

- (1) **ECONOMY:** Jurien/Greenhead now 56 kms - proposed 25 kms. Jurien Cervantes now 54 kms - proposed 20 kms
Substantial potential savings on Petrol/Time/Freight/Pollution.
- (2) **SAFETY:** High and Primary School buses to Greenhead and Leeman travel on 17 kms of gravel road which is corrugated and dangerous.
- (3) **SPORTING INTERACTION:** School children and all clubs ie Aerobics, Basketball, Badminton, Cricket, Darts, Football, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Netball and Volleyball, would halve their travel time and costs, and reduce risks associated with travel.
- (4) **BUS SERVICE:** Currently travelling between Leeman, Greenhead, Jurien and Cervantes to Perth, twice a week, covers 421 kms each way; this would be reduced to 356 kms one way with the construction of the proposed road.
- (5) **EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Police, Fire Brigade, Doctor and Chemist based in Jurien, proposed road would greatly reduce their attendance time.

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

The petition bears four signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The **SPEAKER:** I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 14.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

BILLS (5) - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. **Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Repeal Bill.**
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr House (Minister for Primary Industry), and read a first time.
2. **Supreme Court Amendment Bill.**
3. **Acts Amendment (Ministry of Justice) Bill.**
4. **Judges' Salaries and Pensions Amendment Bill.**
Bills introduced, on motions by Mrs Edwardes (Attorney General), and read a first time.
5. **Metropolitan Region Scheme (Fremantle) Bill.**
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Lewis (Minister for Planning), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Debate resumed from 22 June.

MR OSBORNE (Bunbury) [2.44 pm]: Before I give my maiden speech may I add my congratulations to the many I am sure you, Mr Speaker, have already received on your election as Speaker. You may recall that we first met over 20 years ago and ever since then I have been impressed by your sense of fairness and respect for properly constituted authority. I am sure those qualities will enhance your contribution as Speaker of this Parliament.

The **SPEAKER:** Thank you.

Mr OSBORNE: The one regrettable blind spot you do have - your extreme devotion to the Claremont Football Club - and which we all endure in a spirit of liberal toleration, I am sure will not detract from your performance in this important position.

The SPEAKER: It was very good last Saturday.

Mr OSBORNE: It is a great honour to come to this Chamber as the member for Bunbury. The electorate of Bunbury has existed since the beginning of responsible Government in Western Australia. Its representatives have made a huge contribution to the history of this Parliament. It is also a great challenge to come to Parliament at such an important time in the history of this State when the reconstruction of both the economic and ethical foundations of Western Australia is before us. I view this challenge very seriously because of my great attachment to this State. I am a sixth generation Western Australian. I have lived and worked in rural Western Australia most of my life. My early, formative youth was spent in Denmark growing up on a group settlement farm. They were formative years because of the wonderful childhood I was given, and also because they contain my first experiences of the fundamental inadequacies of bureaucratic control and centralised planning. The group settlement scheme was an agricultural, financial and human disaster, and only those of unusual resilience and obduracy were able to survive. Of the scores of families that went to the group settlement scheme at Denmark only one, ours, still remains on the original farm after three generations and more than a dozen lifetimes of work. That, and the foresight and determination of my parents - Biddy and Fred Osborne - have put me in this position today.

Immediately before coming to Parliament I was the director of tourism for the south west region and the experience of working in this dynamic industry was also most important to me. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Liberal Party and the electors of Bunbury for the confidence they have placed in me as their parliamentary representative. Winning the seat of Bunbury at the election was essential for us in order for the coalition to form a Government. I will always count it as one of the great achievements of my life to have helped make this happen for the Liberal Party and the coalition. Credit for this success must also go to the more than 150 volunteers who worked on my campaign. Of these, I particularly wish to thank Mr Neville Eastman, my campaign chairman, and committee members Stephen Craddock, Greg Mason, Sylvia Griffin, Vera Guinness, Karen Gregory and Robert Rosewarne.

I must also mention my wife, Sue, who was here yesterday waiting in vain for this moment, and who through all the trials and tribulations of a very long and exhausting year was an unflinching source of encouragement and support to me.

The task of winning the seat of Bunbury was made almost impossible by the great popularity of the previous member, Mr Phil Smith, who was an extremely difficult opponent to defeat at the election. His record of service to the people of Bunbury over the last 10 years is outstanding, and I have dedicated myself to follow his example as a faithful and hard working servant of the people of Bunbury.

The electorate of Bunbury is centred on Western Australia's leading regional city and is the largest centre of population outside Perth. Bunbury is the capital of the south west region, which is clearly the most populous and most prosperous country region in Western Australia. Bunbury provides most of the south west's business, legal, health, and regional government services. It is the region's principal shipping centre with efficient and expanding port services. In the past, agriculture and timber production were the mainstays of Bunbury's economy. Today, the city's diverse economic base includes horticulture, beef production and dairying, plus important woodchip production and export facilities. Recent expansion has been based on the mining and processing of mineral resources, principally mineral sands, bauxite, coal and alumina. The Port of Bunbury symbolises much of what we should be striving for in Western Australia. It provides a first class, locally managed service for the export industries of the region which are central to our hopes of a prosperous future. It plans well ahead and even now it is engaged in multimillion dollar expansion which will ensure continued growth well into the next century. The Bunbury Port Authority is a national leader in moves to an integrated port labour force which has led to an outstanding industrial relations and labour productivity record. Labour productivity has risen between 12 per cent and 66 per cent for various cargoes, while stevedoring labour rates have been reduced by over 22 per cent from pre-IPLF days. The Bunbury Port Authority works to a bottom line; it makes a profit, and it fulfils its obligations to its work force.

Socially and economically Bunbury is a pointer to the future. It is well placed to expand its service provision to the tourism industry. It has a world-class niche manufacturing sector

which provides sophisticated equipment to the mining industry and it has a cohesive, multicultural society. The people of Bunbury have come to Australia from all over the world and they work and live together in a spirit of civic pride and cooperation. The continuation of business growth and an improvement in its profitability are essential if communities like Bunbury are to continue to provide more employment opportunities for their residents, further improvements to the quality of their lifestyles and support for the needy. Lifestyle improvements which I look forward to assisting include the Big Swamp Conservation Park, the Bunbury harbour and streetscape projects, continued progress with our backlog sewerage program, continued improvement to our recreational and sporting facilities, a greater level of attention to the serious deterioration of our inner city school buildings and the continuing efflorescence of cultural activities based on the Bunbury Arts Centre and Entertainment Centre.

In essence, I seek the reconfirmation of Bunbury's proper role as Western Australia's leading regional city. By the mid-1980s, as the regionalisation pork barrel was rolled out of Bunbury, the principles of a rationally targeted regional development process were abandoned and major elements of the Bunbury 2000 strategy were left to flounder. I believe the Government must restate the hierarchy of regional development centres based on developmental, and not political, criteria and then give sufficient attention to each in its turn to allow it to reach a point of critical mass and economic take-off. Bunbury then has the unique potential in Western Australia, among other things, to develop as an international trade centre for the products of the south west region. For example, I see great potential for a trade corporation based in Bunbury comprising private sector organisations which could pursue major industry opportunities in manufacturing, traded services, agriculture and minerals and energy to improve the south west's share in world markets.

In July last year I came to the end of an eight year career in tourism, one of this State's most forward looking and profitable industries. It is an industry from which I have drawn many of my lessons in business growth and the proper role of Government in that growth. In this latter regard I believe it is no coincidence that tourism is an industry which is characterised by relatively low levels of Government intervention and management on the one hand and high levels of growth, optimism and profitability on the other. Tourism is on target to become the world's largest industry by the year 2000. The economic benefits of tourism - its ability to generate external income, local employment opportunities, service provision and taxation revenue - are now well understood. It is also well understood that these benefits can be achieved with acceptable social and environmental costs.

We have given a commitment to tourism as a key economic area and I see four major services that the Government can render to this industry. The Government must establish a proper understanding of tourism's importance. It must prepare a strategic plan for the industry. It must establish and maintain a supportive economic environment, and then it must get out, and stay out, of the industry's way.

A White Paper defining our commitment should be prepared as a matter of first priority. This will send a strong signal across the whole range of Government operations that all programs must be developed with benefits and disbenefits to tourism taken into account. It will get tourism to the top of the agenda in places such as the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Land Administration, local government and the Department of Planning and Urban Development, where it has previously too often been misunderstood, disparaged or ignored. It should assign an exclusive role to the Western Australian Tourism Commission to lead the growth of the industry. Cohesion has recently been replaced by diffusion and overlap because of the entry of too many players into the tourism marketing role.

Recognition of the need for effective tourism planning has occurred in recent years as a result of the rapid growth of the industry in this State. A State tourism plan would provide, for the first time, a strategy for the future growth of the industry in Western Australia so there would be a rational and observable nexus between market research, planning, development and promotion.

A further important service the Government can render to the tourism industry is to maximise its profitability. This can best be achieved with the establishment of a range of prodevelopment conditions within a context of protection of the social, environmental and

community resources upon which tourism growth depends. These prodevelopment conditions include the provision of tourism planning and development guidelines; expenditure on Government's own responsibilities, including infrastructure, so as to encourage the development of the industry; management of the National Estate, including our rivers, farmlands and national parks, so that it goes on being a significant attraction for visitors to Western Australia; coordination of the industry through the Tourism Industry Association, the Country Tourism Association and the Tourism Commission; and the development of a system of supportive economic provisions which will enhance the performance of the industry, including the deregulation of the labour market, the progressive deregulation of air, sea and ground transport, and the removal of restrictive regulation where it currently exists.

Mr Speaker, at the outset I said that I was looking forward to being part of a Government which has the policies and the commitment to repair the damage recently done to our governmental and business institutions and I want to say something now about what this means to me. The cause I believe in here is to build a Government of enterprise and integrity. Many people still believe that private enterprise, whatever its practical merits, is a morally impoverished system. This is not true. The free market has probably been the most revolutionary force in history and no other form of economic organisation has so wonderfully enriched the societies in which it has operated. This is because there is more to the spirit of private enterprise than naked self interest; there is a significant moral element made up of two aspects, one liberating, the other constraining.

The liberating dynamic of business enterprise has been called "creative destruction". It is the impulse toward risk taking, invention and innovation. The other side of private enterprise is sometimes called the bourgeois ethic with the virtues of personal responsibility, prudence, thrift, diligence, punctuality and honesty. Both moral aspects - the liberating and the constraining - are essential to the success of business. Without a spirit of innovation and risk taking in business, the economy stagnates and without those workaday middle class values, private enterprise will become lawless and unstable. In our recent economic history, a good balance between these two aspects has been absent. Most recently, in the 1980s, we have experienced a decade of lawlessness and instability. Our challenge in the 1990s will be to restore the moral capital of the free enterprise system so that Western Australia can prosper once again. What is it then that a Government must do to institute a regime of enterprise and integrity in Western Australia?

Firstly, it must pursue policies of deregulation. Compared to other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, Australia has relatively high levels of economic and social regulation. We have one of the most restrictive labour markets in the world. Despite the fact that effective rates of protection have been lowered in recent years we still have some of the highest tariffs of the OECD group. Increasingly in recent years a cadre of social commissars has sought to direct the behaviour and opinions of Western Australians. There is no ideal solution to the problem of who should be telling people what to do; but, of the alternatives, I am convinced that politicians and bureaucrats do have the worst track records. The WA Inc scandals have certainly done nothing to inspire any faith in the public sector as an effective planner of the economy and people's lives. It is true that markets sometimes fail, but I think it has been proven that their only legitimate alternative - Governments - fail both more often and more spectacularly. The socialist contention that social ownership and regulation is inherently superior to private ownership and regulation is now obviously wildly at odds with the facts of Western Australia's recent history.

Secondly, we will retain our belief in the validity of the market as a decision making mechanism, because also plainly at odds with reality is the assertion that markets are wild and undisciplined. A market transaction is one entered into voluntarily and from which both parties expect profit. Negotiators would call this a win-win outcome. Its only alternative is a command transaction, a win-lose outcome. In my opinion in any given situation a large number of self-interested individuals without power over other people is infinitely more likely to come up with a just and mutually agreed result than would a few self-interested politicians and bureaucrats with power over other people.

No-one manages his own affairs without making some mistakes, but at least each person is a better judge of his own affairs than the most diligent bureaucrat. Therefore, a good Government expands the range of private choice as much as possible, while a bad

Government taxes heavily and over regulates in order to impose the ideas of a few people on the rest of the population. The facts are that market economies are prosperous economies; command economies are not, and liberal democratic societies are more pleasant to live in than are regulated societies. Our own national experience confirms this. During our recent experiment with a highly regulated economy, we slipped back from being the fourth richest nation on earth in the 1950s, to about the fifteenth richest now. The imposition of increasing levels of centralism and intrusion of Government has led to historically high levels of social dysfunction in this country.

Thirdly, in order to usher in a new age of enterprise and integrity, we must eliminate the politics of favouritism in Western Australia. Soon after I was elected, it was put to me that I should be ruthless in pursuing the interests of my electorate above all else. A syllogism was put to me which went this way: (a) Governments will always lose money; and (b) a member of Parliament is a lobbyist for his electorate, therefore, it is a member of Parliament's job to see that the Government loses its money in his electorate. I reject that proposition and I intend to devote my energy to ensuring that, as much as possible, Governments do not waste taxpayers' money in the first place and that parliamentarians get out of the business of trying to override the market on behalf of vested interests.

No Government has the right to give some of the money which it has taken from taxpayers, and which it holds in trust for them all, to selected private interests - as happened in this State in the 1980s when Western Australian Governments gave taxpayers' money to private banks and companies and paid excessive prices to wealthy insiders for their CBD properties. In addition to ending the "politics of favouritism" from now on, I look forward to the abolition of privileges which have been granted in the past. Our program of microeconomic reform will create a State whose people devote their energy to their work and the creation of real wealth and not to snooping around the corridors of power putting deals together for the benefit of themselves and their mates. As the "politics of favouritism" took such a hold in Western Australia during the 1980s it would be commonsense to remove as many of its causes as possible. This will include managing the exit of Government from business; so, finally, we should press on with our plans to privatise public sector enterprises wherever it is economically justifiable. Many of our public sector enterprises were established to supply goods and services where the market had declined to do so. They were then protected from competition so their political masters could avoid the electoral consequences of any failure to perform profitably. Unfortunately this has led to the featherbedding of public sector enterprise employees and the preferential use of their goods and services to favour sectional interests. As a matter of principle, we should privatise so that all consumers can enjoy the benefits of competition. We expect those featherbedded employees and their cross-subsidised customers to react violently to the clear sea breeze of competition. However, we must not fail in this duty, because while those who stand to lose are louder and better organised, those who will benefit are more deserving and more numerous.

Governments get into business to buy votes, but once in they are subjected to pressure and temptation. Too many people expect them to control services and prices to their advantage. For as long as the Government is in business, members of Parliament will be under pressure to meddle in the market on behalf of vested interests. The obvious answer is for Governments to get out of business so that parliamentarians can get on with their real job. If we can diligently pursue principles such as these in the years ahead, we will turn the corner into the next century having put this State back where it belongs - among the leaders of the liberal democratic, private enterprise societies of the world.

I conclude by reiterating my commitment to work for the future of Bunbury, the effective marketing of our tourism industry and the establishment of a Government of enterprise and integrity in Western Australia. Finally, I thank those members of both Houses of this Parliament who have shown me such courtesy and friendship since my election.

[Applause.]

DR LAWRENCE (Glendalough - Leader of the Opposition) [3.04 pm]: The Address-in-Reply debate obviously gives all members of Parliament an opportunity, particularly with a new Government, to reflect on the Government's program and its performance to date. I am sure no-one would expect me to do less. As someone put it to me, he had never seen a Government age so quickly. It was already about 20 years behind the times in its