not have the expertise to enter into negotiations to buy this gas. Having entered into a contract, it cannot sell the gas, and the cost of the pipeline will be out of all proportion to what was originally envisaged.

I have no doubt that in the near future the SEC will have to go cap in hand to the joint venturers to ask for the contract to be renegotiated in order to give them a better deal; otherwise, the people of this State will be paying a very high price for the Government's political decision before the last election.

On the matter of the price of the pipeline, I understand that the first price we were given was approximately \$430 million—that was at June 1979 prices. As I understand it now, the price, as given in the paper the other day by the Minister—if he is correctly reported—was in the vicinity of \$850 million.

That amounts to a 95 per cent increase in three years. Many members would be aware that the cost of pipelines throughout Australia and throughout the world have escalated beyond the wildest imagination of the people involved in their building. There is no doubt at all that the cost of

this pipeline will be in the vicinity of \$4 billion before the gas flows through it.

Even though the Opposition does support this amendment, which is necessary, we do express our concern that the cost of the pipeline will cause costs to be passed onto the consumers of electricity and gas in this State.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [8.42 p.m.]: I thank the members for their support of the Bill although at one stage I wondered whether we were dealing with the Stamp Act.

I wish to comment on the points raised by members opposite. One comment concerned the escalation of the price of the pipeline. I thought members would have realised that the cost of the pipeline in 1981 was expressed at \$650 million—that is, in 1981 dollars—and the price of \$850 million is that of the completed project. This is normal accounting operation where people express the cost in present-day terms, noting the escalation in due course.

Therefore, when the member for Kalgoorlie referred to the sum of \$430 million in 1979 terms I would have thought he would realise that the price of \$850 million reflected the cost of the project at completion.

Mr Brian Burke: He said "in 1979 dollars".

Mr O'CONNOR: He said in three years it had escalated from \$430 million to \$850 million.

Mr Brian Burke: When he quoted his figures he said they were in 1979 dollars.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes he did, but he said the cost had increased from \$430 million to \$850 million in three years and, of course, that is not so. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition helped me out.

Mr Davies: It is greater than the inflation rate.

Mr O'CONNOR: The job is not completed; the completion date is about 1985. So if we consider inflation from 1979 to 1985 probably we will find it is no greater. I have not worked it out exactly, but when we take into account the long time, we note that the cost has increased with inflation.

Mr Davies: What was the rate in 1979? In 1979 dollars?

Mr O'CONNOR: Correct.

Mr Davies: And the rate they gave you the other day was in 1985 dollars.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes, at the completion of the project, and of course, part of it is paid out on the way through. The comment was made that we signed up this development as a ploy for the last

election. If my recollection is right, it was signed up after the election and not before.

Mr Brian Burke: It was signed afterwards, but the then Premier referred to \$8 000 million-worth of investment and that referred specifically to this project.

Mr O'CONNOR: Well, \$8 000 million-worth of investment is about right. That is about what it will cost at the escalated figure at the completion of the project. When the project commenced, the fuel position was much more difficult. Grave concern was expressed about the world shortage of petrol. We would have been remiss if we had not entered into this project for the people of the State. If the reverse had happened in regard to fuel prices, the project would have been exceedingly attractive today.

Mr Brian Burke: What will happen if the price of oil continues to fall?

Mr O'CONNOR: Some of the gas has been sold. I admit not all of it has been sold, but there are some promising prospects in connection with the balance. Of recent times I have been talking with people and I think it was a night or two ago that I told the Leader of the Opposition we were hoping we would be able to get rid of the balance of the gas by the time it comes through. That is not positive, but it is fairly promising.

The member for Maylands referred to the interest rate and mentioned that a recent loan had been taken out at 19 per cent. I want to remind the House that 19 per cent is not the rate on recent documents. I signed the documents on the 250 000 million yen loan—about \$100 million Australian—and the rate was less than half that referred to by the member for Maylands.

Mr Brian Burke: I'll bet that is the biggest loan you ever signed.

Mr Harman: I said "19.5 per cent." I was referring to the trade credit with the Japanese bank.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is the \$100 million?

Mr Harman: No, the \$38.7 million.

Mr O'CONNOR: The loan was signed about a week ago and it was for \$100 million Australian. The interest rate was about 8.5 per cent—certainly it was under 9 per cent. The member asked how we obtained the money, and what expertise was involved. I assure the member for Maylands that our Treasury officers are very competent in this field. They travel around and contact people throughout the world—in America, Canada, Japan, and England—to endeavour to get the best possible rates for us. I believe that this loan at 8.5 per cent was probably

as good as anything we could get anywhere in the world at this stage.

Mr Harman: I agree.

Mr O'CONNOR: Opposition members also remarked that I had said there would be no delay in the North-West Shelf project. I did not say that at all. I said I did not expect any delay in the first stage. I had stated on a number of occasions that the second stage would be delayed for probably nine to 12 months. However, there will be no delay in the first stage which is to bring the gas to Perth by the pipeline.

The member for Kalgoorlie said that it was probably the lender who brought to our notice the anomaly in the Act. It was the lender, but we have not restricted this to the State Energy Commission. We have introduced the legislation so that any other Government department, with the approval of the Treasurer, will be included in the correction of the anomaly.

Once again I thank members for their support, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr O'Connor (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

Mr HARMAN: I want to draw to the attention of the Treasurer the fact that in this Chamber tonight he told us he has approved of loans—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! As the member will appreciate, we are discussing clause 1 of the Committee stage of the Bill. I suggest that if the member wishes to speak to this clause he should confine his remarks to it. It may be more appropriate for him to speak to the third reading.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [8.51 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [8.52 p.m.]: This is probably the first time during my term in Parliament that I have ever spoken during a third

reading debate. I wish to speak now because of remarks made by the Treasurer. I hope he appreciated what he was saying when he said that he recently signed for a particular loan for the SEC and that the interest rates were approximately half of 16 to 19 per cent.

Mr O'Connor: Half of 19 per cent.

Mr HARMAN: On my calculation that would be about 8.5 to nine per cent. I am saying that the public of Western Australia is being misled; it is not being informed correctly. It was on 24 March 1982 that the Treasurer told me the interest rates for the loans the Government has negotiated.

Mr O'Connor: At that stage.

Mr HARMAN: There is no reference to "at this stage" in the reply to the question.

Mr Bateman: That was a good try.

Mr O'Connor: Put it this way: The reply would not have referred to loans after that date.

Mr HARMAN: If the Treasurer can come into this House and laugh about an answer to a question, it is time we all packed up and went home. There is no purpose in our being here.

Let us look at what the Treasurer said on 24 March of this year. I asked him the following question—

In respect of a loan of \$121.2 million recently negotiated and being the 1981-82 infrastructure borrowing allocation, will he advise the details of this loan and with whom, including interest rate, repayment arrangements, etc.?

The Treasurer replied as follows—

I should point out that the amount of \$121.2 million to which the member refers is in fact the total semi-Government infrastructure borrowing programme allocated to Western Australia for the current financial year. The estimated distribution of this allocation between projects and the actual borrowings arranged to date are set out in the table below.

This appears on page 169 of *Hansard* if any member wishes to follow it up. The Treasurer went on to say—

In respect of the projects of the State Energy Commission, the amount of \$78 164 500 raised to date is comprised as follows—

\$47 130 000—Domestic public loan, at interest rates of between 15.4% and 15.7% depending on the terms, ranging from four to 15 years, and repayable on maturity.

Does that sound anything like 8.5 per cent or 9 per cent?

Mr Bertram: Not at all.

Mr HARMAN: It sounds like 15.4 per cent to 15.7 per cent to me. The next loan is for \$734 500.

Mr MacKinnon: You just told us it was for a total of \$121.2 million.

Mr HARMAN: I will go through the lot of them. I will educate the Minister as he has never been educated before.

Mr Laurance: There is a breathless hush in the Chamber.

Mr HARMAN: To continue—

\$734 500—Domestic private loans at interest rates of between 15.8% and 16.0% depending on the terms, ranging from four to 10 years, and repayable on maturity.

Does that sound like 8.5 or 9 per cent? Let us look at the next loan which the Treasurer has organised. It reads as follows—

\$30 300 000—Overseas floating rate US dollar loan arranged by the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, for a term of 15 years with repayments in four equal annual instalments commencing on the twelfth anniversary of the loan agreement. Interest is at the rate of LIBOR plus a margin 0.25% p.a. in year 1, 0.375% p.a. in years 2 to 10—

The important thing is that the loan was at the LIBOR rate. So when I received that reply I went to the Library and I looked at the latest copy of *The Economist*. The LIBOR rate for that particular month was 16 per cent. So how can the Treasurer come into this House and say, "Do not be worried about it boys; we have negotiated loans at less than half of the 19 per cent that the member for Maylands talks about"? Who is telling the truth in this place? That is what we want to know. I have read to members answers that the Treasurer gave to this House less than a fortnight ago. He told us he organised loans at 15 and 16 per cent, the LIBOR rate, and the current LIBOR rate is 16 per cent. Who is telling the truth?

Mr O'Connor: I am telling you we arranged credit for \$100 million at 8.5 per cent. You can check this easily in the *Government Gazette*.

Mr HARMAN: I just wanted to know.

Mr I. F. Taylor: That does not take into account the profit they will make in providing those pipelines.

Mr HARMAN: The Treasurer has given answers—

Mr I. F. Taylor: It is an artificial rate.

Mr HARMAN: —in respect of the \$121.8 million for the infrastructure borrowing programme. If he wants to crawl out of that—

Mr O'Connor: I am not saying that at all.

Mr HARMAN: —I will give him the opportunity to do so.

Mr O'Connor: There is no need, because what I said is correct.

Mr HARMAN: Is this wrong?

Mr O'Connor: No, that is not wrong. There are two different loan borrowings. There are trade credits and loans.

Mr HARMAN: I want to give the Treasurer the opportunity to tell me—

Mr O'Connor: I will tell you in a minute.

Mr HARMAN: —whether the loans he signed the other day at 8½ per cent and 9 per cent are connected with the infrastructure borrowing programme.

Mr O'Connor: I will answer you when you sit down.

Mr HARMAN: I am asking the Treasurer. He should know. Is that right or wrong? Are the loans of which he spoke concerned with the North-West Shelf gas development? Are they, or are they not?

Mr O'Connor: I will tell you when you sit down.

Mr HARMAN: In fact, the only point the Treasurer has to make is that if we are obtaining the money at these fabulous rates, there should not be any reason to absolve people from paying stamp duty above the level of 17.5 per cent.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Obviously we are getting a lot of money above that rate.

Mr HARMAN: What is happening tonight is that we are not being told all the facts. We are being kept in the dark. That is fairly obvious.

Government members interjected.

Mr HARMAN: I invite members to read page 169 of this year's *Hansard*. We have the situation in which loans are being negotiated by the

Government at 15½ per cent or 16 per cent. Now we are told by the Treasurer that that is not the case, and that they have been negotiated at eight per cent. We ought to know exactly what is going on. The Treasurer ought to tell us whether the loans that he signed the other day are concerned with the North-West Shelf gas development. If that is the case, obviously there is something wrong with the answers that the Treasurer paraded in the House only two weeks ago.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [9.02 p.m.]: I wish to reply briefly to the member. The documents I signed have passed through Executive Council, and they have been gazetted. They relate to trade credits for the North-West Shelf gas pipeline—

Mr I. F. Taylor: Did you bother to read them before you signed them?

Mr O'CONNOR: The member for Kalgoorlie is very smart, is he not? How would I have known the amounts and the interest rates if I had not done that?

The document was signed and approved by Executive Council. That can be checked in the *Government Gazette* if members want to do so. It was in connection with the North-West Shelf gas pipeline.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Order of the day read for the resumption of the debate from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Grewar.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Premier) [9.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.04 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TOWN PLANNING

Western Suburbs Study: Servetus Street

379. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it a fact that at a steering committee meeting of the western suburbs study held on 19 December 1979, the Commissioner for Town Planning stated that Servetus Street needed to be developed as the main north-south link and that this simple approach would obviate the need for a study, that is, the commissioner was propounding a solution before the study actually commenced?
- (2) Is the western suburbs study a self-fulfilling prophecy as promised by the commissioner at the first meeting of the committee?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Town Planning Commissioner, who was a member of the committee and who had been constantly involved with the study of the western suburbs for some years, did make such a proposal. This was not acceptable to the western suburbs steering committee who examined a further 16 options in depth before making their recommendation.
- (2) See (1) above.

TOWN PLANNING

Bold Park and Western Suburbs

380. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

When will the Government examine the social and environmental consequences of their proposed amendment to the metropolitan region scheme to allow a highway through Bold Park and the residential areas of the western suburbs?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Previous environmental studies affecting residential areas have already been carried out and further studies will be undertaken as development of a preferred route proceeds. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is currently liaising with the

City of Perth to determine the most environmentally acceptable route through Bold Park and will be then referring the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority for its further consideration.

TRANSPORT

Western Suburbs

381. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Is the Government now prepared to put in the necessary resources and time so that an acceptable and credible report can be produced relating to transport movement through the western suburbs?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The Government has already committed a large amount of money to the study of the need for an access way through the western suburbs and is continuing to provide such funds as are necessary to properly evaluate all relevant information.

ROADS: FREEWAYS

Reservations: Cost

382. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) As there are presently 170 kilometres of freeway reservations in the Perth metropolitan region scheme but with only some 13 kilometres constructed, what is the cost of holding these reservations?
- (2) When is it proposed that these reservations will be constructed?
- (3) Is there any review being conducted by the Government to re-evaluate the necessity for some of the reservations in the metropolitan region scheme?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) There are no freeway reservations in the metropolitan region scheme. There are, however, controlled access highway

reservations, at present with a total length of 310 kilometres; 90 kilometres of these have been constructed and 25 kilometres are under construction. Fortunately, much of the land required for these road reserves was acquired some time ago before development occurred and before the escalation in land prices. The only holding cost is related to interest on loan moneys and this is partially offset by rents received on properties held by the authority until the time is right for the roads to be constructed. These loan moneys also relate to the large areas of land acquired for parks and recreation, in the scheme and these statistics are shown in the annual report of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

- (2) The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is a planning authority, not a construction authority. Its function is to protect land by reservation so that the public need is not prejudiced by development during the holding period. The road construction authorities are the Main Roads Department and the local authorities, who together determine the priorities of road construction in accordance with the need and the allocation of funds by Government.
- (3) While the Government is not directly involved, the MRPA is constantly reviewing the road reservations in the metropolitan region scheme and has a special project committee working to this end.

TOWN PLANNING: MRPA

West Coast Highway and Swanbourne Area Study

419. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it fact that the West Coast Highway and Swanbourne area study (1976) states that "unconstrained demand for movement through the area—Cottesloe/Swanbourne—is obviously not an acceptable basis for selecting the size of facility for north-south movements?
- (2) If so, why has the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority ignored these findings of that study in recommending

a high speed controlled access highway through the western suburbs?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The quotation from the West Coast Highway and Swanbourne area study cannot be taken out of context and must be read in the context of both the report and the metropolitan region scheme. The region scheme has, since its inception, had a reservation for a north-south access way along Curtin Avenue to Davies Road in Claremont. The present proposition is to relieve the pressure on Curtin Avenue by using the railway reserve as far as Servetus Street.
- (2) The findings have not been ignored.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Western Suburbs Highway

421. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is it a fact that in the western suburbs study and its technical papers, a very limited environmental assessment was undertaken, and that meaningful assessment costs could not be performed due to time limitations?
- (2) Is the Government still prepared to allow amendment 410/33 to be adopted without the necessary analysis being conducted?
- (3) At what stage is the Government going to conduct detailed cost, environmental and social analyses?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) In 1973, the then minister, during early stages of the study, referred the matter of the effect on the environment to the Environmental Protection Authority and an extensive study of the social effects, including a public participation campaign, was undertaken. Since that time, there has been continuing social impact awareness as is evidenced by the proposed removal of Curtin Avenue as a regional road from the scheme.
- (2) The necessary analyses have been and are continuing to be conducted and will be part of the information available to Government when considering the final proposal.
- (3) Continually.

WATER RESOURCES: ACCOUNTS

Procedure

425. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

With reference to his answer to my question No. 243 of 1982 relating to water billing, will he now detail the procedure that applies for billing for water usage as between builders and/or developers and the ultimate owner of the home?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

A building fee is charged in accordance with by-laws 29.13 and 29.14 and a meter is installed when the service is laid.

An allowance of one kilolitre for every 28c of building fee is granted for building purposes.

When building operations are complete, the builder should advise the board and request a reading of the meter. Any consumption beyond the building fee allowance is charged to the owner. Should the building fee allowance not be used in full, the unused portion is forfeited.

The procedure of metering building services was introduced only recently, primarily for the purpose of preventing the waste of water which had been observed to occur during building operations.

TRANSPORT

Journey-to-work Trip Length

431. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Since the corridor plan for Perth has as one of its stated objectives the reduction in the length and time of vehicle trips, does the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's proposal for a high speed highway through the western suburbs meet this objective, and what reduction in trip length can be anticipated for how many vehicles making the trip in 1980, 1990 and 2000?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The corridor plan for Perth proposes that the corridors should be planned and developed in such a way that each is as

self-sufficient as possible and residents should have no need to travel appreciable distances to and from work. Nevertheless, as the population increases and the present urban areas consolidate and the corridors develop, there will be a need for primary routes such as that through the western suburbs, linking subregional and district centres. The region will need to be serviced by vehicles delivering goods and material required by the community. In addition, recreational demands will generate a growing need for movement throughout the region.

Obviously, the trip length and frequency of travel in the western suburbs will be dependent on the rapidity of development within the corridor, the release of residential and industrial land the development of the subregional centres at Joondalup, Fremantle, and Rockingham, and to speculate on specifics to the year 2000 would be ludicrous. However, the need to provide for a road option for the future is obvious.

EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION

Forecasts

432. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) What are the 2000 AD forecasts on employment and population levels for all census zones other than those detailed in table 9A of the western suburbs study within district planning groups A and B?
- (2) What are the forecast number of private and commercial trips between and within all of the zones for the a.m. peak—7 a.m. to 9 a.m.—for 2000 AD?
- (3) What is the forecast model split for these trips, and how does this compare with present levels—by zone?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) The information will be made available to the member. Forecasts in the form requested are not available but a general traffic forecast is and will be made available at the same time.

ROAD: WESTERN SUBURBS FREEWAY

Trips: Average Distance

436. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Since the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in the western suburbs study has predicted that future trips will be relatively short, why then is a new north-south link necessary which would only cater for and encourage long interregional trips?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The road will not encourage long interregional trips. It will make it possible for people to travel safely to their required destination without disruption to the residential areas through which they would otherwise have to pass.

See also answer to question 431.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

MTT: Fares

441. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would he clarify the Commissioner of Railways' statement on a recent radio programme where he stated that MTT fares are determined by the amount of money made available to the Main Roads Department for construction and maintenance of highways and roads?
- (2) What amount of money was made available to the Main Roads Department as per the Commissioner of Railways' statement in the years 1979-81?
- (3) Would he further clarify the commissioner's statement on the same radio programme that the ten new diesel electric rail cars will cost \$90 million place on service?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (3) A check of the recording made of the programme confirms that the Commissioner for Railways made no such statements.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Seatainers: Danger

442. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) With reference to an article in *The Western Mail*, Saturday, 30 March, re danger to motorists from 20 tonne seatainers not securely fastened by safety locking devices and highlighted by submissions from the Transport Workers' Union to the dangerous practice, is the Government prepared to accept full responsibility for the person or persons concerned with respect to compensation if a fatality occurs as illustrated by the Transport Workers' Union?
- (2) If "No", would he state his reasons?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The subject matter is covered by regulation 1610 of the road traffic code, which places an onus on a vehicle driver to ensure that any load is so arranged, contained, fastened or covered so that the load or any part of it cannot fall or otherwise escape from the vehicle. The statutory legal obligation is clear and rests with those who use trucks. The safety locking devices to which the TWU has objected are not considered unsafe by safety authorities, but ultimately safety depends on correct usage and the particular circumstances of stress which might arise.
- (2) Answered by (1).

TRAFFIC: COUNTS

Narrows Bridge and Major Roads

443. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the current daily and hourly traffic volume on the Narrows Bridge, and on all major roads—blue and red—within group A and group B planning districts, including City of Perth?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I am advised that there is a large volume of data involved to be taken out to answer the question. In view of this I suggest the Leader of the Opposition identify the roads on which information is specifically required.

TRAFFIC: FLOW

Predictions: Model Used

444. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the Main Roads Department model used for predicting traffic flow a gravity or intervening opportunities type model?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

A gravity type model.

TRAFFIC: FLOW

Predictions: Model Used

445. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

What impedance factor has been used in the Main Roads Department model, and does this account for likely increases in petrol prices?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The impedance used in the MRD traffic model is $1.08 \times \text{distance} + 0.69 \times \text{time}$. The model does allow for increases in petrol prices.

PARKING, PUBLIC TRANSPORT
AND EMPLOYMENT AREAS*Modal Split and Travel Distances*

446. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

Have the effect of policy options such as—

- (a) parking reductions or higher parking charges;
- (b) improved public transport services;
- (c) alternative locations of future employment areas;

been considered on the modal split and travel distances?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) to (c) Those aspects of Perth's transport situation to which the question alludes are all held under constant consideration. Policy decisions on urban transport are taken after thorough consideration of all of the factors involved, including those mentioned.

ROADS: FREEWAYS

Western Suburbs: Time and Congestion Savings

447. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

With respect to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's proposed highway through the western suburbs, what are the benefits of the proposed link in terms of travel time savings—per trip and in total—and congestion savings?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Travel time and congestion savings are directly related to the number of "at-grade" intersections. Although no precise calculations have been made, the primary route proposed through the Western suburbs—which would eliminate a great number of "at-grade" intersections—will clearly bring substantial "travel" and "congestion" time savings and improve safety.

ROADS: FREEWAYS

Western Suburbs: Heavy Haulage Vehicles

448. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Since the Chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, Mr Wilkins, stated in *The West Australian* of 24 October 1980 that the bulk of traffic travelling through the western suburbs on the proposed new highway would be industrial heavy haulage traffic, how many of the 17 000 vehicles per day travelling Stephenson Highway will be industrial heavy haulage vehicles?

- (2) Given that recent studies show trucks represent 5 per cent of the volumes through the Servetus Street area, what evidence is there to support the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's assertion that this low volume of heavy haulage vehicles will increase dramatically?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The chairman of the authority made no such statement. The member's figure of 17 000 vehicles per day is a quote from the report prepared by the consultant retained by the City of Fremantle, and the Towns of Claremont and Mosman Park. This quote applies to part of the route between West Coast Highway and Oceanic Drive on which some 5 per cent of vehicles could be heavy haulage.
- (2) No such assertion has been made.

TRANSPORT: DIRECTOR GENERAL

Professional Staff

449. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that two members of the professional staff of the Director General of Transport's office have been seconded to his office?
- (2) If so, why?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes, on a part time basis.
- (2) The officers concerned supply immediate professional information on matters relating to management of the Transport portfolio.

EDUCATION: DEPARTMENT

Removal of Goods and Effects

450. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) When were tenders called for tender AD Q3114—removal of Education Department goods and effects?
- (2) How many tenders were received?
- (3) What was the tender price in each case?
- (4) Which tender was accepted?
- (5) Were any of the terms of the tender changed after the tender was called?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Invitations to quote were sent on 19 March and closed on 30 March 1982.
- (2) Five.
- (3) Downard Pickfords
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Removals and Storage | \$10 980 |
| J. Wilson Removals | \$11 825 |
| Grace Bros. Transport Group | \$14 389 |
| Ansett Wridgways | \$21 064 |
| Gascoyne Removals | \$31 000 |
- (4) Grace Bros. Transport which became the lowest tender when the full cost of supervisory and warehouse staff payments were taken into consideration.
- (5) No.

WATER RESOURCES: MWB

"Water, the Abiding Challenge"

451. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

How much did it cost the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board to publish the book *Water, the Abiding Challenge*?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The book was published by the Metropolitan Water Board and the cost of printing for 1500 copies was \$6 927. The book which recounts water management since the founding of the Swan River Colony has been distributed to libraries and other relevant bodies and is a valuable medium of public education and information which will endure far into the future.

LIQUOR: LICENSED PREMISES

Beer Ticket Machines

452. Mr PARKER, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the current position with regard to beer ticket machines being allowed in—
- licensed club premises;
 - other licensed premises?
- (2) What are the reasons for this position?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The Lotteries Commission may grant permits to approved organisations to conduct lotteries as follows—

- (a) licensed clubs are approved organisations and provided a permit is issued, may choose to dispense raffle tickets by mechanical means;
 - (b) it is an offence under the Liquor Act for a licensee to conduct a lottery on licensed premises where a permit has not been granted by the Lotteries Commission.
- (2) A lottery may not be conducted on licensed premises unless a permit has been issued by the Lotteries Commission.

SETTLEMENT AGENTS ACT

Amendment

453. Mr PARKER, to the Premier:

- (1) When is it intended to introduce amendments to the Settlement Agents Act?
- (2) What is the nature and purpose of these intended amendments?
- (3) What has caused the Government to consider the introduction of these amendments?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Consideration is being given to the introduction of an amendment to the Settlement Agents Act during this session.
- (2) and (3) The second reading speech will identify the reasons for the amendment.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

MTT: Job Titles

454. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have there recently been changes in job titles within the Metropolitan Transport Trust which have resulted in—
 - (a) a "depot master" becoming a "depot superintendent" at an increased salary of approximately \$2 000 per annum;
 - (b) a "chief inspector" becoming a "director of traffic" at an increased salary of approximately \$7 000 per annum?
- (2) Have there been any changes in the actual work done by these people, and if so, what?

(3) What are the reasons for these changes?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) (a) The only change was in their designation and no increase in salary was granted to depot superintendents;
- (b) no
- (2) and (3) The only work change involved the chief inspector's duties; but this was a relatively minor alteration done in the interests of more effective traffic supervision.

WATER RESOURCES: TREATMENT PLANT

Beenyup: Tenders

455. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) With reference to my question 2383 of 1981 relating to the Beenyup treatment plant, has the evaluation of tenders been concluded?
- (2) Who was the successful tenderer?
- (3) Can he now answer my questions (2)(a), (b) and (c), and (3) of 27 October 1981 on this matter?
- (4) If "No" to any of the above, why not?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Hawker Siddeley Engineering Pty. Ltd.
- (3) and (4) The answers to the questions of 2, October 1981 are as follows—
 - (2) (a) Both Contran (WA) and Fischer & Porter Pty. Ltd. made offers as suppliers to Hawker Siddeley;
 - (b) Hawker Siddeley indicated preference for Contran (WA); however the consultants' final recommendation to the Water Board was that the Contran equipment did not meet the specification requirements. The basic criteria in preparing the specification had been to obtain equipment that would become part of the most cost effective control system when the plant size is doubled to its ultimate design capacity.

- (c) When allowance was made for provision of the specified spare parts, Contran's price was \$27 925 lower.

Part (3) of question 2383 is answered by (2) (b) above.

PRISONS: PRISONERS

Daily Muster

456. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) What is the current average daily muster of prisoners at—
 - (a) Fremantle Prison;
 - (b) The C. W. Campbell Remand Centre;
 - (c) Canning Vale Prison;
 - (d) Bunbury Regional Prison;
 - (e) Albany Regional Prison;
 - (f) Geraldton Regional Prison?
- (2) What was the average daily muster at each of the institutions named above 12 months ago?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2)

	March 1982	March 1981
(a)	495.6	465.0
(b)	92.5	88.9
(c)	Nil	Nil
(d)	65.9	67.0
(e)	66.5	68.5
(f)	64.1	89.8

RAILWAYS: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Fremantle

457. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to his answer to my question 74 of 1981 in which he indicated that a pedestrian crossing would be installed across the railway line in front of the Fremantle Roundhouse in approximately June 1981:

- (a) when will the crossing be installed; and
- (b) what is the reason for the delay?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) and (b) The crossing was commissioned on 2 December 1981.

NURSERY: WATTLE GROVE

Human Faecal Material: Use as Fertiliser

458. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to my letter to him of 3 March 1982 when I appealed on behalf of the Wattle Grove Progress Association regarding the storage of human faecal material at a nursery in Welshpool Road, Wattle Grove, as no reply to my appeal has been received will he take immediate steps to have this matter examined?
- (2) Is it a fact that a neighbouring property has been inundated with used toilet paper, condoms, sanitary napkins, and other related materials?
- (3) Under what Act, regulation, or rule can this nursery, or any other nursery, use human excreta as an additive to fertilisers?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) An investigation of the activities associated with the nursery in Welshpool Road, Wattle Grove, has been undertaken by officers of my department and the Shire of Kalamunda. We have ascertained that this operation is being carried on without approval from the local authority. The problems of odour, dust, and litter are very real. The owner has been directed to cease this operation of blending and to remove all stockpiles of materials. We expect all materials to be removed within the next ten days. A reply to your letter of 3 March has been forwarded to you.
- (2) It is true that the neighbouring property is being inundated by miscellaneous plastic litter.
- (3) Sewage sludge as the solid residue from human waste has been subjected to a lengthy treatment process and as an end product is generally a stabilised innocuous material. It has been used for many years as a fertiliser or soil conditioner. The material is not viewed as posing a public health problem. However, a nuisance problem can arise if not handled correctly.

TRANSPORT: PERTH AIRPORT

Flights

459. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What percentage of flights take off and land in both the north and south directions at Perth Airport?
- (2) How many houses does the department estimate will be included within the 25 NEF zone in all of the four options that may be adopted for airport alteration?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The operations aspects of Perth Airport are the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Transport.

WASTE DISPOSAL: LIQUID

Gnangara

460. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What liquid waste is being deposited at the Gnangara liquid waste disposal site?
- (2) Is it a fact that there is a potential health problem associated with the disposal of liquid waste at the Gnangara site?
- (3) If "Yes", why?
- (4) Why is the Gnangara site due for closure?
- (5) When is the site to be closed?
- (6) Has the possibility of liquid waste being disposed at the Midland abattoir (or Hazelmere) lagoons been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (7) (a) If "Yes" to (6), when will the authority's report be finalised; and
(b) will it be made available to the public?
- (8) If "No", why not?
- (9) Has the Public Health Department conducted tests at the Midland Abattoir lagoons?
- (10) What is the composition of the waste that may be deposited in the Midland Abattoir lagoons?
- (11) Is the Government aware that the eastern zone waste disposal committee prefers the Red Hill site for liquid waste disposal?
- (12) (a) Is this site being considered by the Government;

(b) if "No", why not?

- (13) Are other liquid waste disposal sites in the Swan, Mundaring, or Kalamunda Shire areas being investigated for possible future use?
- (14) When is a decision likely to be made on which site is to be used?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Biodegradable wastes from septic tanks and similar sources.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Because of the potential in the long term for this disposal to cause contamination of underground water which may be needed in the future for the metropolitan water supply.
- (4) See answer to (3).
- (5) The Government had hoped that this site would now be closed but there has been considerable difficulty in developing new sites. I believe these have now been largely overcome.
- (6) No.
- (7) (a) and (b) Not applicable.
- (8) The Department of Conservation and Environment has been fully involved in the interdepartmental committee investigating the possibility of liquid waste being disposed at the Midland Abattoir lagoons, and has had the opportunity of assessing any potential effect on the environment.
- (9) No.
- (10) Biodegradable wastes from septic tanks and similar sources.
- (11) The Government is aware that the eastern zone waste disposal committee has been examining the Red Hill site as a possible location for the disposal of hazardous, non-biodegradable liquid waste. This is not intended as an alternative to the proposal involving the Midland abattoir lagoons.
- (12) (a) Yes;
(b) Not applicable.
- (13) Yes.
- (14) Within three months.

PRISON: BOULDER REGIONAL

Maximum Security Unit

461. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the contract for the construction of the maximum security unit at the Kalgoorlie Prison been—
 - (a) called;
 - (b) let?
- (2) If so, to whom?
- (3) Do the plans and specifications provide for the use of locally manufactured bricks?
- (4) With respect to (3), if not, why not?
- (5) Is it intended to extend any special preference for the use of locally manufactured bricks in the project?
- (6) With respect to (5), if not, why not?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes;
- (b) no.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The specification provides a 10 per cent preference for all materials and goods manufactured in the general locality of the works.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Not applicable.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: West Kalgoorlie

462. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With respect to the proposed Westrail/Mayne Nickless joint venture, will local carriers continue to have access to and use of the West Kalgoorlie goods shed?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Westrail's goods shed at Kalgoorlie is included in the assets which will be leased to the joint venture company. The details of whether the whole of the shed, or only part of it, will be leased has not yet been established.
Local carriers are likely to be subcontracted for deliveries in the Kalgoorlie area and would therefore use the goods shed.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Charges to Local Carriers

463. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

With respect to the proposed Westrail-Mayne Nickless joint venture, is it intended to increase any charges, such as gantry and crane hire charges, to local carriers?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Any variations in Westrail charges would not be related to the setting up of the joint venture company.

If there are any variations in the future, these would apply uniformly to all users of the facilities.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Carriage of Furniture and Effects

464. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With respect to the proposed Westrail/Mayne Nickless joint venture, will the current contracts relating to the carriage of Government employees' furniture and effects be retained?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The transport of general traffic will be deregulated concurrently with the formation of the joint venture company. Deregulation will permit any operator to transport furniture. Therefore, Government departments will be free to write contracts with any transport operator, including Westrail.

RAILWAYS: PARCELS OFFICE

Kalgoorlie

465. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it intended to close the Westrail parcels office in Forrest Street, Kalgoorlie?
- (2) If "Yes", why?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that with the setting up of the joint venture company to handle less-than-wagon-load and parcels traffic it is expected there will be no further use for the Westrail parcels office in Kalgoorlie.

COMMUNITY WELFARE: SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS

Telephone Service

466. Mr HODGE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The West Australian* of 2 April wherein it was reported that the Samaritan Befrienders organisation has had to give up its special "inwards wide area telephone service" for lonely, distressed, and suicidal persons because of lack of funds?
- (2) Is he aware that Samaritan Befrienders, with a completely voluntary staff, provides a vital 24-hour-a-day service and that it receives about 1 200 calls per month?
- (3) Would he be receptive to an approach from Samaritan Befrienders for a special extra grant of about \$2 500 per year in addition to the normal Budget allocation in order that INWATS (inwards wide area telephone service) can be maintained?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware of the services provided by the Samaritan Befrienders organisation.
- (3) I would be prepared to consider a submission from Samaritan Befrienders. However, I can make no commitment to the organisation until I have examined the merit of its case. It should be noted that Samaritan Befrienders is receiving assistance totalling \$10 770 from the Government this financial year.

HEALTH: RADIATION SAFETY ACT

Amendment

467. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the regulations issued pursuant to the Radiation Safety Act

were drawn up in the 1950s and have not been significantly updated since then?

- (2) Is he aware that the International Commission on Radiological Protection recommended in 1966 a maximum absorbed dose of 5 rem over the first 30 years of a person's life?
- (3) Is it a fact that sections of the Radiation Safety Act regulations which permit a person to receive a radiation dose of up to 60 rem in the first 30 years of life may be outdated?
- (4) When does he propose to update the Radiation Safety Act and its regulations?
- (5) Is he aware that the United Nations national research council committee, in its publication *Effects on Populations of Exposure to low levels of Ionising Radiation 1972*, states that there is no threshold below which radiation ceases to have adverse effects on human beings?
- (6) In view of the above statement that there is no "safe" level of ionising radiation should maximum permissible levels in legislation be set conservatively to protect the health of the public and radiation workers?
- (7) In view of the statements made by international authorities quoted above, how can he justify his claim made in answer to question 37 (3) of 1982 that the excessive radiation dose rates measured in several Capel homes do not constitute a potential health hazard to their occupants?
- (8) What action does the Government propose to take to protect children at the Capel Primary School from excessive doses of ionising radiation emanating from mineral sandmining tailings in the school grounds?
- (9) Can he now provide me with information on the radiation doses received by workers in the sand mining industry during 1981 as requested in questions 37 and 275 of 1982?
- (10) Can he provide me with details of the cumulative radiation doses received by workers in the sandmining industry?
- (11) Can he now provide me with details of the analysis of the milk from the dairy near Capel where high levels of radiation were found?

- (12) Is it a fact that workers in the abovementioned dairy may be receiving radiation doses in excess of 500 millirem per annum which is the maximum permitted for members of the general public?
- (13) What action is proposed to reduce the radiation levels at this dairy?
- (14) (a) Are workers in the sandmining industry regularly monitored for internal doses of radiation that could be caused by the ingestion of radioactive material;
(b) if not, why not?
- (15) Is it a fact that the Radiation Safety Act regulations provide for regular monitoring of the air within storage installations for radiation and radioactive contents?
- (16) Have the abovementioned tests been carried out in accordance with the regulations at sandmining plants; and if so, will he provide me with details of the levels of radioactive dust and radon gas in the monazite stores at Capel, Geraldton, and Eneabba since the start of sand mining operations in those locations?
- (17) When did sand mining operations commence at Capel and Eneabba?
- (18) When did badge monitoring of employees for radiation doses begin at Capel and Eneabba?
- (19) Have radiation levels in excess of 50 microrem per hour been found in any public buildings or commercial premises in Capel?
- (20) (a) Is he aware if monazite tailings from Capel sandmining operations have been used in building projects in other areas of the State apart from Capel;
(b) if he is unaware, will he try to obtain the information?
- (21) What regulations are in force to prevent the removal of potentially hazardous tailings from mine sites in Western Australia?
- (22) Is it a fact that workers at some sandmining plants in Western Australia move bags of monazite by hand?
- (23) If the answer to (22) is "Yes", will he name the plants?
- (24) In view of the very high radiation dose rate recorded adjacent to stored monazite at Capel, is the handling of bags of monazite by workers a hazardous practice?
- (25) If the answer to (24) is "Yes", what action does he plan to take to safeguard the health of workers in the industry?
- (26) Is he aware that workers in the Yeelirrie uranium mining project are protected by a code of practice for the mining and milling of radioactive ores drawn up by the Commonwealth Department of Health?
- (27) Are workers in the monazite industry also covered by the abovementioned code of practice or any similar document?
- (28) If the answer to (27) is "No", why not?
- (29) (a) Is he aware that the abovementioned code of practice specifies a maximum permissible radiation dose rate in air of 2.5 millirad per hour at the work place and 60 microrad per hour in the general surroundings;
(b) is it a fact that these levels have been exceeded at the Capel sandmining plant, the Capel Primary School, at several houses in Capel, and at a dairy near Capel;
(c) if the levels have been exceeded at the abovementioned places, will he explain why this is permitted and why he believes that there is no danger to the workers or residents of Capel?
- (30) (a) Is he aware that the code of practice mentioned above requires the mining company to conduct regular medical examinations of all employees working with radioactive materials and to keep detailed records of the radiation doses received by all its employees;
(b) is this being done in the sandmining industry, and if so, when did it commence?
- (31) Considering that all ionising radiation is potentially hazardous and that the effects of radiation exposure are cumulative, does his department believe that ongoing medical records, as mentioned above, are essential for all workers exposed to significant doses of radiation in their employment?

- (32) (a) Is he aware of the regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials which are included in the Uranium (Yeelirrie) Agreement and apply to the uranium industry;
- (b) do these regulations, or any similar regulations, apply to the transportation of monazite;
- (c) if not, why not?
- (33) (a) Is he aware that an international code for the management of wastes for the mining and milling of uranium and thorium ores has been included in the Uranium (Yeelirrie) Agreement to protect the health of workers and the public;
- (b) does this international code also apply to the Capel and Eneabba sandmining operations;
- (c) if not, why not?
- (34) Will he give an undertaking that legislation will be introduced into the current session or the next session of Parliament to control and regulate the sandmining industry and to protect the health of workers and the general public from radioactive substances produced in this industry?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (34) This question would be one of the longest known to the Legislative Assembly and requires considerable preparation and research. An answer, in writing, will be provided to the member as soon as possible.

EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Savings

468. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

Referring to the Cabinet expenditure review committee's decisions, will he please list those areas in which savings have been effected, including details of action taken and savings made in each instance?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Details of expenditure savings resulting from recommendations of the Cabinet expenditure review committee were given in a press release issued by me on 9 December 1981. The result of these decisions, representing savings of about \$32 million, were reflected in the 1981-

82 Budget which has been approved by Parliament.

Most of these savings have been achieved already although some items are still in the process of being implemented. In a few cases, the original decisions have been amended but equivalent savings will be made in other areas of a department's activities.

As the results of the Cabinet expenditure review committee are only one element in the overall Budget, which has still almost three months to run during which time there could be unforeseen movements in several areas, I am not prepared to deal with a single aspect of it at this time.

ABORIGINES: RESERVES

Future Use

469. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Can he confirm that officers of his department have prepared a report on the future use of Aboriginal reserves vested in the department?
- (2) If "Yes"—
- (a) when was the decision made to compile the report;
- (b) what were the reasons for the decision; and
- (c) when was the report completed?
- (3) Which of the following Aboriginal bodies were consulted in the course of compiling the report and its recommendations—
- (a) Aboriginal Lands Trust;
- (b) Aboriginal Advisory Council;
- (c) Aboriginal consultative committees?
- (4) Which other particular Aboriginal bodies or representatives were consulted in the course of compiling this report and its recommendations?
- (5) Will he table a copy of the report in the Parliament; and if not, why not?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes. The report was prepared jointly by an officer of the Department for Community Welfare and an officer from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.
- (2) (a) May 1981;

- (b) to review current policy on Aboriginal reserves;
- (c) October 1981.
- (3) (a) to (c) Aboriginal Lands Trust.
- (4) Consultation took place with the Aboriginal Development Commission and with local Aboriginal consultative committee representatives.
In addition, residents of all the reserves were consulted; and, in particular, some of the senior traditional members of the various communities.
- (5) No. The report is an internal working document prepared by the department to advise the Minister; and it will not be subject to public release.

HOUSING: ABORIGINES

"Saturation Policy"

470. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the State Housing Commission have an established "saturation policy" in regard to the placement of Aboriginal families within close proximity to other Aboriginal families?
- (2) Is it an established commission policy not to house an Aboriginal family in a block of flats where another Aboriginal family is already in occupation?
- (3) Is it the policy of the commission to contact local government authorities to enquire whether neighbouring houses are private purchase homes and to debar Aboriginal tenants from consideration for commission accommodation adjacent to such purchase homes?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) In the interests of satisfactory social mix within its estates, the commission endeavours to avoid concentration of any ethnic or particular "social strata" group.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

"Youth Works"

471. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Has he received a submission from "Youth Works", a casual work agency for unemployed young people who

provide home help for aged people, requesting funding through his department?

- (2) If "Yes", what stage has been reached in consideration of this submission and when can a decision be expected?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

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

COMMUNITY WELFARE

"Youth Works"

472. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Has he received a submission from "Youth Works", a casual work agency for unemployed young people who provide home help for aged people, requesting funding through his department?
- (2) If "Yes", what stage has been reached in consideration of this submission and when can a decision be expected?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) An application for funding has not been received from "Youth Works".
- (2) Not applicable.

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Terminating: Funds

473. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the amount committed by lending institutions to terminating building societies in the current financial year?
- (2) What are the respective sources of these funds and their respective amounts committed?
- (3) In view of these levels of commitment, will the same *pro rata* allocation of Government funds for low interest home loans occur in further releases of such funds?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) This financial year lending authorities have so far committed loans of \$1 290 000 to terminating building societies.
- (2) State Government Insurance Office \$150 000
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia \$800 000
Commercial Savings Bank of Australia \$200 000
Bank of New South Wales \$140 000
- (3) All relative matters will be taken into consideration prior to determining the annual allocation of home purchase assistance account funds.

ABORIGINES: RESERVES

Long-term Leases

474. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Can he confirm that the Government intends to reduce long-term leases on reserves vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust from 99 years to 25 years?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the reason for this change and what consultation has there been with Aboriginal people, including established consultative committees and the Aboriginal Lands Trust on this matter?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) The Government will not vary the terms of existing Aboriginal reserve leases.
- (2) My predecessor sought the views of the Aboriginal Lands Trust as to whether it considered that the policy and practice of granting long-term leases provided the flexibility to meet changing needs, interests, and aspirations and the emergence of new Aboriginal groups. It is expected that the Aboriginal Lands Trust will convey its views to me on this matter in due course.

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Terminating: Funds

475. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What funds have been allocated to terminating building societies in the current financial year?

- (2) What proportion of these funds have been approved for loans to eligible home loan borrowers?
- (3) What was the amount of undrawn moneys held by terminating building societies at the end of February this year?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Commonwealth/State funds allocated to terminating building societies, including repaid surplus funds of \$2.75 million, totalled \$10.775 million for 1981-82.
- (2) To date, loans totalling \$6.36 million have been approved and submitted to the Registry of Building Societies for the processing of payments. Offers of loans for the balance have been given to applicants from the loans priority list, and are currently being processed by the societies.
- (3) The amount of undrawn funds at the end of February was \$6.236 million. During March drawings reduced this figure by \$1.1 million.

HEALTH: SPEECH THERAPY

Children: Number

476. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many children are receiving speech therapy through the community and child health services and public hospitals?
- (2) In particular, how many children are receiving speech therapy through each of the child health services, centres at—
(a) Koondoola;
(b) Southwell;
(c) Kwinana?
- (3) What is the total number of children on waiting lists through the community and child health services, and public hospitals—
(a) for assessment for speech therapy;
(b) for speech therapy?
- (4) What is the number of children on waiting lists for assessment and for speech therapy at each of the following child health services centres—
(a) Koondoola;
(b) Southwell;
(c) Kwinana?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 2 694.
- (2) (a) 156;
(b) 189;
(c) 70.
- (3) (a) 628;
(b) 878.
- (4)

	Assessment	Treatment
(a)	90	111
(b)	69	79
(c)	48	24

Answers to questions (1) and (3) do not include figures from the community and child health services Kimberley region; and these will be provided separately, in writing.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Melville: Language Development Centre

477. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he confirm that a language development centre has been established at the Melville Junior Primary School with the services of a full time speech pathologist this year?
- (2) If "Yes", is it proposed to establish language development centres in the other three regions in the metropolitan area and in country regions, and to what stage?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) A language development centre has been set up at Melville. The professional staff employed are all teachers with particular expertise in the language area. One is dually qualified as both a teacher and a speech pathologist, but it is as the former that she is employed.

- (2) The Melville centre is a pilot venture. No firm decision concerning replication of this facility will be made until the effectiveness of the centre has been evaluated. It should be realized that the centre is catering for children of at least average intelligence who have very severe language problems. This is a low incidence handicap. The need for additional facilities will be assessed in conjunction with the evaluation of the centre's success and before any decision on expansion of the service is made.

HOUSING: SHC

Capital Expenditure

478. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With reference to his answer to question 346 of Wednesday, 31 March 1982, how does he explain the apparent difference between the figure of \$13.973 million given in that answer representing the Commonwealth payment to Western Australia for housing in 1981-82 and payments of \$27.8 million from that source quoted in the Government's booklet *The Fight For Fairness*?
- (2) What are the committals included in the cash balance of \$13 092 349 as at 28 February 1982?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) There is no disagreement in the information given. The amount \$13 973 000 represents the Commonwealth funds to finance the estimated capital works expenditure 1981-82—\$40.938 million—for the State Housing Commission which excludes the activities and funding of—

Home purchase assistance scheme	\$6 519 000
Aboriginal housing—grant	7 225 000
Recurrent grant—1971 Commonwealth-State agreement interest subsidy	627 000

I would like to point out also that the figure of \$13.973 million includes \$400 000 for the armed servicemen's upgrading programme.

- (2) Committed expenditure to 28 February 1982 exceeds the bank balance of \$13 092 349. For instance, the debt servicing charges accrued to 28 February 1982 estimated to be \$12.744 million. Carry-over expenditure for construction \$6.025 million.

ABORIGINES: RESERVES

Kennedy Hill: Motel Development

479. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware of a proposal for a motel development on the site of the department's Kennedy Hill Aboriginal reserve at Broome?
- (2) Is he also aware that plans for this development may be going ahead without consultation with Aboriginal people resident on the reserve?
- (3) Is it not a fact that many older Aboriginal people who were born and bred on this reserve land do not want to be moved and have put forward a plan for pensioner units and a cultural centre on the reserve?
- (4) What is the Government's attitude to the divesting of this reserve to enable it to be available for commercial development?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes. An approach has been made by a developer in which a proposal was described.
- (2) No. The land is vested in the Minister for Community Welfare and there will be no development without full and proper consultation with the Aboriginal people.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Government's attitude to the proposal has not yet been determined as there has not yet occurred any full submission to the Government of the proposal nor has there been any assessment of its implications governmentally.

ABORIGINES

South-west Aboriginal Lands Council

480. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware of the formation of a south-west Aboriginal lands council?
- (2) If "Yes", will he give consideration to giving formal recognition to the council as a valuable regional consultative body in dealing with matters concerning historical sites and sacred areas of importance to Aboriginal people in that part of the State?
- (3) If "No" to (2), why not?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I understand the new council has written to the Aboriginal Lands Trust, which is the statutory body set up by the Government under the provisions of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act to administer Aboriginal lands and to advise me on Aboriginal land matters generally.
- (3) I am confident the council could become a valuable regional consultative body to the trust within the established framework.

APPRENTICES

Courses: Geraldton

481. Mr CARR, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) What apprenticeship courses are presently undertaken at Geraldton technical college on the basis of apprentices attending on a per week or per fortnight basis?
- (2) How many apprentices are involved at each stage of each such course?
- (3) How many apprentices from Geraldton are involved in courses using the "block release" system of training?
- (4) What are the courses which involve apprentices referred to in question (3), and how many apprentices are involved at each stage of each of these apprenticeships?
- (5) (a) Of those referred to in questions (3) and (4), how many, if any, attend block release courses at Geraldton Technical College; and

(b) how many attend courses elsewhere on a block release basis?

(4)

Stage No

Mr CLARKO replied:

(1) Apprenticeship courses currently conducted at Geraldton Technical College on the basis of weekly and fortnightly attendance—

Automotive mechanical; painting—railways; carpentry and joinery; painting, signwriting and decorating; plumbing; electrical fitting; electrical installing; cabinetmaking; blacksmithing; coppersmithing; leadburning; metal construction; sheetmetal work; and welding.

(2) Enrolments by stage within course—

	Stage	No
Automotive		
Mechanical	1	10
	2/3	7
	3	2
	4	14
Carpentry and		
Joinery	1	8
	2	5
	3	3
Painting, Signwriting		
and Decorating	2	2
	3	4
Plumbing	1	2
	2	7
	3	7
Electrical Fitting	1	4
	2/3	2
	4	3
Electrical Installing	1	4
	2/3	1
	4	8
Cabinetmaking	1	3
	2	5
	3	3
Leadburning	1	1
Metal Construction	1	4
	2/3	3
	4	7
Sheetmetal Work	1	2
	2/3	2
	3	1
	4	7
Welding	1	4
	2/3	4

Industrial Plant		
Mechanics	1	1
	2	1
Agricultural Plant		
Mechanics	2	2
Engine Reconditioning	1	1
Carpentry and		
Joinery	1	8
	2	5
	3	3
Painting, Signwriting		
and Decorating	2	2
	3	4
Plumbing	1	2
	2	7
	3	7
Baking	1	4
	2	2
Fitting and		
Machining	1	6
	2	2
	3	4
	4	1
Leadburning	1	1

(5) (a) 39;

(b) 24.

HEATH

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

482. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he seen the report in the *Geraldton Guardian* of 31 March 1982 which claims that the disease myalgic encephalomyelitis is affecting a significant number of residents in Geraldton?
- (2) Will he please give details of any research being undertaken into this disease?
- (3) (a) Has any examination been undertaken into whether or not Geraldton has a higher than average incidence; and
(b) if so, what cause there might be of such incidence?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), will he please provide details?
- (5) If "No" to (3), will he please have such an examination made?

(3) 63.

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No formal research is being undertaken into this disease within Western Australia, but I believe some special study is being carried on at Royal Perth Hospital.
- (3) (a) No;
(b) not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) An examination of this type is not feasible because there are no agreed clinical criteria for diagnosing the disease and no laboratory tests capable of confirming its presence. A meeting is to be arranged between senior officers of the Public Health Department and other experts to discuss the situation in Geraldton.

COURTS: MAGISTRATES

Robes and Wigs

483. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Is consideration being given to requiring magistrates, or giving them the option, to wear robes and wigs when in court?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I am informed that a proposal has been adopted by a majority of magistrates that gowns should be worn in court.

The Government would not regard it as proper to give any direction to magistrates as the member's question seems to imply.

However, the Government has no objection to the proposal and believes that the decision will prove to be beneficial.

TRADE UNIONS

Compulsory Membership

484. Mr GRAYDEN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Did he see the statement by the managing director of Multiplex Constructions Pty. Ltd. before the Royal Commission into the Builders Labourers Federation that Multiplex Constructions Pty. Ltd. contracts stipulated that subcontractors employ union members on each site?

- (2) What is the Government's attitude to this open defiance by Multiplex of the Government's voluntary unionism legislation?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This matter is being closely examined by the Department of Labour and Industry and Crown Law Department—note the answer to question 5 without notice on 23 March 1982.

TRADE UNIONS

Compulsory Membership

485. Mr GRAYDEN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Are employees and sub-contractors in Western Australia—
 - (a) being denied employment;
 - (b) having their employment terminated;
 - (c) being forced into bankruptcy;

solely because of their refusal to join particular trade unions, even though legally membership of trade unions voluntary?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Industrial Arbitration Act in this session of Parliament in order to give these employees and subcontractors the protection of the law to which common justice demands they are entitled?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) Information available indicates this to be the case.
- (2) Careful and urgent consideration is now being given to the drafting of amendments to give effect to Government policy—note the answer to question 5 without notice on 23 March 1982.

ELECTORAL

Electoral Reform Society: Correspondence

486. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received correspondence from the Electoral Reform Society of Western Australia, 10 February, 11

March and 2 April 1982, hopefully seeking a deputation from officers of the society?

- (2) Has he replied to the correspondence?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, when will a reply be sent, and what is the cause of the delay?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) The matter has been under consideration and a response to the representations made will be forwarded shortly.

WILLMAR HOUSE

Extensions and Government Rental

487. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) When were extensions to Willmar House completed?
- (2) What was the cost of the extensions?
- (3) By whom is the building owned?
- (4) When did the Government begin paying rent for the extensions?
- (5) What area is involved?
- (6) How much in rent is paid for the extensions and on what basis is it paid?
- (7) How much of the extra space which has been provided is occupied?
- (8) When was the extra space occupied?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 30 September 1981.
- (2) Not known.
- (3) ICIANZ Pension Fund Securities Limited.
- (4) 13 November 1981.
- (5) 1 500 square metres.
- (6) \$4.70 per square metre per calendar month.
- (7) 875 square metres—rental for extensions is included in the overall lease of the total building—paid monthly.
- (8) 20 February 1982.

HEALTH: STATE X-RAY LABORATORY

Natural Gas: Radioactivity

488. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State X-Ray laboratory is obtaining equipment to test radioactivity in natural gas?
- (2) If so, when is it expected the equipment will be available?

Mr YOUNG replied:

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

489. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Fees and Charges: Review

100. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Treasurer:

Referring to the Treasurer's reply to a question from me yesterday that he was unaware of an instruction to Government departments to review their fees and charges or to consider imposing charges for services currently being provided without charge, I ask—

- (1) Is he aware that on 4 March the Under Treasurer wrote to all departmental heads as follows—

In preparing the revenue estimates, it is essential that all departments review their fees and charges where this has not already been done. The review should extend to those areas in which services are being provided for which no charge is currently being made . . .

- (2) Was he aware of the Under Treasurer's memo before it was issued and, if not, when did he become aware of it?
- (3) Does he endorse the sentiments of the Under Treasurer I quoted and is he now able to say what increases in charges will be imposed and what new charges will be imposed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) I became aware of the letter, first, when the Leader of the Opposition mentioned it yesterday and next, when I called for a copy of the letter this morning. The letter is along the lines of those normally sent out by the Under Treasurer at this time of the year containing certain advice and instructions to departments relating to Government charges. None of these proposals has yet come before Cabinet; they will be considered when they arrive.

EDUCATION: MIDLAND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mature Age Students

101. Mr HERZFELD, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that day classes for mature age students in TAE subjects at Midland Technical College have been discontinued?

Mr Pearce: A year late, my friend.

Mr HERZFELD: To continue—

- (2) If so, does he propose to take action to satisfy the continuing needs of mature age students in this area?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Regular daytime TAE classes are available at Perth Technical College and Tuart Hill and Bentley senior colleges. Concentrated courses enabling students with family commitments to meet their full week requirement in one half-day session were available at all three institutions but there were insufficient

applicants to warrant the continuation of classes. Evening TAE classes are available locally at the evening technical schools servicing the Midland area. In addition, the common TAE subjects are available through correspondence courses offered by the Distance Education Centre. Representations by the member and others have drawn attention to the possibility that there may be mature age students in the eastern suburbs whose personal circumstances prevent them from undertaking their studies through one of the wide range of options open to them. As a consequence, I have approved the introduction of a one-year programme leading to TAE through concentrated half-day courses for mature age students at Governor Stirling Senior High School. The course will be advertised locally in the immediate future. Provided sufficient students wish to enrol the class or classes would commence within a few weeks.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Liberal Party Raffle

102. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Premier:

- (1) Did he receive from me in this Chamber yesterday a letter outlining the questions I posed yesterday concerning a raffle conducted by the Liberal Party?
- (2) In line with his undertaking during question time yesterday that he would have the matter investigated on receipt of information from me, what investigations has he initiated and with what result?
- (3) Has he referred the matter to the Commissioner of Police and if not, why not?

Mr Pearce: You cannot have these illegal raffles.

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The member for Gosnells would know all about that. My reply is as follows—

- (1) Yes, as the member would know, considering he had the letter delivered to my desk.

- (2) and (3) Following receipt of the letter, I referred the matter this morning to the Minister for Police and Prisons for the necessary attention.

cent and metropolitan drainage charges by 5 per cent, and ask—

Is he able to say that the increase will be less than these amounts this year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

These matters have not yet been considered by Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Fees and Charges: Review

103. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Treasurer:

Referring again to the letter from the Under Treasurer relating to Government taxes and charges, I ask—

Will the Treasurer give this House an assurance that in future he is informed when such letters are being distributed so that the Government has knowledge of impending increases in taxes and charges recommended by the Under Treasurer?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No, because, as the Leader of the Opposition would know, throughout the year the Treasury distributes many such letters containing instructions and advice to departments, preparing things for the forthcoming Budget session. It would be inappropriate for all of these letters to be forwarded to me. From time to time, I have meetings with the Under Treasurer and members of his department. However, it would be quite inappropriate for such letters to be forwarded to me.

WATER RESOURCES, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE

Charges: Increase

104. Mr TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

I refer the Treasurer to the fact that last year domestic water charges increased by 14 per cent, industrial and commercial charges by 11.7 per cent, metropolitan sewerage charges by 14 per

FISHERIES

Two Rocks Marina

105. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier in a position to table the photographs referred to in my question on notice 218 of last week?
- (2) Has the Premier any further information on what steps are being taken to resolve the problem between Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd. and the Two Rocks professional fishermen's association?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, I do not have any further advice on the matter at this stage; however, the matter has been referred to the appropriate Minister.

The photograph was tabled (see paper No. 158).

GAMBLING: CASINOS

Illegal: Government Policy

106. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

In view of yesterday's decision by the joint government parties not to legalise casinos, what is the Government's policy now towards the illegal casinos operating openly in Perth?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The Government's policy in relation to the law has always been very clear, and I have made it clear on a number of occasions. The law, and the policy of the Government is as set out in the Statutes of the State, which include the Police Act, the Criminal Code, and the Lotteries (Control) Act. The matter of the enforcement of that law is one for the Police Department.

Mr Parker: What if they are not enforcing it?

Mr HASSELL: The Police Department has an obligation to enforce the law in accordance with well-established and long-standing principles, which include the proper exercise of a discretion in relation to all matters, because in many areas of the law—not just in relation to gambling or prostitution—there are frequent occasions on which the police need to, and do exercise a very proper discretion which enables the system to work and enables justice to be done within the community.

The position in relation to alleged illegal gambling houses is as it has been for many years: The police carry out enforcement policies, as they have done over a long period. I refer the member for Geraldton to one of the early chapters of the Dixon report which relates to allegations of corruption against the police, where he discussed in some detail the policy of law enforcement in that area. I also point out to the member for Geraldton that the public of this State have a pretty good understanding of the policies of enforcement which our police follow. In many respects, responsible citizens would prefer that we have police who follow a proper, discretionary policy rather than legalising certain undesirable activities.

Mr Davies: You are sworn to uphold the law.

Mr Carr: Every police officer is sworn to uphold the law.

Mr Pearce: Do you have a discretionary policy with regard to murderers and rapists?

Mr HASSELL: To conclude my answer, that is not to say that in the context of the particular decision which was made yesterday, and which has yet to be considered by the Government, it may not be necessary for other matters to be reviewed, including the law relating to gambling, generally.

MINING: GOLD

State Batteries: Charges

107. Mr COYNE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Would the Minister investigate the new basis for rationalising State Battery charges in the light of weakening gold values?
- (2) To make gold production more equitable for small gold seekers, would the Minister study a percentage based scheme of average gold prices with a built-in capacity to cover rises and falls? The proposition is 2 per cent of the average gold price for the first 300 tonnes; 3 per cent of the average gold price for 300-600 tonnes; and, 4 per cent of the average gold price for 600-900 tonnes.
- (3) Bearing in mind that the present structure of battery charges penalises the producers in the upper scale, would the Minister review this area in particular?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) The cost of milling at State Batteries is in the order of \$35 per tonne of ore. The present charges are \$10, \$15, \$20, and \$35 per tonne for 0-300; 301-600; 601-900; and, greater than 901 tonnes respectively. As a consequence of this a prospector is being subsidised to the extent of—

\$25 per tonne for his first 300 tonnes amounting to \$7 500; \$20 per tonne for the next 300 tonnes amounting to \$6 000; and, \$15 per tonne for the next 300 tonnes amounting to \$4 500.

It is only after this total subsidy of \$18 000 that he pays the actual cost of milling.

The present total subsidy on State Batteries is more than \$2 million. Having regard to the overall importance of the State Batteries to the industry as a whole, some consideration currently is being given to a review of their operations, and particularly the way in

which the Government can assist with financing in the future. The specific request of the member for Murchison-Eyre would involve some increase in the subsidy as the result of a move into a slightly different group of categories. I undertake to have the matter examined.

HEALTH: SUNSCREEN PREPARATIONS

Pharmaceutical Benefit List

108. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

On Tuesday 30 March I asked the Minister in question 203 if he would consider approaching the Federal Government and have it put sunscreen preparations on the pharmaceutical benefit list, and thereby reduce their cost to the public. In reply the Minister said that he had approached the Federal Government in an endeavour to have it reduce sales tax on these preparations, but his request had been refused. The Opposition appreciates the effort the Minister put into that battle with the Federal Government, and I now ask him if he realises the difficult task he faced, because there is no sales tax on these preparations. Has he set himself an impossible task in trying to have it removed?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Following from the answer I gave last week to the member for Melville, I was approached not only by him but also by other people in respect of this matter. It came to my attention that I had given him some incorrect information in that the approach I made to Canberra, along with other States, was to the effect that sales tax should not be imposed on those preparations, and apparently we were successful.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Cape Peron Pipeline: Submissions

109. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) How many submissions on the Cape Peron pipeline have so far been received by the EPA?

- (2) When is it considered that the EPA will bring down its report on the environmental review and management programme?

- (3) Will the report be made public, and when?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Some 540 submissions have been received to date.

- (2) The EPA will consider the ERMP and public submissions at a meeting on 22 April, and a report is expected shortly after that.

- (3) A decision will be made when the report is received.

GAMBLING: CASINOS

Illegal: Government Policy

110. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of statements by the member for South Perth to the effect that the police should immediately stamp out illegal gambling?

- (2) Is the member for South Perth enunciating Government policy?

The SPEAKER: Order! This question is inadmissible for obvious reasons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WANNEROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Municipal Inspector

111. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Wanneroo Shire Council has approached the Minister to provide a municipal inspector to review certain aspects of the council's operations?

- (2) If so, is such a municipal inspector to be provided?

- (3) If not, why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes, it is a fact that I received a letter from the Wanneroo Shire Council,

I think on Monday of this week, suggesting that I make available a municipal inspector to look at some, I think three, town planning schemes about which the council had some problems. I have not yet replied to the council's letter, but I can advise the House that my response most likely will be a request for the council to provide reasons that it wishes the investigation to take place, the reason being that it is not for my department to go through the council's business in the first instance to find out what problems exist. The council must advise me of the problems it is encountering. Once that information has been received by me in writing, I am sure my department will be happy to supply an inspector to check on the difficulties the council is experiencing.

HOUSING

Funds: Federal

112. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he satisfied that Western Australia is receiving its fair share of the \$300 000 set aside by the Federal Government on 19 March to publicise its so-called housing package?
- (2) If not, what representations has he made to the Federal Government to ensure that a more appropriate share of those funds is allotted to advertising that much vaunted scheme in this State?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) This question more properly should have been directed to the Minister for Housing, who is more closely involved with these matters. I am not sure of the amount allocated to this State, but I am quite happy to obtain the details for the member.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WANNEROO SHIRE COUNCIL

Land Sales: Procedures

113. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has she appraised herself of the procedures being followed by the Wanneroo Shire Council in disposing of land it owns?

- (2) If so, is she able to tell the House whether the shire is currently disposing of that land through proper procedures?
- (3) Has she looked at the procedures currently being followed by the shire compared with those followed by previous councils?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) The manner in which land is sold by a local authority is a matter for decision by that authority, governed always by the provisions that exist in the town planning scheme which covers that area and governed also by sections of the Local Government Act should they be applicable. There is no necessity for me to delve into procedures being followed by councils in an endeavour to seek information that is not rightly mine. When I receive a request from the Wanneroo Shire Council that I should seek the Governor's approval for land to be sold by private treaty, that request is examined as it comes forward. If it is in accord with the rules laid down, obviously I would accede to the request. If there is some difficulty—it may be that a valuation expressed by the shire to sell at a given price is not a valuation in accord with that given by the Valuer General, or if the valuation is one that is out of date—I would go back to the shire and refuse the application on the basis that I would need additional information before giving the matter further consideration.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Bunbury Power Station: Private Financing

114. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

I asked a question of the Minister last night and was simply told that it was no secret that the Government was negotiating with the Federal Government over the financing of the Bunbury power station. I wanted specific information. I ask—

- (1) What specific proposals have been put to the Federal Government for the private funding to build the Bunbury power station?
- (2) What has been the Federal Government's response to those proposals?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) I did not say last night that we were negotiating with the Federal Government; I said we were keeping the Federal Government informed about those areas in which the Federal Government has some influence—such as the taxation provisions—to ensure that the attitude it adopts to such things as the deductibility of leverage leasing arrangements—that does not necessarily apply here, but it is an example—to make certain how it affects the kind of package being put together will fit in—

Mr Grill: What package is being put together?

Mr P. V. JONES: —with the policy it has from time to time. I have no intention whatsoever—

Mr Grill: Of answering the question.

Mr P. V. JONES: —of giving the member for Yilgarn-Dundas the confidential details of a financial package still being put together. However, as for the involvement of the Federal Government I make it quite clear that there is no room for negotiating with the Federal Government as the member suggested.

Mr Grill: That's not what Sir Charles Court said earlier in the year. I have it in black and white.

Mr P. V. JONES: We can consult the Federal Government to ensure the way this thing is coming together will not cause difficulties for the package and the State, as occurred with the Eraring power station proposal in New South Wales.

