

do not vote for the party to which those members belong. I know many people who support me personally, but in their own electorate they support the Labor candidate. I would be surprised if the same is not true of members who sit on the other side of the House.

It would be unfair for a person who supports a candidate on that basis suddenly to find his name listed on a register and be branded as a card-carrying supporter of a particular party. The Government is not dinkum about what it is doing and it has no heart in this fight.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (24)			
Dr Alexander	Mr Donovan	Dr Lawrence	Mr P.J. Smith
Mrs Beggs	Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Marlborough	Mr Troy
Mr Bertram	Dr Gallop	Mr Pearce	Mrs Watkins
Mr Bridge	Mrs Henderson	Mr Read	Dr Watson
Mr Carr	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr Ripper	Mr Wilson
Mr Cunningham	Mr Hodge	Mr D.L. Smith	Mr Thomas (<i>Teller</i>)
Noes (19)			
Mr Blaikie	Mr Cowan	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Fred Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Greig	Mr Stephens	Mr Watt
Mr Cash	Mr Hassell	Mr Thompson	Mr Wiese
Mr Clarko	Mr House	Mr Trenorden	Mr Maslen (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Court	Mr Lewis	Mr Reg Tubby	
Pairs			
Ayes		Noes	
Mr Evans		Mr Crane	
Mr Parker		Mr Schell	
Mr Grill		Mr Grayden	
Mr Taylor		Mr Mensaros	
Mr Tom Jones		Mr Lightfoot	
Mrs Buchanan		Mr Williams	

Question thus passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 18 May.

MR FRED TUBBY (Dale) [3.03 pm]: In speaking to the Address-in-Reply I wish to cover some issues currently of concern to people in the Dale electorate and then to touch on one issue of widespread concern in the State. Before doing so, however, I congratulate the new members for Ascot and Balga on their recent successes in the by-elections.

I thank members on both sides of the House for the courtesies they have extended to me in welcoming me to the Parliament. My sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to the staff and officers of the Parliament for their guidance and assistance. I am sure that all members appreciate the courteous and efficient manner in which these people carry out their duties. I hope that I never reach the stage of failing to acknowledge this level of assistance.

It is a great honour for me to succeed a member who had such a long and distinguished career in this place. Cyril Rushton is a man whom I respect most highly. He is loved and respected throughout the electorate he served so faithfully for 23 years. I also acknowledge the tremendous support and guidance he provided to me during the past four months. I have no doubt that he will continue to keep a keen eye on every move I make, before the electorate which he knew so well passes into the history books at the coming general election.

Speaking of things passing into history, I must admit to a slight feeling of pride in being able to contribute to the history of this place by being part of the first father and son combination to represent our party simultaneously. I have the greatest respect for my father, Reg Tubby, and know that in his quiet, honest and down-to-earth way he has made a significant contribution to the electorate of Greenough and to the State. I hope that I am able to emulate

his integrity, even if I am unable to emulate his quiet and polite nature. I presume that the fact that but for a few votes my mother, Marj Tubby, may also have been sitting in this place, has also been brought to the House's attention.

It also gives me a great deal of pleasure to observe that three members can now lay claim to representing the tiny and virtually unknown wheatbelt siding of Gutha. Unfortunately, one of our number strayed somewhere along the way and I now find her sitting on the opposite side of the House. Given her background and upbringing, however, I am certain that the member for Subiaco, Dr Carmen Lawrence, has already made and will continue to make a major contribution to the Parliament and our State. Having just come from a 22-year career in education, I wish her all the very best in her elevation to what has become a very beleaguered, embattled and demoralised Education Ministry.

Before speaking on the issues in Dale, it would be very remiss of me not to thank the electors of Dale for their support at the recent by-election. I know that many of my constituents were disillusioned and angry that the Government could not be bothered to field an official candidate, preferring instead to hide behind the coat tails of a so-called Independent. I am certain that this anger will continue to grow and will be fully manifested in the forthcoming general election.

I could have chosen to speak today on many issues affecting the Dale electorate. I have selected the four issues which appeared to cause most concern during the campaign leading to the by-election.

The first issue of concern is that of drainage in the foothills. Drainage and flooding problems on the scarp and foothills raised more concern during my campaign than all other issues combined. People living in these areas purchased land and built lovely homes, or purchased existing properties, only to find that their small slice of paradise becomes a raging torrent of water during our heavy winter storms. As further development takes place the watershed becomes more of a problem. This winter the problem has been further exacerbated by the bush fires which swept through large areas of Crown land along the scarp earlier in the year. The scarp above the suburb of Clifton Hills was a prime example during the recent downpours. The runoff from this area has been almost as effective as that achieved by a tin roof on a farm homestead.

I submit to the House and to the Minister for Water Resources that because of the Crown land watershed the flooding problems along the scarp are in the main Government problems which require Government solutions. The task is beyond the resources of the Armadale City Council and it would be a gross injustice if the residential properties in this area were rated in order to control the runoff from Crown land.

The second issue is that of the corridor plan. This issue, especially in the hills and foothills areas, relates to my previous point. If the Government decides to accept recommendations in the report dealing with the infilling of the corridors, our drainage problems in these areas will become even more significant. With every roof that goes up and every bitumen road that is constructed we are increasing the area of watershed. In my opinion the time to solve this problem is during development. If it is done properly, blocks will be priced so far out of the market that nobody will be able to afford their purchase. I have to look no further from my electorate than to areas of Gosnells and Maddington for examples of areas which have already been zoned for residential development but which remain untouched for precisely this reason.

Apart from possible drainage problems I am also concerned that the whole character of our city will be detrimentally and irreversibly changed if we start infilling the green belts and special rural areas between the corridors. Many people in these areas have established beautiful homes and properties and a way of life that is becoming more attractive as life becomes increasingly more hectic. It is not sufficient simply to say to these people that if they wish to continue their lifestyle they will have to sell up and move further out. I fully realise that under the current planning scheme land for high density residential development near Perth's centre is becoming scarce. However, the infilling of the corridors is not the solution.

In my opinion decentralisation is the solution, and if there is an economic cost in the provision of transport and services to the increasingly lengthening corridors I feel it is a cost

we should be prepared to pay. In the long term it will be an insignificant price to pay in comparison with the social and environmental aspects associated with the huge, sprawling, densely populated, polluted city whose character would become indistinguishable from all the other cities in the world.

My third point is on the issue of road improvements: Four roads in my electorate are dangerous and badly in need of attention. First and foremost is the South Western Highway which is developing an atrocious record for fatalities. The following article was printed in an Armadale edition of the *Comment News* on Tuesday, 17 May -

CRASH! SAME OLD STORY

The intersection of Watkins Road and South Western Highway at Mundijong was the scene of another car accident last week when three cars piled up at about 11am on Wednesday.

The cars involved - a Holden Gemini, Toyota Hilux four-wheel drive and a Ford Falcon - were all travelling south along the highway and were apparently trying to avoid a car turning right into Watkins Road.

There is no feeder lane for cars making right-hand turns into Watkins Road.

The occupants of the vehicles had minor injuries and were admitted to Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital for observation.

The accident comes just two weeks after a front page story in *Comment News* described that section of the highway as a death stretch.

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale has asked that the Main Roads Department upgrade what it claims to be a very hazardous stretch of road.

Four people were killed in an accident at the Watkins Road intersection earlier this year and local residents are witnessing near misses between vehicles almost every day.

A Main Roads Department spokesman said they would investigate the stretch of road for the council.

This is a major highway in dire need of attention. A quick short-term solution would be the installation of regular passing lanes and turning lanes on the major side roads, similar to those constructed on Albany Highway.

Two dangerous and badly constructed roads regularly used by constituents in the southern part of my electorate are the Boddington - Dwellingup road and the North Dandalup - Mandurah road. The former is used by local residents and tourists, and the latter by local residents and Alcoa employees who commute from Mandurah each day. I hope that the responsible Minister will take cognisance of my remarks with regard to all three of these major roadways.

The fourth road I wish to mention is currently outside my electorate, but services some of my constituents; that is, Mills Road which comes down the face of the scarp to connect Roleystone with the Tonkin Highway. This road, which is heavily utilised by Roleystone residents, is situated within the Gosnells City Council area and the major users live within the Armadale City Council area. As this House can appreciate, the Gosnells ratepayers are reluctant to upgrade a road whose main users pay rates to another council. In this situation there is a strong case for Mills Road to be brought under the auspices of the Main Roads Department.

The fourth electorate concern I wish to mention today is the rare earth plant at Pinjarra. I fully realise that the Government is awaiting a report from the Environmental Protection Authority before making a final decision on the establishment of this plant. On behalf of my constituents, I wish to submit strongly that they are overwhelmingly opposed to both the establishment of this plant and the transportation of products and waste through the electorate. Whether or not the report gives an all clear, the population of my electorate has already developed the perception that it will cause severe problems in a range of areas, including air pollution, water pollution and transportation. The Government and the company will be hard-pressed to convince them to the contrary and, if these people are echoing feelings within the wider community, I submit that this Government is in a very

dubious position. From a personal point of view I seriously question whether the number of jobs likely to be created and the limited income to be derived for our State are sufficient justification to proceed in the face of possible long term environmental problems and the high level of opposition being expressed throughout my electorate.

Government members would be well advised to hear what I am saying because I have fronted two very large and quite hostile meetings in Serpentine and Dwellingup on this issue and, due to the absence of any Government politicians, had to carry a good deal of the flak. Perhaps, on reflection, if I had been a member of the Government, I would have stayed away as well.

I now wish to address a general issue, which is near and dear to my heart and in which I have been involved for the past 22 years; that is, education. However, before doing so, it is incumbent on me to establish my background in order to give credibility to the comments I shall make. I very much doubt whether too many people in this House can lay claim to being brought up in a tent for the first two years of their lives as their parents battled to make a productive farm out of a partly cleared and run-down property. Perhaps it was this rather elementary start in life which spurred me to later leave the family farm and take up a manual arts course at Claremont Teachers College. Following graduation I taught all the various trades in district high schools for three years before switching to science teaching for a further three years and eventually to the primary service where promotional prospects looked considerably brighter. I have been promoted right through the primary service, in the course of which I have lived in nine different communities before coming to Perth three and a half years ago. During my country service we lived in four different mining communities and five wheat-belt communities ranging in size from a two-teacher school in the heart of Cowan country, Mt Walker, to one of the larger wheat-belt towns of Merredin.

To say that I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my former career would be an understatement. My wife and I joined wholeheartedly every community in which we lived. We worked hard and we came to know and respect people from all walks of life over a vast area of our State.

I have a degree in education and am a member of many professional bodies, including the Australian College of Education. Prior to my election to this House, for two years I was the Junior Vice President of the Western Australian Primary Principals Association.

In 1979, while I was principal of the Koorda Primary School, our education system was opened up to the rest of the world by the then Director-General of Education, Dr David Mossenson, as a contribution to the WAY 1979 celebrations. During the course of that year many conferences were undertaken and distinguished educators from a range of countries toured schools throughout the State and literally placed our system under their professional microscopes. In this exercise our system came through with flying colours. Our visitors were amazed at the quality of education, the professionalism of the teachers, the quality of our school buildings and the resources being used within classrooms. They were surprised even more at the degree of equity to be found in all schools from the most remote of our country schools to any school in the metropolitan area. They were also very taken with the services provided by the Distance Education Centre and the Schools of the Air. Many of our ideas, methods and innovations were taken on board for possible implementation in other parts of the world. Less than 10 years ago we had a unique system of education in this State which had been developed over many years to suit the nature of our huge land mass and unevenly distributed, small population. It was a system which was working well and from which other countries could learn a thing or two.

Today, after five years of the grossest political interference, our State school system is in a state of crisis. Teachers and principals are demoralised and many are leaving the service. If it were not for the tight employment situation they would be escaping in droves. Students are taking unprecedented strike action and our educational standards are being slammed by wide sections of the community. School maintenance and minor works programs are a sham and once-great educational regions have been parochialised into small, insular and less cost effective districts. I could speak at length in many areas, but on this occasion I will restrict myself to four.

The first is the change which has been made to tertiary entrance. Instead of having to achieve a high aggregate mark spread over five subjects, the minimum has now become

three. Unfortunately, many students are opting for the minimum and, in order to gain their certificate of secondary education, are selecting three less onerous, non-TEE subjects to make up their Year 12 courses. Students who spread their time over five or six TEE level subjects are being severely penalised against those students concentrating on the bare minimum of three. A few nights ago on one of the television channels two Year 12 boys were discussing this point. One had decided to drop maths II and III so that he could concentrate on the easier general maths I. The other boy intended to persist with maths II and III to gain a broader background, even though he knew he would be at a serious disadvantage. At a time when Australia is trying to expand into new high-tech industries it seems appalling to demean the requirement for tertiary entrance to this degree. Where is the pursuit of excellence? Where is the incentive to make sure our tertiary students have a broad, solid base on which to build? As a former educator and father of a son currently involved in year 12 study I find this situation utterly appalling. When the TEE results are published at the end of this year and tertiary selections are made, the general public will fully realise the magnitude of this major change.

The second topic I wish to cover is just as disastrous, but it will have an even more significant impact as it involves all children proceeding on to secondary education and not just those hopeful of entering a tertiary institution. This is, of course, the new unit curriculum. I will not go into any great detail on this system as I am sure that most members have a basic understanding of it, either from first hand experience with their children or from the widespread media coverage it has attracted. For my purposes today, it will suffice to say that all secondary schools have broken up traditional subject areas into term or semester length units. These units are of varying intensity and students are able to select, with some school initiated restrictions and guidance from counsellors, units to suit their interests and abilities.

In principle, this system has much to offer. It is the conversion of this principle into practice that has placed our secondary schools in a state of crisis. For the past 12 months our secondary teachers and administrators have been placed under the most appalling stress in trying to implement such a major change within such a short time span. Imagine the work load as every secondary school attempted to develop courses for the up to 200 units to be offered. That they were able to achieve that speaks volumes for their dedication and professionalism. However, this is only the first year and, if this House considers the furore that took place at the beginning of this year is over, members are in for a surprise.

As children progress through the system their courses become more diverse and the level of resources required increases significantly. In my opinion, this year has been a pipedream compared to what will come in 1989 and 1990. Once again, I have both a professional and a personal interest in this major initiative as I have a daughter suffering the unit curriculum in year 9. Like many people out in the community I hold this Government responsible for the disruption and disorganisation of my daughter's secondary education and, once again, I would not like to be in the responsible Minister's shoes when all the chickens come home to roost on this little lot.

My third topic is intended to give the new Minister for Education a little professional advice on an area currently under consideration; that is, the Report on Languages Other Than English, or LOTE. In simple terms, we need LOTE, especially in the primary schools, as badly as we need another hole in the head. The proposal is to introduce a wide range of languages into schools which, in the case of years one to seven, would constitute 60 minutes of study each week.

Teachers do not have the time to do everything that is expected of them now, without taking another hour out of every week. Continuity for transferring pupils would be impossible due to the number of languages under consideration, and the cost of providing teachers would be astronomical. If the Government is so flush with funds that it is even considering this proposal, can I suggest an alternative in the language field? Surely these funds could be better expended on the English As a Second Language program to ensure that our new immigrants gain a quicker and better understanding of our language. Perhaps more resources could be poured into improving the English literacy and grammar skills that our tertiary institutions are currently finding to be so abysmal. Any of these suggestions would be of far greater benefit to our children than would the adoption of the recommendations made in the report under consideration.

Finally, I come to the issue which, in the long term, will be more detrimental to our system of education in this State than all other issues combined. This, of course, is the destruction and politicisation of what was previously known as the Education Department. Along with many of my colleagues, I fully realised that some minor changes to the department were in order. However, to dismantle completely a system which has been gradually developed over 70-odd years to cope with our State's unique situation was, at the very least, irresponsible.

At the end of last year some 1 000 years of accumulated educational experience were lost to our State's education system. Specialist educators have been thrust into areas of responsibility about which they have absolutely no knowledge or experience. People from other walks of life have taken over key positions in the professional side of the Education Ministry and very junior, inexperienced people within the system have been promoted way beyond their level of understanding and competence. Senior, experienced personnel have been sidestepped or demoted because their knowledge or experience may have been an embarrassment to the new senior staff.

The various subject areas within the curriculum no longer have senior staff responsible for their oversight. I could not express their loss as succinctly as a group of concerned parents and teachers did in an insert in *The West Australian* of 3 March 1987, as follows -

THANKS to secondary subject Superintendents of Education for your selfless dedication to our children and teachers over many years. Your clandestine removal was without honour. Education in this State has been dealt a body blow. Like a ship without a pilot, we will miss your wisdom, concern and guidance.

A year or so ago the Churchlands Senior High School concert band came second in an international competition in Europe. Many other high schools have offered similar opportunities to their students and the primary schools' music program was really starting to become effective. All this will now run down as the Music Branch, which financed, directed, and hired instruments and coordinated these programs is no longer.

Similar treatment was meted out to the Education Support Branch, the Guidance Branch, and the Early Childhood Branch. Without the drive and specialised expertise necessary for their coordination these excellent programs will simply wither away. No doubt under the new structure some schools will continue to excel in certain areas where parents and the community have the drive and finances to propel them. However, the equity of our system has gone. The poorer, rural, and remote schools will all be the losers.

Our State education system has come a long, long way since those heady days of 1979 but, unfortunately, during the past five years it has all been downhill.

If the Government cannot accept what I have said today, I challenge its members to open their eyes and take a good, hard look at what they have created. I also challenge them to open their ears so that they can hear what principals, teachers, the Teachers Union and the community are saying about our State education system.

Finally, after 22 years in education, it saddens me to the quick to realise that it is the destruction of our State school system that will play such a significant role in the fall of this Government at the forthcoming election.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House).

GERALDTON MID-WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

MR CARR (Geraldton - Minister for Regional Development) [3:28 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority to plan, coordinate and promote the economic and social development of the Geraldton mid-west region of WA.

In 1986 the State Government accepted a recommendation of the Geraldton Mid-West Regional Development Advisory Committee and the regional grouping of municipal councils