

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 29 September 1981

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Hassell (Chief Secretary), and transmitted to the Council.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN (STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 August.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park) [4.35 p.m.]: Last week during the course of debate on the Borrowings for Authorities Bill we decided this Bill and the three Bills following it on the notice paper would be debated at the same time. Therefore, in effect, there will be a cognate debate on them, because they all relate to the same matter.

When the Bill was introduced by the Treasurer on 18 August last he said difficulties were being experienced in properly and legally acknowledging changes in designations of Government departments which took place from time to time. We all know that at times departments are abolished or absorbed into other departments, or new departments are created. This occurs for various reasons and I do not want to deal with any of them, because they are as apparent to members of the House as they are to me.

Frequently when such changes in the designations of Government departments occur the titles of Ministers are changed also. In 1974 we overcame that difficulty by amending the relevant Acts and it was required the matter be put right by the Government making an Order-in-Council. We propose now the matter be dealt with in a similar manner as far as changes in the names of Government departments are concerned.

Confusion arises on occasions when, for example, a department such as the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board

changes its name to the Water Board. Difficulties may arise when a department still performs the same work, but does so under a different title, especially when legal documents are associated with that department. Those documents may relate to a loan or some other matter which requires legal attention.

In certain cases papers could be drawn up under a departmental designation and, at a later stage, the name of that department could change, although the work of the department remained the same. As a result of the change in designation, the document could become null and void. This sort of situation will arise on a continuing basis in the future and I cannot see any way to deal with the difficulty other than to adopt the provisions in this Bill and the other three Bills to which I have referred.

Firstly, we are dealing with this Bill; then we have the Acts Amendment (Statutory Designations) and Validation Bill which is a validation Bill; next we have the Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment and Validation Bill which is necessary because the department to which the Bill refers is an autonomous body and has dealings on the loan market; and finally we have the Interpretation Amendment Bill which completes the picture.

I hope I have not over-simplified the position. I have read the copious notes the Premier was good enough to lend me—those notes were prepared by his department—and, as a result, I believe I have a clear understanding of the correct position. Recently I read again the Treasurer's second reading speech on the Bill. I do not believe there is any danger whatsoever in allowing the names of departments to be amended by Order-in-Council and this legislation will remove any doubt which may exist in regard to legal dealings in which the Government is involved from time to time. The legislation will mean also that we will not need an amending Act every time the name of a department is changed. It is as simple as that. We overcame the position in regard to titles of Ministers by the amendment to the Interpretation Act, I think it was, in 1974. So we are really doing now to Government departments what we did to Ministers at that time. We have no objections to the proposals.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.41 p.m.]: I thank the member for Victoria Park for his support of the legislation and the concept of a cognate debate which was settled by the Speaker when we first introduced the Bills. My understanding is that this is the only Bill on which we have a debate, but we do have to go through the formalities for each Bill so far as the formal

passing of the second reading, Committee, and third reading stages are concerned. I will leave it on that basis, if I have correctly interpreted the Speaker's ruling, and reiterate my appreciation of the support and co-operation received from the Opposition.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

ACTS AMENDMENT (STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS) AND VALIDATION BILL

Second Reading

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from 18 August.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION BILL

Second Reading

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from 18 August.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from 18 August.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I would like to express my appreciation for the co-operation of members of the Opposition, particularly, the member for Victoria Park, in handling these cognate Bills.

Mr Bryce: That is your birthday present.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ARCHITECTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 10 September.

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.54 p.m.]: The Opposition opposes this Bill, which comes before the House consequential upon a Bill which passed through this Parliament in 1978. That Bill was designed to give architects some respite from income tax, and whether that was a good or bad thing is a matter of personal opinion. The Opposition at that time expressed the view in clear terms that when a Government brings in legislation for a particular purpose the Government should at least disclose that purpose and not conceal it. Consequently it expressed the opinion that architects were a segment of the community that did not need taxation relief. The people who needed taxation relief were those who by and large were receiving a smaller income than one would presume architects receive.

If one cares to see what the Opposition said at that time the debate is recorded at and about page 2013, volume 2 of the 1978 *Hansard*. The Bill was introduced containing 27 clauses of which 20 were concerned with the fact that

architects could practise only as individual people. The whole object of that exercise was to give architects additional room to avoid income tax by forming limited companies.

In the Minister's second reading speech not one word was mentioned about the true intention of the Bill. He had something to say about the other seven clauses, but he remained mute as to the true reason for the 20 clauses to which I have referred. Of course, because the Government in this place can do pretty well what it likes, it took no notice of the Opposition, and the Bill as introduced in 1978 became law. As is so often the case, the Government made a botch of that Bill even though it was not a very substantial one.

The Government did not do its job effectively, because it meant that only architects practising in partnership could take advantage of that amendment to the Architects Act. Now that that has become amply manifest, something is being done and this Bill deals exclusively with that situation. It will enable sole architects to set up corporate bodies so they, too, will now be able to obtain relief from income tax.

It so happens that the amendment of 1978 did not really take into account the requirements of the Companies Act. Then, of course, a difficulty arose and it became necessary for this Bill to be introduced.

The Opposition's position is that the 1978 Bill should not have been introduced, and should not have become law. If the Government were confident in what it was doing, it should have told the House what it was doing and not tried to conceal its true objective. Since the Opposition believes the 1978 Bill should not have become law, it naturally follows it does not believe it should support this Bill, either, which is designed to give even greater ability to architects to avoid Commonwealth income tax legislation.

Since 1975 we have witnessed the continuing endeavours of the Fraser Government, hand in hand with the Court Government, aimed at redistributing the wealth of this country. This Bill represents just one relatively small further step towards that objective. It appears as though this policy will continue until such time as the people feel the pinch sufficiently greatly to change the Government.

In the meantime, the Opposition can merely protest and inform the people of what is being done. We can simply tell the people they are being got at, that certain favoured people—in this case, the architects—are being given income tax relief, and that the people we represent, who comprise roughly 50 per cent of the people of this

State, are to be left out in the cold to carry the huge burden of income tax.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Works) [5.03 p.m.]: I am sorry the Opposition has adopted such an attitude because whereas it might be said that the Bill provides that an individual architect will be placed in the same position as an architect practising with one or more partners, it cannot be said he will be placed in a more advantageous position than other professional people or, indeed, people in business or in many other walks of life. So, for the member for Mt. Hawthorn to describe this legislation as a further step towards a redistribution of wealth is somewhat of an exaggeration, and indicates he is talking in clichés.

After all, if citizens are equal in front of the law and can arrange their affairs so that within the various Statutes—in this case, the Commonwealth Income Tax Assessment Act—they are placed in the most advantageous position from the point of view of paying income tax and if, as has been supported by High Court decisions, they are legally entitled to do so, I cannot see how any opposition can be mounted towards the State not denying that right to one section of the community; namely, the architects.

If one compares the income of professional architects with that of people employing the profession, such as developers, it becomes quite clear who has the greater ability to earn money, and who is in the more advantageous position. So, from that point of view, even if the Opposition were right, and that was the single purpose of the Bill, it cannot be properly criticised.

Whilst the Bill recognises architects are part of a business, it does not weaken the individual professional responsibilities of architects, either individually or when practising in partnership or within a company structure.

For those reasons, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

ABATTOIRS AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 10 September.

MR EVANS (Warren) [5.08 p.m.]: It has been a while since this Act was before the Legislative Assembly for amendment and during that period a number of events have occurred, not the least of which has been the demise of the Midland Junction Abattoir. I had hoped and expected the Minister for Agriculture would take the opportunity to refer to the operation of the meat industry and in particular, to the Meat Commission, and to provide members with a general resume of what has transpired within the industry. However, that was not to be, although the Minister may provide this information when he replies to the debate.

As I have said, since this legislation was last before the House, the Midland Junction Abattoir has closed. As a preface to my further remarks, I make a prophecy that in the fullness of time Robb Jetty will cease functioning as a service abattoir. I forecasted the closure of Midland Junction Abattoir some four years before its demise. As a consequence of inept government and the basic, or base philosophy of the Liberal Party and the National Country Party, the abattoir at Midland gradually moved towards closure, and it finally closed without a ripple from the producers. One does not need to choke a cat with cream; other measures can be taken. So it was that with a certain amount of stealth, the policy of the Government has prevailed.

All the indicators point to the fact that, eventually, Robb Jetty also will close. It will not happen overnight; as with the Meekatharra-Mullewa railway, and the Midland Junction Abattoir, it will finally succumb to the policies of this Government.

Mr Brian Burke: The Minister has been quite silent on that matter.

MR EVANS: The Minister is always a little ashamed when he brings this legislation before the House, and so he should be, because if anything shows the ineptitude and inability of the Government, it is the way it is handling the meat industry.

Mr Old: You are a joke a minute.

Mr Brian Burke: He knows more about the industry than you will ever know.

Mr Old: He was just starting to learn when he got the chop.

MR EVANS: The time is nigh when producers will have to take a long, hard look at the situation facing them, otherwise the entire industry will

finish up in the hands of several major abattoirs. That may appear to be a good thing to those who fanatically support the free enterprise system. However, those people who support free enterprise refuse to allow that principle to operate in areas where it really matters, such as the marketing of rural produce, where the principle has been successfully applied. If producers do not consider the situation and the possibilities therein, the opportunities for a few people to manipulate the industry will be frightening; it will be a disaster for the producers.

The Minister was a little scornful in his rather forced laugh a moment ago, but let me remind members opposite of what is happening in the beef industry at the moment. Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Nanovich), you would probably know as well as anybody that beef prices to the producer are disastrously low; in fact, the situation is comparable with that of 1974. It is true there was a revival in the first quarter of this year; however, it lasted only a few weeks; since then, beef prices to the producer have remained at a consistently low level.

I know the beef producers in my area and in the electorate of Vasse are very concerned at the prices being paid to the producer; they do not even approach what could be considered a reasonable return for their efforts.

Mr Blaikie: They are alarmed also about the impact on the American market of the horse and kangaroo meat scandal. They are very concerned. However, we are dealing with the matter in an industry sense.

MR EVANS: There is no harm in my reviewing the situation as it affects individual producers; certainly, the Minister is reluctant to do so.

Mr Grewar: Do you have another hypothesis—as an alternative to supply and demand theories?

MR EVANS: When all fanaticism for free enterprise has left this Chamber, there will still be some left in the member for Roe. He claims to support free enterprise; but let the Government take away the marketing of wheat, or the floor price for wool, and he would be out of a job.

Mr Grewar: Tell us how you would do it.

MR EVANS: I will tell the member for Roe. Let us consider the results achieved by this Government, bearing in mind we are dealing with an aspect of the Meat Commission; all these matters are relevant. It is the entire operation of the commission that is involved.

Before proceeding to the figures involved I would like to indicate the attitude and genesis of

the Meat Commission. In 1978 an amending Bill was introduced to the Abattoirs Act and the essential amendment of that Bill was to increase the size of the Meat Commission by two members. That was supposed to be the vehicle through which the meat marketing reform, as promised by the Government, was carried out, and the member for Roe will recall that a referendum was held which had all the trappings of the election of an American President. To say the least, the manner in which it was presented by the Government was greatly extravagant. Finally succumbing to the wishes of the primary producers in this State the referendum came about after much Cabinet deliberation, and no doubt the interests of those operating in the meat and allied trades industries were well represented. I will remind the House of what transpired at the time.

The referendum was presented with much éclat. It contained three questions. It asked—

Do you favour the establishment, by an Act of Parliament, of a cattle and sheep slaughtering marketing corporation which would compulsorily acquire all such livestock at the point of slaughter?

Question two was—

Do you favour expanded trading in cattle and sheep by a statutory organisation through the Western Australian Meat Commission becoming a major trader in meat and by-products and actively competing for livestock at auction on farms and through purchase by direct consignments on a weight and grade basis in accordance with a previously published schedule of prices?

Question three was—

Do you favour the continuation of the livestock marketing system with marketing options such as classification, live weight selling, weight and grade?

In other words, the status quo would be retained. The situation was very well presented by an agricultural writer in the Eastern States. What occurred should not be forgotten and it will be remembered as a piece of politicking that would come very close to winning an academy award in these matters. The journalist, Mr Morton Barrington, asked, "If question one gets 59 per cent of the votes in the State meat referendum, and question two gets none, and question three gets 41 per cent, which question wins"? He answered himself correctly in the following way and said, "Question one—wrong; question three—wrong; question two wins with no votes". That was the way in which the referendum was

loaded. It could not have gone any other way. The requirement was 60 per cent of the vote.

After considerable procrastination the referendum was introduced and was duly put before the producers with all the ballyhoo to which I have referred. It came onto the Statute book in the form of an expanded Western Australian Meat Commission.

I do not know what the producers of Western Australia—particularly the beef producers—think about the situation at present. Their own position has not improved one iota. The Minister may advance reasons to explain this, although I would imagine they would be very unconvincing reasons. The producers may have some fairly short memories, I fear, which perhaps is one of those unfortunate things we confront. It might be fortunate, if one were a member of the Government's ilk, that human nature does involve a very short memory.

The shortage of beef available for slaughter is a factor contributing to the difficulties that abattoir operators throughout the State are experiencing. At the same time, the prices to the producer are remarkably low. This has not been explained, and certainly not in the light that any drop in the retail area is not reflected in the supermarkets or the butcher shops. In fact, there have been variations which have occurred between one sale and the next over the past four or five months, and this variation in price also has not been reflected in prices to the public. That is the state of the meat marketing industry in Western Australia. It is true that the shortage of beef has contributed to the operational difficulties of the various abattoirs throughout the State.

Another question that should be considered is the live sheep trade, but I will not deal with it at length. It certainly cannot be written off with the sort of remarks made by, among other people, the Minister for Agriculture, to the effect that because of the change in the composition of the flock in Western Australia more sheep and lambs are slaughtered than hitherto. That is true; there is no denying that. At the same time, the number of animals exported live from this State has escalated from around 400 000 to about six million. Even though an increase in the slaughter of lambs and young sheep can be shown at the present time, the number could be vastly greater. It is getting close to the time when a full appreciation and a costing, together with some marketing reform, of sheep meats was undertaken by this Government. That is another factor being overlooked.

I should make the point that while the live sheep trade is an essential adjunct and a ready source of income to so many farmers in Western Australia—and it must be maintained—at the same time there has to be something of a balance that reflects the impact on the total economy of this State, because so many other aspects are involved that do provide occupations not only within the abattoirs themselves, but also in the entire flow-on in a dozen different vocations which are dependent on the processing of sheep. As I have said, this is a matter that will have to be reviewed in detail. I remind the House that dependent upon the sheep trade and the increase of meat processing are such things as polythene, stationery, packaging, leather, LP gas, bins, tickets, fuel, cleaning agents, cartons, adhesives, plastic buckets, protective equipment, and many other items. The transport industry, the cool store industry, and other industries are all associated with the sheep trade. All this has to be evaluated. This is an area which has been neglected by the Government.

There is a need to increase the marketing potential and skill in the chilled sheep meat industry, and this could be done by a Government which was prepared to show a little backing for the industry, a Government prepared to proclaim section 4 of the Lamb Marketing Act to give the full range of opportunities to the Lamb Marketing Board.

I turn now to the more precise provisions contained in this Bill. The purport of the amendment is to provide for a retirement age of 70 years for members of the Western Australian Meat Commission.

Mr Pearce: This is badly timed legislation.

Mr EVANS: As the Minister has indicated, the Act provides that a member of the commission shall retire when he attains the age of 65 years, and this amendment is to extend the retirement age to 70 years. This is something with which we on this side of the House do not agree.

Mr Old: You could hardly say it was jobs for the boys.

Mr EVANS: Even the Premier would have a problem if this situation were expanded throughout the full range of Government legislation. On a general basis of principle, we would not accept such a policy.

The individuals on the Meat Commission, of which four are producer members, certainly have had a difficult task in the operations of the marketing side of the commission's dealings. I have not had time to ask a question of the Minister about the level of the commission's

operation, although I have given him notice of the question; but from memory I think the level of operation has been about 4.7 million animals this year and the total number, as shown in the commission's figures, indicates a decline in its operation. The number of cattle in 1978 was 172 996 which dropped to 116 131 in 1979. In 1980 the number was 81 418. This reflects the overall position of cattle in this State; it reflects the trends that have been discernible and the decrease in the Australian and this State's flock.

The number of sheep have declined from 601 501 in 1978 to 290 809 in 1980. The number of lambs fell by about half in a three-year period—from 1 490 781 to 507 095 in 1980. That decrease has occurred while the overall number of lambs and sheep killed has increased considerably. In that regard I refer to the number of lambs and sheep handled by the commission, bearing in mind that the Midland Junction Abattoir is no longer in operation. Total sales by the commission amounted to \$4 692 268, and the net loss was \$111 359. Possibly the main reason for that loss is that an appropriate number of livestock had not been available during the period in question.

If the commission were given an open charter to expand its operations I am sure it would find opportunities to improve its position. It would be interesting to see the results of the Minister's giving this House a full rundown on the conditions of the existing charter and the way the commission has operated under that charter. I have no doubt that its operations in regard to Middle East markets could be expanded.

The Opposition is not impressed with the Government's handling of abattoirs and the meat industry generally. As a matter of principle we cannot share the Government's view that it is necessary to extend from 65 to 70 years the retiring age for members of the commission.

Mr Grayden: If it were Chinese legislation the age limit would be 95. They have high regard for their more experienced people.

Mr Pearce: It would be a nice commission then!

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.32 p.m.]: Although the member for Warren did not support the Bill he gave us a dissertation on the present state of Western Australia's meat industry for which I thank him. I will answer some of the matters he raised even though they had nothing to do with this Bill.

Mr Evans: They had everything to do with the Bill.

Mr OLD: The Bill was introduced for only one reason, and that was to increase the retiring age

of members of the Western Australian Meat Commission. This change was proposed for a very good reason which I will mention later.

I was quite amazed by the lavish language used by the member for Warren. He said that "in the fullness of time" Robb Jetty Abattoir will close. I would have preferred a definition of the words "in the fullness of time".

Mr Evans: You will get it in time.

Mr OLD: I would like also a further explanation of his remark that by stealth we closed the Midland abattoir.

Mr Evans: You let it run down over the years.

Mr OLD: To the uninformed the member's remark may sound good; as if there were great intrigue in the closure of Midland abattoir. In fact, we had the abattoir basically in mothballs for some 2½ years prior to our making the final decision to close it. All parties were fully aware of our close monitoring of the operation of abattoirs in Western Australia with the intention of our determining whether adequate capacity was available to handle the kill for the State.

I ask members to bear in mind that in 1976 or thereabouts, as the member for Warren would recall, we formed not only the commission, but also the Meat Industry Authority. The authority was designed purely to ensure that abattoir capacities in Western Australia were utilised properly, which it has done efficiently. As I have informed the House on many occasions, a great surplus of abattoir capacities at present exists. The Albany works have closed, and the Katanning works are operating only one shift on one chain whereas they have two chains available and could operate more than one shift.

Mr Evans: Why did you give the licence to the abattoir at North Dandalup?

Mr OLD: That licence was given at a time when quite a number of cattle was being slaughtered—and some pressure!

At present the abattoir capacity is far above requirements as dictated by the size of our sheep flocks and cattle herds.

The member for Warren blithely spoke about the state of the beef industry as if to say that the acquisition of beef would solve all problems experienced presently by beef producers. No-one can doubt the fact that the beef producers are going through a difficult period, but to be able to market the beef successfully we must have an outlet for it. Currently the world is experiencing a depressed beef market about which the member would know only too well. However, he related his remarks to the beef industry only in Western

Australia and did not refer to the fact that beef production throughout the world is in excess of demand. It is good that in this State we are at the stage where our herd is depleted. It has been depleted methodically by the people involved in the industry, and they are the producers. The reason for this depletion has been the over-supply of beef.

During this period many producers have increased their sheep flocks. The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that the present number of sheep is 30.8 million.

The member referred to the export of live sheep, a matter about which we will hear much from the Labor Party in the next few months because of a decision taken by the Australian Council of Trade Unions at its recent conference. I can say with some certainty that if it were not for live sheep exports there would not be the growth in the flock that we have today. During the height of the recent drought the flock was depleted from a number of 35 million to below 30 million; yet under the drought conditions sheep producers were encouraged to increase the breeding content of their flocks because there was an assured market.

The Meat Industry Employees' Union is concerned that live sheep are exported. Obviously if those sheep were slaughtered in this State there would be more employment for its members, and one can feel sympathy for the union's attitude. From memory, some 4.4 million sheep and lambs were slaughtered in Western Australia during the last financial year, which is a number equal to and in excess of the numbers slaughtered during most years since the drought years of the 1960s. The rationale in the thinking of the union that the number of sheep being slaughtered has declined does not stand up to the test when the figures are considered.

I reiterate that if live sheep exports are in any way inhibited we will have a downturn in the industry. The market could collapse if it were not for live sheep exports keeping saleyard prices for sheep at the level they are. Without these exports we would look forward to a period of a declining sheep flock.

The management of the Robb Jetty abattoir has come under criticism tonight; and by way of innuendo the commission has come under some criticism. The operation of the Robb Jetty and Midland abattoirs certainly has been a cross to bear for the commission in relation to the servicing of debts. The Government recognises the necessity for a service abattoir. It is all very well for the member for Warren to say that Robb

Jetty will close. The Government has given an undertaking to provide a service abattoir, and that is what it will do. I am sure the member knows that a service abattoir must be maintained and kept open. Other abattoirs in the State can close for a period of some weeks or months, and some indefinitely, but Robb Jetty cannot close because its management has a commitment to provide a service to the abattoir's clients. Although the operation of the abattoir may be very expensive, and it certainly has been over the past few months, the service it provides must continue. It has been provided and it will be provided.

I listened with great interest to the criticism of the trading section of the commission. The member answered his own question about the operation of that section when he mentioned that the Government has appointed two more meat producers as members of the commission. That occurred after the referendum, and now we have four meat producers as members of the commission. I am pleased to say they all take a very responsible attitude to their jobs.

Last year the trading section suffered a net loss of approximately \$111 000. Although that amount may not seem to be very much, the commission is working on a separate budget and endeavouring to maintain some sort of a floor in the market. At this stage it operates at almost all country sales. One criticism levelled at the section recently was that a buyer from the commission attended a sale, but did not buy anything. However, he did bid. When all is said and done, bidding is a part of the concept of maintaining a floor in the market.

We are accustomed to hearing criticism of the commission, but I do not believe it has anything to hide. It can be proud of the job it has done. It provides an excellent service for the meat producers of this State.

The purpose of this Bill is to make a simple amendment to the principal Act, and the reason for that is that we have found we lose capable people by adhering to the section of the Act which requires a member of the commission to retire at the age of 65 years. In fact, when some people retire at the age of 62 or 63 years they still have quite a useful life ahead of them in so far as the operations of boards and commissions are concerned. With that idea in mind I reluctantly brought this Bill before the House. I did not like bringing it here because the amendment appears to be so trivial; however, at this juncture it is important.

Last year we lost a valuable member of the commission because of the section dictating the

age limit. Another member is due to retire at the end of this year. It is my desire, and certainly it is the desire of the Government, to ensure that we do not lose another valuable member of the commission because of a stipulation that members must resign at the age of 65 years.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILLS (3): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Mental Health Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Mental Health) Bill.
3. Animal Resources Authority Bill.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MISUSE OF DRUGS BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

ABATTOIRS AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

PERTH THEATRE TRUST AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 10 September.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [7.34 p.m.]: The Perth Theatre Trust was established in 1979 to take over the operation of a number of theatres which previously were operated independently. The Bill before the House is a simple Bill which should be well within the competence of the Minister to handle.

It has three main provisions. It amends the title of the manager to that of "general manager"; it

clarifies the superannuation arrangements for employees, particularly those who were inherited from the Perth City Council; and in addition, it gives greater flexibility to the trust to employ casual employees without having them screened by the Public Service Board.

I am pleased to announce to the House that the Opposition has no objection to this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Grayden (Minister for Cultural Affairs), and transmitted to the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 15 September.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [7.37 p.m.]: The Opposition does not intend to oppose this Bill, but I would like to make one or two brief comments on it.

We notice that the Bill facilitates the co-operation of various councils to enable the disposal of refuse. Some time ago the Opposition suggested ways in which waste could be disposed of, and it suggested the establishment of a statutory authority which would help to solve the problem in the metropolitan area. However, that suggestion was not received well by local government bodies, and the problem remained with local government.

Some local authorities are dealing with the problem in a forthright manner. I was at the recent opening of the transfer station established by the Shire of Bayswater. That shire is doing what it can to move away from the landfill method and to use an environmentally better system of transporting the waste from the transfer station to Herne Hill.

The solution to the problem of waste disposal does not lie in dealing with the rubbish at the end. Our society should give careful consideration to the creation of waste. A great deal of packaging waste is created in the productive system; and then at the end we have the problem of what to do with the waste. If we are to wait until the waste

has been created and then work out what to do with it, we will have a serious problem which will continue to grow. If we attempt to reduce the amount of packaging and other things which create waste, we would have a better chance of dealing with the problem.

The Government is to be criticised in that it has not addressed itself to the problem of the creation of waste. It allows the waste to be created, and then local government has to deal with the end product. Obviously it is beyond the scope of local government to deal with the earlier stage—the creation of the waste. It cannot deal with the wasteful packaging and similar matters early in the production process. The Government should address itself to the creation of the waste, and so remove some of the burden from local government.

We note that the maximum penalty which may be prescribed for a breach of council by-laws is to be increased to \$500. Some bodies have created a problem by thumbing their noses at local authorities. Unfortunately some people who do not feel disposed to take on the Commonwealth Government or the State Government feel that a local authority is a much smaller body to take on, and they are prepared to do that. If we are to give responsibility to local authorities, we must give them the means whereby they can enforce their decisions. Therefore we do not quarrel with this provision.

Another part of the Bill gives local authorities the power to provide financial assistance to sporting organisations. In my own area I have noted the difficulties that local authorities have experienced when wanting to give assistance to organisations.

Of course, the assistance should not be given to sporting organisations only, but to organisations generally. In Australia, we have a real bias in favour of sporting organisations, and tend to ignore others. In place of the adjective "sporting", I would prefer the adjective "recreational", because it is not up to us to decide that particular organisations deal with physical sport and therefore are entitled to assistance, and that organisations dealing with other kinds of recreation are not.

Whilst accepting that local government bodies should have the ability to assist local organisations in various ways—and at times it has been absurd that local government bodies have not been able to assist local organisations because of deficiencies in the Act—the concept should be widened from merely sporting bodies, on which

there has been an over-emphasis in Australia, to other recreational bodies.

I have no quarrel with the control and operation of the Morley aerodrome, but nevertheless there is a need for local authorities to be competent to deal with the aerodromes under their control. For authorities faced with such problems, the amendment is a welcome change.

The final matter with which I would like to deal is the requirement that a rate notice should contain notification to a ratepayer of his or her right to object to a new rate. This is needed in all levels of government. Frequently the people concerned have a right of appeal about which they are not informed and it is bad luck if they do not know about it. The more wealthy people in the community can retain a solicitor and be informed of their rights. However, most people cannot afford to retain a solicitor and they are not aware of their rights, as a result of which they pay up when in fact they could have protested.

Local government bodies should be required to inform ratepayers of their rights if they wish to object to a valuation or a rate. The provision in that regard is a step in the right direction.

Opposition members believe the changes to the Local Government Act contained in the Bill are desirable. Naturally we shall have to examine the way in which they work in practice. It can be said government consists largely of our trying out different solutions, monitoring how they work, and then introducing amendments, if necessary. So far as we can judge the amendments at this time, they appear to be desirable. Of course, if they do not work very well in practice, we would expect them to be amended.

MRS CRAIG (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [7.46 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its general support of the Bill and, in so doing, I would like to make some brief comments.

The amendments as they appear in the Bill are as a result of consultation with local government and many of them were put to us by local government. Obviously we have agreed to the amendments in an endeavour to assist local government in administration.

The comments made by the member for Morley in relation to statutory authority waste disposal were quite right. Local authorities are not in agreement with that proposal and, as I understand the situation, that is still their firm stance. It could be said that, by introducing the Litter Act, the Government has acted to ensure a total approach to litter and, therefore, waste disposal, and industry itself is assisting in the financing of it. We have undertaken a programme

in an endeavour to ensure people are better educated in regard to waste disposal and we are trying to overcome the litter problem to some extent.

Mr Tonkin: I am suggesting this should be done at an earlier stage, before the litter is created.

Mrs CRAIG: I am aware the member is suggesting some restraint be placed on people who package certain items; but this is not a matter which comes within the parameters of the legislation and was simply a remark the member wished to make today.

The member for Morley commented on the recreational facilities he believed ought also to be recipients of assistance from local government and he is quite correct. Recreational facilities and sporting organisations can be assisted; this legislation relates to a difficulty which arose in regard to a process local government was using already. An anomaly in a lease agreement was thrown up and for that reason we moved to ensure the issue was clarified.

For some time local authorities have been using the power to make by-laws in relation to aerodrome landing fees; but no legality was attached to that practice. Therefore, we are now writing firmly into the Act a specific power to prescribe those by-laws.

With those few remarks, I again thank the Opposition for its support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mrs Craig** (Minister for Local Government), and transmitted to the Council.

MARKETING OF LAMB AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 17 September.

MR EVANS (Warren) [7.52 p.m.]: This Bill amends the Marketing of Lamb Act and its provisions are quite straightforward. It provides the avenue for the WA Lamb Marketing Board to dispose of lambs which have been delivered for slaughter under the terms of the Act, but are temporarily unable to be processed. It gives the

board the power to agist or in some other way temporarily defer the slaughter and processing of these animals.

The Bill provides that, with ministerial approval, the board be empowered to agist such lambs or sell them in a live form on a weight-for-weight basis. It provides also for weight and grade assessments to be paid to the producers who deliver the lambs.

The Bill provides for notification of assistance to growers so that they may elect to take redelivery of the same lambs if they choose to do so. In such cases, the terminology is that lambs of this nature will be deemed not to have been delivered to the board. The Minister will be enabled to suspend acceptance of lambs by the board after proper notice has been given.

The reason the measure is before the House was set out by the Minister. The Bill will allow the board to make alternative provisions for the handling of lambs during times of industrial disputation. Industrial disputes in this industry have occurred over a long period. Of course, nobody condones or appreciates industrial disputation at a time when it is most costly and inconvenient.

In his second reading speech the Minister said—

In 1980 the AMIEU engaged in disruptive industrial action during the peak of the lamb killing season. Lambs are a perishable commodity and need to be slaughtered within a short period of delivery if weight loss and reduced payments to producers are to be avoided.

The Minister is quite correct. One cannot keep a lamb in prime condition for more than a couple of weeks and once the lamb starts to lose its bloom, its quality deteriorates.

It is regrettable the provisions in the Bill are necessary to protect the producers and the returns due to them. I go to some pains to point out, however, that never is one side completely culpable in disputes of any sort, whether they be in industry or anywhere else.

Mr Grewar: They always seem to happen at peak time, though.

Mr EVANS: Some months before an election I heard two members opposite refer in a delighted manner to the fact that the dispute at Robb Jetty was continuing. That dispute was stoked along quite well. The Government had no intention to settle it at that time because of political motives. I heard the two members involved in that matter—

Mr Old: That is rot!

Mr EVANS: It is not rot.

Mr Old: It is rot and you know it.

Mr EVANS: I can give members a first-hand account of it.

Mr Old: Let us have the first-hand account then.

Mr Pearce: He just gave you a first-hand account.

Mr EVANS: I want to make the point that disputation is never of a one-sided nature. There are always two sides to the story and two parties to a dispute. The Government does not have an immaculate record in regard to the way in which it handles industrial disputation, and the terms and conditions of the meat industry make it one of the areas most sensitive to industrial disputes and also perhaps one of the most abrasive areas of industrial relations.

Regrettably the Government lacks the qualities required to handle industrial disputes and maintain industrial harmony. As a consequence, innocent parties suffer. Producers can ill-afford the results of industrial disputation when it occurs at the most inconvenient time. Inevitably these disputes arise when the pressure is greatest and that is usually at peak season.

Perhaps it is apposite to look at the live sheep industry and to examine in detail some of its less obvious consequences and then to ascertain whether the wide open policy of the present Government best suits the producers and the economy of Western Australia in the long term. In the 1971-72 season 550 000 live sheep were exported. In 1980 of the Australian total of 5.6 million live sheep exported, 3.1 million came from Western Australia. That is an indication of the sort of contribution this State makes to the live sheep trade.

The AMIEU opposes the development of trade in live sheep. That union represents abattoir workers in Australia. It opposes this trade on the ground that it reduces the number of sheep for slaughter and, as a result, the job opportunities for slaughtermen and people in associated industries are reduced also.

Earlier this afternoon the Minister went to great pains to explain the situation which has occurred in the Australian and, in particular, the Western Australian sheep flock. The breeding potential has expanded considerably the percentage of meat produced. The State flock is increasing. This was done on the advice of the Department of Agriculture, to a large extent. A greater turnoff has been achieved than one would have conceived could be possible, say, seven or 10

years ago. It has established a very lucrative trade for the sheep producers of Western Australia. There must be a live sheep trade; there is no question about it.

There are some other considerations that are being steadily ignored by this Government and, I suspect, also by the primary producers. It is they in the long term who may be called upon to pay for the situation which has developed. While we are on that topic regarding the relative prosperity of the sheep industry—it is prosperous, compared to other industries—the floor price for wool and the stability which the Lamb Marketing Board has given the price structure for lambs, are all matters which are more than peripheral factors involved. Despite the fact that exports of live sheep in 1980-81 were 3.15 million, 4.45 million sheep and lambs were slaughtered in Western Australia. That was the highest level since 1976-77.

The development of the live sheep export trade has increased the price for all categories; the Minister told us that earlier in the evening. It has certainly made a contribution to that situation. It has improved the profitability of the sheep industry and has restored confidence in the future of wool and sheep meat production—a far cry from the early 70s.

There are several other matters which need to be considered in conjunction with the measure before us. They revolve to a considerable degree around the effects of the live sheep trade. Most members are fully aware that the trade commenced in the mid-1960s with about five to six-year-old aged wethers mainly from Western Australia. They provided a very ready cash flow for producers for sheep which would be otherwise of very little value had they gone through the traditional works here. There has been a steady development caused by taking those out. It was by the early 1970s that some concern was being expressed that increasing numbers of sheep were bypassing the processing industry and being exported alive. I mentioned that exports have continued to rise and by 1980 had reached a figure of 5.6 million.

The trade in live sheep has contributed to a dislocation of an efficient unsupported industry in the processing field. The problem that has arisen is that of the increasing number of sheep and lambs being exported alive. Remember that I have already mentioned the figure of the export of live lambs. It is quite understandable that there has to be an evaluation of just what is involved.

We had better touch upon the major reasons for our servicing the Middle East markets with

live sheep. The reasons are probably fairly well known, but some of them are not as valid as the proponents of them would have us believe. It has been pointed out that the people of the region have a preference for what is termed hot meat—freshly killed—which has, of course, been a tradition in their climate. It is pointed out that cold store facilities are incapable of handling the vast amounts of meat required. Another point is that the people of the Muslim religion impose requirements of a religious nature on the meat they consume.

I would like to touch on a couple of other points. It is regrettable that the foresight of Sir Basil Embry was never borne out when he, as Chairman of RTC, made a move to establish a cool storage facility in Dubai, which is at about the centre of the Arabian Gulf. Had he been successful in doing that, it would have been a vastly different story for Western Australia.

Mr Grewar: There are a number of cold stores in Bahrain that have nothing in them.

Mr Old: That is right.

Mr EVANS: At that time there were no cold stores in Bahrain. We lost a golden opportunity there. This Government must bear some responsibility for that.

Mr Old: It would not have been long after that that cold stores were over supplied. I thought you went over there. Why didn't you build some?

Mr EVANS: I went over there with Sir Basil Embry and his party on that occasion. It was to be a co-operative. The then Premier and Treasurer, (the Hon. John Tonkin), was prepared to assist financially, but Sir Basil, as spokesman for RTC, preferred to make it a co-operative venture and declined the approach of any Government financial intervention.

Mr Old: If they were urgently needed, you should have put them there.

Mr EVANS: Unfortunately, while negotiations were still proceeding there was a very unfortunate event and a change of Government.

Mr Old: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr EVANS: It is unfortunate for the producers that when RTC went back after the change of Government to seek finance, it was knocked back.

Mr Grewar: That was very fortunate.

Mr EVANS: Fortunate, my foot!

Mr Old: They have not got a redundant cold store over there.

Mr Grewar: The New Zealand Government spent \$16 million.

Mr Old: That is right.

Mr EVANS: Yes. The entrepôt there rests with New Zealand. No live sheep go out of New Zealand. The quantity of chilled sheep meat that goes from New Zealand is fairly considerable. I would like to touch on that. It is not only New Zealand which supplies chilled sheep meat, but also the EEC which is putting in tremendous quantities. This is going to be of very real concern.

The *Western Farmer* of 30 April 1981 highlighted the British bid for gulf lamb trade. It points out that a serious threat to Australia's lamb export surfaced with the news that Britain may push about 30 000 tonnes of chilled lamb to the Middle East to avoid penalties with the EEC. That represents a very considerable tonnage.

I pointed out the very unfortunate history of RTC and the fact that we did not have a chance to develop that trade. Geographically, Western Australia would have been eminently suited. The Liberal-Country Party air policy prevented air freight of chilled lamb. As the sorry plight unfolds in the long term, this Government will be remembered, though not with very much pleasure, by a lot of the producers of Western Australia.

Mr Grewar: Don't you agree that the live sheep trade is a most important outlet for the sheep producer, as is the carcase trade?

Mr EVANS: Let us get this clear. The poor old member for Roe—

Mr Grewar: It does not sound like it.

Mr EVANS: There has got to be a live sheep trade.

Mr Old: You want to modify it, don't you?

Mr EVANS: I am asking that there be proper consideration of all relevant factors. This has not been done. Nobody can say at this time whether in the long term the fact that we are exporting lamb and hogget alive is going to be in our overall interests.

Mr Old: How many lambs have been exported alive?

Mr EVANS: I did give a figure before.

Mr Old: For live lambs?

Mr EVANS: Yes, for live lambs.

Mr Old: Sorry, I missed it. Can you let me have it again?

Mr EVANS: Yes, I will.

Mr Old: Thanks very much.

Mr Pearce: The Minister does not understand. You are using words of more than two syllables. The Minister should know. He knows much more about this whole business.

Mr Old: Do you want to go back to the control of the number of live sheep that are exported and have a committee controlling it, or don't you?

Mr EVANS: If I could get through to the Minister—

Mr Old: Please try.

Mr EVANS: I will get back to one-syllable words, if necessary.

Mr Pearce: A wise tactic!

Mr EVANS: Looking at the abattoir industry of Western Australia, which is the one we are concerned with, we must consider the impact it has on the total State economy. There has been no opportunity for a cost-benefit or feasibility study to be undertaken. No studies have been carried out by this Government. Consequently, there are some millions of sheep being exported alive. The tragedy is that lamb and hogget are included in them.

First and foremost, when looking at the ancillaries to the abattoirs in relation to the slaughter of lambs, they are just not processing them and putting them through the chilling rooms. That is only the beginning of it. When one looks at the by-products, the meat meal, bone meal, tallow and fertiliser, one realises that for every thousand tons of processed meat there will be a thousand tons of processed by-products. This has a very real relevance and importance.

We must not forget the skin trade and what this implies. When we consider this matter we must keep in mind also transportation, the cool store industry—and it is an industry in this State—and the employment provided on the wharves, etc. These are considerations that cannot be neglected. It goes back right through. I cited earlier this evening some of the ancillary industries required by the meat trade for various functions. I refer to the requirements such as polythene, stationery, packaging, legging paper, LP gas, bins and so forth, stockingettes, tickets, storing, tool cleaning agents, cartons, clothing, boots, adhesives, power, plastic buckets, knives, steel protective equipment, and so on. These are all requirements of the abattoirs of Western Australia. I will give one illustration which may not seem to be a great industry, but it is concerned with the supply of stocking bags made of stockingette. During the period between August and May the industry traditionally employed about 12 individuals. There are now four people on the staff. Only two are permanent.

As I remarked, we are talking in terms of something like 3.5 million live sheep from Western Australian this year. Members can appreciate the difficulty that these small ancillary

industries are experiencing. I am referring only to one; that is, the industry concerned with the making of export stocking bags. The number of people employed in this industry have been reduced from 12 to four. One might say that is only eight jobs but when there are other industries in a similar situation one can see the total picture.

I know it will be suggested that live sheep provide other avenues of employment in terms of feed, shearing, and wharf labour for loading. However, no-one has done his sums accurately to see just what the live sheep trade versus the processing of lamb and hogget does mean to this State. Whether the producers are getting a full return to which they are entitled is another matter of conjecture. Some time ago I quoted an experience by a Mr Ingham who was a representative—

Mr Old: Of an oil company.

Mr EVANS: —of an oil company, the largest employer—

Mr Old: He would know a lot about sheep!

Mr EVANS: He knows a lot about eating them because he was the biggest buyer over there.

Mr Old: He was not the biggest buyer over there at all.

Mr EVANS: He quoted some figures which seemed to be extraordinarily high and I have no way of verifying them.

Mr Old: And you know they are wrong.

Mr EVANS: I can only hope that the Minister has verified them with the resources he has at his disposal. He was talking in terms of hundreds of dollars per animal.

Mr Old: How many?

Mr EVANS: He said the price was as low as \$200. It certainly did not measure up with the experience I had while I was over there.

Mr Old: I know it did not.

Mr EVANS: The sheik would have been happy to receive them at \$40 when the price paid for them here was something like \$6 or \$7; therefore it was only a matter of about a 500 per cent difference.

Mr Old: It took a change of Government to put the price up.

Mr EVANS: When one compares and makes the necessary adjustment one is looking at a pretty fair margin of disparity and perhaps Mr Ingham might not be so far out as the Minister suggests.

Mr Old: Perhaps he would not be anywhere near the mark.

Mr EVANS: The Minister should have checked the figures most assiduously and thoroughly.

Mr Old: We sent a delegation over there, including a delegate of the Meat Industry Employees' Union.

Mr EVANS: I am coming back to the Meat Industry Employees' Union shortly. That aside was just to underwrite and to emphasise the question of how producers in this State are being treated in the livestock trade.

Mr Grewar: We are still getting a better price from the live sheep trade than from the slaughter trade.

Mr Old: They will be interested to read your remarks from tonight, I can assure you.

Mr EVANS: Someone suggested that the Minister should get down to what he should have done years ago, and that is make an evaluation of where the trade stands and where the values are.

The member for Roe points out that the live sheep trade is of greater value than the processing industry. This does not bear out when we get down to lambs and hogget. The entire structure of marketing is most loose and little controlled and it will become even more so because it is very rapidly developing into a totally vertical integrated industry.

Mr P. V. Jones: Do you want it controlled?

Mr EVANS: This has taken any chance of there being lessening of manipulation as far as the producers of this State are concerned. This is the point I have made previously and I make it again: While the Minister has decried the AMIEU, at least it has done something positive; it has done what the Government should have done years ago. The union has claimed that the live sheep trade has contributed significantly to the decline of processing and the subsequent loss of jobs.

Mr O'Toole stated an initial pilot campaign is expected to cost \$20 000 to test the market but the final figure would be a good deal higher. This is an effort on the part of the union to investigate the chilled meat trade and it is doing what the representatives of the producers should have done.

Mr Old: Do you want a committee to control the number of sheep for export?

Mr EVANS: The Government would not allow a change in the export abattoir requirement regulations to allow a chilled meat air freighter service to travel to the Middle East. There were several experiments. Had the regulations been properly altered then it would have been a possibility. As far as it is concerned now, the people of Western Australia do not know many answers for the very good reason that no-one has

explored the problems. It should have been a responsibility of this Government to evaluate completely the difference between the export of live animals and the export of sheep meat, and that has not been done. There is no question that there is to be a live sheep trade, however; there must be one in the interests of the producer, otherwise we would go back to the position that applied in the early 1970s, and that should not be allowed to happen.

Whether producers are getting proper returns is a matter of conjecture and it certainly cannot be substantiated by the figures the Government can provide. The Government has been tardy in this regard, and when the total projection of the processing of animals in various abattoirs and the benefit of that to the economy of this State is looked at in terms of jobs and other things, then perhaps we will be able to debate this question in full and with some meaning. At the present time we cannot.

I regret the need for the amendment before the House. It is regrettable that we should have to allow the Lamb Marketing Board to deal with lambs that it has acquired which cannot be processed immediately. It is a sorry state of affairs when that occurs. However, I suppose of all interested parties, the lambs would have the least say. To have them placed in that position would be unacceptable on the part of everyone concerned. The question before the House has raised not only the matter of the live sheep trade but also the matter of the abattoir industries and the total future of meat processing in Western Australia. It is because of this that the explanation given by the Minister is hopelessly inadequate, and there are claims against the total policy of this Government which is to have a wide, free, and unfettered live animal trade. If the Minister can show this policy is in the best interests of Western Australia he may be in position to talk, but until he does an in-depth study of it he is not.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [8.25 p.m.]: I have gone over the matter of the live sheep trade and I do not intend at this stage to go over that point again.

Mr Evans: Are you going to conduct a study or not?

Mr OLD: Let me say the member for Warren very adroitly avoided any answer to the question I posed to him and he might like, by interjection, to answer that question now.

Mr Evans: I will answer you when you answer my question. Are you going to carry out an in-depth study or not?

Mr OLD: It has been done, as the member very well knows, and I will come to that in a moment. I asked the member for Warren by interjection whether it was his desire to go back to the situation of having a committee, like that which was appointed when there was a Labor Government, to control the export of live sheep.

Mr Evans: And it worked very well.

Mr OLD: Does the member want to go back to that?

Mr Evans: I want an in-depth study so that there may be some decent facts with which to view your question.

Mr OLD: It appears to me that the member is still avoiding my question, so I take it that the answer is in the affirmative and that he would like to go back to having a committee to tell producers in this country how many live sheep they can export.

Mr Evans: Are you going to produce a study that is meaningful?

Mr OLD: A study was done by Mr Miller of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics—

Mr Evans: Not the Miller report?

Mr OLD: —which the member ignores completely and I believe it very carefully covered all the aspects of the live sheep trade.

The SPEAKER: Order! I prevail upon members to reduce the level of background conversation.

Mr OLD: I must take it, from the silence of the member on the question I asked, that he does indeed want to see the reintroduction of a committee which will control the export of live sheep from Western Australia.

Mr Evans: Surely you are not suggesting the Miller report is accurate and a true picture?

Mr OLD: The Miller report gave a true picture of what the live sheep industry is doing for Australia.

Mr Evans: The whole situation changed dramatically in those four years.

Mr OLD: Having paid the member the compliment of answering his question, I wonder if he would answer mine.

Mr Evans: Are you going to bring down an in-depth study?

Mr OLD: It is obvious that the member is shy and does not wish to show his hand at this stage, so I will assume that what he wants is a committee, and I hope the producers of this State will voice their disapproval of the move by him.

Mr Evans: That would be the best thing that has happened.

Mr OLD: For the second time tonight the member reported, and read very well, from a document he has which is provided by a sector of the meat industry and in no way do I dispute it, because it is an important industry to this State. By implication the member suggested I denigrated the activities of the Meat Industry Employees' Union, but I did not. In my second reading speech I gave the facts as to why it was necessary to bring this measure before the House. It will enable the WA Lamb Marketing Board to handle the lamb and hogget delivered to it during times of industrial dispute.

In the past—last year was a very good example—lambs delivered to the board were either kept in lairage or returned to the farm. Many were kept in lairage and lost a great deal of weight, which cost the producers money. In order to overcome the problem, it is our intention when this measure is passed—as we have no doubt it will be—that the Lamb Marketing Board may dispose of its lambs, live, either to other growers or through other avenues.

In fairness to the member for Warren, I must say he touched on a couple of facets of the employment generated by the live sheep trade. Very good employment opportunities are created within this trade, not the least of which is the transport industry, followed by the stock feed trade.

Mr Evans: Don't be so silly! You must transport them anyhow, for whatever purpose. Don't hold that up as being a tremendous plus to the live sheep trade.

Mr OLD: The member for Warren amazes me; of course they must be transported.

Let us get back to this vertically integrated industry about which the member for Warren talks. The sheep are transported from the producer's farm to that terrible monster who has a vertically integrated industry on his farm at Kojonup; the sheep are picked up from there and transported to dockside.

Mr Pearce: They may be well-travelled sheep, but the point the member for Warren was making was that they must be transported whether they are to be slaughtered or exported.

Mr OLD: Oh, little man!

Mr Brian Burke: Stay off personalities.

Mr OLD: Is that his personality—little man? I will call him "Big man".

Mr Pearce: I tower over you.

Mr OLD: The member for Gosnells is like two yards of pump water.

The stock feed industry probably has never been more bouyant than it is today which in no small measure is due to the live sheep trade. The member for Warren passed very quickly over the shearing industry, but the live sheep trade forms a large part of the shearing industry today, and provides full-time employment. Veterinary surgeons are employed by the shipping industry. The waterside workers are also kept in work; they tell me they like the live sheep trade. Lastly, providoring industry is a very important one to the port of Fremantle, and the live sheep export trade assists that industry. Were he in the Chamber tonight, the member for Fremantle I am sure would agree with me.

Mr Evans: He also has Robb Jetty in his electorate, and that will eventually close.

Mr OLD: Robb Jetty is still going and it is still slaughtering more sheep and lambs than ever before, but the member for Warren will not admit it.

I turn now to the vexed question of cool stores in the Middle East. As the member for Warren knows, this is an old question. If we had established a cool store in the Middle East, it would have been a financial disaster, as it was for New Zealand.

Mr Evans: If you had done it at the right time, it would have been a beauty. New Zealand does not export live sheep.

Mr OLD: Just for the record, I reiterate that the producers of this State do not want controls on live sheep exports. The member for Warren has clearly indicated tonight that he would like to see us return to that diabolical method of export which he introduced—

Mr Evans: Do not misquote me. I have asked for an in-depth study so that we can compare the two methods.

Mr OLD: There is no doubt that from tonight's debate, the producers will know exactly where the ALP stands on this matter.

To return to the Bill—after all, that is what we are supposed to be debating—the measures I outlined in my second reading speech are most essential to the lamb producers of this State. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [8.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR EVANS (Warren) [8.37 p.m.]: The Minister asked for a definition of my attitude to the live sheep trade. I thought I had made that clear initially, and also by interjection. Until such time as the Government has conducted an in-depth study which provides a comparison of the advantages of both the live sheep trade and the

processing industry, there is little point in my trying to argue with the Minister. He does not have the figures. The Miller report is hopelessly outdated; its recommendations are acknowledged as no longer pertaining to the industry, so the report cannot be used as any sort of yardstick at this juncture.

Mr Old: You cannot get over it that easily.

Mr EVANS: When the Government gets around to providing all the facts relating to this issue, we will have a chance of intelligently debating the matter with the Minister.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 8.38 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

Qualifications: Interstate

1999. Mr TERRY BURKE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many persons have been admitted to practise law in Western Australia in the last two years, with law qualifications obtained outside the State of Western Australia?
- (2) In each and every case, what were those qualifications and where were they obtained?
- (3) In each and every case, what additional qualifications did the Barristers' Board require the applicant for admission to obtain in Western Australia prior to granting its approval pursuant to section 15(c) of the Legal Practitioners Act?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) 103.

- (2) In each case the admittees were legal practitioners entitled to practice in the superior courts in another country or Australian State or Territory whose qualifications and practical experience of the law were obtained in places where the system of jurisprudence was equivalent or substantially equivalent to the Western Australian system.

In 88 cases the admittee had a degree in law from a University and had completed the final professional admission examination requirements.

In 15 cases the admittee had completed a full professional admission examination course.

A break up according to the place where the qualifications were obtained is:

Australia	48
South East Asia (mostly U.K. trained)	27
New Zealand	14
United Kingdom	8
Africa	6

- (3) In 54 cases a requirement of 1 year's restricted practice (employed by a firm) was imposed as a condition of admission. In 3 cases a requirement of 2 years' restricted practice was imposed as a condition of admission.

In 2 cases the admittee had been required to gain further practical experience of 1 year before admission and in 1 case 2 years' further practical experience before admission was required.

In 2 cases further academic requirements had been imposed before the admittee could be admitted in Western Australia.

2001. *This question was postponed.*

RAILWAYS: BUSES

Perth-Meekatharra

2014. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the fare on Westrail buses from Perth to Meekatharra prior to June 1981?
- (2) What is the current fare on the same route now operated by the Greyhound bus company?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Perth-Meekatharra..... \$26.10
Perth-Cue \$22.90
Perth-Mt. Magnet \$20.90
- (2) Perth-Meekatharra..... \$26.50
Perth-Cue \$22.40
Perth-Mt. Magnet \$19.00

TRANSPORT: BUSES

MTT: Leach Highway

2015. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are the MTT line buses barred from travelling on Leach Highway?
- (2) If "Yes", would he elaborate and explain why stock trucks can utilise Leach Highway but evidently not MTT buses?
- (3) Is there any regulation which prevents stock trucks from using Stirling Highway?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) No.
- (4) Stock trucks are regulation vehicles.

PRISON: CANNING VALE*Remand Centre*

2016. Mr PARKER, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Referring him to the renovations at Canning Vale remand centre that were required as a result of escapes there, and the consequent denial of various privileges to the prisoners, have the renovations yet been completed?
- (2) If "No", when will they be completed?
- (3) Have the prisoners had their rights and privileges reinstated?
- (4) If "No" to (3), when will they be?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No rights were denied prisoners. The former hours of lock up have been re-established.
- (4) Not applicable.

**ROAD: BEECHBORO-GOSNELLS
FREEWAY***Compensation*

2017. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Is she aware that the proposed freeway will come within 100 metres of 24 Gayswood Way, Morley, and that the fly-over will come within 20 metres of that property?
- (2) Will compensation be payable because of the loss of privacy or because of the noise nuisance involved?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) It is confirmed that the back of the house will be approximately 100 m from the centreline and 20 m from the reserve boundary of the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway.

Stage 1, which is scheduled for construction in 1983, will involve at-grade intersections only. The grade separation (flyover) will not be constructed for many years.

- (2) No.

TRAFFIC: ACCIDENTS*Crimea Street-Walter Road*

2018. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many—
 - (a) fatal;
 - (b) non-fatal,
 accidents occurred at the intersection of Crimea Street and Walter Road, Morley in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many of those were due to right turning traffic?
- (3) Is there a need for a right turn arrow to be placed in these traffic lights?
- (4) Is it intended that such an arrow will be inserted?
- (5) If so, when is this likely to occur?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) (a) 0;
(b) 9.
- (2) 4.
- (3) No, not on the current data.
- (4) Not at present.
- (5) The situation will be reviewed again in about six months time.

EDUCATION: TECHNICAL SCHOOL*Collie*

2019. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Education:

What progress has been reached in the building of a technical school at Collie?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

A technical school is not warranted at Collie as yet and as a first step in the provision of a facility an annexe is to be built at the high school.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT*Boyup Brook-Katanning-Kojonup*

2020. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that the rail only freight service between Katanning, Kojonup and Boyup Brook has been discontinued?

- (2) (a) If "Yes", when; and
(b) has the discontinuance resulted in a huge increase in the cost of groceries and other goods to be paid by consumers in the affected areas?
- (3) Is it intended to allow large road transport companies the sole right to cart groceries and other goods from Perth—
(a) to Kojonup;
(b) to Boyup Brook;
to the exclusion of small road transport operations?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Rail freight services on the Boyup Brook-Katanning railway have been temporarily suspended. However, Westrail's Road Services have continued to serve the area as an extension of rail services from Perth.
- (2) (a) From 13 July 1981 and rail services will re-commence on 6 October 1981.
(b) No, Westrail has continued to provide a co-ordinated rail/road service at the published rail freight rates.
- (3) (a) and (b) No decision has yet been made as to future transport services to the area served by the Boyup Brook-Katanning railway.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Introduction

2021. Mr BERTRAM to the Treasurer:

In each of the last three years, on what date did he introduce the Budget?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

This question would normally be considered not admissible under the terms of Erskine May, 19th Edition, page 331 as the date of presentation of the Budget is set out on the first page of the printed speech and it would take the member only a moment to consult his own copies or those in the Parliamentary Library to ascertain the required information. However, as it is my birthday—and hopefully with Mr Speaker's permission—I advise the

Member that the dates he requests are:—

1978/79 Budget

CRF—19 September 1978

Capital Works—21 September 1978

1979/80 Budget

CRF—13 September 1979

Capital Works—18 September 1979

1980/81 Budget

CRF—30 September 1980

Capital Works—2 October 1980

TOWN PLANNING: APPEALS

Local Government

2022. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) How many building appeals against local government town planning decisions did she receive in 1980-81?
- (2) How many of those appeals did she uphold?
- (3) How many of the appeals concerned decisions by the City of Subiaco and how many of these appeals were upheld?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I assume that the question seeks information about appeals submitted under the provisions of the Town Planning and Development Act during the 1980/81 financial year, against a local authority's refusal to approve an application to commence development. That information is as follows:—

(1) 160

(2) 70

(3) 28 were received and 11 have been upheld.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Pro-abortion Material

2023. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What "pro-abortion" material is available in high schools?
- (2) Who or what organisation(s) sponsor such material?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Family Planning Association provides for teachers, on request, access to reference books on the topic of abortion.

Books such as "Human Sexuality" and "Sex for Modern Teenagers" have been used in high schools in Western Australia. Audio visual aids are also available from the Community and Child Health Services.

Access to such material is totally at the discretion of the High School Principal and the Parents and Citizens' Association.

LAND: RESUMPTION

Bryan-Gribble Roads

2024. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated a resumption order will be issued in respect of lot 65, Bryan and eastern part of lot 2, Bryan/Gribble Roads?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Both of these properties are required for Stage 4 of the Mitchell Freeway. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has recently been requested to initiate resumption action and it is anticipated that this will take place in the near future.

GAMBLING

Establishments

2025. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What are the names of the various gaming houses and gambling establishments operating within the Government's policy of control and containment within the State?
- (2) What are the names of the owners and/or proprietors of such establishments?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government's policy in relation to gambling houses, gambling establishments and gambling is expressed in the legislation of the State as approved by Parliament, including the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, the Police Act, the Lotteries Control Act and other relevant statutory provisions.

The Police have a general responsibility for the enforcement of all law as enacted by Parliament.

Any person who breaks the law is liable to prosecution, and neither the Police nor the Government follow any policy which exempts any person who breaks the law from liability for prosecution.

At the same time, it will be undoubtedly understood by the member that in accordance with well-established practice both here, in other States and overseas, there is a proper place for the exercise of discretion in law enforcement.

This was fully explained in the answer which I gave on 13 August to Question 384 in the Legislative Council.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Pipeline

2026. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1947 of 1981 re contracts on Burrup Peninsula, what is the length of excavation and backfill referred to as the inshore section?
- (2) What was the contract price awarded?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) I am advised that there is approximately 11 km of excavation, and approximately 23 km of backfilling.
- (2) The prices accepted by Woodside for excavation and backfilling are not available.

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Pipeline

2027. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Who was awarded the contract for laying the submarine pipeline for the North-West Shelf gas project?
- (2) What was the contract price?
- (3) (a) Is there a way in which the cost per kilometre to the Government of laying the inshore section can be worked out;
(b) what is the cost per kilometre?

- (4) (a) Is there a way in which the cost per kilometre to the Government of the excavation and backfilling of the inshore section of pipeline may be ascertained;
 (b) what is the cost per kilometre?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) The Woodside participants awarded the contract to Entrepouse G.T.M. pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes (EPTM)-Clough joint venture.
 The cost of laying the submarine pipeline is tied to a schedule of rates, and is not a fixed amount.
 The Government is not a party to this contract.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: EPA

Alwest Pty. Ltd.: Worsley

2028. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to his answer to my question 1941 of 1981 asking for the full Environmental Protection Authority report on the Worsley environmental review and management programme, will the Minister say why he will not provide me with the document or make it public?
 (2) Is it a fact that the Environmental Protection Authority recommended the refinery be not proceeded with under present safeguards?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has no intention of making public the details of all correspondence between it and statutory authorities set up to give it advice. The major report of the Environmental Protection Authority has been made public, and the Worsley proposal is proceeding in general conformity with that report.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Woodman Point

2029. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1946 of 1981 on nitrogen removal from Woodman Point effluent, what evidence is there to show that no practical nitrogen removal process will ensure the long-term objectives set by the Cockburn Sound study for nutrient loadings?
 (2) What practical processes were examined?
 (3) What parameters were used to determine whether a process was or was not practical?
 (4) What are the long-term objectives to which he refers in his answer to question 1946 part (3)?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The information required was derived from a review of published information on nitrogen removal technology, supplemented by the expertise available within the Water Board on wastewater treatment.
 (2) The following processes were examined:
 Air stripping of ammonia;
 Nitrification/denitrification using methanol as the carbon source;
 Nitrification/denitrification using wastewater as the carbon source;
 —Wuhrmann process
 —Ludzak-Ettinger process
 —Bardenpho process
 —Water research centre process
 —Oxidation ditch process
 Biological fluidised beds
 Breakpoint chlorination
 Selective exchange.
 (3) Only proven, reliable processes that could be installed at a reasonably competitive cost were considered practical.
 (4) Total nitrogen load into Cockburn Sound from all sources should not exceed 1 000 kg/day.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Cockburn Sound

2030. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1946 of 1981 has the discharge of tertiary treated waste water to Cockburn Sound been studied at all?
- (2) What documents are available relative to this study?
- (3) Why has the discharge of tertiary treated effluent into Cockburn Sound not been studied in detail?
- (4) Is it possible that the discharge of tertiary treated effluent into Cockburn Sound would be a cheaper solution than the Point Peron pipeline?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) This option has been considered but not studied in detail.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) See reply to Question No. 1946 (3).
- (4) No.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Point Peron: Ocean Discharge

2031. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Relevant to his claims in answer to question 1946 of 1981 that the proposed Point Peron pipeline would be the longest waste water ocean outlet in Australia and one of the longest in the world, is it a fact that most progressive nations in the world are turning away from ocean discharge of sewage and industrial waste?
- (2) What methods are being used by these nations?
- (3) Is it not a fact that many of the ocean areas adjacent to Europe have been found to be excessively polluted by both sewage and industrial effluent?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Ocean, river and land disposal preceded by an appropriate level of treatment are all employed, depending on local conditions.

- (3) Some European ocean areas are polluted where effluent treatment has not been appropriate for the receiving waters.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Woodman Point

2032. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1944 of 1981 relevant to land disposal of effluent from Woodman Point, what is the nature of each of the various schemes to which he referred in part (2), and what were the costs in each case?
- (2) (a) Did any of the examinations include tertiary treatment;
(b) which ones specifically;
(c) what was the result in each case giving individual reasons?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The information is contained in the "Cape Peron Ocean Outlet—Environmental Progress Report" forwarded to all members last week.

LAND: RESERVE

Penguin Island

2033. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is Penguin Island a reserve?
- (2) What sort of reserve is it?
- (3) Why was it made into a reserve?
- (4) When was this done?
- (5) (a) What other reserves exist in respect of nearby islands; and
(b) for what purpose was each of these reserves set aside?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The reserve is classified "A" for the purpose of "Recreation, Camping enjoyment by the Public and for purposes ancillary thereto", with vesting in the National Parks Authority of W.A. with power to lease the whole or any portion thereof for any term not exceeding 21 years.
- (3) and (4) On 16 October 1918, the reserve was set apart for the purpose of "Public Utility", in order that legal tenure, by way of an annual lease, could be granted to an illegal occupant. This lease was

subsequently cancelled in 1926 and the Governor approved the present purpose of the reserve on 31 August 1949.

- (5) (a) and (b) Reserve 31893 (Third Rocks) Conservation of Fauna, Reserve 31894 (The Sisters) Conservation of Fauna and Reserve 24204 (Seal Island, Bird Island, Shag Rock, Gull Rock and White Rock) Conservation of Fauna.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Point Peron: Ocean Discharge

2034. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Relative to the Point Peron pipeline, is it a fact that it will not discharge effluent four kilometres out to sea?
- (2) Is it a fact that the pipeline runs at a slight angle to the coast to a point just behind Penguin Island?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The exact location of the outlet has not yet been determined, but current planning is based on a total ocean pipeline length of 4 km measured from the shore line at the launching point.
- (2) No.
The member has been provided with a map as requested in his question 1902. This shows that the proposed route is almost perpendicular to the coastline in the Cape Peron-Shoalwater Bay area.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Point Peron: Ocean Discharge

2035. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Relevant to the proposed Point Peron pipeline, how far from—

- (a) the back beach of Penguin Island;
- (b) Mersey Point;
- (c) Seal Island;
- (d) John Point;
- (e) Coventry Reef,

will the pipe discharge point be?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The approximate distances are:—

- (a) 3.4 km
- (b) 4.6 km
- (c) 3.2 km
- (d) 3.8 km
- (e) 5.3 km

The precise length of the pipeline and the distances to these points is not the key issue. The concept design is based on discharging into 20 m depth of water in the middle of the Sepia Depression. Satisfying the water criteria for the various beneficial use zones is the overriding criterion.

WATER RESOURCES: EFFLUENT

Woodman Point

2036. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) In respect of the effluent disposed of at Woodman Point over the last 12 months can he please advise on how many occasions the Woodman Point plant has been overloaded causing the discharge of untreated effluent to Cockburn Sound?
- (2) Is it a fact that on frequent occasions during peak loads the plant is unable to cope and untreated effluent passes through the system?
- (3) On how many occasions in the last 12 months has—
 - (a) power failure;
 - (b) machinery breakdown,
 occurred to a level where the plant was unable to treat sewage to a satisfactory primary level?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) No.
- (3) None.

NOISE

Interdepartmental Committee Report

2037. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Noise and Vibration Control Council have unlimited time to deliberate on the implementation of the interdepartmental committee report on traffic noise, or has he set a time limit?
- (2) In view of the fact that the interdepartmental committee on traffic noise took three years to come up with its recommendations, does he now see the need for minimum delay in implementing those recommendations?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No time limit has been set.
- (2) I would wish there to be as little delay as possible. Unfortunately, a short-term solution is impracticable.

HERBICIDE: 2,4,5-T

Areas Sprayed

2038. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to his answers to my question 1934 of 1981 relating to the use of 2,4,5-T, would he please provide a map to me showing the 250 hectares or those areas that made up the 250 hectares which have been sprayed with 2,4,5-T over the last 12 months?

Mr OLD replied:

This information is not readily available.

HERBICIDE: 2,4,5-T

Areas Sprayed

2039. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1945 of 1981 relative to a new manufacturing process for 2,4,5-T which will reduce or remove dioxin levels, when is it expected this new method of production will be introduced?
- (2) What is holding up its immediate introduction?
- (3) How much extra will the new process cost?
- (4) What can and will the Government do to speed up a decision on this matter?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Not known.
- (2) to (4) This is a matter for the manufacturer and is not the responsibility of the Minister for Health. With one exception, the product has always been consistently significantly better than the current standard and how the product is produced is the manufacturer's responsibility. It is likely that any change in the method of production will increase the cost to the consumer.

HERBICIDE: 2,4,5-T

Areas Sprayed

2040. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to his answers to my question 1935 of 1981 relating to 2,4,5-T, where will the 3840 litres of 2,4,5-T with excessive amounts of dioxin be stored?
- (2) How will it be quarantined?
- (3) Who will be making a decision on its ultimate treatment?
- (4) What safe methods of disposal are open to the manufacturer and the Government?
- (5) Who will be bearing the cost of quarantine and disposal?
- (6) Who paid for the return of the chemical?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) At Chemical Industries, Kwinana.
- (2) It will be isolated within the works.
- (3) The Company Directors in co-operation with Public Health Department.
- (4) Treatment within the works so that there will be no hazard to employees or surrounding areas.
- (5) The manufacturer.
- (6) The manufacturer.

ELECTORAL: DEPARTMENT

Enrolment Claims

2041. Mr PARKER, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) How many claims for enrolment were received by the State Electoral Department in—
 - (a) 1977-78;
 - (b) 1978-79;
 - (c) 1979-80;
 - (d) 1980-81?
- (2) How many of the claims received in each year were rejected by the department?
- (3) How many claims for enrolment received in each year were first electoral claims?
- (4) How many of the first electoral claims received in each year were rejected on the grounds that the witness to the claim was neither an electoral officer, a justice of the peace, a clerk of courts nor a police officer?

- (5) How many of the first electoral claims rejected in 1980-81 on grounds stated in (4) were claims made by persons aged—
 (a) 18-23 years;
 (b) 24-29 years;
 (c) 30 years and over?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (5) No statistics are kept in respect of the matters requested in this question; therefore no accurate figures can be given.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Duncraig

2042. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that a clerk-typist at the Duncraig High School has been asked to repay the Education Department the sum of \$1 669.75 allegedly overpaid to her in the period 10 February 1980 to 3 April 1981?
 (2) Is it a fact that the overpayment occurred as a result of a mistake by the Education Department in paying the person concerned a special allowance to C-IV rate?
 (3) Is it a fact that the person concerned has been able to inform the department of details (names and dates) of her efforts to ensure that the additional allowance was being paid at the correct rates?
 (4) Is it a fact that the repayment sought by the department amounts to 20 per cent of the annual salary of the person concerned?
 (5) Does not the repayment sought place a considerable hardship on the person concerned, through departmental error and through no fault of her own?
 (6) Will he therefore agree to waive some or all of the repayment sought?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) Yes.
 (3) The person concerned stated in a letter addressed to the Civil Service Association dated 13 July 1981 that she contacted a clerk in the Department querying the amount of the allowance paid on receipt of the first cheque incorporating the special allowance adjustment to C-IV rate in September 1980.

She alleges that she was informed that the amount paid was correct and accepted future cheques without question.

The clerk who the clerk-typist alleges gave her incorrect information cannot recall the conversation after the lapse of over 12 months and it is not possible to determine what information was requested and what reply was given.

- (4) Yes, approximately 20 per cent.
 (5) A specific answer to this question cannot be given as details of total family income are not known by the Department. The Department, as is the usual practice, would negotiate an easier rate of repayment if justified by the employee's circumstances.
 (6) While the inconvenience caused is sincerely regretted, repayment is legally due and accordingly waiver is not appropriate.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Animal Housing

2043. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Does the standard of accommodation afforded to each of the animals at the South Perth Zoo fully meet their individual requirements?
 (2) Which animals do not enjoy habitat needs and why in each case?
 (3) What is the Minister proposing to do as the responsible Minister to rectify this problem?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) The questions seek an opinion and apart from being out of order it is not possible to get an answer from those animals affected other than acknowledge that experience throughout the world has shown that it is not usual for animals to breed unless adequately housed and kept.

South Perth Zoo has a commendable record in this regard and without doubt the husbandry is excellent.

The zoo has a programme of rehousing which it is pursuing with emphasis on those exhibits which could benefit from having more space and in particular the larger mammals.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Animal Housing

2044. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Further to the Minister's answers to questions 1898 and 1976 of 1981 relative to the South Perth Zoo, have any methods of fund raising been investigated which would facilitate the upgrading of animal needs at South Perth Zoo?

- (2) What are these methods in each case?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister recently visited Taronga Park and Royal Park Zoos and investigated progress in their sponsorship programmes.

ALUMINA REFINERIES: ALCOA OF AUSTRALIA LTD.

Caustic Mud Lake

2045. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Relative to the leak travelling in a westerly direction from Alcoa's Kwinana mud lake "F", what is the precise location of the leak?
- (2) In what direction does the groundwater flow on the opposite side of "F" lake?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) There is evidence of leakage from the north, west and south-west boundaries.
- (2) All groundwater in the vicinity of Mud Lake "F" flows naturally to the west.

TOWN PLANNING

Warnbro Sand Dunes

2046. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Further to my question 1974 of 1981 and her answers to it, has an application been received by her department for the development of all or part of that area of the Rockingham Shire bounded in the east by Fendall Street and the west by Warnbro Sound and known locally as Warnbro sand dunes?
- (2) What is the nature of such application?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) No application has been received since an application in 1972 which was not approved by the Town Planning Board.
- (2) Answered by (1).

FUEL AND ENERGY: SOLAR

Domestic Water Heaters

2047. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

Further to his answers to my question 1940 of 1981 relative to subsidisation for solar hot water heaters, wherein he said, "The Government has also pressed the Federal Government from time to time to consider providing tax concessions to encourage the greater use of solar energy," can he please advise me

- (a) when these approaches were made;
- (b) what form did the approaches consist of; and
- (c) with what result on each occasion?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) 15 November 1978, 11 July 1979 and 12 December 1980 by the Premier. Personal representation by the Minister for Fuel and Energy, 7 May 1981.
- (b) Written submissions to Prime Minister and verbal representation.
- (c) Earlier responses had not been encouraging. However, in response to the most recent representation the Commonwealth Government has invited the Western Australian Government to put forward a case to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry and Commerce for an Industries Assistance Commission review into tariff assistance currently being given for the solar industry and some of which assistance mitigates against industry expansion in new technology areas both for home and export markets. Preparation of this document is proceeding.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Right to Life Association: Film

2048. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

Referring to question 1965 of 1981 and earlier questions on the Right to Life Association's visual presentation on

abortion, is the time slides projected on the screen pre-determined automatically or decided by the person operating the projector?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I have asked the Right to Life Association to reduce the exposure time of some of the slides. I am sure that they will do so.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Bureau

2049. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

How many complaints and inquiries were received per week by the Consumer Affairs Bureau over the past 12 months?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

From the period 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981, weekly complaints and inquiry statistics are as follows:

Formal complaints.....	92.2
Inquiries—telephone.....	865
Inquiries—personal attendance (seeking advice only).....	43

HOUSING: INTEREST RATES

Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee

2050. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Why were arrears cases due to unemployment and sickness excluded from consideration for relief by the mortgage assessment and relief committee?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The basic objective in setting up the Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee was to provide assistance to home buyers experiencing genuine hardship as a result of rises in interest rates.

Prior to the formation of the Committee, arrears cases due to unemployment and sickness were assisted where possible by lending authorities deferring payments, extending the period of the loan, or by some other means of restructuring the loan. These avenues are still available.

HOUSING: INTEREST RATES

Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee

2051. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

With reference to his answer to part (2) of question without notice number 512 in which he advised that of the 12 applications for assistance considered by the mortgage assessment and relief committee at that stage, three had been declined; what were the reasons for rejecting these applications when presumably they had already been thoroughly screened in line with the published guidelines by the referring lending authorities?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee declined three applications for assistance as its members considered, from the information submitted, that the home buyers were not experiencing genuine hardship as a result of rising interest rates.

WATER RESOURCES: NORANDA

Discoloured Water: Stain Remover

2052. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Can he confirm that following a complaint from a resident in Noranda Avenue, Noranda, about rust coloured water leaving permanent stains in a baby's nappies, the Water Board supplied the consumer with a solution to remove the stains which subsequently led to the baby developing an unpleasant skin irritation?
- (2) If "Yes", what was the nature of the stain removing substance supplied, and is it common practice for the board to respond to such complaints in this way?
- (3) What action has since been taken to overcome the problems associated with discoloured water in the supply to the property concerned?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) A Water Board inspector provided a resident in Noranda Avenue with a sample of citric acid powder complete with a set of instructions to demonstrate how iron stains can be removed from clothing. The board has followed this procedure for the last 4 or 5 years. No previous complaints have been received.
- (3) Mains in the area were flushed.

WATER RESOURCES: GIRRAWHEEN

Quality

2053. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Following complaints to the Metropolitan Water Board by a resident in Royden Way, Girrawheen, about foul smelling and foul tasting water did the board carry out tests on samples of this water?
- (2) If "Yes", what did these tests show to be the reason for the poor quality of the water?
- (3) Was the problem restricted to the water supply of this one property or did it affect other consumers including the local primary school?
- (4) What action was taken to improve the quality of the water supplied to this area?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The cause of this intermittent problem has not been isolated.
- (3) More than one consumer complained, but no complaint was received from the school.
- (4) Re-arrangement of distribution system.

HOUSING

Purchase: Assistance Scheme

2054. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the current state of progress with the home purchase assistance plan for up to 1500 Western Australians which he announced on 1 September?

- (2) Will he table copies of relevant press releases by himself and advertisements by building societies providing information for those wishing to take advantage of the new home loan assistance scheme?
- (3) How many applications have been received for loans under this scheme since his announcement on 1 September, and how many loans have been approved?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) to (3) Satisfactory progress is being made on each of the nine points listed in my comprehensive proposal to assist some 1 500 home purchasers announced on 1 September. A copy of my press release issued on that day is hereby tabled.

For instance, on the Interest Rate Subsidy Scheme, acceptable lending terms, conditions and operational procedures have been established with the Western Australian Permanent Building Societies Association.

The President of the Association has advised me that all members of the Association are willing to participate in the scheme to provide \$20 million to utilise the subsidy funds made available by the State Government. The following table has been provided by the Association as a basis for allocation between the Societies:

	\$
Perth	7 900 000
Town & Country..	5 800 000
Home	2 300 000
W.A.B.S.....	2 400 000
P.I.B.S.....	400 000
First Federal.....	300 000
Statewide	300 000
Swan	300 000
British	300 000
	<hr/>
	\$20 000 000

Also, the Federation of Terminating Building Societies has forwarded sufficient names from the Loans Priority List to cover loans equal to \$8 million from the Home Purchase Assistance Scheme.

The progress on the activities of the Mortgage Assessment and Relief Committee was given in answers to questions last week.

At this stage, the Committee is meeting regularly to consider applications for assistance.

As it was not thought relevant to collect advertisements by building societies regarding the initiatives included in the nine point plan, I am not in a position to provide copies as requested.

As I have already stated, the scheme to assist home purchasers has been well publicised in the press.

The Press release was tabled (see paper No. 474).

ANIMALS

Dog Act

2055. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the committee established to examine possible amendments to the Dog Act, completed its task?
- (2) If "No", when is it expected to do so?
- (3) Are the committee's findings to be made public?
- (4) If "No", why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The appointment of members of the Committee is just being finalised and I would expect it to be several months before its task is completed.
- (3) and (4) I will decide this question once the Committee's report has been submitted.

EDUCATION: PRE-PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Four-year-olds

2056. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have pre-school centres which currently cater for four-year-olds received letters from the department advising them not to enrol four-year-olds for 1982 and that they will be receiving further information in November?

- (2) Have pre-school centre representatives who have contacted the director of planning with regard to this directive, been told by him that the department is considering making such centres part-time only and that if parents want pre-school education for four-year-olds they will have to provide it for themselves?
- (3) Can he confirm that consideration is being given to making such centres part-time only on the basis of the exclusion of four-year-olds in 1982?
- (4) Will this situation also apply to pre-primaries which currently cater for four-year-olds?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No letter has as yet been sent from the Education Department but one is due for distribution later this week. Each year, at this time, pre-school centres have been advised not to enrol four-year-olds until the position concerning staffing for five-year-olds is clear.
- (2) to (4) In response to telephone inquiries from the public, Education Department officers have answered questions about options available for four-year-olds in early childhood education. In doing so they have advised callers that a determination of policy in this area is a matter for the Government.

SALES TAX

Federal Budget: Building Industry

2057. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the concern expressed by the Western Australian Division of the Housing Industry Association regarding the introduction of the 2.5 per cent sales tax on home building materials by the Federal Government which is likely to add at least \$500 to the cost of a modest new home with a similar increase to the cost of furnishing that home?
- (2) If "Yes", has he made his usual strong protest to the Prime Minister opposing the imposition of this sales tax in view of the threat it poses to the future prospects of the housing industry and prospective home buyers in Western Australia?

- (3) Has he had discussion with Western Australian members of the Federal Government regarding the threat posed by this new tax to the housing industry and prospective home buyers in Western Australia?
- (4) In view of similar past approaches to Western Australian Government senators on other matters of special concern to the State, is he prepared to ask that they join with the Opposition, the Australian Democrats and an Independent in the Senate to vote against the Federal Government's sales tax on home building materials?
- (5) If "No" to (2), (3) and (4), why not?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (5) In answer to three questions without notice last week on the sales tax provisions in the Federal Budget, I clearly stated that I have not made any specific representations to the Prime Minister on this matter. I have expressed myself publicly on the method used by the Commonwealth to arrive at its balanced Budget, and on the decision to move more into the indirect tax field without at least compensatory relief in the direct tax field.

I would not encourage or be identified with a move to defeat Budget Bills submitted by the Commonwealth Government as part of its Budget even though I might have expressed some strong views on some of the Commonwealth's decisions in framing its Budget.

In the meantime I understand the Commonwealth Government currently has before it some Senate requests for amendments to parts of the sales tax Bills.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Emergent

2058. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Adverting to his answer to question 2009 of 1981 in which he advised that he had requested the chairman of the

State Housing Commission and the Aboriginal Housing Board to meet with welfare workers to see if a solution to the Hansen families' accommodation problems can be found within the welfare field, is he aware that the Community Welfare Department has already indicated that the issue is basically a housing problem and that the department does not have housing to offer?

- (2) Is he aware that there were no written complaints against Mrs Rosemary Hansen and that all her arrears had been paid apart from an outstanding amount of \$64?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), will he take up with the State Housing Commission the possibility of re-housing Mrs Rosemary Hansen and her family as a matter of urgency?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) I am aware that it is not a function of the Department for Community Welfare to provide housing for families but since it is clear that the Hansen families have not been able to maintain satisfactory standard of tenancy in conventional housing, I have asked the Chairman of the State Housing Commission and the Chairman of the Aboriginal Housing Board to meet with representatives of the Department and other welfare and support agencies to see if there is a solution to the accommodation problems of these families.
- (2) The decision to evict Mrs Rosemary Hansen was taken because of substantial arrears of rent and the very poor standard of property upkeep both internal and external. The amount owing to the State Housing Commission for rent arrears and for repairs necessary to the house assessed as tenant liability amount to \$1 036.18 and none of this has been paid to the Commission.
- (3) I am advised that Mrs Rosemary Hansen and her family are presently occupying cottage accommodation at the Baptist Mary Bank Mission at Katanning where they will receive health care and they will be advised on housekeeping and household budgeting.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

POLICE AND RTA

Amalgamation

548. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has the expenditure review committee of which the Deputy Premier is chairman, examined the possible merging of the RTA with the police for traffic patrol purposes?
- (2) Did that review indicate that there would be cost savings or other advantages in such a merger?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The expenditure review committee has looked into the many aspects, including this matter, and details will be provided at a later stage.

POLICE AND RTA

Amalgamation

549. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

I refer to the Minister's answer to question 525 without notice last Wednesday in which he said that Cabinet had not made a decision to merge the RTA with the Police Force. I now offer the Minister the opportunity to reconsider that answer and in particular advise the House whether Cabinet did or did not make a decision on 7 September to merge the traffic control functions of the RTA with the Police Force.

Mr HASSELL replied:

I decline the opportunity offered by the member for Geraldton.

POLICE AND RTA

Amalgamation

550. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

What consultations have been held between the State Government and local government organisations concerning the possible merger of the RTA with the Police Force or any other change in the role of the RTA?

Mr HASSELL replied:

No consultations have been held in relation to the matter.

STATE FINANCE: TAXES AND CHARGES

Financial Institutions

551. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Premiers are investigating the possible introduction of a State levy or tax on all financial transactions conducted by banks, credit unions, and building societies?
- (2) If "Yes", has the Premier investigated the introduction of such a tax or levy in Western Australia?
- (3) Will he state in summary the findings of the investigations?
- (4) Does the Premier support the introduction of such a State levy or tax?
- (5) Does the Premier plan to introduce a State tax or levy on financial transactions by banks, credit unions, and building societies in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (5) I gather the main basis of the question is whether the State Premiers are undertaking some studies of levies of the type to which he referred. I know of no such studies being undertaken by State Premiers. I understand that following one of the Premiers' Conferences—of which there were several—the various State officers were looking at a number of alternatives for measures that would be open to the States for revenue raising, within the Constitution. These are very limited. Every time one seeks to move, if one is not careful one will run into the complex question of excise under the Constitution.

The officers, not the Premiers, were looking at a number of alternatives which may have been available to offset the States' financial problems following the very severe cutbacks made by the Commonwealth Government, particularly on 4 May.

I know of no specific matter they were looking at and I cannot recall any report being given to the Premiers. I think it is something I would have heard of before now.

It would be very difficult for the officers, no matter how clever, to find

any methods whereby States can raise additional levies and taxes and still be within the Constitution. There may be some of course, but they would be all of a minor nature. Better brains than mine have been applied to this problem over the last 40 to 50 years in an attempt to find some methods to do this.

With regard to the specific levy to which the Leader of the Opposition has referred, to my knowledge there is not such a matter being investigated specifically by the Premiers or the officers. However, I could not be precise. It may be that one or some of the officers have canvassed this type of levy as one potential.

I can only hark back to the time when we endeavoured to have a levy—and I think at the time the Treasurer had been very astute with regard to a receipts tax which unfortunately was found, in the Hamersley case, to be *ultra vires*. It would have been a good form of revenue to the Government; that is, a growth tax that was widespread and covering all transactions. It was regarded as something of an ingenious nature at the time and was thought to be equitable and foolproof as far as the excise test was concerned.

However, when it went to the test in the High Court it was found to infringe the excise provisions and therefore was disallowed.

The Leader of the Opposition will recall that the former Premier and Leader of the Opposition (Mr John Tonkin), introduced some legislation dealing with this because some people had paid tax. He set up a special fund to cope with some of the money that had been collected before the tax was held to be *ultra vires*.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Cutbacks

552. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Minister recall the question without notice I asked on 8 September? It read as follows—
Since the Minister has told me by way of answer to question 1471 it is

not a fact that certain cuts have been made in the swimming programme allocation because the State Budget has not yet been formulated and details of the specific items are not available at this juncture, can he explain why arrangements are in hand to cancel all swimming classes during the month of November and to increase the fee for vacation swimming classes to \$6 if, in fact, the Budget has not been finalised and specific details of the Budget are not available?

- (2) Does the Minister recall saying to me in the House, "I repeat the answer I gave to the member's question on notice is correct and the statements he is making at the present time are, as usual, absolute rubbish"?
- (3) Since then, the Minister announced—last Friday—that the swimming classes for November are to be cancelled. Will the Minister apologise to me and to the House for wilfully misleading me on that date?
- (4) While he is at it: Will he now announce that fees for vacation swimming classes will increase to \$6?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (4) The answer I gave was completely correct and I can assure the member for Gosnells that I did make a statement last week to the effect that there would be a restructuring of the school swimming programme. I said that we were anxious to ensure that the restructuring will retain the classes for non-swimmers to be taught to swim, and that children would learn the basic life-saving techniques. In the restructuring there will be three pre-Christmas classes instead of four, as at present.

Mr Pearce: How many in November? You said I was talking absolute rubbish.

Mr GRAYDEN: It was absolute rubbish.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce: You misled the House.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRAYDEN: I have stated there would be three pre-Christmas classes instead of four as at present, and that there would be a further four in the New Year. I said it was important that pre-Christmas

classes be maintained because many youngsters wished to participate in the vacation swimming programme and that would benefit them with the continuity of tuition. While the restructured programme effectively reduces the number of in-term classes, it does not preclude—and I emphasise this point—the schools from making additional private arrangements in or out of school time.

In that announcement I said that many schools would be willing to organise extensive additional classes and those schools with swimming pools would obviously extend their programme. I would like to add further that we have 14 000 full-time teachers in the Education Department and the majority qualify to give swimming instruction.

Mr Pearce: That is rubbish!

Mr GRAYDEN: Many have obtained a bronze medal, which is the requirement to teach swimming.

Mr Davies: In 1931!

Mr Pearce: That is absolute rubbish!

Mr GRAYDEN: It is absolute rubbish from the member for Gosnells! I repeat: A great majority of teachers in the Education Department—

Mr Evans: That does not make them instructors.

Mr GRAYDEN: That is the qualification.

Mr Pearce: Most of them do not have a qualification. Less than 5 per cent are qualified.

Mr GRAYDEN: Let us consider what we are doing at the present time. The schools are taken to swimming pools and we hire ex-teachers or swimming instructors who have their bronze medals.

Mr Pearce: Specialist instructors.

Mr GRAYDEN: They have their bronze medal and therefore they are qualified to teach. We pay the swimming instructors \$7 an hour and the ex-teachers much more.

Mr Wilson: Cheap and shabby!

Mr GRAYDEN: The restructuring does not mean that there will be a reduction in swimming programmes because schools can make their own arrangements and make use of their own teachers in or out

of school time. If the schools do not feel the children are getting adequate swimming instruction they have an obligation to ensure the children do.

FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

Power Station

553. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

In view of the Minister's statement, as reported in yesterday's edition of *The West Australian*, that it was neither possible nor responsible to rule out nuclear fuel as an energy option in Western Australia, when does the Government expect to make a decision on whether or not it should undertake planning for a nuclear power plant in Western Australia?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I noted the comments of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday regarding the statement that was attributed to me relative to the development of nuclear energy as an energy option.

It is no secret that the Government has always understood, and still does, that the amassing of nuclear generation of energy is just one of the options being pursued and will continue to be pursued in the same way as we will examine solar, tidal, and other similar methods of energy.

Mr Brian Burke: The Premier promised a power station by 1995.

Mr P. V. JONES: As the member for Yilgarn-Dundas would be aware, the reason for examining a whole range of energy options has not altered and will not alter. From the point of view of variables, what has altered is what time options are available for various energy options.

Within the last three years there have been significant discoveries of coal which have changed the energy framework, that is; so far as time is concerned. But they have still not altered the need to keep abreast and explore all the possible energy options. While in that framework, the possibility of having to consider one option against another has arisen. Nuclear energy is part of that and has been deferred a little because of the coal discoveries and

the use of gas. The general framework within which we are operating, and investigating, remains the same.

COURTS: LAW COURT

Building

554. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Did the Minister see the article in the *Weekend News* of Saturday last which stated that the new court complex would need an extra 50 police officers because the total number would be 91?
- (2) Does he recall his answer to my question last week when he told me that only 40 would be needed?
- (3) In the light of that article, does he still maintain that the department will need only 40 extra officers?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) I did not see the article and have no knowledge of its content.
- (2) I do not know the basis upon which the newspaper came up with the figure of 50. In my answer last week I told the member that the figure of 40 was approximate.
- (3) The member in his question of last week and today has referred to extra officers. It may be that savings in another area, which is the subject of the legislative consideration by the Government, will eliminate the need for extra officers as such, to cover that particular need.

The other aspect is, although it is not within my Ministerial responsibility, my understanding about the likely completion of the court complex is that we will not need to be concerned about this within the current financial year. Even if the building is completed and ready to go within that period, the introductory phase will not necessitate the provision of extra staff—and if they are to be police officers they will be within my responsibility—during the current financial year.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Boulder and Kalgoorlie

555. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the answer to question 1928 in which I sought details of the SHC plans for the construction of rental homes and

units in Kalgoorlie and Boulder in the period 1981-82 to 1983-84. Based on his reply, I ask the following question—

- (1) Is it correct that the commission has no forward planning programmes in relation to the housing needs in developing areas?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1) how can he justify such a lack of forward planning in such a vital area of community need?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The question that the member placed on notice some time ago asked me to give details of the building programme in that area over the next year or two. Certainly at that time there was no way I could supply details of the proposed building programme for this financial year until such time as the details of the Budget were known. Obviously the forward plans of the commission will be affected by the level of funding available in each particular year. There was no point in giving the details of the next financial year if I could not give details for this year. That does not mean to say the commission does not forward plan. The decision on the commission's plans is an internal matter, and obviously forward plans will be conditional on the available funds. The level of funds will be known when the Budget is introduced.

POLICE AND RTA

Amalgamation

556. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

My question arises out of an earlier question. I wish to ensure that I have interpreted the Minister's reply correctly. Therefore I ask: Is it correct that at no stage has the Cabinet made a decision to merge the traffic control functions of the RTA with the Police Force?

Mr HASSELL replied:

It is apparent that the Opposition has obtained some information about this matter. Unfortunately, the information is being obtained from some source which is not sufficiently high in the hierarchy to understand the system of government, or to know what is going

on. Let me make it clear to the member for Geraldton: I decline to take up his offer in relation to the previous answer I gave because I have no reason whatsoever to amend my statement.

COURTS: LAW COURTS

Building

557. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In regard to my earlier question about the manning of the court complex, I ask the following question—

- (1) Would he care to tell the House of any legislative changes that are being considered?
- (2) Do some of these changes include the replacement of police officers by orderlies?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) There may be some savings in manpower within the court system when the Government's bail legislation comes into operation. However, as I see it, that legislation is not within my responsibility.
- (2) So far as I know it has nothing to do with the second proposition which the member raised.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Minors

558. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

Noting his Government's attitude towards the abolition of the death penalty, can the Chief Secretary inform the House of his attitude towards the proposition that the death penalty should be abolished in the case of minors to avoid the horrid spectacle of children of 15 and 16 years of age being installed in death row?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The Criminal Code falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Attorney General, and, accordingly, the question should be directed to him.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Right to Life Association Film

559. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

I would like to ask a continuing question regarding the visual presentation produced by the Right to Life Association. I do this because, in his written reply, the Minister has not answered question 2048 on today's notice paper. My question is as follows—

- (1) Can he tell me whether the time that the slides are screened is predetermined, or whether the projector is controlled manually?
- (2) Since his assurance is to the effect only that the screening time is less than formerly, is he able to tell us what steps he has taken to back up his assurance?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) I suggest that if the member for Victoria Park wants that information, he should contact the Right to Life Association. It requires only a telephone call to obtain the details.

STOCK EXCHANGE

Recent Activity

560. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has the Deputy Premier noted that in the past few days billions of dollars have been wiped off the value of shares in the Australian stock exchanges?
- (2) What advice does he have to offer to people who have suffered and who are suffering because of this stock market crash?

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Clearly the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition does not fall within the ministerial—

Mr Byce: Competence!

The SPEAKER: —control of the Deputy Premier, or, as far as I can see, within the responsibility of any Minister in this House. I rule the question out of order.

ROAD

Servetus Street

561. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Can the Minister tell us when the Government is likely to make a decision on the future of Servetus Street?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

No.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister: Comments

562. Mr PEARCE, to the Deputy Premier:

In the absence of the Premier, I asked the Deputy Premier: Does his Government support the comments which the Prime Minister (Mr Fraser) made about South Africa?

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Order! That question is clearly not within the Ministerial jurisdiction of any Minister in this House, and, therefore, I rule it out of order.

Points of Order

Mr PEARCE: On a point of order, Sir, is it not competent for a member of this House to seek information on Government attitudes and policies, as distinct from the day-to-day administration of the State? I prefaced my question by addressing it to the Deputy Premier in the absence of the Premier. The Premier absented himself from the Chamber about five minutes after the start of question time.

Mr Davies: By arrangement!

Mr PEARCE: I was unaware it was by arrangement.

Mr Clarko: That was your innuendo.

The SPEAKER: I ask for interjections to cease. Will the member please continue with his point of order. The member for Gosnells.

Mr PEARCE: At the moment the Deputy Premier is the Leader of the Government in the House, and it seems to me to be perfectly in order to ask the attitude of the Government on a question which has implications for the citizens of this State as well for the

citizens of Australia. It is within the competence of any member to seek to know the attitude of the Government in this matter.

The SPEAKER: I still adhere to the ruling I gave earlier. It is obvious that views will be held by the Ministers of the Crown with respect to matters outside their immediate ministerial jurisdiction. Those matters are, I suppose, open for questioning in this House. However, the matter of foreign affairs is one that is clearly the responsibility of the Federal Government. No Ministers of this House are responsible for the subject on which the member sought to base his question and I therefore adhere to my ruling that the question is out of order.

Mr TONKIN: Standing Order No. 107 states—

Notwithstanding the foregoing questions may be put to the Leader of the Government on matters pertaining to general government policy.

Although I would accept that foreign policy is certainly not within the confines of the Leader of the Government, surely questions of a reassurance nature are.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Morley for drawing my attention to the precise Standing Order, but it does not change my point of view. It is reasonable, and is the practice of this House, for the Leader of the Government—the Premier—to be quizzed on matters of policy; but those matters of policy are the things which fall within the immediate responsibility of this Parliament and clearly that matter did not.

Mr BLAICKIE: I wish to raise a point of order which relates to Standing Order No. 107. You, Mr Speaker, will recall that I have offended against that particular Standing Order. The occasion related to my moving a censure motion in relation to the Copyright Act and I was not given the opportunity to continue with my remarks. The ruling you are making today is correct.

The SPEAKER: Order! That clearly was not a point of order but I thank the member for his assistance.

ROAD

Servetus Street

563. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

What progress is being made by her department and the Government in regard to solving the problem of Servetus Street?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The department has made much progress. The submissions made have been evaluated and the matter is now ready to go before the Cabinet. I am certainly not in a position to say what decision will be made.

ANIMALS

Dog Act

564. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Local Government:

Arising from the Minister's answer to question 2055 today, I wish to ask—

- (1) Can she confirm that she has made an announcement with regard to members of the committee to be established to examine the possible amendments to the Dog Act during the autumn session of the Parliament?
- (2) If "Yes", can she say why she told me today, in reply to my question on notice, that the appointment of members to the committee has just been finalised and why she expects it will be several months before the task is completed?

- (3) Can she advise also the reason for the unusually long delay in the formation of the committee considering that members were appointed several months ago?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) If my memory serves me correctly, I told the member the organisations that would be represented on the committee to review certain sections of the Dog Act. Since I gave him the answer to that question, we have approached several associations which have come back to us with nominations, and we in turn, have gone back to them, and that is the reason no finality has been reached as to precise membership of persons who will comprise the committee to examine certain sections of the Dog Act.

POLICE AND RTA

Amalgamation

565. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

I direct my question to the Minister in his capacity of Leader of the National Country Party. What action has been taken by him and his party towards implementing his party's pledge at the last election to merge the traffic control functions of the Road Traffic Authority with the Police Force?

Mr OLD replied:

That is a matter for negotiation between myself and the Government and when a decision is made I will be happy to inform him.

Mr Brian Burke: No-one wants to answer any questions tonight.

