

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 14 April 1981

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 8 April.

**THE HON. P. H. LOCKYER** (Lower North) [5.19 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply debate always provides an opportunity for members to speak on virtually what they like, and I will act no differently from any other member. I have a number of varied subjects on which I will take the opportunity to speak tonight.

Firstly, I support the Governor's Speech and the way he presented it. Secondly, I support the motion moved on the opening night by the Hon. Neil McNeill. He did a fine job. I cannot help but define the Opposition's criticism of the opening ceremony as something with which I personally cannot agree. In this day and age I believe we by no means have enough such pomp and glamour.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: What age do you think it comes from?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I thought the ceremony was good. Hearing comments from the Hon. Peter Dowding, I must say he has no pomp and glamour.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Do you have pomp and glamour?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I do not support the Opposition in its stand and the mean attitude it took towards the opening ceremony. However, I am not surprised by its attitude. Over the years we are quite accustomed to the miserable stand the Opposition takes on these kinds of subjects.

This afternoon I was distressed to hear that our good friends, the hostesses employed by MacRobertson Miller Airlines, Ansett Airlines of Australia, and Trans-Australia Airlines have chosen to go on a 24-hour strike from midnight tonight.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Red hostesses.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: The member for the North Province probably does not realise that tomorrow is the term break-up for most of the

boarding colleges in Perth. A great number of school children who would normally enjoy a trip home to see their parents and loved ones after some considerable time will not now, thanks to those young ladies, be able to take that privilege. I believe every decent-thinking person in this Chamber will join with me in condemnation of this action by a handful of irresponsible people.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Are hostesses irresponsible?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am a person who travels consistently with MMA, and always I have found the hostesses of that particular airline to be very responsible.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You have put it in *Hansard*.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I will circularise the statement. The hostesses have told me about the Hon. Peter Dowding's frequent behaviour on aeroplanes.

### *Point of Order*

The Hon. PETER DOWDING: I raise a point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement on the basis that there is no base in rumour or substance on which he might base that appalling assertion about me. It is typical of his gutter mind.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: You took exception to it but he did not say whether it was good or bad behaviour.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We heard what he said.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the Hon. P. H. Lockyer to withdraw the comment he made in regard to the Hon. Peter Dowding, and I ask the Hon. Peter Dowding to withdraw the comment he made in describing the Hon. P. H. Lockyer.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: In the spirit of the President's direction I withdraw the remark. I am sorry I touched a sensitive nerve.

The Hon. PETER DOWDING: The member put forward mistruths in the House. I withdraw the statement that he has a gutter mind.

The PRESIDENT: If the honourable member continues to use that type of language his own position in the Chamber today will be fairly temporary. I call the Hon. P. H. Lockyer.

### *Debate Resumed*

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Why don't you step outside the House and say it?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the Hon. Peter Dowding to refrain from interjecting. Perhaps the

Hon. P. H. Lockyer can continue his speech without making reference to other members.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Untrue reference.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I assure the honourable member that if I step outside the House it will not be to have a conversation with him.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Macho man!

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: He is making threats of physical violence.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Yes, it is physical violence now.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I will return to the subject of the hostesses.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I assure members that some of the hostesses must love the Hon. Peter Dowding although such hostesses must be in the minority.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: That too is a fairly stupid remark to make.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I call on the hostesses from MMA to cast aside the direction by irresponsible union officers to strike for 24 hours from tonight. I ask them to continue in their positions tomorrow so that school children from rural areas can return to their homes.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I am sure they will.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am sure the Hon. Bill Withers who is well versed in matters concerning the north knows the heartbreak—I do not use the word “heartbreak” lightly—

The PRESIDENT: I ask honourable members to cease their interjections or audible conversation, whatever category their words may fall into.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I call on the hostesses to give these kids an opportunity to get home to see their loved ones. It is very difficult for some of these children who have been away from school for the very first time; they have looked forward to returning home tomorrow. I do not know what is going on in those kids' minds as the news breaks to them at these colleges that they will not be able to return home for Easter.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: How do you know the airlines are not to blame?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: If the airlines are to blame then I call upon them to join in the spirit of my remarks. The information I received before my entering the Chamber was to the effect that hostesses and stewards from all airlines, not just

MMA, will go on strike because of a pay claim that cannot be settled. I do not want to enter into whether the pay claim is right or wrong; however, tomorrow or any time over the Easter period is an inappropriate time for these people to go on strike. If the Hon. Peter Dowding is happy that the children of his constituents will not be able to return home for Easter, be that as it may.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: That is another disgusting statement.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I believe the strike is wrong. Many people will be affected by it.

I will change the subject. I am sure members are pleased about that. My next point concerns alcoholic drinks, which is a subject dear to many members' hearts. I am concerned about the reports I have read in the newspapers and what I have heard through the media that again in the coming Federal Budget the poor old drinker will be hit.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Some of the young drinkers too for that matter.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: The price of liquor to the ordinary person on the street—I class myself in that category—is reaching the point of unreasonableness. It is not right to say that people who drink liquor are alcoholics, and it is not right to say that all people drink and then drive. Surprisingly a great number of people who go to a bar enjoy a glass of beer. I am one of those people, and I am sure many other members enjoy a glass of beer.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: At last we are on common ground.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am glad the Leader of the Opposition agrees with me, and that we are on common ground. Hotel proprietors are concerned about their decreasing sales. When profits drop staff are laid off, and the whole situation is not good. I believe bulk beer sales by the Swan Brewery, the only brewery in Western Australia, have fallen by 20 per cent.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is every brewery in Australia.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Yes, every brewery in Australia. I have no fear that people are not now drinking and then driving as much as they were, as I am equally sure the average citizen who previously enjoyed a glass of ale or an evening simply is not able to do so now, not for the reason that he will have to drive home, but because he cannot afford it. I think the time has long come to leave this luxury alone in regard to taxes. If it is so important that luxuries be taxed

why do we not tax sugar and salt because they do just as much harm to us?

I was distressed to hear that Robert Holmes a Court made \$16 million through a tax loophole. Would it not be better for the Federal Government to close that loophole instead of increasing the price of beer?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Hear, hear!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Tonight the Leader of the Opposition asked a question of the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife and it concerned the Blowholes area near Carnarvon. Once again he and I are on common ground.

For those members who are not familiar with the Blowholes, I indicate that they are a very popular tourist resort some 35 miles north of Carnarvon. For a great many years the area has been popular with the locals and tourists for the sport of diving and amateur rock lobster fishing. As probably some members are aware, the rock lobster season in the south has been appalling this year, and the myth that the lobsters in the Carnarvon area would not go into pots has been exploded. Professional fishermen have suddenly discovered that if they put pots in this area they will obtain a considerable number of crayfish. This aspect might not be important to most members, but to the people of Carnarvon the situation is diabolical. The professionals have moved into this small area which encompasses the length of the coast for some five to six kilometres by one kilometre wide.

I will give the Minister his due. He went to Carnarvon to investigate this matter and discussed it with the amateur fishermen; but we have been unable to convince him that this should be made a restricted area. This time I make the plea in the Parliament that the Minister reconsiders the situation which is at present not good. Professional fishermen with large boats are fishing close to the shore where, especially at weekends, many amateur divers are enjoying their sport, thus mixing it with the operations of the professional fishermen. At times at the Blowholes the situation between the amateurs and the professionals has been almost explosive.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: That is good; the situation at the Blowholes is explosive!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It will damage the tourist industry in Carnarvon!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: A confrontation between the amateurs and the professionals has been avoided only by responsible action on both sides. Mr Dans is quite right. The situation is not good. It is the only recreational spot close to Carnarvon where tourists and locals can indulge

in their sport and I feel professional fishermen having fished out many of their own areas, are now taking advantage of the situation at the Blowholes, an area they could well and truly leave alone. A confrontation obviously is looming and am very worried about the situation.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Are they breaking the law?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: No. This is the sad part. However, they are breaking the moral law.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Cut it out!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: The locals and tourists have been frequenting this area for many years and there is nothing they can do about the present situation. A reserve must be established in the area.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: There is a two kilometre by two kilometre reserve—a big area.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It may be a big area in the Minister's opinion, but he would not get a soul from the area to agree with him.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How much is the rock lobster industry worth in the area?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I know it is a lot.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: It is worth \$60 million.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: What is the tourist industry worth?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: People's recreational activities cannot be measured in dollars or be completely disregarded. If a whole heap of other areas were available, I would agree that a reserve around the Blowholes should not be established; but no other areas are available.

I cannot go along with the opinion that a two kilometre by two kilometre area is enough. That reserve does not encompass what is known as the Fitzroy Reef which is the most important part as far as the diving community of Carnarvon is concerned.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you think the amateurs would reciprocate by giving up their operations in traditionally professional areas in other parts of the State?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I cannot speak for the rest of the State. I can speak only for the people of Carnarvon who I know are not happy with the situation. They believe this is their own area which they have been frequenting for years but now it is being attacked by professionals for the first time.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: It is a good local member who points out such a problem.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: It is not fair to use the word "attack". You have represented them very well, but I do not think "attack" is the right word to use.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I have no doubt that the large rock lobster consortiums have put their views to the Minister, but I am sure that he, being the wise man he is, will give further consideration to the establishment of a much bigger reserve.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: After two weeks you will be giving each other a kiss!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It will be nicer than kissing the Hon. Peter Dowding!

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Whilst on the subject of fishing in the Carnarvon area, I wish to state that the Blowholes situation is not the only problem which exists, and as my fellow member, the Hon. N. F. Moore, is out of Australia on parliamentary business, once again I would like to raise the question of snapper traps which are used by the professional fishermen when the season becomes uneconomical or ends in the southern region. This has happened to the fishermen in the Shark Bay and Carnarvon areas and has been a bone of contention for many years and I am happy that the Minister has given an undertaking that a study will be made with regard to this problem.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: It is about to start this month.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I sincerely hope this particular study does not take too long and that the snapper industry is not ruined before it has finished. The flesh of the fish that come from the traps is inferior and I would hate to think that the snapper from the Carnarvon and Shark Bay areas would get a bad name because of this type of fishing. Therefore, the sooner the study is completed and a ban applied, the better.

I will turn now to Joe Berinson's favourite subject; that is, electoral coverage and reform.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: And justice. Don't forget that.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I can tell members the electors in my area have had a gutfull—that is the best word I can use—of the Labor Party's antics on this subject. It never ceases to amaze me that people who have no knowledge of the northern and remote areas say they have 17 times more say than have the people in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. Peter Dowding interjected.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: This is total claptrap.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: It is a fact.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: No, it is not. These people have just as much right to be represented by members of Parliament as have the people who can ring up their member with a 10c call in Perth.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: So are my constituents, and they are over three times as many.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am glad to know the Hon. Peter Dowding has some constituents.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You would not know.

The Hon. G. C. McKinnon: Don't be too hard on them. Their State Executive gave them a bad time last night.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: A very bad time.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We had quite a good time.

The Hon. Peter Dowding interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I would hate to disappoint members, but I would like to quote from *Hansard* of 26 October 1965, when a former Labor Premier (the Hon. F. J. S. Wise)—

The Hon. Peter Dowding interjected.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: —made this statement—

The Hon. Peter Dowding interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the Hon. Peter Dowding to cease his continual interjections by which he is endeavouring to disrupt the House. Unless he ceases I will immediately invoke the provisions of Standing Order No. 106. I will not warn him again.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Thank you, Sir. I refer to the Hon. F. J. S. Wise's statement when he was discussing the Electoral Districts Act Amendment Bill which gave an additional seat to the Legislative Assembly and also universal franchise to the Council. He said—

I am not suggesting we will endeavour to do something about it at this stage because it would need considerable adjustment and variation to Acts more recently passed than the last redistribution Act; . . .

However, with all its faults and with all its minor prickles I can see no reason to oppose

it. I do not propose to move an amendment to it and I support the second reading.

On 19 October 1965, on page 1570 of *Hansard*, Mr J. T. Tonkin, later a Labor Premier of this State—and he served the State with great distinction—said—

I do not quarrel with that basis of representation in Western Australia, because this is a very vast State; the people in the outback have communication difficulties; their community of interest is different; and therefore I have no objection to their having a louder voice in the government of the country than the person in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Seventeen times as loud?

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: The Labor Party screamed about it when it had the northern seats.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It is quite wrong of members of the Labor Party to whinge constantly on this subject. They are not being supported in the country areas. The people up there have disadvantages, but they are entitled to their representation. The argument that the Opposition submitted was quite weak.

A Government member: Anyone with disadvantages should have better representation than the people with advantages.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Is it not a fact that your province has a loading of four to one?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am concerned at times when people criticise our internal airline service; that is, MMA or Airlines of Western Australia, by which it will be known shortly. I am concerned because of the beatings of people who have no knowledge of the operations of this type of company. They say that TAA should be encouraged to provide—in fact it is that company's right to be providing—a parallel service to Karratha and Pt. Hedland.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You are at variance with the Federal members.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Have no fear; if I think something is affecting my electors, I will be at variance with anyone, even the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It seems strange.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: The Leader of the Opposition is not allowed to do that sort of thing in his party.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Who said that?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am concerned about the beatings of these people because if members of TAA are able to provide a parallel service it is quite clear that the smaller airports will be cut out. In my mind there is no question of TAA joining with MMA and making calls at Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Carnarvon, and Broome. There is no question about that. They want to scoop the cream off the top; that is, Karratha and Port Hedland. There is no question that MMA is making a substantial profit out of the Karratha-Port Hedland-Darwin run. Of course it is; but it is subsidising a very important vast area of our State to receive a top jet service. What will happen is that we will hear the excuse put up by those concerned that TAA should compete with MMA in Karratha and Port Hedland. We will hear the excuse that the service to smaller ports should be let out to commuter airlines or that someone should do it more cheaply. There is no question of that. It always is dearer.

There is no question that in some areas—through Meekatharra, Wiluna, and even Yeelirrie—the smaller aircraft provide a good service. The small planes are good, but they are much dearer. The cost to MMA is substantially higher now—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: But didn't MMA withdraw from those?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Yes, but MMA was quite wrong. I am saying that MMA withdrew during the time before the boom started in the north and MMA was no longer able to carry the service. It carried some, but certain ones would not be making a big dollar. I travel regularly from Carnarvon to Perth and I find that often not many people are on the planes. I am aware that the Hon. Bill Withers and others have the same problems with light loadings.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: They vary.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I submit it would be far better for those people who mean well, to encourage MMA to provide smaller jets to service these small airports.

I do not know that this is the answer.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Probably it is not economically possible.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: If we are to encourage TAA and other airlines to run services to places such as Karratha and Hedland, it is inevitable that these small airports will be crushed. The people will end up paying higher fares. Once people are used to a jet service, they see it as a backward step if they are asked to travel on small aircraft.

When I am driving around Perth in my car, occasionally I turn on the radio. There are several talkback shows on at around lunchtime. Libby Stone has a programme on the ABC, and this programme goes to the north as well. She seems to do a reasonably good job. The other day, while I was driving to a friend's funeral, I happened to tune in to Bob Maumill on 6PR, and I heard one of the worst exhibitions I have heard for a long time. The executives of 6PR, including Mr Watts and Mr Martin, should really listen to this fellow.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He has a very high rating.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: He may have, but he sounded like a rude slob. He got stuck into royalty and while I admit that is his right, his language left a lot to be desired, and he was attempting to force his dreadful opinions down the throats of the people listening. The programme was substandard.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You could turn him off you know.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Well, that is correct. I did not turn him off because I was very surprised that this type of thing was allowed on radio. If this gentleman wants to set himself up as a self-styled expert on all subjects, he should attend a school of eloquence, and he should get his facts straight.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: What were the facts he got wrong? You made a very bland statement that tells us nothing except that you did not like him.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Members of this Chamber could be excused if they had formed the opinion that the Hon. Peter Dowding does not like Dr Peter Reid in Broome.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not know where you got that impression!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Over the last year or so we have heard a large number of questions about Dr Reid's use of his Government car on Liberal Party business. I rang Dr Reid to find out why the Hon. Peter Dowding is having a crack at him, even though I have no doubt that during an election campaign Dr Reid does use his Government car on party business. I might point out that a considerable number of public servants in the area do the same thing. I do not know that that is a bad thing. I could refer to two gentlemen in the Port Hedland area—Bill Muddle and Russell Hayward of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs—who used their Government cars during the last election. Certainly Russell Hayward assured me that he supported the Hon.

Peter Dowding, and I do not think it was wrong of him to use his car in that way.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How did he use his car?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Apparently he drove around the polling booths. I become very concerned when members of this place conduct a personal vendetta against a member of the public. A member of Parliament has a right of reply, but Dr Peter Reid has no opportunity to reply to this type of vendetta. Dr Reid was the president of the local branch of the Australian Labor Party, and he then changed to become a member of the Liberal Party.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And before he came here from New Zealand he belonged to another party there.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: That surprises me! Perhaps we could excuse the members of the ALP in regard to some of their comments because they have been under a great deal of pressure in the last few days. Recently we saw an article in the Press telling us that the ALP executive gives support to the class action in the United States.

The Hon. P. G. Pandal: That is not what its members said here last week.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It is the old story of the tail wagging the dog.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You should read that article very carefully.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: This was a well organised coup—Mr Bartholomaeus had the numbers. This gentleman might be outspoken in his viewpoint, but he knows the numbers game like the back of his hand. The ALP members in this House are in the situation where the mere mention of the words "class action" makes them run away from the Press and hide under tables. It is the same old story of the ALP members being told what to do.

Mr Bartholomaeus was very confident in an interview on radio this morning, and said it was a great victory, and the Leader of the Australian Labor Party refuted his remarks.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Do you know what the amendment said? Do you have any idea what the amendment said?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Of course he doesn't.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It is the same old power game story. We saw Mr Leeson unloaded recently.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Do you know what is in the amendment?

The Hon. R. Hetherington: It would muck up his argument if he used facts.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: The State Executive of the ALP got together and decided that the axe should fall. The council was instructed by that infamous gang of four, led by Mr Burke, to unload Mr Leeson.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: What a lot of arrant and absolute nonsense.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: And he was unloaded.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Something like Hawke predicted would happen to Chaney.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Mr Leeson and I have become friends, and I hope that fact did not work against him on pre-selection night. The interesting point is the man who was endorsed in his place. This was Mr Mark Neville, a man who stood unsuccessfully for the seat of Murchison-Eyre in the last State election. After the selection the State Secretary of the ALP said that Mr Neville had the endorsement because of his great showing in the State election and that it was obvious he was a man with a great future.

I would like to bring to the notice of members the statistics for the seat of Murchison-Eyre in the last three general elections. The figures were as follows—

Year	No. on Roll	ALP Vote	Percentage
1974 .....	1 840	770	41
1977 .....	1 719	607	35
1980 .....	1 815	632	34

So that was a fall of 5 per cent in 1977, and a further fall of 1 per cent in 1980. All I can say is that the pre-selection of Mr Neville for the seat of South-East Province will make the task of winning it a great deal easier for the Liberal Party. Quite obviously there will be a backlash from the supporters of a popular man like Mr Leeson, and this will be reflected in the voting. Personally I am sorry to see Mr Leeson go because he has made a great contribution to this House.

In the last few days we have seen reference in the Press to problems on the Eyre Highway. I would like to inform members that the proprietors of motels and service stations on the Eyre Highway are experiencing great difficulties at the present time. No doubt the massive drop in the amount of traffic on the highway is a direct result of rising fuel prices.

The worst problem on the Eyre Highway is the lack of water. There is little or no underground

water, and what little there is is unsatisfactory. It is necessary for water to be carted at great cost. Because of the remoteness of the towns and facilities along the Eyre Highway, I ask the Government to give serious consideration to the granting of a subsidy for water or electricity, or both, in order that these proprietors may keep their businesses operating. No doubt a similar subsidy could apply in other remote areas of the State.

The Eyre Highway is a most important link with the other States and it is most undesirable for the businesses on the highway to close down. If the Government does not take positive steps now, before the year is out many of the businesses will be bankrupted.

I would like to make a few brief comments about Parliament itself. I have discussed with some other Government members, the matter of security inside Parliament House and all have expressed concern about it. I know the staff do a tremendous job in very difficult circumstances. It concerns me that at times in the corridor I see people whom I do not know. No doubt they are quite entitled to be in the building, but most members agree with me that one gets to know the people who frequent the place. Recently we saw the attempted assassination of a United States President, and it worries me that some crank could get inside the House and do something we could all be sorry about.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Particularly if you were the target, and I mean that in a general sense.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Yes. It may be necessary for people to be issued with some form of identification pass.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The staff do not want that; we have suggested it on numerous occasions.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: As you, Mr President, are the Chairman of the Joint House Committee, you may bring this matter up for the committee's consideration.

The Government is proceeding through its term of office in a responsible way. The developments shortly to come to our State are unprecedented, and they can only bring benefits. My Province of Lower North, in its own way, is supporting development in various areas and there have been improvements in relation to mining. I support the motion.

*Sitting suspended from 5.58 to 7.30 p.m.*

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [7.30 p.m.]: Before the tea adjournment the Hon. Phillip Collier—

The Hon. R. G. Pike: You are about 56 years out of date.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Given time he may make the grade. I was referring to the Hon. Philip Lockyer. At the outset of his remarks he said he supported the Address-in-Reply debate. I have been on my feet previously during the last couple of years and whilst on a number of occasions I have said I do not agree with the Address-in-Reply debate, perhaps I will not go as far this time, but will say that I do not agree with the Address-in-Reply debate in the manner in which it is conducted these days.

We are living in the year 1981. The western world is beset with a great many problems and Parliament—and that is all its members—should be addressing itself to those very pressing problems besetting the nations of the western part of the world. I believe the time we spend on the Address-in-Reply debate would be better spent looking at the problems closest to us. I have said before, and I am entitled to say again, that this does not mean I want to restrict the right of members to speak about problems that beset their own electorates. Some changes to the Standing Orders could achieve this.

No-one would deny that anyone running a large corporation today who adopted the methods of management of 100 or 150 years ago would not remain in business for very long. As members of Parliament we have a need and a duty to look at the operation of the Westminster system in order that it might be brought up to modern-day standards.

I listened with interest to the Governor's Speech and I listened to Mr Baxter refer to it as a very long and wearying Speech, or words to that effect. We have had long Speeches by Governors, but I must confess that this one seemed to be the longest.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: You have a biased view.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: That is my view. I have read through the Speech on a number of occasions and perhaps the Governor is a slow and deliberate speaker; he was surely very clear and perhaps all this went to give the impression that it was a long Speech. But as with other Governors' Speeches, I found this one contained very little to enthuse me. I can well understand any Government—in particular this Government—placing in the Speech a record of past achievements and a promise of things to come. On looking at the last few pages I find there is very little information as to the Government's legislative programme.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: It is the best of times and the best of Speeches if you are at all Dickensian.

The Hon. H. W. Olney: He need not be in this case.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: If one reads the Press one finds it is obvious that at the next Premiers' Conference we will move a lot closer to at least one of the States biting the bullet and imposing a State tax. That seems to me to be the signal loud and clear.

I do not know which State it will be, but I can assure every member in the Chamber that once one Premier bites the bullet the other States will follow in quick succession. I do not know whether the first will be Premier Hamer or Sir Charles Court. What will happen is that the States will be deprived of money, even more so than in the past. They will be told that if they want to carry out some of their grandiose schemes—I am imagining that these will be the words of Prime Minister Fraser—they will have to go back and raise the money themselves. I agree with Mr Wran that the axe will fall on State Governments and local governments and cause them a great deal many more problems than they have at present.

As I started to say at the commencement of my speech, these are the problems we, as representatives of the State of Western Australia, should be looking at. I do not want to go on, because I believe every member is very much aware of the truth in what I am saying. The older members would be aware—and some more than others—that there is a great similarity between some of the utterances made in this country today and some of the utterances made during the time of the last great Depression. We are being told that if we tighten our belts a little more, prosperity will be just around the corner.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Do you think we are following Friedman instead of Keynes?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: There is one thing I should say in answer to that very—

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: Obscure.

The Hon. D. K. DANS:—obscure interjection by Mr Pike; that is, that it is the view of many people that the Keynesian theories would never have worked. The only reason they worked, or appeared to work, was because of the intervention of World War II. We are now running out of puff. In many parts of the western world Friedman stands discredited. He was recently in Australia and I do agree with one statement he made. He said in Canberra that trade unions do not cause inflation—Governments do.



The Hon. R. G. Pike: You are saying he is wrong except when you agree with him.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: I am not saying that at all. When Mr Pike gets to his feet he can tell the Chamber where the apostles of Professor Friedman are succeeding in this world. They are succeeding to such an extent in Britain that some sections of the community there are trying to burn the place down!

The Hon. R. G. Pike: My interjections have given you another 10 minutes. You seemed to be running out of points.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: I have more points to cover, but I appreciate the member's assistance, although I do not need it.

As an indication of the present state of Western Australia's economy I, like a number of other people, recognise that we are a resource-rich State and that certain things may or may not happen. Some members may recall that I asked a question about the North-West Shelf on which all our hopes seem to be pinned. I do not think there would be any member in this Chamber, or indeed the entire Parliament, who does not want that project to go ahead. The question I asked both privately and publicly was: When are we going to sign an agreement for the supply of gas to Japan from the North-West Shelf project? The answers came back that there is a letter of intent. So it may or may not happen. If we read the overseas Press we will have noted that in the last two days Japan has signed a contract with Canada for the supply of natural gas. Further, Japan has been negotiating with the Soviet Union for some considerable time for the supply of gas from the Siberian Peninsula.

I want Japan to sign an agreement for the supply of gas from the North-West Shelf. One shivers in one's shoes when one looks around and sees that the great shale oil project in Queensland has now foundered on the rock of despair. I sincerely hope that does not turn out to be the situation with the North-West Shelf project.

The Governor's Speech mentions things that may happen here and may happen there, and so on. What we need is the trigger—the catalyst—to bring it all together. The projects seem just as far away now as in the days of the Tonkin Government when the plan was going to come to fruition next month or next year. To my way of thinking, the only contracts that have been signed up to date are for onshore gas. Under those circumstances, if no contract is signed for offshore gas, the project is in big trouble.

Another thing which worries me—and perhaps some of my more intelligent friends in this

place—is that when I read the papers I see that the Woodside shares are under \$3. This situation may be the result of there being millions and millions of shares—hundreds of millions of shares—but it certainly does not seem to be the price of a blue chip share which is on the eve of this great development.

The Governor's Speech did include a positive proposition to the effect that the Government is encouraging the development of a multimillion dollar industry which would convert previously unused lobster head meat to high protein paste. Anyone in this Chamber who has anything to do with fishing knows the contents of a lobster head and what the fishermen refer to it as. Some three years ago in my electorate a small plant was established for the processing of crayfish heads and Mr Graham MacKinnon, who was the former Minister, would know about this.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There was one in Geraldton 15 years ago.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: That plant in my electorate has not sold anything as yet. This is a clutching-at-straws technique by the Government. The idea of changing crayfish offal into a kind of fish meal has not worked in my electorate as yet.

The Hon. Margaret McAleer: This is operating.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: The plant has produced some paste which has yet to be sold. I have had a very good description of what it tasted like.

The Hon. Margaret McAleer: It tasted like fish paste. I have tasted it.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: The point is that there were high hopes for the plant in Fremantle. One of the reasons it does not operate is the dreadful smell it emits. Despite our eagerness for development and for the establishment of this plant, it was a choice of retaining people in Cockburn or closing down the plant. Mr MacKinnon might be able to help me here, but I think the development cost between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

The Hon. Margaret McAleer: This must be a new process because it does not have those effects at all.

The Hon. D. K. DANKS: When the plant was first established in Cockburn it made enough paste to put in a plastic bag and there was no obnoxious smell evident, but when the plant operated at full blast it was a different story. But the mention of this plant in the Governor's Speech is the high point.

The Hon. P. G. Pendal: You would not concede it might be a reference to big business in the North-West Shelf. You don't think there is an element of small business in it?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I am fully aware that the vast majority of Australian workers are employed by small business. I am illustrating the promises and the points which have surfaced from the Governor's Speech. I am referring to the main points which amused me somewhat; namely, the crayfish head plant. I heard that one of the Government's most highly paid Ministers, the Minister with the most responsibility, when told of the ingredients in the paste, declined to try a piece.

The Hon. Margaret McAleer: I can tell you, with certainty, that that is not true.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I will not enter a dissertation on the paste. It is a high protein product and there is no doubt, if its plant does not suffer the fate of the Cockburn plant, a market will be found for the paste overseas. A comment from the industry was that it would need to have some artificial flavouring before even the Zulus would be interested in it.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Now refer to the more substantive part of your contribution.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: It is the most substantial part of the Governor's Speech.

The Hon. P. G. Pendal: In your opinion.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: I do not like that phrase "even the Zulus". Mr Grassby would not like that.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: It is the only positive statement in the Governor's Speech.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: All you have spoken about is offal.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I am quoting the Governor's Speech. I wish to refer to one other matter because it relates to some questions I asked in this place recently with regard to the Fremantle Port Authority.

On page 6 of the Governor's Speech it is stated that the Fremantle Port Authority is rebuilding two berths, extending the cargo area, and installing new crane equipment to reduce turn-around time. That refers to berths four and five.

On 1 April I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Transport the following question—

- (1) Is the Fremantle Port Authority about to hand over all shore-side stevedoring operations to a private stevedoring company or companies?

(2) If "Yes"—

- (a) when is the transfer going to take place; and
- (b) what private stevedoring company or companies are going to do the shore-side stevedoring previously performed by the Fremantle Port Authority?

The answer was—

- (1) and (2) No formal proposal has been received although it is understood that some preliminary discussions have taken place.

I have a suspicion that before those repairs, and the strengthening of berths four and five, were commenced, it had been decided that the Knutsen Line would want to lease part of that wharf. I suggest that the Minister was ill-informed when he answered my question—as he has been on a number of occasions—because the port unions had been called, by the Fremantle Port Authority, into discussions about what should happen.

I hope that when the Leader of the House replies to this debate he will tell me who will be responsible for the money that has been spent in equipping those wharfs to be turned into a second container terminal in Fremantle. It is something which has upset many people in Fremantle—not only the members of the stevedoring unions, but also a number of other shipping companies as well. They are not very happy with the situation because they say, and quite rightly so, that the two berths may be taken away from them and they might never be able to use them again.

It has been suggested that the company concerned will have a ship alongside that berth every day and those concerned say that will probably disadvantage them.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Would it not be very good for the State to have a shipment every day?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I did not say whether or not it would be good for the State. I think it will be bad for the finances of the Fremantle Port Authority. The money generated now will be lost. Mr Wordsworth was Minister for Transport and he knows that there is a 3 per cent surcharge on the revenue collected by the FPA. He knows also that our port charges are among the highest, if not the highest, in Australia. If the charges are increased, they may be too high to meet and the ships will go elsewhere. I want all the ships that can come to Fremantle.

It has been alleged that the two 35-tonne forklifts purchased by the Fremantle Port

Authority, which will be used exclusively by that particular shipping firm, have caused a great deal of comment. It has been said that those two forklifts will be hired out to the firm. I hope when the Leader of the House replies he will put our fears at rest because they are genuine fears which exist in Fremantle. Those actions of the Government, which I have just enunciated, have not left its supporters enthused.

I can see no great joy in an Address-in-Reply debate. That is my own opinion; it is not the view held by the Australian Labor Party. I know that the speeches which have been made in the Address-in-Reply debate have been made with sincerity, but if they had been reported verbatim in the Press—and having regard to an article in a newspaper recently concerning the money required to keep this upper House functioning—the public would be staggered because they would not know what we were talking about.

We have all the problems which are outlined in the Governor's Speech and also problems throughout the rest of the world—real problems. However, we listened to the Governor's Speech which was read from 8.05 p.m. to 8.41 p.m. Mr Berinson has expressed already his opinion about the Address-in-Reply.

I will say that Mr Pandal made a fine contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, but it was one which should have been made in the Federal Parliament.

The Hon. P. G. Pandal: On the contrary, since State funding is upward of 50 per cent of that, this is the most appropriate place to make it.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I am not taking issue with Mr Pandal, but I just feel his speech would have been better made in the Federal Parliament.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Not necessarily.

The Hon. P. G. Pandal: Quite wrong there.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: After the Premiers' Conference we may be further down the road than Mr Pandal mentioned; that is, in terms of the 50 per cent funding.

The Hon. P. G. Pandal: There are many things included in that—many things which may be done unilaterally by State Governments and things which need to be done by the Federal Government.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not disagree with you. It was a very fine speech. I read Mr Williams' speech and I did not hear all Mr Moore's speech.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: It does not mean that there is anything wrong with the elected representatives making speeches.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Medcalf knows I am not saying that. I listened to Mr Oliver's speech and I think I understood what he was saying. He was talking about interest rates and inflation and what has occurred in Austria. The conditions in Austria are quite different from those in Australia. Austria is a social democratic and landlocked country, and it is the only country where a wages and prices policy has worked well.

All these members expressed their views with sincerity, but I think we should have a grievance debate instead of wasting time with an Address-in-Reply debate.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You have a grievance debate every night, on the adjournment debate. It is well and truly used and abused.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Standing Orders provide that members can speak on the adjournment debate. I am trying to obtain more speaking time. It is a matter of opinion who uses and abuses the adjournment debate. Perhaps there are other things which can be discussed because there is a weakness in the Address-in-Reply debate; and that is, that members tend to take a wander through memory lane.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: The reason for our wanderings through memory lane is to acquaint you with the country areas, about which you know nothing.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: You know that is not correct.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Yes it is correct.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Let us forget about the country areas for the time being.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You seem to want to.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Other members have spoken about many subjects, but we should be debating current problems. Of course, a country or city member should be able to put forward his views which may pertain to problems in his electorate. As we have an Address-in-Reply debate, I might as well say a few words while I am on my feet.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Yes, you do that.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I will and for one reason only. I know how upset Mr Gayfer is when I speak during the adjournment debate. I have a number of points I wish to raise so I will speak about them now during the Address-in-Reply debate so that I will not upset Mr Gayfer.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You will get it in before 10.30, which is the prime recording time, and you know it.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not know that at all. Mr Gayfer has been here longer than I have and he knows as well as I do—as does Mr Pandal, because he is a newspaper man—that one can be on the front page today and around fish and chips tomorrow; and if one asks anyone in a week's time what was said about one, that person does not have a clue about it. Quite frankly, that has not a great deal of influence on me.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: It is just as well you are an expert on crayfish heads, isn't it?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not know if there is anything more in Mr Wordsworth's head than there is in a crayfish head, but I hope there is. Sometimes I have some doubts.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: That was not very nice.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I am sure Mr Wordsworth takes it in the spirit in which he handed it out to me.

To avoid speaking on the adjournment debate, I would like to mention one other matter. On Tuesday 7 April I asked the following question of the Minister representing the Premier—

In *The West Australian* of 31 March 1981, the Premier is reported as saying—

that with the introduction of a 35-hour week, consumers would face price rises of up to 20 per cent and he further added that it would take over 10 years to get over the worst effects of a 35-hour week.

Would the Premier provide this House with the detailed analysis that led him to make this assertion?

When I read that statement in the paper I thought it was rather broad and sweeping, and I thought probably it may be correct. I thought the answer to my question would involve the Table of the House being covered with all kinds of documents, books, and graphs; and perhaps even a small computer. I was amazed at the reply of the Leader of the House, who said—

I seek leave to table the paper "Hours of Work" prepared by the National Employers' Industrial Council of the Confederation of Australian Industry and invite the member's attention to pages 43 and 44.

The 10 years estimate is calculated from the "more than 7 years" figure quoted on page 44 with an adjustment to allow for

anticipated inflation and corresponding deferment of the recovery date.

The Hon. J. M. Berinson: And poet's licence.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: When he gave the answer the Leader of the House had a little book in his hand, and I was staggered to see that book was the tabled paper. It is only a small paper-backed, pamphlet-type of booklet. Perhaps it contains a whole wealth of information, but the Premier's statement was based on two pages in the document—and not even whole pages. His statement was based on pages 43 and 44; and page 43 contains only a small list of figures while about only half of page 44 is the basis for the Premier's statement.

Now we all have our views on the 35-hour week or shorter working week.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: What about a 30-hour week?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I will come to that, Mr Gayfer. The member should not rush along too quickly.

Surely to goodness the Government of this State should be able to produce a better document than that. There is no reason in the world that I or anyone else should believe unquestioningly in a pamphlet put out by the Confederation of Australian Industry. I suggest members on the other side of the House would say "That is natural, coming from Mr Dans." However, would it be equally natural if I were to produce a document similar in size, shape, and presentation which was produced by the Australian Council of Trade Unions and present it to the Chamber as my reason for believing a 35-hour working week is inevitable?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: You wouldn't believe what the ACTU said, either?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I did not say that, and Mr Medcalf knows I did not. I was merely reversing the situation.

Statements like that should not be made unless the Premier has a basis upon which to make them. Surely that small booklet is not the basis upon which the Premier made that complete statement. If it is, I would be very doubtful about many of the remarks made by him. Perhaps some of his statements have even been based on what he has read in comics. The Premier has an army of researchers who have access to a large Government computer. It staggers me that the Premier should rely on a document like this. I could be excused for saying it is a biased document, just as other people would say that a document produced by the ACTU was biased.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: How do you know they didn't check it with the computer and the computer said it was correct?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: The Leader of the House did not say that in his answer, and I would expect the Premier, when supplying an answer to the Leader of the House, to give the complete truth. This is a very good example of the whole mess we are getting ourselves into in respect of the 35-hour week or shorter working hours. Frankly, I do not like the term "35-hour week" and it seems to me that most of the arguments being used now were made when hours were reduced from 48 to 44 and from 44 to 40.

I believe a great deal of research needs to be done into the whole question of hours. Mr Gayfer posed a rather frivolous interjection to me, but I foresee the day when people will be looking for a 30-hour week, and we cannot gallop in that direction without taking an overview of all the things that we do in respect of supporting our society and our economy.

I have some views on this matter with which perhaps members on the other side of the House would not agree. My view is that the seven-day week, including working on Sundays, came in with the advent of the Industrial Revolution; and now the whole matter needs to be looked at again in the interests of the whole community. However, I do not believe that supplying answers like that and making statements based on a slender booklet is the right way to go about it.

I concede the point that perhaps the Premier may have had some other information, but I can only work on the answer he gave me and I find it does nothing whatsoever to persuade people to discuss this matter. The unofficial figure of people working 35 or fewer hours a week is in the vicinity of 40 per cent, and not 30-odd per cent which is the figure used officially. Many people now work fewer than 30 hours a week, while some unions in America work 25 hours a week and have done so for years.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: There are unions here which work only 28 hours a week.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: There are members in this Chamber who work less than that.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: That is a wild statement.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Gayfer is talking of things he knows nothing about. I could go back 40 years in the union movement.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You made the statement that some are working 25 hours.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Yes in the USA, and I will make it again; but I am talking about actual work. We must also bear in mind the time a person is ordered to attend or to stand by. That is the point I am making; and do not let members opposite drag out red herrings.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Wouldn't you say a member of Parliament is on stand-by at all times?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: That is the point I am making, if the member would only listen.

It is a matter of history that only recently France celebrated the anniversary of the granting of a 40-hour week, which happened in 1939. It is now 1981, and I believe it is time everyone took a hard look at the matter and said "To hell with little pamphlets; let us see how we can adjust this matter in a sane and sensible manner."

I have voiced my thoughts on the Address-in-Reply, and also I have used the opportunity to save you, Sir, some time in the adjournment debate. I support the motion.

**THE HON. TOM KNIGHT** (South) [8.10 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion so capably moved by the Hon. Neil McNeill, and at the same time take the opportunity to congratulate the Governor on the Address he delivered to the Parliament. I extend to His Excellency and his lady a welcome to this State of ours. I am sure they will stand us in good stead, judging by the way His Excellency addressed this House and by the Vice-Regal presentations he has carried out since he has been in this State. I am looking forward to having a very good Governor General in Western Australia.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Don't promote him to that; we have had enough of Governors General.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I am a royalist from way back, and I stand by that. I appreciate our ties with the Royal Family and with England, and I am delighted with them.

The Hon. Peter Dowding interjected.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: The Hon. Mr Dowding had his chance; let me have mine. If he does not have any loyalty to the Crown, that is his problem.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: I asked whether you agree that we should have a Western Australian as Governor.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: As the matter has been raised, let me state that I agree with and support fully our ties with the Royal Family and the monarchy. When we look at European countries where Royal families have disappeared we find the countries are moving into

communism. I never want to see that happen in this country.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: As happened in America.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: America is in a different situation. The fact is that America misses not having Royalty and tries to copy our ceremonial occasions. America lacks a monarch, but it loves the pomp and ceremony that goes with one. That is what I have learnt from Americans with whom I associated. I am proud of the fact—and I would say 99 per cent of Australian people are proud of the fact—that we have a monarchy.

This motion allows members to voice their opinions on what is happening in the State and it gives them an opportunity to speak of matters affecting the people they represent in their electorates. The Hon. H. W. Olney described this as a traditional opportunity to take a ramble around one's electorate. That may appear to be the case to members with pocket-handkerchief-sized electorates such as many city members have. However, when one has an electorate as large as mine—some 500 miles by 80 miles, and that is a small one by country standards—one is required to move around it and to be seen to be supporting the people who elected one. One has a job to do in respect of representing their needs, hopes, and ambitions to the Parliament. I do not intend in any way to let down my electors, and I have every intention of taking a ramble around my electorate if necessary. I believe that is the purpose of the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You would disappoint me if you didn't.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I am aware of that, so I will do it. I will let my electors know that I care about and am aware of what is happening and that I intend to put their views forward to the Parliament in the hope of having something done.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: As you mention country towns you had better give their precise location, because city members would not know where they are.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I appreciate the remark of my fellow country member, Mr Gayfer. I had thought of bringing in a map, but I did not think the Acting President (the Hon. V. J. Ferry) would approve of my holding it up in the House to show city members where different towns are situated.

However, some of the matters I will raise are of direct significance to my electorate and I believe some are of direct significance to the State. The

first one I will raise is my recent trip to the Philippines at the invitation of Philippine Airlines.

I was invited to the Philippines to enable me to discuss with Philippine Airlines and to put forward my views on a proposal concerning a freighter international airline service flying into and out of Western Australia. Members will recall that as far back as five years ago I pre-empted the idea of a Western Australian-owned, based, and operated international freighter airline company.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You said something about a hydrofoil service, but that has not come to fruition.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: That is another matter upon which we are still working.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Wasn't it supposed to operate between Rottneest and Italy?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: We stick our teeth in like British bulldogs and stay with it.

My proposal for a freighter airline service was in respect of the need to fly fresh meat to the Middle East, one of our bigger markets. At the moment frozen meat is being shipped in; and the use of frozen meat is against the religious customs of the people. The proposal for a freighter international airline service would ensure that meat killed at Midland today would be delivered to the Middle East tomorrow, thus complying with the religious rites, customs, and beliefs.

In Western Australia we had a group which had the financial backing of the American Import-Export Bank for the purchase of two 707 C freighter planes; and an order had been placed for them. However, without relating a lot of detail, I indicate that at that time Peter Nixon, the then Federal Minister for Transport, refused to issue the group with an airline licence, and the whole project fell. We had in the vicinity of 2 000 tonnes of Western Australian products able to be freighted each month to those countries.

We have kept moving and looking at the potential and possibility of this project. Last year I was involved in discussions with Tiger Air, one of the biggest freighter airline companies in the world. Following that, there were discussions with Global International, and then with the Transatlantic Airline Company. Unfortunately, because those companies are not based in Australia or in this region, it would require a completely new set-up. Members can imagine that the price of establishment would be astronomical, because we would be looking at a minimum of three 747s at a cost in excess of \$50 million. In addition, there would have to be hangar and office facilities, and so on. Even then,

the project could not attain the price per kilo for flying our products to countries to the west.

During my negotiations at that time, I received a deal of publicity. Philippine Airlines became aware of the proposal, and I was invited to the Philippines to discuss the proposal with them. At the moment, we have a definite order for 2 000 tonnes of goods to be flown out of Western Australia each month. We have letters of intent indicating interest; and within six to eight months, that figure could be raised to 8 000 tonnes per month.

A 747 cargo carrier could fly 99.2 tonnes at a time. This would mean that there could be 20 flights by 747s out of Perth each week. In addition to meat, citrus fruits, small goods, fish, and vegetables could be involved. I have been approached by Eastern States firms which wish to be involved in the freighting of fresh meat to the Middle East.

I learned in discussions with business people from Bahrain and Kuwait that the build-up in sheep stocks in the Balkan States and the possibility of triple and four-decker transport trucks carrying sheep into the Middle East could mean that we would miss out on our live sheep exports. As I say, something has to be done quickly; and that is why I had discussions with Philippine Airlines.

The benefit of having a company like Philippine Airlines involved is the fact that it is the biggest airline in the southern hemisphere. Probably it has been flying for as long as any other airline in the area. It is based in this region. At the moment it flies into Australia, and to points west.

The success of the proposed airline is based on the amount of inbound freight that can be flown into Australia. In fact, if 100 per cent of inbound flights were fully laden, that would cut the outbound freight cost by 50 per cent; and that would mean we would be looking at an economic proposition.

In addition, Philippine Airlines has flight crews, office facilities, hangar and maintenance facilities, back-up motors, and back-up aircraft. However, as was mentioned to me, the proposal put forward would involve some \$400 million to \$500 million for the purchase of four, five, or six new 747s. The possibility of using DC10s was considered; and the stretch-bodied DC 10 carries something like 40 tonnes. The 707 carries 32 tonnes, and the DC 8 carries 29 tonnes. One flight of a 747 carrying a cargo of 99 tonnes with one crew and four engines would be the equivalent of two round trips of a DC 10 with two crews, and three trips with a 707 with three crews. The two

different types of motors on a 747 mean that it does not use double the fuel on the flight; so an economic situation is reached. Therefore, to set up this freighter international airline, it would be necessary to purchase 747s.

As I said earlier, within eight months we could have 8 000 tonnes being flown out of Western Australia. The fact that Philippine Airlines is established in the region would be of great advantage. On each round trip, there would be something like \$37 500 worth of fuel involved. If the company was buying fuel in Australia and again in the Middle East, it would cost something like \$1.50 a gallon. However, as it is a Government airline, buying the fuel at Government rates, it would cost something like 40c a gallon. That would put us in the position of being able to "get this proposal off the ground and into the air".

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you a lobbyist for this airline?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I am proposing it.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you a lobbyist for Philippine Airlines?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It is my proposal completely. I am trying to have the project established for the benefit of Western Australia and Western Australian citizens. I am trying to have done something which nobody else would do.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: By having it done by Philippine Airlines.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: If we can establish it, it will be a good thing for Western Australia.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: With a foreign airline?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It does not matter which airline. There is no company in Western Australia which could pay \$400 million or \$500 million to set up the airline with all of the equipment it would need. If Mr Dowding had any sort of business brain, he would be well aware of that; but obviously, as he sits on the other side of the House, he has no business ability. He is not aware of the situation we are faced with at the present time. We are trying to export chilled meat and live sheep. He is not prepared to see the productivity of this State increased.

My proposal would mean more money would flow into Western Australia. It would be a private enterprise that would be of great benefit to this State.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You are very sensitive. I just asked you if you were lobbying for a foreign Government airline.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I am aware of what the Hon. Peter Dowding is saying. I explained that we tried another approach, but it did not have the backing of the Federal Government; and it did not have the financial backing to go ahead without that. We had to look at alternatives.

We have one Australian airline flying out of Australia. By comparison, there are about 10 other international airlines flying into Australia and carrying passengers out.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: That is about the same ratio as the shipping lines.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: What is the difference? We are trying to do the same thing, for the good of Western Australia. Of course, we are criticised because we are talking about bringing foreign money into the country. This project would not be established without the inflow of foreign capital.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Why does not Qantas charter the flights?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: To cut a long story short, the principals of Philippine Airlines are considering the proposal. They have to do their homework on the viability of the airline in the next four or five years.

I wanted to bring that matter to the attention of the House so members would know the reason for my absence a short time ago when I went to the Philippines.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Can I have a trip to Manila if I support you?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I can manage without the Hon. Peter Dowding's support.

I would like to move on now to deal with the Road Traffic Authority. I will be critical; but at the same time I hope to be of some assistance. I think this matter has been mentioned before by the Hon. Win Piesse. Last year an accident occurred on the Albany Highway at Arthur River.

We have heard how RTA officers lurk behind bushes and behind signs. We have heard about radar guns, random breath testing, and other criticisms levelled at the RTA. I have travelled the Albany Highway on many, many occasions, as Albany is at the other end of it. I believe this matter should be drawn to the attention of the RTA because it is something of which they are accused often. It is a matter of concern to many people.

On several occasions recently when I have been travelling between Perth and Albany, mainly at night, I have come across a semitrailer travelling very slowly with traffic banked up for a mile to a

mile and a half behind it. There is a lack of courtesy on the part of the drivers. About 10 or 15 years ago, when travelling on a country road, if one pulled in behind a big truck, after it went around the bend or over the crest of a hill and the way was clear, the driver would turn on the blinker light to indicate it was safe to pass, or he would wave his hand to indicate that one could go through. Now the idea seems to be for the driver to hug the road and to keep as much of the faster moving traffic behind him.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: They are too big to argue with.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: Recently I was following one of these semitrailers for something like 20 or 30 kilometres; and after breasting the top of one hill I tried to pass him. By the time I passed him at the bottom of the hill I was travelling in excess of the speed limit, because the truck was doing at least 120 kilometres an hour. He had accelerated to that speed from 35 kilometres an hour at the top of the hill. This is the sort of thing that the RTA officers should be checking. They should also be pulling up the trucks that drive for 50, 60, or 100 kilometres with a line-up of traffic behind them. The drivers behind are not game to pass because of the length of the vehicle, because of the width of the country road, or because there are many turns and hills on the road.

The Hon. W. M. Piesse: We will see a lot more of that.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It is a matter of simple courtesy for the truck drivers to pull a couple of feet off the road. The older drivers used to do that; but the younger generation does not seem to do so. If this sort of thing continues, there will be many accidents, as the Hon. Win Piesse said.

The accident that occurred at Arthur River was probably caused by that sort of thing. People become tired of travelling behind a truck. They may be in a hurry to go somewhere; and they take a chance.

Often on the Albany Highway there are what I call "Sunday drivers", tootling along at 60 or 70 kilometres an hour. It is simple for them to pull three or four feet onto the gravel or into a parking area to allow the traffic to pass; but they do not do that. The other day when I reached the township of Williams, I passed 19 cars that had been lined up behind one vehicle. That is atrocious; and the traffic police ought to be looking for this sort of thing.

Officers of the RTA should be trying to prevent accidents rather than looking for more



prosecutions. The attitude of the public is that the RTA seems to be becoming a revenue-raising body. Better public relations are required; and there should be better understanding and courtesy in many cases.

I attach some of the blame to the truck drivers, because more courtesy on their side would eliminate many of the problems.

Members may recall that recently I mentioned the Kendenup water supply. Kendenup is a small town between Cranbrook and Mt. Barker. The Appropriation Bill in 1979 included an allocation to extend the great southern comprehensive water scheme to Kendenup. At that time I wrote to the Minister and asked him what was happening about the extension of the pipeline. I was told that it had high priority on the works programme, and that it would be completed in the 1979-80 period. After something like 100 years, the town of Kendenup was to have its first water supply.

I was aware the pipeline had not been proceeded with and recently it was drawn to my attention that the school, the schoolhouse, and the native welfare houses in the area were having water carted to them. In fact, up until the end of March it had cost this Government approximately \$12 000 to cart water to three native welfare houses in the area, because the pipeline had not been extended.

My constituents have accused me and my Government of pouring millions of dollars into projects in the north, whilst neglecting areas in the south of the State. Here we have a town which was established before the turn of the century and which does not have a water supply.

There are 27 houses in Kendenup, three SHC homes, three native welfare houses, four stores, including two general stores, two engineering businesses, one apple packing shed, a pre-primary school, a primary school, a church, a CWA hall, two other halls, one tennis club, one golf club, the agricultural showgrounds, an oval, a pavilion, a cricket pitch, and a hockey field; but this town does not have a water scheme.

When I spoke to these people in 1979-80 many of them said their water tanks were on their last legs. It costs hundreds of dollars to buy a 2 000 gallon water tank today and, because of the indication by the Minister that the pipeline would be extended to Kendenup and water would be supplied to the town within a year, people did not outlay money on new water tanks. Now the extension of the pipeline has not eventuated and the money allocated to it has been used on other projects, probably in the north of the State. These people are sensitive about the situation and are

critical of the Government because they feel it has let them down. The indication now is that water may not be supplied to the town until 1983 or 1984.

I am not prepared to wait until 1983 or 1984 for water to be supplied to Kendenup. I am not prepared for the Government to take money which is allocated to this high priority area and use it somewhere else. I should like the Minister concerned to take note of my objections and to ensure the extension of the pipeline to Kendenup is returned to the works programme so that construction is commenced within the coming financial year. Alternatively, if there is a surplus of funds allocated to other projects, I suggest it be utilised immediately for the continuation of the great southern water scheme through to Kendenup.

The water scheme was supposed to have been extended to Cranbrook by next year and it is still some way from that town. The money allocated to this project has probably been spent elsewhere; therefore, unless I take the opportunity to refer to this matter on this occasion, I am sure nothing will be done about it.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Perhaps the allocated money has been spent on it.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I do not think it has been. The money was allocated as a high priority. We missed out, and someone else has benefited; but at the same time this scheme was planned back in 1973-74 and it should be proceeded with. Kendenup has been established for 92 years and water should be provided to it.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: But so much money was allocated in 1974 and the pipeline would go only half as far now as it would then, based on the sum allocated.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It is possible that money was allocated and it has been used elsewhere. I am voicing my disapproval of the situation.

In the late 1880s when the railway line was extended to Kendenup the status of the area was altered greatly. In 1920 that land which comprised approximately 19 872 acres was established by the Hassell family in partnership with Frederick Boucher. It then increased to 47 325 acres and at that time 200 families were established on holdings in that particular area.

As a result of mismanagement and inadequate finance over the next 15 months, the number of families in the area dropped to 32. However, in 1920 a townsite was planned at Kendenup and it is still a planned townsite. Despite that, it is the

only area within a radius of 150 miles which does not have reticulated water.

In this day and age when we hear about the benefits enjoyed by people who live in urbanised areas, we feel that country people also should experience a rub-off as a result of increased wealth.

Numerous letters have been written to *The Albany Advertiser* and members of Parliament have been approached in an endeavour to get the Government to do something about the matter. In 1979 the Minister said this issue was on the works programme and it had a high priority. It was expected that, by 1980, the people of Kendenup would have a water scheme. Here we are in 1981 and, according to the indications I received from the department a month ago, water will not be provided to Kendenup until 1983-84. I will not accept that and until something is done in this direction, members will hear numerous outbursts from me on this matter in this House.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If we had a grievance debate, we could hear from you on this matter every week.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: Perhaps I can take the same action as members opposite and jump up on the adjournment debate.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Why don't you? You aren't suggesting Opposition members are the only members who speak on the adjournment debate, are you?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: The next matter I wish to raise in the House—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Did you have any information on the dehydration plant which was established there?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I carried out a great deal of research and I have the complete background on Kendenup here. I wished to emphasise the need for the water scheme to be extended to Kendenup and I do not think the Leader of the House would appreciate a long history of the area.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I would not mind that.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It would take me an hour and a half to give a full history of this area and I am sure such a long speech on that issue would not be appreciated. I have made my point and I hope the Government is aware of the situation and will take up the matter on my behalf and on behalf of my constituents.

I wish to turn now to another problem in my electorate and it relates to the groyne at Hopetoun. As members will be aware, last year I spoke about the old jetty which was used at

Hopetoun in the late 1800s and early 1900s for the export of copper and the many minerals mined in that area. At that time Hopetoun and its surrounding countryside had a population of approximately 4 000 to 5 000. Indeed, Hopetoun was a thriving little town. However, that jetty is now in a disastrous state. One of the recommendations of the parliamentary South Coast Fisheries Study was that havens should be established along the south coast and an ideal place for a haven is Hopetoun.

For Mr Dowding's benefit, I should like to point out fishermen are bringing in tuna, although the catch is dropping off at the moment. However, fishermen unload at Hopetoun to avoid hundreds of miles of steaming along the coast and the jetty is now completely unsafe so it is possible an accident will occur and no further trading is possible. This is something we can ill-afford. The fishing industry is experiencing problems at the moment and a death could occur as a result of the state of the jetty.

In a letter dated 2 May 1980, from the Ravensthorpe Shire Council to the Public Works Department the following comments were made—

Whilst it is pleasing to note that the boat landing project is to be scheduled into the current Five Year Works Programme recent events which have arisen call for the provision of the proposed harbour facilities on a much more urgent basis.

During the 23rd and 24th of April very big swells from the south caused a large portion of the detached end to be separated and lost, and also washed away most of its decking. A substantial amount of decking was also lost from the inner section of the jetty. Eye witness reports described the jetty moving dramatically in a wavelike motion as the swells passed along its length.

Up to date the detached end has provided protection to the remainder of the jetty, however with its decking gone the end has lost a major structural support and it can be anticipated that the end will soon fall apart. When this happens the inner section will be at the complete mercy of the elements.

Secondly, and of equal significance, is the apparent desire of the south coast fishermen to have shelter and unloading facilities in Hopetoun as a higher priority than was at first thought.

At that point the amount of fish landed at Hopetoun was mentioned and references were made to the frequency with which Hopetoun was

used as a haven. It is clear the jetty is in a dangerous condition.

After I referred to this matter in the Address-in-Reply last year the Minister wrote to me on 25 September and his letter contained the following statements—

The two matters raised during the debate relate to the deterioration of the Hopetoun Jetty and the urgent need to proceed with construction of the boat harbour at Bandy Creek near Esperance.

The Public Works Department is aware of the deteriorated condition of the Hopetoun Jetty, which is considered to be beyond repair. Action is being taken to allocate funds so that a major portion of the jetty head can be demolished during 1981/82. The remaining portion will be retained until funds become available for construction of the proposed fishing landing. Meanwhile, it is considered that rotting timbers are not a serious navigational hazard.

In a previous letter from the shire clerk reference was made to the fact that the end of the jetty had washed away and parts of it were floating out to sea creating navigational hazards. I do not see how it can be said this is not a serious problem. To continue—

It is agreed that Hopetoun is the ideal location for a safe haven between Albany and Esperance. However, in view of the heavy statewide commitment of funds for new fishing industry facilities, particularly Esperance Boat Harbour, there is no possibility that a fully protected boat harbour could be developed at Hopetoun in the near future.

It has been proposed that a fishing landing be provided as a replacement for the deteriorated jetty structure. Careful investigation of this facility might enable it to be designed for integration into a fully protected boat harbour at some future time. Action has already been taken to ensure that detailed investigation of this concept will proceed during 1980/81. This investigation will take at least twelve months and could not be expedited without a risk of detrimentally affecting the final design.

In a letter dated 1 September 1980, from the Public Works Department, the statement is made that it will be two years before anything is done about the matter. The letter reads, in part, as follows—

The detailed investigations necessary for design of the proposed facility will be

undertaken during 1981 and as previously advised, it is not possible to shorten the period of investigation, design and construction to less than two years.

It can be seen the provision of assistance in this regard has been postponed from 1980 to 1981, and a 12-month study and investigation is to be conducted. Therefore, it will be two years before anything is done. To continue—

I understand your Council's concern at the hazard caused by portions of the jetty, however, many jetties create flotsam to the extent that occurs from the Hopetoun Jetty, but actions for damages are not common. The Shire's liability in this respect has existed for many years, as reports show that the jetty has been creating flotsam for at least a decade.

The shire contacted its solicitors and the solicitors had the following comments to make—

At common law, all waters which are tidal and in which navigation is possible are subject to a public right of navigation. This right is not a right of property but a right to pass and re-pass and to remain for a reasonable time. Accordingly, except with statutory authority, it is unlawful to place or maintain in, or allow to enter, such waters anything which is an obstruction to navigation; and any such action constitutes a public nuisance.

Further on, the letter continues—

This means that should any party suffer property damage, personal injury or loss of life as a result of one of the floating timbers striking a boat, then your Shire will be liable for the damages suffered and the aggrieved party need not prove that your Shire was negligent.

As your Shire is strictly liable in respect of damage caused by the floating timbers, you should take whatever measures are possible to reduce the likelihood of such damage occurring. We agree with your action in erecting a sign at the boat ramp, warning of danger due to timbers in the sea. A further safeguard, would be for your Shire to remove from the sea as much of the floating timber as is possible. You may be able to think of further measures which would also lessen the likelihood of damage.

Can you, Sir, imagine the shire sending out a boat in the middle of a storm to pull in floating piles and decking? Members probably are aware of climatic conditions on the south coast. However, the shire is responsible for the jetty which is in a

dangerous state and the Government has said it will do something to help. Perhaps, as a result of my comments tonight, the Government will take up this matter and give me a direct answer so that I can return to the shire and report something will be done for the protection of the public and in order to give Hopetoun a reasonable jetty which can be used by the fishermen.

The Hon. Neil McNeill: It is a big jetty.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: It was necessary to have a big jetty, because large ships used to use it for the export of copper, gold, and other minerals. A boat loading ramp was also constructed alongside the jetty and now the old ramp is under wash, and someone will fall through it or boats will be lost as a result of its condition. Hopetoun is not just a little hamlet on the south coast—

The Hon. Neil McNeill: It is a nice little place.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: Hopetoun is no longer just a little hamlet; it has several shops and stores, a bowling green, a cricket oval, a CWA hall, a community hall, a church hall, and areas of land are being opened up. It also has a water supply which members will recall I hammered through this House and after about five years the water scheme was finally extended to Hopetoun. It also has an SEC substation to provide electricity to the area. When I was first acquainted with Hopetoun the road to it was made of gravel, but now I am pleased to say it is bitumen. We now look to the next step; that is, the construction of a fishing groyne.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Who is the Assembly member?

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: Geoff Grewar does a tremendous job for the area, and I am sure that in another place he will push for further improvements as I am doing here.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: He makes Genghis Khan look like a socialist.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: In 1977 the South Coast Fisheries Study was appointed by this Parliament. I was involved with that group and at that stage we completed a full investigation of the fishing facilities and potential along the south coast. As members are aware, a full report was made available to the Parliament. One of the matters I want to raise tonight concerns a recommendation of that report, and it involves the use of estuarine fisheries in Western Australia. One of the proposals put forward by the group was that Culham Inlet be one of the inlets opened to the sea. The last time Culham Inlet was open to the sea was in 1914. At that time the inlet was replenished with sea water. After being closed off for a quite lengthy period it has become stagnant

and quite shallow with the build-up of silt. The inlet should be opened and the fish stocks improved. It has been proved by the estuarine fishermen of Western Australia that the opening of inlets allows fish stocks to be built up to a position where they are viable as a commercial enterprise. Sections 41 and 42 of the South Coast Fisheries Study report state—

41. The suggested potential for expansion of estuarine fishing has already been referred to. Because questions of community usage and sensitive ecological systems are involved it is the view of the Committee that the issue of expanding estuarine fishing should be approached cautiously. Accordingly, a testing programme is recommended, rather than simply proceeding to open the bars of estuaries as suggested by the estuarine fishermen. There was strong support for the proposition that Culham Inlet should be opened and accordingly it is recommended that this Inlet be considered as one of those to be tested, under the suggested programme.

42. Estuarine fishermen believe both that there is a great potential for increasing fish stocks without damaging ecological systems, and that there is a growing market for the fish they expect to catch. In submissions to the Committee much was made of the loss of fish through the silting up and increasing salinity of estuaries closed by bars.

#### Recommendations:

2.5.1 The potential for expansion of estuarine fishing should be tested on a co-operative basis between the Department and some estuarine fishermen,

- (i) over a two or three year period,
- (ii) at one or two estuaries on the south coast,
- (iii) by opening the sand bars for scouring and fish stock replenishment, with the objective of ascertaining whether
- (iv) permanent or seasonal openings should be established, and
- (v) the opening of bars can be correctly carried out.

2.5.2 One of the estuaries to be considered for testing should be Culham Inlet.

The report has been out for something like 2½ years, and nothing has been done to implement the recommendations. The inlet is further silting up. The bream and certain other fish species which I understand are there, have become dwarfed during the last 10 or 15 years by the ecosystem of the estuary. This situation would be improved by the opening of the bar, the outflow of brackish water and the inflow of fresh water. In this way we should build up our estuarine fisheries. I hope the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife considers closely the recommendation of the committee which sought the carrying out of the tests. I believe it will mean a great deal to all estuaries along the south coast.

On many occasions clearing bans have been talked about in this House, and they affect many areas in my electorate and, in particular, many farmers because they are not allowed to further clear their land. As members can imagine, clearing bans have had a disastrous effect on farmers who have 500 or 600 acres. They worked out, at the time of purchase or the taking up of conditional purchase land, that that area was required for them to have a viable financial operation and reasonable return from the farming of it. But now they find that after clearing half their land they cannot clear any more, and the properties have become unviable.

However, that is not the main reason I raised this matter. The Cranbrook Shire Council is affected disastrously by the loss of income from rates. It cannot rate on a value-per-acre situation in the same way as it did previously. Farmers can clear only half their land so that the rating on the uncleared land makes for an uneconomic situation for the council. In that case farmers who have only half the original area of their farm from which to make an income must pay double the amount of rates for services provided for their cleared land. On several occasions, I wrote to the Minister responsible for such matters. I did this on behalf of the Cranbrook Shire Council.

I will read a letter from the Cranbrook Shire Council which correctly sets out the position.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: I don't get a reply from the Minister.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I do.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You are luckier than I am.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I probably am. I always follow up inquiries and always receive a reply from the Minister, although I do not say the replies always please me. As I mentioned before, one has to be like a British bulldog: once he sticks his teeth into something he keeps them there.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask members to cease cross-Chamber chatter.

The Hon. TOM KNIGHT: The letter states—

Initially we were advised (by Mr C. Shelton at a meeting with Council on May 29th 1979)—

He was a Public Works Department engineer and adviser. To continue—

—that when the Government granted a land owner compensation for land not able to be cleared as a result of the Country Areas Water Supply Act Amendments, included in the compensation figure would be an amount which would be capitalised and then would be sufficient to return annually a sum which would cover the Local Government Rates on that land in perpetuity.

The recently released guidelines for applying for compensation (4(ii)) seem to indicate that land unable to be cleared will attract a very low value which will mean the land owner will consequently be rated only a minimum amount for that land. This will of course mean that the shortfall of rate revenue occasioned by these reduced values will have to be shared by all rate payers in the Shire.

It is our contention that the preservation of the State's water resources is for the benefit of the State generally and not just for the Local Authorities involved, therefore it would seem reasonable that the State as a whole should make up this shortfall in Shire revenue by way of a direct annual payment to the Local Authorities concerned.

To me that is a very important point; it is for the preservation of the State's water resources, not just for a particular part of the State. To continue—

We would be pleased therefore if you could firstly confirm that our understanding of the situation is correct, and secondly if it is, would you please make representation on our behalf to have the Government undertake to "make up" to Local Authorities the difference between the rates that the land would have returned had it not been included in the clearing ban area and the rates that it will return if compensation has been claimed as proposed in the new compensation guidelines.

The Minister replied—

With the transfer of the Public Works Department valuers to the Valuer General's Department, the assessment of the

compensation claims was also transferred to that Department and it was agreed that following payment of compensation, the properties concerned would be immediately revalued and there would be no need to include any consideration for Shire rates in the compensation payments.

The Minister went on to explain that the people should not lose anything and that under the system it should all work out properly. I cannot accept in any way whatsoever that if we cut by half the productivity of a property that property should attract a double rating and still continue to be viable. If such a situation is correct, I must be a slow learner.

I cannot see how the Government can explain why it has taken away the rate-earning capacity of a shire and still expect that shire to maintain its services. We accept that we must preserve our land and water, but such preservation is to the benefit of the State of Western Australia, not just the Cranbrook Shire. The people in that area are being hit between the eyes by the Government's stopping their use of land for agricultural purposes and earning themselves an income. The position must be considered more closely. In situations whereby the resources of the State are affected the whole State would pay the cost involved. The whole State pays for what is happening in the north-west; no-one seems to worry about the hundreds of millions of dollars spent in the north-west. The people in the south-west require the same recognition. The Tenterden, Kendenup, Frankland River, Cranbrook, and other such areas, were some of the first to be settled in this State, but have now the burdens I have mentioned placed upon them which makes their existence so much harder.

The shire council appreciates the points concerning valuations of the properties in regard to compensation and the subsequent devaluation of the bushland, but the council is still short of money. It still has the same number of roads, footpaths, and people to cater for, yet its rate-earning capacity has been cut in half. We have cut its private-enterprise-earning capacity in half and still expect it to meet its commitments. It is just not on as far as we are concerned.

Government departments tell private-enterprise concerns how to run their affairs, but when a Government department goes into the marketplace without Treasury backing to compete with private enterprise the story is altogether different. I would like the Minister to take up this matter on behalf of myself and my constituents to ensure a better deal is given to people such as

those in the Cranbrook area who are losing out by the clearing bans imposed.

The next matter I raise concerns water main extensions. Recently I was approached by several people in my electorate who require water main extensions. Some of the extensions are required for business purposes, but most for private homes. They require services to their houses which are expected daily by metropolitan and other urban dwellers. Country people do not have this right. The people believe that when a water main is four or five blocks away from their own it should be extended to theirs.

The State Energy Commission, for example, at time of application for electricity, if it must pass over six or seven sites, requires the user to pay the total cost, but as other users come onto the scheme the initial user is paid back the amount he contributed for the original connection. In the case of water mains the situation is different. If a water main is at one end of a street and a home builder requires a water connection at the other end the user must pay the total amount, but will not be reimbursed. Other landowners can sit back and wait for that person to make a move and not pay their contributions.

I suggest the Minister responsible and the Public Works Department consider the scheme under which the State Energy Commission operates so that all users contribute an equal amount for their services. The argument will be put forward that the SEC is a commission—different from a department. If we require legislation to correct the situation, let us bring forward legislation and pass it; that is why we are here. Everyone in this State has a right to services as obtained by any other resident of this State.

The next matter I want to refer to again relates to development and in particular to subdivisions. Again I must crave the House's indulgence because I believe it is necessary to read a letter which I have received from one of my constituents, who paid substantial sums of money to the Public Works Department for water reticulation and sewerage for this development. Originally it was intended to develop 93 blocks, but 49 only were developed. However, the Public Works Department decided to hang on to the whole sum of money paid in. The letter commences—

In order to obtain subdivision of the above development the connection of sewerage was a mandatory condition for subdivision.

As members know, to have a subdivision approved in the State at the moment, it is necessary for the

developer to provide power, sewerage, and water. About 20 or 25 years ago people accepted these things as capital works to be paid for by the Government of the day. We grew so quickly that obviously the Government of the day could not continue to carry the cost, and so individual property owners—mainly young people—have to pay for the provision of these services. The developer pays the money to the Public Works Department, and then passes the cost on to the people buying the blocks.

It has always been my belief that the Government should give the purchasers of these properties a four to five-year moratorium on the payment for the services. The developer undertakes the work at the direction of the Town Planning Department; if the work is not carried out, the subdivision is not approved and no titles will be given for the land. It is really a system of putting a noose around the neck of the developer.

The young people of the State form the majority of the home buyers of the State, and on that basis they ought to be relieved from some of the responsibilities in the way of rates and taxes. The letter continues—

The normal situation in the Metropolitan area is that the developer, through his Engineer or Surveyor, applies for the release of certain blocks from the Town Planning whereupon conditions are imposed by the Metropolitan Water Board as regard sewerage and water supply. The developer is only required to satisfy the Metropolitan Water Board in respect of the lots for which he wishes to obtain Titles.

In this case our client sought the release of only 49 lots and your department based its estimates of costs on 53 lots for water and 93 lots for sewerage.

We enclose a sketch wherein the 49 lots are shown within a green line, the 53 lots to which water supplies are available are shown within a blue line and the 93 lots which have been provided with a sewer connection are within a red line.

We are instructed that the application for the release of lots was made prior to the "June 1980" policy which related to sewerage as a condition of subdivision in country towns. Furthermore our client made its payment to satisfy the sewerage condition imposed by your department.

If we use your department's price per lot for water and the June 1980 price per lot of \$275.00 for the sewerage, your department's demand should have been only for 49 x

\$852.00 or \$41 748 (instead of \$45 130.00) and the demand for sewerage should have been 49 x \$275.00 or \$13 475 (instead of \$73 580.00).

Our client was obliged to make the payment to your department otherwise your department would not release the lots from Town Planning conditions until payment was made.

In other words, that is a noose around the neck of the developer. To continue—

The facilities that you provided in return for our client's money were not supplied until well after Cabinet had made the decision on the new Policy. We would expect that the recommendation on which Cabinet made its decision had been prepared well before payment was made by our client and these recommendations must have been known to your department at the time that payment was received. Of course our client was not aware that a new Policy had been introduced until well after payment had been made.

It can be seen from the above figures that our client has paid \$60 105.00 more than he would have been required to pay pursuant to the new Policy.

When our client obtained urban rezoning for this particular property it would have been quite easy for a subdivision to be carried out to provide the minimum size lots and with the minimum aesthetic finish. However our client opted to maximize the benefits of the property by developing the subdivision of which the Town of Albany could be proud.

To achieve these ends the developer established all the items necessary for good town planning, and an extra payment was made to the Public Works Department. This meant that the developer was unable to meet the balance of the contractor's payments for the development work and for the State Energy Commission's underground works.

So this constituent maintains—and quite correctly—that the department owes him \$60 105. Members can imagine the disastrous financial situation which my constituent is now in. He must load this additional cost onto the blocks, and then the sons and daughters of my constituents will have to pay this added cost. I know it is only hearsay, but I have heard that the department has spent the money and this is why it cannot be repaid to my constituent. Such action is unforgivable—the money should have been spent

on this development. That is what it was paid in for.

My constituent is facing severe financial problems because the PWD overcharged him \$60 000. This letter was written on 5 March 1981, and nothing has been done yet. At the present interest rates, the interest on \$60 000 for one month amounts to quite a fair sum of money.

I have raised this matter in Parliament in the hope that someone can brighten up the PWD and ensure that my constituent is refunded his money. It will certainly not be good for the Town of Albany if my constituent is forced into a mortgagee's sale. We certainly cannot afford that sort of thing in Albany. The department should refund the money it has used on someone else's work.

We have a marvellous technical training college at Albany, but because of budget restrictions, the Education Department is considering the closure of some of the trade classes because of their size. Classes under such threat of closure are the second-year hairdressing class, the first, second, and fourth-year plumbing apprentices' classes, and the first-year electrical class. Technical colleges are established for the benefit of the public in general, and although I support the inclusion of hobby classes, certainly not at the expense of technical training classes. Future tradesmen in our area are losing the opportunity to train at home. I do not care whether there are three or four apprentices only in a class—those three or four young people should not be forced into attending a technical college in the metropolitan area under the old block release system.

Presently employers in Albany are doing everything possible to take on as many apprentices as they can. Obviously it will not be possible for these employers to do the same thing next year, and there will be fluctuations in the enrolments at the technical college. I think this must be accepted in country areas.

Millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money have been spent to build these technical colleges, and they should not be utilised for hobby classes only. The Government has made a hue and cry about apprenticeship training, and we have the apprentices in the town. We must ensure that the training is available to them. It is much better for these young people to attend school one day a week than to race up to the metropolitan area to try to absorb a year's knowledge in a fortnight.

I would even put forward a proposal to move the apprentices in the other direction. Rather than close down portions of country technical schools, why do we not send apprentices from the

metropolitan area out into the country for their studies? This would make up the numbers in the country, rather than our having the necessity to build other huge monstrosities in Perth. The Government says that it follows the policy of decentralisation. The word "decentralisation" is easy to say, but the policy is hard to implement. Certainly we do not help decentralisation by eliminating certain classes from the technical colleges. I believe that in one case the class to be discontinued was one number short only. The situation must be looked at closely. The technical college at Albany is a beautiful building; it is doing a marvellous job; and it is fulfilling a need in the area. I want this matter investigated urgently.

Earlier tonight I referred to the problem of salinity and clearing bans in the Cranbrook area and pointed out the obvious encroachment and loss of land for agriculture in the Merredin area. I would like to mention briefly the concern felt by all farmers on the south coast. Certainly they accept the fact that salinity is a problem, but they believe that if a property is subject to clearing bans, the farmer should receive compensation from the Government. In other words, the policy in regard to clearing bans should be paid for by the Government and not by the person who owns the farm on which the ban is implemented.

On my travels around the electorate, I have found that many shire councils are interested in tree-planting programmes. All members will have read recently in the Press—and I am sure the Hon. Jim Brown is aware of this in his area—of the concern about the build-up in salinity, and the eagerness of people to take part in tree-planting programmes. I hope the Government will support the shires making these moves which will mean so much to the future agricultural potential of our country and State. Perhaps the Forests Department could supply the trees in the first year, and possibly even in the second year, free of charge. This would demonstrate the department's readiness to lead the way in this programme. I know I have the full support of the Minister for Forests in such a project. Over the last few years he has planted many trees on his own property. Let us persuade people of the benefits of replanting trees. Let us show the people that we appreciate their endeavours in this regard. If I fly over my electorate now I see many bare areas which were bushland not too many years ago. Obviously the dry seasons have added to the build-up in salinity.

I make no apology for the length of time I have spoken. As I said before, this debate gives members an opportunity to discuss the problems



which are affecting people in their electorates. I have raised matters which are concerning the people I represent, and I hope that every member of the House will take part in the Address-in-Reply debate. I support the motion.

**THE HON. J. M. BROWN** (South-East) {9.13 p.m.}: For the second time I rise in this House on an Address-in-Reply debate. I am sorry that the Attorney General is not present because I have a few observations I wished to make to him.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: He has just left the Chamber for a few minutes to meet someone.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I hope he will be here later on, and I assure the Minister that my remarks will not be detrimental to him.

Unfortunately I was absent when the Hon. Neil McNeill moved the Address-in-Reply. However, I have now had the opportunity to read his speech. I have noticed the importance he places on the activities of the Press, and some people use the columns of the Press to gain some advantage, and perhaps to usurp some of the power of the Parliament. I have no quarrel with the argument put forward by the honourable member. The time at which one speaks is a bit like a gamble for prime time. My point is that we are fortunate to have the opportunity to speak at all.

Tonight we heard the Hon. P. H. Lockyer comment on the State Executive meeting of the Australian Labor Party. I believe his knowledge of that meeting was based on a newspaper report which appeared in *The West Australian* this morning. I assure him that the report was completely out of context; there was no validity in it at all. There is no disagreement between members of the ALP on the matter, and no anxiety at all is felt by the Opposition members of Parliament. Indeed, that section which felt disposed to make comments did so with the support of the majority. So, there was no embarrassment, particularly on the part of the Parliamentary Labor Party.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: The newspaper report said there was heated debate, and that the Leader of the Opposition was in some sort of trouble.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: The debate was carried on in an exemplary manner; anyone would have been proud to discuss such an important subject.

The next matter I wish to discuss was briefly referred to by the Hon. Tom Knight, when he recognised there was a need to plant trees to prevent soil salinity. However, it goes much further than that; the entire problem is tied together with the future release of agricultural land and the clearing of existing farming land.

The degradation of our agricultural land through salt encroachment is not a subject the community appears willing to discuss; to a large extent, it is not accepted by the community. However, if we do not take urgent action now we will find some of the best farming land in our State becoming quite unmanageable, and unable to grow cereal crops or carry stock.

The farmers themselves have decided to take action. I believe that, to a large extent, this has been promoted by a very excellent series of articles by Mike Zekulich of *The West Australian* which appeared in that newspaper on 21 and 28 March this year. This type of article was the opposite of that condemned by the Hon. Neil McNeill.

The Hon. Neil McNeill: It was the opposite of what you said about the report of the ALP meeting last night.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: Mr Neil McNeill need not become excited; I know what I said. Mr McNeill claimed that newspaper columns were tending to usurp the power of Parliament; I simply pointed out where the newspaper had been in error. As I mentioned, Mike Zekulich was the author of two excellent articles which appeared in *The West Australian* and which were also printed in some provincial newspapers. I compliment *The West Australian* on its excellent reporting of the situation.

One has only to drive along our highways to see what is happening in the countryside. The landscape has been changed for hundreds of kilometres, with farmers installing banks to try to control the salt problem.

The Hon. Neil McNeill: There is one thing on which I will agree with you: Mike Zekulich is a first-class agricultural journalist.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: These farmers are spending thousands and perhaps even millions of dollars installing banks.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: It would be in the region of millions of dollars.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: They are installing these banks at a time when there is a sharp difference of opinion as to whether or not the process is effective.

Last evening I had the opportunity to chair a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition and Labor members of Parliament, members of the Labor movement throughout the State, members of CSIRO, the University of Western Australia, the Department of Agriculture—which was represented by its director and a senior officer—together with Mr Harry Whittington and

the president of WISALTS (Lloyd Richards). We sat down for nearly three hours to deliberate on this very serious problem. There is no doubt there is a conflict of opinion between the various experts in the field and the laymen. However, we were able to get together to discuss the matter in an endeavour to formulate a programme.

I believe such a programme should not be instigated only at State level, by one political party, but that we should adopt a united front on a national, State, and local government basis, and include the industry itself. If we do not do something now we are going to see the best farming land in our State deteriorate to such an extent that in the future we will not have any more farmers in our region.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: I suppose you would be right behind Mr Graham MacKinnon and the seminars he established.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: Mr MacKinnon apologised for having to leave early this evening; I mentioned to him how sorry I was that he would not be in the Chamber to hear me discuss this very vexed question.

As a matter of fact, I had a great deal of difficulty in convincing the Commissioner of Soil Conservation that he should send a representative of his department to the meeting; however, I was successful. Members can appreciate the great concern about the seriousness of this problem which resulted in a gathering together of a group such as that.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Was the Forests Department represented?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I am sorry Mr Lewis was not in the Chamber earlier; I mentioned them all before.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: You mentioned everybody except people from the Forests Department.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: This is history making only on the part of the Labor Party. Everybody else woke up to the problem long ago.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: Yes, but what has the Government done? Let the Minister for Lands stand after I have concluded my remarks and tell me what the Government has done. Perhaps I could then question him on the matter.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: A great deal has been done.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: A great deal may have been done, but it is not enough. The Minister for Lands is a member of the committee appointed by the Premier on 23 March to look

into this problem. The Premier was reported in the Press as making the following statement—

Some of the prejudices of the past will have to be broken down and the revised organisation will be more concerned about finding out what is right rather than who is right . . .

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Do you not think that is a very enlightened attitude to adopt?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I could not agree more with the Premier. As a matter of fact, those were the very sentiments I expressed to Mr Spencer three days before the Premier's Press release. After its release, I said I was very pleased the Premier was on the right track. The Premier's Press release continued—

A ministerial committee would supervise the group's activities.

The point I am making is that the farmers are tackling this problem by using a method which people do not know is right or wrong, and it is costing millions of dollars.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You realise extensive experiments were carried out at Batalling Creek?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: A report of the experiment at Batalling Creek is contained in the 1979 annual report of the Commissioner of Soil Conservation. It is a tremendous study. As a matter of fact, for the first time, WISALTS received some credence from Mr A. J. Conacher, of the University of Western Australia; that was the first time WISALTS has received approval from the academic level.

The organisation of WISALTS now comprises nearly 1 000 members, principally farmers scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. Many come from my own electorate. Sometimes, they just cannot see their cause may be wrong. However, they do claim to have seen the results of what has taken place. Slides were shown to demonstrate the effectiveness of the interceptor bank method of dealing with the problem; however, from the demonstrations which have taken place, one would not know who was right and who was wrong.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Did you gain anything from seeing the slides?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: A great effort is being made by the Department of Agriculture in relation to the introduction of various grasses and plants from overseas.

As most members would agree, there is no better way to examine a problem than to view it first hand. I do not know how many members

have been down to see what Mr Whittington has done; I have not witnessed it yet.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Goodness me!

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: That is not an admission of guilt. I am telling members what is happening at present, with great banks being built across the countryside, representing an investment of millions of dollars, when nobody knows whether or not they will be effective.

From my reading of the Soil Conservation Act, it would appear the Soil Conservation Commissioner, through his director and ultimately to the Minister, has unfettered power in this area. I examined the Act to ascertain whether there was something we could do to assist the farming community. The only thing which seems to be missing from the Act are modern-day penalties to be imposed against people taking actions which the commissioner, the Minister, or the Government believe may not be in the best interests of the community.

I am saying that something should be done, and done now. Much more needs to be done than will be achieved by a committee of Ministers and departmental officers. The problem must be tackled on a national, State, and local government level and must include the industry concerned. We cannot stand by and watch our agricultural industry die. We are supposed to be a House of Review and I am simply reviewing what actions have taken place. I do not like people obtaining tax benefits and spending money on interceptor banks if that is not the answer, and then seeking rural reconstruction and Government subsidies to enable them to carry on farming. I have a responsibility in this direction, which is why I am mentioning the matter tonight.

Dr Bob Nelson of the Department of Agriculture has put forward very sound and enlightening information as to what the department is doing. I wonder how many soil conservation officers are spread throughout the countryside.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: There are about 38 in the Department of Agriculture.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: This could be due to a lack of funds or trained officers. We do not have our priorities right. One cannot drive down our highways or byways and see what is taking place without raising one's voice in either support or condemnation.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Do you know a large seminar on salt land problems which was attended by people from all over the world was held in September or October last year?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I certainly do. As a matter of fact, I have a report of the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture (Mr S. T. Smith) produced in 1963; the report went back before the turn of the century and pointed out dams which became saline about eight years after land clearing had taken place. One cannot go through the history of this subject in the Address-in-Reply debate, but one can recognise that the problem has been with us all this century.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Other countries have this problem also.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: Now is the time for us to do something before it is too late. Members should consider what is happening around the farming area of Cunderdin. They need not consider only Cunderdin; they can mention areas which the Hon. H. W. Gayfer would well know from his travels.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: North of Kellerberrin.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: The Hon. Des Danaher mentioned Bruce Rock and other places.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: What part of Cunderdin?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: On either side of the highway.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: But mostly north.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I flew over the area last Monday week.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: The Mortlock River has been salty since I was a kid.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I have seen some great crops there too. I would be interested in co-operating in any shape or form and at any time should this Government consider it worth while to do something in this direction.

Freight transport policies are of considerable concern to me. Whether or not the Government's present policy is working I cannot say. Rail freight charges place a heavy burden on the backs of people in the South-East Province who use the service. People living in the goldfields or elsewhere along the line are fortunate to have the best rail service in Australia; that is, the *Prospector* service.

One of our newspapers mentioned that a MLC had criticised the *Prospector* service. I was critical of the service because there were not enough railcars, but I still maintain that we are very lucky to have the *Prospector* service running between Perth and Kalgoorlie. It has five motorised cars and three trailers. On behalf of my constituents I express my concern for those people from Merredin and to the west of Merredin who cannot use the service. I made the commen-

because during the long weekend holiday the service was overcrowded and people had to use buses, including an MTT bus. Without the facilities usually provided on the *Prospector* service they were nonetheless charged the same fare. A constituent had written to me and complained.

The Government must encourage the use of the *Prospector* service, particularly when it is so good. I believe the Government should buy more railcars. Members will notice in His Excellency's Speech that the Government makes provision for new motorised railcars and additional trailer cars together with 39 new buses to be introduced on suburban services. I am suggesting that with the expansion of the goldfields and the utilisation of the rail service to its maximum the Government should introduce additional railcars for the *Prospector* service. I do not say this merely because of the situation during peak periods, but those cars have been operating successfully for 10 years. However, there is a necessity to maintain a service to the people who wish to use it. I agree with the priority given to those people east of Merredin and particularly around Yilgarn and the goldfields, but I appreciate the concern of residents who live in Merredin and to the west of Merredin who cannot avail themselves of an excellent service which provides greater comfort at the same cost of travelling on an MTT bus. The trip involves some 270 kilometres. To improve the *Prospector* service action should be taken to buy more motorised cars and trailers.

I notice that the Perth-Fremantle transport service is to be subject to investigation by consultants from Sydney who will be reviewing activities and taking submissions. It would be in the best interests of everyone to have the rail service restored. When the consultants call for submissions I hope they avail themselves of the thoughts of country users who appreciated the rail services which were provided. It was not just the metropolitan people who used the Perth-Fremantle service. Country people enjoyed the opportunity to travel by rail to the port. They found it the easiest and most available service when they came by rail from the country.

The disruption of travel arrangements will be subject to review by the consultants from October to June next year—a period of eight or nine months. I ask that they call for submissions from country people also because country people did use the service.

The Hon. Norman Baxter mentioned the losing down of railway stations and the removal of stationmasters. I heartily agree with his sentiments. Members should realise that whilst

there have been certain recessions over the past five years in respect of growing cereal crops, there has also been a dwindling population in country areas. The administrators of Westrail have suggested that the stationmasters will be removed because of Westrail's new accounting procedures and the fact that salesmen will go out and provide a service to the people in the country areas affected.

Salmon Gums is 100 kilometres from Esperance and 100 kilometres from Norseman. I wonder who will be the salesmen visiting the people in that area. Salmon Gums is about to lose its stationmaster despite the fact that there is a very active research station in the area and the farming community is very civic-minded.

I was there three weeks ago with the member for Yilgarn-Dundas when the people opened a new sporting complex including bitumen basketball and tennis courts and a pavilion adjacent to their golf club. Part of the money was raised by private subscription and it was a great feat by the people who farm and live in the district.

I suggest that the Minister for Transport will receive strong submissions on behalf of the people at Salmon Gums to have something done. We will leave no stone unturned to express our belief that the removal of the stationmaster is a retrograde step brought about by a shortsightedness which also meant the removal of temperature-controlled cargo carriages, an act which has deprived the people of a very good service.

I will be looking for the reintroduction of that type of service to country people. In the past they considered it a privilege and now it is a penance. If the department wants ambassadors in the area, instead of sending salesmen from regional centres it should give its officers the encouragement and the facilities to ensure their job is viable and their future is assured. I will be joining with members on both sides of the House to see that the service is continued, not just at Salmon Gums, but also at places such as Bencubbin. This is a very important matter.

I note that under the NEAT scheme the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Youth Affairs has indicated, in answer to a question, that it had 283 Aborigines employed under that scheme—a training period of 39 weeks. I noticed that Westrail does not have one Aboriginal on its staff under this scheme. This seems quite out of character considering how Westrail has operated in the past. I am surprised it has not taken advantage of the scheme to employ Aborigines in the country, particularly

when we consider other Government departments operating in the country which have taken advantage of the scheme. Westrail is not among the 33 Government departments which have taken advantage of the scheme. With its maintenance and upgrading programmes it is one of the most decentralised operations in the State—as long as the Government stops the continual closing of railway services.

There must be ample opportunities available for this situation to be rectified, particularly when we realise that the Public Health Department and the Medical Department are shown as employing 93 Aborigines between them, the State Energy Commission 57, and the Agriculture Protection Board and the Department of Agriculture 11 and 13 respectively. Westrail must surely be able to take advantage of the NEAT scheme to train Aborigines in our rural communities. Country areas are missing out here.

The goldfields has certainly been on an upswing over the last two years, particularly with respect to mineral exploration and general activities in Kalgoorlie. It has been pleasing to see. The number of people operating in and around Kalgoorlie—under the existing Mining Act—have been operating very satisfactorily indeed. The boost to the eastern goldfields has been gratifying. The activities have been of tremendous importance to the State.

Whilst the Hon. Tom McNeil mentioned his reservations about the effect on the efficiency of technical schools, I am pleased to report that the School of Mines in Kalgoorlie—which is probably the greatest institution for mining education in Australia and is of world class—is expanding and the Government has made a very favourable decision to the people of Kalgoorlie for the continued progress and maintenance of the School of Mines. This is indeed gratifying to note because the School of Mines did encounter certain problems. However, this year, the School of Mines had an increase in the number of students and there was also an expansion with the intake of holiday students at certain times. It was a great achievement and I know it is something which will continue.

The airlines of Western Australia operate a service to Kalgoorlie which is usually very reliable. We do not have the problems which Mr Lockyer mentioned this evening. Our flights are filled to capacity on almost all occasions.

A promise was made in the Governor's Speech, for a redevelopment programme for the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. The main concern was to renew the buildings and to establish the

hospital on a basis comparable with that hospitals in the metropolitan area. However, there are some misgivings about when it is to take place. We do note that there will be a new welfare office established in Norseman.

I note that the SEC is seeking financial aid—the SEC is seeking aid then there are many people in trouble—to expand the interconnect grid system to the eastern goldfields. Of course the SEC has taken over the Kalgoorlie power station and it will connect with a grid system operate from Merredin to Kalgoorlie. This is a project which will require a great deal of technical knowledge and finance. I hope that the service is provided as soon as possible because the people in the goldfields are paying a higher rate for their electricity than are people in other areas in Western Australia.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: It is an intermediate rate.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: The subject of water supply has been canvassed by most council members. Over the years, this has caused some concern to my constituents. In the 1960s, an application for the York-Greenhill-Corrigin-Bullaring areas comprehensive water supply was made. It was known as the phase 3 system. A proposal for this scheme was made by the State to the Commonwealth, but it was refused, despite repeated applications by the State. The final blow came when the then Prime Minister (Mr McMahon) said there would be no opportunity for Commonwealth funds to be made available for this project and that any future correspondence would be referred to that particular letter.

In 1973 a proposition was put forward for the Westonia-Mt. Hamilton region to obtain a supply of a comprehensive scheme because the area was not satisfactory holding capacity in which to store the groundwater. Also, the produce from the district would be increased if there were assured water supply. It was also felt it would be good for people in the region to be able to turn a tap. That was one of the priorities of the Department of Agriculture, but that lapsed and now we have the Agaton report.

In 1973-74 the project for Westonia-Mt. Hamilton was estimated to cost approximately \$33 million. The Agaton project is estimated to cost \$55 million and that project will stretch from the coastline to Bencubbin, Mukinbudin, and the north-eastern regions. It was hoped that there would be a copious supply of water to the York, Westonia, and Mt. Hamilton regions, but now we have the Agaton scheme. I trust that we will not find another priority and forget about the areas

have mentioned. Something ought to be done and whilst it has been said that the supply from Mundaring Weir may be insufficient, I believe it is. The responsibility lies with those in the Public Works Department, the Minister, and his under-secretary and they should not confirm the supply.

The people in the goldfields were given to understand that with the existing holding capacity of our dams there would be no interruption to their water supplies, until 1990. I hope that now the Government has enunciated its priority, it will preserve it, and that something will be done to service the rural areas of Western Australia.

During the Address-in-Reply debate the Attorney General was good enough to advise the answers to members' questions would be made by the appropriate Minister or his departments. I found some measure of satisfaction in that. The Minister for Police and Traffic answered one question through the Press and not through his officers. Whether I agree with the replies I have received is another matter and I will not canvass that aspect at the moment. However, I wish to say to the Attorney General that I do not offer him the same congratulations some of my colleagues have because I feel his responsibility as the Minister for Justice should be prevalent throughout the whole of the State. I express some concern about what is occurring in country courthouses.

I came to this city and noticed that a welfare officer is on hand to look after the needs of a person who is charged, maybe for the first time. A welfare officer is available to attend to the needs of people who are brought before the courts. I have witnessed the actions and activities of a welfare officer only once, but I was very impressed with the service provided.

The Hon. P. H. Wells: Are you talking about the voluntary system through the courts?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I am talking about the welfare officers who are provided at the courts. We do not have that service in country areas and we do not have a facility whereby people can sit down inside the building, in reasonable comfort, and be called upon.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you talking about the East Perth court?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I am talking about the Fremantle court. I have not been to the East Perth court yet.

When people have to appear in country courts they must stand outside the building. It is fair enough to plead guilty, but I do not think one should be charged twice. Quite often, people are standing outside from Thursday morning at

10.00 o'clock and are still there at five o'clock on the Friday. Is that justice? I do not think it is any more just than the situation where a person who was fined \$2 by the City of Melville for a breach of the Dog Act had to spend 11 days in gaol. The person concerned could not find the princely sum of \$87, which includes costs, so he had to spend 11 days in gaol. One could wonder who was the winner in that regard.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: We have changed that now; it is only 3½ days.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I realise that fact because I remember the debate well. Mr Olney made several observations and I mentioned to him one of the matters he raised.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Can you tell me which courthouse?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: It was the Merredin courthouse and the person concerned stood outside for two days.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: It is not as bad as being inside the can for 3½ days.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: Another matter which concerns me is that of uniformity of penalties throughout the courts. I am aware that justices of the peace do have some training, but I witnessed in the Fremantle court that an Aboriginal was fined \$5 for being drunk. The upset price in the Merredin Court was \$15. I just wonder why there is such a disparity.

The Hon. W. M. Piesse: Are these people first or second offenders?

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I was not going to raise the matter.

The Hon. P. H. Lockyer: You should, because it might be on the record cards.

The Hon. J. M. BROWN: I did not intend to speak about the offences, but each offender certainly had a record and on both occasions the record was presented to the court. I would not have tested the intelligence of the Attorney General by mentioning cases which were not consistent and similar. While we have training courses for justices of the peace, I think we should be considering training them in respect of the welfare of the people who come before courts. Rather than having to exercise section 669 which was discussed earlier this evening, justices should be trained to achieve some sort of uniformity.

Any member of the legal profession would agree it is far better to go before the local justice of the peace than to go before the local magistrate. That has been the experience in cases I know of. In respect of 0.08 offences the fine is \$100 to a maximum of \$200 for a first offence,

but now the fines are graded and people are fined according to the percentage of blood alcohol. If it is 0.013 the fine could be \$150, and if it is 0.014 it could be \$160, and so on.

It was refreshing to see the magistrate handling the case very fairly and accurately at the Fremantle court. It was an eye-opener to me to see how he handled the matter. If we are to retain the system of having justices of the peace, I think some sort of education should be provided so that people all over the State are treated uniformly in the courts.

I know of an occasion when a person refused to go before the local court and wrote to the senior magistrate seeking to have the matter transferred to a court outside the district because he did not think he would get justice from either the magistrate or the justice of the peace in the area. He could have elected to go before either authority, but he decided to have his case heard out of the town. That was not due to any local knowledge of his activities.

I considered with mixed feelings the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I have been able to draw some conclusions from the past and to draw to the attention of the House some problems which exist and action which should be taken. I have used the opportunity to what I consider to be my best advantage. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [10.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

#### *Electoral: Gerrymander of Legislative Council*

**THE HON. PETER DOWDING** (North) [10.04 p.m.]: I rise to refer to some statements which I believe might fairly be described as vacuous, which justify the gerrymander which maintains the conservative parties in power in this place for its entire life. To pretend that the gerrymander which keeps the conservative parties in power in this place has something to do with the rights of people living at a distance from the capital city of the State and to suggest it has something to do with the remoteness of the electorates and the people whom members serve is simply nonsense.

We have grown accustomed to hearing vacuous and irrelevant statements from some members opposite; and some members now attempting to

interject are no exception. The vacuousness of the propositions put by the Hon. Phil Lockyer may be seen if we compare his electorate with mine. I represent an electorate which has approximately 23 000 people on the roll, and an elector in the North Province has four times as many votes as each elector in my electorate. The people in the Hon. Phil Lockyer's electorate have seven times the votes of people in metropolitan Perth. If there was some consistency and a marginal benefit in favour of people in remote areas, one could understand that argument; but to put it up as some sort of cant, as some sort of unarguable truth, shows what little attempt the honourable member has made to analyse the proposition.

Let me direct members' attention to the issue of isolation. The Hon. Phil Lockyer, when travelling from Perth to his electorate, travels 81 kilometres. If I travel from Perth to the furthest town in my electorate I travel 2 214 kilometres. If I go from the southernmost town to the northernmost town in my electorate I travel 1 071 kilometres. If the Hon. Phil Lockyer goes from east to west—the longest distance in his electorate—he travels from Carnarvon to Laverton, a mere 500 kilometres.

So how can it be said that electors in the Lower North Province ought to have, are entitled to have, and there is some inalienable truth about their having, four times as many votes as people in my electorate? That demonstrates what a silly proposition was put to the House today.

The fact of the matter is that Federal Governments, both Labor and Liberal—as the Hon. Phil Pender should know, although he has not tried desperately to get out of this place and into the Federal Parliament like the Hon. Norman Moore, for which I cannot blame him—

Several members interjected.

**THE HON. PETER DOWDING:** The Hon. Phil Pender would know that Commonwealth Liberal Party members would disagree entirely with the propositions which keep him and his colleagues in complete control in this House, no matter what the will of the people of Western Australia, and to suggest anything to the contrary is just a pathetic recanting of the sort of nonsense which members opposite keep trotting out to justify their intolerable position. I would like to quote a comment made back in 1977, which will probably bring members opposite to their feet in admiration. I quote from page 3509 of *Hansard* of 1977, wherein Mr Grewar, who was lauded by the Hon. Tom Knight as being a wonderful member, demonstrated a real grasp of the democratic principle when he said this—

If we go back in history to the days of an essentially agricultural economy, we see that the privilege of voting for a Government was granted only to landowners. In the years since, the parameters for eligibility have been extended to include business people, trades people, and people of responsibility in the community. People who contributed nothing in the way of skills or expertise were denied this right.

At the risk of being called ultra-conservative, far right wing, or racist, I still uphold the belief that people who contribute nothing to our society should not determine its destiny.

What did Mr Grewar think of people who contributed nothing to the community? They were the people who were not business people, trades people, or people of responsibility in the community. It is that sort of 19th century claptrap which pervades the comments of members opposite.

To move this House into a democratic position in the 20th century seems to be beyond them. For the Hon. Phil Pental to get up and give a completely unexamined and unanalysed statement to justify his position seems to me to be an example of his vacuousness and of the vacuousness of the policy of his party.

**THE HON. P. H. LOCKYER** (Lower North) [10.10 p.m.]: Mr President—

Several members interjected.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Order! Members will cease their conversations while I am trying to give the call to the member on his feet. The Hon. Phil Lockyer.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Thank you, Sir. I should explain very briefly to the Hon. Peter Dowding what is the position, because it seems difficult to get through to him that the inhabitants of the Lower North Province are spread throughout the electorate more sparsely than are the inhabitants of the North Province.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Come off it!

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: It is very difficult to tell the honourable member that there are large populations of people in Port Hedland, Karratha, Roebourne, and Wickham. Probably he would not know, because he rarely goes there. If the member was serious he would understand these finer

points. The Hon. Bill Withers understands them because he has been here a lot longer than has Mr Dowding. The people who live in Wiluna and the other smaller communities, of which Mr Dowding probably has never heard, will not agree with him.

His remarks are simply a further load of claptrap. It all started off with Mr Berinson when he came to this Chamber last year, and now it is continued by Mr Dowding. I put it to you, Sir, that probably the same comments will be continued for a long time to come. I cannot stop these fellows whingeing.

Several members interjected.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member will address the Chair and other members will cease their interjections.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I wonder whether Mr Berinson and Mr Dowding would put the same argument to this Chamber if Mr Stan Dellar still sat in the chair of the deputy leader of the Opposition. I put it to you, Sir, that they would not present the same argument, because if Mr Dellar had not toed the line probably he would have received similar treatment to that meted out to Mr Leeson. Members opposite would have got a gang of four comprising the member for Balcatta, the member for Yilgarn-Dundas, and my friend over here—

Several members interjected.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: One can see this touches upon a very tender nerve amongst members opposite. Mr Leeson is about to be axed from this place because he does not toe that sort of line.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: Why should your electors have four times the vote of mine?

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I put it to you, Sir, that the same argument would not have been put up had Mr Stan Dellar represented the Lower North Province.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: You can't answer that.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Members opposite want to change the rules because they do not suit them at the moment.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You can't even convince *The West Australian* these days.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: Mr Tozer was the previous member of the North Province—



The Hon. Peter Dowding: Yes, and look what happened to him because he did the sort of things you would do—malign people.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I am trying to get the message across to Mr Dowding that what he said tonight was not right. Simply because I annoyed him earlier he has tried to get back at me by saying the Lower North Province is nowhere near as important as the North Province.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He didn't say that. Stick to the truth.

The Hon. P. H. LOCKYER: I have no doubt he said what he said in the best tradition of this place, but it is not right. The electors in my province are more sparsely spread throughout the electorate, and therefore they deserve to have the representation they have.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.14 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### MINING

*Gold: North Kalgurli Mines Ltd.*

144. The Hon. J. M. BROWN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When was the Government loan made to North Kalgurli Mines Ltd. for the establishment of a custom mill?
- (2) What was the total loan?
- (3) Was the purpose specified?
- (4) What were the obligations to the customers?
- (5) What were the repayment terms?
- (6) What portion of the money has now been repaid?
- (7) What was the interest rate to be applied for the loan?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Over period 30/6/78 to 30/11/78.
- (2) \$500 000—covered by mortgage.
- (3) Loan was made as a Government guaranteed loan by the R & I Bank to enable modification to be made to the Croesus Mill to allow it to increase its capacity to at least 20 000 tonnes of non-refractory gold ore each four weeks.
- (4) To treat 5 000 tonnes per four weeks, provided ore was of a grade to cover operational and depreciation costs.
- (5) \$1 each tonne treated—to be reviewed each three years, to be paid in full with interest on the 13th anniversary. Number of tonnes to be certified. Payments firstly reduce interest payable and then reduction of the loan.
- (6) Repayment of this mortgage by North Kalgurli goes direct to the R & I Bank, and I am advised that the major portion of the loan has already been repaid, and negotiations are in hand to finally discharge the advance.
- (7) Semi-Government private loan rate; i.e. rate of interest fixed by the Australian Loan Council to be paid by semi-Government bodies for a private borrowings for a term exceeding 10 years.

### GRAIN: WHEAT

*Australian Standard White*

147. The Hon. J. M. BROWN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture:

Under varietal wheat control—

- (1) What quantity of wheat has been received by CBH which is not in accordance with Australian standard white?
- (2) What tonnage has been received which has been subject to a penalty?
- (3) What has been the total penalty cost to the producers in WA for 1980-81 season?
- (4) Has CBH received wheat as ASW which in fact is below standard?
- (5) What tonnage is involved?
- (6) Have any penalties been applied?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) 180 411 tonnes.
- (2) 44 280 tonnes. This is the amount received into Australian standard white with a varietal discount.
- (3) \$91 655. This is the sum of discounts pertaining to the wheat in (2) above.
- (4) No.
- (5) and (6) Not applicable. See answer to (4).

### ANIMALS

*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*

165. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has the Government yet reached any conclusions on the recommendations of the RSPCA for amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated that amending legislation will be introduced?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) The committee formed to study the recommendations put forward by the RSPCA has not completed its deliberations; therefore, no conclusions have been reached by the Government.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## RECREATION

*Diving: Fitzroy Reef*

166. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Why has the Government refused to have the Fitzroy Reef area at the Blowholes north of Carnarvon, incorporated as a restricted area in view of this being the only area close to Carnarvon where the recreational sport of diving can be carried out?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

Rock lobsters are a common property resource available to both professional and recreational fishermen. Taking into account the interests of both groups of fishermen it was considered appropriate that a restriction on the method of capture be not imposed in relation to the Fitzroy Reef area.

## EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

*Fees*

167. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

(1) (a) Is the Minister's answer to part (1) of question 65 on 1 April 1981 correct when the Minister asserts that voluntary contributions made by Government schools are set by the Minister, under regulation 56(1)(b); and

(b) is not the correct answer that the Director General of Education must approve of the maximum amount of voluntary contributions to be collected from parents?

(2) As all voluntary contributions must be approved, does the Minister's answer to part (4) of question 65 indicate that approvals are given without any records being kept?

(3) If records are kept—

- (a) what schools have received approval to collect voluntary contributions in 1981;
- (b) what is the amount approved in each case; and
- (c) what is the total school enrolment of each school in respect of which approval has been given?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

(1) (a) and (b) Under section 4 of the Education Act the control of the Education Department is vested in the Minister for Education and it has been long-established practice for the Director General of Education to seek the approval of the Minister for Education before determining the upper limit of the voluntary contribution from parents under regulation 56(1) (b).

(2) No. Only those schools wishing to levy amounts in excess of what is stated in Administrative Instructions 6.05 are required to receive approval from the Director General of Education. There have been none of these.

(3) (a) to (c) Not applicable.

## EDUCATION

*Teachers: Training Colleges*

168. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

With reference to question 21 of Wednesday, 25 March 1981, from the training establishments mentioned in part (2) of the question, how many teachers from each have been employed by the Education Department to date?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

College— Institution	Pre- Primary	Primary	Second- ary	Totals
Churchlands	32	37	—	69
Claremont	—	28	—	28
Mt. Lawley	—	44	—	44
Murdoch	—	8	5	13
Nedlands	—	—	151	151
University of WA	—	7	61	68
WAIT	25	16	23	64
Totals	57	140	240	437

## COURTS

*Statutory Offences: Dismissal of First Offenders*

169. The Hon. F. E. McKenzie (for The Hon. PETER DOWDING), to the Attorney General:

(1) Will the Attorney General consider legislation to allow the following provisions to apply to all statutory offences throughout Western Australia—

- (a) the *de-minimus* provisions of the Police Act (section 173); and

(b) the provisions of section 669 of the Criminal Code?

(2) If not, why not?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

(1) and (2) I presume that the reference to section 173 of the Police Act should in fact be section 137. In-depth consideration was given to the law in relation to trivial offences, first offenders, and the power to caution when section 669 of the Criminal Code was amended in 1979.

No further legislation is contemplated in this area at the present time.

The present application of these principles seems to be working satisfactorily.

## RAILWAYS

### Weed Spray Train

170. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does Westrail still operate its own weed spray train?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If a contract has been let to a private company to perform work formerly done by the weedex train, will the Minister supply details on how the tender was called?
- (4) What was the name of the successful firm which gained the contract?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes. Westrail previously had two trains, but one is now unserviceable.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) A contract has not yet been let. Tenders, closing 13 April, were invited in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 4 April for the spraying of 2 300 kilometres of narrow gauge main line track which represents approximately 50 per cent of the normal track length treated. The balance of the spraying will be carried out by Westrail's weed spray train.
- (4) Answered by (3).

## WATER RESOURCES

### Irrigation: Camballin

171. The Hon. F. E. McKenzie (for the Hon. PETER DOWDING), to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Camballin irrigation project had a water bill to the PWD which was unpaid and overdue?
- (2) If so, on what date was the bill payable?
- (3) Upon what date was it paid?
- (4) How much was paid?
- (5) Was any action taken to turn off the water supply, and if so, what action and upon what date?
- (6) Was the water supply resumed, and if so, upon what date and upon whose authority?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) During the company's negotiations for finance for its current expansion, payments due under its present agreement with the State on—

1 July 1979

1 January 1980

1 July 1980

became overdue.

- (3) The payment due 1 July 1979 was paid on 18 September 1980. The payments due 1 January and 1 July 1980, were paid on 20 October 1980.
- (4) \$9 000 in total.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

### Investigation into Payments

172. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Further to the Minister's answer to question 58 on 7 April 1981—

- (1) When was the inquiry commenced?
- (2) When was it concluded?
- (3) When was the information, referred to in part (4) of question 58, supplied—
  - (a) to the Minister;
  - (b) to the police?

- (4) When was the information referred to in part (5) of question 58 conveyed to the Minister?
- (5) What portion of section 29 is said to—
  - (a) justify the board making the inquiries; and
  - (b) permit the board to demand production of documents?
- (6) Has any action been taken, or is any action contemplated, against any person or organisation for any breach of the Act, and if so, what are the details of such action and against whom has it been, or will it be, taken?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) 23 February 1981.
- (2) 12 March 1981, on a general basis, but specific inquiry was made in relation to application 1560/80 on 14 March 1981, and concluded on that date.
- (3) (a) 27 March 1981;  
(b) 16 March 1981.
- (4) 12 March 1981.
- (5) (a) and (b) Section 29 (1).
- (6) Not by the board.

- (3) Would he further agree that long-term gains could be made by providing through the public and/or private sectors, programmes explaining, and promoting participation in, capital raising for industry?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Although it is agreed that mining projects have not been favoured with Australian public investment in the past there is an increasing willingness to participate in some resource developments because of the recognition of a more stable, viable industry. However, the Minister for Resource Development would be happy to consult with the Minister for Education to ensure that the present programmes in senior high schools are augmented, if necessary.
- (2) Australian public investment interest has been in housing and urban development companies and projects and in shorter-term speculative areas. The advantage of longer-term investment in our own resource developments is being recognised more and more.
- (3) Yes.

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### *Australian Equity*

173. The Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister representing the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Accepting the premise that experience has shown that a large number of Australians are unwilling to invest in resource-based development, would the Minister examine, in consultation with the Minister for Education, the possibility of a formal or informal curricula content in senior high schools covering—
  - (a) investment and finance; and
  - (b) their relationship to employment and national wealth?
- (2) Would the Minister agree that while the mechanism exists for Australian public participation in resource projects, public motivation does not?

## HOUSING

### *Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority*

174. The Hon. F. E. McKenzie (for the Hon. PETER DOWDING), to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it proposed to establish housing under the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia, and if so—
  - (a) how many houses; and
  - (b) in what towns;
 is it proposed to erect houses in 1981/82?
- (2) Where are the funds coming from?
- (3) Will the houses be available for lease or purchase?
- (4) Are any finance companies involved and if so, which ones?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (2) General Loan Fund and semi-Government borrowings. In order to mount an additional programme in the Pilbara region, funds are being negotiated also on a sale-and-lease-back arrangement.
- (3) The houses will be available for lease or purchase.
- (4) No.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

### *Premiums and Payments*

175. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Further to question 49 answered on 1 April 1981—

- (1) As the various items set out in part (5) of the answer do not add up to the total amount shown in part (3) for the corresponding year, will the Minister indicate the reason for the discrepancy?
- (2) Is it possible that the difference in these figures represents the amounts paid out in legal costs?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) Yes, the amounts shown in answers 5(a) to (c) of question 49 are only part of the breakdown of total compensation payments. If the member refers to the various annual reports of the board he will be able to ascertain the information he requires.
- (2) No.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Education Assistance*

176. The Hon. F. E. McKenzie (for the Hon. PETER DOWDING), to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Does the Department for Community Welfare assist needy families with uniforms for school children and book allowances?
- (2) In respect of the years 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981—
  - (a) how many applications were received;

- (b) how many applications were granted;
- (c) what was the total pay out in each case;
- (d) is there a fund allocated for this purpose, and if so, how much; and
- (e) what are the eligibility criteria for the allowance being granted?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) The Minister for Community Welfare advises that the department assists with school uniforms allowance only for the first three years of high school.
- (2) (a) Precise figures not available:  
 (b) 1979—360 children assisted;  
 1980—636 children assisted;  
 1981—999 children assisted—to date;
- (c) 1979—\$23 400 at \$65 per child;  
 1980—\$44 600 at \$65 per child;  
 1981—\$72 000 to date at \$72 per child;
- (d) yes.  
 The Lotteries Commission School Uniforms Trust Fund. 1981—\$30 000.  
 State Government Consolidated Revenue Fund 1981—\$60 000;
- (e) families whose sole income is a basic social security pension;  
 long-term unemployment or sickness benefit families on basic benefits;  
 families with gross income on or below the appropriate unemployment benefit rate;  
 families with less than \$200 cash reserves in the above categories;  
 providing the child is not eligible to receive a comparable allowance from another source.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Institution: Bridgewater*

177. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What does the Minister mean by the term "legally innocent children" in his answer to question 90 given on 1 April 1981?
- (2) In particular, is a child—
  - (a) who has attended before a panel without a charge being laid; or

(b) who has had the benefit of a dismissal under Section 26 of the Child Welfare Act;

regarded as legally innocent?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) For the purposes of admission to Bridgewater "legally innocent children are those who have not appeared before the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel or been found guilty of an offence in the Children's Court.
- (2) (a) and (b) Answered by (1).

## HOUSING

*Applicants: North-west*

178. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it necessary for State Housing Commission applicants in the north-west, in order to be eligible for housing, to have dependant children?
- (2) If not, in what towns are people without dependant children eligible for housing?
- (3) In what towns are people without dependant children granted housing?
- (4) Does the department recognise permanent foster children arrangements, and if so, in what circumstances?
- (5) If not, why not?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Answered by (4).

## ABORIGINES

*Land Rights*

179. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Does the Government have any policy with respect to the granting or recognition of Aboriginal land rights other than to allow Aborigines to acquire pastoral leases on the same basis as non-indigenous citizens?
- (2) If the Government's policy is otherwise than as stated, what is the policy?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) and (2) In asking this question relating to the Government's policy on Aboriginal land matters, the member appears to have misinterpreted the principal point in the replies provided on Wednesday, 1 April to two earlier questions on the same matter. In this question the member implies that there are no special arrangements available to Aborigines to acquire land in this State.

This seems to be a somewhat common misconception of the real situation and the Minister for Community Welfare feels the policy needs some elaboration.

The land requirements of Aboriginal people in this State are considered by the Aboriginal Lands Trust, which is a formally constituted body within the provisions of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act and which comprises total Aboriginal membership. Following extensive consultation with Aboriginal groups as to land aspirations, the trust submits recommendations to the Minister for Community Welfare for his consideration and decision.

There are 19 million hectares of land set aside for use and benefit of Aborigines in the State, which is managed through the Aboriginal Lands Trust. There are a further 2.5 million hectares held in various forms of leasehold, also under the administrative control of the trust.

The reserved land is held in perpetuity by the trust. The status of this land can be altered only with the consent of Parliament.

It provides a most appropriate form of land tenure and affords the Aboriginal people living on these reserves a very soundly based security.

Although special provision has been made for excision of portions of land from a number of pastoral leases to allow housing villages to be constructed for Aboriginal groups living on the properties concerned, it is the Government's policy that pastoral leases acquired by or on behalf of Aboriginal groups should be managed within the normal terms of such a lease, with advisory and management support as considered necessary.

Unfortunately, the subject of land rights as introduced in this question tends, once again, to bring a distorted focus to a very practical and satisfactory land holding arrangement, administered by the Western Australian Government, to meet the special needs of Aboriginal people.

- (h) one;
- (i) none;
- (j) one;
- (k) two;
- (l) two;
- (m) two;
- (n) three and one trainee.

## EDUCATION

### *Teacher Aides: Aborigines*

180. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are Aboriginal teacher aides in areas with Aboriginal children an integral part of the State education system?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) How many teacher aides are employed by the State Education system in—
  - (a) the metropolitan area;
  - (b) the Pilbara; and
  - (c) the Kimberley?
- (4) How many Aboriginal teacher aides are employed in each of—
  - (a) Wyndham;
  - (b) Kununurra;
  - (c) Halls Creek;
  - (d) Fitzroy Crossing;
  - (e) Derby;
  - (f) Broome;
  - (g) Port Hedland;
  - (h) Marble Bar;
  - (i) Nullagine;
  - (j) Christmas Creek;
  - (k) Yandeyarra;
  - (l) Roebourne;
  - (m) Onslow; and
  - (n) Jigalong?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

I am advised as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) Nil;
- (b) 10;
- (c) 23.
- (4) (a) two;
- (b) two;
- (c) three;
- (d) three;
- (e) three;
- (f) one;
- (g) none;

## POLICE

### *Telephone Tapping*

181. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Was the Minister correctly reported on the ABC radio news on Friday, 3 April 1981, and subsequently in the Press, as saying—
  - (a) that he had no idea whether the police in WA were using illegal telephone tapping;
  - (b) that he did not intend to inquire whether the police were using illegal telephone tapping; and
  - (c) that he could understand the desire of the police to use telephone tapping even though it may be illegal?
- (2) Does the Minister—
  - (a) oppose; or
  - (b) condone;
 the use of illegal methods of crime detection by the police?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

The Minister for Police and Traffic advised—

- (1) (a) Yes;
- (b) yes;
- (c) no.
- (2) The law of the State does not allow illegal methods of crime detection by the police.  
Every policeman is duty bound to uphold the law and it has been stated many times by the Government and by me that that is the situation which we support and which we will not alter.  
We do not believe that policemen, any more than unions or unionists, should be above the law.



## EDUCATION

*School Bus: Karratha-Roebourne*

182. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

As investigations by me have revealed that the bus route distance from Roebourne Caravan Park to the high school in Karratha is in fact 44 km each way, which is only 2 km less than the required distance for the round trip to get air-conditioning under current Government policy, will the Minister reconsider the position in relation to the Roebourne school students travelling to Karratha, and arrange for them to have an air-conditioned bus for this journey?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

I am advised—

No. Other Karratha and north-west school bus services could be affected also if the Education Department does not maintain its policy of a minimum distance of 90 kilometres for air-conditioned services.

However, it is anticipated that declining numbers of secondary students requiring transport from Wickham to Karratha will increase the accommodation available for Roebourne students on the existing air-conditioned buses.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

*Power Station*

183. The Hon. R. G. PIKE, to the Minister representing the Premier:

With reference to question 100 of 7 April 1981, and the reported answer in *The West Australian* of Wednesday, 8 April 1981, on the Government's energy policy was the Minister correctly reported in the article which said that a nuclear power plant in WA was not expected before 1995?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

Presumably in an effort to limit the space given to the answer supplied on 7 April, the Press report did not convey

the full import of the answer supplied to me by the Premier, the full text of which was—

- (1) The State Energy Commission, on behalf of the Government is keeping fully informed on developments within the nuclear power industry overseas and is investigating possible sites for a nuclear power plant in Western Australia, as has been previously announced, even though no decision has been made on a plant and, in any case, a plant would not be anticipated before 1995. Present known coal reserve increases and current exploration for coal could be an important factor in any decision.

- (2) The Government has followed the practice of making energy policy statements on a progressive basis to keep the public informed of the way in which it is adapting policy to changing circumstances. At the present time, the Government is moving towards completion of its latest major review and expects to be in a position to make it public later in this year.

This is self-explanatory, but I emphasise that no decision has been made on a nuclear plant. In any case a plant would not be anticipated before 1995 and present known coal reserve increases and current exploration for coal could be an important factor in any decision.

Ours is a responsible course of keeping abreast of current experience and keeping our options open.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

## HOUSING

*Applicants: North-west*

64. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) I refer to the answer he supplied to question 178. I draw his attention specifically to the fact that his purported

answer (3) to the question "In what towns are people without dependent children granted housing", is not an answer to part (3) of the question. I ask: In those circumstances would he refer the question back to the Minister for Housing to have that question answered?

- (2) Part (4) of question 178 asked "Does the department recognise permanent foster children arrangements and, if so, in what circumstances?", and the answer does not respond to that question. Will he ask the Minister to deal with that question also?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

## ROAD

### *Glen Road*

65. The Hon. H. W. OLNEY, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is he aware of the desire of the Shire of Mundaring to extend Glen Road across the railway reserve?
- (2) Has any request been made to the Government to gazette a section of the railway reserve for road purposes?
- (3) Is he aware that the shire had proceeded with bulldozing in this area prior to any gazettal taking place?
- (4) Is it the Government's intention, and if so, when, to gazette this reserve for road use?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) to (4) There have been negotiations, but I am not in a position offhand to answer such a detailed question. I suggest that it be put on notice.

## COURTS

### *Statutory Offences: Dismissal of First Offenders*

66. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Attorney General:

I refer to his answer to question 169 dealing with the *de-minimus* provisions of the Police Act and the first offender

provisions of the Criminal Code, and ask—

- (1) Does he accept that on occasions trivial offences might be committed under Statutes other than the Police Act?
- (2) In the light of there being no power for any magistrate either to caution or to record no conviction because of the trivial nature of the offence except under the Police Act, would he give further consideration to having a general *de-minimus* provision which would extend to legislation other than the Police Act?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) The power to extend leniency in relation to trivial offences by dismissing the offence extends not only to the Police Act, but also to offences under the common law, and it extends to the Criminal Code. At this stage I am not convinced that there is any necessity to extend the power to trivial offences further, partly because, as I have already indicated, the recent extension of the Criminal Code is still being worked out, and the experience resulting from that is being assessed. Another reason is that there are other ways in which trivial offences may be dealt with in relation to other statutory offences which may not be covered directly by the *de-minimus* rule. Administratively, prosecutions may not necessarily be preferred.

## COURTS

### *Statutory Offences: Dismissal of First Offenders*

67. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Attorney General:

This question is supplementary to my previous questions, and reads—

- (1) I take it the Attorney General is aware that section 669 expressly does not extend to the Traffic Act

because of provisions in the Traffic Act. Will he not concede that there are occasions on which offences committed under the Traffic Act may be trivial and there may be no option but for the magistrate to convict and impose the minimum penalty?

- (2) Since it has been held that magistrates have no power to impose a caution, would he give consideration to an amendment to whatever Statute necessary, probably the Justices Act, to give magistrates the power to impose a caution in lieu of other penalty in appropriate cases?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) I have noted that the opinions of motorists prosecuted under the Traffic Act often differ markedly from the opinions of the RTA officers who apprehended them—

The Hon. Peter Dowding: I am talking of real trivial offences.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Let me finish—as to whether the offence is trivial. Indeed, constantly I am the recipient of correspondence from motorists who have been convicted of exceeding the speed limit by 13 or 15 kilometres an hour and who regard that as an extremely trivial offence for which they should not have been prosecuted or should not have received an infringement notice. Therefore, to a certain extent, there is a great deal of subjective judgment in this area.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: The question is directed to real trivial offences, and not to subjective views.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: To continue—

- (2) As to whether there are any specific matters in the Traffic Act which merit the attention of the Legislature, that is a matter on which inquiries could be made. In his question, the member did not indicate any particular area. If he considers that there are trivial offences under the Traffic Act which should be included, in due course that could be considered by the Minister for Police and Traffic.

On the subject of cautions, I would remind the member that the situation of which he speaks was cured by the amendment to section 669 in 1979. The decision of the Full Court in *Walsh v Giumelli* was rectified in that we gave the magistrates the power of caution by the 1979 amendment to section 669. It is no longer correct to say that magistrates do not have the power to caution.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: But only first offenders.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: In other words, they can convict and discharge. In effect, that is a caution.

The Hon. Peter Dowding: But only for first offenders.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: No. I direct the member's attention to section 669. It applies to a second or subsequent offence. It is a good idea for the member to be given a copy of that section. It applies to offences which do not carry a maximum punishment exceeding three years and where the original offence was a conviction in the Children's Court or a conviction for which a sentence of imprisonment for not more than six months could be awarded. There are one or two other circumstances in relation to drunken offences; but I will not bother the House with them. The situation to which the member referred has been rectified completely.

## COURT

### *Family Court*

68. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Attorney General:

I refer to the publicity given recently to statements made by the chairman of judges of the Family Court of Western Australia, and ask—

- (1) In the light of that Press publicity, has he given consideration, or will he give consideration, to an amendment to the Family Court Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Family Court to cover the relationships between *de facto* rather than *de jure* spouses?

- (2) What elements of such relationships are under consideration for amendments to the Family Court Act?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) As I have indicated already in the Press, I have called for a transcript of the judgment by Mr Justice Barblett to have it examined in detail and to study its implications. I am not prepared to say what action could be taken until such implications have been studied. I have asked also for the opinions of the Family Law Council; and those opinions will be examined likewise.

## PRISONS

### *Prisoners: Remission Rights*

69. The Hon. J. M. BERINSON, to the Attorney General:

The Attorney General will recall that I wrote to him on 4 February to inquire whether a recent decision of the High Court that prisoners in New South Wales whose parole had been revoked were entitled to retain remission rights affected the position as previously understood in this State. Is the Attorney General able to respond to this inquiry, and if not when does he anticipate that a response might be available?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

I do not recall the letter; but I shall make inquiries to discover what became of it, if it was received by me.

## FISHERIES

### *Esperance*

70. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

I refer to his Press statements following my previous questions concerning tuna fishing at Esperance. His statement to the Press was that he was opening up the opportunity for more tuna boats and for more tuna licences to be issued, and that he welcomed the increase in the tuna fleet. Is he reported correctly as welcoming the increase in the tuna fleet; and is he aware that the tuna fleet in Esperance is currently tied up because

of the lack of any market from even the canneries for which the Western Australian Government has provided financial largesse?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

My statements were reported correctly in the Press. The tuna fishery in the south-west never has been closed. In fact, the State Government wishes it to remain open. However, the same situation does not apply, for example, in South Australia where a limitation is placed on the number of boats allowed to go into the tuna fishery. As the Hon. Graham MacKinnon would know from his involvement in the industry, our south coast tuna fishery has a long way to go before it is developed to the extent of the South Australian tuna fishery. The main problem with our fishery is that we do not have big enough boats to go far enough out so that the maximum catch is obtained. At present the market is flooded, and many of those who catch tuna cannot sell their catches; but that will not happen in future years. This year is a freak.

To close the fishery would be to close an opportunity for bigger boats and more fishermen to become involved in the industry. It might seem strange that we are attempting to encourage bigger boats into the industry at a time when we are having difficulty selling the present tuna catch. I do not think anyone would at this time buy a new boat until the industry settles down again. That is the present position.

Most of the boats are not at Esperance at this time; in fact, most of them have moved to Albany, but I admit largely they are not fishing for tuna. It is true a limited number of tuna is being sold at the moment, but that situation may not continue during the next few weeks.

## FISHERIES

### *Esperance*

71. The Hon. PETER DOWDING, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

I ask a supplementary question as follows—

- (1) Is it not a fact that the larger fishing operators can carry their unprofitable seasons for one, two, or

three seasons; whereas the smaller operators, which are those operating out of Albany and Esperance, are in financial difficulties if one bad season occurs?

- (2) If that is a fact is not the Minister simply pandering to the big operators at the expense of the smaller operators in his open-handed and *laissez-faire* approach to the fishing industry.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS replied:

- (1) and (2) I cannot accept that comment. We have a very responsible attitude to the fishery. The management of fisheries throughout the State of Western Australia has been of the highest calibre. By far we have the best managed fisheries in Australia. We certainly encourage larger vessels to enter the industry in the long term. There may be people with fishing boats recently purchased who are in difficulty

with repayments. I am very sorry about that, and I am sure the market will come right in time to enable them to make their payments and continue in the industry.

The recession of tuna sales certainly affects big as well as small operators. I am talking about boats owned by individuals rather than by companies, and, in fact, I think most of the boats are owned privately. All the owners are in the same boat, if one would like to put the situation that way. I can see no way in which we will not encourage people to come into the industry and buy new boats. I cannot be certain, but I hope the recession in sales will not continue next season. We hope the world market will improve and we can get on with our job. We do not penalise small operators, and certainly do not support large operators. It is an all-round problem and we are doing the best we can.

