

Legislative Council

Thursday, 6 April 1989

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 pm, and read prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION - ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Aboriginal Voters - Organised Tactics Accusation

HON TOM STEPHENS (North) [2.34 pm] - by leave: I make a personal explanation in response to a misrepresentation of me to this House during the Address-in-Reply debate in matters raised by Hon Norman Moore in his as yet unfinished speech.

Hon Norman Moore suggested to the House that I organised in Northern Rivers electorate tactics involving the threatening of Aboriginal voters as they came to the polling booths at the recent State election. I was in the Legislative Assembly listening to question time last night when Hon Norman Moore was speaking and did not hear what he had to say. I received a telephone message and returned to the Chamber as Hon Norman Moore was making reference to me in the debate. As I entered the Chamber Hon Norman Moore changed topics and moved on to the theme of education.

Hon N.F. Moore: Not because you came into the Chamber, but because it just happened to be that time.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I thank Hon Norman Moore for making that point; I was not sure about the nature of his courage.

Several members interjected.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: If ever I want to speak about a member in this Chamber, I will use the following yardstick for my behaviour: I will give him the courtesy of letting him know that I intend to speak about him.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Firstly, there must be no interjections during the course of this personal explanation. I remind Hon Tom Stephens that a personal explanation should not take the form of a debate on the matter; it is for the purpose of putting the record straight.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Thank you, Mr President, I will try to ignore any further interjections and to stick to my text.

I would not have known of the nature of Mr Moore's comments except that they were covered rather extensively on the electronic media this morning. I have now had the opportunity of reading *Hansard* and I assure members of the House, the media and the public that the claims have no substance. It is true that I had a central role in organising the ALP campaign throughout the electorate of Northern Rivers, and I was part of an ALP campaign team for the Mining and Pastoral Region. I can assure the House that neither I, nor anyone else in the Labor Party, "organised tactics" of which Mr Moore spoke last evening. It seems to me that Mr Moore has given a clear example of misusing the privileges of the House; that is, taking the opportunity of making allegations and accusations about alleged tactics of which he admits he has no evidence.

I can tell the House that not only is there no evidence of such tactics being organised by me or my colleagues, but also they did not happen except in the imagination of the member. It is unsatisfactory for a member of this House to utilise the tactic of unsubstantiated allegations, thereby attracting media attention, in an attempt to somehow to add to the verisimilitude of an otherwise inaccurate, untruthful claim.

The Labor Party is very proud of its campaign in the Mining and Pastoral Region which did not employ tactics which in any way threatened voters in any manner. Rather than looking for the reasons for Aboriginal voting patterns based on this allegation, perhaps the member should look to the aversion that has developed in the minds of those voters to him and the Liberal Party and their resulting efforts to ensure that the Labor Party policies are pursued by the Government of the Western Australia.

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL (No 2)

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Minister for Budget Management) [2.44 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Stamp Act to give effect to the Government's election promise of a stamp duty rebate for first home buyers and buyers of land for a first home from 1 March 1989. The stamp duty rebate is an integral element of the Government's housing policy aimed at continuing to provide an affordable housing environment in Western Australia and targeting assistance to those most in need. The rebate will relieve some of the burden of higher property prices which have hit first home buyers in particular.

The Bill provides for a rebate of duty of up to \$500 for first home acquisition settled on or after 1 March 1989. In order to limit the rebate to those most in need, eligibility for the rebate will be restricted to those who purchase property they intend to occupy as their principal place of residence. Where a house which a purchaser intends to reside in already exists on the property, the value must not exceed \$80 000. In recognition of the higher costs of living in the north of the State, a higher limit of \$120 000 will apply for homes located north of the 26th parallel. For buyers of land intended for the erection of their first home a value limit of \$33 000 will apply.

As the rebate is aimed at those most in need it will not be available to those who have previously owned, or have been part-owners of, a residence. However, previous ownership of vacant land will not preclude eligibility for the rebate.

An additional requirement in the case of land is that house construction must commence within four years of the land being acquired. The rebate will only be payable after the applicant has entered into a building contract, or where there is no contract, after building commences. Those who consider they are eligible for the rebate will be required to apply to the Commissioner of State Taxation in the manner specified in the legislation. They will need to provide such information as the Commissioner requires to satisfy himself that the applicant is eligible for a rebate.

Applications must be received within 12 months of a home being acquired or, in the case of land, within 12 months of the commencement of construction of a home or the date of signing a building contract for a home. Where an applicant applies for a rebate and the application is approved prior to the payment of stamp duty, the rebate will be provided by way of a reduced stamp duty assessment. However, where application is not made, or approval is not given until after the payment of stamp duty, a refund will be paid. The estimated cost of the rebate is \$3.1 million in a full year.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon P.G. Pandal.

SUPPLY BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Minister for Budget Management) [2.47 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure seeks the grant of supply to Her Majesty of \$2 500 million for the works and services of the year ending 30 June 1990 pending the passage of appropriation Bills during

the Budget Session of the next financial year. The Bill seeks an issue of \$2 300 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$200 million from moneys to the credit of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund.

The amounts sought are based largely on the estimated costs of maintaining services and works at existing levels, and no provision has been made for any new major programs which must await the introduction of the 1989-90 Budget. With regard to the Consolidated Revenue Fund the amount requested reflects changed accounting arrangements for hospital funding. In 1988-89 the Commonwealth's hospital funding grant was paid into the Hospital Fund and netted against expenditure, but in 1989-90 it is intended to bring the funds into the Consolidated Revenue Fund requiring a higher level of appropriation by Parliament for hospital funding but improving public accountability.

Before dealing with the formal requirements of the Bill I would like to comment briefly on the current year's budgetary position. As members will recall, the 1988-89 Budget presented to Parliament on 31 August 1988 provided for a balanced Budget with expenditure estimated at \$4 044 million and revenue at \$4 044 million. There will be, not surprisingly, variations to the estimate of both revenue and expenditure, given the magnitude of the total figures involved. A recent review of the Budget indicates that estimated receipts and outlays will be above Budget, with the prospect of a surplus being achieved for the fifth year in succession.

Due to buoyant economic activity, revenue collections in total are expected to be above estimate, largely as a result of higher than estimated receipts from taxation, especially stamp duty collections. The estimated additional stamp duty reflects, in the main, increased collections from conveyancing and mortgages as a result of higher levels of real estate activity than estimated in the Budget.

On the expenditure side, every effort is being made to contain overall outlays to the amounts appropriated by Parliament. However, it has been necessary to fund some inescapable or unavoidable additional commitments which have emerged since the Budget was introduced into Parliament. The largest of these relates to the Government's action to protect the savings of many thousands of Western Australians who invested in the failed Teachers Credit Society. As I have already indicated, all of these additional funding commitments will be met from within funding available in 1988-89. As members will be aware, excess expenditures approved after the Budget has been passed are required by law to be resubmitted as part of the Appropriation Bills for Parliament's approval.

So far as 1989-90 is concerned, the Commonwealth has already indicated that it will be seeking continued restraint in payments to the States and in State global borrowing limits for 1989-90. Clearly that action by the Commonwealth will make our budgetary task in 1989-90 much more difficult than it would otherwise have been. However, the Western Australian Government acknowledges the need for expenditure restraint to be sustained at all levels of Government, if Australia's rate of inflation and current account deficit are to be reduced to manageable levels. While this may impose some difficulties, we recognise that the State must play its part in addressing the macro economic problems confronting the nation so as to ensure soundly based and sustained economic growth. At the same time, my Government believes that the burden of adjustment needs to be fairly shared. We will be arguing forcibly at the Premiers' Conference that the States in general, and Western Australia in particular, should not be unfairly treated and to ensure that due regard is given to unavoidable State expenditure commitments necessary to meet broadly based community needs.

I have already described the formal provisions of the Bill, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Max Evans.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Minister for Budget Management)
[2.51 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill authorises the Treasurer to make withdrawals from the public bank account to provide advances for authorised purposes chargeable to the Treasurer's Advance Account within the monetary limit available for the financial year commencing 1 July 1989. In addition, the Bill seeks supplementation of \$85 million against the monetary limit authorised for the 1988-89 financial year. The monetary limit specified within clause 4 of the Bill represents an authorisation for the Treasurer to withdraw up to \$250 million for the financing of advances in the 1989-90 financial year.

The purposes for which advances may be made are set out within clause 5 of the Bill and remain unchanged from those authorised in previous years. Where payments are made in respect of a new item or for supplementation of an existing item of expenditure in the Consolidated Revenue Fund or General Loan and Capital Works Fund, those payments will be chargeable against the appropriate fund pending parliamentary appropriation in the next financial year. Advances provided for other purposes are repayable by the recipient.

The proposed monetary limit of \$250 million for the 1989-90 financial year represents an increase of \$50 million over the 1988-89 authorisation specified in section 4 of the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act 1988. The increase is necessary to accommodate the needs of a number of operating accounts operated through Treasurer's Advance arrangements.

Members would be aware that a number of activities, such as the Building Management Authority's works and sales account and suspense stores for printing and supply services, are initially financed by way of Treasurer's Advance which is subsequently recouped from the department or statutory authority on whose behalf the work or service was performed. In addition, an allowance has been made for the provision of short term/bridging finance, if appropriate, from the Treasurer's Advance Authorization to meet any Government obligation that may arise in relation to its bridging commitment to the Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd project. All such advances will be made at market rates of interest and will be repaid when project funding arrangements are in place.

Clause 6 of the Bill seeks an increase of \$85 million in the monetary limit authorised in the financial year ending 30 June 1989. The need to supplement the limit is a result of the Government's decision to protect the savings of many thousands of ordinary Western Australians who had invested in the failed Teachers Credit Society. It stems from the settlement with the Rural & Industries Bank of Western Australia for the transfer of assets and liabilities of the Teachers Financial Society (Under Administration) to the Bank.

This unbudgeted payment, together with other payments made in respect of new expenditure items or supplementation of existing items of expenditure of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or General Loan and Capital Works Fund, will be met from 1988-89 revenues. The expenditure is authorised in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act, and will be chargeable against the relevant fund pending parliamentary appropriation in 1989-90.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Max Evans.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Appointment of Trustees

On motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved -

That pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1970, the Legislative Council hereby appoints Hon J.M. Brown and Hon A.A. Lewis to be Trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund.

FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Central) [2.55 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Foreign ownership of Western Australian property and businesses is an issue of major concern throughout the community. As a broad issue, it has been raised in another place by my colleague, the Deputy Leader of the National Party.

This Bill deals with the narrower issue of foreign ownership in the fishing industry. The purpose of the Bill is to enable the Director of Fisheries to refuse the granting or transfer of a processor's licence where he is satisfied that the proposed grant or transfer is not in the best interests of the fishing industry. The Bill is the direct consequence of a recent attempt by Japanese interests to increase the level of foreign ownership in Western Australia's rock lobster processing industry. It is appropriate to explain why increased foreign ownership in the rock lobster industry may not be in the industry's interests, or in the interests of the State.

In the rock lobster industry, the processors are in effect also the agents responsible for marketing this valuable Western Australian export. The worst thing that could happen would be for the end user to control the marketing. This is precisely what the industry feared may happen had no action been taken to prevent the sale of Planet Fisheries to Chunagon earlier this year. If an end user gains control of marketing through the establishment of a buyer monopoly or cartel, or through collusion with other buyers, there is a clear incentive to force prices down, thereby depriving Western Australia of valuable export dollars and threatening the viability of other processors in the WA rock lobster industry. As some members are aware, there are moves towards offshore control of some of Australia's other primary industries. The rock lobster industry is not a case in isolation.

In the case of the proposed purchase of Planet Fisheries by Chunagon, the Commonwealth intervened and the sale was prevented, but the experience did highlight the deficiency of the Western Australian legislation. It should not be necessary for the WA rock lobster industry to have to rely on intervention by future Commonwealth Governments in order to retain control of its own industry. This amendment will ensure that Western Australia can act to prevent an increase in the extent of foreign ownership in the rock lobster and other sectors of its fishing industry, where it can be shown that such an increase is against the interests of the industry.

This Bill has the support of the industry and I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Fred McKenzie.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 5 April.

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [2.57 pm]: Hon Tom Stephens is obviously on parliamentary business in another part of the House. Perhaps I should send out a search party for him because I am going to talk about him for a couple of minutes and I would not want him to think I was doing it in some trepidation or fear of his presence. I want to make some comments in relation to the statement he made earlier. I accept his explanation that he was not personally involved in the activities that I described last night but I hope that one day he tells us who was, because I have no doubt that the activities that I talked about did in fact go on and have been going on for many years.

I should correct a comment that was made on ABC radio this morning, to which Hon Tom Stephens also referred. The ABC news coverage of what I said last night indicated that I had no evidence and that I had admitted in the House that I had no evidence. What I said in the House was that I could not prove it, which is quite different. There are truckloads of anecdotal evidence and I am in the process, as are my colleagues, of putting together hard evidence that may in fact lead to some action being taken. So it is not a question of having no evidence but rather of not being able to prove it at this time.

Hon Tom Stephens referred to that in his comments as well, so I want him to understand very clearly that I am not simply making statements in the House with no evidence at all. I am making statements which are substantiated by considerable anecdotal evidence and I hope in the fullness of time - if that is a reasonable expression to use - to be able to prove it to everybody's satisfaction.

I would like to continue the remarks I was making last night. I concluded my comments then with a criticism of the Government's decision to announce the closure of the four remaining State Batteries, one month after the State election. I was suggesting that was done for obvious political reasons as, had the announcement been made before the election, the Government may well have found considerable opposition from people in the electorate. In today's *Kalgoorlie Miner* at page 1 a story appears headed "Industry chief slams batteries proposal". The President of the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association has made his views very well known in this article about the closure of State Batteries. I will quote from John Jones' statement in that newspaper which will serve the purpose of reminding members opposite, particularly those from the goldfields, what their attitude was in the past and what it is now. I hope ultimately members such as Mr Grill, Mr Nevill and Mr Taylor will do something to alleviate the problems of prospectors. The article reads -

"To cite economics after presiding over deliberately run-down and inefficient treatment plants is inexcusable deception by the Government of the day," Mr Jones said. "There is a clear trail of broken promises and incompetence which prospectors and small miners will not readily accept."

As far back as 1983, the then Leader of the State Opposition, Brian Burke, and local member Julian Grill had promised funds would be made to upgrade the batteries. Mr Jones also cited a statement in 1986 by the then Lands Minister Ian Taylor when he announced a new structure to run the batteries.

"For the first time people working in State Batteries will be able to look forward to a positive future," Mr Taylor had said.

"The simple fact of the matter is that we have been conned, and many times, on this matter," Mr Jones added.

The Government and its local members have been giving the impression for a long time that they were supportive of the batteries system, and yet one month after a State election - after they could have been judged for their actions - an announcement is made about the ultimate demise of the batteries system. If the State Batteries are so antiquated and inadequate as to be virtually useless for the intended job, the Government's responsibility is to consider all the alternatives. I have been arguing that if we cannot have batteries we should have a portable battery system where a transportable mill is moved from goldfield to goldfield when a certain amount of ore is to be treated. Prospectors have only small parcels of land and are not capable financially of setting up a treatment plant; over the years the batteries system has provided the service and prospectors have paid for it.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Are any of those transportable batteries available?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I understand that one is available at Marble Bar and that a company is looking at doing something with the batteries which have been closed down. But I do not believe that plant will be suitable for the sorts of problems that could arise in the eastern goldfields.

I hope the Government will give serious consideration to providing a service to this important part of the gold mining industry. Members should consider that while there has been a decline in tonnage coming from State Batteries in recent times, and that coinciding with a boom in the gold mining industry, traditionally demand for batteries increases when there is a serious lull in the industry. When there is plenty of activity, as now, most ground is taken up by the big companies and the small prospectors are squeezed out. When the big companies move out, the prospectors come back into their own and maintain the small viable industry in the goldfield towns of Western Australia.

I suggest that when the current gold boom finishes - and that is on the way down now, regrettably - increased demands from prospectors for battery facilities will occur. Being a free enterprise person, someone might say I should be arguing for people to set up their own mill, but the costs are so high that prospectors are not capable of raising the necessary capital. In my view the Government ought to do this.

In his speech the other night to the House, Hon Tom Helm made comments about the Liberal Party campaign. He took the view that we had run a very negative campaign. Having spent time on both sides of the House, now six years on the Government side and six years on the Opposition side, I am in a position to make judgments about the virtues of being on either side. It is very difficult for the Opposition, as Hon Tom Helm will find out in due course, to put across a positive point of view. When looking at the arguments and at the adversarial areas in State politics, one finds that on the one hand the Government is spending millions of dollars on advertisements putting forward its own initiatives and achievements, while on the other hand the Opposition virtually has nothing and is trying to compete, so this represents a very lopsided arrangement.

In reply to a question by Hon P.G. Pendar yesterday, the figure of \$10 million was mentioned by the Attorney General as the amount spent by some Government organisations on advertising - that is more than the Liberal Party would spend on 10 election campaigns and yet the money was being spent by the Government to promote its achievements and to create in the minds of the public the thought that the Government was a very positive organisation. The Opposition only has at its disposal Press conferences and Press releases, and hopes that the media will take a positive approach.

I wish to explain to the House a difficult position in which I found myself in trying to promote our education policy. It is a very positive document and most people who have read it will agree. When we held a Press conference to release the document, the ABC TV team did not turn up and *The West Australian* reporter turned up late and had to be briefed independently afterwards. The only Press coverage we received was that the Opposition would reintroduce the cane. That was the sum total of media interest in a document containing about 40 pages and an enormous amount of positive ideas and policy for education in Western Australia.

Hon Robert Hetherington: I feel some sympathy for you because I was an unsuccessful shadow Minister for Education myself.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I was taking the point of view that when a person comes over to this side he starts to realise the problems. Mr Helm has been on the Government side of the House only, so I make these comments for his benefit so that he knows when he sits on this side of the House, as he ultimately will, that it is difficult to be positive all the time. The difficulty is to get the Press to take an interest in the positives of an Opposition. I commend to Mr Helm our education policy. I also commend to him our north west policy, which contains page after page of positive proposals. Mr President, if we were to come to an agreement in this House that the amount of money spent by the Government on promoting itself was also made available to the Opposition in promoting itself, then we might not get the positive versus negative argument that we get from time to time. I am not complaining; I simply wish to make clear to Mr Helm that we on this side try to be positive but often the Press is not interested.

Hon B.L. Jones: It is positively negative.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, that is the best way to go in Opposition - positively negative.

I wish to touch on the subject of the national curriculum. I made some comments last year when a document called "Strengthening Australian Schools" was released by the Federal Minister for Education, Mr Dawkins. Like my positive policy on education those comments received the usual amount of Press coverage but since then we have seen an enormous amount of Press comment about the idea of a national curriculum. I sound a warning to this House and to the State Minister for Education that we must resist this at all costs. Because a very small percentage of school children - about two per cent - move from State to State, people are proposing that we now need a national curriculum to cater for this tiny minority of people. Their problems can be resolved much easier than introducing a national curriculum, but one needs to look beyond the question of a national curriculum and look very closely at what else is contained in the document "Strengthening Australia's Schools", because it does not just say there should be a national curriculum; it also says there should also be national assessment. Then it goes on to say there should be national registration of teachers. If one puts those three propositions together and looks at them in the context of education, one gets the potential for centralised Canberra control of what is taught in schools, how it is assessed, and who teaches it. So, virtually all of the aspects of primary and secondary education could come under the control of a central educational organisation.

I have sat down and thought about this closely, and tried to work out what is likely to happen in the next few years in respect of Mr Dawkins' proposition, and it seems to me this is the sort of scenario that could occur. Later this month, the State Ministers and the Federal Minister for Education will meet as the Australian Education Council to discuss the proposals for a national curriculum put forward by Mr Dawkins. If that meeting should agree to go to the next stage, of further consultation and further organisation, I believe the Commonwealth will set up the working parties to take the next step. The Commonwealth will begin to control, as it has done in the past, the mechanisms surrounding the development of future policies and future directions. As it has the resources located centrally and because it has access to all of the States, it will say, "It is just natural that we should have a leading role in further developments." Eventually the Ministers will make a decision that there should be a broad national curriculum. Somebody will have to work out who will write it, and the Commonwealth will then say to the States, "We have the resources; we have the people at our disposal. We will do it, and you can send people across and talk about whether you agree or not." Further down the track they will say, "It is just a waste of money coming to these meetings. It is already a fait accompli." Ultimately the States will stop attending the meetings, and the Commonwealth will have total control of the curriculum.

Once the Commonwealth has control of what people learn in schools, that is virtually the end of the whole deal for the States. When the Commonwealth has control over assessment, so we have nationwide assessments which are identical in every State, and once the Commonwealth has control of who teaches in the schools by having a national system of registration, we will have total Commonwealth domination of primary and secondary education. I remind members that the Constitution clearly states that education is a State matter, and for some silly reason years ago the States gave away any effective power they had over tertiary education. They should be very careful now, because they are in the process of giving away State power over primary and secondary education. I can see it sticking out a mile.

Mr Dawkins has a very obvious and basic strategy behind all this. Quite clearly it is the centralisation and total Commonwealth domination of primary and secondary education. That will be an absolute disaster in the long run, because it is absolutely necessary that State education systems be in total control of their own activities. It is my view that if the Minister, at the meeting in Hobart this month, should agree to go down the path of a national curriculum, within 10 years the State Ministry of Education will be a branch or a regional office of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Training, and all effective power will be in Canberra. Probably within 30 years, with the way we are headed in Commonwealth-State relations, this Parliament will become irrelevant.

In the time I have been a member of Parliament, and that is only a fairly short time in the parliamentary history of this State, there has been a significant shift of power and authority away from the States. Some of the power has gone to the Commonwealth through the use of various tricks. It all revolves around the Commonwealth's control of taxation. We have also been giving greater authority away to local authorities. Only last year we gave them authority to be involved in welfare and in several other areas. Eventually the States will have the power taken away from them at one end, and give it away at the other, until, quite rightly in the minds of the public, they become irrelevant and fade away. I believe that within 30 years we will ultimately come to a system of Government in Australia based upon what the Labor Party has always sought - that is, one central, unicameral Parliament in Canberra, and regional government across the rest of Australia, all controlled by -

Hon H.W. Gayfer: That will be a very sad day when it happens.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes. It did happen in the past, and it has been accelerating considerably in recent times. What is happening in education is an indication of that movement. The Federal Government under Mr Whitlam attempted to do that sort of thing, aiming for centralisation. However, Gough Whitlam was so outrageous that people resisted it immediately. The present Government, through people like Mr Dawkins, is much more subtle.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: John Tonkin would call it political subterfuge.

Hon T.G. Butler: Education under Kim Beazley senior made rapid strides during the Whitlam Government.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It made rapid strides towards the ultimate scenario I am talking about, because when Mr Beazley was the Minister - I can speak first hand of this - huge sums of money started pouring out of the central coffers in Canberra into all the schools in Australia. I received a number of cartons of electrical equipment at the school I was then teaching at - in fact, it was at Tom Price - without any indication of where it had come from or what it was for. I remember one carton with about 40 tape recorders for the school. It just said, "This is from the Commonwealth." Nothing had to be signed, and nobody said what it was for. We did not order it, and nobody wanted it. The tape recorders sat on the shelf - they are probably still there even now. Money was spent in those days like it was going out of fashion. That is one of the reasons Gough Whitlam did not last very long, because people had more concern for their tax dollars than he did. That was an indication of the intent of the Whitlam Government to have control over education.

What is happening now is much more subtle. The Commonwealth Minister is moving into State education in the primary and secondary fields. He has come in by saying that there are all these people going from State to State, and all these children who are being disadvantaged by shifting from State to State. What he does not say is that it is only about two per cent of the population. However, he used that angle to come out and say, "We have to have a national curriculum." By using that argument, he has been able to flag the idea of a national curriculum. He has been able to frighten all of the State Ministers, because we all know that ultimately the money for the States, to a large extent, comes from the Commonwealth; so they have to go along with him. He has also been able to use the media very cleverly to create an impression that the national curriculum will in some way be better than the curriculums now being used by the States. I argue quite strongly that that is not so. I have found in my limited political experience that the Canberra bureaucrats have less knowledge or less comprehension of what is going on in the States than anybody else on earth. They are the last people that we should have making decisions about matters like education. They live in a funny land called Canberra where everyone is on a different plane from the rest of the world; it seems to happen to politicians when they work in Canberra. Their minds completely change; they go there as great States' righters but soon want to know what they can take over there next. They end up living there, like the Federal Treasurer. Canberra has an incredible effect on people from both sides of politics. It also has the same effect on the bureaucrats who think they are the repositories of all knowledge of what goes on in Australia.

If we want to maintain in Western Australia an education system that is relevant to our circumstances we must maintain total control over how the curriculum is assessed. We must never let the Commonwealth Government decide who the teachers in our schools will be.

The Address-in-Reply debate allows members to raise matters of concern to them. I have mentioned some areas of concern to me, but I reiterate that the most serious problem I see confronting the system of government in Western Australia today is the matter I just referred to. If we do not start to take a strong line in this State to go back to a proper system of federalism, in 30 years' time the State Parliaments will become irrelevant and will disappear off the face of the earth. We will be left with a system of government in Australia that will not be in the best interests of all its citizens. I support the motion.

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South East Metropolitan) [3.22 pm]: In supporting the motion I would like to say how pleased I was to see His Excellency the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, having had his term extended, sitting in the Chair of this House. I was also very pleased to learn that Mrs Reid will be able to continue the excellent work she has been doing as the wife of the Governor. I noted that members opposite have, in their speeches, paid tribute to the Governor and his wife and it is good to know that there is at least one matter in this Parliament on which we have complete consensus.

I am pleased the Labor Government was re-elected and note the excellent campaign waged by the Hon Premier, who has emerged as a person with great ability. Some people knew he was a man with great ability, but not everyone realised he had an excellent command of the language or understood his ability to go out to the people in the way he has done. This bodes well for four years of excellent Government. It is to my regret I will not be in this House to see it, but no doubt the House will struggle along without me.

I will make brief reference to the remarks made by Hon Gordon Masters yesterday when he criticised my friend and colleague's excellent speech, for which I congratulate him, when

moving the Address-in-Reply. I am referring to the speech by Hon Tom Helm. I would have thought that somebody who is so much a monarchist would have done away with the throwaway line, "They smack of some of Bill Hayden's earlier comments." I do not think that is the way to refer to His Excellency, the Governor General, Mr Bill Hayden - whatever he may have been before, he is now encompassed by the majesty of the Crown. The honourable member should do well to remember that members in this House are supposed to show the Governor General and the Governor due respect.

Hon N.F. Moore: Unfortunately the Scouts Association shares the same feeling.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I thought the Acting Leader of the Opposition would have done better. Hon Tom Helm raised an important point and it is a point I have met when I have attended various naturalisation ceremonies; that is, that many people when being naturalised are confused because they have to swear allegiance to what they regard as a foreign Queen. I understand the subtleties of the Constitution and I understand it is possible for the Queen of England to be Queen of Australia. It is rather ironic that British citizens, to become Australian citizens, have to give up the Queen of England and swear allegiance to the Queen of Australia. It is one of those odd things that philosophers may like to talk about, but it does confuse many people and it is something that has to be considered. I do not know what we can do about it but it raises a problem which faces many people, particularly from Europe, when they are naturalised. They feel they are swearing allegiance to a foreign Queen and they do not understand the subtleties of our constitutional system.

I also point out to Hon Gordon Masters that when I made my speech on the Address-in-Reply in 1983 -

Hon G.E. Masters: It was a good speech too.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: - I did not consult with anybody. We do not consult the Leader of the House before we make speeches. I spoke for myself and, oddly enough, I could not have consulted with the Leader of the House on my speech because apart from a piece of paper with figures on it I did not have a speech to consult him on. I made it up while on my feet and that is the proper way to do it. It would be better if some members in this House learnt to do that.

For the benefit of the honourable gentleman who gave us the yes or no choice I advise that I am a republican. I have said it before and I make no secret of this fact. I believe Australia would be better off as a republic. One of the reasons I believe that it would be better off is that it would help us face the fact that we can no longer rely on Great Britain for assistance. We are a very lonely European outpost in Asia and for this reason Australia must eventually become a republic. If it did become a republic Hon Phil Pendar's problems would be over and he would not be talking about abdication which I certainly am not going to do. As the honourable gentleman probably realises I have no problem swearing allegiance to a monarch who represents a system that I would rather see replaced. We are a democracy and it is obvious that the majority of people want us to be a monarchy; and while they want that we will remain a monarchy. While we are a monarchy I have allegiance and loyalty to the Crown and I would have it no other way.

If Australia were to become a republic we would not destroy the Westminster system of Parliament. Despite what members think, the monarchy is not necessarily part of the Westminster system; it all depends on what honourable members think is the Westminster system. We could elect a president in a suitable way to have a good and impartial person. One way of electing that person might be by two thirds of the two Houses in Canberra sitting together to ensure that the elected person is acceptable to all political parties. I am not advocating that this is the way we should go. We may, with a republic, be able to write into the Constitution more closely defined powers for the president than presently exist for the Governor General to allow him to wield powers that are not wielded by the monarch in Britain. For this reason I welcome Hon Tom Helm's remarks and I point out to the House that I am a republican.

Hon G.E. Masters: I thought you might have had a couple of words to say.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: While the present system remains I am a monarchist because I owe loyalty to the Queen of Australia and her representative, the Hon Governor General, whatever his antecedents may have been.

The other thing that Hon Gordon Masters mentioned related to a matter about which I still hold the view I held in 1983: I believe our electoral system is malapportioned and undesirable at present and should be reformed, so I have not changed my mind at all. I am sorry that the members of the Liberal Party had to learn how desirable it might be in a rather harsh manner, because I think it is most unfortunate that they have learned it in the manner they have.

Hon A.A. Lewis: But Hon Robert Hetherington would not vote for one-vote-one-value.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I point out to Hon A.A. Lewis that because one maverick Liberal offers the Government the opportunity to vote immediately for one-vote-one-value when a whole carefully arranged deal has been worked out -

Hon A.A. Lewis: A deal had been done.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: That is right; this is the way we work in a democracy, by compromise. This does not mean I do not believe in one-vote-one-value.

Hon W.N. Stretch: The only one who really did was Arthur Tonkin and he resigned.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The other thing I would like to point out is that even one-vote-one-value with a system of single member electorates can sometimes be quite undemocratic. This happens in the Northern Territory because, as there is no strong industrial area which produces solid and safe Labor seats and no area which produces solid and safe Liberal/Country Party seats - which I think is the name of the party up there at present - a swing can give one party all the seats with perhaps 51 per cent of the vote. I think that that, too, is undesirable. I have said in this House before that the Northern Territory is one instance of this, and that there should be a system of proportional representation for the Legislative Assembly. I do not want to debate that matter now; I merely point out that more is involved than just the matter of one-vote-one-value; a lot depends on the sociology of a particular area, the balance of forces, and so on.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Do you think the Government should bring in one-vote-one-value legislation again?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I hope it will. I believe it should. As I have said previously, I will not be here to see it. However, I believe it will happen.

Hon G.E. Masters: Hon Joe Berinson said that he will send me a special invitation and Hon Robert Hetherington will get one too, but we will have to wait for a long time.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I hope to see that happen. I know Hon Eric Charlton does not believe in one-vote-one-value, but that is another matter. I do not want to debate that matter particularly, but to make my own position clear. When I made my first final speech in this House I listed a number of things that I regretted had not happened while I have been here. When I sat down I realised that I had forgotten the most important of them. What Dr Freud would say about that I do not know, but I will let any member who is interested try to work it out.

The one thing that did not happen in my 12 years in this Parliament, although we tried to do it four times, was that we did not manage to decriminalise homosexual acts between consenting adults. I hope for two things - that the Government will have the sense and courage to bring in such legislation shortly; and that the Opposition will have the sense to examine it very carefully and to cast aside its prejudices and look at it de novo - anew - to ascertain whether it does make some sort of sense, particularly at a time when AIDS is here and growing.

I have believed always, that the criminal law is not there to impose morality on people. The criminal law exists to look after the peace, order and good government of the community and sometimes by imposing morality on people it does more public harm than good. I said when I made my speech on my Bill which was defeated that I had been informed that there were many people in the community who were not prepared to come forward for testing and counselling because they were afraid that they would incriminate themselves. Some people laughed at that notion and some people rejected it, but I have done more talking with people and I am convinced that this is the case. We are not assisting our health authorities to do something about AIDS and about educating people and getting them in to safer sexual practises by retaining this law on the Statute book to be reactivated by the arbitrary will of any police officer - which can be done.

I know that the Acting Leader of the Opposition has said that he would not get rid of this law and would not enforce it, but he does not have the role of enforcing it; that is in other people's hands. I believe that as we are not enforcing this law at present we should remove it and not leave it on the Statute book because in Leviticus 13 it says that man who lies with man shall be put to death because what he does is an abomination. It also says that people who commit adultery should be put to death because what they do is wrong - it does not say it is an abomination. Further, in Leviticus it also says that it was okay for Lot's daughters to get their father drunk and lie with him to get themselves pregnant in order to continue the male line. I do not think that that is something that we take as our model either morally or legally any more. To quote Leviticus is to quote Leviticus, it is not to do anything about dealing with the problems that face us today.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Hon Robert Hetherington cannot argue with the influence of the Judaic/Christian laws on the community today.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I know about the influence of the Judaic/Christian laws.

Hon W.N. Stretch: They provide very strong bases.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I realise that. We have got rid of some of the prohibitions because we now do not believe that people should be put to death for blasphemy in this country, and I hope we never believe it again - although Ayatollah Khomeini does because he is more of a fundamentalist than I am. We do not believe that one necessarily bans a film called "The Last Temptation of Christ", which I have not seen so I cannot comment on its goodness or badness, because it offends some people. We do not ban books because we find them offensive or blasphemous. I have read books which I have found both, although I cannot really find them blasphemous.

Hon W.N. Stretch: It depends on one's reading audience.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Of course it would.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Some things that your Government has put into school libraries are disgraceful.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would not know about that because I have not seen them, but we are arguing about something rather different. All I am saying is that I believe we should be very careful where we draw the line in taking away people's freedom because we do not approve of things.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I agree.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: There are many things happening in this society that I do not approve of and that I think are morally wrong, but I do not want to get laws to ban them - although sometimes I feel I do, but I know that is an area in which I cannot indulge myself because there would be greater harm done.

I would like to make another brief point, because I have not done the work I once hoped I might do. It is time the Government grasped the nettle of prostitution. It is time something was done about a law which is there in order to be ignored and which gives the police arbitrary powers. That is what is happening with the containment method of controlling prostitution. What is happening in New South Wales is something they will live to regret, because by closing brothels they will drive prostitution onto the streets and promptly increase the incidence of AIDS among the heterosexual people. We must be very careful about this.

We contain brothels, we do not prosecute them unless the police think that is suitable. Apparently we think prostitution is all right, but living off the earnings of prostitution, running brothels and so forth, is against the law.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Do you have licensing and non performance? Do you have a code of conduct? Do you have legislation to cover a code of conduct?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: That is something which must be worked out. I do not think I have all the answers yet. There is a problem which must be dealt with. We might as well set up an inquiry to look at it. It is not something which will interest me when I leave this place, but it is something that I think must be done. What has always worried me, and it should worry members opposite, because I understand they are very worried about accountability, is that we should make sure people are accountable in their administration of

the law. At present we give the police arbitrary powers in the administration of this law. I am not claiming the present police are corrupt. I had a discussion with a policeman whom I hold in the highest regard, and he gave me very good arguments to defend the way the law was being policed, because he said that if people were happy with a brothel which was quiet and well behaved, and the clients were well behaved, it was left there. If it became a nuisance, or noisy, and people started complaining, the police shifted it under the law. In this way they had a self regulating test. Brothels were safe as long as they behaved and did not cause a nuisance or annoyance to other people. That is fine; it is very persuasive, but it still gives people arbitrary power. If people are given arbitrary power, sooner or later there will be corruption.

This is something that the next Parliament has to deal with, and I hope it will deal with it. These matters are something people run away from, but both parties should get together and work out a bipartisan approach to this problem. I do not ask anybody, as you, Mr Deputy President (Hon John Williams), would be the first to realise, to say that homosexuality is necessarily moral. If people want to believe it is immoral, that is fine; I have no objection to that. Nor do I ask anyone to believe that prostitution is not immoral. I just ask the Parliament to look at this in the interest of the State so far as what we ban by law and how we control things under the law. I feel very strongly about this.

It is very difficult for members of Parliament to take these matters up, because they are blasted and the Press tends to blow matters up beyond recognition. I was sympathetic with Hon Norman Moore, because I remember when I was shadow Minister for Education in this House I once rang up a newspaper because Peter Jones had just made an announcement - I forget what it was about. I said, "Is it news when the shadow Minister agrees with the Minister?" and I was told no.

Hon G.E. Masters: That is the tragedy of it!

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The only time I had two pieces of Press on the same speech was when I accused Hon Graham MacKinnon of something like character assassination.

Hon G.E. Masters: That is the last thing a person like you ought to do.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I was reported twice.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON: One of the other matters that has disturbed me since I came to Western Australia 22 years ago is what has happened to our city. When I first arrived St George's Terrace was one of the most beautiful boulevards in the world; with low-rise and sandstone buildings and trees, it was a pleasure to walk up and down. It is now a monstrous wind tunnel with high-rise buildings; there is a plethora of high-rise buildings which are getting higher and worse, destroying the character of the city, and turning it into a little international replica of everything we have had before.

Hon N.F. Moore: How did you describe Mr Bond's building initially? You had an interesting description of it the last time you spoke on this subject.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I said that if the price we had to pay for the preservation of this undistinguished piece of Victoriana was Alan Bond's frosted phallic symbol then the price was too high. I have not changed my mind since the frosted phallic symbol has been built. There is nothing much we can do about it except surround it by other phallic symbols to try to hide it, but that may make the situation worse.

I am very perturbed by what has happened. I do not know whether it is too late to preserve some little character of what is left in the city; I think perhaps it is not. I make reference to an organisation, CityVision, of which I recently became aware when I went to a presentation of its proposal for changes to the foreshore whereby Riverside Drive would meander through environmentally acceptable surrounds. The playing fields would be retained, and that part of the city would be tremendously improved. I was most impressed by the proposal and I hope that it is accepted. I am told that many people, including the Minister for Planning, have seen this plan and expressed their pleasure at the proposal. I hope something positive is done about it. I hope we might do something about improving our city to make it a place where

pedestrians are welcome, because successful cities have walking places, and make it possible for people to live in the city. That is essential. A city without a population is a dead city. It is fascinating to see in a place such as Rome, for instance, the theatre of Marcellus, which is a ruin, on the top of which are flats in which people live. They have managed to keep it alive, or at least it is only half dead, through the centuries. Our city is tending to become a dead city. CityVision has put out a brochure setting out its proposals. They want to make this city a pleasant and stimulating place in which to be. I notice that one of its recommendations is to -

7. Abandon the policy of granting plot ratio bonuses for open space at ground level unless the space makes a contribution of quality to the environment, noting that places such as the A.M.P. forecourt do not.

Anyone who has passed the AMP forecourt will agree with that statement. It continues -

9. Provide "pocket parks" as the opportunity arises . . .
10. Ensure ensure that all public places are designed to optimise the climate by admitting winter sun whilst providing summer shade and protection from wind, rain, and noise.

I was quite shocked by the brouhaha I heard about how we had to knock down the facade of the Boans store facing Wellington Street in order to provide a superior building, and how we had to knock down the Padbury buildings instead of renovating them because we were going to make Forrest Chase into a better development. We have to chase what we can to find out what is worthwhile in Forrest Chase. I regard the Myer building as an architectural abortion. It is like an Art Deco wedding cake, with a plastic bridge running across the end of Forrest Chase to close it off, instead of opening up the vista towards the railway station, which I thought was the intention of the redevelopment. If that is the best we can do, then all I can say is, "Heaven help Perth."

I saw in *The West Australian* on Wednesday, 5 April, a proposal by Cann Corporation for developing the area around Parliament House. I can only regard this as an attempt to extend the uglification of the city to encompass Parliament House, and to destroy the very pleasant vista that we have above the city. It is an appalling proposal, where they will take the least desirable part of this building - which I think everyone agrees is the facade - and reproduce it all around the place so that we will have a new commercial venture in order to make profit.

Hon A.A. Lewis: What is the Parliamentary Precincts Committee doing about it?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It would be a good idea if someone were to talk to that committee first, because there is no doubt it will be meeting soon, and I hope it will do something about this. What perturbs me is that a proposal was once put out for the development of Parliament House which involved the construction of a superb grassed bridge across the Mitchell Freeway, and which allowed for a ceremonial drive up to Parliament House, so that Parliament House could be linked with the city and people could play a part in the opening of Parliament by coming up to watch the proceedings. That proposal was considered to be too difficult; it would have cost the taxpayers too much money. So we are now waiting for someone to get free land in order to make a profit by developing commercial buildings around Parliament House.

The Cann proposal involves the construction of a bridge across the freeway, but it will skirt Parliament House and leave it looking like a shag on a rock. I have not yet seen any suggestions for the development of Parliament House in any of the proposals which have come from commercial enterprises wanting to destroy our precincts. Members of Parliament apparently have no need for buildings around Parliament House to house all those Government departments, for whose accommodation we are now paying such high leasing fees, and which could more conveniently be located near Parliament House; nor for the development of an environmentally attractive area around Parliament House, which takes into account the needs of a modern Parliament. All we are apparently expected to do is put up with a crass commercial development and to not worry about the needs of the Parliament, except for the provision of one building as a sop for parliamentarians.

I found it outrageous that Cann Corporation spent all this money to impress us. I am not impressed by suede leather folders; on the contrary, I was repelled by this cheap way of trying to get us interested in something. I will not be here in the future to raise my voice

against this proposal, but I hope voices will be raised and that this Parliament will be developed as it should be. Dumas House stands as a monument to past mistakes and folly, but if it does require redevelopment, that should take place along the top part of it. This proposal will remove the grass, the Hale School buildings, and the observatory, which should be cherished and not hidden in a concrete chasm. I hope it is not already too late and that this city is not being entirely destroyed, to become just a mini New York.

I must say in defence of Perth architecture that when I look at the high-rise buildings, such as the frosted phallic symbol, they are a bit better than what is being put up in Adelaide, much better than what is being put up in Melbourne, and extremely better than what is being put up in London. The other places are pretty awful, but that does not make this good. I have been saddened by the loss of what I thought was a charming city, although it did need some development. One of the charming things about Paris is that by refusing to allow high-rise buildings in the heart of the city, there is still an elegant city remaining.

Hon A.A. Lewis: There is a controversy about the pyramid at the Louvre.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Yes, but at least it is a low rise pyramid, and it leads to a whole range of excavations under the Louvre, where there were buildings in former years. The pyramid is not in character, but the rest is quite interesting. The Centre Pompidou, which is another plastic monstrosity, has now reached the stage where it has some character of its own, and one can almost grow to love it because of its grotesqueness. I feel the same way about the Flinders Street Railway Station building in Melbourne, which should never be destroyed because no-one could ever again build such a building. We must cherish it because it is so hideous.

There are few quaint buildings left in Perth. I was appalled when I first came here to see the former Legislative Council being demolished so that the R & I Bank could stick out another wing of high-rise development. I guess it will not be very long before we will want to destroy the Town Hall, or perhaps even get rid of Parliament House altogether. I know one gentleman sitting opposite once suggested to me that we try using the Merlin Hotel, and that proposition certainly has something going for it, but I do not regard that as a terribly good idea. I believe Parliament House should never have been built here; it should have been built near the river because Parliament should be a place which people can walk into from the street. The Parliament belongs to the people. We must bridge the Mitchell Freeway and lead people up here, preferably through gardens where they can sit and enjoy themselves, and then go into a tasteful, architecturally designed building which will be useful for parliamentarians and Ministers. So I commend the people of City Vision for what they are trying to do. I hope they remain as altruistic as they have been so far. I hope there is no attempt by people to take that group over for their own ends in order to run their own projects, and that it remains a group of people who are interested in improving the environment in this city and making it a city where people can once more enjoy living.

I must say I feel - and I use that word because it is a feeling - that when I get too old for my hectare at Forrestfield I would not mind moving to the city. I think it would be a good place to be, particularly as I would be near some good restaurants. At that age, when I am 90, I would enjoy eating at those restaurants and pottering around the city. I hope the proposals I have seen in the newspapers for developing the environs of Parliament House never succeed; I hope better proposals are put forward that do succeed; I hope our city can save some of the bits that are still interesting and develop other interesting bits, and that in the future the city planners take notice of the needs of people to walk through the streets and live in an alive city instead of a city which looks something like a series of dead monuments to business. Business should be more alive than it is. After all, the Medici were businessmen but they were able to develop a beautiful Florence. It is high time that our businessmen became less of philistines and took more interest in art. I am sure Hon Phillip Pandal would agree with me because I know he has fought for a long time to preserve old buildings and improve our city.

There is only one other thing I want to talk about, and perhaps I should give Hon Phillip Pandal and his Weetie boxes a brief mention, since he has come to my attention. I must say that when I first saw our new cardboard ballot boxes I was appalled and could not really believe it. Then I reflected and said, "Is it not wonderful that we live in a polity where we can have cardboard boxes in which to put our votes and know they will not be tampered

with." I believe we have such a society, but it may not stay that way. I am sorry that Hon Phillip Pandal implied that perhaps they had been tampered with.

Hon P.G. Pandal: What I did say was that it paved the way for that.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I think that is true, and we must look for something better and more secure. One of the interesting things about our society and our polity is that we have had such a long period of peace and honesty - a period where we have not followed corrupt practices that have been followed in other places - that we sometimes get a little too casual about it all. We must remember that things could become worse. When we look around at the problems in our society, we see that in some ways they have become worse, although in other ways they have become better.

A letter has just been put before me. It is addressed to the President and reads -

Dear Mr Griffiths,

The City of Perth and the Commission have now formed a Central Area Committee which had its inaugural meeting last week.

The Committee's deliberations will impinge on the Parliament Precinct and it is considered appropriate for precinct considerations to be dealt with in that forum. It follows of course, that it would be necessary for parliamentary input, and this will be discussed with the Chairman of the Joint House Committee.

Accordingly, the Commission resolved to disband the Parliamentary Precinct Committee at its meeting last week, and it remains for me to thank members for their services over a considerable period of time and these sentiments will be placed on the record.

Well, I hope that is good and that there is proper input by the Joint House Committee.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Does that letter say they have just dissolved the Parliamentary Precinct Committee?

Hon Tom Stephens: That is what it sounds like.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It worries me.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Who did that?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: The letter is from the State Planning Commission.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Now we know who is running the country.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It is a matter for other members to leap onto now. It is sad that my party considers me too old to keep on riding white horses, and I will have to leave it to my successors.

Another very serious problem I want to talk about is the problem of the destruction of the environment, especially forests, and the Greenhouse Effect. I will not go into this in any great depth because I think we all know what is happening to the Amazon rainforest, for instance. We all know that in order to overcome the effects on the environment of the release of carbon dioxide we need to afforest an area the size of France each year, and we are not doing that. We must do something about fluorocarbons and about growing forests, and we must also make sure that we do not destroy the ozone layer further on one hand and fill the atmosphere with carbon dioxide to increase the Greenhouse Effect on the other.

One thing of which I have just become aware - although I was aware of it in one sense because one hears about it - is the whole problem of refrigeration and air-conditioning and the use of freon gas, a fluorocarbon gas, which is one of the main culprits. It is colourless and odourless, it displaces air, and if it is released in a confined space it displaces oxygen and is likely to kill people. This gas is in our refrigeration and air-conditioning units, and the way things are at present, I have discovered, if we want to do anything with one of these units to repair it we must release the gas. I am told as much gas is released each year in this city as will balance the whole of the Government's tree planting program. We must do something about this.

Furthermore, freon gas is such that if it is released into the atmosphere, and if it does not all dissipate, when an operator commences welding, the chemical reaction produces a

carcinogenic gas called phosgene, a chemical gas used during World War I to kill people. So it is a danger to work with. It is used in car air-conditioners too. Freon gas is being dumped throughout this city and is being handled at service stations by unlicensed operators who know very little about these potential hazards. There are no isolation valves in the units so that we can cut off pieces, and there is no way of decanting it so that it can be removed, kept safe and re-used. It is put into the air. I am told the average household air-conditioner holds between five and 10 kilograms of this gas. The unit servicing typical city multistorey buildings would have a capacity of up to 150 kilograms. If members multiply it out, they will see the problem that is before us.

Here is something else which I wish I had learnt about earlier and something else I would like to pursue - something else we should all consider, as well as the whole problem of homosexuality and the law, because this is a matter of life and death. People cannot hide behind their prejudices. The AIDS epidemic is something we should contain if we can. If it were true that the disease affected only homosexuals, the moralisers would say we should do nothing about it and let all the homosexuals die. However, the disease is something which will enter the heterosexual community as it has in Africa and other places. I have never claimed that the legalisation of homosexuality is a cure-all; it is just one step among many we have to take. In order to get a better lifestyle we should look at our city, our air conditioning, and our lifestyle. We should not let these things destroy our lifestyle. If we do not take action, I will be all right because I have only about 20 years to live, but other people will feel regret if we do not do something fast.

I am not sure whether I will be making a third final speech; one is tempted to be a Dame Nellie Melba or do the Lazarus act. I wanted to raise these questions because I think they are important. I wanted also to say that I hope - and I will say more about this when the legislation comes in - that we will take further steps in this Parliament regarding committees. I hope that the committee on which I had the honour to be chairman - the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation - will continue with its good work because this too is important. In our Westminster system the key thing is to keep people accountable and to try to make sure that people face up to matters and do not hide behind prejudices. With great pleasure, I support the motion.

HON W.N. STRETCH (Lower Central) [4.53 pm]: I extend my congratulations to His Excellency the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid and my thanks to the Labor Party for reappointing the Governor and extending his term in office because this is a measure of the regard with which he is held throughout the State. I thank the Governor for opening the current session of Parliament, untimely though it may be for some of us. Mr President, I congratulate you on your re-election to your new region, as I congratulate all other members on their return to this House.

A few other congratulations are in order and they mostly apply to some of my colleagues elected to Legislative Assembly seats within my old province of Lower Central. I mention Paul Omodei MLA, who comes to the Parliament of Western Australia with the highest credentials. He is a third or fourth generation of Italian extraction and has reached a position of great prominence in his district. Paul has been a shire president and has taken a very strong stand on several occasions over the years on issues of great importance to his electorate. One stand was against the Rajneeshee sect which tried to settle in the Manjimup-Pemberton area, the implications of which were felt throughout Western Australia, Australia and indeed probably the rest of the world. People who followed the actions of the sect and the fascinating people who tried to settle at Pemberton will know that we are very well off without those people. It is of significance that Paul Omodei opposed many people, including a Government Minister, and fought for the residents of his area. Paul replaced a long serving Minister, Hon David Evans, who served the area with great distinction and is affectionately known as good old Dave to most people in the electorate. I pay tribute to Dave and Betty for the services they have carried out for the people of the area.

We also welcome to Parliament Dr Turnbull in the seat of Collie. Dr Turnbull is a person of considerable experience and intelligence, and obviously of great compassion and care. She faces a tremendous job in following in the footsteps of Tom Jones, the long serving member for Collie who, despite philosophical differences, has enjoyed the best of relationships with us. Tom has given unparalleled service to the people of Collie and surrounding districts. It has been a pleasure to work with him and I regret that this Parliament has lost people of the

ability of Tom Jones who can work with people of all political persuasions and backgrounds in the best interests of the electorate. Tom believed that politics did not matter; if a person had a problem it was his job as the member to remedy the problem. Regrettably, that spirit seems to be leaving the Parliament. We all have our differences but we must agree to differ on some of them; we must serve the people of the electorate as a whole and not for their political beliefs. As Hon Robert Hetherington said, we all have our prejudices; that is natural and inevitable. As representatives of the whole electorate it is up to us to represent the people to the best of our ability. I am certain that Dr Turnbull will carry on the tradition and ably fill Tom's shoes. I pay tribute to Tom's wife, Win, who is one of those great support people who back up parliamentarians; without that back-up we are not very good and severely handicapped in doing our job.

I had intended to speak at some length about the King's Cup rowing championship but the speech on the adjournment by Hon Graham Edwards last night made that a more appropriate time. I emphasise how much we all owe to the people of Collie and surrounding districts in putting their shoulders to the wheel to run that magnificent regatta. In a way it was a Clayton's regatta on Saturday and Sunday, which was highly regrettable. However, that takes nothing away from the people of Collie who staged the event. Nothing can be taken away from the unparalleled effort of Tom Jones in getting the regatta for the south west in the first place; it was carried out with such energy and excellence.

While speaking about Collie one needs to mention the future of the coal industry. As I have said many times, Collie has in excess of 200 years' reserves of coal proven in the ground, and given the current attitudes to nuclear power it seems inevitable that coal will fuel the base load power stations in the foreseeable future. Naturally we would like to see a cleaner power system if solar power were a feasible alternative. However, that will be many years down the track, and while the current political and community attitude to nuclear power remains we will persevere with coal. That is a proper decision but coal has a problem with the CO₂ emissions which contribute greatly to the Greenhouse Effect which is of concern to all people in all political parties. Our focus must be on carrying out research into cleaner burning of fossil based fuels. I think that naturally has to focus on the emissions of CO₂ and its possible absorption by some other medium. It is a matter for research. It is well known that oceans of the world absorb the majority of CO₂, but they are simply not coping. I think it is a matter for the great lateral thinkers of the scientific world to work out a way to absorb the CO₂ emissions in some way and thereby try to minimise the effect of them on the environment and on the Greenhouse Effect in general.

You, Mr Deputy President (Hon Robert Hetherington), referred to the need to plant trees, and I think you ably demonstrated the enormous task that we have in front of us if we attempt to cope with anything like the emissions of fuel and deleterious gases that are the by-products of our continuing industrial revolution. I am a great supporter of the planting of trees, having bulldozed them for 20 years. I realise my folly and, like other farmers, am planting trees in large areas. However, we were not given a crystal ball which would have enabled us to look at and judge our actions at that time. All of us work by conventional wisdom. It is wise for us to learn from that over-zealousness, reverse the effects and try to build a better environment.

Like my colleague, Hon Eric Charlton, I took exception to the article which appeared in *The West Australian* some weeks ago. The article seemed to emphasise that the problem lay in the "million acres a year" policy of land release in the time of the Brand Government. Everything has a cost and it is vital that we do not lose sight of the enormous economic strides that were made under that leader and his forward looking policies. I am unashamedly a proponent of people who do things and achieve things - the people who create the wealth, not for wealth's sake only.

Hon Garry Kelly: Irrespective of the consequences you mean?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Here he comes. I was about to say not so much in the creation of wealth but because wealth, in the truest sense of the word, is the very foundation on which our society progresses. It is worth remembering that the industrial revolution in Britain and later in Europe truly underpinned the creation of the standard of living which we enjoy today. Similarly, we are enjoying the fruits of the wealth created by the development of those large areas of land opened up under that program.

Hon Garry Kelly: And some of the problems.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: As I said, everything has a cost. The member comes in here stating the obvious. He would do better to sit quite and listen.

Hon Garry Kelly: I am saying that the cost is too high.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The very fact I am expressing is the same that Hon Garry Kelly is trying to underline for me and I do not need his assistance. I have said that there is a cost for all progress. Obviously, by the interjection, he has made the judgment that it was not worth it. I disagree. From my experience in the bulldozing contracting game, possibly 10 per cent of the country that we cleared was cleared unadvisedly.

Hon T.G. Butler: Ten per cent?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I said possibly 10 per cent. It is difficult to be totally objective on such a matter. It varies from farm to farm and environment to environment. I was not clearing only my own farm, but was contract clearing on other farms also. My view is that 10 per cent of that land should not have been cleared going from what I know now. I am not submitting that that 10 per cent is damaged and degraded land yet. I am saying that I think we should have left that much more land at that time because it would have alleviated the problems that exist today, on one, two or three per cent of the land.

Hon T.G. Butler: Are you talking about the clearing done under the million acres a year policy?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I am talking about my experiences and extrapolating from them. My family and I came to Western Australia in the mid 1950s. We arrived a little before that policy was put in place.

Hon T.G. Butler: The article stated that the EPA's report was ignored. It stated that that volume of clearing should not have occurred.

Hon A.A. Lewis: The same thing occurred when the land was cleared for war service land settlement.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Sandy Lewis farmed in my area a couple of years before I did and Hon Tom Butler has had considerable experience on the Select Committee chaired by Hon David Wordsworth. He admits his experience was greatly broadened as Hon David Wordsworth accepts that Mr Butler's input was invaluable as a result of that broadened experience. I take him very seriously in these matters, although I will take issue with him shortly on other matters.

It is important that the so-called land degradation problem is looked at in a balanced way and the benefits are assessed because if that program were not put in place there would be no Esperance Plains settlement and very little settlement in the south west. Hon Sandy Lewis referred to the war service land settlement area which goes from our southern boundary to the south coast. He said developments would not have taken place there at all if it were not for that policy. I seriously believe the State's economy would not have developed and gone forward.

Hon Garry Kelly: But eventually the economy may suffer as a result of some of those decisions.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It may. I have a belief in the resilience of human nature and a great respect for the ability of our scientists in all fields. I believe all of the perceived problems will be overcome by research and adaptation of farming practices.

That brings me to the other issue of tree planting and timber conservation. In view of the time allotted to me, I will not go into the issue of national parks and the forest estate which has been so ably debated on many occasions by my colleague, Hon Sandy Lewis. Suffice to say that production forestry is good conservation. Those who say otherwise are not looking at the whole picture. As in the farming scene I outlined earlier, there could be small areas in which we might have used a different practice; but we are not infallible. As a general rule, based on my considerable travels through the forest estate, and having lived close to the forest for 35 years, I am confident that the actual conservation values of the properly managed forest are increasing and not decreasing. That is a positive benefit for the State, and not a negative one. In the same way, I believe it is high time the community took a hard look

at its use of paper products. After my first year in Parliament, somebody said, "What is it like?" I said, "It's a fantastic place. It virtually runs on meetings and paper." After five more years, I am not sure I was very wrong. The usage of paper in the western world is absolutely staggering; the amount of paper wasted in this place is absolutely staggering. It would be interesting to see how much of the forest estate would be saved if the Parliament cut its use of paper by 50 per cent. The use of pure white paper, according to modern demand, is a matter of serious concern. There are many paper uses that could be adapted to the usage of recycled paper. We might not get the snowy white, pristine paper that we write on, but we see some of the stationery used by the Clerks in this House, which is a not unattractive grey; and that paper could be adapted for the use of members of Parliament particularly. It staggers me that so little of the paper in Western Australia is recycled. I think it is something like 25 per cent or 30 per cent, and that figure could be increased considerably.

The other area in which there is a chance to make some savings is in packaging. For many years I have felt that many of our consumable goods are over packaged. While we do not necessarily want to go back to the brown paper bags for everything, there should be a move to conserve paper products, if we are really dinkum about conserving timber products. I discussed this recently with the Conservation Foundation. The Liberal Party has quite considerable dialogues with that organisation, despite what is said by our opponents. The foundation agrees that the recycling of paper products is a field that could be concentrated on more, but like everybody else it is strapped for funds and it is getting more mileage at present out of its views on forest management. I believe the recycling of paper is something we could all bear in mind. Just think of the way that we throw away half used pages; that we write in pencil once on an envelope and throw it away. It is only a small contribution that we could make, but it is a contribution that we could easily make.

Hon Garry Kelly: Could you tell the *Sunday Times* not to use so much paper?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Garry Kelly is a member of the Government. I believe the *Sunday Times* might even take up the suggestion if it came from the Government. If the newspaper is recycled, it is not as much of a problem. Newspapers are collected for recycling, but there is very little incentive for people to go about it. They will do it if there is a reward, but not as a civic responsibility or duty.

I started speaking about the coal industry in Collie, and we have gone a long way around Robin Hood's barn. However, I will deal with the other part of the Province of Lower Central, which is the seat of Wagin, formerly the seat of Narrogin. I congratulate Bob Wiese on being elected to the new Assembly seat of Wagin. He is a farmer, with local government experience as well, and he will continue to make a considerable contribution to the State Parliament. I also pay tribute to our Liberal candidate there, John Chamberlain. He took on a pretty difficult task, and obviously he was not successful. Nevertheless, John is a very capable and thoughtful person who made a great contribution to the campaign, and I believe one day he will make his contribution in this Parliament of Western Australia. I thank John from the conservative side of politics, because his work was also of great significance to my colleagues, Hon Margaret McAleer and Hon David Wordsworth, in their campaigns.

A lot of people ask why we have so many people contesting seats when the ultimate winner is obvious. As a student of the system, you, Mr Deputy President (Hon Robert Hetherington), will be well aware that it is incumbent on any party to run a team in the lower House when we are trying to win positions in the upper House. That is one of the side effects of the changed Electoral Act, and we all have to come to terms with it.

Hon E.J. Charlton: So you will be encouraging the National Party to contest O'Connor, then?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Yes, if it wishes. It is possible that the correlation between the Senate and the upper House regional system in Western Australia is slightly different, so that is a decision that obviously the National Party has to make. I do not think anyone on this side of the House fears competition. It is actually the cornerstone of our philosophy.

Hon Tom Stephens: So long as you do not have your hands tied behind your back?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That does make a difference, especially if there is a leg tied there as well. Anyway, one of these days we hope to have the interjector trussed up in such a fashion.

We come into this session of the Parliament following probably one of the most extraordinary general elections in Western Australia's history. The Labor Party won about 48 per cent of the vote, and it is back in power with a reasonable margin of seats, but in actual fact it is a margin of less than 400 votes. I think it can be said that the result says more for the political acumen of the Labor Party's strategists than it does for the Labor Party's policies, because in actual fact those policies were never spelt out. The Labor Party's vote was at the Liberal Party's expense, and people paid no attention whatsoever to the performances of the Labor Party in the past. The slogan, "A future we can believe in", was cleverly chosen, and I pay tribute to the Labor Party strategists. They were well aware that the Labor Party Government in Western Australia had a past of which it could be thoroughly ashamed, and therefore they had to keep as far away from it as they could.

Unfortunately we did not get our policies through. We had good policies, but we could not strike the essential spark in the media or in the minds of the public. That, again, is attributed in a way to the professionalism of the ALP. I admire it, but I could not in any way envy it.

In Australian politics, I believe that we are moving into an era of mind bending rather than mind informing. I believe this has been happening since the ex-Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, introduced a presidential style election system from the United States, so we had a totally new emphasis in Australian politics. I do not think it is a healthy emphasis, and I think it really comes back not so much to our concept of morality as to our concept of corruption. It has been said that the entire community is a little corrupt, and that is why the members of the public accept corruption on a large scale. I hope that is not true, but I guess there is not one of us who has not in some way infringed a law of the State, be it by a speeding ticket, sitting an extra 10 minutes in a parking zone, or a minor infringement like that.

Where do we delineate between moral corruption and legal corruption? That is a matter of concern to the community from the top to the bottom. It obviously concerned the ex-Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, who made a statement the other day about the corrupt state of the Western Australian and Victorian Labor Governments. I took no great joy from that, because it underlines the seriousness of the situation and the depth to which Australian politics have sunk. We referred earlier to the Judaic/Christian basis of most of our law. There are very strong criteria there to judge this general moral and political corruption. I believe the community is starting to make such judgments in its own right. It is notable that in certain other democratic countries corruption is treated as being corruption where there is only a perception in the public mind of wrongdoing and not so much when people break the law. Whether it has something to do with some of our convict forebears, our upbringing, our environment, or what, I do not know, but there is a great Australian feeling of achievement that if we can get away with just a little more than the law allows that is good. I suppose that was fun in some areas, but we are seeing now that the chicken has come home to roost because we have unparalleled lawlessness in our land; tragic break-ups of interpersonal relations; unparalleled destruction on some of our building sites; larrikinism virtually institutionalised in some areas; and the community tending to turn a blind eye to those matters. The community at large is starting to pay for this approach.

I reflected a little earlier on the bicentennial celebrations last year and wonder how far we have come, or whether we have come any distance at all. We look around and see remarkable achievements in physical additions to our national estate. We have more money in our pockets, but it is there for a shorter time. We see more trouble than ever on work sites. We see total dependence by a large proportion of the population on Government handouts. We see less and less input by people working with their own 10 talents to improve those talents to build for the good of the community and the general wellbeing of the State; in other words, to go back to the old Adam Smith concept, we are no longer concentrating on creating wealth. The socialists, or whatever they are now - probably Fabian socialists - have this hang-up about wealth and think that everybody must have an equal share of it. They think by doing that they will somehow build a better world. They also hold the view that to do that land and assets must be taken from people. The Fabians of the late 1800s were faced with the problem of how to do this when armed revolution had failed. They then discovered this fantastic medium of taxation. It is well set out in their literature that armed revolution is a failure but revolution by taxation is the way to go and that it is the best and most equitable and bloodless way of distributing wealth and income throughout the community. That is a complete fallacy.

Even the Fabian Society is now wondering where it is going with its Keynesian economics. It is reminiscent of the dog that chased cars; it could be very successful but the dog has not yet worked out what to do when it catches the car. I believe these people are in the same situation.

I once again enjoyed the speech of Hon Bob Hetherington. I am glad that we did not get further down the road towards debating the legalisation of prostitution, but I believe that we have to follow such proposals through to the seventh question and find out in advance where we will finish up with such legislation and with such regulations. We will see Hon Tom Butler's organisation wanting to put them - and I will not say in a union - in an organisation of some sort. Do we have codes of conduct, codes of practice, long service leave and all the things associated with that? I do not believe society has thought these matters through. This is something for which society is not prepared and it is something it will not accept. Prostitution has been around for thousands of years and it is something that the community has come, if not to accept, then at least to realise that there is no way we can legislate on such a personal issue.

The other remark made by Hon Robert Hetherington that interested me related to the role of the Governor General and the appointment of Bill Hayden to that position. I also believe that role is deserving of the greatest respect. I also believe that there is a need to maintain the role and status of the monarchy within the Parliament of Australia and within the constitutional setup. Later I will go into my reasons why. I believe that respect is due to the Governor General whether I believe in the appointment of a particular person to that position or not.

I hope that from his senior and respected role in the Labor Party of Western Australia Hon Robert Hetherington will be able to admonish the Premier, asking him that in future when he greets a Governor General on an initial visit to Western Australia and the Governor General chooses to wear a coat and suit, he borrows a coat and at least greets the Governor General at the airstrip wearing that coat. This is not a hang-up of mine, but a matter commented on by many people who thought it was a disgrace. They think that these things matter and are a part of the respect due to a Governor General. The Premier should have that matter drawn to his attention by Hon Robert Hetherington in that context. It is one thing to impress the electorate and try to win the left wing vote of one's party by appearing as a working man wearing a red tie and shirt to Government House to open a function, which I thought was also inappropriate, but it is quite something else when meeting the Queen's representative as the representative of the people of Western Australia to not wear a coat. I raise this because the matter was mentioned to me by so many people.

Hon T.G. Butler: You admit you have a hang-up?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I did not say that at all. The member does not listen.

My next worry ties back to the socialist humanist movement within Australia which has been working away quietly for many years, and it involves the corruption of academia and the effect that is having throughout the education system in Western Australia. I read a book recently; the prerelease literature was circulated not long ago. It was *The Hellmakers* by John Grover in which he made a fairly detailed study of the Fabian movement and its impact on Australian politics. In one of the chapter headings he quoted from Gary North, who, speaking of the Fabians, said -

They go into the classrooms and teach liberation theology as though it were not a call for bloody revolution; yes, even if they are paid to teach 18th century English literature. They teach the wonders of socialism, as if it were not the foundation of universal tyranny and poverty. They call for ever-larger doses of the welfare state, as if it had not destroyed three generations of families.

I think that sentiment is echoed by many in our community. It is happening in some of our high schools. Members of the Labor Party go into school libraries and put books in place. I know, because it was reported to me by a person on a P & C association committee in a large country town. This person, having conservative views, went through the library. She did not remove the Labor Party literature, or the Fabian literature; she put conservative type literature beside those books. When she returned the following week to see what had happened, the conservative type literature had been removed and the Labor Party books were still in place.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It probably indicated that people were more interested in reading her literature and had borrowed it.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Unfortunately that was not the case.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You do not think that is the explanation?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, because, being red headed and of somewhat fiery disposition, she thought this unilateral approach called for some action so she removed both lots of literature. The following week she found the Labor Party literature had been replaced. This is not an uncommon story; it is repeated throughout the State and is part of what I call the moral corruption of our youth which is taking place.

Hon T.G. Butler: Do you say Labor Party material is morally corrupting youth?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: A lot of it is; it is mostly Fabian literature.

Hon T.G. Butler: That is paranoia.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It is not paranoia; it is a historical study and it is one I intend to follow up.

Hon T.G. Butler: It is more like a hysterical study.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The member may say that.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I missed the point; is this a primary school or a high school?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It is a high school.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Do you see any real objection to material of the major parties being available to students? I mean all parties.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I see no danger, as long as it is put there on a free and open basis. In some ways it could be said to be the fault of the conservative parties in that they have not matched this type of propaganda push of the Labor Party. It is not necessarily a good move in our community. Political thought is best fostered in a working environment rather than in a student environment. From my contact with students, I think most of them do not feel ready to adopt this sort of knowledge as a taught subject; they are happier to relate it to their place in the work force when they can relate these political teachings to reality.

I do not know the answer. This is something which concerns me greatly, and I believe it is holding back the development of Australia because, as this quotation from Mr North says, "They call for ever-larger doses of the welfare state." The Leader of the House knows that effort creates progress, not handouts from welfare States. The tragedy in Australia today is that so many people depend upon Governments of all ilks and at all levels for their sustenance. It is estimated that 43 per cent or more of people in Australia rely directly on the Government for the major part of their incomes. I do not see that as a healthy trend. It is taking away the incentive to achieve from our young people and a lot of our old people.

We have a major problem in coping with employment in the community. As the technological developments of our nation continue to escalate, we have more and more efficient machines to do our work for us, and this is creating our own problems in finding productive work for so many people. But human nature is resilient. Left without Government interference on such a grand scale, the majority of people will find a niche for themselves in building towards a better and wealthier community. I suppose Hon Tom Butler will say that I also have a preoccupation with wealth. As I pointed out earlier, it is not wealth for wealth's sake, nor wealth in order to be able to spend it. There is a limit to the amount of wealth one person can spend and enjoy.

Hon Tom Stephens: We could have a Select Committee on wealth.

Several members interjected.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That is a flippant observation. That is yet another example of people depending on Governments for handouts, because Hon Tom Stephens' Select Committee into wealth would be funded by the finances of this House, and as you know, Sir, they are by no means limitless.

Hon Tom Stephens: You are a farmer; you would be able to understand that, dependent as you are on Government handouts.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The galah over there has an obvious misunderstanding of farmers and their role.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It has often been said that a farmer is a person who dies rich with the backside out of his trousers. There is a certain amount of truth in that, because farmers are never too well endowed with cash. That is the difficulty of the farming and pastoral industries, as the member knows. Unfortunately it is the very stone upon which the Federal Treasurer, another great economist, and others trip and fall flat on their faces, because they do not realise that without the asset base, the production of expendable wealth cannot be created. I remind the House again that it is that expendable wealth created by primary industry which basically underpins the wealth and the performance of the economy of Western Australia, and indeed the economy of Australia. I am glad to see Hon Tom Stephens nodding from that position, because when he sat where Hon Doug Wenn now sits, he always took great exception to such remarks. Whether it has something to do with Hon Sandy Lewis behind him I do not know.

Hon Tom Stephens: I only used to take offence when it had something to do with electoral reform. I wish primary industry would pay more attention to the needs of value adding in the area Hon John Caldwell was speaking about the other night. That is, adding value to properties rather than just exploiting them.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That is very laudable, and so it would if Hon Tom Stephens and his party, and Hon Tom Butler's union leadership, got off the back of the Australian work force. Mr President, you and I both know, as people who have worked at the grass roots level throughout industry and the unions, that people want to work. We know that the Australian tradesman, farmer, farmhand, shearer and shedhand can perform at unparalleled levels; they can match it with anyone in the world for productivity. However, the upper echelons of the union leadership are stopping downstream processing in this country. Hon Tom Butler knows it; the workers know it; and the primary producers, the wealth producers and the miners know it.

Hon T.G. Butler: I don't believe it.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I bet Hon Tom Butler cannot believe it; he does not want to believe it.

Hon T.G. Butler: I do not believe it. We put up with this from Hon Barry House the other night, now you are starting.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I have not even started on the Builders Labourers Federation because it in no way impinges upon my industry.

Hon A.A. Lewis: What about the paper hangers?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I missed that one too, thank God.

The work practices that affect the primary industries impinge very greatly upon my industry, and that of Hon John Caldwell and Hon Eric Charlton.

Hon T.G. Butler: And you don't want it unionised. It is as simple as that.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You don't understand.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Tom Butler understands it very well from his point of view, but he does not understand about the creation of this cake, of which he is more than willing to partake.

Hon Tom Stephens: It is the lack of vision of the people with wealth that is causing this country's problems.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: What a half witted remark.

Hon Tom Stephens: Not at all. We need a concentration of wealth in those areas which create employment, rather than taking the quick buck.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Yes, thank you, Mr Gorbachev.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That just shows that Hon Tom Stephens should look closely at a book called *The Hellmakers*. If he read it in front of the mirror when he shaved, and he read every page, he would read himself right into it because the basis of it all is social engineering. I thought that was a fairly modern term, but it is not; it goes back a long time, back to Beatrice and Sidney Webb and Bernard Shaw when they founded the Fabian Society. They even named it after a myth and it has carried on to this day, getting worse and worse. If Hon Tom Stephens opened the book to which I referred, he would see his own views reflected in it. It just shows that society cannot be structured by legislation or false incentives; there will only be a growth in employment and downstream or value added processing with the creation of the right climate for industry to make its own decisions and to establish what it can economically do.

Hon E.J. Charlton: And change the taxation system to provide the incentive to do it.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Eric Charlton is absolutely right. Earlier I referred to the destruction of wealth producing assets by taxation rather than by bloody revolution, which was tried in earlier centuries. That is what is happening now. If one looks at the farming industries, they are being taxed out of existence, quietly and stealthily, in so many sneaky little ways. A year ago the Treasurer brought in what seemed like a fairly simple amendment to the Taxation Act whereby a baby lamb - born in late winter or spring - gambolling around the paddocks was a thing of beauty. In fact it was of such beauty that the Treasurer raised its book value from \$1 to \$4. That was not a great deal in itself but the impact on the average livestock producer on the small to medium range farm is an extra \$7 000 or \$8 000 a year in taxable income. That is of considerable significance and it is one aspect of the taxes being imposed by the Fabian-led Cabinet in Canberra which is starting to accelerate the destruction.

The controlled laughter of Hon Doug Wenn forces me to refer to a quote from Lenin. It was Lenin who said, "If you want to kill an idea or an opposition, you call them what you are yourself; you scorn them for doing things which you know damn well you are doing yourself." Mr President, no doubt you would have observed in the middle of the last session - when there was obviously a State election coming up - the orchestrated campaign of interjections from the Government backbench. That campaign was that the Liberal Party was negative, knocking and was -

Hon B.L. Jones: And weren't you?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Beryl Jones had better listen. The Government interjectors said that the Liberal Party was indulging in smear and innuendo.

Hon Tom Stephens: The National Party used to say that.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Hon Tom Stephens is not only colour blind; he is also deaf.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It was the start of a very clever campaign leading up to the election. When I read this book I could not believe my eyes because it all fell into place exactly. Lenin said that one should call people what one is oneself; one continues saying it until everyone believes it. That campaign ignored totally the role of the Opposition, which is to keep Government honest. I will not use Senator Don Chipp's words.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We have not been successful at that.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I would say that in that respect we have failed. I do not believe it was through want of trying; we did our level best in the election to highlight the moral - if not the legal - corruption of the practices of this Government. I believe that in time, as more of these things come to the surface, not only Gough Whitlam but also the average elector in Western Australia will grasp the significance of what is happening to the economic structure of Western Australian business society. They will be utterly appalled and in the fullness of time the scoundrels will be thrown out.

Another interesting point I wish to mention is that of defence and the concept of the so called peacemakers, which is being thrust down the necks of the unthinking people of Western Australia. This was brought home to me last night when I was having a discussion with a young person - a student - as we were driving down Marine Parade. I said, "There are the American ships", the lass said, "Yes, they scare me." I asked her why and she replied, "They

look so strong and we feel so weak, and they have so much potential." I said, "Yes, I assure you that one well placed shot could blow the Ocean Beach Hotel out of existence, which would have a deleterious effect on your social life." She said, "It just worries me that they are there." I said, "Have you read any Australian history of the 1940s, or any stories of the Pacific war and the Japanese campaign in the north?" She said, "No, none of that has ever been in my curriculum." I said, "You might well be scared - they are strong - but you should also be extremely glad they are there because in 1942 it was only the presence of such ships as those in the Battle of the Coral Sea, Midway, Leyte Gulf and the northern Pacific, that preserved Australian life as we know it now." She said, "That is very interesting. I have never heard of any of that. I really have to blame the Japanese for being there at all." I said, "You don't have to go that far. This is becoming a fairly semantic argument." Children were not taught about these aspects. All they were taught about was the influence of the American navy over here. The only thing wrong with the Americans that she knew was that they were overpaid, oversexed and over here. I said, "You can now be glad that they were over here because otherwise you would not be here." She said, "You have given me a bit to think about anyway."

I commend this book, *The Hellmakers*, to members to read. Another interesting thing that came out of it concerns the Pacific nuclear free zone. I always thought that this was started because of an uprising of public feeling on behalf of the people of the islands and people like those who belong to Greenpeace. I was absolutely astonished to read that it was the creation of two trade union leaders in the Eastern States, Mr Clancy and Mr Halfpenny, who met in the city of Prague in 1978 and devised this strategy. It was nothing to do with protecting the islanders and the islands of the Pacific, it was to do with throwing the American naval presence out of the Pacific and leaving it open for their friends.

Here we go. Members opposite laugh. They should bear in mind what I said earlier about Lenin. Members opposite abuse people and scorn them for the things they are doing themselves. Members opposite should read this book and bring me back a written treatise on where it is wrong. I will be happy to read it, because I am a reasonably open minded person on this subject.

Hon T.G. Butler: If you are suggesting that John Halfpenny was masterminding a scheme to get the American navy out of the Pacific so that the Russians could come down, I seriously question your judgment.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I said their friends -

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Members on the Government backbench are getting their amusement from this, but they might be interested to know that a relation of mine was engaged in aerial reconnaissance and sighted, on average, four Russian submarines a week off the coast of Western Australia. That may be significant. This was eight to 10 years ago - before the Afghanistan invasion - and the number has increased greatly since then. Hon Tom Butler may laugh.

Hon T.G. Butler: I am not. They have been doing that for years.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: All the submarines have now gone to Afghanistan - is that right?

Hon A.A. Lewis: That just proves your point, Mr Stretch.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I can see the Leader of the House is not proud of that, but Lenin would be. The USSR has now developed a submarine which weighs about half as much as the battleship *Missouri*, and can travel submerged at 63 knots. I found that very difficult to believe. I am having it confirmed and, if I am wrong, I will tell the House, but that is the printed information I received.

Hon A.A. Lewis: The leader of the broad left says you are right.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Does he? He will probably know.

Several members interjected.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The defence balance is changing throughout the world. When Government backbench members read that book they will see the influence that the trade union leaders have on destabilising Australia's defence, and their somewhat treasonable acts should be judged for what they are.

Hon B.L. Jones: Whom are you accusing of treason?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: If the member reads the book she will be able to work it out for herself.

Hon B.L. Jones: You said something about treasonable acts. I was asking whom you were accusing of treason.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The member should read *Hansard*, then the book, and then we can discuss it.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: You have got to read the book as well.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It has no pictures.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: One can see how we are running severe risks with our defence, and how the orchestration of dissident groups in Australia is undermining not only defence but also the economic fabric of our nation, and it is time that Australia faced up to the realities of it and started to get back to basics.

I will close with a small anecdote that I picked up when I was having a brief holiday on Rottne Island.

Hon Garry Kelly: Did you see a quokka?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, I did not. I was luckier than that, I saw Hon Ian Taylor and Hon Mark Nevill.

It struck me, on reading the book, that there were certain parallels between it and the Australian economy. It was not a very notable book except for some advice on moving stubborn camels. It struck me that the Australian economy is in the situation of a foundering and struggling camel - it is overloaded by trade union leadership, freeloaders and people who are dependent upon the Government payroll for their existence. They are non contributors, and the poor old camel is unable to rise to his feet.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Do you class yourself as a freeloader?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Not really. I consider myself, in a humble way, as a contributor to the exports of this country. I have nothing to apologise for -

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: You are on the Government payroll.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Yes, partly, but I do not rely on it.

I drew this parallel with this overloaded beast, and this provides food for thought. Lots of people are trying to help it along; the farmers and industrialists are feeding it; one day it will get to its feet, and every time it is fed, a few more freeloaders get on the gravy train and the poor sod has not got a chance of getting up. I read in the book that the only way to get it going was to put a box of matches under its tail and strike the entire box. The great virtue of that was that the camel rose rapidly to its feet, took a straight course without going to the extreme left or right, headed for cover and shook off all the freeloaders who then found their way home - they learnt to walk on their own two feet. That is the state the Australian economy is in now. Until someone has the guts to strike that match, get the Australian economy moving again, and get rid of the freeloaders, we will go further down the drain and will never pay off the national debt which is strangling this country now.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon P.H. Lockyer.

House adjourned at 6.00 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

CYCLISTS - HELMETS

Compulsory Legislation - Approval

52. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Are helmets or protective head gear to be made compulsory for the riders of bicycles?
- (2) If so, will she provide details of the implementation program?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The current policy is to give every encouragement to the wearing of safety helmets by cyclists, but not to make them compulsory. To this end the Government has been running an extensive helmet rebate scheme coupled with advertising and other promotional arrangements which has resulted in a huge increase in the incidence of helmet wearing.

This does not remove the possibility of legislative measures being introduced at some future date. This would not be until such time as it was realistic to expect cyclists to comply with, and for the police to be able to enforce, such a law. I do not believe we are yet at that stage.

- (2) Not applicable.

TAXIS - BUS LANE

Fitzgerald Street - Review

55. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister consider allowing taxis to use the existing bus lane on the eastern side of Fitzgerald Street between James Street and Roe Street to enable taxi car operators to turn left into Roe Street?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) I understand that the Main Roads Department was opposed to taxis using the Fitzgerald Street bus lane as adequate alternative routes were available. However, as some time has elapsed since that decision was made, I will ask the MRD to re-examine the issue.
- (2) Answered by (1).

TAXIS - TAXI RANK

Perth Bus Station - Relocation

56. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister consider the relocation of the existing taxi rank at the Perth Bus Station to the western end of the bus station to afford patrons and taxi car operators greater convenience and flexibility for this important transport service?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) No. I understand Transperth has advised the Taxi Control Board that there is no possibility of relocating the Perth Bus Station rank at this time, given the heavy bus congestion at the station.

Transperth has agreed to re-examine the location of the rank when the northern rail service is estimated. I understand the board is seeking to have Transperth reconsider that decision.

- (2) Answered by (1).

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE - TAXIS
Insurance Premiums - Claims Payments

57. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the amount of premium derived by the State Government Insurance Office for the insurance of taxi cars in each of the last three years?
- (2) What was the amount of the claims paid in respect of taxi cars insured by the SGIO in each of the past three years?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

The SGIO competes within the private insurance industry. To table full details of its premium income and claims payments in respect of taxi cars will place it at a commercial disadvantage.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE - TAXIS
Insurance Premiums - Selected Groups, Discounts

58. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Does the State Government Insurance Office offer a reduced or special premium for selected groups of taxi car owners?
- (2) If yes, will they advise of the circumstances of such arrangements?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Discounts are offered to fleet operators. Differing rates apply for owner-drivers as against lease drivers.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE - TAXIS
Insurance Premiums - Comprehensive Insurance, Increases

59. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Have premiums for comprehensive insurance of taxi cars been increased in the past five years?
- (2) If so, what was the annual increase for each of those years?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) Over the past five years increases have occurred on 1 May 1988 and 1 July 1988.

(2) Comprehensive insurance premiums for all vehicles were increased by five per cent on 1 May 1988. On 1 July 1988 premiums for taxi cars were increased by a flat rate of \$187.50.

ROADS - KWINANA FREEWAY
Extensions - Southernmost Point

64. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the Kwinana Freeway, could the Minister please advise -

- (1) What is the southernmost point to which the freeway will eventually be extended?
- (2) Has all land been purchased and/or reserved for the purpose?
- (3) What is the next stage planned?
- (4) Can he give an approximate starting date for -
 - (a) the next stage; and
 - (b) any other stages?
- (5) Can he name projected completion dates for -

- (a) remaining stages; and
- (b) the project as a whole?
- (6) In today's dollars, what are the projected costs of -
 - (a) the next phase; and
 - (b) the completed Kwinana Freeway?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The current construction program is planned to terminate at Thomas Road, Kwinana.
- (2) All land has been reserved to Thomas Road and purchase should be finalised over the next two years.
- (3) The metropolitan region scheme is currently being amended to reserve the route south of Thomas Road to the scheme boundary, which is the southern boundary of the Rockingham Shire. From this point the freeway is planned to continue to Mandurah.
- (4) No construction is planned south of Thomas Road in the foreseeable future.
- (5) Subject to the availability of funds the work to Thomas Road could be complete in 1993-94.
- (6) The projected cost from South Street to Thomas Road is estimated at \$43.9 million.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

66. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Have any Government payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or from any other source been paid or authorised to be paid to the State Government Insurance Office or Commission?
- (2) If so, for what purpose?
- (3) Will he provide full details of such payments?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, for the State Government Insurance Commission. No, for the SGIO.
- (2) Arising out of the Insurance Commission's management of Government insurances, adjustments of administration expenses between Government agencies and money market and trading of fixed securities.
- (3) Because of their nature, payments would be numerous and it would be impractical to provide details other than those already provided in the annual report. However, should the member have any specific inquiry I will be pleased to provide details.

PETROLEUM - CRUDE OIL AND CONDENSATE *Western Australia - Self Sufficiency*

70. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) To what extent is WA self sufficient in indigenous crude oil and condensates?
- (2) What are the expectations -
 - (a) in five years' time; and
 - (b) in 10 years' time?
- (3) What is the State Government doing to encourage further expansion and discovery?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) State production of crude oil and condensate is approximately 80 per cent of State consumption.

- (2) (a) In five years' time the State is expected to be a net exporter; and
- (b) current forecasts suggest that in 10 years' time the State will be approximately 80 per cent self-sufficient.
- (3) Exploration for petroleum is being encouraged by the release of areas for bidding such as this week's gazettal of five areas in the Bonaparte Basin which have potential for hydrocarbon discoveries. A further release of the major part of the offshore Perth Basin is planned for September this year. As announced recently every effort is being made to encourage the acceleration of exploration in the onshore Perth Basin.

ROADS - KWINANA FREEWAY

Extensions - Southernmost Point

75. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are extensions planned for the southern end of the freeway?
- (2) If so, what is the timetable for these extensions to take place?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I refer the member to my response to question 64.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD - AGENCY REQUEST

Nannup

80. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has the Minister received a request for a TAB agency in Nannup?
- (2) Is there a minimum shire population required for such an agency to be established as either -
 - (a) an agency in a club or hotel; or
 - (b) as a full agency of the TAB?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) No, but the Totalisator Agency Board has received an application which is under consideration.
- (2) There are no firm guidelines used by the TAB. Population is one factor, but the population of surrounding areas, proximity to major highways and other TAB agencies, potential for growth, the nature of the local industries and availability of terminal equipment are also taken into consideration. The TAB operates a telephone betting service which is made available to all country people for the cost of a local call after the client has established an account by depositing money with the nearest TAB agency.

EDUCATION - WALPOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Additions

82. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When were additions last erected at the Walpole Primary School, and what were they?
- (2) When was general R & R work last carried out at the school?
- (3) Will the Minister undertake to have a covered area constructed at the school before the onset of the heavy winter rain season usual in that area?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Will the Minister undertake to visit the school urgently to assess at first hand the need for a rapid building and renovation program?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Permanent additions comprising new toilets and store were completed in May 1974. In addition, a preprimary transportable was moved to the site in September 1987.
- (2) The last major repair and renovation work was completed in August 1979. Some minor external painting was undertaken in 1983. The school is listed for additional internal and external repair and renovation work later this financial year.
- (3) No.
- (4) The current capital works program is fully committed.
- (5) A visit has been planned for 5 May 1989.
- (6) Not applicable.

BROOME AIRPORT - RELOCATION

85. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Lands:

Reference is made to the Department of Land Administration's draft report on the Broome townsite structure plan, December 1988 in which the conceptual plan of future development for the Broome townsite indicates future development on the current Broome airport site. Can she advise the intended location of the new Broome airport and time frame envisaged for this relocation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am unaware of any firm proposal with respect to the relocation of the Broome airport. The structure plan identifies development as an option for the future should relocation eventuate.

SMALL CRAFT PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE - COMPLETION STATISTICS

86. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

How many people have completed all the requirements, both theory and practical, towards the small craft proficiency certificate?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

As of 6 April 1989, 663 people have applied for the issue of the certificate of proficiency in small pleasure vessel safety which is commonly known as the small craft proficiency certificate. There may be a small number of others who have completed both the theory and practical but who have not applied for the certificate. Approximately 1 200 people have enrolled with TAFE theory course.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT - OFFENSIVE POSTERS

50. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the highly offensive material issued by the so-called Australian Nationalist Movement, pasted to walls, bus stops and public buildings?
- (2) Does she acknowledge not only the offensive, racist nature of the material but also the resultant costs in removing such posters?
- (3) If so, will she seek to strengthen the offence of littering by bill posting which is provided for under regulation 7 of the Litter Regulations 1981 made under the Litter Act?

- (4) Given the latest outburst of the poster "White Revolution is the only Solution", will she examine the possibility of increasing the modified penalty of \$25 provided in the regulations?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) I thank the member for some notice of the question. Of course, I am aware of the offensive nature of many of the posters, such as "Asians Out", but I am not aware of the latest campaign to which the member has drawn our attention. Like the member, I find the posters very offensive indeed.
- (2) Costs are associated with the removal of posters, and members would be aware that the Local Government Association organised a one day campaign geared to cleaning up public buildings. That was the response to this unsightly and expensive problem.

(3)-(4)

The member will be pleased to hear that the Attorney General has given references to the Law Reform Commission on incitement to racial hatred. A discussion paper will be made available by the end of May which will look at reforms to both the Litter Act and the Police Act with a view to making changes which will more effectively deal with the problem. I understand that is to be a consultative document. I hope that all members in this House will attempt to generate some very positive and constructive comments towards that discussion, and include with us those members of the community who find that material very offensive and indeed distracting to our general intent to live in harmony with one another.

ROTHWELLS LTD - NATIONAL COMPANIES AND SECURITIES COMMISSION *Report Tabling - Government Withdrawal*

51. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Attorney General:

A heading in *The West Australian* today reads "NCSC report may stay under wraps". Is the report in *The West Australian* correct in that it states that the Western Australian Government wishes to back away from its commitment to table the NCSC report on Rothwells?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Any suggestion that the Government wishes to back away from the commitment in this respect is completely wrong and indeed it misrepresents the commitment. The position is that at the last meeting of the Ministerial Council of Companies and Securities a resolution was passed with which I fully agreed to the effect that the NCSC report when completed should be tabled in this and the Queensland Parliament subject to - and I have to stress this proviso - any legal advice to the contrary.

A procedure was agreed to, at the same time, which involved the distribution of the NCSC report to all members of the Ministerial Council; it was further agreed that the members should have 14 days in which to provide any comment following their receipt of legal advice individually. I was informed last week by the Chairman of the NCSC that the time limit for comment would be tomorrow, Friday 7 April. I understand that all Ministers will be indicating their views by then. For my own part, I decided that the appropriate source of legal advice for our purposes would be the special investigator, Mr Malcolm McCusker, QC, and I have obtained his report and distributed it to other members of the Ministerial Council. I understand that at least some of them have taken separate advice from that but I am not aware yet of the decision which all other members have taken.

I should indicate to round off the account of the background that the Ministerial Council consists of the eight Attorneys General of the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory; the final decision on the tabling of the NCSC report is a matter for their collective judgment.

ROTHWELLS LTD - NATIONAL COMPANIES AND SECURITIES COMMISSION

Report Tabling - Support

52. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Attorney General:

- (1) To the Minister's knowledge does the NCSC support the tabling of the report?
- (2) To his knowledge has the NCSC received legal advice which is different from the advice received by the WA State Government from Mr McCusker, QC?
- (3) If so, have all members of the Ministerial Council been advised of the situation as far as the NCSC is concerned? In other words, if the point of view differs is that advice available to all members of the Ministerial Council?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(3)

This whole process was started by the distribution by the NCSC to the members of the Ministerial Council of the NCSC report together with their counsel's legal opinion on the question of the tabling of it. Their counsel included in his advice the opinion that the views of the special investigator should be sought, and that has been done, as I have indicated. I have had no further indication of the NCSC view since that initial contact and since my distribution to all members of the council of Mr McCusker's opinion.

As of today, both the NCSC report and Mr McCusker's opinion on it are matters which are confidential to the Ministerial Council; but, of course, following the decision by the council due to be taken tomorrow, it will be much easier for me to go into further detail.

ROTHWELLS LTD - McCUSKER, MR

Report Tabling

53. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Attorney General:

I take note of the Attorney's comment that the Ministerial Council will consider the matter and is due to make a decision tomorrow. If, in fact, the decision is that the report be not tabled, will he be prepared at that time to table Mr McCusker's report so that members of Parliament can decide if they are satisfied with the situation?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

In a sense, that is a hypothetical question since it contemplates a decision which has not been taken; but I take it that the substantive part of the question is the second part, and I would certainly be happy to consider that.

ALCOHOL - UNDER AGE DRINKING

Statutory Declarations - Government Action

54. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

Does the Government plan to do something about the detection of under age drinkers in hotels?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I understand there is an ongoing program in the normal day to day activities of the police in relation to underage drinking. It is really a difficult question for me to answer, and I should not even be going as far as I am. The member really needs to put that sort of question on notice, and I will have it addressed by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

ALCOHOL - UNDER AGE DRINKING

Statutory Declarations - Government Consideration

55. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

Has he or the Government considered requiring drinkers who are questioned about their age to sign a statutory declaration?

The PRESIDENT: The Minister has already indicated that this is not the subject of his ministerial portfolio, and that questions relating to that subject should be

placed on notice in order that they can be directed to the Minister whose responsibility it is. Perhaps Hon E.J. Charlton may wish to explain to which Minister he thinks he is directing the question.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: I am not questioning your comment at this stage, Mr President, or the answer given by the Minister; but I thought this would have to come under the Liquor Act. That is why I asked that question. I am really wanting an answer from the Minister.

The PRESIDENT: I will give you the opportunity to indicate to me to what ministerial capacity you were directing the question to the Minister. He is the Minister for Racing and Gaming, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, and the Minister for Youth. To which of those portfolios were you directing the question?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: I was of the belief that the Minister was responsible for the Liquor Act as part of his portfolio of Racing and Gaming.

The PRESIDENT: Very well.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I understood the question to be one in relation to enforcement, which of course is a matter for the police. However, I now understand the question in a different context, and I can simply say that I am working through a number of areas of interest; but this one has not yet been discussed with any sections of the liquor industry.

LIQUOR ACT - HOTELS

Fundraising - Bingo Ticket Sales. Complaints

56. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

As part of his ongoing consideration of the Liquor Act, has any attention been given to the anomaly that has been brought to my attention regarding the raising of funds from the sale of bingo tickets for fundraising by organisations, because there is a great deal of complaint about the cost and the tax incurred by licensees in their sale to those organisations attempting to raise funds for various groups within the community? The Minister obviously has received complaints about it. Has any attention been given by the Government to that problem?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I listened intently to the question, but I lost the thrust of it. Is the member still talking about the -

Hon E.J. Charlton: No. It is a different subject.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I invite the member to repeat the question, because I was listening for the link between the previous question and that question. I apologise that it went over my head.

The PRESIDENT: Let us get the question straight.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It is to do with the sale of tickets in hotels for charitable organisations, giving them the opportunity to raise funds in hotels under the Liquor Act. Therefore I am asking the Minister whether the Government is giving any attention to the criticism of the way in which that is done, with a particular aspect of the funding burden being placed on licensees by the sale of those tickets, in procuring them and selling them to the various organisations which then have to incur the cost of the tax before the charitable institution makes a profit.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: In the short time I have been the Minister, I have met with a number of industry groups, but that question has not been raised. I simply invite the member to pursue the matter with me if he wishes. As it has now been raised, I will canvass the matter myself.

LAND TENURE BILL - NEW LEGISLATION

57. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will the Minister inform the House whether it is her intention to introduce into the Parliament during the next session - quite obviously it cannot be done in this session - the land tenure Bill?
- (2) If so, will she give an undertaking to hold further talks with industry leaders on the problems that obviously existed with the Bill previously introduced in the Parliament?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

I am informed by industry groups that the Bill presented in another place in the last session of Parliament offered great advantages to the pastoral industry, but members of the industry have some concern about sections of it. Since becoming Minister I have met with representatives from the pastoral division of the Western Australian Farmers Federation and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, and I am now in a position to consider the concerns they have expressed about the Bill. I understand that the industry wants legislation to be introduced in the next session of Parliament and I want the legislation finally introduced to be passed. I hope we shall be able to find some pathway through the areas which at present are matters of contention. It is my hope that the Bill will be introduced in the spring session. I say that knowing that some groups are dissatisfied with parts of the Bill, despite the fact that it seems everybody considers the principles of the Bill offer great gains for the industry.

WHITLAM, MR GOUGH - STATE GOVERNMENT *Corruption and Incompetence Allegations - Legal Action*

58. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Attorney General:

- (1) Will the State Government take legal action against Mr Gough Whitlam for publicly accusing the Western Australian State Government of being both corrupt and incompetent?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

I am not aware of any such statement, but certainly no such action is contemplated.

CRIME - YOUNG OFFENDERS *Detention - Police Lockups*

59. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Attorney General:

I refer to the adverse publicity received by Western Australia in *The Weekend Australian* on 18 March, under the heading "Children 'herded into police cells'". The articles was written by Peter Terry and stated -

Dozens of children are being held in police cells in Western Australia because an unprecedented number of magistrates have decided to get tough with juvenile offenders.

They have ordered so many into detention that the juvenile remand and training centres are now filled and the only spaces left are in police lockups.

It is even more unfortunate that the article appears alongside an article about a face lift for Long Bay gaol, including a nasty picture of Long Bay. Are children still being detained in police lockups, or has the problem been overcome?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

It is a good question but it is directed to the wrong person. I am not responsible for the Children's Court, in which the magistrates referred to must have sat. I am not responsible for the juvenile detention centres from which the article suggests they are excluded for want of space. I am not responsible for police lockups, and I certainly am not - and never wish to be - responsible for Long Bay gaol. This question does not relate to my portfolio and I can only suggest that, if the member wishes to pursue it further, he direct it to the responsible Minister.

TAXI DRIVERS - ASSAULTS
Penalty Legislation - Proclamation

60. Hon J.M. BERINSON:

I seek the indulgence of the House to refer to a matter raised in question without notice 35 yesterday, which was left in limbo due to some failure of memory on my part. Hon Phillip Pendal asked about the Government's undertaking to increase penalties applying to those who assault taxi drivers. I told the member that I thought the legislation was already in place, but he indicated that he had made inquiries and had been advised to the contrary. I have checked overnight and, in fact, I was correct and the information he was given must be incorrect. The legislation involved was proclaimed on 15 December 1988.
