

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 31 March 1981

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

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR HODGE (Melville) [4.31 p.m.]: I present a petition which bears 1 644 signatures from citizens of Western Australia. It reads as follows—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned citizens wish to register our disgust at the State Government's intention to close some of the hospital provided accommodation to nursing staff.

Residents in these accommodation are mostly young trainees or students who receive a low wage and who work shiftwork. Often they are required to commence work at 7 a.m. after having completed a shift at 11 p.m. the previous evening. Many of the residents do not have their own private transport and public transport is inadequate during those hours. An obvious safety risk evolves especially for young female residents.

For these and many other reasons we demand that the Premier and his Government immediately reverse this unacceptable decision and reframe their shortsighted budget to cover the cost.

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

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 11.)

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

MR TRETHOWAN (East Melville) [4.32 p.m.]: I have a petition to present on behalf of 37 residents of Western Australia as follows—

To—The Honorable, the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly at the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia shall continue to support the effective measures being used by the Road Traffic Authority to reduce the carnage on our roads.

Further that they will introduce necessary legislation to reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.08 to 0.05 as now applying in Victoria and New South Wales, and require compulsory alcohol tests for all traffic victims admitted to hospital.

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

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 12.)

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [4.33 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in the same terms as that presented by the member for East Melville. It contains 98 signatures, it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 13.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR PARKER (Fremantle) [4.34 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in the same terms as that presented by the member for Melville concerning hospital costs. It bears the signatures of 475 citizens from the district of Fremantle. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the

Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 14.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.35 p.m.]: I too have a petition couched in similar terms to the one read by the member for Melville. It bears the signatures of 191 citizens of Western Australia. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 15.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR E. T. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [4.36 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in similar terms to that presented by the member for Melville. It bears the signatures of 116 citizens of Kalgoorlie. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 16.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR BARNETT (Rockingham) [4.37 p.m.]: I have a petition addressed to the Hon. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia assembled. It reads—

We the undersigned citizens wish to register our disgust at the State Government's intention to close . . .

The SPEAKER: Order! It appears to me that the petition is worded in precisely the same way as the other petitions which have been handed in. If that is so I ask the member to save the time of the House simply by giving us the other detail in respect of the petition.

Mr BARNETT: I am not totally sure that it is couched in the same terms as the other petitions.

The SPEAKER: Order! So that I can establish whether or not it is couched in the same terms as previous petitions I ask that it be handed to me. If the wording is different I will allow the member to present it a little later.

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [4.38 p.m.]: I present a petition expressing support for the effective measures taken by the RTA to reduce the road carnage on our roads. It is couched in terms similar to a petition I have previously presented to the House. It contains 40 signatures and I confirm that the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 17.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [4.39 p.m.]: I present a petition couched in similar terms to that presented by the member for Melville. It is signed by 171 residents of Collie and Bunbury. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 18.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley) [4.40 p.m.]: I present a petition signed by 283 residents of the north-west of this State. It relates to nursing accommodation and is similar to that presented by the member for Melville. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 19.)

TRAFFIC

Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition

MR PARKER (Fremantle) [4.41 p.m.]: I present a petition signed by 23 citizens of

Fremantle which is couched in identical terms to that read by the member for East Melville. I confirm that the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 20.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR CARR (Geraldton) [4.42 p.m.]: I present a petition signed by 21 residents of Geraldton. It is couched in identical terms to the petition presented by the member for Melville dealing with hospital costs. I confirm that the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 21.)

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

The SPEAKER: I have examined the petition handed to me by the member for Rockingham and I indicate that it is couched in identical terms to those petitions already presented by other members. I ask the member for Rockingham to abide by my request simply to give the other details relating to the petition. I point out that I thought I was doing him a favour by asking him not to read the whole petition, bearing in mind that he has to stand on just one leg.

Mr Barnett: I will present it tomorrow.

HEALTH: NURSES

Accommodation: Petition

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [4.44 p.m.]: I have a petition signed by 233 residents of this State, and mainly from the Swan electorate. The petition is couched in similar terms to that presented by the member for Melville and expresses concern at the closure of nurses' homes. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 22.)

The SPEAKER: I thank those members who have co-operated with my wishes in the presentation of their petitions.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 26 March.

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley) [4.46 p.m.]: I intend to direct the House to those matters which concern areas such as the north-west and, in particular, my electorate of Kimberley.

Conclusions can be reached in many ways as to the validity of the present Government's attitude and policies which supposedly are designed to promote the development of areas such as the Kimberley. I propose this afternoon to refer to those policies one by one to measure the extent to which, in my view, they will not be workable in rural areas such as the Kimberley.

We have heard comments supposedly attributable to the Minister for Community Welfare about the disparity between funding provided for the Northern Territory and funding provided for Western Australia for our rural people. We have heard the Premier speak in terms of how wonderful the approaching resources boom will be and that it is very close to us. Indeed, many Government speakers before me have echoed those sentiments in no uncertain terms. I share with them the general philosophy that there is much in this State which offers prosperity and, indeed, a measure of success to all people who pursue their goals. However, in my view the prosperity and the degree of progress which ought to be forthcoming will be inhibited to a fairly large extent in Western Australia because of the fact that in the first instance Government members and, in particular, Government Ministers and the Premier, have become obsessed with the resources boom.

We do not necessarily take exception to it, indeed we support that general philosophy. However, a breakdown occurs when the Government becomes obsessed with one kind of thinking which tends effectively to divert the attention, and blinds the vision towards the problems and concerns which people in isolated areas face today. In other words, I am of the view that the realities of the situation in some parts of the State are disregarded by these members of our Government because their thinking is obsessed totally with the whole concept of a boom. The belief is that because we have a boom on the front doorstep, all the things that may not be running right today will be fixed.

The Premier would be the first person to acknowledge that for 20 years I have stood up to support optimistically the supposed development of the northern part of our State. First of all I put

forward my views as a councillor, then as a shire president, and subsequently as a member of this House. I have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm about the mineral exploration and ultimately the mineral development in our north. However, we have not yet seen this development in the Kimberley.

When the firm, Pichands Mather first moved into the area, there was great jubilation about what would follow. We are still waiting for the many benefits to come, although there have been indications in the last few years of fairly good prospects for diamonds and perhaps bauxite in the Kimberley. I do not know a great deal about either venture, and I will not be convinced of the great benefits that will flow on to the area until we actually see them.

So although our Government tells us continuously of all the opportunities for prosperity available to us in Western Australia, there are many areas of great concern, and many weaknesses in Government policy. We could describe the Government's policies as being tokenism—the Government gives a considerable amount of lip service to the people in areas such as the Kimberley, and a great deal is said about policies designed to help people in the private sector, the Aboriginal communities, and the medical profession, and yet all we see unfolding around us is a great deal of concern and anxiety because the community at large is aware that the policies are not being implemented.

Let us look at a point raised by the Minister for Community Welfare some weeks ago, and I want to preface my comments on this matter by saying I support his call for extra funding for the State. We are not at odds on that proposition. However, we must look at some of the reasons for the great disparity between the funds being made available to the Northern Territory and the funds being made available to Western Australia for Aboriginal affairs.

It is not hard to understand the reason for this disparity. For many years the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory has been administered very progressively. I think it would be fair to say that the Northern Territory leads the way in Australia in terms of the policies and plans it has implemented for Aborigines. Not only has the Department of Aboriginal Affairs taken a leading role in policy implementation, but also, the DAA is being supported strongly today by the Government of the Northern Territory. The progressive policies of the DAA and the Northern Territory Government appear very attractive to the people who are responsible for providing the funds from Canberra.

The Government of the Northern Territory is right behind the DAA, and in places such as Hooker Creek the local community has been assisted by the provision of a house manager as well as other advisers. Many of the communities in Western Australia are battling to employ a project officer, and yet in the Northern Territory, house managers and project managers are made available to the communities on a permanent basis.

Some of the communities in the Northern Territory employ their own teachers, nurses, etc. This is possible because of the funds made available from the Federal Government.

The situation in Western Australia is quite the reverse; communities generally have a great battle to attract this sort of support from the State Government. The Government must recognise that it has to go well beyond tokenism. This is obvious not only in the Aboriginal communities, but also in the private sector. A person who is endeavouring to set up a small commercial enterprise finds that a great many restrictions are placed on him. If the individual or the community is not strong enough to stand up to these inhibiting factors, the people concerned lose interest in the project. This does not happen in the Northern Territory because the communities which put forward sensible policies are supported very strongly by the authorities. As a consequence of that support, the Federal Government has been very generous in its allocation of funds.

I strongly urge the Minister for Community Welfare to pursue his intended approaches to the Federal Government to challenge the disparity that exists. However, before he does that, he should look at the situation in Western Australia and he should undertake some homework in regard to the present policies of his Government. I believe these policies are not as attractive as are the policies of the Government of the Northern Territory in attracting Federal funds. In other words, the Western Australian Government has to show a far greater willingness than it has in the past to support community initiatives.

In terms of the isolated communities, one is very hard put to find many communities which will say that their progress and the support they are receiving from the State Government is enabling them to develop in the way they wish.

There must be a change in emphasis. People must be encouraged to enter into long-term planning, and they must be encouraged by the Government into the type of initiatives we are seeing in the Northern Territory. Certainly there are no such widespread initiatives occurring in

Western Australia. The Government is merely giving lip service to supporting these measures. While this occurs, we will not attract the degree of funding that these isolated communities need.

Let us consider the health services in this State. Again, I draw a comparison between the Aboriginal health service provided in Western Australia with that of the Northern Territory. I do not propose to discuss the other matters relating to health to which we referred last week. It is very wrong for the Minister for Health to suggest that the establishment of an Aboriginal-run medical service should be considered as a separate entity; I cannot agree that that is a realistic attitude to adopt. If we are prepared to be serious about this matter, we must acknowledge a real health problem exists in the Aboriginal communities of this State. One does not have to go very far to find evidence of this problem because it occurs in parts of the metropolitan area, and is particularly bad in outlying areas such as Cundeelee Mission and Guda Guda, near Wyndham. Some of these places are a real eyesore.

It is obvious that, despite all the good intentions and hard work of the European health workers, who have worked with great vigour and interest in the area, the major successes we would like to see have not been achieved. These people would be the first to agree there is a need to encourage the Aboriginal people to a far greater involvement and participation in the delivery of their health services; it is absolutely essential we adopt such an approach. We are running away from the root of the problem if we do not direct our policies towards enabling a greater input of Aboriginal participation in the health care field.

It is not entirely correct for the Minister for Health to say there already exists a major involvement of Aborigines in the health and medical services of Western Australia; I cannot agree with that proposition. Although a number of Aborigines are employed within the health services, their role is a relatively minor one. There are reasons for this: Many of them are employed in areas where they are unable to get to the root of the problem. Many are called upon to drive vehicles and to escort patients from the reserves to the hospitals; a great deal of their time is occupied in such work. Others are called upon to go out into the country and search for people who perhaps require treatment. So, at best, many of these people get to the point of putting a bandage around somebody's finger, or something of that nature. We should encourage a greater involvement of Aboriginal people.

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Service is quite different from the one operating in this State and I would commend that system for serious consideration by this Government. Certainly, it is far superior to the Western Australian system in encouraging Aboriginal participation. It is designed to give Aborigines a lot more say in their own welfare and to have direct involvement in the service; indeed, a major part of their involvement is in the area of decision-making. Obviously, the Northern Territory Administration has adopted a realistic view that to best deal with a problem, they must employ people who are able to communicate with those who are the subject of these problems.

As the non-Aboriginal nurses would be the first to admit, communication has always been a major problem in caring for the health of Aborigines. So, quite clearly, rather than criticising the role of services such as the Aboriginal Medical Service, we should be promoting and encouraging them in this House so that these services become more stable and have a greater ability to serve the Aboriginal people. If such a policy is adopted by the State Government, I am sure our health services will take on a more effective role in terms of dealing with the recurring problems constantly being faced by our community.

It needs to be borne in mind that these services did not appear overnight simply because some Aboriginal thought it would be a good idea to run an Aboriginal medical service. They were the result of a great deal of concern experienced in the areas where these services commenced. If one can judge the problem by way of the concern which has been expressed by people in those communities, it was a major problem.

For example, a great deal of concern was expressed in Broome about the ability of the hospital at that time to provide the sort of service which was felt necessary and justified. After a great deal of deliberation and consultation, a decision was finally reached to establish the service which exists today. The interesting point is that, like the Perth-based and Geraldton-based services, the degree of support from non-Aborigines has been tremendous; it has vindicated the initial decision of the Aborigines that a problem existed which needed to be met by the establishment of such a service. These problems were being brought to the attention of the relevant authorities but, for reasons best known to themselves, did not evoke the type of response considered desirable. As a result, these people made a decision to establish their own health service, and that is what happened.

The Aboriginal Health Service therefore cannot be seen as a separate entity, completely divorced from the general health care system provided by the State Government. Essentially, it must be seen in two ways: It enables a greater involvement of Aboriginal people in the delivery of the service; and, it provides them with the opportunity to establish a greater line of communication, not only in the curing of illness but also in discussing with the Aboriginal people basic problems such as general hygiene, camp hygiene, and so on.

There are many good reasons that these services should be supported by the Government. If the Government were to take the support of European people—who believe these services should be developed rather than allowed to disintegrate—as evidence, it would acknowledge there is a real necessity for these services.

I wish now to discuss how the policies of this Government affect my electorate of Kimberley and the rural areas generally; in doing so, I intend to point out how important it is that some of the present inequities be removed.

I refer firstly to the contracts which currently are being let for road construction. I agree it is important that the major roads, such as the Port Hedland-Broome and the Fitzroy Crossing-Halls Creek sections of our national highway be given the type of funding and attention they are currently receiving. We applaud the degree of success which has been achieved on the section between Port Hedland and Broome and I publicly congratulate the Government on its announcement that work will proceed on the road between Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek.

However, the problem occurs as a result of the way the contracts are being let. The problem has been brought to the attention of the Government from time to time, but has yet to be overcome. I refer to the problems being experienced by the smaller operators in the Kimberley. There are a number of operators who own either one, two or three trucks and who are experiencing a great deal of difficulty in surviving in the Kimberley due to the policy of this Government in awarding contracts to the major construction companies; effectively, they are being squeezed out of the industry.

Mr Rushton: The point is that the Commonwealth has laid down certain conditions in the funding of these roads. The State Government seeks flexibility so that we are able to employ people such as the ones you are describing; however, we must weigh one against the other. I am sure you would have seen my

recent Press release on this very matter. We are seeking to maintain flexibility.

Mr BRIDGE: Surely the Government's policy is not to deny these local contractors the opportunity to participate in road construction.

Mr Rushton: We have done that for some years; that has been our policy in remote areas, because it does employ many local people who have built up the ability to carry out this work. However, the Commonwealth is trying to press upon us that we should award total contracts in the construction of our national highways, which makes it difficult to accommodate the people to whom you are referring.

Mr BRIDGE: The State Government must accept a responsibility towards protecting the interests of these small operators.

Mr Rushton: We are trying to.

Mr BRIDGE: I am told that some of these operators have been with the Main Roads Department for up to 15 years, and have invested a great deal of money in the area, purely on the understanding that they would have continuity of work. However, they are finding that position is being threatened. In fact, many are being employed in picking up sticks and rubble on the roadside, which is hardly a very secure position for them to be in.

So, despite the conditions to which the Minister for Transport referred as being laid down by the Federal Government, I urge the State Government to consider sympathetically the problems being experienced by these small operators. They depend on a regular income to survive; they are local operators who are residents of the Kimberley, and many have given long and valuable service to the MRD. They are very angry to see major companies being awarded these local contracts; these companies bring in their total plant, and very little is put back into the area. The money is earned by the companies, and is then taken out of the area. Some of these operators have invested a great deal of money in the area and are finding those investments to be a real problem because of their difficulty in meeting repayments.

I suggest the State Government look seriously at its current policy. If it is necessary to approach the Federal Government on the basis that its policy is an inhibiting factor in the survival of these small operators, so be it. If it does not, these people will go out of business. It will be a tragedy to see that happening in the Kimberley.

Mr McIver: It is not happening only in the Kimberley; it is happening throughout the State.

Mr BRIDGE: I agree with my colleague; however, I have first-hand knowledge of the situation in the Kimberley.

The other matter I bring to the attention of the Government and this House relates to the road funds provided to local government. Most shires have no real argument with the existing tax-sharing arrangements. However, shires in the Kimberley regularly express great concern—it is almost a hardy annual—about the matter of repairs and maintenance to plant and equipment.

At the end of each year it is found that the machines are in a fairly run-down state of repair, but because of the lack of funds and because of the overheads necessary in areas like the Kimberley, there are few funds left for the work necessary to bring the equipment up to scratch. Very often local authorities find this problem of having equipment in such a run-down condition; but they have difficulties in replacing that equipment.

Mr O'Connor: Do they not do regular maintenance throughout the year?

Mr BRIDGE: They do; but the cost factor is very great. The cost of repairs is enormous; and the damage is caused by the type of roadworks that the machines encounter.

The Government should consider some kind of assistance to local government, perhaps in the form of reviewing the funds made available in the area of maintenance work. Local authorities should have greater scope for utilising those funds than they do in the areas of specific works and specific allocations. Specific allocations give the shires very little scope for utilising the funds for plant repairs in the most desirable way. The Government ought to consider that area and review the funding for maintenance given to local authorities.

Another desirable aspect would be some kind of special banking arrangement to be established by which local authorities would have access to funds more readily than they do presently. The difficulty is that the shires have to go onto the open market for funds, in the same way as private enterprise has to do so. It is extremely difficult for the shires to obtain the funds necessary for replacing plant and equipment; so the shires continue to tolerate the situation in which they have obsolete plant and equipment, or second hand plant and equipment in a run-down state. The problem there is that the type of work the shires ought to do on their machines invariably does not attract the funds from the Government that are desirable.

There are two areas in which the Government ought to be taking action. It should review the component of funding for maintenance works, and establish a scheme which would provide a special banking or funding arrangement for local government so that the councils could obtain the funds readily, rather than seeking lenders in the money market, and having great difficulties, in most instances, in obtaining that kind of money.

This Government continually tells the community it supports and encourages the private sector; yet we can find a great number of weaknesses in present Government policy here. I would like to draw some of those weaknesses to the attention of this House. Let us consider what is happening in commercial enterprises. We have a number of people in the Kimberley who are very interested in developing some sort of commercial operation on the land obtained by them in towns in the north-west; but these people encounter two problems. The first problem is in obtaining the land, in the first instance. It is a real hassle for anybody in the north-west to obtain land. There are all sorts of restrictions, all sorts of red tape, and all sorts of letters from the Lands Department about the reasons they should have the land or they should not have the land. Ultimately, if those people survive long enough and persist long enough with their endeavours, they might obtain a piece of land.

Having obtained the land, the problems really start for those people. Now, all of these people are interested in private enterprise. There is an example in Broome of the problems the Government has to face, if it is really interested in supporting private industry. A chap in Broome recently acquired a small piece of land, exactly 100 yards from the power house. I have been there, and I have seen the land. That man has been advised by the State Energy Commission that it would cost him \$8 000 to have the power put on to his block from the power station, 100 yards away.

Mr Skidmore: Come on, a two-pole extension!

Mr BRIDGE: There have been others who have made representations to the Government about SEC costs of the order of \$4 000 or \$5 000 for pole installations to their blocks. The man who had his block 100 yards away was quoted that kind of figure. How is it possible for such people to develop any kind of industry at all? When that kind of situation happens, it is difficult for the people to stay.

The Government needs to consider these sorts of problems. It is all very well for the Government to talk about the wonderful things that are

happening; but at the same time, in other areas, there are these great problems. The people who are interested in developing, expanding, and staking a claim in areas like the Kimberley are being inhibited all along the line. Such things do not help the private sector.

The Government may provide a lot of assistance to certain areas of private industry. Obviously the mining companies are in a very favourable position; but in some areas, the smaller parts of the private sector are missing out to a large extent.

Another matter I would like to bring to the attention of the House is the need for the Parliament to consider the present Land Act and the problems that Act is causing to the people who seek meaningful and effective negotiations and consultations between themselves and some of the Aboriginal organisations around the State. Some pastoral concerns, big and small, are concerned about the way matters are unfolding in this State. They want to enter into negotiations with Aboriginal communities; but because of the wording of the Land Act they are not allowed to enter into those negotiations. Obviously there has to be a change. There is simply no machinery under the Act to allow the pastoralists to enter into those negotiations.

Whilst that situation remains, we will be faced forever with the problems confronting us in all parts of the State at the moment. The people who are keen to pursue a genuine policy of compromise, of consultation, and of conciliation ought to be allowed to achieve those ends by whatever means they consider necessary; but they are not able to do so because there are restrictive policies and restrictive Acts of Parliament preventing such negotiations.

The Government ought to consider that area very closely. It is an inhibiting factor, when the Government ought to be giving every encouragement to those who are prepared to consult and to reach agreement with each other. The Government should be doing that, rather than putting obstructions in their way, as happens at the moment.

There are other areas of concern which are evident each day in the Kimberley. Clearly, our housing programme falls short of what is required. In the general area of rental homes, there is a great shortage. Many people are interested in living in the north; but when they are there, having seen the opportunities to live up there, they suddenly find they would have a lot of difficulty in obtaining housing; and many of them decide to move out of the place. That trend has to

be changed; and it can be changed only by a change in emphasis by the Government.

The member for Vasse spoke last week about the need for single accommodation and pensioner accommodation in Capel. He highlighted the need for that matter to be considered by the Government. He is not alone in that concern. That situation is very much a concern in the Kimberley. For many years it has been brought to the attention of the Government. Five or six years ago, as the President of the Halls Creek Shire Council, I spoke at great length about this need; but there has been no attempt by the Government to remedy that problem.

I share the concern of the member for Vasse in that area. There is an identical situation in the Kimberley; and the identical situation would exist in many other parts of the State.

Mr Blaikie: It places undue hardship on those people.

Mr BRIDGE: That is right. There is a continual problem with the lack of rental homes in the Kimberley, in addition to the problem I have just described.

Small businessmen in the Kimberley, as in the metropolitan area and in many other parts of the State, are facing a difficult problem. In a lot of instances the small businessmen have gone out of business altogether, or they have made the decision to leave the business because of the difficulties of maintaining viability. The Government talks about its support for small industries in this State; but I have seen no evidence of that support. As far as I am concerned, it relates to the word I used at the outset of my address today—that it is part of the policy of "tokenism". There is plenty of lip service, but there is very little action. The result is that there is no meaningful action on behalf of the people who need to be propped up with some measure of support. They are the people who have shown some kind of initiative, and who would be keen to pursue and work towards viability in the area of industry of which they are a part.

The pastoral industry is another industry facing this sort of problem. I have said that it is difficult to find support for the pastoral sector by the Government. Generally, the pastoral industry has had to rely on support in a couple of areas only. That support is perhaps in relation to road construction, for which the shire councils are responsible, and in the area of tuberculosis eradication, and so on. Beyond that, very little is granted in subsidies in this area. As far as I am aware, subsidies are not provided in areas one

would normally expect the Government to support.

Therefore, the private sector will continue to experience fluctuating fortunes, being viable on occasions, but undergoing difficulties at other times, because very little is provided by the Government to help the situation.

The pastoral industry receives less genuine funding than any other area of the private sector. Many comments are made by the Government to the effect that it will assist in propping up the industry which is the backbone of the nation; but people who have been involved in it for the length of time I have, will realise that very little practical, meaningful, and realistic support has been provided. The industry is entitled to expect this type of support from the Government. Apart from a few access roads which are installed annually, financial assistance has been sadly lacking.

A repetitive exercise is carried out on these roads which are little better than tracks. They are graded annually and, after the wet, they have to be graded again. It is a repetitive process and the assistance in this area amounts to about all the support given to the pastoral industry.

Members opposite stand up and try to convince members on this side of the House that they are the brothers of the private sector and they like to support it. However, it is clear the actual support which is required is not given by the Government.

Mr Rushton: The commitment to start the road from Fitzroy Crossing to Halls Creek must be fairly convincing.

Mr BRIDGE: I acknowledged that fact 20 minutes ago and I gave the Government credit for it. Members on this side of the House, the man in the street, and people in the bush have been told by the Government that it supports the private sector. However, during the course of my speech, I have set out the areas in which the Government has not provided the support which I consider ought to have been given. I have provided a resume of the areas of concern to the man on the land. I am concerned about this matter, because I have a direct interest in it in my electorate.

This Government has not lived up to the policies it has preached constantly. We should look closely at the programmes advanced by the Government in this regard and examine whether they in fact provide the support needed by the sectors of the community to which I have referred. The Government's policies are restrictive and inhibitive in many respects.

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [5.33 p.m.]: When speaking in the Address-in-Reply debate,

the Leader of the Opposition very cruelly lampooned the traditions of this House. In doing so, he indicated he has no respect for the traditions of this Parliament. Incidentally, it appeared also that he wanted to abolish the opportunities for back-bench members during this debate to speak on matters of interest to them, which they would not be able to do on another occasion.

Mr Parker: That is not what he said at all! That is a complete misrepresentation.

Mr HERZFELD: The Address-in-Reply debate provides an opportunity for members to speak on any matters which are of concern to them or their constituents.

The matter with which I intend to deal tonight is as outrageous, unprincipled, and unprecedented as any in the long history of this State. I refer to the class action which has been initiated by the Campaign to Save Native Forests and the WA Conservation Council.

Mr Bryce: Are you pre-empting your leader?

Sir Charles Court: Not at all.

Mr HERZFELD: The particular class action to which I refer has been initiated by the Campaign to Save Native Forests which has a long history of activity in Western Australia involving distortions of the truth, the telling of half truths, and the use of outright lies. The history of this group has been dedicated to the destruction of an industry which supplies jobs to 20 000 Australians and at least half those jobs are provided in Western Australia. The class action to be undertaken is designed allegedly to save the jarrah forests of Western Australia.

Point of Order

Mr BARNETT: I believe there is a Standing Order which says members shall not debate matters which are the subject of a motion before the House.

Mr O'Connor: It has not been moved.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a rule with respect to anticipation. No member may anticipate a debate of which notice has been given. I remind the member that notice has been given of a motion covering what appears to me to be an area the member seeks now to traverse. Therefore, I ask the member to have regard for the rulings of the Chair in previous cases.

Debate Resumed

Mr Bryce: Your leader pre-empted you in this case!

Mr Blaikie: Give him a go!

Mr HERZFELD: Perhaps you, Sir, might further clarify the matter for me.

Mr Barnett: Just sit down!

Mr HERZFELD: I intend to deal with matters which led up to this action. I shall not deal with any matters which, as far as I understand, are covered by the motion of which notice has been given today.

Mr Bryce: The Premier has given us a 3½-page diatribe today.

Sir Charles Court: It is very interesting.

Mr Bryce: You are going to be disappointed, brother!

The SPEAKER: Order! The motion of which notice was given today covers a rather wide area and concerns matters surrounding the action which is proposed to be taken in the American courts. I assume the member has had an opportunity to look at the motion of which notice has been given.

Mr Bryce: That would not be surprising!

The SPEAKER: If the member has not had the opportunity to examine it, it will be rather difficult for him to know whether the matters he wants to bring to the attention of the House are contained in the motion of which the Premier gave notice today.

Bearing in mind that we normally take questions at approximately this time, I suggest to the member that he seek leave to continue his remarks at a later stage of the sitting so that he may study the notice of motion and consider the comments he wishes to make to the House with respect to matters leading up to the class action.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr HERZFELD: I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at a later stage of the sitting.

Motion put and passed.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [6.05 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I note the ruling you gave earlier in the day, but wish to point out it is very difficult in the first few minutes of a speech to set out the nature

of the speech and what one intends to say. Because so little time was given, the intention of my speech was not evident earlier. Therefore, I hasten to outline to the House the nature of the subject with which I will deal.

It is my intention to contend that Mr Neil Bartholomaeus, who is well known as an environmental extremist in this State, conspired in what is part of an international conspiracy to destroy western democracies and their economies with Ralph Nader in July 1980 when Nader visited Australia and, in particular, Western Australia. I intend during my speech to indicate to the House how this occurred and what it means. I intend also to indicate the international ramifications of this international conspiracy of which we in this State have now become part.

Thirdly, I intend to refer to the very weak attitude that has been adopted by the Australian Labor Party in these matters that have extended over a number of years now in this State.

As I said, the key figure in the extremist element in this State is Mr Neil Bartholomaeus, and he, with a small handful of cronies, for the last five or six years has been trying to destroy an industry. It would appear that the industry concerned may be the alumina industry—again I will refer to this later—but I contend the real target for this group is the energy industry. The group realises that without energy any western economy can be strangled easily.

The best way to describe the guiding strategy of this small, but extremely vicious group, would be to use the words of Machiavelli, and members would know that Machiavelli was a power broker, and an unscrupulous one at that. Some 600 years ago he had this to say—

One of the great secrets of the day is to know how to take possession of popular prejudices and passions in such a way as to introduce a confusion of principles which makes impossible all understanding between those who speak the same language and have the same interests.

It is quite obvious that this group to whom I have referred has used this philosophy as a guiding strategy, to take possession of the popular prejudices and passions of the people of Western Australia.

At first the movement—to give it a name—had a number of spokesmen and one never knew when a new spokesman would pop up. However, increasingly one person appeared as the spokesman for the group, and that person, of course, was Mr Bartholomaeus.

Over the last three years or so the media has been filled constantly with the assertions of this gentleman and, as I said, his half truths, and frequently his outright untruths. He has capitalised constantly on some of the natural problems we have in this State, such as drought, salinity, and energy consumption.

Mr Blaikie: Could he be termed a political opportunist?

Mr HERZFELD: The member for Vasse has made an interesting comment. I do not know whether he is a political opportunist, but I know he is a person hungry for power and he plays the power game as the best of them do. In fact, he played it so well he was able to con the ALP in this State to endorse him as a candidate at the last election.

Mr Pearce: You felt the cold wind on the back of your neck too.

Mr HERZFELD: The surprising thing about this very arrogant man is that he never takes "No" for an answer. When the people of Western Australia showed that they would not have a bar of him, and when he was a great source of embarrassment to the Opposition, he still came out fighting. One wonders perhaps whether he might not be a little punch drunk with the power given to him by the media which seem to enjoy promoting his views. Unquestionably some of his actions have been vile.

Mr Barnett: Are you referring to the one that nearly knocked you off your seat?

Mr HERZFELD: For the information of the member for Rockingham, who smiles in a rather uncomfortable way, I suspect the Australian Labor Party was very embarrassed about that situation because the gentleman was rejected roundly by the electorate. No doubt at the present time the honourable member is indeed embarrassed by having Mr Bartholomaeus in his party and I wonder how long the ALP and its hatchet men will tolerate him. The ALP does not have a reputation for tolerating people who fall out of line for very long.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HERZFELD: Because Mr Bartholomaeus had no success as a political candidate, he then sought some other sort of power.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation. I want to say to the member for Kalgoorlie that I believe he should not continue to hold a conversation with the member

for Mundaring while the member for Mundaring is trying to address the Chair.

Mr HERZFELD: As it is nearly time for the tea suspension, at this point I will simply say that, having failed as a political candidate, Mr Bartholomaeus then looked around for another power base and he quickly coned his way into the position of President of the Western Australian Conservation Council.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr HERZFELD: Before the tea suspension, I was giving a rundown on the rise to power in the conservation movement of Mr Neil Bartholomaeus. Judging by the objections I drew from the Opposition during that period, that must have been a time in which I touched on some sensitive nerves across the way.

I want to question the activities of Neil Bartholomaeus in the context of the employment he holds. During the election campaign he fought, the business telephone number that he gave on his literature was that of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. I was extremely concerned about that, although I did not say anything about it. It seemed that people would be ringing him at the hospital on campaign matters, and he could well be keeping engaged the lines to be used by people wanting to deal with more serious matters.

Mr Pearce: Come on! How many lines are there at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital?

Mr HERZFELD: I wonder also about the time this gentleman spends on giving Press conferences and media conferences, and going overseas on jaunts on behalf of his organisation. It is about time someone looked into this situation. Incidentally, I understand that he is employed by the taxpayers. It is about time someone looked into his activities, to see whether the taxpayer is obtaining his money's worth.

Mr Blaikie: It sounds like his job is a sinecure.

Mr HERZFELD: The Government should not be in the business of funding the activities of this gentleman.

Mr Davies: Can you give us his name?

Mr HERZFELD: If the Leader of the Opposition had been here—

Mr Davies: I was at a church service celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force.

Mr HERZFELD: I am talking about Mr Neil Bartholomaeus, a member of the ALP, and a member of a very important committee in that party. He was also a candidate at the last election.

Mr Davies: There is no need to be nasty. I was just wondering about the name of the man.

Mr HERZFELD: I move on to his association with Mr Ralph Nader. Members will recall I mentioned earlier that Mr Nader came to Australia in July last year, under the sponsorship of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union.

Mr Barnett: He gave some very illuminating speeches.

Mr HERZFELD: No sooner had Ralph Nader landed than he was telling us how we should be running our country. In fact, he was inciting people to form so-called action groups. When he was in Canberra, addressing an audience, he said—

..... I hope that the students in the audience who are interested in developing a student public interest research group, perhaps modelled on the 25 such groups in 25 states in the United States, will avail themselves of a sign up sheet out in the back with their name, address and telephone number and you will be contacted shortly by fellow student organisers in the United States who will convey how big they are, what they are doing, and how they have become really powerful citizen forces

Ralph Nader came to Australia to set up organisations with international connotations.

Mr Parker: What is wrong with that?

Mr Pearce: Are you opposed to international co-operation?

Mr HERZFELD: It is well known that Ralph Nader has a very large conglomerate of organisations working in the United States. We have heard of him as a consumer advocate; and the Press really boosts him in that respect. Some of the organisations and groups that he sponsors are collected in this conglomerate.

Mr Pearce: Are you a member of the International Society of Friends, or not?

Mr HERZFELD: It is surprising how wide-reaching these groups are.

Mr Pearce: Does the International Society of Friends have an international context?

Mr HERZFELD: According to one report, in the United States alone Nader's groups spend \$45 million a year. Their activities are associated with such things as the anti-nuclear movement, the environmental movement, and various agitator groups.

Mr Pearce: How much money does the International Society of Friends have?

Mr HERZFELD: I wonder where this sort of money comes from. Nader has 600 corporate lawyers working for him, on behalf of these groups.

Mr Parker: They get a lot of their money from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Mr HERZFELD: I will give a small sample of some of these groups. There are the Consolidated Intervenor, specialising in legal activities to slow down development projects, particularly in the nuclear industry; the Union of Concerned Scientists, a privately funded group, set up specifically to give technical credibility to the anti-nuclear movement; and The Sierra Club. That is a very interesting one, because it is the group Mr Bartholomaeus visited when he went to the United States recently.

Even a person as arrogant as Mr Bartholomaeus would hardly risk taking action supposedly costing \$100 000 without its being underwritten by someone. It is no surprise, therefore, that we read that Mr Bartholomaeus visited The Sierra Club when he was in the United States. The Sierra Club is an anti-nuclear group, with a budget in 1979 of \$8 million. One wonders where the money for these groups comes from.

Mr Bertram: Well, where does it come from?

Mr HERZFELD: The member for Mt. Hawthorn's guess is as good as mine; but I have my suspicions.

Mr Bertram: What are they?

Mr HERZFELD: I will come to them in a minute. Other groups in the Nader conglomerate are Project Survival, an alliance of women activists, and Friends of the Earth, specialising in the dissemination and co-ordination of information, including publishing. In 1979, that organisation had a budget of \$1 million.

Mr Blaikie: The member for Albany would know about the Friends of the Earth.

Mr HERZFELD: I could list many such organisations. For instance, there is a group called Mobilization for Survival, which describes itself as a coalition of 250 groups across the United States involved in demonstrations. Last year we had comments from the Minister for Police and Traffic about a group in Western Australia which was training people in civil disobedience. Of course, we know that Mr Bartholomaeus led civil disobedience activities at Wagerup on a number of occasions. At that time the Minister tabled a number of papers. One is headed "A preview of Wagerup"; and the programme of 7 December

1978 showed that there would be films of the non-violent occupation of Seabrook in the United States. Now, Seabrook is a nuclear power project.

When I was in the United States last year I saw some of the graphic films of these so-called non-violent demonstrations. I have a cutting from *The New York Times* which reads—

SEABROOK, N.H., May 23—Protesters, National Guardsmen and state troopers began filtering into this seacoast village today in preparation for another major attempt by antinuclear activists to occupy the power plant under construction here.

They planned a Memorial Day weekend of protests and demonstrations. Early today a plant security guard was struck by a stone and sections of fencing were cut, but security officials said no demonstrators got to the site.

In three days last fall protesters cut holes in the fence around the twin 1 150 megawatt reactors. They were unable to fight their way past lines of police officers and soldiers swinging clubs and spraying Chemical Mace at them. That demonstration marked a rift in the anti-nuclear movement between activists committed to civil disobedience and legal appeals and those, like the people gathering at campsites here today, who emphasise immediate and militant action.

I saw some evidence of that militant action; and I found it horrifying. It will not be very long before we see the same thing here, because people such as Nader come to this country with the object of setting up groups and motivating them to behave in exactly the same way as these groups do in the United States.

Mr Pearce: Were you in New York because of your links with the International Society of Friends? What is the difference between one international group and another?

Mr HERZFELD: Nader said he was going to promise the services of his environmental lawyer, Mr Victor Yannacone. I am indebted to a report in the paper from Alcoa which quotes what this man said. In that we can see the sort of distortion and lies that are told when these people work on a project.

I will now quote from a transcript of a recent "Four Corners" programme—

The American judiciary system is not going to tolerate an American-based, soulless, stateless, multinational conglomerate turning Australia into a quarry, destroying centres of the forest, increasing the risk of serious disease and illness to people of Perth

and Western Australia, just to increase the number of aluminium beer cans, drink and beverage containers that litter our highways here in America.

Points of Order

Mr BARNETT: Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), on a point of order: I take it you were listening with great interest to the debate, as I was, and that you would have noted the member's three attempts since tea to enter into a debate on a subject that will be entered into when the motion put forward by the Premier earlier this evening is debated eventually. I put it to you that the member is transgressing on the real Speaker's ruling earlier that the member could not do that. I ask you to rule again that the member should desist from taking that sort of action.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Firstly, I have been endeavouring to listen intently to the address that the member for Mundaring is endeavouring to make. Unfortunately, I could not do that very well because of the consistent interjections from the member for Gosnells and the member for Fremantle.

On the point raised in your point of order, the member for Mundaring has not transgressed on the original intent of the subject on which he was to speak. Therefore I rule that there is no point of order.

Mr PEARCE: On a point of order before we move the dissent motion, can we have it clear in our minds that you are now ruling contrary to the ruling given by the real Speaker earlier in the afternoon, that the member for Mundaring is not entitled to anticipate the debate which the Premier has foreshadowed by moving his motion with regard to the jarrah class action?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member is taking up valuable time. I am not ruling contrary to the original ruling of the Speaker. I am supporting what I believe was his intention. He spoke to me about this matter before I took the Chair this evening.

Mr BARNETT: I draw your attention to the fact—and it is a fact, if you care to check the *Hansard* record—that the member for Mundaring was referring to the class action taken by the conservation council. This is the precise meat in the motion moved by the Premier; there is no question about it, none whatsoever. I believe your ruling is incorrect and that you should reconsider.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I do not believe there was any reference to a class action in what the member for Mundaring was saying and

I therefore rule as I previously ruled. I do not believe it is your prerogative deliberately to take up the valuable time of the member for Mundaring by these points of order.

Mr PEARCE: Mr Acting Speaker, I notice that while you talk about a waste of time the member's time has been suspended, so he is not losing a second. Again, I am prepared to move dissent from your ruling on this matter, but rather than waste the time of the House on that move I ask that you consult the *Hansard* record to make sure in your own mind that the member for Mundaring is not in fact transgressing on the area of the jarrah class action which the real Speaker has ruled out of order.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! There is no need for me to consult *Hansard*. I know in my own mind that I have ruled correctly. The member for Mundaring.

Debate Resumed

Mr HERZFELD: My point in referring to that Press article was to indicate to the House the type of activity which has been organised as a result of Mr Nader's visit to Perth.

Point of Order

Mr BARNETT: On a point of order, may I ask that the article being quoted from by the member for Mundaring be tabled at the end of his speech so that you and I can both know whether or not he was referring to that class action?

The ACTING SPEAKER: The article can be tabled at the end of the speech.

Debate Resumed

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HERZFELD: I quoted from that particular article because I wanted to indicate to the House the sort of misinformation that has resulted from the meeting between Mr Nader and Mr Bartholomaeus in July of 1980.

I want to move on to make some reference to other connections in what I call this conspiracy. I wish to bring to the notice of the House the links there are in the connections between Mr Nader and other groups that exist here in Australia and overseas. Mr Nader was in Australia as a result of sponsorship by the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union.

Mr Blaikie: That would not be regarded as right wing.

Mr HERZFELD: One of the most active members of the union is Mr Laurie Carmichael, who is the assistant general secretary. He is also a very active member of the executive of the Communist Party of Australia. It does not stop there. Mr Carmichael is also active, along with Mr Tom Uren, as co-director of the organisation known as the Transnational Corporation, which is based in Sydney. To support that organisation they have what is called the Transnational Corporation Research Institute.

Mr Skidmore: Are you suggesting that no-one should form an association? You are denigrating every association formed in the country.

Mr HERZFELD: If the member for Swan would only listen he would realise I am trying to establish some of the connections which build up a picture of what the whole business is about. I turn again to the Transnational Corporation Research Institute which is headed by Professor Ted Wheelwright of the Sydney University.

Mr Parker: A very highly regarded economist.

Mr HERZFELD: Most members would have received a copy of the 12 March issue of the *Civil Service Journal*. Inside that is a fairly lengthy article by Professor Wheelwright and I shall quote from the relevant section in the summary in which he is talking about the transnationals. I quote as follows—

Either we accept the new slavery or we aim to bring the transnationals under social control. The second choice, in a word, is revolution.

Here we have someone in the same group with international connections suggesting revolution.

Mr Parker: He was saying that we bring transnationals under our control or we will be faced with that; he was not advocating revolution.

Mr HERZFELD: The member for Fremantle can draw any conclusion he likes. I have listened to some of his thoughts on various subjects and I am not surprised that his views should coincide with some of the views expressed by these people who are very far to the left of the political spectrum.

Mr Pearce: The International Society of Friends used to be considered a left-wing organisation.

Mr HERZFELD: I believe there is a great deal of evidence that they are mixed up in a lot of this nonsense also.

Mr Parker: Are you not a member of that society?

Mr HERZFELD: What gave the member that idea?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HERZFELD: I have said enough to give some sort of conception of the links between some of these organisations in Australia and with others overseas and especially in the United States, which seem to have become the centre of anti-social activity, anti-nuclear activity, and anti-business activity.

Mr Blaikie: Anti-progress activity.

Mr HERZFELD: If members would care to do the necessary research I believe there is sufficient evidence available to show that there is a very large group of people who cut across national boundaries and who are working for a common purpose. I believe that common purpose is to bring down western economies; to destroy them by cutting away at the very thing that gives them so much success in the world—so much success when we compare them with the socialist and Communist countries of the world.

Mr Parker: Like Margaret Thatcher and Malcolm Fraser.

Mr HERZFELD: It would be well for members to do this research for themselves, because I believe if they were to do so they would come to the same conclusions as my own. It concerns me that we should have these sorts of activities taking place in this State under the guise of all sorts of goody-goody activities.

Mr Skidmore: You do not like protest groups.

Mr HERZFELD: It is high time someone spoke up and indicated exactly what these movements are about. People talk about the anti-nuclear movement. That movement has one aim and one aim only, and that is to cut back the power supply of this developing State to ensure it does not get any industry.

Several members interjected.

Mr HERZFELD: I really am amazed. We have Opposition members all seeming to support this sort of activity.

Mr Parker: What makes you say that?

Mr HERZFELD: Members opposite seem to be supporting friends and organisations which are trying to destroy jobs for their very own members and affiliates in this State. I am not talking about nuclear power; I am talking about jobs and about energy. Did not Mr Bartholomaeus embarrass the Labor Party during the election campaign by saying that there should be no export of gas; no export of liquefied natural gas?

Mr Harman: He did not embarrass us at all.

Mr HERZFELD: Did he not suggest that he did not want the project to go ahead?

Mr Harman: Not at all. You are saying that we need nuclear power stations in order to have alumina refineries.

Mr HERZFELD: I believe every member in the House and every member of the public should be concerned at what is going on and concerned with the implications of what is happening. If it is possible for activists in other nations to affect our sovereignty in this State there are grave dangers ahead. I wonder about the United States, which has class actions taking place from time to time.

Point of Order

Mr PEARCE: We failed to move a dissent motion on your previous ruling, Mr Acting Speaker, because the member for Mundaring seemed to take the hint and to steer away from mentioning class actions. But it has been clearly established that he is not to speak on that subject because we are to have a debate on that tomorrow following the motion initiated by the Premier today.

Mr Herzfeld: I did not speak about that; I was talking about class actions in general.

Mr PEARCE: The Premier did not see fit to inform the member for Mundaring that he was intending to move his motion, so invalidating most of the preparation made by the member for his speech. Unfortunately the member must adhere to the request of the Speaker; he must not anticipate debate on any class action. I would be grateful—and I am sure members on this side of the House would be grateful—if you would direct the member not to speak on that issue.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member referred to class actions in America, but he was not referring in this instance to the one mentioned in the Premier's notice of motion. I will not have you repeatedly standing up and saying these things to delay the House and its proceedings deliberately. If you have a point of order you should take it and make it precisely.

Mr PEARCE: I accept your invitation, Mr Acting Speaker. I wonder whether you have read the Premier's motion and acquainted yourself with the fact that it does in a general sense deal comprehensively and repeatedly with the question of class actions and not specifically with a particular action being taken.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I have not read the Premier's motion but I heard it read at the same time as other members heard it read. It

does not apply in this instance. There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr HERZFELD: In case the member for Gosnells does not believe I was referring to class actions in general—

Mr Pearce: So was the Premier.

Mr HERZFELD: Perhaps if the member's colleagues had allowed me to speak without interruption the member might have heard what I was saying. It is a matter of concern for the people of Western Australia and, in particular, for the members of this House, that activities are taking place throughout the world directed at destroying western economies.

Mr Parker: Like Margaret Thatcher's Budget.

Mr HERZFELD: If it were possible for me to go to Great Britain—

Mr B. T. Burke: I hope you do.

Mr HERZFELD: —and undertake some action in British courts so that if I won I could deny the United Kingdom access to strategic materials or to food or to energy supplies, I wonder whether that would be considered by other members as the sort of activity which should take place in the world today. If they did I would hold great fears for the future of the western world because it would be the simplest way to destroy the strength of western nations, and in particular, the United Kingdom and the United States.

I make the point that it is important we understand the international ramifications of these sorts of activities we see around us in the world today.

I will complete my remarks on this note: I hope when the time comes we will hear from the Opposition on subjects like this one.

Mr Pearce: It will come up tomorrow when the debate takes place.

Mr HERZFELD: I hope the Opposition will make its position clear. Opposition members like to have two bob each way. They do not have the moral commitment to do the right thing for the people of Western Australia. They are quite happy to have people like Ralph Nader come to this country for five minutes and tell us what to do. They are quite happy to be told by their extremist colleagues what to do when they come into this place.

As far as I am concerned and, I believe, other members on this side of the House, we will always speak on matters such as this. I hope that by continually speaking out we eventually may get

the message across to the public via the Press that all is not what it seems in certain groups we have in our society today; groups which say they are attempting to do one thing for the community but when one looks a little under the skin one finds they are doing something far from their stated purpose.

MR PARKER (Fremantle) [8.04 p.m.]: I will refrain from commenting at great length—although I would dearly love to—about the remarks made by the member for Mundaring.

Mr Blaikie: Support or reject his remarks.

Mr PARKER: I will refrain from commenting on certain remarks he made today.

Mr MacKinnon: Make some comments on library funding.

Mr PARKER: I will give the Honorary Minister some remarks about that. I will participate in the debate referred to when it is brought on. When it comes on, the Labor Party's position will be shown to be the responsible one. We will put our position at the proper time in accordance with the Standing Orders and in a way which will demonstrate that we act, as we have always done, in the best interests of the people of Western Australia.

Mr Young: They are so well behaved on that side!

Mr PARKER: Having commented on that matter I intend to proceed to discuss some of the issues that have come to light in regard to problems that my constituency faces and, in particular, various sections of my community face. Not all these problems relate specifically to Fremantle, but some of them do. The problems are very important and worthy of being aired in this House.

I believe that the effects of the decline of Western Australia's economy are having an impact on individuals living in Fremantle to a far greater degree than on people in many other areas of the State.

I will relate my remarks to the most important issue, and one which affects a large number of people in Western Australia—I refer to unemployment. Recently I saw the figure of 48 000 unemployed in this State. A large percentage of those unemployed are living in the Fremantle area. The problem is that no jobs are available for those people. I have my electorate office in a building next to the Commonwealth Employment Service in Fremantle, a so-called job centre. The concept of job centres was developed a year or two ago by the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs (Mr Viner).

The job centre in my electorate is crowded each day it is open. One needs only to walk past the centre to see the number of people inside studying the notice board and taking down a list of the few jobs pinned on that board. To say that the reason the people do not have jobs is that they do not look for them is completely absurd. Unemployed people in my electorate hunt high and low for jobs; they go for any job that comes along. It is true that in some highly skilled positions unemployment does not occur; in fact, a shortage of people occurs. Whilst I concede that point, I must say that nothing is being done by this Government or the Commonwealth Government to ensure that unemployed people who do not have skills are trained in a sufficient way that they can take the jobs available in skilled areas of employment.

In the financial year just completed the Commonwealth Government made funds available for the purpose of retraining people not only in Western Australia, but also the rest of Australia. Those funds were underspent by approximately 30 per cent; that is to say, only 70 per cent of the available funds was spent. The reason for that was that not enough programmes were initiated.

The availability of jobs in Fremantle is a vital issue to that community and, particularly, for the young people in that area. The young people are the largest number of unemployed and are in numbers hardest hit. I accept that when people of 40 or 50 years of age become unemployed it is harder because, possibly, they have commitments in regard to houses and families which young people do not have. Nonetheless, the demoralising effect on young people when they are unable to obtain a position and have never had a position is immense. I believe that the last Bureau of Statistics figures show that the number of people unemployed in Australia is a few thousand less than half a million, and that is an indictment on the policies of the Federal Government and the Western Australian Government.

Mr O'Connor: The figures for unemployment in this State have decreased month by month.

Mr PARKER: About 12 months ago there were about 33 000 people unemployed in Western Australia, and that is based on Press reports of CES figures. On the same basis the current unemployment figure is 48 000 for Western Australia.

Mr O'Connor: That is not true, and well you know it.

Mr PARKER: I am open to correction, but that is my understanding from the Press reports. I

was astonished because I did not think it was that high, but that was the figure quoted.

The matter of training people for skilled positions is of vital importance. At present there is no sufficient retraining programme. Even the Hon. Clyde Cameron, when a Minister in the Whitlam Government, made good endeavours to solve unemployment problems by operating retraining schemes. After World War II the Chifley Government started to retrain returned soldiers by using manpower schemes and programmes of that nature. If we followed that course we would mop up some of the problem of unemployment and would not have to talk as the Government does now about bringing migrants into this country.

I am not opposed to immigration. I think it has some merit. However, I am opposed to any discriminatory immigration law. If the Government sets out on a policy of inviting certain types of people to come to Australia because of the lack of skilled people in Australia when it has done nothing to retrain people—

Mr O'Connor: Again that is not true and you know that.

Mr PARKER: I know there has been no attempt by this Government or the Commonwealth Government to retrain people for particular skills.

Mr O'Connor: What about the joint scheme costing \$13 million to take on 1 000 people?

Mr PARKER: That scheme has not taken on 1 000 people.

Mr O'Connor: I said "to take on 1 000 people". There is a lot to come.

Mr PARKER: I understand the scheme has flopped and, in any case, it covered limited areas. People were being trained to be riggers, and so forth. I think such people would be valuable, but such a scheme has nothing to do with training people for high skilled positions.

Mr O'Connor: It has trained welders and other metal workers.

Mr PARKER: The Government has said it will find people from overseas to work on the North-West Shelf and that there will need to be specific recruitment schemes overseas to obtain those skilled people.

I am not opposed to immigration *per se*, but to say that people from overseas will be recruited is an admission of failure on the part of this Government.

Mr O'Connor: We are doing the most our finances will allow.

Mr PARKER: In the last completed Federal Budget only 70 per cent of the moneys allocated for retraining programmes was spent.

Mr O'Connor: Did Western Australia use all the money allocated to it?

Mr PARKER: That is not revealed in the Federal Budget papers. I would be pleased if the Minister could give that figure to me. The Federal Budget papers show that 30 per cent of the allocated money was not spent.

Mr Sibson: I think the member is having trouble with his own retraining programme over there. With all that gobbeldy-gook over there I think you are having trouble with your retraining scheme.

Mr PARKER: The member for Bunbury, not unlike the Deputy Premier, retrained himself from selling used cars to being a member of Parliament and, therefore, his statement is rather extraordinary.

I believe the waterfront is an area where there is room for greater employment. Some time ago the Government commissioned a report from a Mr Hughes, a highly qualified man in such areas, in regard to employment on the waterfront. He was asked to give a preliminary report within only a few weeks in regard to dry dock facilities in the Port of Fremantle to attract vessels there. He was asked to report particularly in regard to repair facilities. In the short period he was given to write that report he recommended two things, one of which being that there was a strong *prima facie* case in support of introducing such facilities but that there would need to be a much more detailed study. As I understand, nothing has been done by the Government to implement the recommendations in so far as having either more detailed studies or fully implementing the report. My advice is that no further detailed studies such as those suggested by Mr Hughes have been carried out by the Government. I understand that the then Minister for Industrial Development, the member for Floreat, wrote to various bodies advising that the Government wanted to implement the report.

As I say, absolutely nothing has been done about it. The speech was not even the perennial one we hear, full of complaints about the lack of funds, but rather that the Government seems to have shelved the report completely. The implementation of the report is not wanted just by the people who work on the waterfront. Although they want it, it is wanted also by the shipowners and by the Fremantle City Council.

I have attended meetings at which the report was discussed, and it was made clear by a very

broad cross-section of people that the recommendations are supported by a very large group of people associated with the maritime industry in Western Australia, and in Fremantle in particular. Yet despite that broad support, nothing has been done by the Government to implement the recommendations.

The provision of such a facility would permit ships from other countries that normally do not visit Australia to come to Fremantle for repairs. For instance, some ships of the P & O line currently go to Singapore for repairs because facilities are not available here. It would be much simpler for these ships if such a facility were available in the Port of Fremantle. The vast majority of the ships that ply the Australian trade could be repaired here.

Repairs could be carried out also to ships of the State Shipping Service. The furthest these ships go is to Melbourne, but they must be taken to Newcastle when repairs are necessary. This necessitates a voyage of five to 10 days, with the addition of the repair time.

Mr P. V. Jones: Could I just ask you one question on that? In terms of time you would be quite right; it would take the five to 10 days to go to Newcastle and back. However, would you like to see the ships repaired in Fremantle regardless of the increased costs, because one of the things that came out of the Hughes report and subsequent examination is that there is considerable uncertainty whether the volume of trade would be sufficient to have a repair handling facility at Fremantle.

Mr PARKER: That is true, and for that reason Hughes recommended further studies. He did not recommend that the Government should spend all that money immediately.

Mr P. V. Jones: I agree.

Mr PARKER: I am making the point that an independent study could reveal the true situation.

Mr P. V. Jones: That much has come to me already.

Mr PARKER: From the information I have received from the maritime industry, dry dock and ship repair facilities can be commercially viable where they are used not only by the maritime commercial fleets, but also by Governments' Navies.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is correct. I visited a similar facility in Cape Town in South Africa. It is used exactly as you say, and it does a very good trade because of the number of bulk carriers going around the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr PARKER: I was referring particularly to the announcement in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* that there would be homeporting for Australian ships in Cockburn Sound. It was stated that three RAN destroyers are to be based at HMAS *Stirling* not to mention the other vessels of the Navy already there. I imagine that would make a significant difference to the potential turnover of a facility such as that recommended in the Hughes report. I certainly would have no objection whatever, and I know the maritime industry would have no objection, to the use of such a facility by the Navy. It could make the scheme a viable proposition.

The Hughes report not only suggested a dry dock; it suggested also an upgrading of existing dock facilities. My understanding is that it could be considered viable on the current figures. However, we do not know the number of ships that would come here if the recommendations of the report were implemented, and that figure could be discovered only through an in-depth study.

I pass on to other things of concern to my electorate. The people of Fremantle are very aware of their environment, and in particular the historical environment of the area. The Fremantle City Council and other local authorities have probably led the State in terms of protecting the historical environment of a city. This protection has been carried out at great expense to the Fremantle City Council and the ratepayers, but the council believed it had that obligation because Fremantle is a unique place.

The council has had precious little support from this Government in its endeavours, and I would like to refer to the Round House as an example. The tunnel to the Round House was renovated at a cost of \$47 000 provided from the funds of the National Heritage Commission. I applaud the National Heritage Commission for making that money available to the Fremantle City Council, but would the Government of Western Australia provide the funds necessary to ensure that the Round House could stay open? Would the then Minister for Cultural Affairs, or the current Minister for Cultural Affairs, provide the funds even for a curator or a guardian so that tourists from Australia and overseas could see this unique and essential part of Western Australia's heritage? The answer to my questions is "No". The Government would not make these funds available, and as a result, by and large the Round House has remained closed, except for periods when a few stalwart volunteers have manned the place at weekends to allow it to stay open. These people have worked in their own time and without

payment. A collection box was installed, and even though the Round House was open for a limited period of time, in excess of \$4 000 was obtained from the contribution box. Imagine what money could have been obtained had the Round House been brought under the auspices of the State Government and the Government had provided the facilities for tourists to visit it.

The Round House is a fundamental part of the heritage of the State, and of Fremantle in particular.

Let me go on to talk about some of the other contributions which Fremantle makes to the State, but which are not recognised in any basic form. Constantly we hear self-praise for the fact that Western Australia contributes the majority of the seafood exports of the Commonwealth. In a Press statement the other day I think the figure was given of \$100 million this year in export income. According to the *Western Australian Year Book 1979*, the figure for that year was \$86 million. The crayfishing and prawning industries make up the greatest proportion of that total, and although there are other centres in Western Australia, most of the catch comes from Fremantle.

The fishing boat harbour at the Port of Fremantle was established about 1954 with Government funds—this was during the period of the Hawke Government. The fishermen set up an industry which has now grown to be one of Australia's largest export industries. Not only does this bring in so much export income for Australia, but also it is almost completely owned by Australians, by the citizens of this country. The industry has been built up since about 1954 with virtually no Government assistance whatsoever.

Now the fishermen find themselves in the situation, like many primary producers, where things are fairly tough. It is in fact a drought situation in this industry. The season has been so bad that the industry has asked for support. The people do not want handouts; they want to be regarded in the same way that any other primary industry is regarded. Other producers of export income are given every assistance by the State and Federal Governments in the earning of that income. The fishermen of Western Australia, and especially the fishermen of Fremantle, receive virtually no assistance from the Government of Western Australia. Even when the Government purported to give assistance two or three years ago by building new pens, the pens were so shoddy that they were practically useless. The current advice I have received is that the pens are

not completely finished even though the project was commenced several years ago.

The fishermen have faced very severe imposts in the way of fees. They pay licence fees to just about everyone. The State Government has increased the licence fee depending on the size of the boat from a minimum of 250 per cent to a maximum of 430 per cent. Those increases were announced last July by the Government, right at the time when the industry was in dire straits.

As well as the increase in fees, the fishing industry has to pay vastly increased costs for fuel. A fisheries journal is put out as a joint effort by the various State bodies, and in its last but one publication it indicated that the cost of fuel is rapidly making fishing, and particularly crayfishing, a marginal proposition indeed. We must take into account the depth of water and the distance that the Western Australian fishermen must travel to make their catches.

We are all aware of the rising price of fuel, and indeed, last session the Opposition made it very clear how we feel about these constant increases. The fishing industry receives no concession in regard to fuel costs. I would like to refer in this regard to the State Government's action in abolishing road maintenance tax. The State Government granted concessions to those people who were not contributing to the need for road maintenance. However, that did not happen in the case of the fishing industry. They had not been paying the road maintenance tax because the boats do not use the roads. However, the fishermen must now pay the levy that has replaced the road maintenance tax. What an absurd situation. The levy was imposed to replace road maintenance tax but it is now being imposed on people who, by definition, do not use the roads. I am not suggesting they should receive concessions for the fuel they use in their vehicles, because they must contribute for road maintenance as we all do. However, I was absolutely astounded to discover that fishermen do not receive a concession for the fuel they use in their boats.

The fishermen do not even receive the exemption that applies to members of private yacht clubs.

One of the other problems is the overculling in the industry. In answer to some questions in this place last year, it was revealed that the number of craypots held by amateurs is almost equal to the number of pots held by professional crayfishermen. I would be the last person to stop amateurs holding their licences for two pots, but I believe there is some abuse by the amateurs.

Certainly people who spend a lot of time outside the Fremantle waters tell us that there is a lot of abuse of the system.

If the crop is to be restricted, it seems to me that the restrictions should not be placed on those who earn their living in the industry. I am not in a position to suggest an easy solution to the problem; I concede that point readily. However, I suggest to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife that the matter should be kept under constant review. We are rapidly reaching the situation in which South Africa found itself a few years ago when the industry had to be closed down for a season to allow regrowth. A number of people in the industry in South Africa were bankrupted.

The meat industry, which has been a major contributor to employment in Fremantle, is now a major contributor to its level of unemployment. Only last year Anchorage Butchers (WA) closed down, and it is still closed. Robb Jetty is working at a small percentage of its capacity. The Fremantle Port Authority report was tabled in the House last week, and it contained the information that in the vicinity of 2.3 million live sheep were exported from the Port of Fremantle last year. This was a rise of 1.3 million sheep on the year before. So an extraordinary situation has developed. I am not saying there should be no live sheep exports; I am referring to the lack of planning which has occurred, and has resulted in a large number of people losing their jobs in a very short time.

I believe that is a very serious situation, about which this Government is not at all concerned, principally because the abattoirs are situated in the safe Labor seats of Fremantle, Swan, and one or two other areas. The Government is not at all concerned about unemployment in those areas; it does not involve people who vote for the Government. The Government is not humanitarian so it does nothing about it.

The same situation applies to the State Housing Commission. It was revealed in answer to questions that there are intolerable waiting lists for people wishing to secure emergency housing in the Fremantle area. I know I am not an orphan in this situation and that my colleagues experience similar difficulties in their electorates; however, my experience is with the Fremantle electorate.

To take as an example four-bedroomed accommodation, the Minister informs us the waiting list for emergency accommodation is approximately four months. In fact, I recently had a constituent in my office who was approved for emergency accommodation 5½ months ago and who has yet to be allocated a four-bedroomed

house. It is not a question of whether there is anything wrong with her; she has been approved and has a letter to that effect, written about 5½ months ago. When she received the letter she said "Great, I am about to get a house" when in fact she did not.

I appreciate the cutbacks imposed by the Fraser Government on this State have meant there has not been an adequate house-building programme. At the same time, however, the suggestion I made about upgrading some three-bedroomed houses to four-bedroomed accommodation apparently has not met with favour because it is not the policy of the State Housing Commission.

At the same time, if funds are tight and there is a problem in the area of four-bedroomed accommodation, one of the first ways of overcoming it on the cheap would be to convert three-bedroomed accommodation to four-bedroomed accommodation. I realise there are delays and problems in the three-bedroomed accommodation area as well; however, when it comes down to people not being able to be granted emergency accommodation, something needs to be done.

Mr Laurance: In fact, on a State-wide basis, there is greater demand for smaller accommodation units, such as two-bedroomed units.

Mr PARKER: Perhaps there is more demand on a total basis; however, I believe the delays are longer in the four-bedroomed accommodation area. I realise more people want three-bedroomed and two-bedroomed accommodation. However, where there is an obvious problem, something needs to be done. When the Education Department sees a need for additional classroom accommodation, it installs a demountable classroom. I do not suggest demountable bedrooms, but something along those lines could provide a solution to the problems of some of these people. It would not be a perfect solution but it might alleviate some of their problems.

I pay credit to the State Housing Commission in putting into practice the concept of regionalisation in the opening of its magnificent new building in Fremantle; it has had a marked beneficial impact on the area. I have been delighted at some of the effects it has had, and I compliment the manager and his staff on the work they are doing. The manager is doing everything he can, particularly in the area of maintenance which is almost exclusively within his jurisdiction, to speed up transfers and to reduce waiting periods. In my area, putting

regionalisation into practice has had a major impact on the area and I applaud the State Housing Commission for its move.

Mr Laurance: Of course, it was part of State Government policy. I am pleased you acknowledged that.

Mr PARKER: I make no apologies for congratulating the State Housing Commission on this.

I want to discuss a number of other matters to do with housing. I have a number of State Housing Commission flats in my electorate although, fortunately, they are not as bad as the flats in Lockridge or Bentley. However, in the short time I have been a member of this place, I have discovered that conditions in these flats seem to be deteriorating. The SHC and the Minister might say that is the fault of the tenants; however, it seems to be more a matter of social pressure.

I regularly visit flats in my electorate in an endeavour to establish community groups of tenants to act together as a tenants' group to put their position to the SHC and, more importantly, to act as community support for each other. One of the great problems of these flats is the influx and efflux of people, which provides little opportunity for a community to grow.

I have found over the last year or so that in blocks of flats where people were once quite happy to live, things are becoming intolerable due to the level of violence between children and the increase of vandalism. This may be put down to the changing nature of society. However, the State Housing Commission, in co-operation with local members, local councils, and social welfare agencies, can do something about the matter. Every encouragement should be given to the establishment of internal flat-dweller groups.

In fact, the Fremantle City Council is very anxious for the Fremantle Food Group to establish itself at the Coram Court flats. Apart from the beneficial effects of establishing that concern in the centre of Fremantle, I believe it will also have a very beneficial effect on the level of support of the residents of the flats in question. I have written to the general manager of the company, and I would commend to the Minister the submission of the Fremantle City Council.

I wish to mention now the matter of urban planning. Such problems, of course, are not restricted to the Fremantle area; however, the people of Fremantle feel quite strongly that they have been let down by the Government. The first and most obvious example of this is the removal of the Perth-Fremantle railway. I believe transport and urban planning are directly

interrelated, and the fact that the Perth-Fremantle railway has closed and no appropriate public transport now services that corridor is an indictment of this Government's policy in the urban planning transport area. I assure the Government the issue is still very much alive in my electorate, and I am sure the constituents of surrounding areas, and those who live along the railway line, remain equally upset about the decision, despite the fact it was made some time ago.

The question of public transport is directly tied in with freeway development. We have seen a situation where a responsible group of councils—the Towns of Claremont and Mosman Park and the City of Fremantle—got together and presented an interim submission on what is popularly described as the “Servetus Street issue”. These people did not go into the matter in a half-hearted manner; a great deal of time, money, and energy was spent by volunteers and others, working on these submissions.

The group asked the Government for some extension of the time limit for submissions in order that it might consult additional people. Despite the fact that this issue had been hanging around for years and that it was only a few months ago that the Government called for submissions, the Government refused to extend the date by which submissions were due.

Despite that, the councils responded by presenting the Government with an interim submission. It is the councils' stated intention to hire top consultants in Australia and, I believe, even from overseas to advise them on this matter.

People talk about the 72 houses which are due to be demolished in Servetus Street. I have every sympathy with those people. However, as the member for Fremantle, what concerns me most is the 400-odd houses which are due to go as a result of the extension of Servetus Street to the eastern by-pass. By far the greater impact of this development—which, at the moment, in the public's mind is concentrated in Servetus Street—will be in the Fremantle area. The owners of these 400 houses have been severely restricted and even those people whose houses are not at risk are very angry about the proposal because it will have the effect of putting a canyon down the middle of Fremantle and dividing into two parts what is currently a very cohesive community. I commend for the reading of members the interim submission prepared by the councils in question. Among the top experts to advise the council is Mr Nelson English, who is coming over to discuss the matter with the councils.

Mrs Craig: He has been here and has gone back.

Mr PARKER: The point is, he came after the date the Government set for submissions.

Mrs Craig: As I understand it, the councils have a report and are meeting towards the end of this week. Today is the day I was told I would have the report.

Mr PARKER: The fact remains that the councils were not allowed sufficient time to put in a submission and to talk with Mr English prior to that date.

The point I was going to make is that some of the research which has already been done on the level of planning for roads elsewhere in the world indicates that anticipated traffic levels put forward by Government agencies invariably are vastly overrated, and that when the effluxion of time leads to the projected date, the traffic levels are found to be nowhere near those estimated years ago. In fact, in some cases in Britain, where freeway development has been proposed, it has been found that traffic levels have been less than 50 per cent of projected levels. The councils concerned strongly believe that is the case in respect of this proposed freeway.

Another issue I wish to discuss, which also has to do with urban planning, is in regard to interference with council decisions. Once again, I refer only to my own electorate; no doubt, other members have experienced similar problems. For some considerable time, the Town of East Fremantle has been developing a new town planning scheme, as it is required by Statute to do. It has developed that scheme—I do not wish to interfere with any of the items or amendments it contains—with the support of the vast majority of ratepayers of the Town of East Fremantle. The scheme proposed the banning of high-rise development. It provided for single dwelling and duplex dwelling development in certain areas and multiple units of up to seven or eight units occupying not more than two storeys in various other parts of the municipality.

The council sent the proposed scheme to the Minister, and what did it discover? Two of the areas of that scheme, one of which the council had originally zoned for single units and duplex development only, were excised from the plan in a small, very obvious section around what must be the most valuable piece of real estate in Fremantle, and the Minister suggested the land within that excision ought to be available for high-rise development.

Mrs Craig: The council was asked to consider it for high density. The words "high rise" were not mentioned. You should not confuse the two.

Mr PARKER: It is true there is a difference between the two terms. However, as I understand the wording of the Minister's request, it would allow high-rise development as well as high-density development within the area.

Mrs Craig: It depends on the plot ratios.

Mr Pearce: Do you deny it?

Mr PARKER: The vast majority of the area concerned is owned by a gentleman by the name of Oscar Strang. It is one of the few remaining areas of East Fremantle which has not been developed. The land contains one house, and Mr Strang also owns all the land around it.

Three weeks ago, the council called a meeting of ratepayers to discuss the matter and, with the exception of two or three people, the meeting was unanimous in its support of the council's proposed zoning for the area. One person who opposed the council was the defeated Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Fremantle (Mr McLeod) while another was Mr Strang, who travelled down from Victoria Park to tell us why he should be able to develop his land in that manner.

As I mentioned, the area is a prime piece of real estate in the Fremantle area, and it is easy to understand why Mr Strang wants to develop it. However, the meeting of three weeks ago was attended by what I would say would be the highest proportion of ratepayers ever to attend such a meeting anywhere in Australia, and the people were strong in their support of the council, and in opposition to the Minister's request. The same attitude was expressed to some of the Minister's other suggestions.

I accept there is a limited role for intervention in council affairs where the planning of the overall State is concerned; that is the job of the State Government. If there are local municipalities which are thought to be acting to the detriment of the whole State, the Government has the power on a discretionary basis to protect the community by way of ministerial intervention.

In this instance we have a situation in which the residents do not want it and the council does not want it. Indeed, the only people who do want it are the property developers. Why then is the Minister recommending it?

Mrs Craig: I have not recommended it. I have asked them to consider it. During the public submission period all those people have an opportunity to make their submissions and they

will be considered by the council, the board, and me.

Mr PARKER: However, during the public submission period they were required to present for public scrutiny the Minister's revised town planning scheme, not the original one.

Mrs Craig: That is correct.

Mr PARKER: I believe that suggests something to the people.

Mrs Craig: That is far more honest than asking them to amend it after the public participation period. They have not had an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to that. We give them the opportunity and find out whether or not it is accepted.

Mr PARKER: If the Minister is saying that now that the public of East Fremantle have so clearly demonstrated—it could not have been demonstrated more clearly than it was at that particular meeting, as I hope the Minister's people reported—

Mrs Craig: I have asked for submissions so that I may assess them.

Mr PARKER: Now it is so clearly demonstrated what the people of East Fremantle want, as the public submission period has expired, I hope the Minister will take into account the submissions of those people.

Mrs Craig: Every submission will be considered.

Mr PARKER: I hope the Minister will follow the wishes expressed by the vast majority of the people of East Fremantle—in fact more than 90 per cent of them expressed this view—and by the council of the Municipality of East Fremantle.

The other matter on which I wish to comment briefly in the time available to me concerns urban planning in relation to shopping centres. This has been discussed many times.

Mr Davies: It has been discussed since 1972.

Mr PARKER: I do not believe the Government is acting for the ultimate benefit of the people who will be shopping in those centres, for the benefit of people generally, and certainly it is not acting for the benefit of the retailers who are operating in places such as Fremantle and who have to face competition from centres in other areas; for example, the Booragoon Shopping Centre.

We have a situation in which the MRPA sets down shopping centre guidelines and on the basis of those guidelines which it has adopted—presumably it did not do so for the sake of people's health, but because it believed there

was a need for them—the existing Booragoon Shopping Centre was just over the allowable level for the projected population in the year 2000 for the City of Melville. It exceeded the guidelines on present-day population numbers, but it was just about the right amount for the projected population for the area for the year 2000.

However, the Minister ignored those guidelines and approved a shopping centre which will be severely detrimental.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! The member's time has expired.

MR CRANE (Moore) [8.48 p.m.]: I should like to support the motion moved by the member for Clontarf in replying to the Governor's Speech and I shall highlight some of the points raised in it.

It is encouraging to note that a sound economy is indicated.

Mr B. T. Burke: Where have you been?

Mr CRANE: We believe this is the situation and the economy will remain sound as long as we take advantage of the opportunities which present themselves.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about interest rates? Are you worried about those?

Mr CRANE: On many occasions we have said this is not really a land of milk and honey unless one is prepared to work. However, it is a land of opportunity and the opportunities are out there if we want to take advantage of them. If we do not take advantage of them, we should not grizzle afterwards. I believe the economy can work to our advantage if we take the opportunity to make it do so.

Mr B. T. Burke: Mr Fabulous was not too successful was it?

Mr CRANE: Mr Fabulous had nothing to do with me.

Mr B. T. Burke: It had something to do with your party. You could not raffle a duck in a pub on Saturday night!

Several members interjected.

Mr CRANE: The Governor's Speech referred to Loan Council allocations. Of course, these allocations are of great concern to people in Western Australia. The value in real terms of Loan Council allocations has been reduced considerably, as has been outlined here already.

Of course, as a result, we wonder whether we are getting the representation we ought to have in Canberra. Some people may feel this is an unfair statement for me to make, but it would seem that it is necessary for the Premier to go to Canberra and battle for us despite the fact that we are

supposed to be represented by Federal members of Parliament who should do this.

Mr H. D. Evans: He caused the trouble. What about his new federalism?

Mr CRANE: We are told new senators are elected to the Senate to represent the State of Western Australia and not just the parties to which they belong. I refer here to parties of all political colours. When it is clear Loan Council allocations are being reduced in real terms, we ask ourselves—

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! The member for Kalgoorlie will be extremely sorry if he continues to behave in that manner, as will some other members.

Mr CRANE: As far as the Loan Council allocations are concerned, we have been short-changed this year and this has had a detrimental effect on the State. It is my prerogative, and the prerogative of everyone else, to remind those who represent us in Canberra that they are paid to do just that.

Mr B. T. Burke: Who in particular? Name names.

Mr CRANE: It might be easier to bear in mind the members who do in fact represent us.

Mr H. D. Evans: Name parties!

Mr B. T. Burke: Name who does. Put your money where your mouth is!

Mr CRANE: It is not a case of my putting my money where my mouth is. I am talking about the people who represent us.

Mr B. T. Burke: You have branded them all.

Mr CRANE: I agree with the member, and if some of them show they do not deserve to be branded, I will apologise publicly.

Mr B. T. Burke: You have branded all of them.

Mr CRANE: How often do we hear the members who represent us in Canberra say what they think about us? The Perth Airport is a disgrace.

Mr Pearce: I agree with that.

Mr CRANE: Who should bring that matter to the attention of the Federal Government?

The possible reduction in air fares was referred to in this House many times before Federal members of Parliament did anything about it.

Mr B. T. Burke: Everyone says that Chaney does a good job.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! I draw the attention of members to the fact that

the member for Moore is endeavouring to make a speech. If members wish to interject occasionally the member may or may not wish to reply. However, it is grossly unfair to a member when there is an incessant series of interjections at a time when he is making his speech. I ask members to take cognizance of what I am saying and give the member for Moore a fair go.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr CRANE: It would appear that the members to whom I refer have not been giving us the service to which we are entitled, because we have not seen any results.

Mr Davies: And those members are all Federal members of various political colours.

Mr CRANE: If the cap fits, let the member wear it.

Mr B. T. Burke: Let us withdraw their endorsements.

Mr CRANE: The Governor's Speech referred to a committee which would examine State taxation matters.

Mr Davies: It has all been done before.

Mr CRANE: A degree of concern has been expressed in the Wanneroo area in regard to State taxation and rates. The value of land has increased appreciably in rural areas in recent years and the issue of rates concerns country people.

I do not refer only to land tax valuations, but concern is evident also in areas which have a large number of hobby farms. Whilst we like to see people enjoying what they consider to be a freer lifestyle on hobby farms, it must be admitted that they have created a number of problems as a result of the high land valuations which have occurred. There has been a detrimental effect on what we would term the "genuine" farmers in those areas.

Mr B. T. Burke: How would you tell the difference?

Mr CRANE: I would not expect the member for Balcatta to know the difference.

Mr B. T. Burke: Come on!

Mr CRANE: I believe most people would know the difference between a hobby farmer and a genuine farmer.

Mr Pearce: Are you a hobby farmer or a genuine farmer?

Mr B. T. Burke: How many hobbies do you get to the acre?

Mr CRANE: Over the last few years since I have been a member of this place I would say I have been a hobby farmer.

Mr B. T. Burke: Would you say that you have a big hobby?

Mr CRANE: No, I would not.

A number of problems have been created in rural areas where hobby farms are situated. Attention should be paid to land valuations in this regard and I suggest the committee which will examine State taxation and charges should take this matter into account. Increased land valuations have been brought about in rural areas as a result of the demand for small properties for hobby farms.

Mr B. T. Burke: Have you made a submission?

Mr CRANE: Yes, I have.

Mr B. T. Burke: And did you make that point?

Mr CRANE: I have made that point so many times in this place that, if the honourable member's memory serves him well—obviously it does not—he would know the answer.

Mr B. T. Burke: Doesn't it worry you that nobody ever takes any notice of you?

Mr O'Connor: Give him a go.

Mr CRANE: In his Speech the Governor referred also to the iron ore industry in the Pilbara and the fact that other industries will be commencing in that area this year. This is most important to the economy of this State and it should be encouraged.

Reference was made to the fact that perhaps, as a result of increased industrial activity in the Pilbara, electric railways will be installed. This brings me to my belief that more electric railways should be constructed in the metropolitan area, particularly north of Perth.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear! Everyone should have an electric railway.

Mr Coyne interjected.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! My patience is being tried. If the member for Murchison-Eyre wishes to join the barrage of interjections, he should do so from his own seat.

Mr Pearce: He should leave it!

The ACTING SPEAKER: If the member for Gosnells wants to take the leave of the House, I should like to point out he may have to do so very shortly.

Mr CRANE: I should like to bring another matter to the attention of the House whilst referring to railways and related issues and it is a matter which is causing concern in a large part of my electorate. I refer to the Government's policy which involves central accounting and removing

some of the station masters from various stations. In particular, I refer to two stations in my area; they are Watheroo and Bolgart.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about the economics of the situation?

Mr CRANE: These station masters serve a useful purpose for people who live in country areas. Contrary to what some people may say, they do their jobs and provide a service which is required there.

Mr Pearce: It is strange that the trains are not running anymore.

Mr CRANE: Therefore, I believe the Government is remiss on the one hand in claiming to be decentralising, whilst on the other hand it is centralising the accounting system.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you saying you have no confidence in this Government?

Mr CRANE: I have a great deal of confidence in a number of people, but I recognise that not only I, but also everyone else is capable of making mistakes.

Mr B. T. Burke: Oh no! You are drawing a long bow now! You are perfect aren't you?

Several members interjected.

Mr CRANE: Agriculture continues to play an important part in the economy of this State. It has done so for many years and will continue to do so in the future, despite the droughts which have been experienced over the last few years.

Mr B. T. Burke: They say Australia rides on the sheep's back.

Mr CRANE: It was interesting to note the contribution made by the agricultural industry has increased over the last few years, despite the effects of the drought, and I am sure better seasons will return to us. As a result, agriculture will be able to make an even greater contribution, despite the increased costs being faced at the present time.

Many problems are being experienced in agricultural areas, such as the encroachment of salt. It is a very serious matter and one could describe it as a "cancerous growth" in farming areas. It is of great concern to us all and so it should be. We should not hesitate to assist in helping to alleviate this spreading problem.

Mr B. T. Burke: What protective measures can you put forward? It seems to have defied everyone else.

Mr CRANE: There are plenty of protective methods to put forward and whilst I would not claim there is one method which will be a panacea for all, I believe we should apply the methods

which are most practicable for that particular area. It has been indicated that in a flat country, a deep drain system is of tremendous advantage and on the hilly areas and where salt is breaking out on the slopes, contours will help. One of the most important aspects of the control of salt is the control of stock also; of course, to do this properly one needs fences and fencing costs a great deal of money.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about WISALTS?

Mr CRANE: However, money is a great problem for all industries and that is why any such plan should be a tax deduction.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is a tax deduction now. Salt reclamation is tax deductible.

Mr Pearce: Are you going to make a statement on the Whittington system?

Mr CRANE: I have already spoken of that system and many others. I do not condemn or praise any particular system. I do not think one system is the answer for all. The Whittington system was devised many years ago, even before Mr. Whittington was born.

Mr Pearce: Why did you vote against the Whittington system in the past?

Mr CRANE: No person can claim to be the pioneer of these systems because they are really extensions of experiments which were done many years ago.

The member for Fremantle did mention our abattoir system and the killing of sheep here as opposed to sending them overseas. I believe he would have two bob each way at the moment. He mentioned also that the Government is not concerned about the retrenchment of people in our abattoirs.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr CRANE: He said this because Midland is a strong Labor area as are the electorates of Swan and Fremantle. He did not suggest that Katanning is a strong Labor area and many sheep are killed there. It would seem as is the case with many people in this place, the member has chosen a particular point to suit his argument. I believe we have to be fair when we consider such matters.

The export of live sheep is of tremendous advantage to the rural industry and the State generally. We do not seem to be able to get the message across to people that most of the animals which are exported live are not suitable for the home trade.

Mr Davies: That is not true.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Having just reminded the member for Murchison-

Eyre, I now take the trouble to remind the member for Ascot that he has been making a series of interjections while he is not sitting in his seat. I would have thought an experienced member, such as he, would have more appreciation of the decorum of this House.

Mr B. T. Burke: You don't remember what you were talking about now.

Mr CRANE: I would have forgotten more about the export of live animals than the member for Balga could ever know.

Point of Order

Mr BRYCE: I know the member concerned finds it clearly offensive that the member for Moore continually refers to him as the member for Balga. The member for Moore has referred to the member for Balcatta as the member for Balga on no fewer than six occasions during the last four or five minutes.

Mr CRANE: I take the point, and I offer my apologies to the member for Balcatta.

Mr B. T. Burke: Accepted; carry on son.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Debate Resumed

Mr CRANE: It is imperative that we recognise the importance of the rural industry in this State and the export of live animals when we consider the economy.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRANE: I could ask the member who interjected to elaborate but I know he is an honest man and I would not put him in an embarrassing position with his colleagues.

Last week, I was privileged to inspect the largest shipment of live sheep from Western Australia. This shipment was on the *Danny F3* and I witnessed the loading of this ship in Fremantle. The ship is capable of carrying a load of 110 000 sheep.

Mr B. T. Burke: Was that the one that caught fire?

Mr CRANE: I was interested to learn of the advances which have been made with live sheep carriers.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Balcatta and the member for Gosells have been constantly interrupting and on this occasion I will read Standing Order No. 150 which states—

No Member shall converse aloud or interrupt or make any noise or disturbance whilst any Member is orderly debating, or whilst any bill, order, or other matter is being read or opened; and in case of such noise and disturbance being persisted in after the Speaker has called to order, the Speaker shall call upon the member making such disturbance or interruption by name, and every such person will incur the displeasure and censure of the House, and shall be considered highly disorderly.

I will just warn the member for Gosnells and other members who have interjected that their interjections are highly disorderly. It is regrettable that one has to advise members of Standing Order No. 150 and I would ask the House at least to give some courtesy to the member for Moore.

Mr CRANE: I was quite interested in the loading of this ship which was taking such a large cargo. I was interested, not only from the point of view of a parliamentarian in this State and the responsibilities I have as such to industries—such as agriculture—but also because I have been associated with sheep, and the marketing of them, for a long time.

Several members interjected.

Mr CRANE: I was most impressed with the operations involved in the loading of the ship.

Mr B. T. Burke: What will your poem be for this evening? Will it be "The Man from Snowy River"?

Mr CRANE: I notice that only one sheep was maltreated during the loading of the sheep and this was done by a truckie. As anyone who has had anything to do with sheep would know, the head of the sheep is inevitably at the wrong end and it is often necessary to turn the animal around. The conditions for loading were excellent and there were enough people to look after the sheep during their 13-day voyage—each person was responsible for 2 000 sheep. We could be very proud of the concern the shipping companies have shown in the exporting of these animals.

Several members interjected.

Mr B. T. Burke: You only saw what they let you see.

Mr CRANE: I saw that ship from stern to bow and from top to bottom and I observed that the sheep were provided with water and feed containers.

Mr Pearce: Did they tell you about the loss of Australian employment as a result of live sheep going overseas?

Mr CRANE: There was no loss of employment because, as I said before, the sheep could not be killed and sold here; they were not suitable for home trade. These sheep are not suitable for trade here, as mutton. I am not saying we should not kill mutton here; we should kill whatever is required.

Mr Pearce: Conservationists?

Mr CRANE: Union interference over the years has made it difficult for the abattoirs.

Mr B. T. Burke: I think it was Whitlam's fault.

Mr CRANE: I know what it is all about.

Mr Pearce: You blamed the unions.

Mr CRANE: I do not mind unions at all.

Mr Davies: You have been one member in this place who has constantly attacked unions.

Mr CRANE: I have attacked the irresponsible attitude of some of them. I have some very good friends who are strong union men.

Mr B. T. Burke: The meat companies—the middle men—are killing the farmers. You sold out Country Party ideals years ago. Liberal lackey!

Mr CRANE: With our agricultural policy we recognise a need for a better way of life for communities living in the country. The Governor's Speech made some reference to water supplies and improvements which will be made in the Pilbara and other areas.

Last week, the member for Mt. Marshall spoke of a water scheme which is of vital importance to agricultural areas, especially the area we both serve. I wish to refer in particular to this Agaton project. There always has been a shortage of water in many areas of my electorate as well as in the areas of the Mt. Marshall electorate. The present comprehensive water scheme has not sufficient cover for these areas and we have been endeavouring, for many years, to have our scheme augmented with a pipeline from the Agaton basin linking up to the comprehensive water scheme at Pithara. It would then serve the Shires of Moora, and the towns of Miling, Bindi Bindi and other areas.

One of the greatest problems we have had to face with this project is the immense cost of this scheme. It has been necessary for this State to seek the assistance of the Commonwealth Government but it is unfortunate that this assistance has not been forthcoming. Many representations have been made but they have been refused. At the moment a proposition is being considered and one suggestion which has been made is that it is cheaper to supply on-farm water as opposed to comprehensive scheme water.

Efforts have been made to make a case which would show that the on-farm water supply is not satisfactory.

Whilst I acknowledge the work done by the Department of Agriculture I do not always agree with the logic of its officers. The idea, in itself, is very good and I believe we should encourage all farmers, and the Department of Agriculture, to devise ways and means of conserving every drop of water which falls in the rural areas.

Efforts should be made to conserve water in country areas. The Department of Agriculture claims this can be done by lining the bottom of dams with clay or with a chemical treatment and providing roaded catchments, but it has not proved successful.

Whilst it is claimed in some circles this is successful, I would deny it is successful at all for the reasons I will outline. Firstly, the dams which we inspected recently at Cleary, where these experiments are being undertaken, clearly showed they are not as successful as they would need to be if they were to take the place of a comprehensive scheme.

Another reason that this scheme is not successful relates to my own instance in the area of Bindi Bindi this last season. I enjoyed a very good season this year; I grew a 30-bushel wheat crop and a 35-bushel barley crop, which would suggest I am not in a drought area. As a matter of fact, that is the best crop I have had in all my life. I did not grow oats this year. Adjacent to where those crops were yielding at such a high rate I have a key dam which I constructed in the early 1970s according to the requirement of the Department of Agriculture. I also have a roaded catchment area which again was constructed to the specifications of the department to fill the dam.

Whilst I had sufficient rain to grow a record crop my dam was empty at Christmas, which proves that even if we could make these dams hold water, they cannot take the place of an assured water supply unless sufficient rain falls in the area.

Also, unless the rain falls in the proper manner—that is, very heavily—insufficient run-off occurs for the roaded catchments to fill the dams, as was evidenced in my circumstances. I would say that puts the finish to the argument that on-farm water supplies can be successful in providing an assured water supply.

Another point should be made; which is, that country towns suffer seriously from lack of water, and on-farm water supplies will not help country towns in any way at all. They cannot help country

towns, because they cannot feed the towns with water. Therefore, I believe we have a very strong case, and I am hopeful that in the next few weeks the submission made as a result of the joint efforts of the shires concerned will be successful in persuading the Federal Government to come to the assistance of the Agaton basin.

In addition large deposits of kaolin are known to exist in the Gabbin area. I understand these deposits are amongst the largest in the world. However, they require a tremendous amount of water for their development. I believe the Agaton basin, when tapped and pumped through the comprehensive scheme, would be able to serve the kaolin deposits and allow a mining industry to be established there. I am sure this could be and should be another added attraction in respect of funding, and it is a matter which should be pursued most vigorously by us all.

I noticed that in his address the Governor mentioned that Western Australia is the leading State in the fishing industry, with an income this year of \$102 million. The member for Fremantle mentioned the importance of the fishing industry in his area, and I would refer to the importance of the industry to the State and to my electorate.

I am concerned that the facilities available to the fishing fleets leave a lot to be desired, and I am concerned that we as a Government have allocated \$2 million this year for the establishment of fishing boat harbours and facilities, when in fact we need much more than that.

Recently I attended a meeting at Jurien Bay where, as members will recall, I have endeavoured for a period of years to have fishing boat facilities established, only to be told there is insufficient money.

Mr Davies: What Government activity should be cut down in order to provide that?

Mr CRANE: I was told insufficient money is available, as only \$2 million has been allocated and some of that is already committed to a fishing boat facility at Esperance. I believe the Government should increase the amount of money it makes available to the fishing industry, in return for the contribution the industry makes to the State. Therefore, I can only reiterate that I believe the fishermen and the industry itself are deserving of a considerable amount more than has been spent on them in return for the service they provide.

Mr H. D. Evans: What about the \$1 million a year you are wasting at Midland?

Mr Davies: What Government activity would you reduce to help the fishermen?

Mr CRANE: The member for Fremantle raised the matter of the pen fees charged to fishermen. I do not know the conditions at the fishing boat harbour at Fremantle, but the member for Fremantle mentioned some figures which could be misleading if not properly understood. He said the charges were increased by 400 per cent; that is a tremendous increase, but it must be related to a sum of money. Whilst some people will not like me for saying this, I will say it nevertheless: I believe as a Government we have not been charging sufficient for the facilities provided for the fishing fleet. There is no such thing as a free feed, and I believe the industry itself must be prepared to make some contribution for the provision of facilities which cannot be provided wholly from the public purse.

Therefore, I believe the Government was not remiss in increasing pen fees for the fishing fleet at Fremantle; the mistake it made was in not making the fees high enough in the first instance.

At the meeting at Jurien Bay the fishermen expressed in no uncertain terms that they did not feel the Government should supply facilities for nothing. They said they were prepared to pay a considerable sum of money for the use of a secure anchorage or pens where they could keep their boats moored during the winter months. That is a most correct attitude for them to adopt. I will not name the figure now, but it can be obtained easily. The fishermen had no hesitation in saying they would be happy to pay the proposed fee, which would be considerably more than the fee presently charged at Fremantle and other Government facilities.

That came from the fishermen themselves, and I believe it is a point of which the Government should take notice; because although the fishermen do not expect us to do this for nothing, they do expect us to do it for them. They are prepared to pay their reasonable share, because many savings are involved for them. When a boat is swinging on the hook the premium for insurance is considerably higher than it is for a boat moored in a secure anchorage or tied up in a pen. There is a considerable saving in that respect.

Many other savings are involved. There is the security of being able to sleep better at night; and also there is the convenience of not having to row out to the boat in a dinghy. A secure harbour provides many advantages, and most practical fishermen appreciate the advantages and do not deny them. They just want the opportunity to enjoy those benefits.

I would like to make another point, and I am glad the Minister for Health is in the Chamber. I

have written to him on this matter, which is a source of concern to me. I cannot elaborate on the extent of the problem, but it does exist. I am referring to the problem experienced in respect of speech therapy in some country areas.

Here again, my electorate borders the electorate of Mt. Marshall, and the member for Mt. Marshall is well aware of this problem because we have both been working on it in respect of students at schools in Moora and Dalwallinu. The children who live in country areas are as much entitled to consideration in respect of this problem as are those children who live in more populated areas.

I appreciate the budgetary problems we are experiencing, but I would ask the Minister please to look again at the possibility of placing a speech therapist in the country who would serve the schools of Moora, Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, and the surrounding areas. This is something which is required and something which would be of great benefit to the unfortunate children who suffer with speech problems.

I will write to the Minister again on this matter and I hope in his wisdom he will place a speech therapist in the area to cater for those needs.

It was not my intention to speak for very long tonight, and the only reason I carried on was because of the continued interjections I received. I thought to myself that I had 45 minutes, so I might as well use them.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr CRANE: If the interjections continue I give an assurance that I can continue for another seven minutes.

Several members interjected.

Mr CRANE: Obviously members opposite want me to keep going.

Mr Pearce: Indeed we do.

Mr CRANE: I propose to lend my support to the Address-in-Reply.

Mr Pearce: Can I ask you a question?

Mr CRANE: No, the member cannot ask me a question because I am on my feet and I have the right to speak. I hope he does not mind my being so blunt. He may ask a question, but he will not get an answer.

Mr Pearce: That's the story of your life.

Mr CRANE: I conclude my remarks by adding my support to the comment made in the Governor's address in respect of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his recent engagement to Lady Diana Spencer. I offer to the couple my congratulations and those of the people I represent. I believe it is appropriate to take this opportunity to do that—

Mr Carr: Are you going to the wedding?

Mr CRANE: —on behalf of those loyal subjects whom it is my privilege to serve.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Skidmore.

House adjourned at 9.28 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HOSPITALS

Bed-Population Ratio

140. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many private hospital beds are there in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the ratio of beds per 1 000 population when private hospital beds are taken into account?
- (3) Is it likely that the number of hospital beds approved under the terms of the hospital cost-sharing agreement will be exceeded when the new 86-bed ward at Fremantle Hospital and the podium and ward block at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital are opened?
- (4) How many beds will there be in the new section of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and when will opening occur?
- (5) Is the completion of the podium and ward block at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital behind schedule; if so, what is the reason for the delay and what was the scheduled date of completion?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 1 712.
- (2) 6.83 (including 400 beds at Repatriation General Hospital and all private hospital beds).
- (3) Yes—if all beds are opened or if no complementary closures occur.
- (4) (a) 435 plus 30 non-overnight day surgery beds.
(b) The podium and ward block will be handed over progressively from 7 September 1981.
- (5) (a) Yes.
(b) The building programme was rescheduled late last year for a variety of reasons, the main ones being—
 - (i) difficulty of timing a programme of this scale;
 - (ii) changes brought about through medical/technical reasons.
- (c) Originally scheduled date of completion was 28 October 1980, changed to 22 May 1981, then to 7 September 1981.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Proposed Changes

141. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Government proposes to split the Health and Medical Services Department to streamline its operations and to get greater control over public hospitals?
- (2) Is it a fact that the Government is giving consideration to establishing a public hospitals commission and creating a new commission to control public hospitals?
- (3) If the Government is planning to change the structure of the Health and Medical Services Department, will this be done by way of legislation?
- (4) Will he make a detailed statement to the House on any proposed major changes to the public health department?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) It is proposed that the Department of Health and Medical Services be divided as to departmental responsibility and the two sections headed by the—
 - (a) Commissioner of Public Health and Medical Services;
 - (b) Commissioner of Hospital and Allied Services.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes, the Public Service Act.
- (4) When all the details of the plan are agreed upon by the Government, a statement will be made.

LAND AND PASTORAL LEASES

Foreign Ownership

142. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When was the recording of ownership to foreign individuals on title documents commenced in Western Australia?
 - (2) Since that time, how many—
 - (a) farming;
 - (b) urban;
 - (c) rural dwelling.
- properties have been acquired by foreign individuals or interests?
- (3) What area of farming land has been acquired and how many separate farming properties would this involve?
 - (4) How many pastoral properties in Western Australia have been acquired by foreign interests?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) There is no legal bar to foreign ownership of real estate in Western Australia.

Other than the details recorded on each title there is no statutory register of foreign ownership. However in order to assist a Cabinet subcommittee to obtain relevant data for consideration of this question by Cabinet an informal record was commenced from 1 January 1981, in respect of transactions lodged in the Titles Office after that date.

Titles Office records do not, of course, disclose the full picture because of leasing and other types of contractual arrangements and for other reasons and, in any event, the record has not been maintained for a sufficient period to permit any accurate evaluation to be made. It is therefore not appropriate to attempt to answer the member's question in any greater detail.

- (4) The Lands Department does not maintain any specific record of foreign or overseas interest in pastoral leases.

However, it is known that there is either total or partial overseas involvement in proprietorship and/or control in seventeen pastoral leases.

In addition there are nine pastoral leases held by various mining companies some of which are believed to contain a component of overseas interests.

While in October 1980 Cabinet adopted the general philosophy of foreign ownership not being in excess of 50 per cent, it nevertheless requested the Minister for Lands to refer to it those applications where greater Australian involvement is unavailable.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Broke Inlet

143. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Who are the members of the working group which is studying Reserve No. 19787 near Broke Inlet, with a view to making recommendations on its future control and management?

- (2) On how many occasions has this working group met with regard to Reserve No. 19787?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 1. Mr D. Galloway: Department of Conservation and Environment
2. Mr R. Powell: Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
3. Dr J. Watson: National Parks Authority
4. Cr C. S. Crombie: Shire of Manjimup
5. Mr J. W. Ipsen: Manjimup, Resident
6. Cr W. R. Cooper: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
7. Mr E. G. Noakes: Augusta-Margaret River, Resident
8. Cr M. Camarri: Shire of Nannup
9. Mr R. Brockman: Nannup, Resident
10. Mr M. Dunn: Shire Clerk, Manjimup Shire Council
- (2) The group has met once and at this meeting has discussed various aspects of their task which includes consideration of the future management of reserve No. 19787.

FERTILISERS

Bounties

144. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When are the present bounties on—
(a) superphosphate;
(b) nitrogenous fertiliser;
to be removed?
- (2) Has the Western Australian Government taken any action regarding this matter with its Federal counterpart, and if so, what?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Current Commonwealth legislation provides for the continuation of—
(a) the superphosphate bounty until June 1982; and
(b) the nitrogenous fertiliser subsidy until December 1981.
- (2) The future of the superphosphate bounty is currently the subject of an inquiry by the Industries Assistance Commission and I intend that the Department of Agriculture will give evidence to that inquiry.

FARM PRODUCTION

Effect of Mining Boom

145. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware of warnings by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Deputy Federal Leader of the National Country Party that the looming mining boom could cut farm production and farm incomes because of the pressures it would place on the overseas exchange rate for the Australian dollar?
- (2) Is he also aware that Mr Sinclair said that a huge demand for capital to fuel the mining boom could leave farmers and small businessmen short of credit?
- (3) What steps are being taken by the State Government to counteract these problems?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Responsibility for exchange rate and monetary management rests with the Commonwealth Government.

The Commonwealth Government is aware of the possible ramifications of these developments. The State Government will be putting its views on these matters to the Commonwealth at the appropriate times.

MINING

Private Landowners' Rights

146. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Government intend to request His Excellency the Governor to proclaim the Mining Act 1978?
- (2) If "Yes"—

(a) when will the Act be proclaimed;

(b) does he propose to introduce prior to the proclamation of the Mining Act 1978 a Bill to amend provisions of the Act relating to mining on private land?

- (3) Is he aware of concern expressed by country people and rural organisations to the effect that private landowners' rights will be drastically reduced by the Mining Act 1978?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) As soon as the amendment to the Mining Act 1904 has been considered by the Parliament, and the necessary printing and preparation work is completed.
(b) No. The former Minister for Mines and I have both indicated that amendments would be introduced to the Parliament after a period of, say, two years, when all the provisions of the 1978 Mining Act had been tested in an operating situation, rather than responding to any advance suppositions.
- (3) I am aware of some efforts that have been made to represent the 1978 Mining Act as being a gross erosion of private landholders' rights. I do not subscribe to such a view.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Intrastate: Review

147. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the closing date for submissions to the review of internal air services and policy?
- (2) Is it intended to hold public meetings and/or to visit various parts of the State to seek the public's views on the matters being studied by the inquiry?
- (3) When will the inquiry's findings be completed?
- (4) Will they be made public?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The original closing date was 30 November 1980 but this was later extended to 31 January 1981. However, any submissions at this late stage will be considered.

- (2) Public meetings are not planned, but senior officers involved in the review will be visiting various parts of the State prior to making their findings.

I believe that discussions have already been held with most of the air service operators and a number of the major users of the State's internal airline system.

- (3) It is expected to be completed by November 1981.
- (4) The inquiry's findings will be considered by Government and the appropriate action will be taken.

INCOME TAX

Zone Allowances

148. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the State Government yet made a submission to the Commonwealth Government's inquiry into income tax zone allowances?
- (2) If so, will he table it?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The State committee has completed its work and the report is currently being prepared for submission to the Federal inquiry.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Interstate: Two-airline Agreement

149. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

Does the State Government support the continuation of the two airline agreement in its present form or in an amended form?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The State Government does not support the two airline agreement in its present form and has made representations to the Commonwealth in regard to amendments to the proposed agreement.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Leschenault Inlet

150. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to the report released on 23 January 1980 to the Waterways Commission, for a Leschenault Inlet management programme, and the then Minister for Conservation and the Environment's statement that three months would be allowed for a public study of the reports, can he advise which of the recommendations of the report have been—

- (a) completed;
- (b) implemented?

- (2) How much has the Government spent in each of the past three financial years, including the 1980-81 financial year, on clearing La Porte effluent?
- (3) Is there currently a committee examining long-term disposal methods for La Porte effluent?
- (4) When was it formed?
- (5) When will its inquiries be completed?
- (6) Who are its members?
- (7) What other studies has the Government commenced as a result of the Leschenault report?
- (8) In view of the statement on section 8.3 of the management programme report that the State Government would place before Parliament a report within the next year—1981—can he advise why this report has not been placed before Parliament?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) None of the recommendations of the report have been implemented. The public submissions to the management programme have been assessed and the document is currently being redrafted.
- (2) 1978/79 \$505 388 } Includes the cost
1979-80 \$416 614 } of the investiga-
1980-81 \$341 609 } tions undertaken.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) May 1970.
- (5) Inquiries have been completed.
- (6) Mr J. Abbott—P.W.D. Chairman
Mr R. Gorman—Government Chemical Laboratories
Mr R. Green—P.W.D.
Dr W. Andrew—P.W.D.

Dr D. Hancock—Department Fisheries and Wildlife

Mr E. Biggs—Geological Survey

Dr R. Field—Department Conservation and Environment

Dr P. Murphy—Department of Resources Development

Mr R. Noble—Laporte Australia Ltd.

- (7) Public Works Department have investigated maintenance dredging proposals and reported to the Waterways Commission.

The Waterways Commission is undertaking a pesticide survey of the Preston River.

- (8) The report has been completed in draft form and is being reviewed by members of the committee prior to its submission to Government later this year.

ALUMINIUM REFINERIES

Caustic Mud Lakes

151. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Will the Government make public the results of the monitoring of lakes holding caustic mud wastes created by alumina refining since the Kwinana and Pinjarra refineries commenced operation?
- (2) Will it undertake to make public the results of all future monitoring, including monitoring of the new lakes to be constructed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The State has a wide range of information on the mud lakes and it is continuing to accumulate data. Statements have been made from time to time by Alcoa and the Government on the results of the monitoring and we will continue to do so. However, the detailed information is not in a form for release, and it does contain some confidential information from Alcoa.
- (2) The results of future monitoring will be reported on from time to time. If the member has some more specific question, then I may be able to provide the information for him by correspondence.

MINING

Limestone: Canning River

152. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many objections have been made against an application to dredge for limestone in the Canning River?
- (2) Has the application yet come before him?
- (3) If so, when will he make a decision on it?
- (4) Will it be referred to Cabinet?
- (5) What procedures exist for notifying the Swan River Management Authority of applications to use the river for non-aquatic purposes?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) 58.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not known at this stage.
- (5) Where applications for mining tenements on reserved land—which includes navigable waters—are concerned, these are referred to the authority in whom control of the reserve is vested.

RADIOACTIVITY

Waste: Disposal

153. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is the decision to accept low-level radioactive waste from Singapore a precedent for Western Australia to be a dumping ground for nuclear waste?
- (2) In view of there being no known method of safely disposing of radioactive waste, how can he give an assurance that the waste could be disposed of without any problems?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) No.

- (2) The disposal of radioactive waste produced, for example, by nuclear power stations involves sophisticated safety procedures, including special and separate sites. There is no comparison between this material and that presently in Singapore, and it is both misleading and erroneous to make any comparison. As I have already indicated, I see the disposal of the Singapore materials as a minor issue. Material with similar levels of radioactivity are being dealt with on a regular basis, without public danger or concern, at many places in Australia.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Cockburn Sound

154. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the need to rectify problems created by the pollution of Cockburn Sound, can he be specific about when a decision will be made on whether to go ahead with a proposed pipeline to treat effluent from Woodman Point?
- (2) In view of the Cockburn Sound report being completed in October 1979, what are the reasons for delays in Government action on its recommendations?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) There have been no delays as such, as the very complex engineering and environmental studies necessary to establish an alternative outfall have been proceeding as fast as practicable and are planned for completion by December 1981 at which time the Government should be in a position to make a decision.

I invite the member's attention to a Press release on the subject on 23 March 1981—copy of which I shall request permission to table.

In particular, I invite his attention to the work being done by industry, as distinct from this pipeline project, which is for a community sewerage facility.

The Press release was tabled (see paper No. 129).

HOUSING

Dianella

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

- (1) What stage has been reached in the preparation and approval of the composite plan for the proposed Northwood Drive and associated subdivision in Dianella?
- (2) When is it likely that he will be able to provide me with a copy of the plan?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Following the Town Planning Board's approval of the Northwood Drive alignment, the commission has had regular liaison with the City of Stirling and the Town Planning Board, with a view to having a composite plan for the area finalised as quickly as possible. Interested local residents have made practical suggestions to assist in formulating the plan, and the commission has included those which are suitable to the design. The plan is now nearing completion and will shortly be submitted to the City of Stirling and the Town Planning Board for their final approval.
- (2) I will ensure that a copy of the plan is provided to the member following its acceptance.

EDUCATION

School Book Assistance Scheme

156. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many applications were received for grants under the Education Department school book assistance scheme for the 1981 school year?
- (2) How many grants were made in response to these applications?
- (3) How do the figures for applications and grants made compare with similar figures for the 1978, 1979, and 1980 school year?
- (4) What was the value of the individual grants made?
- (5) What income level and other considerations were taken into account in deciding on eligibility for these grants?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) The scheme is administered by the schools who determine eligibility. The schools in turn make a block claim for recoup to the department. Claims from schools are still being received.

(2) As above.

(3) The only information available for comparison is actual expenditure, 1980 school year \$208 924. Other years based on financial year—

1977-78 \$122 576

1978-79 \$133 575

1979-80 \$208 344

(4) This assistance is not a fixed amount and ranges between \$40 and \$85 over the various schools, depending on individual school booklist values.

(5) 1981 income level \$120, plus adjustment for dependents—

Spouse \$7

1st child \$5

Other children \$4 each.

ANIMALS

Dog Act

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

(1) Advertising to her answer to question 1564 of 1980 relevant to the Dog Act, what was the nature of the promised decision regarding amendments to the Dog Act due to have been made prior to this parliamentary sitting?

(2) When does she anticipate reaching a decision on approval or otherwise for a proposed new City of Stirling by-law requiring dogs to be on a leash at all times in streets, shopping centres, reserves, and car parks?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) I have considered the various proposals for amendment to the Dog Act. Several of these proposals are quite far reaching and I believe warrant careful examination before any decision is made to proceed with amending legislation. I have therefore decided to appoint a committee comprising representatives of organisations which have expertise and an involvement in these matters to undertake a detailed examination of the proposed amendments.

(2) I hope to be able to advise the City of Stirling in the very near future.

HEALTH

Speech Therapy

158. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Has the critical analysis of the speech therapy report referred to in his answer to question 1566 of 1980 been completed?

(2) What stage has been reached in discussions between senior officers of his department and officers from other departments of ways of improving speech therapy services?

(3) How long is it likely to be before concrete proposals arising from these discussions will be announced?

Mr YOUNG replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The officers recognised that whilst there may be unmet needs in speech therapy services, there would be very great difficulty in improving the services given the current financial restraints.

(3) There may be scope for a limited expansion of services in the near future, but there is little hope of any short-term major increase.

LITTER

No-deposit, no-refill Drink Bottles

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

(1) Is the Government concerned about the increasing number of no-deposit, no-refill bottles of all sizes being used as soft drink containers, which seem likely to add to litter problems in the community?

(2) If "Yes", what action, if any, is being considered to deal with this potential problem?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Government has taken a close interest in the subject. However, the evidence does not suggest any need for concern at present. A sample survey conducted by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council indicated that there had been a decrease of 46 per cent in the number of litter items between 1976 and 1980. Over the same period, the volume of litter decreased by 67 per cent in the country and 82 per cent in the metropolitan area.

- (2) No action is under consideration.

EDUCATION

Special School

160. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the difficulties which have confronted the Koondoola special school for the physically handicapped in its attempts to obtain land in the Wanneroo area to establish a farm school?
- (2) Has he received any special approaches from any source for the Government to grant land to the Education Department for the purpose of allowing the school to establish a farm school?
- (3) What action does the Government intend to take in response to any such request?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Shire President, Shire of Wanneroo, in a letter dated 18 March 1981 requested the Government to assist the Koondoola Special School in its endeavours to establish a farm school.
- (3) A suitable site has been located and will be made available for the establishment of a farm school.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

School Excursions

161. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why has the MTT found it necessary to require schools to give nine working days—virtually two full school weeks'—notice when ordering buses for excursions and three working days' notice of cancellations with penalties of \$10 for non-compliance and \$8 for cancellations?
- (2) Is he aware of the difficulties there are for schools in complying with these requirements in terms of the delays involved in obtaining the necessary information from parents and children?
- (3) Is he also aware of the difficulties involved for many schools due to the fact that only 80-seater buses are available for school excursions when often such excursions need to be organised for 30 to 40 children?
- (4) If the MTT is aware of such problems, what consideration is being given to improving the situation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The MTT needs seven working days' notice from clients ordering buses for charter but taking into account weekends this becomes in effect nine days. This period is needed to make the many necessary adjustments to drivers' shifts and to comply with the current drivers' award which requires the trust to give three days' notice of any changes to shifts. Nevertheless the trust makes every endeavour to accommodate late bookings from schools without any additional charge.

One day's notice is all that is needed for cancellations. The only time a cancellation fee is applied is when the trip is cancelled on the day of the charter.

- (2) It has not been apparent that schools are having any particular problems in complying with the trust's requirements.
- (3) The trust's buses are 41 to 45-seaters. It has no 80-seater buses.
- (4) Answered by (2).

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Builders' Registration Board

162. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is the Builders' Registration Board undertaking a campaign to discourage the operations of owner-builders?
- (2) Has the board circularised registered builders advising them of their possible deregistration if they work for owner-builders?
- (3) Has there been any approach by the board to lending institutions urging them not to approve loans to owner-builders?
- (4) If "No" to (1), (2), and (3), what is the policy of the board to owner-builders?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) Not to my knowledge.
- (4) The board ensures that satisfactory building standards are maintained and there has not been any recent change in its policy towards owner-builder applications.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

WA Council on Aging

163. Mr WILSON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has he received any approach from the WA Council on Aging for a special grant to enable the council to maintain its level of operations?
- (2) What is the present annual contribution to the council from the State Government and the amount of any further assistance requested?
- (3) How does the present State Government grant to the council compare to grants from other State Governments to councils on aging?
- (4) Is he aware that the council has had to dispense with full-time staff because of its financial difficulties?
- (5) What additional assistance is the Government likely to offer to the council?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) In 1980-81 the Government has paid \$4 500 towards the council's administrative costs and is

providing \$25 000 towards the specific costs of the council's retirement planning programme.

- (b) The council has requested additional assistance; however, the details of the request are considered confidential between the organisation and the Government.
- (3) 1980-81 grants being provided by other States are—

	\$
(a) N.S.W.	Nil
(b) Queensland	10 000
(c) S.A.	20 000
(d) Tasmania	4 000
(e) Victoria	50 000
- (4) I am aware that the council's executive director has resigned.
- (5) The council's submission is still under consideration.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Driver Education Programme

164. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is being done at a Government policy level to restore and augment the driver education programme in high schools, in recognition of the urgent need to promote safe driving skills especially in the 17 to 25-year-old age group?
- (2) Has he had discussions with the Minister for Police and Traffic on this matter?
- (3) When may the Parliament expect the Government to produce proposals for a bold driver education programme with emphasis on a revamped programme for high school students?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Western Australian schools' driver education scheme has operated at an extremely high level for many years and has drawn favourable comment from outside the State. Owing to some troubles within the motor industry, the supply of cars to schools has caused some problems in the last few years. However, a committee involving the department, the National Safety Council and the industry itself is working towards alternatives which, hopefully, will enable all schools to offer the programme to its students.

EDUCATION

Student Population

165. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

What is the estimated total student population in Western Australia at Government—

- (a) pre-primary centres;
- (b) primary schools;
- (c) secondary schools;
- (d) technical colleges;
- (e) universities—Western Australia and Murdoch;
- (f) Western Australian Institute of Technology;
- (g) colleges of advanced education?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) 14 800.
- (b) 141 600.
- (c) 67 700.
- (d) 94 012.

Referring to items (e) to (g), preliminary estimates of enrolments at 30/4/81 are—

- (c) 12 318.
- (f) 11 499.
- (g) 8 178.

At 31 December 1980 there were further enrolments of 3 164 at Hedland College, Karratha College and Mt. Lawley Academy of Performing Arts.

EDUCATION

Students: Assistance

166. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) During the calendar year 1980 how much money was spent—
 - (a) from the education endowment fund;
 - (b) on the school book assistance scheme;
 - (c) on Aboriginal secondary school grants;
 - (d) on the textbook subsidy scheme?
- (2) How many students received assistance in respect of each of the items (a) to (d) referred to above?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) Amount spent from Education Endowment Trust funds for Education Endowment Grants is \$59 762.

(b) \$208 924.

(c) This scheme is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Education.

(d) \$1 032 051.

(2) (a) 380 students.

(b) Exact figures not available—estimated at approximately 4 000.

(c) Refer question (1) (c).

(d) 107 443 applications. (The application form can contain a number of students from each family.)

EDUCATION

Funding: Commonwealth and State

167. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

What were the respective amounts of—

- (a) Commonwealth;
- (b) State funding,

for—

- (i) pre-schools;
- (ii) pre primaries;
- (iii) primary schools;
- (iv) secondary schools;
- (v) technical schools,

in Western Australia during the last financial year?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Recurrent Expenditure

	State \$	Common- wealth \$	Total \$
Pre-schools	2 757 939	2 361 897	5 119 836
Pre-primary schools	4 176 366	3 104 821	7 281 187
Primary schools	144 707 006	12 467 761	157 174 767
Secondary schools	124 078 054	6 349 785	130 427 839
Special educational activities (2)	5 678 617	4 255 535	9 934 152
Advisory and resource services (3)	13 226 019	1 623 832	14 849 851
Technical colleges	43 776 169	5 456 192	49 232 361

Capital Expenditure

	State \$	Common- wealth \$	Total \$
Pre-schools	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pre-primary schools	17 380 879	9 166 135	748 587
Primary schools			11 438 696
Secondary schools			11 482 126
Special educational activities (2)			302 919
Advisory and resource services (3)	5 002 885	9 580 584	2 574 686
Technical colleges			14 583 469

- (1) Includes expenditure incurred on behalf of the Education Department by other Government departments; viz., Public Works Department, Health and Medical Services, etc.

- (2) Includes special activities of special education, Aboriginal education, agricultural education, etc.
- (3) Includes areas of library services, advisory services, curriculum development, etc.

FISHERIES

Boats: Facilities

168. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Government consider that moorings, jetties, and slipways in this State are adequate for the commercial fishing fleet?
- (2) What improvements are planned for these facilities in the coming financial year?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The facilities have been substantially improved since this Government came to office by expenditure of \$6 509 000, and improvements will continue.
- (2) Improvements planned for facilities for the fishing industry in the coming financial year involve the following—

Boat harbours

Work to continue on the provision of new harbours presently under construction at Esperance and Point Samson.

Investigations to proceed at Jurien Bay, Bunbury and Exmouth.

Jetties and pens

Pens to be completed at Emu Point, Albany.

Work to commence on a landing at Hopetoun.

Jetty at Greenhead to be completed.

Jetty at Carnarvon boat harbour to be completed.

Upgrading electrical installation at Fremantle fishing boat harbour.

Navigation aids

Completing the upgrading of aids at Greenhead and Seabird and proceeding with investigations for aids at Snag Island (Greenhead)

Slipping facilities

Replacement of winch on Esperance slipway.

AMUSEMENT PARLOURS

Control

169. Mr BRYCE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the Government's intention with respect to legislation for control of trading hours of pin ball/electronic amusement parlours?
- (2) (a) Does the Government intend to restrict the age of children who can play such machines; and
(b) if so, what will be the minimum age and how will such restrictions be policed?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) The situation is being monitored by the Police, Community Welfare and Education Departments.

Certain existing legislative provisions regulate hours of trading of amusement parlours, the presence of young children in those places, truancy, and neglect of children.

If there is a need for legislative change, it will be considered.

However, the basic responsibility is parental, and the introduction and enforcement of new provisions, if practicable, would be a poor substitute for proper parental attitudes and control.

BOATS

Rivers: Speed Limits

170. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many Harbour and Light Department boats are currently employed to police the speed limits along the various courses of the Swan and Canning Rivers systems?
- (2) How many infringement notices were issued to boat owners on the Swan and Canning Rivers systems during each of the last three calendar years?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of providing each Harbour and Light Department inspection boat including crew?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to increase these facilities for surveillance on metropolitan waterways?
- (5) Is it an offence for—
(a) juveniles to be in charge of power boats on metropolitan waterways;

(b) people under the influence of liquor to be in charge of power boats?

- (6) How many power boats were licensed in the metropolitan area during each of the last three calendar years?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Eleven patrol vessels are operated by the Harbour and Light Department to enforce the navigable waters regulations within the State. The number of vessels policing speed limits in the Swan and Canning Rivers varies according to demand elsewhere.
- (2) Prosecutions for various boating offences on the Swan and Canning Rivers for the last three calendar years are—

1978	236
1979	228
1980	273

- (3) The cost of operating the Harbour and Light Inspection Branch (including salaries) averages \$34 174 per vessel per annum. However, this includes operating cost of *Vigilant* and two other smaller seagoing vessels.
- (4) Consideration will be given to increasing surveillance facilities when the 1981-82 Budget is being formulated.
- (5) (a) It is an offence for juveniles to be in charge of power boats with a speed potential of more than 12 knots.
(b) Yes.
- (6) Statewide new registrations for last three financial years are as follows—

1978	5 876
1979	5 427
1980	4 274

Statewide renewals for last three financial years are—

1978	28 544
1979	30 235
1980	34 580

There are no figures available for metropolitan registrations.

BOATS

Safety

171. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Does the State Government have any plans to promote safety standards and programmes of education associated with "boat safety"?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The Harbour and Light Department is already actively involved with the promotion of public awareness of the need for "boat safety". The arrangements include use of a mobile film unit, lectures to various groups by inspectors and the issue of appropriate literature. The department also participates in the funding and production of boat safety films.

These education efforts will continue to be pursued.

BOATS

Thefts

172. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many boat thefts were reported to the police in 1980 and how many boats were recovered?
- (2) (a) How many boats have not been claimed each year from the Police Department since 1975;
(b) how many have been sold at auction in each year; and
(c) what amount of money was received by the department each year as a result of such auctions?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) 239 boat thefts reported. 33 boats recovered.
- (2) Statistics have been kept only since 1980.
(a) Six boats (which includes dinghies, punts etc.).
(b) In 1980—six.
(c) \$846.

POLICE

Bicycles: Theft

173. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many bicycle thefts were reported to the police in 1980 and how many bicycles were recovered?

- (2) (a) How many bicycles have not been claimed each year from the Police Department since 1975;
 (b) how many have been sold at auction in each year; and
 (c) what amount of money was received by the department each year as a result of such auctions?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) 3 419 bicycle thefts were reported, and 275 bicycles were recovered.
 (2) Statistics have been kept only since 1979. They are—
- | | | |
|-----|------|-----|
| (a) | 1979 | 459 |
| | 1980 | 698 |
| | 1981 | 144 |
- (b) Answered by 2 (a).
 \$
- | | | |
|-----|------|--------|
| (c) | 1979 | 18 565 |
| | 1980 | 30 985 |
| | 1981 | 6 574 |

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Fauntleroy Avenue-Great Eastern Highway, Intersection

174. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the need for traffic lights at the intersection of Fauntleroy Avenue and Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe, to cope with the large volume of MTT bus traffic which seeks to turn right at this point?
 (2) (a) Have plans been made by the Main Roads Department for the installation of lights at this intersection;
 (b) if so, will he provide details of such plans?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Traffic lights are not considered to be justified at this stage. However, as a prerequisite to the installation of lights, it is necessary to construct a channelisation treatment which is planned to be undertaken this year. Provision of lights will be reviewed subsequent to completion of the channelisation.

TRAFFIC

Hardey Road-Great Eastern Highway Intersection

175. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With respect to Hardey Road in Belmont, what stage have plans reached for the installation of the right hand turn facility at the intersection with Great Eastern Highway?
 (2) When was the latest traffic count done?
 (3) At what points along the road was the traffic count taken?
 (4) What were the results of the traffic count?
 (5) Has an approach been made to the Main Roads Department for the installation of a crosswalk or other form of safe crossing measure near the T-junction with Alexander Road?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Plans are complete and have been discussed with the City of Belmont. Acquisition of land is now being arranged so that modifications can be carried out to the existing channelisation.
 (2) October 1980.
 (3) (a) In Hardey Road south east of Great Eastern Highway.
 (b) In Hardey Road north east of Great Eastern Highway.
 (4) (a) Direction of flow towards highway 6 870 average weekday traffic with direction of flow away from highway 10 027 average weekday traffic.
 (b) Direction of flow away from highway 8 268 average weekday traffic with direction of flow towards highway 11 369 average weekday traffic.
 (5) No.

HEALTH: DRUGS

Pharmacies: Robberies

176. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many chemist shop robberies have occurred each year in Western Australia since 1975 in—
 (a) the metropolitan area;
 (b) outside the metropolitan area?

- (2) What amount of drugs were stolen in each year since 1975?
 (3) How many convictions resulted from such robberies?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Statistics for the offence of robbery for drugs are not confined to chemist shops; however they cover hospitals, chemists and doctors' surgeries.

1975-76	Offences 8
1976-77	Offences 7
1977-78	Offences 6
1978-79	Offences 9
1979-80	Offences 7

- (a) and (b) Offences cover all of the State and are not differentiated between metropolitan area and other areas. In the period 1975-80 it is believed that there have only been two robberies for drugs out of the metropolitan area.

- (2) Quantities of drugs stolen are not recorded in the annual statistics, however where a chemist is robbed, the quantities of drugs stolen are generally confined to the drug safe where drugs of addiction are required to be stored. These stocks are kept to a minimum by chemists to deter drug thefts.

- (3) The following number of convictions are recorded for the above offences—

1975-76	Offenders 12
1976-77	Offenders 9
1977-78	Offenders 9
1978-79	Offenders 6
1979-80	Offenders 9

ROADS

MRD: Land Purchases

177. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

What was the value and location of land purchased by the Main Roads Department in—

- (a) Belmont City;
 (b) Bayswater Shire,

during 1980?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(a) Belmont City	\$
Lot 17 Klem Avenue, Redcliffe	28 000
Lots 159 & 160 Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe	167 000

Location 5 882 Morgan Street, Redcliffe	\$ 24 000
Lot 177 Cnr Hay & Fauntleroy Avenue, Redcliffe	28 000
Lots 171 & 172 Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe	69 000
Lot 239 Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe	28 000
Lot 240 Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe	30 200
Lots 143 & 146 Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe	24 500
Lot 111 Rowe Avenue, Rivervale	26 500
Lot 9 Orrong Road, Rivervale	27 000
Lot 18 Orrong Road, Rivervale	33 000
Lot 83 Rowe Avenue, Rivervale	36 000

- (b) Bayswater Shire
 Nil.

APPRENTICES

State Energy Commission

178. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

How many applications were received by the State Energy Commission last year for apprenticeships in each trade, and what was the number of apprenticeships offered?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The following applications were received by the State Energy Commission last year for apprenticeships in each trade, and the number of apprenticeships offered is also shown hereunder---

Apprenticeships	Applica- tions received	Appren- ticeships offered
Electrical fitting	351	28
Instrument making	70	6
Mechanical fitting	126	16
Motor mechanics	171	5
Carpentry and joinery	90	3
Boilermaking/steel construction	39	7
Machinist 1st class	22	1
Plumbing	58	1
Painting	13	1
TOTAL:	940	68

APPRENTICES

Westrail

179. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

How many applications were received by Westrail last year for apprenticeships in each trade, and what was the number of apprenticeships offered?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

In September 1980 Westrail received 1 760 applications for apprenticeships, many of which had multiple preferences. From these, apprenticeships commencing late January, early February 1981 were offered as follows—

Trade	No. of apprenticeships
Mechanical fitting	70
Boilermaking	20
Blacksmithing	8
Carpentry	7
Moulding	2
Turner 1st class machining	10
Painting	7
Plumbing	2
Sheet metal working	2
Coppersmithing	2
Coach trimming	1
Wood machining	1
Auto electrical fitting	1
Electrical fitting	20
Instrument making	1
Motor mechanic	3
	<hr/> 157

Total number of applicants considered after preliminary screening—	Apprenticeships offered
Instrument fitting	54
Electrical fitting	103
Fitting and 1st class machining	62
Motor Mechanic	89
Plant mechanic (industrial)	17
Carpentry and joinery	48
First class welding (engineering)	45
Sheet metal	32
Painting	12
Bricklaying	8
	<hr/>
Total	470
	<hr/>
	39

*Some applicants applied for more than one apprenticeship (various trades) and thus the difference between the number of applications as compared to applicants.

Public Works Department

	Applicants	Apprenticeships offered
Engineering Division—		
Mechanical fitting	68	3
Boilermaking and 1st class welding	50	4
Moulding	Nil	1
Sheetmetal working	33	2
Turning and 1st class machining	78	3
Carpentry and joinery	54	1
Patternmaking	4	1
Electrical fitting	214	5
Motor mechanics	240	5
Bodymaking	5	1
Panelbeating	29	1
Radio and T.V. servicing	70	1
Electrical installing	41	1
Fitting and turning	11	3
1st class welding	20	1
	917	33
Architectural Division—		
Carpentry	245	4
Plumbing	179	6
Bricklaying	65	4
Plastering	17	4
Painting	42	4
Cabinet making	3	—
	551	22
Mechanical fitter	148	5
Sheet metal worker	56	4
Refrigeration (including 2 country apprentices)	110	5
	314	14
Radio and T.V. servicing		1
Electrical fitter	608	4
Electrical installer		3
	608	8
	1 473	44
	2 390	77

APPRENTICES

Public Works Department and Metropolitan Water Board

180. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Works:

How many applications were received by the Public Works Department and the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board last year for apprenticeships in each trade and what was the number of apprenticeships offered?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Metropolitan Water Board

Total number of applications	1 748
Total number of applicants	1 285*
Total number of apprenticeships offered	39

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Pilbara

181. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many industrial disputes occurred last year in the Pilbara?
- (2) What was the duration of each dispute?
- (3) What were the issues involved in each dispute?
- (4) Which unions and companies were involved in each dispute?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) Most of the information requested in question 181 is contained in the annual report of the Chief Industrial Commissioner. The last annual report is for the period 1 July 1979 to 30 June 1980, and it was published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette* in Volume 61 part 1 sub-part 1 at pages 1 to 21.

Information on individual unions involved in strikes is not published in the Chief Industrial Commissioner's annual report nor is it available.

It is accepted by me that the recommended amendments are of importance and they will be fully considered by me and dealt with as soon as possible.

However, it has been necessary to concentrate resources on certain other legislation considered to have a more immediate priority, and it is for this reason that amendments to the Finance Brokers Control Act have not yet been finalised for presentation to Parliament.

- (6) and (7) Amendments will not yet be introduced during the autumn session.

FINANCE BROKERS CONTROL ACT

Amendment

182. Mr PARKER, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it a fact that in the report of the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board to 30 June 1979, that board recommended 23 amendments to the Finance Brokers Control Act?
- (2) Is it also fact that in its report to 30 June 1980, it said that it was "unfortunate" that despite the board's follow-up, updating of the Act has not yet been resolved?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1) and (2), why is this the case?
- (4) Did the board also note that after a personal representation to him and "other initiatives taken" it expects to see its proposals presented to this autumn session?
- (5) What were the "other initiatives taken"?
- (6) Why is it that the Governor's Speech does not contain any reference whatsoever to the introduction of these amendments despite the fact that it details the Bills that will be presented?
- (7) Will the proposed Bill in fact be presented to this autumn session?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (5) It is correct that the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board has sought a number of amendments to the Finance Brokers Control Act.

I have given preliminary consideration to those recommendations and discussions have been held between representatives of the board and the Chief Secretary's Department.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Art Gallery

183. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Which professional officers of the WA Art Gallery have resigned within the last year?
- (2) Who has been appointed to fill these vacancies?
- (3) Which positions remain unfilled?
- (4) How long has each unfilled position remained so?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The following professional staff of the Art Gallery of Western Australia have resigned within the last year—

Mr R. G. M. Anderson—Registrar
 Mr H. Kolenberg—Curator of Prints and Drawings
 Miss A. Gray—Education Officer
 Mrs C. Johannes—Assistant Curator of Paintings
 Mrs B. Chapman—Assistant Curator

It is worth noting that four of these staff members were directly associated with the campaign launched to oppose the replacement of the single position of Deputy Director (then held by Mr L. Klepac) by two new positions: Assistant Director (Curatorial) and Assistant Director (Administration). In fact, hundreds of copies of a letter sent by these four members of the staff were posted to Art Gallery staff, professional bodies, institutions and patrons and dated the same day as that on which the matter was first discussed with Mr Klepac.

The staff concerned were careful to secure new appointments before exercising their prerogative to resign from the Art Gallery of Western Australia and in several cases have been assisted to better positions by virtue of their previous experience in Perth and support given to them by references from the director.

- (2) (a) The position of registrar was filled immediately by Miss J. Gooding in an acting capacity until Mr Philip Ashton commenced duties on 3 March. Mr Ashton was previously Registrar at the National Gallery of Victoria, whose collections and general standing are pre-eminent in Australia.
- (b) The position of Curator of Prints and Drawings has been advertised and a short list, including some excellent applicants, has been approved for interview. In the interim, Miss J. Gooding has been temporarily supervising this section from 3 March.
- (c) The position of Education Officer vacated by Miss A. Gray was filled immediately by Mr L. Hyde who had previously been employed in a temporary capacity.
- (d) Assistant Curator, Mrs B. Chapman, has supervised the collection of paintings from 1 February to 31 March. The new Assistant Director (Curatorial), Mr A. Bond, will continue this role from 11 May until an appointment is made. The position will be advertised next Saturday and negotiations have already been opened with some suitable applicants.
- (e) The position filled by Mrs Chapman becomes vacant from 1 April and has already been filled by promotion of Miss J. Gooding, who has been in training as a graduate assistant for two years. Doubtless, the Art Gallery will consider advertising to fill the position vacated by Miss Gooding in due course.

- (3) The positions remaining unfilled are therefore Curator of Prints and Drawings and Curator of Paintings, but both services are covered in the interim by other competent professional staff.
- (4) The position of Curator of Prints and Drawings was vacated by Mr Kolenberg on 10 October 1980. The position of Curator of Paintings was vacated by Mrs Johannes on 31 January 1981. The Art Gallery Board and its director have expressed determination to ensure that all new appointments to the Art Gallery staff will be of the highest professional quality as had already been reflected by the appointments previously described.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Huntingdale

184. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that a teacher has recently been removed from Huntingdale Primary School?
- (2) If so, what is the reason for this removal?
- (3) How many additional students would be needed for an additional teacher to be allocated to Huntingdale Primary School?
- (4) What is the current student enrolment at Huntingdale Primary School?
- (5) How many teachers are currently on the staff of Huntingdale Primary School?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) A teacher is to be transferred from Huntingdale to Yale, the transfer effective from 30 March 1981.
- (2) The school is currently overstaffed in terms of entitlement.
- (3) Thirteen additional students would be required to retain the level of staffing prior to 30 March 1981.
- (4) The current enrolment is as follows—

Primary	468
Pre-primary	93
	<hr/>
	561
	<hr/>

- (5) Present staffing:

(a) Primary = P + 18.4 (includes specialist teacher 0.8). To be reduced by one teacher as from 30 March 1981.

(b) Pre-primary = 2.

The school was staffed according to an estimated primary enrolment of 487. This enrolment did not eventuate.

EDUCATION: NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

All Saints College

185. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

How much did the State Government contribute towards the costs of All Saints College, Ewing Avenue, Bull Creek?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The State is providing an interest subsidy at a rate of 7½ per cent on a loan of \$250 000 for stage 1 of the new school.

SHIPPING

Iron Ore Carriers: European Ports

186. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many ports in Europe are capable of discharging iron ore cargoes of at least 250 000 tonnes?

(2) Will he name these ports?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Four.

(2) Rotterdam, Hunterston (Scotland), Marseilles-Fos and Taranto.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Caustic Soda and Chlorine Production

187. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Resources Development:

Who is undertaking the study to produce caustic soda and chlorine using Western Australian salt and natural gas?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The current level of demand for caustic soda by Western Australia's alumina industry, coupled with the expected increases in demand associated with current and planned expansions of that industry, continue to attract various

groups expressing interest in exploring how this caustic soda demand may be supplied from a local chloralkali facility.

As in previous studies of the potential for a Western Australian chloralkali facility, the problem is how to dispose of co-produced chlorine.

Whilst it can be confirmed that a number of interested parties are having preliminary discussions with Government on this matter, these discussions are at an initial and sensitive stage and details must therefore remain confidential.

PORNOGRAPHY

Advertising

188. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

What action has been taken or will be taken to curb the increase of sexual and pornographic advertising in the newspapers, on bumper stickers and tee-shirt motifs?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The State Advisory Committee on Publications will continue surveillance as regards pornographic advertising, bumper stickers and tee shirt motifs.

The Liquor and Gaming Branch, in accord with the provisions of the Indecent Publications and Articles Act 1902, monitors pornography and makes regular seizures followed by prosecution where found necessary.

From 5 October 1980 to the present time, the Liquor and Gaming Branch of the Police Department have seized 973 publications, films and video cassettes. To date, 210 charges have been laid related to above seizures.

Recently, the State Advisory Committee on Publications reviewed a quantity of "bumper stickers". Many were considered to be offensive and the distributor agreed to have them withdrawn from sale.

HOUSING

Government Employees Housing Authority

189. Mr E. T. EVANS, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the total number of Government Employees' Housing Authority homes in the Kalgoorlie region?
- (2) How many of these homes are vacant at present?
- (3) How many Government employees are awaiting housing in Government Employees' Housing Authority homes?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Kalgoorlie-Boulder area—162 units of accommodation.
- (2) Five houses reported to be vacant at present. Renting of houses to Government employees is carried out by individual departments who control their own vacancies/occupations.
- (3) Unknown. Individual departments control their own officers' requirements.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Anzac Road-Brady Street-Powis Street Intersection

190. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

How much longer will it be before traffic lights are established at the junction of Powis and Brady Streets with Anzac Road, Mt. Hawthorn?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Installation of traffic lights is unlikely for some time because the site has a low priority.

EDUCATION

Special Schools

191. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

Adverting to parts (3) and (4) of his answer to question 86 on Wednesday 25 March relevant to special schools, would he detail the other factors which will govern the placement of Devonleigh children?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

A number of children, other than those at Devonleigh, who are at present not receiving education in a Government school, must also be considered before deciding who should fill the vacancies

made available by the construction of new special schools. In deciding priority of entry the anticipated ability of each child to benefit from placement will be the deciding factor.

RAILWAYS

Accident: Passenger's Compensation

192. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will all of those persons injured in the recent Westrail collision at East Perth and who seek damages be compensated by Westrail?
- (2) If "No", why?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that this will depend on the finding of the board of inquiry as to the cause of the accident and also on the particular circumstance of each case.

HOUSING

Collie

193. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Will he list the number of vacant State Housing Commission homes at Collie and the dates they became vacant?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

There are currently 22 vacant houses in Collie.

Of these there are 12 houses which have been vacant for periods ranging from one to 11 months and these are included in tenders for the extensive upgrading of twenty houses which closed on 30 March 1981.

Of the remaining 10 houses—

- (1) One house—there is doubt about the economic future of this home because of its siting and the need for extensive repairs;
- (2) four houses—currently under offer to applicants;
- (3) five houses—under maintenance prior to reletting.

These houses apart from (1) have been vacant for periods ranging from one and two months.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Stations: Muja and Kwinana

194. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

When a unit is out of commission at the Muja power house, Collie, and the additional load is transferred to the Kwinana power house, what is the additional cost per hour to the commission?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

If a unit is out of service at Muja, the replacement energy does not always come from Kwinana power station, but rather is shared between Kwinana and other coal fired power stations. A 200-MW unit at Muja would cost the commission between \$2 000-\$7 000 per hour in replacement fuel costs, with the lower figure being most common.

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Discrimination

195. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) Is the Minister aware that the South Australian Government has announced that it intends to introduce a Handicapped Persons Equal Opportunities Bill dealing specifically with discrimination in areas of employment, education and the provision of goods services and accommodation?

(2) What consideration has the Western Australian Government given to the need for similar legislation in this State?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I am informed that there is such a Bill before the South Australian Parliament.
- (2) The Premier has already indicated in answer to an earlier question in the Legislative Council that a copy of the Bill will be obtained and studied.

HOUSING

"Adequately Housed": Use of Term

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

- (1) What is the basis for the term "adequately housed", which is used by the State Housing Commission as a general term covering many different situations in which requests for transfer are rejected by the commission?
- (2) In what sense can a family comprising husband, wife and four sons or four daughters of whatever age, be said to be "adequately housed" in a town house unit with three bedrooms measuring 11 feet square, 12½ feet by 8 feet, and 8 feet square respectively?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) The term "adequately housed" is applied to situations where the accommodation available—i.e. the bedroom space, kitchen and living areas and all other conveniences—meets the physical needs of the numbers in the family being housed.
- (2) The living space in State Housing Commission town houses is equal in space to that of its single detached houses.

A family of four young children of the same sex ranging from pre-primary to primary school age would be considered adequately housed in a town house provided there were no other extenuating circumstances.

LAND

Foreign Acquisition

197. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What action has his Government taken or propose to take to control the acquisition of land in fee simple in this State by overseas interests?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

This matter is at present being studied by a Cabinet subcommittee in order to obtain information which can be considered in turn by Cabinet.

WATER RESOURCES

MWB 3 per cent Levy

198. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Have all the moneys collected by him and his predecessors from ratepayers by way of tax (but called a levy) been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund?
- (2) What is the total so far collected by this tax?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The amounts paid to the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board as a statutory levy under the Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1974, are as follows—

	\$
1974-75	618 493
1975-76	886 078
1976-77	1 281 534
1977-78	1 458 495
1978-79	1 604 869
1979-80	1 923 463

This information is also available from the Auditor General's report.

STATE FINANCE

CRF: Revenue and Expenditure

199. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

As at the end of February 1981 what was the total accumulated—

- (a) revenue;
- (b) expenditure;

through the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the current financial year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The figures are contained in the Statement of Cash Transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund for eight months ended 28 February 1981 issued about 10 March 1981, a copy of which should be in the Parliamentary Library.

For the member's convenience, the figures of total revenue received and total expenditure during the eight months to the end of February 1981 are, respectively—

- (a) \$1 167 980 600;
- (b) \$1 166 618 816.

STATE FINANCE

Budget: Balancing

200. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

Will he explain the system which he proposes to use this year in order to ensure that the 1980-81 Budget will balance once again?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Budget strategy was fully explained when the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates were presented to Parliament.

WATER RESOURCES, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE

Rates: Small Businesses

201. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it not a fact that small businesses are complaining as to the huge water, sewerage, and drainage rates which they are compelled to pay?
- (2) What action, if any, is he taking to give relief to small business persons by—
 - (a) reducing their assessments; and/or
 - (b) giving them alternative arrangements for paying their rates?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes there have been a number of complaints following the redistribution of values resulting from the triennial valuation review which came into effect on 1 July 1980.

- (2) (a) The Government introduced legislation limiting rate increases in 1980-81 to 50 per cent and appointed a committee to inquire into valuation based rates and charges for all authorities;

- (b) where genuine financial hardship can be shown to exist the Water Board has always been prepared to consider arrangements to pay by instalments.

WATER RESOURCES

Rates: Strata Titles

202. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) What system is used to value each unit within a group of units registered under the Strata Titles Act?
- (2) Is it a fact anomalies currently occur in assessing those values?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), when will remedial legislation be introduced?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Section 21 of the Strata Titles Act requires that one value be given by the valuing authority to the whole of the lots the subject of a strata plan.
Each individual strata is separately valued in accordance with the evidence applicable to that particular type of property.
- (2) I am not aware of any anomalies occurring in assessing these values.
- (3) Not applicable.

HEALTH: DRUG

Marihuana

203. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

How many Western Australians die each year in consequence of having smoked marihuana?

Mr YOUNG replied:

None, to my knowledge.

POLICE

Assault: Footballer

204. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Do the police have evidence of a criminal assault of a WANFL reserve footballer at Fremantle last weekend?
- (2) If "Yes", what action does it propose to take concerning it?
- (3) If "No", what action has so far been taken to obtain the evidence required to enable a prosecution to be made?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (3) Inquiries by police are still continuing.

SEWERAGE

Mt. Hawthorn

205. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Will he provide me with a map of the Mt. Hawthorn electorate showing the areas within that electorate which are still unsewered?
- (2) When will those unsewered areas be sewerred?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) A plan will be prepared and forwarded to the office of the member for Mt. Hawthorn within two weeks.
- (2) Balcatta area 6C, which will be shown on that plan, is currently scheduled in the Metropolitan Water Board's five-year development plan, which is circulated to all members of Parliament annually, to be commenced in 1984-85. Completion is anticipated to take three to four years, depending on availability of finance. The remaining unsewered areas are not scheduled in the five-year plan.

INCOME TAX

Donations to Earthquake Victims

206. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that in 1980 considerable sums of money have been donated by Western Australians by way of relief to victims of earthquakes in Yugoslavia and Italy?
- (2) If "Yes", is he aware that donations made to assist earthquake victims in Italy are properly allowed as deductions under the Income Tax Assessment Act whilst no deduction is allowable for donations made to the earthquake victims in Yugoslavia?
- (3) If "Yes", has he made representations to the Prime Minister or Federal Treasurer with a view to correcting this apparent anomaly?
- (4) If "Yes", when and with what result?
- (5) If "No", why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the precise amounts donated by Western Australians in 1980 to assist the victims of earthquakes in Yugoslavia and Italy, although I understand from newspaper reports that in excess of \$400 000 was contributed in respect of the Italian disaster.

The State Government provided \$10 000 to assist the victims of the April 1979 Yugoslavian earthquake and \$15 000 to aid the victims of the November 1980 Italian earthquake.

- (2) Yes.

- (3) to (5) The administration of the Income Tax Assessment Act is the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government which I am assured keeps these matters under constant review. I am seeking information as to the Commonwealth's attitude in future cases of this kind.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Excavation By-laws

207. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has she received proposed "excavation by-laws" from the City of Cockburn relating mainly to cutting and filling?
- (2) Has she had these proposals before her for some months now?
- (3) Have they been approved?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) (a) Did she, or her predecessor reject similar by-laws proposed by the Shire of Wanneroo some years ago; and
(b) if so, why?
- (6) What is her department's attitude or policy with regard to by-laws of this type?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Proposed by-laws for the control of extractive industries were submitted to my department by the City of Cockburn in November 1980.
- (3) Not yet.
- (4) The by-laws were the subject of detailed objections and the council has been asked to provide reasons for those cases where the objections were not upheld. Comments on other provisions of the by-laws have also been requested.

- (5) (a) and (b) The Shire of Wanneroo's by-laws for extractive industries were approved in 1963. There is no record of any such by-laws having been rejected.

- (6) The department does not have any special policy or attitude with respect to by-laws for extractive industries.

STOCK: SHEEP

Rye Grass Toxicity

208. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many outbreaks of annual rye grass toxicity were there identified by the Department of Agriculture in each of the past five years?
- (2) What area was involved in each case?
- (3) What is the total area which is affected with the disease?
- (4) What was the amount spent on equipment and personnel for research into annual rye grass toxicity in—
(a) 1978-79;
(b) 1979-80;
(c) 1980-81 (estimate)?
- (5) How many sheep is it estimated have been lost through the disease in each of the past three years in Western Australia?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) The following outbreaks of annual ryegrass toxicity have been reported to the Department of Agriculture—

1976-77	49
1977-78	65
1978-79	98
1979-80	116
1980-81	43

- (2) and (3) Since 1970, a total of 217 properties have been affected. The areas involved have not been recorded. From 1980-81, statistics on areas of pasture closed off because of ryegrass toxicity will be collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- (4) Estimated expenditure on research on annual ryegrass toxicity in WA—

1978-79	\$320 000
1979-80	\$405 000
1980-81	\$500 000.

- (5) Recorded losses of sheep are—

1978-79	1 600
1979-80	3 677
1980-81	466.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Under Secretary

209. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will he tell me when the appointment of the Under Secretary for Works will be made?
- (2) Why has there been an apparent delay in not having the position of Under Secretary announced?
- (3) Are senior officers of the Public Works Department concerned by the apparent delay?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) It is understood it will be in the reasonably near future.
- (2) Officers of the Public Service Board and the Public Works Department have been examining whether there is a need for changes to the organisational structure of the department.
- (3) I do not think they would be concerned but my understanding is that senior officers of the Public Works Department would like to see the matter resolved as soon as practical. The Minister has already asked the Public Service Board to finalise the matter as quickly as possible.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Welshpool Electorate

210. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the total enrolment numbers for each of the last three years for the following primary schools—
 - (a) Belmay;
 - (b) Whiteside Street;
 - (c) Kewdale;
 - (d) Kewdale junior;
 - (e) Queens Park;
 - (f) Carrington;
 - (g) Bentley; and
 - (h) Wilson?
- (2) (a) How many of these schools have had their staff reduced this year;
- (b) by what numbers?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) to (h) The enrolments as at March 1979, 1980 and 1981 in the nominated primary schools for primary and pre-primary students are as follows—

	1979			1980			1981		
	Primary	Special	Pre-prim.	Primary	Special	Pre-prim.	Primary	Special	Pre-prim.
Belmay	300	12	—	301	16	—	292	16	—
Whiteside	352	—	43	330	—	45	295	—	32
Kewdale	385	—	—	395	—	—	362	—	—
Kewdale Jr.	160	—	—	108	—	—	96	—	—
Primary									
Queens Pk.	291	34	33	222	28	22	228	30	27
Cannington	267	—	—	242	—	62	223	—	62
Bentley	241	—	—	217	—	—	203	—	—
Wilson	410	—	—	383	—	—	327	—	—
	2,406	46	76	2,198	44	129	2,026	46	121

- (2) (a) and (b) Wilson has been reduced by two teachers and each of the other schools listed, other than Queens Park, has had its staff reduced by one teacher. Queens Park is being staffed at the 1980 level.

TRAFFIC: ACCIDENT

Mr T. W. Bradbury

211. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to the Attorney General's reply to question 139 of 26 March 1981 relevant to a Coroner's inquest, can he say when the Coroner's inquest was held into the death of Mr Bradbury?
- (2) Why was Mrs Bradbury as next of kin not advised of the date and time of the inquest so that she may have had the option of being present or of being represented by legal counsel?
- (3) (a) What was the reason for the informal inquiry on 12 March 1981; and
- (b) why was Mrs Bradbury not advised of the intention to hold such an inquiry?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) I had intended to make a statement to the House today on behalf of the Attorney General relating to the answer given last Thursday to question 139.

In the reply to Mr Wilson M.L.A. it was indicated that an inquest was held into the death of Thomas William Bradbury.

Due to a typographical error, the answer to part (1) of the question should have commenced "No Inquest was held" instead of "The Inquest was held".

On 12 March 1981 the City Coroner decided no inquest was necessary because Geoffrey Mark Armstrong had been tried and convicted of dangerous driving causing the death of Mr Bradbury. An informal inquiry to determine the cause of death was all that was required in these circumstances. There is nothing unusual in the Coroner making such a decision where the cause of death is apparent from other proceedings. Witnesses and next of kin are not required for such informal inquiries.

MINING ACT 1978

Land Resumption Provisions

212. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware of the article in *The West Australian* of 21 March 1981, headed "New Mining Laws Pushed Back"?
- (2) Is he aware that in the article in question he is quoted as saying in effect that the 1978 Mining Act had removed the land resumption power?
- (3) Did he in fact make a statement to Mr E. A. Barker of *The West Australian* to the effect that the 1978 Mining Act had removed the land resumption power?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), has he asked *The West Australian* to publish a correction so that its readers will be informed—
 - (a) that his previous statement was untrue;
 - (b) that the 1978 Act does contain a land resumption power?
- (5) Has he reprimanded the departmental officer responsible for incorrectly advising him that the 1978 Mining Act did not contain a land resumption power?
- (6) In view of his statement on the land resumption power in the 1978 Mining Act, will he have his other statements on the 1978 Mining Act scrutinised independently by the Crown Law Department without the intervention of the Mines Department?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (6) I am aware of the article in *The West Australian* of 21 March 1981 in which reference was made to comments I made concerning the Mining Act 1978.

The remarks attributed to me resulted from a telephone conversation I had with Mr Barker of *The West Australian* during which one of the inquiries made of me was in relation to powers of resumption in the 1978 Act as compared with those contained in the Mining Act 1904.

If I gave Mr Barker the impression that land resumption powers in respect of private land had been completely removed from the 1978 Act that was not my intention.

What I tried to convey in this and other conversations is that some changes have been made in so far as the powers of resumption are concerned.

With respect to any private land, resumption under the 1978 Act is under and subject to the Public Works Act. In assessing compensation for land resumed which was alienated before 1899 and in which the minerals are the property of the owner the value of such minerals can now be allowed under the new legislation.

Under the 1904 Act, resumption is under the Mining Act and, in assessing compensation, no allowance can be made for the value of minerals contained in the land.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HEALTH: DRUG

Marihuana

50. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In connection with the report which appeared in the *Sunday Independent* of Sunday, 29 March 1981, regarding the suspected discrepancy in a quantity of marihuana, will he advise—

- (1) When was the marihuana involved, seized by members of the Police Force?
- (2) From what area did the marihuana come?
- (3) When was it discovered that there was a suspected discrepancy in the quantity of marihuana and how much marihuana was involved?
- (4) Will he name the members of the top level inquiry which is underway?

- (5) Will he give an assurance to Parliament that the departmental inquiry will be made public and if there is any doubt in the substance of the inquiry, will he appoint an independent inquiry of experts to investigate the alleged complaint.

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (5) I thank the member for Collie for notice of the question which I have considered carefully. I am sure he would appreciate it would not be in the public interest for me to enter into any discussion of this matter at this stage.

An Assistant Commissioner of Police has acknowledged that some matters are under investigation, but those investigations have not been completed. I do not believe any good purpose would be served—and, indeed, I believe damage would be done—if partial dealings with those issues were entered into at this time.

Accordingly, I believe I should not give the member a detailed answer to his question.

MEAT: BEEF

Marketing Referendum

51. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

As the implementation of question 2 of the meat marketing referendum has been a complete failure, will the Minister seek the Premier's permission to arrange for another referendum to ascertain the views of farmers with regard to beef marketing?

Mr OLD replied:

No, I will not. At this stage the matter is under consideration by the WA Meat Commission and Cabinet. I expect to make an announcement about the activities of the WA Meat Commission in this regard in the near future.

FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

Power Station

52. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) When will the Government be required to make a final decision regarding the commencement of the building of a nuclear power plant in Western Australia in 1995?

- (2) Is the Government considering an option to delay the commencement of the building of a nuclear power plant in 1995?

- (3) Does the Government intend to mount a campaign to educate the public, and particularly young people and mothers, about the establishment of a nuclear power plant in Western Australia?

- (4) Does the Government intend to introduce any such education programme in schools in Western Australia?

- (5) Who will be sponsoring any such education campaign, and will it present all points of view with equal space and emphasis?

- (6) Does the Government intend to hold a referendum or public opinion poll on the issue in conjunction with the next State election?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (6) The Government's position was made plain in the State energy policy document issued in 1979, where it was announced that planning and siting studies, together with general monitoring and research studies related to overseas programmes, were to be carried out so that Western Australia could proceed with the installation of a nuclear power station when considered necessary. There was no commitment to the building of such a station at any particular time. The assessment of the possible need for a nuclear station, and the above studies, are a continuing process.

The Government has for some time been concerned at the public's limited access to understandable information concerning energy, and nuclear energy in particular. It is clear that without adequate access to energy information the public is vulnerable to propaganda which is often very misleading. The Government has had under consideration various means of improving the public's access to energy information, believing there has been a strong demand for it for some time. At this stage, the Government has made no decision as to any action it might take on information.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councils: Dismissal

53. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the Government taken any action since the dismissal of the Bayswater Shire Council to formulate a consistent procedure to be followed prior to dismissing a council?
- (2) If "Yes", will she please detail the procedure?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) I am surprised the member suggests there would be any policy which would be directed towards the dismissal of a council. He knows very well on one occasion a council was dismissed when it was seen to be in the interests of the community that such a course should be taken. However, at that time the dismissal occurred as a result of an inquiry which was well-documented. I can only say that the Government has always adopted the practice that it should give local authorities the autonomy they deserve.

Mr Davies: But not one inch more!

Mrs CRAIG: The Government leaves local authorities to sort out any problems they may experience within their ranks and this policy has been followed very carefully by my predecessors in Governments of this ilk and I have certainly followed it also. The real answer is that any circumstances will be investigated properly and thoroughly and the determination which is reached

at the end of that examination will be one which is in the best interests of the community the council serves, and also in the interests of the council itself.

Mr Davies: In short, she does not know what is going on.

FISHERIES

Tuna: Imports

54. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) How many tonnes of tuna have been imported into Western Australia in the past 12 months from—
 - (a) the Eastern States;
 - (b) overseas?
- (2) (a) How many tonnes of fresh product and how many of canned?
- (b) What were the monthly figures for any imports?
- (3) Could the Minister supply similar information on the importation of tuna for the other Australian States?
- (4) What factors govern the import of tuna from overseas to this State, with particular regard to what limits appertain?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The only statistics available on the import of tuna come from the Australian Bureau of Statistics trade figures on a financial year basis. The import commodity classification used in preparing Australian trade statistics do not provide separate figures for fresh or frozen tuna. These imports are included in the import figure for frozen fish. The figures relate to processed tuna packed in air-tight cans, bottles, jars or similar containers. These are—
 - (a) from the Eastern States: 406.9 tonnes of processed tuna for the year 1979-80.
 - (b) from overseas: 204.9 tonnes of processed tuna for the year 1979-80.

- (2) (a) See (1) above.

- (b) Monthly overseas imports of tuna packed in air-tight cans, bottles, jars or similar containers into Western Australia from overseas sources in 1979-80 were—

	tonnes
July 1979	Nil
August 1979	0.1
September 1979	Nil
October 1979	57.0
November 1979	13.3
December 1979	15.3
January 1980	Nil
February 1980	2.7
March 1980	44.6
April 1980	26.6
May 1980	45.3
June 1980	Nil

- (3) Processed tuna imported into all States for 1979-80 was as follows—

	tonnes
New South Wales	1 254.3
Victoria	820.7
Queensland	197.3
South Australia	453.7
Western Australia	204.9
Northern Territory and ACT	Nil

- (4) The factors governing the level of imports of tuna from overseas sources to this State are economic. The Minister is not aware of any limits other than the constraints of the market place in determining the level of tuna imports.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Art Gallery

55. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Will the Minister indicate to the House the extent to which he gave consideration to the appointment of an artist to the vacant position at the Art Gallery? The Minister indicated he would as a result of a deputation led to him last year by Mr Hal Missingham.
- (2) If he did so, why did he in fact not appoint an artist to the board?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) I think the member for Gosnells is being hypocritical and mischievous in his criticism of this particular appointment. A few weeks ago, the member for Gosnells was critical of the Art Gallery Board because, in his opinion, it lacked expertise and members of experience. Now, the member is criticising the Government for its appointment of Mrs Cherry Lewis who is possibly the most competent individual in Western Australia in respect of the evaluation of art.

Several members interjected.

Mr GRAYDEN: The appointment was made because the Government is determined to ensure that every dollar given to the Art Gallery is spent as effectively as possible in the interests of the people of Western Australia. Last year, we gave consideration to the appointment of a practising artist. However, in this respect, we gave further consideration to the matter, at the same time bearing in mind that the chairman of the board is an artist, and that there are others with similar experience on the board.

Mr Pearce: They are not distinguished artists.

Mr GRAYDEN: They are distinguished artists. The conclusion was that it was desirable to have another artist on the board, bearing in mind the public interest—

Several members interjected.

Mr GRAYDEN: —it was necessary that there be on the board, someone with the experience and expertise of Mrs Cherry Lewis. The criticism of this appointment which has been levelled by the members of the Opposition is churlish and unwarranted.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Inquiry

56. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) The Minister is no doubt aware that the Premier has called for an independent inquiry into industrial relations. Is it Country Party policy to support such a move?

- (2) If the answer is "No", what is the Country Party policy in relation to this issue?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) The policy of the Country Party is to support—

Mr Pearce: The Premier!

Mr OLD: —the coalition Government in its move towards sensible industrial relations and the Country Party will continue to do so.

MAJESTIC HOTEL

Pegging as Gold Claim

57. Mr TRETHOWAN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a report in *The West Australian* this morning that an area of the Applecross riverfront, including the Majestic Hotel site, has been pegged as a gold claim?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that, if this is merely a frivolous publicity exercise, the claim is rejected at the earliest opportunity?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) If and when an application is received, normal procedures will be adopted as required under the Mining Act 1904. The Act provides for the protection of all interests, including the public's, in any proposal for exploration or mining. I have approached the Mines Department again since this answer was prepared and I have been advised that there has been no application regarding the suggested pegging. I believe, as was suggested by the member, that this may well have been proved to be a frivolous action.

STATE FINANCE

Grants Commission: Per Capita Relativities

58. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Government made a submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission on a review of the States' *per capita* relativities?

- (2) If "Yes", when was this submission made and will the Treasurer table a copy of the submission at the next sitting?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Submissions by the State Treasury and the State Government to the Commonwealth Grants Commission have been taking place for months. In fact, ever since the relativities inquiry was set up, the State Treasury and all other State Treasuries, together with the Federal Treasury, have been working on the matter and in recent months there have been public hearings and meetings, and most States' representatives have attended.

The Federal Government representatives have attended these meetings and have listened avidly to what has been put forward because they have an axe to grind as do other States—particularly New South Wales and Victoria.

I would not undertake to table the evidence put forward because some of it is of a very confidential nature and in any case it is too bulky; but when the Commonwealth Grants Commission reports—and this is expected before June—the Leader of the Opposition will find that it contains a fair amount of detailed information.

I emphasise the fact that there has not been just one submission, there have been many over many months.

TRAFFIC

Easter Road Blitz

59. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

As Easter is only a fortnight away, is it the intention of the RTA to implement a road blitz similar to that which was mounted prior to Christmas?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The RTA will implement a special road patrol campaign during the lead-up to Easter. The campaign will be announced by the RTA, at the appropriate time, but it will not necessarily take the same form as the blitz which applied prior to Christmas. The RTA will be committed to reducing death and injury on the roads. Whatever campaign may be undertaken by the RTA for the safety of

people, the most effective thing which could happen would be for people who are on the road at Easter to recognise that it is a time when many families and people with children will be travelling. They should take a little extra care and take personal responsibility for their actions; that is the purpose and intent of all RTA campaigns.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Electorate Offices

60. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

As the Premier is responsible for steadfastly refusing to provide electric typewriters in the constituency offices of members of this Parliament, I ask: In view of the fact that this question has been before him now for many, many months, and he alone has procrastinated and deferred a decision, would he agree to explain to the Legislative Assembly why he is not prepared to have the dilapidated, second-hand, malfunctioning, clap-trap typewriters in the Premier's Department when in fact he expects every other member of Parliament, who has a regional constituency office, to use that sort of equipment?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the member who keeps riding this hobby-horse, I want to remind him that there is a limit to where Governments can go in making facilities available to members. A considerable number of improvements have been made over the years and the matter is reviewed periodically. Most members are reasonably satisfied.

Mr Pearce: Not on typewriters!

Sir CHARLES COURT: If that is all the Opposition has to complain about then its members have not much to complain about. I dispute whether they are second-hand, clap-trap, malfunctioning typewriters, because that would only be the case if someone has failed to report their conditions.

The honourable member may find that when this matter was raised once before, an investigation took place and the main cause for inefficient typewriters was found to be the result of someone not

being prepared to use the facilities to have his typewriter replaced or repaired.

This decision is not made by me alone; it has been decided by people with more competence in this field than I have. The recommendation was that there was no case to be made at this stage. However, I have undertaken to keep the matter under review. I will not rush madly into the supply of electric typewriters, but the matter will receive the same attention as other matters do.

I suggest to the member that it would be very wise to make haste slowly in this matter. If members start demanding too many things they will finish up getting nothing.

An Opposition member: Is that a threat?

Sir CHARLES COURT: No, it is common sense and based on practical experience.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Excavation By-laws

61. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Local Government:

Earlier this evening, I asked the Minister a question relating to information on excavation by-laws and the Minister answered me about by-laws relating to extractive industries which have nothing to do with excavation by-laws; therefore, the answer was completely irrelevant.

Could the Minister undertake to supply me with the answer to the question at the earliest opportunity, preferably in time for questions on notice tomorrow?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I most certainly will do so if the member for Fremantle supplies me with a copy of the question. I assume that tenor of his question was relating to by-laws for extractive industries and indeed the department was the recipient of such by-laws from the City of Cockburn.

I must say that the cases I have referred to in this answer are matters I am aware of in my department. However, if the member passes me a list of questions I will be happy to supply the correct answer.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Director: Special Allowance

62. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Treasurer:

I was heartened to learn the degree to which the Government can go in taking care before expending funds. I ask the Treasurer whether he has had time to consider my question of last Thursday when I asked whether the Director of Public Relations received an allowance in lieu of being joined in this State by his wife and family. When I asked the question the Premier said he would investigate the matter.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As I promised the member for Balcatta, I asked the Public Service Board and the under secretary to let me have a report on the matter and to inform me of the conditions under which the appointment was made. When I have that information I will make it available to the member for Balcatta through the House.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Electorate Offices

63. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

My question is supplementary to the one asked a few moments ago, and I preface it by saying it is pleasing to hear the Premier say he has relied upon highly qualified professional advice—I think that is what he said—

Mr Pearce: More competent than he is, he said.

Mr BRYCE: —in insisting that electric typewriters, efficient and fundamental equipment available in any decent office in this State, be not provided to members of the Legislative Assembly who have constituency offices. Would the Premier indicate to members of the Chamber who provided that advice?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I certainly would not. The officers who gave the advice gave it in good faith, and it would not be a fair thing for me to parade their advice in this House. I have accepted the advice and I take responsibility for it.

The SPEAKER: I will take further questions from the member for Geraldton and the member for Balcatta only.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councils: Dismissal

64. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

Where action is taken by the Minister to dismiss a council, what opportunities are provided for that council or for individual councillors—

- (a) to appeal; and
- (b) to answer any charges levelled against them?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (a) and (b) On the one occasion on which I was somewhat directly involved the answer is that all councillors were given an opportunity to speak with the investigating officer. Some councillors took that opportunity, others did not; that was their choice. It is fair to say that after the council had been dismissed I did not enter into any discussions with any of the councillors and the matter was subsequently judged by the ratepayers at the next election.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Art Gallery

65. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

Am I to understand from the answer given to question 183 today that the positions of education officer and assistant curator at the Art Gallery were filled by the Art Gallery Board without being previously advertised?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

As I do not have the answer to the original question before me I suggest that he place his question on the notice paper.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councils: Dismissal

66. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the answers given tonight in which the Minister indicated there is no formalised procedure to be followed preparatory to dismissing a council and it appears such a decision would be based on arbitrary considerations at the time, I ask the Minister—

- (1) Would she undertake to have prepared a formalised procedure to be followed prior to the dismissal of a council?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) I regret that the member for Geraldton has misconstrued some of the answers given to questions he has asked. The thought of having a clearly defined policy of action—

Mr Carr: I am talking about procedures.

Mrs CRAIG: —well, procedures, if one likes—relating to the dismissal of a council is not acceptable to me because it is my hope we will not have to dismiss a council.

Several members interjected.

Mrs CRAIG: The member for Geraldton is directing these questions to me as a result of my reply to a question on Thursday of last week relating to the problems which have been confronting the Denmark Shire Council. Those matters have been well aired in the

Press, and I can only assume the member for Geraldton is trying to get me to say it is my intention to take some action, or alternatively that he is trying to assert I should take some action. I suggest if he is not satisfied with the answers I have given him he puts the question on notice and I will give it some thought before answering.

PORT

Albany

67. Mr RUSHTON (Minister for Transport):

I wish to direct the attention of members to an answer I gave on Wednesday, 25 March. In answer to question 32 asked by the member for Avon, the third name on the list should read "Mr E. W. Harding" instead of "Mr E. W. Wallace". I apologise and regret any inconvenience to members.

ROAD

Albany Highway

68. Mr RUSHTON (Minister for Transport):

I wish to draw the attention of members to a further answer given by me on Wednesday, 25 March. In answer to question 85 the figure in part (1) should be \$81 075, and not \$84 975. Again, I apologise for any inconvenience.