

With this very simple motion Mr Brown wipes off all those people who have gone down the gurgler. Somebody mentioned Payton's; I hope members read the answer which the member for Vasse, Mr Blaikie, got from the Premier about that company. He says, "We do not interfere with those sorts of things." As far as the Teachers Credit Society is concerned, he has. Let him wear it; do not let him distance himself from it; let him come out and say that he is doing it and that the Government is doing it. He should not hide behind David Fischer of the R & I Bank -- the man has enough on his plate as it is. In the final analysis it is the Premier who will be responsible for this State going down the gurgler, because this \$60 million -- I am only talking about this \$60 million; I am not talking about the Swan Building Society or anyone else -- is five per cent of what this State Government can raise in taxes in one year.

Hon P.G. Pandal: It is the equivalent of land tax for one year.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The Government cannot play around in this instance -- it will be five per cent of taxable revenue. This Government is being completely irresponsible and I completely and utterly refute this motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon G.E. Masters (Leader of the Opposition).

## APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

### *Consideration of Tabled Paper*

Debate resumed from 29 October.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.41 pm]: In rising to speak on this motion I believe I can make no better start than to refer to the opening paragraphs of maiden speeches of two very long-serving members of the South West Province. In August 1956, Hon G.C. MacKinnon said the following at the beginning of his speech --

This is a moment which I have anticipated with some terror. As one hon. member said the other day, members have all been through it; and the fact that they lived beyond the day of their maiden speech has given me courage.

Nine years later, in August 1965, Hon Vic Ferry began his maiden speech with the following words --

In rising on this occasion to support the motion, I am deeply conscious of the privilege I enjoy of being a member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. I am deeply aware of the many worthy members who have served in this Council over the years since its establishment; and, in my own humble way, I hope to be allowed through your indulgence, Sir, and that of the members, to contribute a little to the welfare of the province I represent and also to that of the State of Western Australia.

At this moment I can identify very closely with those remarks. While I am a little apprehensive of the size and scope of the task ahead of me I appreciate it as a unique opportunity in one's lifetime. I am equally looking forward to the hard work, stimulation and challenge which I expect the job to provide.

Before going further I would like to pay a tribute to Hon Vic Ferry, a previous member for the South West Province, whose retirement led to the by-election that I recently won. He served the State of Western Australia with loyalty and dignity for many years and in recent times he has been of great assistance to me. I sincerely hope that he enjoys a long and happy retirement.

I am very conscious of the uniqueness of this occasion as I will almost certainly be the last member for South West Province elected under the existing electoral boundaries. My co-tenant in this position, Hon Doug Wenn, and I will have a very small place in history as a result of the proposed changes to the electoral system. We will be the last members of the South West Province as we know it today.

The by-election was also unique because in all probability it will be the last election contested under the present boundaries and it was the last election to have an 8.00 pm closing of polling booths. While speaking of the by-election I am naturally delighted with the result and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the many people and organisations who

worked so hard, and in such a professional and efficient manner, to make sure that I would be standing in this place today making this speech. It was a fitting reward for a real team effort and it augers well for the future.

I must pass a large vote of thanks to my wife and two children who have given me tremendous love, support and encouragement in the past few years while I have worked to achieve my ambitions. In representing the south west of Western Australia, I am very conscious of the diversity of people, interests and industries which the area contains. My family have been in the south west for more than 100 years and were genuine pioneers of this part of the world. My father hand-cleared his own property at Yallingup from virgin bush and developed his farm and business from scratch. My mother came to Western Australia as a two-year-old with her parents, my grandparents, as part of the group settlement scheme. They were original group settlers at Tutunup and Willyabrup and are justifiably proud of their achievements.

One of the most interesting projects which I have undertaken recently is to record an oral history for the Batty Library with my grandparents who are now in their 90s, but who are still very active and fiercely independent. My grandfather provided much of my early interest in politics as he was involved in local government for 23 years and he often talked about dealings with famous political figures from the past such as Sir James Mitchell, Sir David Brand, Sir William Stewart Bovell and Mr John Tonkin.

I am fully aware that I am not only representing long-term residents from this pioneering past who have very traditional values, but also I am representing the new influx of people into the area. The population of the south west is growing very rapidly and the newer and younger generation have vastly different backgrounds and motives from many long-term residents. This not only sets up the potential for conflict, but also offers exciting new opportunities for the south west.

In a way I am a mixture of these two groups of people. Having been raised and educated around Busselton I am very well versed in the traditional values held by many in our society. I moved away from the area for a time to further my education, travel to other parts of Australia and the world, and to work and live in other localities. I came to appreciate the south west of Western Australia as one of the nicest places on earth in which to live. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work for the south west as its parliamentary representative.

The third group of people I represent in this House today are probably the most important. I refer to the young people who represent the future. As a parent, a school teacher, a sportsman, a community worker and especially as a youth education officer for five years, I believe that I have been able to establish a special rapport with young people and to recognise them as our most valuable resource. The youth in the south west are as creative and capable as any youth anywhere and the real challenge facing us is to allow that ability and creativity to manifest itself for the betterment of all mankind. I am confident this can be achieved despite problems associated with the lack of further educational opportunities locally and the many economic and social dilemmas confronting the younger generation.

The shortage of tertiary education available in the south west has been partly overcome by the establishment of the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education which has provided opportunities in the last few years for many to gain qualifications locally without having to go through the social traumas of moving away from home.

I would be very keen to see the institute's role expanded to include a school of tourism and hospitality studies and a nurses' diploma course. A nurses' diploma course has merit on several grounds. It would, for the first time, bring tertiary level nurses' training to the south west; it would add further substance to the Bunbury Institute by introducing another professional course which, so far, is available only in the city; it would mean that local people would avoid the need to leave home for nursing training; it would also add immeasurably to the number of qualified personnel available to the south west's health care system.

Tourism is increasingly being seen as the industry to lead the south west into an exciting era of growth and development. The multiplier effects of these advances would filter through the whole economy. The location of a school of tourism in the south west would be an

acknowledgement of it as a region which attracted the largest number of visitors of any country region, second only to the numbers attracted by the Perth metropolitan region. As well, the location of the new school in Bunbury would be a strong signal to the private sector of Government support for the region by providing the educational infrastructure. It would also help to develop the Bunbury Institute's credibility as a tertiary institution.

I was a little disappointed to hear just a few days ago that the institute's first attempt to establish this course for 1988 has faltered because only 12 applications were received and 20 were necessary to make it viable. This was undoubtedly due to the short time given to the institute to promote the course. I am sure it will be successful in the future.

While on the subject of tourism, it will receive a significant boost if a regional airport could get off the ground, so to speak. Currently a Government study is underway investigating the feasibility and possible locations of a regional airport in the south west. I would like this study to take on board experience gained in Ballina in northern New South Wales where the local authority, quite independently of the New South Wales Government, built a new airport for about \$2.2 million including land cost. This airport has dramatically and positively affected the town's economy by providing a boost for tourism and stimulating investment with the resultant increase in jobs and opportunities.

I believe a regional airport in the south west could have the same sort of impact, but planning for any future airport must closely take into account the opinions of local people and business people, as well as environmental considerations. The last thing we want is another insensitive heavy-handed approach like the Rosa Brook airport proposal. Recent investigations have confirmed my belief that these figures are realistic as comparable airports have been proposed for Mildura and Lovely Banks in Victoria, along the same lines as Ballina.

I am very pleased to claim some credit via the by-election for the Government's commitment of \$500 000 to the restoration of the Busselton jetty. The importance of this jetty to Busselton and surrounding areas as a focal point for the tourist industry has finally been fully realised by the local people as well as the Government. I welcome the \$500 000 with open arms as this will go a long way to restoring the structure as a promenade jetty. I am optimistic that arrangements can be made to cover the ongoing costs. I intend being part of a local committee which will be set up at a public meeting in Busselton on 19 November to oversee restoration plans.

Tourism and appropriate care for the natural resources about us are inextricably tied up in a way our community would have been unaware of a generation ago. In this regard I am very pleased to see sections of the Boranup karri forest and Ludlow tuart forest set aside as national parks. I see a need for the first comprehensive survey and maintenance plan for the south west caves system to be drawn up. It is an oddity that the importance of the caves has never been acknowledged in this way in recent history. The caves and their preservation appear to have escaped the attention of most people but it is now time to assess and redress the situation where appropriate.

As I have said before, I believe the south west is on the verge of an exciting era of growth and development, and correct management in this regard is very important. Input from local people and local authorities must be acknowledged as there is concern at present that many development ideas will be imposed by Government bodies and outside organisations in a heavy-handed way, ignoring local opinions, the environment and the people.

The south west area is far from short of its own ideas, and I would like to briefly share my knowledge of the Rural Initiatives Development Group based in Margaret River. The group comprises highly intelligent people, committed to exploring possibilities such as a buyers' cooperative, ethical investments, an appropriate technology centre, recycling, a local government study group and a local promotional centre. I share with them a growing concern about the power of large Government bureaucracies and threats to individual freedoms. The group is working hard to develop individual initiatives and not looking for Government handouts, so it deserves our support.

Many positive proposals are floating around involving the future of Bunbury as the State's most important regional city. Plans for the development of the city centre and proposals for industry will certainly enhance the area economically and aesthetically, if and when they

come to fruition. Unfortunately most of these plans are still on the drawing board or exist only on a glossy pamphlet, and Bunbury people are becoming increasingly cynical and sick of asking when these plans will actually happen, while every day they see development going past their door to Busselton, Dunsborough and Margaret River. I was, however, pleased to be part of the official welcoming party last Thursday for the new *Australind* train which will revolutionise rail transport between Bunbury and Perth, providing a modern means of transport for the businessman and the visitor.

One of the pressing needs of Bunbury and surrounding areas is for an entertainment and cultural centre. I am keen to pursue a plan put forward during the election campaign to establish a Bunbury cultural and entertainment facility trust fund to supplement State Government funding. The Commonwealth Government has been asked to make private contributions to this fund tax deductible along similar lines to a fund established in Canberra for the National Gallery. This concept offers much potential for local businesses or individuals looking to invest funds and preferring to do so in a local project. It may also be possible to extend this concept to a project such as the Busselton jetty which will require funding and continuous maintenance. I am sure the Government would find enough local investors who would prefer to put their money into something tangible such as an entertainment centre rather than something remote such as a movie or superannuation fund. All people need is the incentive, and I sincerely hope the Commonwealth Government goes along with the plan.

Despite the south west being referred to as the land of milk and honey by some people and as God's little half acre by others, I can assure members that all is not absolutely perfect as there are some storm clouds on the horizon. One of the darkest of these storm clouds is in the area of education, where I claim to have some knowledge having spent the bulk of my working life in this profession. I am distressed at the current level of discontent and disillusionment amongst teachers, students and parents in the Government education system in particular. These feelings of confusion and anger are associated with the changes linked to the Better Schools Programme -- I would suggest this title is a misnomer -- and the unit curriculum in secondary schools, which have been introduced without proper trial or research.

I am very concerned about the amount of political interference creeping into the education system. These changes have seen many capable, long-serving educators leave the system either voluntarily or otherwise into retirement, private schools or other employment. The system can ill afford to lose this expertise and is losing credibility in the wider community as a result. Already there are indications that serious problems exist in finding and funding the extra staff needed to make the unit curriculum in secondary schools work in 1988. If these problems are not quickly sorted out they will make a mockery of the hard work and dedication of many teachers in all schools around the State who have striven to have the unit curriculum in place and working by next year. I do not reject change and readily welcome some of the ideas behind the changes as relevant, but I am not convinced that the way these changes are being introduced will produce a better education system for our children, and that is the bottom line.

Another area of concern is the level of unemployment in the south west. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics only last week reveal disturbing trends. While unemployment figures State-wide show a marginal decline of 0.4 per cent from 53 800 to 53 600, between August 1986 and August 1987 the number unemployed in the south west and great southern has risen by 14.3 per cent from 6 300 to 7 200. The figures for females seeking work are even worse. Unemployment amongst females seeking work in the south west has increased from 7.2 per cent to 8.4 per cent, that is, from 2 300 to 2 600, despite an improvement WA-wide from 7.9 per cent to 7.5 per cent. These figures lead me to ask why the figures for this area are so bad in comparison to the remainder of Western Australia.

I sincerely hope the commitments made by the Government during the election campaign, totalling somewhere in the vicinity of \$75 million quickly become a reality to absorb some of this growing pool of unemployed people. I guess the one consolation, Mr President, is that I am advertising for an electorate secretary at the moment so I can expect lots of applications.

Ten to 15 years ago some scientists and conservationists were warning us about the dangers of using too many chemicals and of the damage to the ozone layer. These problems have

come home to roost and are very topical issues in the south west at the moment. Maybe we should have been listening a little closer in years gone by. With 155 farms in Western Australia -- most of them in the south west -- quarantined for high pesticide levels many farmers are facing financial ruin. The background to the problems has been well publicised and arguments will continue over the origins of the dispute having more to do with United States-Japan trade balances than dangerous pesticide levels.

[Questions taken.]

The PRESIDENT: I remind members that this is the honourable member's maiden speech, and it is because of this that I permitted what would appear to be a breach of Standing Order No 73 to occur. I suggest to the honourable member that later he read that Standing Order.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Thank you, Mr President. I was referring to the pesticides problem in the south west and the fact that 155 farms are presently quarantined and many of the farmers are facing financial ruin. The background to this problem has been well publicised and arguments will continue about the origins of the dispute having more to do with the United States-Japan trade balances than with dangerous pesticide levels, and also the morality of some farmers being in the situation, despite carefully following instructions issued by Government departments on the use of organochlorides or, again, simply because they were unlucky enough to have SEC poles running through their properties.

The Department of Agriculture is by all accounts doing a fine job in developing a certification programme which is helping to clarify the situation, but the fact remains that some farmers will go to the wall through no fault of their own. This will be the final insult for many rural communities which have fought the cost-price squeeze for some years now and have witnessed the social and economic decline of their communities.

The pesticides problem is a community problem, not just an industry problem, and it must be looked at seriously as the ramifications spread through the community. I do not believe in Governments using taxpayers' money to prop up private entrepreneurs operating in the high risk market, but I would have thought that if the Government could commit \$150 million of our money to Rothwells Ltd, surely it can provide a little more support for the farmers -- most of whom are individuals or are running family businesses -- facing ruin due to the pesticides problem.

Another dark cloud on the horizon in the south west is the increase in the crime rate. The south west has not escaped the general decline in standards of law and order. I will give some examples. Statistics indicate a general increase of 26 per cent in crime in the south west in the last two years.

Just breaking down those statistics a little, they indicate a 63 per cent increase in drug offences; a 159 per cent increase in unlawful use of motor vehicles; a 36 per cent increase in assaults and a 25 per cent increase in breaking and entering offences.

There must be a move towards a greater police presence and crime prevention. Hon Doug Wenn in his maiden speech in June 1986 also made mention of this problem and the need for a reasonable police presence. It must be disappointing to him, as it is to me, that there has been slow progress in overcoming these problems. As the father of two children soon to enter their teens, and as a person vitally concerned with safety for all ages in our society, I do not like the current trends and would welcome a higher priority being placed on crime prevention and other related issues, which would make our society safer and more enjoyable.

At the southern end of my electorate, the residents of Margaret River are asking when the hospital will be upgraded. Despite politicians coming and going, and mouthing platitudes for many years, there is still no firm commitment to a new Margaret River hospital. The present building is a disgrace and completely inadequate for an expanding community. In fact the population growth rate for the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River between the census years of 1981 and 1986 was a high 44 per cent. I am very surprised that the question of whether or not the community needs a hospital is still even considered. I would have thought the expansion in this area answered that question clearly a long time ago. The local residents and many visitors who flock to this area and use its facilities are justifiably annoyed at the delay and, I am sure, do not mind whether the hospital eventuates as the result of a private land swap or by some other means. They just want to see the bricks and mortar.

Another very dark cloud descending on the residents of Bunbury in particular, although its ramifications spread wider than the city itself, is the forced relocation of over 50 Telecom employees and their families. This represents over 150 people, and it will have a devastating effect on these people, many of whom own homes, have children at local schools and are an integral part of their communities. This is another example of centralism and is being done this time in the name of economic efficiency. I wonder whether the architects of the Lee report, which recommended these disruptions, have taken into account the human and social costs, not to mention the economic costs to a community that can ill afford to lose so many of its residents overnight. It makes a mockery of decentralisation and places in jeopardy Bunbury's status as a city when the heart of its service industries is ripped out. I was very pleased to see the Minister for The South West in yesterday's *The West Australian* come out in opposition to these moves. I will offer him all the support I can to reverse this move on the part of Telecom.

While I may appear a little pessimistic about some of the points just raised, I want to assure the House that in an overall sense I am very positive and optimistic about the south west of Western Australia. Like the vast majority of the population I live there because I want to, not because I have to -- and I want to work to make sure that the element of choice still belongs to the individual. The best way of doing that is to develop the incentives for individuals and groups to achieve their ambitions and to reduce the disincentives so prevalent today. We can do that by creating a climate of enterprise, which provides incentives rather than brick walls for people who want to have a go. I have always believed that ownership creates responsibility, and whether it is property or a problem, we are more likely to find the property well looked after or the problem solved if some individual or group will claim responsibility. As an example of this theme, one proposal we put forward during the by-election was for Homeswest tenants to be able to purchase their homes at a discounted value lower than the market rate after a qualifying period. This would not only provide the incentive for people to look after their homes, but would keep the Australian dream of owning one's home alive and well.

It is easy to be positive most of the time about the south west. As I intimated before, we have a wide range of primary industries based on agriculture, timber, fishing, horticulture and mining; we have a rapidly growing secondary industry base and we have a vibrant and expanding tertiary sector with tourism leading the way into the 1990s. These industries all use part of the natural assets which attracted people to this area in the first place. It is so very important for the future that we find the right balance and do not destroy these natural assets while seeking income and employment for people.

I would like to conclude by stating the principles which attracted me to politics and which I will do my best to uphold while I am a member of the Legislative Council. I have a firm commitment to individual liberties and deplore attempts to invade our privacy through mechanisms such as the ID card. I have a strong belief in the family unit, which is fundamental to the strength of our society and should be given every support. I fully support social justice for the genuinely needy but this does not extend to social engineering. I have a firm commitment to law and order and view the growing street violence and moral decay with concern.

Mr President, I would like to mention how humble and honoured I feel at being here to make this speech today. I am looking forward to serving this House and the State for some time to come and aim to earn that honour by being a diligent and effective member. Thank you.

Members: Hear, hear!

**HON H.W. GAYFER** (Central) [5.25 pm]: I would like to compliment Hon Barry House on the contribution he has just made to this place. I have already complimented him on a previous occasion on his preferment but I would like to add that the words he has just uttered will go down for time immemorial. Some of his speech might be held against him -- one never knows -- but I did not hear anything at all that he should be ashamed to put up. Certainly Hon Barry House comes from a long line of southerners and I think he will do credit to them and he will certainly follow in the wake of those illustrious people of whom he spoke in his address.

However, I would remind Hon Barry House and Hon Doug Wenn that I have often heard reference to the Margaret River Hospital. I have heard Hon Sandy Lewis and Hon Vic Ferry

