

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 25th October. 1977

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

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by the Hon. A. A. Lewis (on behalf of the Hon. G. E. Masters) leave of absence for 12 consecutive sittings of the House granted to the Hon. Neil McNeill (Lower West) due to parliamentary business overseas.

## CONDOLENCE

*The Late Hon. J. Heitman: Statement by President*

**THE PRESIDENT** (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, I wish to inform the Council that I have received a letter from Mrs D. Heitman, the widow of the late Hon. Jack Heitman, expressing her appreciation for the motion of condolence passed by the House. Mrs Heitman has particularly mentioned the remarks of members concerning her late husband which she has now been able to read in *Hansard*.

## POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Leader of the House) [4.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to permit the arrest without warrant in this State of a person suspected of an indictable offence outside the State.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General held in Canberra earlier this year, it was recommended that States that did not have such legislation should consider amendment of the relevant Statute to provide such power.

At the 1975 conference of Ministers for Police, a resolution was made for action to be taken by each Minister in an endeavour to have legislation similar to section 459 of the Victorian Crimes Act incorporated in each relevant State Act.

The Victorian Crimes (Powers of Arrest) Act provides that a member of the Police Force may at any time, without warrant, apprehend any person he believes on reasonable grounds has committed an indictable offence in Victoria or has

committed an offence elsewhere which, if committed in Victoria, would be an indictable offence against the law of Victoria. This would include any indictable offence which may be heard or determined summarily.

At present, section 43 of our Police Act provides that any officer or constable of the Police Force, without a warrant, may in a variety of circumstances apprehend and detain any person so apprehended in custody until he can be brought before a justice to be dealt with.

This Bill proposes to add a new subsection to allow similar powers to those contained in the Victorian Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 6th October.

**THE HON. D. K. DANS** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.46 p.m.]: I oppose the second reading of this Bill, and I oppose it on the grounds of what was advanced by Mr Tom McNeil when he introduced the measure. I do not intend to go through all the clauses of the Bill in detail, because members will be aware of the intention of its provisions—especially if they have received the same amount of correspondence that I have in relation to the Bill.

I will not deal with the details of the Bill, but with its principle because, as Mr Tom McNeil said in his opening remarks, it deals with the question of rights. I will talk about the rights of Parliament.

I do not think this Parliament has any right whatsoever to interfere with the legitimate functions of a sporting body. The Western Australian National Football League is a properly constituted body, whose officers in the main—with some very few exceptions—work voluntarily for the organisation.

I am sure everyone is aware that the officers of the league have the best interests of football at heart, not only in the metropolitan area but throughout the State; they have the best interests of the public at heart, in presenting the Australian national game in the best possible manner; and they have at heart the best interests of the players who participate. The principle involved in proceeding with this Bill would be quite wrong, because one has only to think for a

few moments where we would end up if we started to legislate for the game of football.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Quite right.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: It is possible that next week we would be introducing a Bill to control cricket in this State, and to make sure that Dennis Lillee continued to play for the Melville Cricket Club, and did not participate with the "Packer Pack" for want of a better name. There would be no end to what could occur. Any member who was upset with the soccer clubs, or the administration of soccer in this State, could come along and present a similar type of Bill. The same would apply to almost any sport.

If this Bill were to pass, Parliament could become engaged for ever and a day in looking at new regulations suggested by the National Football League, and other sporting bodies. Members can well imagine the debates which would take place with regard to proposed boundary changes; they would be never-ending. One could go on forever, on zoning.

I personally believe it is not the role of Parliament to interfere in this area. It has been suggested there is some precedent. That precedent, of course, is that there are regulations governing the conduct of horseracing, trotting, and dog racing.

A completely different principle is involved here because of the Gaming Act, the establishment of the Totalisator Agency Board, and the amount of money which is returned to the TAB from the racing clubs. It could be argued that if football pools are introduced in the future with some type of TAB arrangement, the Government could then intervene. My personal view is that it would be disastrous for the Government to intervene in a sport such as football.

If there are problems with the administration of football in this State, surely the best possible way to overcome those problems would be for the parties concerned to get together. Apart from issues that have been raised here from time to time in respect of the televising of the football finals, I have not heard very much complaint about the sport.

If the Bill passes the second reading, we could then go through it clause by clause and I could point out to the House the magnitude of what could happen. As I said a few minutes ago, we could be forever engaged in considering new regulations over zoning, transfers and all the other things involved. By and large the public is well served with the football setup in the State at the moment.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: In the metropolitan area.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: Country people probably have their own views about this, and I hope members representing country provinces will give us the benefit of their views.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: You have been in the bush just recently, and you said the trip had broadened your mind. You just go up the country now and talk about football to the country people.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I will do that only if this Chamber decides to legislate in regard to this sport. Until such time as that happens, I will leave that matter to the various clubs affiliated with the league in Western Australia. In fact, I could invite country members to visit the Fremantle area where there are two powerful clubs, and if they accept my invitation I believe they would be surprised at the reaction there.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Put on a Derby for us.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I am opposed to the principle contained in the Bill. I do not agree with legislation to control this sport.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [4:53 p.m.]: Firstly, may I apologise to the Hon. Des Dans. He may have wondered why one or two of us were smiling, but if he looks behind him now he will see the reason that I was a little mystified; I thought we had a new lady member.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: Good Lord!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I wonder whether that interjection will appear in *Hansard*! Actually we all think the Hon. Grace Vaughan looks very nice indeed.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: In the appropriate colours too—red and white!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is rather surprising that without any collusion whatever I find myself in the awkward situation of having heard my speech made for me by Mr Dans. Literally word for word he said what I had intended to say.

I do not want particularly to deal with the details of the Bill. It was summarised admirably by the member who introduced the Bill (Mr Tom McNeil) when he said that it sought to do two things: firstly, it seeks to give control over a country player back to his country club; secondly, and most importantly, it seeks to uphold what we consider to be a God-given right—namely, the freedom of a player to negotiate his own contract. That may all be true, and we will look at that situation in the Committee stage. One could argue indeed that what the Bill will do will be to

ensure that the Victorian clubs get cheap football players and the Western Australian league misses out because, of course, the Victorian clubs will deal direct with the individual.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: And he will get the money.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: And we will miss out on our football.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: We are doing that now.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Are we? I will talk about that particular point later. I will simply endorse what the Hon. Des Dans has said; that is, it will be a sad day when we start to legislate for sports which have been operating pretty successfully on their own, and whose members have made no requests to me, or to anyone else I know, for governmental control in any form.

It will be argued that the sport of horseracing is comparable with football and that sport is controlled by legislation. I do not know of any country in the world where horseracing is not subject to legislation for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that betting is involved. On the other hand, I do not know of any country where football is controlled by legislation. I am not even certain that legislative control is necessary in horseracing, but historically this has been the case.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: In South Africa it might be bound by legislation.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Why do you say that?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: With the racial problems.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Let us be serious about this. To my knowledge I do not think the honourable member has even been to South Africa. It will be argued that because dog racing and horseracing are controlled by legislation we ought to do the same with football.

The clubs ought to give this matter their close attention because if we legislate for one aspect of football, the next time an argument arises, either in the league or between a country club and the league, someone will approach his local member seeking to amend the Act. Once something becomes part of the legislative framework of the country, we are pressured from all sides with requests for amendments. After one term in this House, any member would be aware that we are under pressure to amend practically every Act on the Statute book.

I can remember that we even amended a piece of legislation dealing with trusts which had been on the Statute book since the time of Elizabeth I.

That Act was amended finally, and if this football legislation is passed it will be amended also. Then we will have someone who says, "If it is good enough for football, it is good enough for cricket." Mr Dans is quite right when he mentions the Packer situation. He said that a cricketer could find himself in the situation that he had to play cricket.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: They are free to sign up; that is the difference.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I do not want to argue this point. I believe that other methods could be used to achieve the same result. Mr Tom McNeil highlighted the fact that there are arguments at present between some country clubs and city players, and this matter does require looking at. Probably bulldozing tactics were used in the early days and Mr Tom McNeil drew our attention to these. I know that some conferences are taking place at present, and therefore, I suggest to the Hon. Tom McNeil that he should seek to adjourn this Bill at the present time to allow these conferences to proceed.

I am firmly convinced, as is Mr Dans, that this is quite the wrong path to take. I do not believe it has been demonstrated that people have suffered so dreadfully therefore it is necessary to introduce this legislation. Indeed, most of the footballers I have seen who have succeeded in football, and who have followed the path of professionalism, have done reasonably well as a result of so doing. One or two footballers have not succeeded, because of personal idiosyncracies, bad luck, or the like. But most of the footballers I have seen, even if they join the South-West Football League in and around Bunbury, have done pretty well out of it.

I believe it is wrong to invoke legislation to cover sports, and to do so for all the wrong reasons. Perhaps a number of the clubs do not realise they are letting themselves in for governmental control and all that that means; and it does mean very restrictive operations for the clubs. The people I know who are associated with football have always appeared to be very decent, honest fellows who have the best interests of football at heart and are open to persuasion. To work in that way is infinitely better than introducing legislation.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: You can't be speaking about the five league directors who wanted to ban footballers for seven years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have seen all kinds of people in all sorts of sports; however, this sort of thing has happened. It is all very well to make a comment such as the honourable member

has just made; but one must examine the situation and find out what the true situation is. I have heard such things said about members of this House. Comments have been made which are very uncharacteristic of the person, and, in some cases, the remarks are laughable. I have heard comments made about people whose point of view I do not support; I have heard ridiculous comments made; it is said they have done this or they have done that. However, until I examine the case I do not know the true situation.

There may be very good reasons for such comments to be made. I know Jim Davies and I know the type of fellow he is. I do not believe he would consciously do another man an injury, and I do not think anybody in this State really believes that he would.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: He has not got a vote.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: He has a great deal of influence. The honourable member is asking us for the wrong reasons to embark on a programme of legislating for sport. If the sport of boxing was covered by this legislation I believe it would be more understandable. However, I am opposed even to that. If we legislate for football, every row and every disagreement would generate a request to the Government for another amendment, another change, or an extension of power for the body corporate. Therefore, it would be an extremely retrograde step to pass this legislation, and I sincerely hope members do not support the Bill.

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central) [5.03 p.m.]: As I look around the Chamber I can see there would be a number of one-eyed football supporters; there would be some two-eyed football supporters; and some very lukewarm football supporters, such as myself. Over the years I have had a mild feeling for one particular team; but I am not a keen football enthusiast. However, I am a keen enthusiast for the rights of the individual and that is what this Bill is all about. It represents nothing more than the rights of the individual.

This Bill does not control football, or the playing of football. To say the Bill controls football is absolutely misleading. Mr Dans said he opposed the Bill on principle. Where is the principle in the Bill which controls football?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Read it properly.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Bill provides that an organisation shall be set up and it shall be called the Western Australian National Football League. The people who will be members of this organisation are the same people who are controlling football today.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is a start on the road, as you know.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The financial control of football will remain in the hands of the same people. All aspects of the control of football will remain as they are, except for certain rules which will be laid down under the schedule. If that is controlling football, I would like to know in what way.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will tell you later.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Mr Dans said he does not believe Parliament has a right to interfere with properly constituted organisations. Other than the tight rules which will be laid down, no properly constituted organisation will be interfered with in any manner.

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

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: This Bill has the best interests of the game at heart. It has the best interests of the players at heart also. Is it in the best interests of a player to say to him, "You have to play with this particular club. You have to accept this particular amount of money. If we decide to sell you to another club we may ask for something different"?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How many letters of complaint have you received from players?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: This is not in the best interests of the player. To cite the difference between legislating for football and legislating for cricket is all too silly.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Where is your logic in that?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Let me explain, Mr President.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I never dreamt I would see the day when football would be legislated for.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: What about bowls?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Football in Western Australia has reached the stage where it is 100 per cent professional.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What do you think about Packer cricket? Is that not 100 per cent professional?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Cricket in Western Australia is still a game for amateurs; but when Packer cricket comes in—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You have to be pulling my leg.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would like to see Dennis Lillee's contract.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: —we will have a

professional team playing. What is the Australian Cricket Association doing about the situation as regards Packer cricket? It is saying to the Packer players, "You will no longer be permitted to play cricket with us in shield games. You cannot practise with us on cricket fields. You have no chance of playing test cricket." It is all too silly to speak in this manner.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You don't mean to say cricket is an amateur sport in Western Australia?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Mr MacKinnon referred to Dennis Lillee. Lillee was an amateur now turned professional.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: How long has he been an amateur?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Come off it, Mr Baxter! Are you going to stand there and tell me Dennis Lillee is an amateur cricketer?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Hon. Des Dans said it was not the role of Parliament to interfere in this area, particularly when one looks at racing clubs and the amount of money that goes back to them and the TAB. What about the money that goes back into the football clubs' coffers from the gate proceeds, etc.? That would amount to a considerable sum today. The money involved in that instance is just the same as the money involved when one speaks about racing clubs. Money is the core of the whole situation.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You are saying that football gate takings equal the amount of money that people gamble at the TAB.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Money is the root of the whole situation. Mr Dans also said the best way to solve the problem would be for the parties to get together. How can the parties get together before a Bill such as this is introduced? At the present time one party, which is determined to carry on in the way it is carrying on today, digs its heels in and says, "He is only an individual." I am referring to the statement made by the honourable member who introduced the Bill. As soon as the Bill is introduced the people involved in this sport will have something to deal with. They will know it is before Parliament and they also will know it is before the people. I will deal with the individual rights of the player later.

Mr MacKinnon made a speech along similar lines to the speech made by Mr Dans. Mr MacKinnon said that racing was legislated for because of the money involved. I disagree with that statement. The Racing Restriction Act has nothing to do with betting. It simply sets out the number of meetings that the WA Trotting Association and the number of meetings the WA Turf Club may hold in the metropolitan area.

This restriction is imposed so that metropolitan trotting and racing will not interfere with the racing activities in the country. It is designed to ensure that there will be sufficient races in the metropolitan area and that some of the country trotting and racing meetings will not be cut out. This Act does not cover betting at all.

Mr MacKinnon said he was not aware of any country where football is covered by legislation. Neither am I; but I have not inquired into the situation. The honourable member may have made inquiries, but he may not have obtained all the details. For example, in a country such as Yugoslavia football may be covered by legislation.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It is a different administration.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is a communist country.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I thought we were supposed to be living in a country where the individual is entitled to freedom of speech, and where there is freedom of the Press, and freedom of action within the law. However, under the present system of administration of league football, particularly as it affects country players as well as city players, no freedom is given to the player as to where he may play.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I still have not had a protest from a player.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The players do not have freedom as to where they play.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How many letters have you had from individual players, Mr Baxter?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I have not received any letters from individual players.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have not received any either.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Neither have I.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: There is a very simple reason for this. A player who wants to play league football in this State, if he is not already playing, will not open his mouth to protest, because he knows as soon as he protests and it becomes public knowledge, he has no chance of playing league football in the future as a result of the system which operates at the present time.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I know plenty of players in my club who have a lot to say.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The honourable member knows that as well as I.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I did not know that the players are such "fraidy cats", and I am jolly sure they are not.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The honourable

member has said this will result in restrictive control. That is not the case.

I would like to deal with a circular letter which was received by members. It was sent by Mr Cowan, the President of the East Fremantle Football Club, the one for which I believe Mr Dans was speaking so eloquently.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I was speaking about South Fremantle.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It is on the fringe of this club's area. In this circular, Mr Cowan accused Mr Tom McNeil of making statements which were incorrect and misleading. The first statement quoted by Mr Cowan and attributed to Mr Tom McNeil is as follows—

The game of Football in this State is controlled absolutely by the West Australian National Football League.

Mr Cowan says that this statement is untrue.

Admittedly, Mr Tom McNeil made this statement in his speech as the Bill is dealing with legislation in relation to the Western Australian National Football League and league football; but he qualified that remark by making it very clear that he was not referring to all football under this particular Bill but to league football and the actions of the National Football League as they related to it.

It is all very well for Mr Cowan to try to drag a red herring across the trail; but he was only splitting straws. As I said, the Bill deals only with the Western Australian National Football League. This can be illustrated by an examination of the long title and the short title of the Bill. If one reads those, one will see that they deal entirely with league football. The long title reads as follows—

AN ACT to constitute and incorporate a Western Australian National Football League and to declare its objects, functions and powers, and for other purposes incidental thereto.

The other purposes incidental thereto are not outside the objects, functions, and powers of the league. The short title reads—

This Act may be cited as the *Western Australian National Football League Act, 1977*.

To try to imply that this interferes with all amateur football and control of all amateur football is absolutely wrong. This Bill does not do that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Who tried to imply that?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Even though Mr

Cowan might be right in some respects, he was splitting straws when he said that Mr Tom McNeil was trying to control all football in Western Australia. Evidently Mr Cowan did not read Mr Tom McNeil's speech relating to zoning, because in his speech the honourable member dealt only with league football.

In his letter Mr Cowan said—

#### Present System of Zoning

The conditions of players under the present system of zoning as outlined by Mr McNeil are inaccurate. He makes no mention of the fact that country clubs also receive \$10 a game for every League game a country player plays over 20 games.

Mr Cowan is dealing with extraneous matters which have nothing to do with the Bill before us. To continue with Mr Cowan's letter—

The East Fremantle Football Club had four players in the Grand Final who were from their country zone and the total payments to these four players covering accommodation, travelling, employment and playing is over \$10 000 for the year.

Mr Tom McNeil did not dispute that in any way in his speech. Mr Cowan did not have to bring that matter up, because it is not part and parcel of the Bill. Mr Tom McNeil referred to the fact that any player should have the right to play in a club which he preferred and where he can get some of these advantages.

Mr Cowan's letter does not set out in detail what he alleges Mr Tom McNeil has said inaccurately in his speech. In his letter Mr Cowan also said—

The W.A. National Football League has a democratic right to make its own rules as long as there exists a choice and an alternative for footballers to play football.

In Mr Cowan's own words he does not deny what is taking place. A player has no alternative but to play with the club in respect of which he is zoned; that is, if he wishes to play league football. If he resides in a particular zone either in the country or in the metropolitan area he has to play with the club that has been allocated that zone. When it comes to a transfer, the WANFL and the league club still control him; so, in that respect he has little freedom.

In his letter Mr Cowan also made reference to the conditions of the players under the present system of zoning, and he alleged that what Mr Tom McNeil said in this regard was inaccurate. He accused Mr Tom McNeil of failing to mention

certain facts. This is what Mr Cowan said in his letter—

The conditions of players under the present system of zoning as outlined by Mr McNeil are inaccurate. He makes no mention of the fact that country clubs also receive \$10 a game for every League game . . .

Mr Tom McNeil did not make any inaccurate statement, because he did not refer to those matters. Mr Tom McNeil was only stating the facts, but Mr Cowan was not stating the facts when he wrote that letter. Mr Tom McNeil has no argument with what Mr Cowan said in that regard.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: There is one big difference. Mr Cowan will not be able to take part in this debate.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Per medium of Mr Baxter he is taking part.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Mr Cowan evades the actual issues which have been raised by Mr Tom McNeil. What Mr Tom McNeil has said is recorded at pages 1874 to 1876 of the current *Hansard* for the 6th October. Nowhere in his letter has Mr Cowan dealt with the issues which have been raised by Mr Tom McNeil. Mr Cowan alleges that what Mr Tom McNeil has said is inaccurate, but then he evades dealing with the issues raised by Mr Tom McNeil.

In his speech Mr Tom McNeil said—

There are eight WANFL teams in the metropolitan area, and the area is divided into eight residential districts from which players are drawn.

Other than the metropolitan area, the whole of the State below the 26th parallel is divided into eight country zones. Each zone is allocated to a particular WANFL League club, and any person residing in that zone may transfer only to that club if he wishes to play league football.

What did Mr Cowan say in his letter about that aspect? Nothing. Mr Tom McNeil went on to say—

In a case where a person has actually played football with a country club within two years he, too, can move only to the league club to which that country club is zoned.

Did Mr Cowan say anything about that point? No. To continue with Mr Tom McNeil's speech—

Once established with a metropolitan league club, he is bound to that club. The club can play him or not as it chooses, can sell him to another club or trade him for

other players, and can refuse to grant a clearance to a player who wishes to transfer to another club or to go interstate. Without a clearance a player is unable to play football.

Did Mr Cowan deny that? No, because he knew that Mr Tom McNeil was right. Mr Tom McNeil said further—

At present the only recourse open to a player refused a clearance is for him to take civil action through the courts, or stand out of football for at least a year—as, for example, did Syd Jackson, Alec Epis, and Wayne Richardson, to name only a few.

Mr Cowan did not touch on that point at all, but he was content to accuse Mr Tom McNeil of making inaccurate statements.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am now talking about a player who is good enough and who wants to play league football; I am not talking about amateur football. I am talking about the right of such a player to transfer from one club in Western Australia to another club in the Eastern States. I am dealing purely with league football.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Mr Tom McNeil was very careful to mention that when he was speaking.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: In his letter Mr Cowan referred to the right of a player to go through legal channels. In his letter he said—

The Statement made by Mr McNeil is inaccurate and the case he mentioned was in relation to particular cases dealing with Eastern States clubs and was not followed through and passed as a Constitutional change. The Courts are open to all players.

Mr Tom McNeil did not say the courts were not open to the players. He said that the WANFL even attempted to remove the right of a player to proceed through legal channels. He said further—

A few weeks ago the league moved to alter its constitution so that any player who went outside the league to secure a clearance would be banned from playing football within this State for seven years. Five of the eight league directors supported this added restriction.

Mr Tom McNeil did not say that the courts were not open to the players. Did Mr Cowan deny that statement? No; all he said was that Mr Tom McNeil's statement was inaccurate, but in saying that he was entirely wrong.

Then we come to the rights of the players. In his letter Mr Cowan said—

Mr McNeil concluded his comments by saying the Bill was to seek to establish the individual rights of the players and makes a fleeting reference to athletes in the majority of other sports but gives no specific case.

I do not think it is necessary to mention that in respect of this issue, because Mr Tom McNeil referred only to those that have been refused clearances, etc. He did not try to hide anything. However, Mr Cowan accused Mr Tom McNeil of making comments that were not factual. I repeat that he said Mr Tom McNeil made a fleeting reference to athletes in other sports. I cannot find anywhere in Mr Tom McNeil's speech any reference to other sports.

Mr Cowan said in his letter that Mr Tom McNeil did not give any specific case. Mr Tom McNeil did not give any specific case in his speech, because in no other sports are the players or athletes bound as tightly as they are in league football.

In his letter Mr Cowan made no attempt to justify what he had said. He made reference to other sporting bodies but did not say they were tying up the players, as they are in league football.

Mr Cowan also said in his letter—

Why should one man use Parliament to break the system for his own personal beliefs.

That is a bare statement. He should bear in mind that Mr Tom McNeil brought forward the Bill because he was thinking about the rights of the individual; he was not using Parliament for his own ends, as stated in Mr Cowan's letter. Mr Cowan went on to say in his letter—

We find it completely irresponsible that as an ex St. Kilda player in Victoria he should endeavour to recruit an outstanding Geraldton footballer—Graham Kickett, to the St. Kilda Club in Victoria.

I have discussed this matter with Mr Tom McNeil; and I can say that statement is entirely incorrect. Mr Tom McNeil did not try to recruit Graham Kickett to play for the St. Kilda Club in Victoria. I do not know from where Mr Cowan got that idea.

Graham Kickett is a young player who was encouraged to play for the East Fremantle Football Club. He played one colts game for that club, when the club contravened zoning regulation 8, and should not have played him. The particular zoning law states that a league club shall not permit a country colts player to play in a colts match unless he has been transferred in his employment, in his schooling, or is unable to find

work in the country. Graham Kickett was at school, and he played a colts game for the East Fremantle Football Club.

It appears that the attitude adopted by the President of the East Fremantle Football Club (Mr Cowan) is two-faced. He has made the statement in his letter about Mr Tom McNeil when his club had already contravened zoning regulation 8. It is a case of the pot trying to call the kettle black.

Mr Cowan was supposed to be writing on behalf of all the people associated with the East Fremantle Football Club, because in his letter he said—

It is the considered opinion of the East Fremantle Football Club that members of the State Parliament should allow the W.A. National Football League to run its own affairs because all decisions are made on the majority vote of eight participating clubs, each of whom have approximately 2 000 financial members . . .

In his letter Mr Cowan said he was speaking for all associated with the East Fremantle Football Club. Was this letter the considered opinion of the East Fremantle Football Club? I doubt it very much, because I do not think the East Fremantle Football Club has held a meeting since the time Mr Tom McNeil introduced the Bill. Unless the club had held a meeting of its members and supporters, and had outlined the conditions set out in the Bill, Mr Cowan could not say he was writing on behalf of all associated. How could he say it was the considered opinion of the East Fremantle Football Club? I do not believe it is. I believe it is the opinion of Mr Cowan.

On whose behalf was Mr Cowan writing the letter? Was he writing on behalf of himself, the East Fremantle Football Club, or as a director of the WANFL? It is passing strange that the letter accompanying the stencilled circular letter is written on the East Fremantle Football Club letterhead, and is signed by him as the president.

I thought it was usual for a letter of this nature to be written by the secretary on the instructions of the committee. Probably on special occasions the president of a league club could write such a letter. However, in most cases when a meeting is called for a specific purpose, the secretary signs the letter. I suppose in this case the club permitted Mr Cowan to do that. I do not believe the letter was written with the consent of the East Fremantle Football Club and the people associated with it.

Finally, it is passing strange that there has been no circular letter addressed to members from the



league itself as a body. The only one received is the one from Mr Cowan.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And Swan Districts.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes, although I have not received it. I have received only one, and that was from East Fremantle.

Before I conclude I would like to comment on Mr Cowan's remarks about the Hon. Tom McNeil recruiting players for St. Kilda. The Hon. Tom McNeil has coached Jim Sewell who at present plays for East Fremantle, but who is going to Carlton as is also Geoff Ironmonger, also coached by the Hon. Tom McNeil. He at present plays for Subiaco. Steve McCann, also coached by the Hon. Tom McNeil, used to play for East Fremantle, and is now with North Melbourne. Others playing for East Fremantle, and coached by the Hon. Tom McNeil, are Mazzucchelli, Sims, Hicks, Carrott, and Cross. Does that information indicate the Hon. Tom McNeil is recruiting for St. Kilda? Not one person he has coached has gone to St. Kilda. So much for Mr Cowan's story about his recruiting for St. Kilda.

The Hon. Tom McNeil was associated for many years with football in Melbourne, as a member of St. Kilda club and, since he came here, he has been assisting players in the northern area, and doing everything he can for football. He has seen some of the pitfalls young players in Western Australia are up against and some of the problems they encounter when they try to play for the club of their choice. He is endeavouring to ensure that the players obtain a fair and equitable deal, and that is the reason he has introduced the Bill.

For the reasons I have outlined, members should support the Bill. If, in the meantime, negotiations take place between the Hon. Tom McNeil, perhaps the Minister for Recreation and one or two others, and the league, some of the difficulties might be resolved and we might not have to go on with the Bill. However, under the present circumstances the league will not move one inch to the right. It will sit well to the left and continue its present policy, thus keeping players in a tight grip. Something fair and equitable must be devised. I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. W. M. Piesse.

## BILLS (2): ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGES

Messages from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council to the following Bills—

1. Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board (Validation) Bill.
2. Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment Bill.

## SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH BILL

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF**  
(Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to create a solar energy research institute in Western Australia.

It is proposed that, in its initial stages, the institute will function essentially as a financing body to assist the Government with the aim of promoting and co-ordinating research into solar development and utilisation.

Members will no doubt appreciate the formidable technical and cost barriers which stand in the way of widespread adoption of solar energy, but it is seen as an alternative energy form for mankind's long-term salvation. However, on present indications there are few grounds for supposing that solar energy can make a significant contribution before the next century.

A realistic time scale from initial research to large-scale commercial application of a new technology such as this can be anything up to 25 years or even longer. With this in mind there is the need to commence research now to achieve any significant reduction in our critical dependence on liquid petroleum fuels.

The Bill now before the House has been based upon the results of investigations carried out by a special work party formed to provide advice and suggestions on how best to initiate and promote solar energy research in Western Australia.

The special work party was set up at the request of the Government by the Energy Advisory Council and consisted of representatives from the following—

The Chamber of Mines of Western Australia.

The Confederation of Western Australian Industry.

The University of Western Australia.

The Western Australian Institute of Technology.

The Department of Industrial Development.

The State Energy Commission.

It assembled a complete picture of the solar energy work now under way in this State and identified a number of promising areas for new research.

Specifically, the work party recommended that the Government of Western Australia take the lead in setting up an appropriate form of co-ordinating body which it called the "Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia". Subsequently the work party submitted a formal report which was endorsed by the Energy Advisory Council and later by the State Energy Commission and the Government.

The Bill provides that the solar energy research institute of Western Australia will be a statutory corporation with the normal powers and responsibilities of a body corporate. Despite the fact that it must be a statutory body, the intention is that in its implementation it will be as far removed as possible from the Government's influence and left to the scientific and industrial institutions.

The functions of the institute will be to encourage solar energy development; undertake research projects in its own right; carry out investigations referred to it by the Minister; co-ordinate solar research where appropriate in Western Australia; receive funds from the Government, industry, and other sponsors, and allocate such funds to approved research projects undertaken by outside organisation; monitor and evaluate solar developments nationally and overseas; maintain a collection of relevant data on solar energy; and promote public awareness of solar energy. In performing its functions the institute would be subject to the Minister.

Provision is made for the institute to have powers to purchase and construct facilities, deal in property, open and maintain a bank account, and participate in applications for patents or registration of industrial designs.

It is intended that the institute will be managed by a three-member board of directors consisting of a member of the State Energy Commission, as chairman, and two other persons with appropriate qualifications to be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister and selected from a panel of names recommended by the Energy Advisory Council.

The Bill also provides for the establishment of a solar energy advisory committee consisting of a number of specialist advisers to assist the board of directors.

This committee will have representatives from the Confederation of Western Australian

Industry, the Chamber of Mines, the Perth Chamber of Commerce, each of the two universities and the institute of technology, the CSIRO, and the Department of Industrial Development, as well as such other persons, if any, as the Minister considers appropriate.

It is the Government's firm intention that the institute will avoid any significant overhead expenses. It is to be essentially a means of financing solar research. The Government has already announced that it will make available \$250 000 as an initial funding allocation for the institute with the firm resolve of getting virtually all this money into the hands of worthy solar energy researchers without being eroded by administrative and ancillary overhead expenses.

Accordingly the State Energy Commission will provide virtually all of the administrative and back-up support required by the institute, particularly in the early period of its existence. There is, however, provision to appoint full-time employees to the institute should it be judged appropriate and desirable in the future.

Persons or organisations wishing to undertake solar research will fill out a detailed application form and submit it to the board of directors of the institute. Individual persons, university researchers, private companies, and interstate and overseas organisations are all free to apply. The board will refer applications to the advisory committee for advice and, after receiving such advice allocate such funds as are available to successful applicants. Thereafter the institute would monitor progress with the research projects which are receiving support and assemble proper progress reports.

The Government is very much aware that solar research, like many other areas of research, could absorb considerable amounts of money yet produce little tangible result. To ensure that this does not happen the Government has provided for the institute—

- (a) to be subject to effective control and management;
- (b) to be monitored by and subject to the influence and opinions from appropriate outside persons and bodies;
- (c) expenditure to be accountable and subject to audit;
- (d) adequate feed-back of information arising from research projects and frequent progress reports.

It is not intended, especially in the early years, that the institute should set up its own laboratory facilities. The universities, institute of technology, State Energy Commission, and several private

companies have laboratory facilities available already. To ensure efficiency it is intended that these facilities be used to the utmost.

Similarly it is essential that Western Australia does not attempt to duplicate research work already completed or under way interstate or overseas. The institute will keep closely in touch with solar energy progress world wide and ensure that research work which it funds is directed towards areas which will be of direct benefit to Western Australia.

In this regard the Government is aware of the recent report of the Senate Standing Committee on National Resources which recommended a cautious and low-key approach to solar energy research. It is recognised, however, that the committee had to present a national picture and that the energy resources and needs of the several States vary considerably. What is right for Western Australia may not be appropriate for other States or the nation as a whole.

The Government is convinced that in Western Australia solar energy could have a big future in view of our climate, residential life style, and massive industrial and mineral projects, many of which require copious amounts of low-grade heat which could be supplied by solar means. Accordingly it is felt that the institute should concentrate on the more practical and technical aspects of solar research rather than basic research which is more the province of universities. Water heating for homes and industry, water pumping for irrigation and remote domestic supplies, cool rooms and food refrigeration, air-conditioning, and perhaps small-scale electricity generation in remote areas are the potentially useful avenues of research for Western Australia. No doubt many more ideas will come forward once the institute is in operation and begins to receive applications for research grants.

Useful communication has already been undertaken with the CSIRO and overseas organisations, and beneficial links could develop with the United Kingdom Department of Energy, the Electrical Power Research Institute in San Francisco, and Japan's Sunshine Project. The institute will provide a convenient and useful point of contact for co-operative research projects with such interstate and overseas organisations.

The Minister for Industrial development has personally visited those organisations and they were delighted at the prospect of having very close co-operation with the research institute to be established in Western Australia. Some of them even expressed the hope that they might

participate with finance if an appropriate project were being researched in Western Australia.

To summarise, therefore, the Government feels the establishment of the institute is an appropriate and practical method of focusing attention on solar energy, making a start on tangible research and development projects, and maintaining an up-to-date picture of solar energy developments all over the world. The institute is merely one step in securing the State's long-term energy future which must, we believe, include a very substantial reliance on our inexhaustible solar energy resources.

I would like to add that in accordance with an undertaking given by the Minister for Fuel and Energy in respect of a proposed amendment to the Bill in another place, I will be moving that amendment in this House during the Committee stage.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs.

### APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) (No. 2)

#### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), read a first time.

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Leader of the House)[5.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to appropriate the sum of \$1 329 903 000 required for the services of the current year as detailed in the Estimates.

The Bill seeks the further supply of \$641 312 000 which is in addition to the \$550 million already granted under the Supply Act, 1977.

It also provides for the grant of further supply of \$50 million from the public account for advance to the Treasurer which is to supplement the sum of \$15 million already granted under the Supply Act, 1977.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the Bill ratifies the amount spent during 1976-77 in excess of Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are given in the relevant schedule to the Bill.

Members will appreciate that I have already

spoken at length on some of the main features contained in the Estimates when the Budget papers were tabled in this House several weeks ago, and no doubt we have all benefited from the opportunity to enter into discussion on those papers during the intervening period. This in no way is designed to preclude any further debate on this or other budgetary Bills which are to follow, although at this stage I would hope our individual objectives have been substantially satisfied.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

## GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH**  
(South—Minister for Transport) [5.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to amend the Government Railways Act, 1904-1976, in three separate and unrelated areas to make provision for the following requirements—

- (1) to enable the Western Australian Government Railways Commission to become a member of the newly formed Australian Railway Research and Development Organisation;
- (2) to enable the Western Australian Government Railways Commission to deal with motor vehicles abandoned on railway property; and
- (3) to alter the title of the Western Australian Government Railways Employees Death Benefit and Endowment Fund so as to delete reference to the death benefit aspects of the fund.

In respect of the first proposal, a meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council, in February this year, considered a report on future land transport assistance and concluded that the railway systems of Australia were not sufficiently prepared to present a sustainable case on an industry basis for Commonwealth assistance.

The Transport Ministers at that meeting saw a need to improve railway systems analysis and development capabilities to allow them better to

identify future capital investment needs and to consider operational and management techniques which would improve efficiency of the systems as a whole.

At a subsequent meeting in March the Ministers endorsed the establishment of the Australian Railway Research and Development Organisation, to which I will refer as the ARRDO. This organisation is to be incorporated in Victoria as a company and located in Melbourne.

It is to be controlled by a board consisting of the commissioner-chairman of each Government railway and the Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Transport. The operating costs of ARRDO are to be financed by a levy on each railway system.

Any project which ARRDO undertakes will be eligible for assistance under the Commonwealth Government Transport (Planning and Research) Act. Westrail's contribution towards operating costs for the year 1977-78 is assessed at \$22 500. We have assurances from the Federal Minister for Transport that the Commonwealth will finance 50 per cent of the cost of establishing ARRDO on condition that the States involved agree to share the other 50 per cent. At the moment these costs have not been finally determined.

To enable Westrail's participation it is necessary to amend the Act to provide for the Commissioner of Railways to be a member or shareholder of and contribute funds to any body with its principal office in Australia which is concerned principally with improvement of the Australian railway systems; also for the commissioner and other officers of the commission to represent the commission on the body as directors or otherwise.

Participation in any activities of the body and the contribution of funds towards the cost of those activities is to be subject to the consent of the Minister.

The initial task of ARRDO will be to define, on an industry basis, the resource requirements of the railway systems and to present justification in support of a case that railway financial requirements should be incorporated in the proposed Commonwealth land transport legislation to apply from 1980.

If the railway systems are to develop as an effective national industry it is essential they share in disbursement of Commonwealth resources to the transport sector. Insufficient Commonwealth funds have been allocated to the railways in the past and consequently their

situation has been gradually eroded over the years. The lack of national awareness of the financial needs of railways on an industry basis is a prime cause for this situation. It is also the prime reason for establishing ARRDO.

ARRDO's ongoing work will be to present a properly documented and sustainable case for financial assistance, to provide the necessary research and investigation into particular projects, and, overall, to improve management methods in the railway industry. It is in the particular interest of this State that its rail network—and that of the associated Eastern States systems—be maintained as a viable and effective transport medium. The work which ARRDO will do is in furtherance of this objective.

The second amendment is to allow the Railways Commission to deal with motor vehicles abandoned on railway property.

In common with other authorities, the Railways Commission from time to time has the problem of what to do with motor vehicles which are abandoned on railway car parks or on other railway property. Quite often the persons responsible choose this as the easiest way of getting rid of an unwanted vehicle. The commission then is faced with the prospect of rapidly deteriorating and unsightly vehicles lying around, sometimes in close proximity to public facilities. The vehicles also are a source of attraction to vandals.

This Bill will empower the commission to make by-laws to—

- (a) remove a vehicle which has been left unattended on railway property for a period in excess of seven days to an appointed place and to prescribe a scale of charges which must be paid before it can be reclaimed. In passing, I mention that the City of Perth by-laws provide for dealing with abandoned vehicles after 24 hours;
- (b) offer the vehicle for sale by public auction if it has not been reclaimed within two months, or, alternatively, to destroy it if no offer is made at a public auction;
- (c) recover from the proceeds of the sale the cost of removal, custody, and sale of the vehicle; and

- (d) pay any surplus of the proceeds of the sale into miscellaneous revenue and pay this sum within one year to any person who satisfies the commission that he was the owner of the vehicle at the time of its sale.

The Bill also provides that any such vehicle will not be sold until inquiries as to the ownership have been made and the owner has been duly notified of the intention to sell the vehicle; or, in the event that the owner cannot be notified, that the intention to sell the vehicle be published in the daily Press.

Finally it is intended to amend the title of the Western Australian Government Railways Employees' Death Benefit and Endowment Fund. The death benefit section of this fund has operated for many years with limited membership and with very few new members electing to join this section.

Following an actuarial investigation which recommended that no new members be enrolled, the Railways Commission—acting under the powers bestowed by section 23 of the Government Railways Act—approved in December, 1973, of the death benefit section being amalgamated with the endowment fund section.

The death benefit commitment presently is being wound up. There are now only 26 members of an average age of 81 years. The nominees of these members will receive their benefits in due course and the death benefit aspect of the fund will then disappear.

As a consequence of the amalgamation of the two sections—and the registration of the new title of the fund with the Companies Registration Office—it is necessary to alter its title to the "Western Australian Government Railways Employees' Endowment Fund Incorporated" where it appears in the Government Railways Act.

This is a matter which has been discussed over a long period of time with the people concerned.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. F. E. McKenzie.

## STATE FORESTS

### *Revocation of Dedication: Assembly's Resolution*

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting the Council's concurrence in the following resolution—

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State Forests Nos. 4, 22, 29 and 49 laid on the Table of the Legislative

Assembly by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor on 18th October, 1977, be carried out.

*Motion to Concur*

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF**  
(Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State Forests Nos. 4, 22, 29 and 49 referred to in Message No. 44 from the Legislative Assembly and laid on the Table of the Legislative Council on 9th October, 1977, be carried out.

Mr President, in moving this motion I consider it may be of benefit to those members who have not sat in previous sessions if I briefly explain the statutory requirements which necessitate the introduction of this measure.

It can possibly be best described as a hardy annual which comes before Parliament usually towards the close of each session to permit the inclusion of all propositions to that date.

Under section 21 of the Forests Act, 1918-1976, a dedication of Crown lands as State forest may only be revoked in whole or in part in the following manner—

The Governor shall cause to be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament a proposal for such revocation.

The proposal in this instance was laid on the Table of this Chamber on Wednesday, the 19th October, and in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, the 18th October. It continues—

After such proposal has been laid before Parliament, the Governor on a resolution being passed by both Houses that such proposal be carried out shall, by Order in Council, revoke such dedication.

On any such revocation, the land shall become Crown land within the meaning of the Land Act.

The required procedures have already been completed in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Lands and Forests, and this House is now asked to concur with the action taken in another place.

In this instance five areas of State forest are being submitted to members for consideration in the matter of revocation of their dedication. I shall briefly describe these areas and provide reasons for the intention of revocation. More detailed particulars, including plans of the areas involved, are contained in the tabled papers.

**Area No. 1:** An area of about four hectares situated about 0.8 kilometres south-easterly from Collie townsite is requested by the State Housing Commission to provide housing for elderly and invalid Aboriginal pensioners who are presently residing in tents on the site.

This area is intended to replace an adjacent area approved for excision for this purpose last year but later found to be positioned incorrectly. The area previously approved is now included in an area the subject of an exchange with the Shire of Collie.

**Area No. 2:** An area of about 44 hectares adjoining an eastern boundary of Collie townsite is to be exchanged with the Shire of Collie for an area of about 49 hectares of Reserve 7945 (Parklands) located on the southern boundary of Collie townsite.

The State forest area is almost entirely composed of poor quality forest and includes a small area of coalmine over-burden dumps and a large sand pit. The land is proposed for reservation for shire purposes.

This area of State forest adjoins a small area on part of its eastern boundary which is proposed for release to the State Housing Commission for reservation for the purposes of "Aboriginal housing". This area is intended to replace a similar adjacent area which was approved for release for this purpose last year but was found subsequently to be positioned incorrectly. The area not now required for Aboriginal housing is included in the area to be exchanged and reserved for shire purposes.

The area of Reserve 7945 (Parklands) to be exchanged contains timber of better quality than the area of State forest proposed for excision and will be included in adjoining State forest. The parklands area is subject to frequent bushfires which occur adjacent to the river and its being placed under Forests Department control will allow the area to be burnt regularly and the fire damage reduced.

The Public Works Department has no objection to the exchange.

**Area No. 3:** An area of about two hectares situated about 1.2 kilometres westerly from Collie townsite, is required by the Shire of Collie for addition to Reserve 6738 (Cemetery).

The only timber involved is along the reserve boundary and about two-thirds of the area will be suited to the shire's requirements. The Public Works Department has no objection to the proposal.

**Area No. 4:** An area of about 3.7 hectares

situated about 1.8 kilometres south-south-easterly from Karragullen townsite containing a damsite is held under a forest lease with the remainder being almost entirely surrounded by cleared land, and itself partly cleared with some marri and jarrah regrowth remaining.

In exchange the Crown will receive an area of approximately equal size adjoining State forest, which contains healthy jarrah regrowth forest with a good stocking of poles. The exchange will allow the boundaries to be rationalised, release land more suited to agriculture and include in State forest land with greater forest potential.

The Public Works Department has no objection to the proposed exchange.

Area No. 5: An area of about 1.7 hectares, situated about 4 kilometres east from Kirup townsite, which has been isolated by a road realignment carried out to eliminate a bad bend in the Kirup-Grimwade road in the interests of safety.

The small amount of timber on the area proposed for release is mainly regrowth and the land is proposed for inclusion in the adjoining private property location.

The small area of the redundant road reserve and private land south of the new alignment will be included in the adjoining State forest.

I commend the motion to the House

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

*Sitting suspended from 6.03 to 7.30 p.m.*

## APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) (No. 2)

### *Consideration of Tabled Paper*

Debate resumed, from the 19th October, on the following motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House)—

That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 151, the Council take note of tabled paper No. 245 (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and related papers), laid upon the Table of the House on 21st September, 1977.

**THE HON. R. J. L. WILLIAMS** (Metropolitan) [7.30 p.m.]: Mr President, in speaking to the Estimates this evening I wonder how many members have looked, as I have, at the summary of expenditure and at two very interesting items within the Estimates on the expenditure. We see that the total summary for the State is \$1 004 279 000. If we look at where the bulk of that money is intended to be spent, we shall see it will be spent by the Minister for

Health and Community Welfare, with a total of \$351 495 000, which is a considerable sum of money for the health of the community.

Perhaps as a result of one of my other activities, I am acutely interested in health and related problems. One of the staff at the Alcohol and Drug Authority saw me during the weekend and said, "I have to report something to you which I do not think is quite fair. There is a story appearing in the media and being circulated by Mr Shadow", as they call him; a shadow being an image of no substance, "which is incredible. It is incredible because it is a good story which in no way will be spoilt by any vestige of truth". I asked this person, "What are you really saying?" He said, "I am saying I am sick and fed up with being shot at by the media and by institutions as to what the Alcohol and Drug Authority is not doing."

We all realise we are deficient in certain areas; but it should behove people who draw the attention of the public to matters of importance at least to ascertain the facts, ascertain they are facts, and above all ascertain that they are the truth.

This is the first time I have spoken in this House in three years on this subject—I am talking about facts and about the Alcohol and Drug Authority—and I hope members of the House will bear with me when I tell them exactly what the Alcohol and Drug Authority does. One may say it is in rebuttal to the "shadow" of many utterances.

There is great amazement among the ADA staff that it has been generally forecast that we have a 10-day cure for alcoholism. They look at that and say, "Who has got it and who started this nonsense of a 10-day cure?" They say also, "We can give you facts and figures. Mind you, we are never going to claim any success."

The best organisation in the world which deals with alcoholics is Alcoholics Anonymous. That organisation has a considerable recovery rate, but it never talks about success. Members of that organisation merely will themselves by their discipline and philosophy to strive to make each day a sober day. Many of our patients break down. That is the sort of thing our staff has come to expect. They expect that the alcoholic breaks down; that the drug dependant breaks down.

One has to stand on one's feet to refute certain allegations. Within the privileged position of certain places a great number of people can make many accusations, and my staff quoted me one accusation which was made about the present acting medical director. I will not go through the

history of the two medical directors we have had in the past; that is history. Those two gentlemen laid down some very fine and firm guidelines for the staff to follow.

It has been reported that the Alcohol and Drug Authority has an acting medical director. This is quite true. He has been the acting medical director since the 4th March of this year. If we tried to find a medical man interested in alcohol and drugs we would be looking for someone who is nearly as scarce as hen's teeth. Such a person is impossible to find and recruit easily.

Therefore, the board in its wisdom decided there would be a period of consolidation when the Alcohol and Drug Authority would consolidate its resources and get on with the job. We could then search for a medical director in the knowledge that we would be able to say to him, "Here we have an organisation. It is equipped in this way. What more do you want to do with it?"

I am reliably informed that the acting medical director has been accused of being only a general practitioner and psychologist. First of all, he is only a general practitioner. I always regard general practitioners as some of the best people on earth; they are more specialised than the specialists as far as I am concerned. It has also been said that the acting medical director is a psychologist.

Let us get our terms right. He may have taken a degree in psychology which, as a medical practitioner, entitles him to be called a psychiatrist. In the first instance, let us have the correct term.

I will quote what this "acting medical director-general practitioner-psychologist" has done with his life. His name is Dr Gee. He graduated as a doctor in Hong Kong in 1953. He then spent two years in general practice dealing with addiction. If anybody has been to Hong Kong, seen Hong Kong, and spoken to the people of Hong Kong, he will know it is one of the places in the world that has one of the most serious drug problems.

This man went straight out of his studies into general practice dealing mainly with cases of addiction; so we would not expect him to know a great deal about drugs. He then spent 13 years in general practice and hospital work in Kuala Lumpur. I do not know whether you are aware, Mr President, but there are 276 000 heroin addicts in Malaysia.

In 1970 this man came to Perth. He worked for two years in the psychiatric ward of the Repatriation Hospital where he was dealing with all sorts of psychiatric problems including drug dependency in its various forms. Then he spent

three years with the Mental Health Services dealing mainly with patients who were mentally disturbed due to alcoholism.

Dr Gee completed his studies for a diploma in psychiatric medicine, but because we called upon him he did not sit for that examination. He has had 2½ years' experience with the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Authority. He is an extremely good clinician.

Mr President, to say that the ADA is "drifting on" is not true. I could use a stronger word, Mr President, but you would rule me out of order. Suffice to say, it is not true.

One of the key members on the board of the authority just so happens to be a senior psychiatrist employed by the Mental Health Services in this State. He has been a qualified psychiatrist since 1966. He served as a consultant psychiatrist around the world, firstly to the Government of Guyana, and then later was seconded to Uganda. As a result of a certain incident, he was bundled out of that country. He was a colleague of a professor of psychiatry who is now a professor of psychiatry in this fair State.

The ADA simply has not drifted on. It has been said there is a 10-day cure for drunkenness. I sincerely wish there was one.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: So do we all.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: The Hon. Norman Baxter says, "So do we all." Yes; it would be a tremendous advantage.

I am wondering whether the gentleman who made the accusation about the authority is confusing it with something quite different, because I am assured the gentleman is well read and would know what he is talking about. I wonder whether he is talking about the treatment of narcotic and amphetamine addiction by administration of alpha-methyl-para-tyrosine and 5-butylpicolinic acid (fusaric acid). An article has been written about this treatment by Dr Jose Pozuelo and Dr May M. de Ybarra. Dr Pozuelo is from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, in the United States of America, and Dr de Ybarra is from the Syntex Iberica, Research Division, Barcelona, Spain. They found that by treating human beings who were drug addicts with alpha-methyl-para-tyrosine and fusaric acid, these people responded remarkably and lost all their cravings for narcotics or amphetamines after 10 to 15 days.

All the staff of the ADA are aware of this; so I hope the person who is alleged to have made the statement is not confusing the narcotics treatment with the alcohol problem.



I hope members of the House will bear with me, because I intend to quote some figures. I have to prove there is no 10-day cure for alcoholism. We have never said there is a 10-day cure. Ten days does not appear in our programme anywhere. For instance, let us have a look at the facilities we are using. I want you to know, Mr President, I want the House to know, and I want the public to know the truth of the matter.

First of all, we have Aston Hospital which is a facility for detoxification. It is situated in Colin Street. There are 29 registered hospital beds in that institution. We do not cure anybody there; we detoxify them; that is, we remove all the toxic substances which may be in their bodies due to alcohol or drugs. The treatment modality is acute clinical. The hospital has been open for eight months and to the 30th September this year the following patient load was dealt with in the 29 beds: alcoholics 1 035, drug dependants 114, making a total of 1 149.

Our progressive bed average over that period was 20.9. The average stay was 3.6 days; that is, when the doctors decided that the poisons were out of the patient's system and the person could be approached. We approached them and asked them, "Are you prepared to come for treatment, as this doctor recommends, under our other facilities?" As we have no compulsion in our Act they say either "Yes" or "No". Our catchment, as it were, up till the present time has been 20 per cent.

We have 23 full-time staff providing a 24-hour-a-day service, with nine part-time staff. I challenge any hospital in this State to treat those people in the occupied beds at the cost which operates in our hospital—\$45 a day. The Hon. Norman Baxter would be a mine of information in regard to the cost of hospital beds in other institutions and I am sure that he, as a past Minister, would be delighted if the cost of a bed in hospitals throughout the State was only \$45 a day. I am not denying that our cost does rise, but it goes up at a later stage.

It was also reported that the 10-day cure occurs in our other hospital in Ord Street. There we have 26 registered beds and it is an intensive therapeutic hospital. The modalities of treatment carried on there are straightforward medical therapy, the involvement of Alcoholics Anonymous, behaviour therapy, self management programmes, and psychological testing and counselling. The average maximum bed occupancy there is 25.3, and the average stay is 23.2 days. So I do not know where the figure of 10 days comes from. The cost per occupied bed in that hospital is approximately \$35 a day. In that

hospital we have 23 nurses, domestics, social welfare workers, and clerical workers, with six part-time staff.

If the doctors deem it necessary, from there patients can go for a longer term of rehabilitation. We must remember that when they get to Aston in an intoxicated state—and I have said this in this House previously—they are nearer to death than they will ever possibly be again; and they are very sick people. They are so sick that they have to be treated for a variety of other associated alcohol and drug complaints.

Some of them manage to get to Ord Street hospital to undergo a therapeutic programme there, but they still need time for their bodies to be rehabilitated and so they go to Quo Vadis in the hills. That is a long-term rehabilitation centre with 26 registered beds. There the work has a therapeutic content, including Alcoholics Anonymous, behaviour skills, a social skills programme, and work-oriented rehabilitation. The average stay there is 34 days. So where is Mr Shadow's 10 days? The cost per occupied bed per day is approximately \$50. That is a brief outline to explode what I call the 10-days myth.

In addition, we have an out-patients clinic with three medical officers, five social welfare workers, three administrative officers, six clerical staff, and three nurses. From the 1st July, 1977, to the 30th September, 1977, 1 715 people came through the doors of that clinic. Male alcoholics formed 306 of that number and male drug dependants formed 279 of that number. Those figures are very significant, as I shall explain later. Also attending the out-patients clinic were 18 female alcoholics and 110 female drug dependants. The total attendance in the three months was 1 495. Yet it is said that we are only drifting along and have no problems! If one were to believe some people, we have no problems and we are doing nothing about them.

According to this member of staff, a question was asked and it was put in such a way that he had to say something about it. First of all, I remind the House that the Alcohol and Drug Authority does not control drugs in this State. That is the job of the Medical Department and the Chief Pharmacologist of the Public Health Department.

This "shadow" man, the image with no substance, is reported to have said that we messed up the methadone programme. If we messed up the methadone programme the only thing we did wrong was not to ban methadone totally throughout Australia, just as Australia had the courage to do with heroin in 1935 when doctors

were prescribing heroin for terminal cases in that type of situation. Mr President, I have spoken to you personally and privately about this subject and you are as well informed as I am about it. But in the late nineteenth century people saw nothing wrong with opium and in fact it went all the way through the United Kingdom. Some very famous people were opium smokers, takers, and eaters.

In the middle of the twentieth century, around 1923 or 1924, a drug company discovered something else which would kill pain. It was a synthetic derived from opium and it was called heroin. Because that was so addictive, later on in the twentieth century another company discovered a drug called methadone; and methadone can be taken in tablet or syrup form. I have been reliably informed by an expert in the field that methadone is as addictive, if not more addictive, as heroin. It is not as debilitating but it just as surely kills.

I do not know whether the House is aware that because methadone was used as it has been, this State reached the top of the charts in the use of methadone by general practitioners and that since January of this year seven people have died from methadone addiction. There was no trace of any other opiate in their bodies; they were killed purely by methadone.

Some people condemned the medical director for saying, "We will use methadone with care and we will use it only when we want to." Do members know that in Hong Kong there are methadone detoxification clinics? We have to institute something in parallel—a methadone detoxification clinic. These people must be treated for their methadone addiction. There is no more dedicated staff than the staff of the Alcohol and Drug Authority for treating those people who, by their own admissions, are cunning, devious, and evil, in some cases. The people who condemn should go and sit in the waiting rooms when these people cannot contain themselves, when they come in in a filthy state, when they use ash trays as urinals, and when they defecate and have to be cleaned up. Do not let people use privilege to attack those people who are treating such addicts. They are a dedicated bunch and they have been with the authority for a long time.

It makes me sick to think that people can speak in ignorance about those people. They have ruined the career of one man for a bit of political spite, but they are not going to ruin the rest of the staff because it is a settled and co-ordinated staff dedicated to the recovery of what most people regard as the dregs of society.

We get visits from people from all over the world. We have had a visit from the senior social worker of the National Society in New Zealand in the person of Miss Greaves, who said that this was one of the finest units she had seen in the southern hemisphere. Mr Kevin Stewart, the Minister of Health in New South Wales, came across with his party and said, "We hope to be able to copy what you are doing here."

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: He is a Labor Minister.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: He is a Labor Minister, and a very fine gentleman he is too. We get requests from all over Australia for assistance, and we give it. Mr Vincent Durick, MLA, Chairman of the New South Wales Standing Committee upon Drugs, came over here and he was very impressed with what he saw. I add that our visitors are also critical of areas which are not as large as we would like them to be.

When we talk about a methadone programme, the aims and objectives of our staff are to get people off this cursed methadone. If ever anyone asked me to give a recommendation in regard to methadone, I should say that it ought to be banned completely. When heroin was banned doctors did not bat an eyelid; they just found other drugs to relieve their patients of pain.

A staff member tells me that because we messed up the methadone programme we are responsible for the increased break-ins at chemist shops. What a lot of poppycock! People can say that but they should not attribute a grain of truth to it. Let us consider the figures. In 1970 there were 11 break-ins of chemist shops in Western Australia. In 1971 there were 30; in 1972 there were 42; in 1973 there were 120; in 1974 there were 168. Then the Alcohol and Drug Authority came into being and in 1975 there were 78 break-ins; in 1976 there were 83; and in the first four months of 1977 there were 38. If we multiply that last figure by three we will see that it is running below the peak figure.

With methadone selling at the moment for \$5 a tablet on the street, it used to be possible for addicts to go from practitioner to practitioner to pick up their supplies. Addicts do not swallow the tablet with a glass of water; they crush it in a spoon and mix it with some other liquid and then shoot it up; and they shoot it up in several ways.

I shall not disclose the figures for methadone addiction in this State, but when the addicts come to the Alcohol and Drug Authority they are asked whether they can tolerate syrup. If they can they are given methadone in a syrup form because in that form it is so sticky that the addicts cannot

shoot it up. I am not sure that some of them would not even rip open their veins and put it in with a spoon if necessary because they get so desperate. At the authority there is a group of dedicated people trying to wean these people off that drug.

I refer now to the difficulty in getting a medical director. About three months ago the deputy chairman of the board went round the world at his own expense—I emphasise that because people are fond of having shots at that—and he took with him the advertisement which was prepared to try to interest doctors around the world in coming to Western Australia and undertaking this work here. He had a little luck here and there because the positions will close on the 17th December. But there is not a doctor in Western Australia who has replied to our advertisement or made a courteous approach, or who we think might be interested.

The other situation which was complained about—and I hope I am able to put the chemists' shops to rest—was that our drug people should carry identity cards. Is not that a novel idea? The Hon. Norman Baxter can tell you, Mr President, and members in this House that since the inception of this clinic dealing with methadone we have been able to identify our customers, or patients—call them what one will—and they have had no objection to giving us a detailed account of their backgrounds, and have not objected to having their photographs taken. I do not intend to tell members the security methods adopted after that because that would cause the system to break down.

If patients are issued with an identity card, I will guarantee my bottom dollar that before long there would be dozens of identity cards, and people would still be able to get drugs. So, identity cards are no novelty; we use them, but for our own purposes and for the purposes of other hospitals. Once it was found methadone could be obtained easily in Western Australia there would be a flood of tourists across the Eyre Highway, quite apart from a flood of many other undesirable tourists. It is a case of winning some and losing some. I know very well what is going on.

It seems some people are carrying on a personal vendetta. I think that were I not with the Alcohol and Drug Authority, it would not receive one iota of the adverse and destructive criticism which is being heaped upon it. My staff have told me that Mr Shadow wants us to go and look, and assist other institutions and voluntary agencies. That is what we are all about! People will receive a remarkable shock when they find that the ADA

does not develop into an empire. Were we to take on the treatment of every alcoholic and drug dependant in this State, there would be a need to start to build another Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, and we would still be short of space.

There is a total of 50 000 alcoholics in the State, and goodness knows how many drug dependants. We know we have 595 registered as drug addicts, but that information comes from the Medical Department which keeps a register. In addition, I would say there are another 500, easily.

We have not seen the worst of this problem yet. Perth is still a nice quiet backwater as far as the drug scene is concerned at the moment, but I can assure members in this House that we could go off the chart in a period of two years, and we could be in for a very torrid time.

I think the Hon. Norman Baxter will support me in what I am about to say about other agencies. We have been accused of not being involved with ACRAH which has premises in Field Street, Mt. Lawley.

The Alcohol and Drug Authority was formed towards the end of November and at the beginning of December, 1974. The Hon. Norman Baxter will support me when I say that sometime during March, 1975, I put a report, at his request, on his desk in Murray Street. The report was on ACRAH. These are the people whom we, as an authority, are accused of not helping; we have been accused of not knowing about them. What a lot of twaddle!

First of all, just as openers, a member of the staff of the authority is on their committee. That is how well we do not know them! One of the board members, Dr Farrelly, who is also the Deputy Superintendent Psychiatrist at Graylands, has visited ACRAH on more than one occasion. At their request, we provided them with a nurse. Last year, in spite of the fact we were not supposed to know them, or of their existence, we gave them a sum of \$12 500 as a capital grant. The Treasury weighed in on that occasion with another \$5 000.

Ninety per cent of the salary of the Acting Chairman of ACRAH is paid by the Alcohol and Drug Authority. These are the people we are supposed not to know, for whom we do nothing, and with whom we have no contact! I will say they are doing a good job. Applications for assistance and recommendations for this current year have already been made. Regular referrals are made between ACRAH and the Alcohol and Drug Authority treatment centres. How in

heaven's name can anybody say that we do nothing for other part-time agencies?

ACRAH is a group dealing with homeless alcoholics, and it gives other care and shelter. It is now trying to introduce some rehabilitation. Are members aware that ACRAH has eight premises in and around the city? It started with 10 patients, and now it is looking after 120 people. Members must not forget that we are supposed to know nothing about them, and we are supposed to not provide them with any help.

Other agencies include the Ave Maria House which, for the past 12 months, has had 90 per cent of the salary of the full-time social worker paid by the ADA. The ADA has also assisted in the purchase of a vehicle. Currently we are meeting 75 per cent of the salary of the full-time social worker.

Prospect Lodge, at Kalgoorlie, is a community-based halfway house. The ADA provided \$25 000 to purchase premises at Kalgoorlie. Other logistic and financial support has been given, including the payment of 75 per cent of the salary of a liaison officer.

At Geraldton there is a halfway house. The ADA has provided, free of charge, premises and other logistics to enable the Geraldton-based community committee to establish that halfway house to serve the district. Money has also been expended on renovating the centre.

The establishment at Geraldton is a remarkable piece of work because it is a community helping themselves with their own particular problems.

As for moving along quietly and gently, perhaps we do not rush to the media to score a point with headlines. I wonder how many members in this place know the local principals in their high schools. As far as I know, every principal has received a copy of the document which I hold in my hand. It is called "Education and Drugs" and it is a report by the Education Subcommittee of the Alcohol and Drug Authority. However, we are accused of doing nothing. We are accused of not knowing where to go because we do not have a director! The publication, "Education and Drugs" has been hailed as one of the best texts to come out in Australia.

The organisations approached to help with the publication of the report by the education subcommittee will show what I mean. I do not mind tabling my copy of the report so that members in this House can read it for themselves. Every one of the principals in the high schools has a copy of the report, and some of the principals in the primary schools have a copy of it.

We are accused of not attacking the root of the problem. The root of the problem is education, but it cannot be overcome in 10 days or in 10 years. It has to be a complete reversal of a form and a way of life.

I am deeply grateful to those gentlemen of the Education Department who spent time on our advisory committee to produce a report of national standing and recognition.

We have established six advisory bodies. In the private sector we have 22 members drawn from as broad a spectrum as possible. They include doctors, bank managers, and trade union officials who willingly serve on our committees to assist us. We have 14 members on our education subcommittee; eight members in our community health committee; nine members on our law enforcement committee, and seven members on our church and voluntary committee. I do not think we are drifting along.

I believe those people assisting the Alcohol and Drug Authority in its efforts are really tremendous people. They are doing a job which many others would not like to do, and would not like to tackle. I do not think there is an institution for alcohol or drug dependants in this State which the Alcohol and Drug Authority officers have not visited at one time or another. Our next move will be into the north-west.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Whereabouts?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: At South Hedland. We have been offered facilities and we will use them to assist the local people. That is the best way: to get local people involved in every aspect of alcohol and drug dependency.

I do not have the time or the inclination to get angry; anger does nothing for one. It does rather sadden me to think that so-called enlightened people should make irresponsible statements to the media and in other places, without checking on the facts. The facts are easily checked; it is a matter of record.

We have a long way to go; a very long way to go to really get upside with this problem. I doubt whether we will ever overtake the problem completely; certainly not in my lifetime.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You have come a long way in a few years.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I am grateful to the Hon. Norman Baxter for that interjection because in a comparatively short space of time we have done exceptionally well. I do not know of any organisation, be it in business, commerce, industry, Government, or whatever, that has ever created an authority to deal with a particular

situation and has not had a few ups and downs at its inception. I only hope for the sake of the children of this State, and for the peace of mind of their parents, I have allayed some of their fears.

I remind members and the people generally that they should not ever collect information from an alcoholic or a drug addict who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It is not reliable information, and the addicts themselves are the first to tell us that. Do not quote them, because what they say is wrong and it is a savage injustice to the staff of the Alcohol and Drug Authority to be pilloried as they have been, and subjected to more pressures than they should have been.

I thank you, Mr President, and the House, for the attention I have received. I say to all honourable members that if there is any question they want answered, they should come and ask me, or ask the staff of the ADA. If we do not know the answer, we will find it for members. Certainly, members are welcome anytime to inspect what this House helped to create in this State. I thank honourable members.

**THE HON. R. HETHERINGTON** (East Metropolitan) [8.15 p.m.]: I want to speak about a number of matters tonight, and I apologise because I intend to jump all over the place, but sometimes the need is upon me. First of all, I wish to speak about some matters that have arisen at the university, then I will refer to the remarks of the Hon. Robert Pike, and then I want to discuss some other matters.

I was a bit staggered today to receive a letter from the Director of the Extension Service at the University of Western Australia which suggested I had engaged in character assassination under claim of parliamentary immunity. So I examined what I had said. I asked a question, and this appears on page 1558 of *Hansard*. This was question 142 and it begins as follows—

As I have been informed by Mr Nicholas Partridge, Producer/Manager of 6UWAFM radio station, that mail addressed to him personally has been opened by the Head of his Department—

I then proceeded to ask my question. Although I did not mean to say it, I now realise it could be interpreted that Mr Birman himself was opening mail improperly; this was not what I wanted to suggest. Today I telephoned Mr Birman to apologise to him if he had got that impression from my question. I want to place on record that what I had meant to say was that the mail addressed to Mr Partridge personally had been opened, under instruction from the head of his

department (Mr Birman). I want to add that these actions had been taken under university policy, a policy which had been in existence for a long time.

I want to discuss this question because it has received a little bit of publicity in the Press and also, I believe, stickers which say, "Uni opens mail" are appearing on cars at the university. This is causing a number of people a little distress.

The whole problem is not one of the university as a whole. If I received a letter addressed to Mr R. Hetherington, Lecturer in Politics, when I was in the politics department, I opened it myself. There was not very much mail of this kind and it never contained any money because students do not offer bribes. I am not saying I am sorry about that; I am pleased about it. There was no reason that we should not open our own mail.

Of course, in the university where the relationship of the academic staff to its students is a very sensitive one, it is quite proper that people do not have their mail opened if it is addressed to them by name, unless they themselves authorise it. What has happened in the extension service, as in the Registrar's Department, is that for many years—and I am told under instructions from the Auditor-General—mail addressed to anybody, as long as it was not marked personal, was opened by the staff of the department because in such departments as the Registrar's Department, the Bursar's Department, and the Extension Service, frequently the mail contains money. By the way, I would be glad if the Leader of the House, who I know regards the university as jealously as I do, would make some inquiries to see what is the position of the university in relation to the Auditor-General.

This system of opening mail in these departments went on for many years. Some people were not very happy about it, but no real trouble arose until the university was blessed with a radio station and its producer-manager was employed under contract which put him under the control of the Director of the Extension Service.

Although there is some debate about it, the producer-manager regards himself as a journalist. He was a journalist before joining the university, and he is a member of the Australian Journalists' Association. However, some people claim that because he is a producer-manager he is not employed as a journalist and this seems to be the crux of the problem. He objects to mail which is directed to him by name—even if it has his title of producer-manager underneath it—being opened. I think I would object to this if I were in his

position. The university and Mr Partridge are on a collision course in regard to this matter.

The point of view of the university can best be illustrated by referring to a letter sent to Mr Partridge. It was written on the 3rd June, 1977, by the acting deputy vice-chancellor. Of course, this also was not a personal letter as the acting deputy vice-chancellor was acting under instructions. I am not suggesting anywhere that there are personal improprieties involved, but I am suggesting there is a problem and it is causing a great deal of confusion and worry. This letter states—

Letters addressed to a specific title, correct or incorrect, for example—

- (a) Mr Nicholas Partridge,  
Producer/Manager University Radio  
Station
- (b) Producer/Manager University Radio  
Station
- (c) Talks Producer University Radio  
Station

are considered to relate to university business and will be opened in accordance with the instructions of the Director of the Extension Service.

Letters addressed to—

Mr Nicholas Partridge University Radio  
Station

unless marked "private", "personal" or "confidential" are also considered to relate to university business and will also be opened in accordance with the instructions of the Director. However, as a courtesy, you may be present, if you so wish, when these letters are opened, but if you are not present at the normal time when mail is opened such letters will be opened and will not be kept until you choose to be present. Any such letter found to be personal will be handed to you.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Wouldn't you regard that as a normal procedure in any business?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: This is one of the problems, and I am coming around to it. It is not an abnormal procedure.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would regard it as perfectly proper.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It does raise a question, however, because I checked with the Secretary of the Australian Journalists' Association, and I checked also with a friend of mine who works for a television station. Both these gentlemen claim the normal practice in newspapers, television stations, and radio stations,

is that letters addressed to a person by name—even if the next line contains the person's title—are not opened by others. I found out also that the AJA has had problems in this regard and it has remonstrated with the management of a radio station, a television station, and a couple of newspapers which I will not bother to name here.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Would the UWA regard that situation as being a news media one?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: This is the problem.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would not think it would be.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It is obvious that Mr Partridge regards himself as a journalist.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: But that does not matter.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I think it does matter.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He does not own the station.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I want to put forward Mr Partridge's point of view for him, and I think this is fair. He regards himself as a journalist employed by the university in the same way that I regarded myself when I was there more or less as an academic employed by the university, and as an academic with certain privileges that would not apply in ordinary businesses. Mr Partridge says that because he is a journalist he is in receipt of letters written to him care of the university which in fact are confidential. I believe this may be the case, and Mr Partridge objects to having these letters opened.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: A pretty difficult position.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: This is one of those cases where old procedures need to be looked at. There should be some negotiation to see whether the problem can be overcome. I can see Mr Partridge's point of view, and I can see the university's point of view. I personally tend to side marginally with Mr Partridge—perhaps this is something to do with my upbringing. It would seem to me that letters addressed to him by name should not be opened by others if he asks that they be not opened by others. This problem has raised a great deal of fuss, and this is unfortunate because, as I am sure the Leader of the House will agree, while we hold our university jealously we must look at things seriously when old procedures produce new problems, as happens at times.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: By its nature

there are a considerable number of very inexperienced people down there and these people tend to think they are smarter than they really are, or better informed than they really are.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: That may be, although I do not think it applies in this case. I would prefer to regard this matter as a serious problem and one which must be looked at very carefully.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are probably right.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I hope in due course new procedures can be worked out so it is possible for honour to be satisfied on both sides.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The point I am trying to make, and with which you agreed, is that it is not a clear-cut case where you can come down and say, "That is black and that is white".

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Well, Mr President, to me it is and to the Leader of the House it is not.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: No, it isn't.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I can see why the Minister would say it is not.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It depends on the criteria. If letters addressed to me personally were not opened by others, the whole department would stop.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: We realise that if letters addressed to the Leader of the House were not opened by others, the whole of the State, or part of it, would grind to a halt.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: What about private firms?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am not talking about private firms; I am talking about the university.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: That is a fairly long bow.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Well, I do not think so.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: That is the trouble; you are not thinking.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: As a person who was employed by two universities for 20 years, and who was a member of the staff association of both, I have thought about some of these things very carefully.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: I think it has narrowed your view.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The honourable member may think that if he wishes. I

am never greatly impressed when the honourable member throws accusations of that kind around the Chamber because they are not worth considering. I am talking about a fairly serious problem, and if he wants to knock me down with smears, I am not very interested. I will go on in my own way. In order that I do not become irritated, Mr President, I will have to keep my face fixed on you so I can better ignore the honourable gentleman.

It seems to me that something must be done about this problem. I know there is a similarly important question that will come up a little later this week. It is very important that a Government does not interfere officiously with an autonomous institution. I would be the last person in the world to suggest we should alter the university Act to say that mail shall or shall not be opened by certain people. However, I am one of those people who believe that if these problems are gently aired—and Parliament is a proper place to air them—sometimes common sense will prevail and what seems like a simple black and white case to some people here and not a simple black and white case to others, can be sorted out in a way that satisfies everybody. I sincerely hope that can be done in this case.

I will leave the subject at this stage because I know the university staff association—although Mr Partridge is not a member of the university staff association but he is a member of the AJA—is working on the problem. The Student Guild has given some thought to it, and the acting vice-chancellor is well aware of it; I have discussed the matter with him.

I am not attempting to make out that the university is an ogre, as some people are doing, but it seems to me there may be something that approaches a miscarriage of justice here and that the problem may be overcome with a little bit of gentle negotiation. I wonder whether what has apparently been an instruction from the Auditor-General for many years is an instruction that has to be followed religiously.

Apparently problems of this kind are not faced by the corresponding department at the Australian National University where people receive their mail unopened.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You would not think it was a problem for which we should legislate?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: No, I was not suggesting that at all.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am glad of that.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I was merely saying that this is a problem we might

discuss, and I am trying to discuss it here fairly gently and in fairly low profile because I do not want to exacerbate anything. It is a pity that these little stickers saying "uni opens mail" have appeared at the university. Nobody seems to know where these have come from, but the stickers seem to suggest an attitude of censorship on the part of the university whereas it is really a specific problem in one department.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It seems a problem like this is not an earth-shattering thing and an organisation as big as the university ought to be able to resolve it without waves.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It seems to me that perhaps it sometimes needs a little friendly nudge from the outside, and that is what I am trying to give it. Also, if the Auditor-General is involved—and I am not sure of the position here and that is why I raise it with the Minister—perhaps this is one area in which the Minister could make gentle inquiries very promptly.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I will ensure that your words are brought to his attention.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Yes, the information I was given may be wrong; and the interpretation of his instructions may be wrong. Of course, I am not suggesting that the Minister give the Attorney-General any instructions.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I will see it is brought to his attention.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I thank the Leader of the House very much.

The other matter I want to mention about universities, because there is a great deal of worry amongst university staff at present, is something that does not directly concern the State Government but it does concern the matter of funding universities, so it indirectly concerns the State Government.

There is a fear—whether justified or unjustified I do not know—that there is to be an attack on the study leave provisions in universities throughout Australia, and that funds will not be made available for them. In my life over the last 20 years I have had the privilege of having been in two professions in respect of which people say, "Gee, mate, you get it easy. Look at all your holidays from the university, and you never do anything." I can assure members, if they feel this way, that many academics work very, very hard indeed; and members of Parliament who do not sit for very long at all—

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: I am always

sceptical of people who are trying to justify themselves.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am not trying to justify myself; I am pointing out something.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: You can't justify yourself.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Mr Lewis may be critical if he likes. As a matter of fact, what I am not trying to do is justify myself; I am trying to justify other people among whom I once worked. I was there, and I have had experience of it; it is something I know about. I do not know very much about being a politician yet, except that I do know already that it involves some work, and that is all I am saying. I also know that people outside do tend to criticise the two professions because of the lovely time we have, because of the long holidays we have and the apparently small amount of work we do.

One of the important things for university staff is that they have study leave—this holiday every seven years, as some people see it—where they can go overseas or interstate and spend a year in study. For various reasons I had one such leave in 20 years, and I am very sorry that I did not have more because the benefit to me from that one period of study leave was immense. Had I had two or three study leaves I might have been quite broadened; the Hon. Alexander Lewis may find it would have broadened me tremendously.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: It could have. I have always had to pay for my holidays, and not have the public pay for me.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It is not a holiday; it is a period quite often of intense study in which scientists, for example, may go to New York or London to study. Nuclear physicists may go to the centre of their scholarship. Historians may go to America, England or France to the centre of their scholarship. They learn, are refreshed and renewed, and come back better able to carry out research and to teach. For this reason I think it would be very sad if study leave were cut back.

I do not object to provisions such as those which have existed in the past in universities where study leave is not automatic, and where people must justify it with a programme they have to put before their peers. That seems to be fair enough, and we find that the most able and the most enthusiastic are the ones who go away most often and are the people who work hardest.

However, I do think that if we jump on this bandwagon—and I am hoping it is an unfounded rumour—of putting down the academics and



saying they do not need holidays when in fact they are not holidays but study leave, then the academic life will be the poorer for it. I merely wanted to mention those two matters in respect of universities.

I now wish to make some comments on the speech made by the Hon. Robert Pike the other night when he was ostensibly speaking on the Budget. I was out of the Chamber at the time, talking to some of my electors from the East Metropolitan Province; however, I heard about his speech and I have taken the trouble to read it.

Since the honourable gentleman spoke in this House on the first couple of occasions, we have heard very little from him. I had hoped that after this hiatus he might come back having himself been refreshed and having learnt something, and make some new contribution to the House. To my disappointment I found on reading his speech that he was using the Chamber once more to make a Press statement about the Australian Labor Party, in which the facts were the results of his, shall we say, rather fanciful imagination, in which he made connections which owed nothing to logic or fact, and in which he weaved patterns which had no resemblance to the real world whatever.

I had noticed that the week before, or perhaps the week before that, he was reading the journal *Politics* in the House, and now he seems to set himself up as an expert not only on the inner workings of the Labor Party, but also as an expert on psephology as he applies his skill to drawing conclusions from voting patterns. If he does want to set himself up as an amateur political scientist and psephologist, I suggest to the honourable gentleman that he should learn some elements of logic and how to use evidence.

Let me illustrate: Bill Latter, whom I am happy to call a friend of mine, was once a communist, which we all know, and which he admits; he is now a member of the ALP; ergo this becomes an example of communist infiltration of the Labor Party.

If we are going to use this sort of logic, then we might say that the Hon. Robert Pike was once a member of the Labor Party; he is now a member of the Liberal Party; and this might be regarded as an example of Labor infiltration of the Liberal Party. The logic is the same; in fact it is more likely to be an example of the kind of infiltration which the Australian Labor Party was mercifully spared in the middle-1950s, and which the Liberal Party is now enjoying. So if I can take another example, I might point to the fact that the Hon. Robert Pike stood for Labor pre-selection for the seat of Collie and was defeated.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: About 20 years ago.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Shortly after that he resigned from the Labor Party. This might be presumptive evidence that there was some connection; but if that is all the evidence then it is not evidence at all; we just know that two things happened in conjunction. I would be the last person to draw from that evidence the state of mind of the honourable gentleman then or now; it does not prove anything; we can only remark on the coincidence.

The honourable gentleman seems to be quite fascinated by Mr Bill Latter, and I am sure that Mr Latter must be quite flattered by the power attributed to him. Bill Latter is the President of the Trades and Labor Council; he is a member of the Australian Labor Party, in which he is quite well respected, but he does not run it. If the honourable gentleman cares to soothe Bill Latter onto me and to tell him about my deficiencies, I will not be frightened by him. I will argue the matter with him, and I may win or I may lose.

For the honourable gentleman to draw in his speech, as he did, conclusions from alleged remarks of Mr Latter about Kim Beazley is very poor, even were they true. Mr Latter has since denied that he said what he was reported to have said. So the whole exercise looks a bit thin when it is analysed.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: The denial occurred after Beazley lost the endorsement. That seems to be very convenient, don't you think?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I only know he denies it, and I know him to be an honest and honourable person.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I read it in *The Australian*. Has he seen that yet?

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: He would not be as petty as the honourable member.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: If we use the same kind of logic as the Hon. Robert Pike used, we might say that Mr Peter Shack has won the vote for pre-selection for the Liberal Party in the Tangney electorate, and one could build up quite an interesting little scenario from that because Mr Shack graduated from the politics department of the University of Western Australia with that well-known left-winger, Robert Hetherington.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Despite that he got the endorsement.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Let me build up my pattern in my own way.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Your scenario goes on and on, like your lectures.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: That is true, and I will continue to build it up because I will finish what I have to say. One might say Mr Shack defeated such well known right-wingers as John Martyr and Mr Crichton-Browne. Is this a left-wing coup? Even to suggest it is nonsense. I know Peter Shack; he is a hard-working, enthusiastic, politically inclined man who has worked hard in that electorate and he no doubt deserves his pre-selection for the Liberal Party. I will not regard that as a left-wing coup.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Your syllogism has foundered, sir. You are trying to apply a Band Aid to the left wing of the Labor Party.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Not in the least.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Let us hear about the left wing of the Labor Party.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am talking about the Hon. Robert Pike's speech, and I will continue to do so.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: That is what my speech was about; the left wing influence in the Labor Party.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It is not what it was about; however, the honourable gentleman was good enough to mention me in his speech as part of the so-called left-wing plot.

I might tell him that this has caused quite a lot of laughter among friends of mine in the Labor Party, one of whom said to me, "Good heavens, I thought nobody could be right of you in the Labor Party." I was not flattered by that, but not everyone sees a matter in the same way.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Are you worried about your position?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Not in the least; that is the last thing I have to worry about. Here I was, supposed to be part of a left-wing plot to defeat Don May! I wonder why the honourable gentleman picked on me, because after all Mr Don May stood three times for pre-selection. He stood for the six-year term in the East Metropolitan Province, which was won by my honourable friend, Mr Fred McKenzie. He stood for the Assembly electorate of Melville, which was won by Mr Hodge. Then he stood for the three-year term for the East Metropolitan Province, which I won. But somehow I am part of a left-wing plot.

Perhaps it is difficult for the honourable gentleman to see my friend behind me as part of a left-wing plot, and perhaps that is why he was left out; or perhaps the Hon. Robert Pike had some reason for leaving out Mr McKenzie.

I do suggest that if the honourable member wants to talk about me he get his facts right, and all his facts right, and take into account all the facts.

Let me illustrate an example of a minor error; if a person is going to attack somebody, he should get all his facts right. The honourable member said—

It is significant to note the Hon. Robert Hetherington lives in Claremont and has no direct domicile connected with the province, nor had one at that time.

In fact, the honourable member should keep up to date; I now live in Nedlands which is a couple of miles closer to my electorate. I live in a rental house in Nedlands because I have sold my house in Claremont, and I will stay there until my daughter finishes school. I am in the process of completing the formalities for buying a house in Wilson, which is in the East Metropolitan Province. Therefore, according to the honourable member's logic, I should romp home next time with an increased majority.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: Would you please tell the House about the percentages of the control the Labor Party executive has of your endorsement structure?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: If the honourable member will be patient I will try to convince him—

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I have not been convinced of anything yet.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member has only to convince me.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Thank you, Mr President; I realise I may convince you, but some people are very difficult. The honourable gentleman pointed out that my colleague, the Hon. Fred McKenzie, had a majority of 7 761—I have not checked the figure but I will accept that as being correct—and that I had a majority of 3 126. This apparently was because he lived in the province, and I did not. This is a fairly simplistic view. Perhaps the honourable member should have sketched it all out, because the Hon. Fred McKenzie was opposed by Mr Paul Nicholls—another one of my students, I am afraid—who did not live in the electorate.

He is a delightful conservative, something like a British Tory, and like some of them, he is full of—

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: Do not say that!

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: He has some human sympathy and understanding, which my friend opposite might well emulate. Mr

Nicholls did not live in the electorate, so perhaps this explains what happened. Mr Eccles, who opposed me, did live in the electorate, and his vote was less than Mr Nicholl's vote because of course the candidate carefully left out by the honourable member opposite was Mr Uren, who stood against me as an independent, as a protest against Government acquisition of his land. He was not opposing me, and he did have top place on the ballot paper and the advantage of what is known as the donkey vote.

I am quite happy with my result. I will not try to interpret the facts for the honourable gentleman; I just suggest he go away and take them all into consideration. But what I should like to tell him, if he is going to talk about me, is that before I was elected to represent the East Metropolitan Province, I twice stood for preselection for the Senate at a time when the State executive made the selection. The first time I stood, I nearly got third place. I am not boasting about that; I am simply pointing to the fact. I was very surprised, because I did not think I would do very well. However, I did better than I thought.

The second time, I defeated another student of mine—a trade unionist from Trades Hall. I won because I had a great deal of support from the Labor Party. This may not last, but for some odd reason I had it in the past. I have not been put into my position by any faction, real or imaginary; I have been elected by the support I obtained within the party.

During the 1974 election I addressed the Ascot and Belmont branches, the president of one of which was the then secretary of WAREU, which now is the ARU, a gentleman called Fred McKenzie. This was the first time I had met him.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: You were accepted out there—no trouble at all.

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: He was a friend of yours.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: We became friends then. I went out wondering how they would accept me, and they accepted me well and warmly. One of the reasons I stood for East Metropolitan Province was the warmth of reception I found throughout the branches in that area. I had a majority of support from the delegates in that area. If I had stood for preselection and only delegates from that area had voted, I have no doubt I still would have won.

When I was endorsed, nobody from any of my branches resigned; nobody protested; and I have been well received ever since—so much so that now when I go out to branches they can abuse me in a way that only friends can do. When the

honourable member talks about who put me there, he is talking nonsense.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I was talking about who is not there, not who is there.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: To understand preselection, one must understand a whole range of things; I am certainly not going to talk about the internal workings of the Labor Party for the benefit of somebody who has this excessive hatred of the Labor Party and the so-called "left wing". All I am going to say is that everything the honourable member said about me and all his remarks were a tissue of nonsense. I certainly do not intend to make a habit of replying to him, but I thought this time I should make just one reply.

I must say that since he has been in the House, the honourable gentleman has added no lustre to this Chamber. I say this in no partisan spirit. After all, the Hon. Norman Moore, the Hon. Winifred Piesse, the Hon. Tom McNeil the Hon. Neil Oliver and my friend, the Hon. Fred McKenzie by common consensus have all acquitted themselves well and have made a worthwhile contribution to this House. This does not mean we have all agreed with everything they have said. I remember the other night when the Hon. Fred McKenzie was interjecting on the Hon. Norman Moore, I was agreeing with him, and disagreeing with the honourable member opposite. However, he was still making a worthwhile, serious and sensible contribution to the debate. But to my mind, the Hon. Robert Pike has brought credit neither to himself nor to this House, nor to the party he claims to represent. I hope I do not have to sit through the kind of nonsense I was spared the other night because I happened not to be in the Chamber.

I now want to talk very briefly about some problems in the electorate of East Metropolitan. The other night my friend, the Hon. Fred McKenzie, mentioned Mertome Village and the problems being experienced there with elderly people attempting to cross Beechboro Road opposite Winifred Street. Since he spoke, the Bayswater Shire Council has decided to recommend the construction of a median island to allow these elderly people to cross.

However, the local authority has pointed out that the pedestrian-vehicle count does not meet the normal requirements laid down. I have not yet written to the Minister, and I am very remiss here; I will do so. However, it seems to me this is one case where the Minister should override good regulations. I am not criticising the regulations; I am just saying it is a very special case.

The people of Mertome Village are old; many are very frail; many are on sticks, and some are in wheelchairs, which could not mount a median island. They stand terrified in the middle of the road. It seems that here is one case for a Minister to intervene and override the regulations—not that I am suggesting he should put his department down; of course the department must have regulations. The Minister should override the regulations in the interests of common humanity and in the interests of this special case.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am sure if you wrote to the Minister, he would give it very serious consideration.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am sure he will; and I thank the Minister for his assurance. Perhaps I feel that speaking to the Minister is an insurance; I hope so.

I also want to speak very briefly about the Bayswater Primary School which for some 30 years now has had Bristol-type classrooms. Later, I will speak about the Belmont High School; to date I have just looked at it, and have been a little horrified. I intend to develop that theme at another time, after I have examined the school more closely.

Fairly urgent work is required at the Bayswater Primary School, because there is no shelter; there are no verandahs for the early grade children. They have a little foyer. They are some distance from the toilets, and the rooms are hot in summer and cold in winter. The P & C association has been agitating for some time and it is trying to put as much pressure as possible on the Minister for Education. I certainly will add this to my list of tasks and, in fact, I am trying to bring a little pressure to bear here.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: If my memory serves me correctly, it is fairly high on the list of priorities.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am glad, because the work is fairly urgent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: From memory, it has one of the biggest concentrations of Bristol classrooms in the State.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The Minister's memory usually serves him very well on these matters, and I will certainly write to the Minister for Education to see whether he confirms what the Minister has said. I hope that by next year, the people of Bayswater can look forward to a better school.

There is a more serious problem—no, I would not say a more serious problem, rather a more extensive problem—at the other end of my

electorate in Mr Tom Bateman's electorate of Canning. I refer to the suburb of Maniana, which is a derelict collection of fibro-duplex houses, quite often with louvre windows which can be opened from the outside and with a paucity of power points, where people are living under very poor conditions indeed, where women who are on pensions and live alone often live in fear, afraid that somebody might get in, and where comforts are lacking. I do not know who built these houses; I suppose somebody will tell me it was a Labor Government.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Who was the Minister for Housing at that time?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I do not know; I was not here.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do; I am pretty certain it was the Hon. Herbert Graham.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: That may be so; I suppose we cannot always be proud of what we do. I suppose also there was a reason for constructing this kind of dwelling. The area looks as if it were something which was whipped in because of an urgent need, but it is something which could be pushed down because of the tremendous problems which exist in the area.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are spot on.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The progress association claimed the Minister said he would give them a report within three weeks, which the Minister denies. I do not want to enter that controversy; I just hope the Minister will put in a report soon. There has been some discussion as to what is required in this area. I intend to go out there and examine the situation again, and I will have more to say on the matter next session, if nothing has been done.

It seems to me this is a case where the houses are not worth upgrading; they should be knocked down and rebuilt. I know there are problems with finance here; I know this is the kind of thing which is very difficult to do at present. But in the long run, we would do better were we to grasp the nettle now; this is something about which the Government should be thinking. Certainly something must be done about Maniana urgently.

This brings me to the problem of housing, which I am not going to say very much about because it has been canvassed considerably in another place. However, it does seem to me that here is some of the illogicality of the present Federal Government, which is busy trying to cut down inflation. I hope, by the way, that its apparent success is lasting, although a gentleman in finance suggested to me today that it is not likely to be, and that the inflationary spiral

probably will gallop off in the middle of next year. I hope sincerely this is not true.

It is an odd situation that, in order to cut down inflation, we cut down on spending and, therefore, on houses. Somewhere I read or heard that a Minister pointed out that in order to build more houses the rents must be increased. However, the effect on those who must pay the increased rents on SHC houses is inflationary. The rents have been increased by \$8, and over the last three or four years the increases have been steep. Therefore those in SHC houses must pay considerably more and their standard of living is being reduced. This applies to those whose standard of living is already low.

We should revise quickly the whole rebate system for SHC houses. As I have said before, I do not disagree with those who say that people who have been in SHC houses for a long time and are now in the middle or higher income brackets should pay more; but we should consider the people in the low income brackets.

I want to mention one other matter of which I have only recently become aware, but it is important. It concerns archaeology in this State. I am informed by people who know that we have a greater area and richness of sites than anywhere else. Our rock paintings—the art of the Pilbara—are an example. Some of them are over 18 000 years old and are at least as old as the Palaeolithic art in Europe, and we have as great a concentration of it as is found anywhere else in the world.

I remember that when I did ancient history years ago I learnt about cave paintings and how marvellous were the discoveries in Europe. However, we have better ones here and more of them; but we do not have adequate protection for them or a sufficient number of people to look after them. It seems there is a likelihood we will have even fewer people than we have at present because the section of the Museum which deals with this subject is funded partly by the Commonwealth.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Talking about archaeology, were you alarmed about the photograph which showed a girl at the University of WA handling Aboriginal artefacts?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am afraid I left home rather precipitately; I did not notice. However, I would have been had I seen it because this is a very real problem.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It alarmed me because if they were genuine items of significance to the Aborigines, any Aboriginal would be most

upset and it could well constitute a marked insult to the Aborigines.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: This raises a very interesting point, and I will mention it in passing. Sometimes when one is trying to be "progressive"—the quotation marks are for the Minister's benefit—one finds oneself in a cleft stick and this was very true in Arnhem Land. The Aborigines there were sending their children to schools run on European lines. The Aborigines returned when they were about 12 years old. The girls would be married to old men, as was the Aboriginal custom. What is the progressive to do? Does he leap in and talk women's lib or about Aboriginal culture? They were still trying to decide that when I was there and I must say—I am not being flippant about this—I was very glad it was not my problem. However, it is a very important problem and delicate and sensitive areas are involved. The Minister makes a very good point.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mind you, the material the university had might be of no account; but it occurred to me that those involved should not have taken the risk of allowing a female to touch the items.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The problem arises when the archaeologist happens to be a female. There is the cleft stick.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Our Museum is extremely careful about that and therefore has the goodwill of practically every Aboriginal in the country.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am not trying to denigrate the staff. I have heard nothing but good of them. What does worry me is that our tremendous archaeological resources are scattered over a broad area and our Museum has to deal not only with archaeology, but also anthropology. The sites department must deal with living sites of significance to Aborigines today. Our staff is about equal to that of Victoria's and the Victorians claim that their staff is not big enough. Our staff is pitifully small and about half of it is financed by the Institute of Aboriginal Studies funded from what some people call the undue expenditure of public moneys by the Whitlam Government. Let us not look for names.

The fact remains that under the Whitlam Government more funds were received so that instead of having individual research projects it was able to fund groups of people over a period to look after Aboriginal sites. These funds are about to dry up which means that we must do one of three things. We must persuade the Commonwealth Government to give us more

money. I know that the Premier tries very hard on a whole range of affairs and I see no reason he would be particularly successful here. We have to find more money ourselves to expand the staff, and I will not make the obvious remark, neither will the Leader of the House, because we know money is very difficult; or we must permit many of our Aboriginal sites to be destroyed.

In all the main regions we need teams of two archaeologists to record and protect the sites; we need wardens to look after them; and we need people to guide tourists to the more accessible sites, which will be got at anyway, so that we can better protect them. If we do not do this, with the expansion in the north—and I am not being critical about this—great problems will arise, and we might destroy forever irreplaceable archaeological sites.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am sure that in your fairness you will agree that in the life of the Aboriginal heritage legislation, which has been short, the Museum has done very well comparatively. You may be right that it is not enough, but—

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I have nothing but praise for the Museum and its staff.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They work very hard.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am not criticising them. The people who talked to me about this have no criticism of them. They just want more staff like them. They want three or four times the number, whereas we are about to have the number cut in half because of a loss of Federal funds. If this happens it could be quite disastrous and could result in a loss to our history and scholarship.

I am mentioning this in the hope that something might be done and that the problem, which is already being discussed, will be discussed by more people. One of the things one finds when one becomes a member of Parliament is that one is approached and told about things one has not heard of before. This enriches one's knowledge, and then in turn one tries to enrich others by making them aware of the facts.

The Leader of the House and perhaps you, Sir—although you are more patient—will be happy if I do not speak on the Budget itself. I had some notes prepared, but seem to have left them somewhere else. I have said much of what I would have said on other Bills and I would be tending to repeat myself if I continued now. I wanted to say something about the problems in the north and the tremendous discrepancy between prices in

Perth and those in the north of the State, but I will do that at another time.

I want to say once more that the policies of the Federal and State Governments, with their reliance on their investment-led recoveries, are wrong. The policies of the Federal Government have been responsible directly for the tremendous growth in unemployment. For the time being we seem to have cut down on inflation but, as I said, a person who analysed the situation for me, and has more knowledge and expertise than I have, says it will take six months before people realise the money is there and things look all right, and on it will go again. In the meantime we will not solve our unemployment problem which is an important subject about which I have already spoken. I will not try to talk about the solution mainly because there is none.

It is rather ironical that the Government is cutting down on one side, yet out of loan moneys it is trying to build up some employment by the expenditure of capital funds. However, I will not argue that one.

I did want to make one other point, but it seems to have escaped me, so I will have to make it on another occasion.

I do hope that the Leader of the House and Ministers in this and another place will take note of the concrete and specific problems about which I have been talking tonight, particularly the one concerning archaeology because it is vitally important if we are to preserve our heritage. We should create a new sites body which would be a tourist body responsible for guiding visitors around our archaeological sites.

We might help to fund some of them. It has been suggested very seriously to me. I think Woodbury was the name of the property which has been pointed out. If it is possible—I know it is something which will appeal to the Minister—he might in fact take this up.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Woodstock was the name of the property.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Woodstock; not Woodbury. I am getting my ciders mixed up. With the hope that the Minister will do something about this situation, I will sit down.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. V. J. Ferry.

*House adjourned at 9.15 p.m.*

# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## ROAD TRANSPORT

### Permits

199. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When a permit is issued by the Transport Commission for the carriage of goods by road transport, on what basis is the fee calculated?
- (2) On a semi-trailer road transport unit carrying 20 tonnes of general freight, what permit fee would be payable for the following destinations, with journey commencing in Perth in each case—
  - (a) Gingin;
  - (b) Eneabba;
  - (c) Northampton;
  - (d) Roebourne; and
  - (e) Port Hedland?
- (3) To what purpose is the revenue from road permit fees applied?
- (4) What was the total income from permit fees in the year ended the 30th June, 1977?
- (5) What proportion of total income from permit fees was derived from journeys with destinations north of the 26th parallel of latitude?
- (6) If Transport Commission records do not separate income from journeys to northern destinations from those to places elsewhere in the State, what is the estimated income from northern permits issued?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Permit fees are calculated in accordance with an approved schedule which specifies rates per tonne for each 100 kilometres or part thereof, of the distance of the journey. This schedule is divided into six goods classification groups with rates for each group of goods being determined in accordance with the value and bulk of the class of goods.  
In addition, vehicles used in the transport of freezer/chiller goods are issued with annual licences and fees vary according to vehicle size.  
The maximum rates of fees permitted to be charged are provided for in section 21 of the Transport Commission Act.
- (2) For a journey via the Brand and North West Coastal Highways, the following fees would apply:

- (a) Gingin, \$6;
- (b) Eneabba, \$26;
- (c) Northampton, \$40;
- (d) Roebourne, \$116;
- (e) Port Hedland, \$118.

- (3) Section 62 of the Transport Commission Act dictates the use of funds from the Transport Co-ordination Fund.
- (4) \$1 005 368.
- (5) This information is not really available.
- (6) It is not possible to make a reliable estimation.

## PILBARA IRON ORE INDUSTRY

### Industrial Relations

200. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has the Minister seen a report in *The West Australian* of Saturday, the 15th October, 1977, entitled "Call for Probe into Pilbara Industry Strife", in which a lecturer in economics and industrial relations at the Western Australian University, Dr. Nicholas Blain, called for an independent enquiry into industrial relations in the Pilbara iron ore industry?
- (2) Is he aware that calls for an enquiry into industrial relations in the Pilbara have been made this year by—
  - (a) Effective Management Systems, a Sydney consulting firm which was hired by two of the mining companies in the Pilbara;
  - (b) Mr Duncan Cameron, Superintendent of Industrial Relations, Hamersley Iron;
  - (c) Mrs Helen Court, in a research thesis on the subject; and
  - (d) the State Opposition?
- (3) Will he institute an enquiry into industrial relations in the Pilbara iron ore industry?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, however, Mrs Court in her research thesis, considered there was "a need for further research in the area". Mrs Court is not advocating an enquiry of the nature of a Royal Commission, which would involve great expenditure for dubious gains.

- (3) The Government has taken careful note of the comprehensive research which has already been undertaken in this region. The results so far raise doubts as to the likely success of a further enquiry.

The Industrial Commission recently conducted a survey of the post-strike situation. This report is not yet available.

The Government, following a recommendation of the Industrial Commission, has made provision for the appointment of three specialist officers, two of whom will be located in the Pilbara.

## ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

### *Basis and Revenue*

201. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the basis for the calculation of road maintenance charges levied under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act?
- (2) What road maintenance charge—expressed as a cost per tonne—would be levied on general cargo carried out of Perth to—
  - (a) Gingin;
  - (b) Eneabba;
  - (c) Northampton;
  - (d) Roebourne;
  - (e) Port Hedland;
  - (f) Derby; and
  - (g) Kununurra?
- (3) What income was derived from road maintenance charges in the financial year ended the 30th June, 1977?
- (4) In general terms only, how was this revenue applied?
- (5) (a) What proportion of the 1976-77 revenue from road maintenance charges was paid on journeys with a destination north of the 26th parallel;
- (b) if the departmental records do not separate figures in the manner requested, what is the estimated proportion?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of the First Schedule of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act.

- (2) Road maintenance charges are based on the formula provided under the Act and would vary according to the vehicle capacity and load carried on the particular journey.

(3) \$4 621 937.

- (4) All moneys collected under the terms of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act are paid to the credit of the Road Maintenance Trust Fund, which is kept by the Treasurer. The Act specifies that money standing to the credit of that fund shall be applied only on the maintenance of roads in the State of Western Australia.

- (5) (a) This information is not available.  
(b) It is not possible to make an estimation.

## ORD RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

### *Crops*

202. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Agriculture:

Will the Minister make representation to the Federal Government urging them to use Ord River crops in Australia's foreign aid programmes?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

The Australian Government has adopted the general policy of giving assistance to underdeveloped countries by providing expertise within the country and scholarships to visit Australia, for education or study tours. Food gifts are only considered appropriate in emergency situations. Where food gifts are made they must relate to the needs of the recipient and not the convenience of the donor.

## BEEF INDUSTRY

### *Experts' Overseas Visit*

203. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Agriculture:

Will the Minister give consideration to sending stock experts to Texas and Argentina to study the methods of migrating stock from harsh areas to irrigation pastures?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

No. A detailed integration study involving the movement of cattle from



the pastoral environment to the Ord Irrigation area has already been undertaken—and indicated that this was not economically viable at present costs and prices. Extensive unused irrigation areas are not available elsewhere in the State.

#### EDUCATION

##### *Residential Hostels*

204. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister institute an enquiry into the accommodation needs of country students?

- (2) Will he give consideration to establishing more residential hostels with metropolitan high schools?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) No. The large number of vacancies in country high school hostels—325 at the present time—makes such an enquiry unnecessary.
- (2) In view of these vacancies and the pressure on capital funds, the establishment of residential hostels in the metropolitan area cannot be justified at this time.

