

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 31 May 1988

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

PARLIAMENT STAFF

Clerk Assistant - Welcome

The PRESIDENT: I take this opportunity on members' behalf to welcome to the staff of the Legislative Council Mr Doug Carpenter who has been appointed Clerk Assistant of this House. I wish him a long and happy term of office with us.

PETITION

AIDS - Condom Advertisements

The following petition bearing the signatures of 18 electors and residents of Perth was presented by Hon P.G. Pandal -

To the Honourable the President and members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

The humble petition of the undersigned electors and residents of the State of Western Australia respectfully sheweth that -

The use of advertising which features a bus-length, inflated condom is offensive to many Western Australians;

Since the metropolitan bus service on which the advertisements will appear are owned and operated by the State Government, the Government could and should act to abandon the advertisements;

And that as all such advertising is part of the joint Commonwealth/State anti-AIDS campaign, your petitioners humbly pray:

That all members of Parliament seek to persuade both Governments to abandon the condom advertising on buses.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper No 204.]

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 24 May.

HON JOHN HALDEN (North Metropolitan) [3.35 pm]: I compliment Hon Doug Wenn for the speech he gave to the House on the opening of Parliament. The issues I wish to raise in this debate centre around a number of matters principally related to the City of Wanneroo. I have raised matters regarding that city on other occasions. However, today I wish to concentrate on what I believe are shortcomings in the council's activities and I wish also to compliment it for coming to grips with the problems of its ratepayers.

I read in the *Wanneroo Times* of 17 May the distressing statement that the city intended sending out 2 200 summonses to ratepayers who had not paid their rates for the financial year to conclude shortly. That figure represents about five per cent of ratepayers. Those ratepayers, for some reason or another, cannot afford to pay their rates. They have also to pay \$38.20 for the cost of issuing the summonses, which seems a little silly when they cannot afford to pay the original fee. For some time the residents of the city have been approaching me about the high rates they pay to the City of Wanneroo. Many of them have parents living in other municipalities such as South Perth who pay half the amount and whose houses are worth twice as much. They also are aware that people living in the city of Nedlands pay considerably less than they do and their houses are worth considerably more. I decided to look at figures in relation to this matter and see whether there was some sort of comparative basis on which they had made their complaints. I went to the Local Government Grants

Commission book and found that in 1985-86, the latest figures available, the residential rates levy per dwelling was three times higher in the city of Wanneroo than in any other city or municipality with over 21 000 residents. Their rates per capita were nearly three times higher than in any other city of a comparative size. However, I did not take those figures as gospel.

It came to my attention through a document from the city treasurer that he was under instructions from the council to compare residential rates for three and four bedroom houses through to commercial properties and industrial complexes. He compared the rates in the City of Wanneroo with the rates of the City of Perth, the City of Stirling, and the City of Melville. The rates for the City of Wanneroo for a three bedroom, one bathroom house were the highest in the metropolitan area. The rates for a four bedroom, two bathroom house were also the highest. Surprisingly, we noticed that, for small and large commercial properties, the rates in the City of Wanneroo were the lowest when compared with rates in other local authorities. That seems to be a very disparaging situation for five per cent of ratepayers who cannot afford to pay their rates while rates for commercial interests are the lowest. For example, in the City of Wanneroo rates on commercial properties are half those in other cities. In effect, residential ratepayers are subsidising commercial interests. The average family in the City of Wanneroo is subsidising commercial interests within the city. I also understand that for some time now, the ex-Mayor of Wanneroo, Brian Cooper, has been bleating about industrial development within the city. In today's edition of the *Wanneroo Times* he was reported as having said that he had not received support from local Labor members. Of course, that is a fallacy and he knows it is a fallacy. However, like many of those opposite he does not want to let the truth influence a good story.

Industrial rates in the City of Wanneroo could be low because the city has clearly made a commitment towards industrial development. But are they the lowest in the metropolitan area? On the contrary, they are the highest. Commercial rates are the lowest; residential rates are the highest; and industrial rates are the highest.

Hon Garry Kelly: Perhaps it's a heist.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Many people in the City of Wanneroo would concur with that.

It would appear from remarks made to me that the council of the City of Wanneroo is a bit of a club. Its members from the commercial sector of the city would presumably be doing quite well from its rates regime. With respect to rates, urban farmland used for hobby farms fares better than rural occupied farmland which is used for agricultural or market garden purposes. That is an unbelievable situation in view of the fact that the City of Wanneroo has for so long claimed to support the rural producer in Wanneroo. These facts are not Government facts; they are facts provided by the Treasurer of the City of Wanneroo.

As a result of complaints about rates and comparisons being made with rates charged by other local government authorities, there has been a change in the administration in the City of Wanneroo. We have a new mayor. The former mayor has seemingly been voted out of office. I was hopeful that things would change, but I understand that at the last council meeting it was decided to look at spending moneys in ways such as providing uniforms for councillors of the City of Wanneroo. I am not sure whether such uniforms would be brown suits with black boots and red armbands or whether they would be dinner suits. The concept of local government authorities providing uniforms for its councillors is ridiculous, particularly in light of the rates regime under which the people of the city live. In addition, the mayor is to be provided with a fax machine so that he can keep in contact with the other councillors. The other 12 councillors could hardly communicate with him without fax machines, so presumably they will also receive them somewhere along the line. Not wishing to concentrate on the flippant, I think that the rates issue needs to be addressed very seriously by the council.

The previous administration of the city left the average family in some difficulty in meeting the high rate payments required. The city slogan is that living is great in the City of Wanneroo. That slogan will become, "It's great to live here, if you can afford it." For many people the affordability of living there is very difficult because of the extremely high rates. The average family in a place such as Edgewater, where I reside, pays in excess of \$550 per annum.

The new mayor is Wayne Bradshaw, brother of John, who is a member in another place. In his first statement to the Press he said that youth in the City of Wanneroo would be a top priority. Members might remember that in an adjournment debate I criticised the previous mayor for his atrocious attitude to young people in the City of Wanneroo. Innocent young people, by virtue of age and association, were kicked out of a recreation centre of the city for misdeeds, the perpetrators of which were known. The new mayor seemingly has decided to take a new approach to this very serious issue. It must be remembered that there are 34 000 people under the age of 24 within the City of Wanneroo. It is reported in the *Wanneroo Times* that the new mayor plans to make a concerted effort to provide the right environment for youth. He said he would make it a senior priority. He stated -

"I plan to set up immediately an investigation into the city's youth facilities and services with the intention of seeing how they can be improved and better serve the needs of our young."

"This investigation will be of a kind that allows for practical solutions rather than theoretical philosophising."

Cr Bradshaw canvassed the proposal of subsidising young people to train as leaders in areas such as scouts and guides, or sports coaches.

In essence, I have no problem with his comments. I agree with his commitment to young people, but find his solution a little simplistic, to say the least.

One of my other activities with the City of Wanneroo is to be the chairperson of Wanneroo Social Planning. Wanneroo Social Planning has recently concluded a research project into the needs of youth within the City of Wanneroo. I suggest to Councillor Bradshaw that the facts that he requires will be found within the body of the project. There needs to be a cooperative arrangement between local government, the non-Government sector and the State Government in respect of the issues which have priority. Nine months ago Wanneroo Social Planning received a grant from the Community Employment Program and set up a project. Its aims were to identify the level of existing services available to young people in the City of Wanneroo; to ascertain the awareness of local young people of the services; to identify young people's perceptions of the need for new services; to identify young people's perceptions of current services; and to canvass the opinions of young people with respect to community issues. Some 1 000 young people or approximately five per cent of the city's youth population were issued with questionnaires. Forty five per cent of respondents were female and 55 per cent were male. Forty five per cent were in the age group of 12 to 19 years and the remainder were aged 19 to 26 years.

The final report is not yet completed, but I will highlight some of the preliminary findings. Young people's perceptions of services provided to them were that in community-based non-Government organisations, the services, though limited and with a shortage of staff, were good. They were seen as being cheap and the programs offered were seen as being the sorts of programs in which the young people wanted to be involved. With respect to Government services, particularly in the areas of income support and maintenance, it was felt that on occasions Government bureaucrats were insensitive and did not tend to spend enough time explaining to young people how they could best go about securing whatever they were after. The issues highlighted by the young people tended to concentrate on finding accommodation within the City of Wanneroo, which for young people without support was particularly difficult, and finding employment. They tended to be the two major physical needs that young people have.

More than two-thirds of the respondents gave positive responses with respect to decision-making. They considered that it was a right and a responsibility to participate in decisions that would ultimately affect them. A quarter of them went on to say that they had little access to or little ability to access forums where decisions were made. They felt a sense of frustration and powerlessness in a community which viewed them in a negative way. Quite surprisingly, though, when asked about the police, almost 60 per cent said that they had a positive impression of the police and thought that they performed their jobs to the best of their ability. One-third had a negative impression of the police and said that the police tended to have a perception of them as young people and because of that they tended to deal with them in specific ways regardless of whatever it was they were doing at that moment. In relation to the needs of young people, 80 per cent expressed a need for more leisure and

recreational services; 52 per cent, more transport; 32 per cent, more employment; 19 per cent, more health information; and 12 per cent, more counselling services. Of the 80 per cent who expressed a need for more leisure and recreational services nearly half did not want to be in traditional, structured recreational groups but wanted open and free access to be able to do a wide variety of recreational activities within recreation centres. They were highly critical of the current city policy with regard to access to recreational facilities and the lack of support by staff, and of trained staff in those centres.

In terms of that report, the inadequacies that young people saw in the northern suburbs concentrated principally on the level of services provided by local government. From the comments that I read in the report, I suggest that there was an acceptance that facilities are increasing in the area and, most definitely, that the State Government has provided new and innovative services. There are three programs to do with drop-in services in Wanneroo, Whitford and Heathridge and there is a perception that those sorts of facilities must be increased throughout the entire city, remembering that there are some 34 000 people in the City of Wanneroo.

I was surprised that for a considerable time after the announcement of the referendum issues the City of Wanneroo did not come out and state its case in regard to where it stood in relation to the issue of local government being incorporated in the Constitution. They were quiet until a Press release was issued last week. I understand that the new mayor said today that he is opposed to the Liberal Party stance in regard to this matter and supports the initiatives taken by the Constitution Commission and the Government to have local government recognised in the Constitution. He, like the Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane, Sally Ann Atkinson - a well known Liberal - has come out saying that the Federal Opposition's stance with regard to referendum issues is wrong. In fact, one-vote-one-value seems pretty popular in Queensland and so does the recognition of local government. A number of sections of local government that have traditionally aligned with the Liberal Party - and, I am told, the National President of the Local Government Association - support the inclusion of local government in the Constitution of this country, and rightfully so because for so long we have heard about the importance of local government from the other side of this House.

Hon P.G. Pendal: This was the first State to put this matter in the State Constitution; an important and historic move instead of the public relations gimmickry of the member's Government.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Public relations gimmickry is one issue, but the nuts and bolts support where one comes out and makes a commitment is an issue for this side of the House and not for members on the other side, Mr Pendal. We have seen on many occasions, one recent, that the member's side pontificates, sits on the fence and tries to bend both ways.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Tell us about uranium mining; whose side are you on?

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I will talk about that whenever the member is ready. However, as I am making this speech, I will finish it. I am happy to discuss any issue anywhere whenever the member wants.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Privatisation.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Yes. That lost members opposite an election.

We sat here the other day being entertained by the Leader of the Opposition who read a series of Press statements about problems seemingly occurring within the Labor Party. I know that the Leader of the Opposition in this House is well known for making statements from newspapers, so I thought I would take this opportunity to run through a few matters that have appeared in the Press in regard to conservative parties and principally the Liberal Party. I will highlight some of them for members of this House so that we can recall some of the problems that the Opposition has. I would hate to be put in the same mould as the Leader of the Opposition, but in this instance it is probably fair that a bit of his medicine be given back.

My research started on 31 January and revealed the following headings to Press statements: "5 young libs resign"; "Young libs in mass exodus"; "Six leave young libs Executive"; "Meddling sparked young Libs row"; "Simpson accused in young Libs walkout"; "Young Libs must obey rules"; "Herzfeld faces Party censure"; "Herzfeld under fire"; "Police probe senior MP's casino visit"; "MLC to face casino quiz"; "Senior MP admits taking casino trip";

"Move to dump veteran Libs"; "Senior lib gives nod to gold levy"; "Squabbles looming as the Liberals play musical seats for next poll"; and, "Battling Bill says 'Hands off'."

Hon P.G. Pendal: They saw through you in the northern suburbs.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I am sitting very comfortably. My position in this House is a lot safer than that of many members opposite, so let us go on. This is obviously painful to members on the other side. Also, George Cash is coming up here to take over as Leader of the Opposition.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Members on the other side had to send Dowding from here because they could not find someone for Premier in the other place.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will honourable members come to order while Hon John Halden completes the reading of his list.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I will continue to quote the headings: "MP's battle over prize Lib seats"; "Five Libs could lose their seats"; "Three in battle for safe Lib seat"; "MacKinnon in Floreat battle" - that little foray was a dead failure, he did not help anybody. The headings continue: "Crucial time for Liberal leadership struggle"; "Liberal trio set to tackle Grayden".

Hon P.G. Pendal: Look at the polls.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will not call for order again. Surely to goodness the honourable member addressing the chair is entitled to make the comments that he wishes to make. If members do not like those comments, they can have something to say about them when they are on their feet. In the meantime, let him go!

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Thank you, Mr President. I will continue. I can see why the Leader of the Opposition does this all the time. The headings continue: "Time for the old guard to retire" - that is true; "Seats scramble tests Libs"; "MP takes final shot at Liberal rivalry"; "More sitting Libs may clash"; "Agitated MP's quiz leadership"; "Bid to stop Liberal ballot fails"; "Two top Libs left off poll ticket"; "Dumped Libs may still fight for poll seat"; "Mensaros keeps seat from Cash"; "Liberal MP's slug it out in bar"; "Police to probe MP's bar clash"; and so it goes on. I have only got to 17 March and there are still two pages of these quotes, so I will not persist.

Hon Doug Wenn: Can't you read any more?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am starting to lose my normally very good patience. I asked honourable members to stop interjecting. Apart from the fact that it is out of order, the Hansard reporter is having difficulty doing his job. The honourable member is entitled to say what he likes so long as he conforms with Standing Orders. Members do not have to like it, but they have to listen to it.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Mr President, may I move for the incorporation into *Hansard* of the remaining list of newspaper headlines?

The PRESIDENT: No, the member cannot move that at all. He can seek leave. I keep saying to honourable members that this is a trend that I do not like. I repeat, I cannot stop the honourable member and he can seek leave. *Hansard* is supposed to be a record of the spoken word.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I seek leave to incorporate the remaining headlines.

[Leave denied.]

Hon JOHN HALDEN: In that case I will take the advice given to me and read the list. May I say that I am pleased Hon Sandy Lewis is leaving; that is one way to get rid of him rather than vote him out.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The next member who defies the Chair will do so at his peril. Let the member read the document; he is entitled to read it.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The list continues: 18 March, "Ultimatum to MP on brawling"; 19 March, "Cash to try for upper House". After some failures Mr Cash finally found himself preselection for a seat in the upper House. He really did not have the guts to take on a Labor

member or Minister in the seat of Dianella after three years of being the member for Mt Lawley. It continues: "Libs' good old boys get the old heave ho"; "Disgraceful example" - that was the headline in the editorial of the *Sunday Times* on 20 March. To continue: 23 March, "MLA, Bob Greig ponders his short career"; 27 March, "Williams: not pressured out" and "Lockyer's new fight"; 28 March, "Libs put Lockyer second"; 29 March, "No rebuff says Lockyer"; and on 31 March, "Breath of life lost in Libs".

It goes on: "Lightfoot to end his quest for a new seat"; "Man of fierce belief"; "Lively lobbying for Liberal ballot"; "Top Perth Liberal resigns"; "Libs slug it out in pre-selection"; 18 April, "Shock move in Lib line-up"; 18 April, "Libs try new tack for votes"; 25 April, "Candidate withdraws from Lib ticket"; 6 May, "Libs choose Tyzack"; 12 May, "Press politics" and "Libs plot to hit sport"; and others are, "Lawyers attach death penalty" and "Document is wafer thin - Parker".

And so it goes on. For the Leader of the Opposition to come into this House and quote a few examples of problems of the Labor Party is all very well; we have heard it before. However, put it in the context of something like 40 to 50 per cent of these headlines which are accredited to the Liberal Party. Its preselection process is a shambles; I do not think it can be called more than that. Members of this party run around kicking and gouging each other. That has been synonymous with the Liberal Party, and we saw it in this Chamber last Wednesday. I do not wish to continue, but I give that example of the state of the Liberal Party in this State.

I want to take up the issue of the perpetual and continued attacks the Opposition has made upon the arbitration system and replace it with the principles of collective bargaining, deregulation and voluntary contracts. I will read to the House - I will not ask for its incorporation seeing that has not met with approval - a document from the Queensland Confederation of Industry dated 5 February 1988. It is headed "Voluntary Employment Agreements," and from the second paragraph it reads -

As from January 1 1988 the Queensland's Government Voluntary Employment agreement has given you an option which can be used to obtain realistic rates of pay and conditions.

The Queensland Confederation of Industry Regional Office in Rockhampton is working on a Voluntary Employment Agreement for Clubs which will . . .

- . . . Reduce Casual loadings to 19%
- . . . Increase the rate of Junior Rates
- . . . Give you the option of employing Part Time Employees
- . . . Eliminate weekend Penalty Loadings
- . . . Reduce Overtime Payments.

The interesting thing about this document is that it bears a postscript saying, "Casual Bar Attendant Rates (per hour) are Monday to Saturday at \$10.38 and Sunday \$13.84. A voluntary employment agreement could reduce those to \$8.23 per hour (Monday to Sunday). That's quite a saving."

This is a document signed by G.M. Bloxom, Regional Manager of the Queensland Confederation of Industry. It is an attack upon the working class of this country and upon a system of arbitration and awards which has worked in this country for 80 to 90 years. The arbitration system in this country since its inception has been based upon a central premise, which can best be defined as a concept of equity and fairness where there is a central umpire to adjudicate on the problems if they cannot be resolved in an amicable way. The concepts of equity and fairness to the Australian worker have meant that the rights and privileges that have accrued over the last 80 or 90 years, such as annual leave, public holidays and hours of work, have accrued across the entire work force. To give an example, in the late 1930s and early 1940s the work force became entitled to one week's annual leave. By 1971-72 all workers were entitled to a minimum of four weeks' annual leave. Every worker was entitled to that. It did not depend upon the worker's ability to argue a case; it was based on the fact that that was an award condition for every worker.

We have a unique system in this country called comparative wage justice. That involves making comparisons between one group of workers and another, and implies similar wages

and conditions across those areas of work on the basis of equity and good conscience. What has been proposed by the conservatives on the other side of the House is a system of collective bargaining based on one's capacity to bargain and one's strength in the marketplace - which, according to the Queensland Confederation of Industry, is particularly poor for those people working in the entertainment industry as bar attendants. Their wages are to be cut by something like 20 per cent through voluntary contracts.

Collective bargaining works on a number of principles, and they are very advantageous to the employer. There are no minimum standards, and conditions of employment differ from one workplace and another. All conditions are not guaranteed. No minimum holidays or hours of work or rates of pay are guaranteed. This is a system which exists in the United States and Japan. The results are that in one workplace workers may be paid considerably more or less than workers in another workplace for doing exactly the same job. The Liberal Party over the last couple of years has advocated the dismantling of the arbitration system. In advocating that, the Liberal Party has dreamt up some imaginative arguments in support of its case. The Liberal Party believes that the arbitration system, as it currently is, is wrong because it interferes with the employer-employee relationship and takes no account of the enterprises involved, and that the system is too rigid and does not encourage good relationships in the workplace.

If one were to look at the first argument - that the arbitration system encroaches upon the employer-employee relationship - can members imagine the situation where a worker, particularly in a semi skilled or unskilled area, has to negotiate an employment contract? Such a contract would involve wages, conditions, safety arrangements in the work environment and matters and procedures and payments in the event of injury. I could not imagine an employer being able to negotiate those things, let alone an employee in specific instances. That situation is just ludicrous. I suggest that there is no fairness, and no equity, in that sort of bargaining arrangement. The facts of the matter are that the conservative parties advocate such a system because they know full well that it will ultimately benefit the employer. There are no benefits in this system for the employee, unless of course the cut in the family wage packet at the end of the week is considered to be of benefit; but the average Australian worker and family would totally disagree with that.

The second criticism is that individual enterprises' profitability is not taken into account. This argument, as is the first, is just not the case. There have been a number of decisions by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission which have looked at the profitability of industry - of a particular industry and at the profitability of the community in general. In such cases the arbitration commission has decided not to advance a wages' increase and not to improve conditions of workers. It is true that the arbitration commission has not decreased those workers' conditions but, taking into account the profitability in a particular area or in the community generally, the commission has decided there is no scope to grant a pay increase.

The third criticism is that the relationship between the employer and the employee in the workplace is not improved. This sort of argument is simplistic in the extreme. It is indeed simplistic to suggest that the employee-employer relationship in the workplace will improve if there are minimum wages and the employee has to negotiate all of those terms and conditions and, above all, to suggest that the relationship will improve if there is no dispute settling mechanism for the employee if the employee and the employer want to part company. In the latter case, who will arbitrate? The employer, of course. It is a one-sided system, which depends totally on the generosity of the employer. The system is crooked, biased and loaded one way. If the situation were to continue and workers were to depend on an employer's propensity to pay, we would find in times of high economic activity that workers would be paid reasonable amounts. However, in times of downturn, austerity or depression, we would find that workers would be paid very little. They would be at the mercy of those who employ them.

Hon T.G. Butler: Like the piece work rate in the building industry.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The piece work rate in the building industry is in fact a classic example of why this system should not be allowed to eventuate.

The deregulation of the arbitration system would impact on every wage and salary earner in this country and possibly every family in this country. The arguments put forward by the

coalition parties are distortions of the truth. The Opposition parties do not come out and talk about how they will cut wages by 20 per cent.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: They would not have a clue.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: They do not talk about how the nitty-gritty of voluntary work contracts will be negotiated, because they do not know. They do not talk about how the nuts and bolts of this package will be worked out.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: It has been put together by nuts, that is why.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon D.J. Wordsworth): Order! The President has stated there are to be no interjections. The Opposition is refraining from interjecting, but there are two supporters from the Government benches who continue to interject. I ask them to desist and allow the speaker to speak on his own.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The proposition put forward by the conservatives is very simplistic. It does not go into the nuts and bolts of how the arbitration system will be dismantled and destroyed because if that were to come out, the wrath of the working class of this country would descend upon this distorted and distorting Opposition. There is no doubt that this is a policy of fallacy, which has been put forward by the Opposition at both the State and Federal level. With others, I await with interest the chance to look at the industrial relations policy of the Opposition prior to the next State election. I bet members London to a brick that this policy will have enmeshed within it the concepts of collective bargaining, deregulation and, most of all, voluntary contracts. However, the Opposition will not label that up nice and clearly; it will not talk about how the average worker's wage rate in industry will be cut by 20 per cent or 25 per cent. It will not do that because that would be political suicide. I do not blame the Opposition for not doing that. I guess the Opposition is not as stupid as we sometimes consider it to be.

The Opposition's policy will be a collection of euphemisms and contorted and distorted ideas to attack the working classes. Can members imagine, in all honesty, young people in the community wanting to go forward into a system of voluntary work contracts after they leave school at 16 years of age? How will they be able to negotiate their rates of pay with their employers, whoever those employers are, whether they are in small business or big business? How will they be able to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment, sick leave and annual leave? How, when there are 400 young people applying for one, two, or three positions - as is the case with some jobs - will individual young people be able to withstand the pressure upon them in order to maintain standards as they are today? Of course young people will not be able to do that. The jobs will go to the lowest bidders. It will not be a situation which is strictly reserved for the young; it will be a situation where semi skilled, unskilled and even skilled workers - in fact probably quite a large proportion of skilled workers - will find that if they had to negotiate a voluntary employment contract, they would be considerably worse off.

The Opposition will not come out in the next eight months and direct itself to the specific implications of its industrial relations policy. It will not come out, as has been the case in Queensland where the Confederation of Australian Industry so aptly did, and say, "Let's cut these people's rates of pay by 25 per cent Monday to Saturday, and by 50 per cent on Sunday." They will not do that because that would be political suicide, but that is their intention. They want to mount the most savage and direct attack upon the working class of this country ever known. The facts are there. The Liberal Party's policies are in place; if the Opposition enunciates those policies before the next election in a way which is honest, it will meet the wrath of the electorate. If the Opposition enunciates those policies in the way I suggest it possibly will - in some distorted way - the Government will make every effort to point out to the electorate the length and breadth of the Opposition's endeavour to create - specifically in this industrial relations issue - a minefield that will ultimately cost the working class of this country considerably.

Today in my response to the Address-in-Reply, I have covered a number of issues, which I will just recap. The City of Wanneroo has to address the distortion of its rating system, which currently places a significant disproportion on families and young people. That must be addressed as a matter of urgency by the new mayor. It is a direct result of the previous administration of the City of Wanneroo. Make no bones about it; it is their responsibility to

cast the rate in the GRV dollar, and nobody else's. It is their responsibility to rectify this matter and not to support their mates in commercial enterprise.

I congratulate the new mayor of the City of Wanneroo for ensuring that the youth issue will be addressed and for suggesting that, for a long time in the northern suburbs, it has required top priority. I, and other Labor members in the area, will support him in every way possible in those endeavours. However, I suggest that he work in conjunction with the State and the non-Government sectors. If he thinks that he will make political mileage out of this issue, he is wrong. The spirit of cooperation that I believe exists at the moment will be destroyed for some time to come.

I was pleased to see that the same new mayor supports the constitutional changes recommended by the Constitutional Commission and advanced by the Federal Labor Government. I also stress to this House the importance of the arbitration system to both the working and middle classes. If the Opposition intends to attack it and to dismantle it, it should be honest about that intention. Let it take its policies to the people and allow them to make a decision. We all know what their decision will be. I do not think the Opposition will be that honest and this Government will endeavour in every way possible to point out to the people what the Opposition is up to.

As I said earlier, I congratulate Hon Doug Wenn for his very good speech. He should be commended for the work that he does in his electorate and also for his work in relation to the ozone layer and the protection of the environment in the south west. He is in hospital at present. I wish him well and support his motion.

HON P.G. PENDAL (South Central Metropolitan) [4.24 pm]: In supporting the motion moved by Hon Doug Wenn I place on record my good wishes to His Excellency the Governor and to Mrs Reid for the role they continue to play with great panache and great style for the people of Western Australia. It was with regret that I learnt that the Governor intends to finish his term in December. I suggest that the Government not name Professor Reid's successor before the next election. If it is correct, as reported in the Press, that Professor Reid will leave the viceregal office in early December, it will mean that the announcement of a new Governor will be made as little as eight weeks before the next State election. I think it would be regrettable for the viceregal appointment to be announced at the height of what would then be the State election campaign. If anything were designed to politicise an office which has been refreshingly clear of politics, that would be it.

I intend to canvass a number of matters during my address. However, before I do, I signal my intention to move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Hon Graham Edwards: You are making a habit of this.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: To move an amendment to an Address-in-Reply is a serious matter.

Hon Graham Edwards: Did you not move one last year?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The subject of that amendment will be circulated soon and it will become clear to all members that it is of sufficient gravity for me to seek an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Hon Graham Edwards: I think you are grandstanding.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: In response to the chatterbox who is interjecting, the Address-in-Reply was amended two years ago, not one year ago and, like now, the subject of that amendment - the Bill of Rights - was of very serious concern to the Australian people.

Hon T.G. Butler: No; you have that wrong.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: If that amendment played only a minor part in bringing about what was to become an Australia-wide sense of outrage against the Bill of Rights, the purpose of it was well served.

Before moving that amendment, however, I wish to raise one matter of concern to the State and one matter of concern to my electorate. There has been much discussion and public debate in recent months about citizens-initiated referendums. That matter has been the subject of wide discussion throughout Australia and in a number of international forums. I want it recorded that I support the concept of citizens-initiated referendums. I do not believe

that they are a panacea for all of the problems that face this nation or this State. However, I believe that they are a valid and innovative way to develop and extend the Westminster system. It has been sometimes said that the concept of citizens-initiated referendums in some way reflects on the parliamentary system. It has been sometimes suggested also that to embrace the concept of citizens-initiated referendums today means that one acknowledges that the Westminster system is failing. I express a view counter to that along the lines that the Westminster system has never been a static one. It has been in existence for many hundreds of years and there is not one single set of criteria by which one could identify the Westminster system. Therefore, to deny any possibility that we can further innovate or further develop and extend the Westminster system would be, in one respect, to deny our history. I hope that when the matter is placed on the political agenda in this State it will receive bipartisan support and, ultimately, we will see that system of referendums become a normal part of our parliamentary process.

The next matter that I wish to raise is of direct concern to my electorate. It is highly distressing to the people involved because it not only affects the lifestyles and livelihood of a great number of parents and teachers in my electorate, but, more importantly, it also affects the future and the security of a great number of young and, in some cases, severely disabled and handicapped children. In the suburb of East Victoria Park there exists the Carson Street Special School. I have raised the matter of its future in the House on many occasions, by way of questions and in debates of this kind. Several years ago the Burke Government made a decision to phase out special schools such as Carson Street in the belief that the children, who in some cases are severely handicapped, ought to be mainstreamed. I gather that that is the educational parlance for taking them out of specialist schools where they have a unique environment of their own and placing them in what were called education support units.

Education support units were intended to be located at strategic spots across the metropolitan area and probably in country areas as well. The transfer of the 90 children at Carson Street School was not to proceed smoothly for the Government. It is now a matter of record that the parents took matters into their own hands and said that they would not tolerate their children being taken out of a special school and being placed in education support units. Sadly, the Government has prevaricated on the matter for many months. In many cases, it has treated the parents quite shabbily and has even been responsible for a kind of harassment against parents who are least able to strike back and to represent the views of themselves and their children. That harassment has even reached the most miserable stage of the Government authorising the removal from Carson Street of burglar alarm equipment that had been installed to protect some of the assets that had been built up by the parent body. That sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment was replaced by equipment of a most rudimentary kind. On two occasions it has been proved to be quite worthless.

Hon B.L. Jones: Wasn't that due to the geographical location of the school, though, as being some distance from a police station?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: That is the first time I have heard that explanation given, in all the many explanations I have heard on the subject, and I do not believe that it is relevant to the argument. Most schools and most Government properties are not situated alongside or in close proximity to police stations. Therefore, I cannot see what is valid in the interjection of Hon Beryl Jones.

Hon B.L. Jones: Well, it takes time for them to respond.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: On two occasions since the burglar alarm equipment was removed and was replaced by half-baked equipment that would not even keep a grasshopper out, there have been break-ins and a lot of very valuable equipment, including video recorders, has been stolen. In a way, the loss of that property is nothing compared with the distress that the Government has caused the parents of these children in refusing to allow the Carson Street School to remain open. That school, by any objective assessment - I invite any member who thinks he knows better to have a look at the school with me - is in a relatively good condition. With a relatively small amount of money it could be restored to a level that those parents are entitled to expect.

Hon B.L. Jones: The Minister has said that it will remain open until 1989. That is another two years for a start.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I am just coming to that. The former Minister said that the school would close at the end of 1988. This Minister has woken up to what the previous Minister was incapable of understanding, even at a political level, and that is that there was to be an election following the closure of the 1988 school year. Had Mr Pearce remained Minister for Education, the Government would have gone into that election period having to tell those parents and parents from other schools in the metropolitan area that come 1989 they would not have that school to send their children to. Only today the new Minister for Education, in response to questions on notice from me, indicated that the school will now remain open, but only until the end of 1989. That is the first big mistake that the Minister has made, and a great number of parents and staff at that school lived in hope that she would not make the same mistakes as her predecessor. Many of those children are being consigned to an environment in which they will not be able to cope. Those are not my words, but those of the parents who have told me on many separate occasions that although they would like to think, like Mr Pearce and the superintendents, that their children were normal enough to go to normal schools, they know that their children are incapable of being mainstreamed and of surviving in the environment of an education support unit at a normal primary school. I think anyone would acknowledge the right of the parents to say what is better for their children, especially when those children are the meekest of all human beings, and in many cases severely mentally and physically handicapped.

I make a final plea to the new Minister for Education through the mechanism of this debate to reverse her stand before she gets so far down the track of her predecessor that she cannot with some good grace reverse those decisions. The parents want the school to remain open. The teachers want it to remain open. Only a small group of so-called experts are pressing for a policy of mainstreaming which, to a large extent, has become discredited as an education philosophy. I plead with the Minister and the Government to allow the Carson Street Special School to remain open, not only until the end of 1989, but also for the years beyond. I leave a final invitation: If anybody disputes what I am saying or if anyone believes that what the Minister is echoing is the real fact, I invite them to the Carson Street Special School where, I am sure, they would be made welcome by the parents. They would be able, in the absence of anyone from the department, to sit down and hear first hand the demands and the pleas of parents who simply have nowhere else to go on that issue.

The member who most recently resumed his seat in this debate made considerable play of this Government's professed support and concern for what he described as "the working class". In another part of his speech he talked about the concern that Governments of his ilk have over the plight of the family man and the way in which his wage packet is to be affected by the perceived policies of the Opposition. He went on to say that there would be, under some Opposition policy that we have yet to hear about, a 20 per cent cut in real wages. They were just some of the ramblings of that member. By fortuitous coincidence that allows me to indicate the extent of my motion in relation to the Address-in-Reply.

Amendment to Motion

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I move -

To add the following words -

But we regret to inform Your Excellency that Governments, State and Federal, have been responsible for unremitting attacks on the Family Unit and have shown themselves to be out of touch with the aspirations of ordinary West Australians -

- (1) By authorising an 89 per cent increase in the State taxation take in WA in the past four years, the highest increase in the nation, and double the figure -

Hon Graham Edwards: Whose figures are they?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I will come back to the Minister. My amendment continues -

- for Victoria (45.7 per cent) and Queensland (45.2 per cent);

- (2) By presiding over a taxation system where the tax payable by a person on average weekly earnings, with a dependent spouse and two children, has risen from 18.8 per cent of weekly earnings in September 1985, to 20.8 per cent in September 1987;

- (3) By failing, in its document entitled "What's Being Done About Kids and Crime", to acknowledge any connection between family breakdowns and juvenile crime, and a refusal to acknowledge the need for preventive measures, rather than curative ones.

It will be clear to you, Mr President, that this is a natural flow on to the remarks of Hon John Halden in his speech a few minutes ago. He made a case, as weak as it was, that it was the Opposition parties that somehow threatened the financial security and viability of ordinary Australians and ordinary families. I am not sure how that is done from the Opposition benches, but of more immediate concern to people in this State is the fact that the present Government is in office and is the agency that is perpetrating against ordinary, average Western Australians and their families the greatest hardships that they have had to endure, probably since the great depression. In the course of the next few minutes I intend to adduce evidence to show that that is correct. The honourable member interjected a few minutes ago to ask what the evidence was and where I got my "rubbery figures" from.

Hon Mark Nevill: The member wants to ban contraceptives.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I will come to that later. I assure members that those so called rubbery figures that I presented do not come from Opposition research units but from Governments themselves of which those members are a part. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind, or in the minds of many more independent and dispassionate commentators, that the family and its economic wellbeing, and even its social wellbeing, has taken a huge battering under Labor Governments, both Federal and State, in the past four or five years. No one should be greatly surprised at that, because it was this Government, I remind members, that a little more than a year ago sought to change the definition of what constituted a family in this State.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is a lie.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The Minister for Community Services can say whatever she likes, but the fact is that she was the one who went down to the University of Western Australia and gave a speech in which she outlined her view and the Government's view of what constituted a family. Within 24 hours of Hon Kay Hallahan making that speech to the university, she confirmed all those things in this House, so she is not in a position 12 months later to backtrack, although I admit that she did backtrack several weeks down the track after considerable pressure was applied and a contrary answer was given by her colleague, the Attorney General, who said that what Mrs Hallahan said on that occasion did not constitute Government policy.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is right.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It was a slap in the face for her after she had made it quite clear to those 200 or 300 people in her audience what constituted a family in Western Australia. However, when she saw the political fallout from the selection of odd bods she regarded as a family, she ran for cover and has been embarrassed by it ever since.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What are you talking about? You are an embarrassment to your party!

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I say this by way of preamble to the three points I have raised today in my motion. I repeat to members that the first part of that motion relates to the fact that there has been a battering that ordinary families have had to take in this State because of the way in which the Government and one of its senior members in this House, the Minister for Budget Management, have been prepared to constantly, regularly and unremittingly milk from ordinary Western Australians a level of taxation and an increase in taxation take to the Treasury that is unprecedented in any other five year period this century.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is untrue.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Therefore, the figures that I quote will make the Minister for Budget Management eat his words.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No, they will not; I have heard them before.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It is no good the Minister sitting there and saying "untrue" when the figures were produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Which do not prove what the member has said; they prove he does not understand.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: They prove that this is the hungriest Government of any this century in any comparable four year period. I point out to members that these are figures produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in catalogue no 5506.0 issued on 15 April this year. I repeat that these are not figures produced by the Liberal Party's research unit or some other political operative but ones produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. I will read them out because I know that you, Mr President, do not like figures to be incorporated. However, I hope that they will be recorded in *Hansard* in the way they are actually produced in the ABS catalogue. These figures tell us that in the period from 1982-83 to 1985-86 there is a most appalling record of the way in which ordinary Western Australian families and taxpayers have had to sustain an unprecedented level of taxation increase. For example, in the four year period to which I have just referred, the smallest increase in any State was recorded in Queensland where there was a taxation increase of 45.2 per cent.

Hon Mark Nevill: Explain where these charges have gone up.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I invite the member to listen and then dispute the facts, because they are figures produced by his Government.

The smallest increase in the taxation take - which includes all State taxation, fees and fines income - by any State Government in Australia was in Queensland, which was 45.2 per cent. The second smallest increase was in Victoria, which was 45.7 per cent. The third smallest increase was in New South Wales, which was 57 per cent. The fourth smallest increase was in South Australia, which was 69.1 per cent. We start then to get into the high bracket. Tasmania had an increase of 71.1 per cent. Western Australia had an increase of not 45 per cent, 55 per cent, 65 per cent, or even 75 or 85 per cent, but of 88.9 per cent during the period of this Government. That is almost exactly double the figures for Queensland and Victoria.

The Minister for Budget Management is always quick to tell us, when these types of remarks are made, that it is because of increased economic activity. However, if that is true, the capacity would exist for this Government to give real taxation relief. If we are getting a bloated Treasury because of increased economic activity, it stands to reason the capacity to give some relief to the battlers of this community - whom this Government gave up on years ago - is vastly increased. I repeat that these figures are produced by the Government's own agency; not for the Opposition.

Hon Mark Nevill: They are interpreted -

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Those figures do not need to be interpreted. I seek leave to incorporate the table in *Hansard*.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See p 650.]

If any member can tell me where the ordinary Western Australian wage earners and their families have been able to see any relief in their taxation and charges, because of a bloated Treasury of that kind, I would be glad to hear it. I have just explained to this House what amounts to one of the most insensitive acts of this Government in closing down, at the end of next year, the Carson Street Special School; and lack of finances has a lot to do with that closure. If this Government was doing so well and if we have received an 89 per cent increase in the taxation take, and if - as a member of this Government claimed by interjection - ordinary battlers in Western Australia are seeing some benefit from those increased revenues, we would ask why are places like the Carson Street Special School not being looked after, and why do they need to be closed down? We ask also why have other people in my electorate - and I dare say in electorates represented by other members - such as those people who are at the Braille Hospital in Victoria Park, had their fairly meagre annual grant cut out by this Government in its entirety, and had it restored only when there was a public outcry by lobby groups and -

Hon J.M. Berinson: It was not an annual grant; it was a one off grant, which has now been given again.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I am delighted to hear the Minister for Budget Management make that interjection. It underlines my point that it was a one off grant, and the Government was too miserable - notwithstanding the enormity of the increase in the tax take that I have already

outlined - to give those people some relief from the conditions they experience as a result of being blind.

The next point in my motion condemns the Government - and I ask members to bear in mind this is a condemnation, as the preamble says, of both Commonwealth and State Governments -

Hon Graham Edwards: It does not say that.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Even someone with the Minister's limited capacity would be able to see that the second line of the preamble says, "that governments, State and Federal, have been responsible for unremitting attacks on the Family Unit".

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! The President has laid down a certain set of rules; and honourable members know that I stick to those rules.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The preamble refers to both the State and Federal Governments, which in my view have been responsible for those attacks on the family unit. The second paragraph of the motion reads -

By presiding over a taxation system where the tax payable by a person on average weekly earnings, with a dependent spouse and two children, has risen from 18.8 per cent of weekly earnings in September 1985, to 20.8 per cent in September 1987;

This is a Government whose Federal counterparts have made great play about so called taxation reforms in this nation. Can any member tell me where is the taxation reform if after we have received our taxation cuts we are paying \$16 a week more? I want members to ponder the enormity of that statement. To put it another way, it means that in September 1985, before we received the benefits of these phantom tax cuts, the person on average weekly earnings, with a dependent spouse and two dependent children, used to pay 18.8 per cent of his wages in taxation. Then along came a Government with a taxation reform package, and it granted taxation cuts. We would probably think that the person on average weekly earnings, paying 18.8 per cent taxation, would end up paying maybe 17 per cent, because that would represent a tax cut. However, that person, by the Government's own Budget figures, now pays 20.8 per cent. How can anyone say credibly that the Federal Treasurer and this State Government support the ordinary working man when they leave him in that predicament?

That is not a predicament he was left in by some conservative Government, the sort which allegedly does not have any compassion for the people that Mr Halden talked about - the working class, so-called. That is a Government supported by people on the other side of the House, people who, after the tax cuts have occurred, are now paying two per cent more of their disposable income in taxation. It is not mentioned in my motion, but that translates as being a rise in real taxation from \$76 a week, I understand, to \$92 a week. People are now paying \$16 a week more after their tax cuts as a result of the very generous taxation reform brought about by Mr Keating.

[Questions taken.]

Hon P.G. PENDAL: For any Government to claim it has offered a serious taxation reform, for any Government to claim that it has ordinary Western Australians and Australians at heart, and then to present tax cuts of the kind I have outlined, is an outrage against truth in the first instance. If any more evidence is required of a Government losing touch with the electorate, of a Government being in office so long that it does not even know what its own rank and file traditional supporters are feeling, then a bit more evidence is provided in an article which appeared in *The Weekend Australian* on 30 April-1 May written by Paul Kelly, who is hardly known for his right wing or pro-Liberal views; indeed, who is known for some fairly strong left wing and Labor connections. I repeat, this quotation is more evidence that the real Labor Party has disappeared off the face of the earth and no longer do traditional Labor supporters have anyone on the socialist side of Parliament to represent them. In a full page spread on the question of tax reforms Paul Kelly said -

The curse of all governments, that old demon fiscal drag, is back on the scene. You got a recent tax cut, but you are worse off.

Surprise, surprise! It is not just someone on this side who makes the observation that the taxation cuts were illusory, but someone allegedly right on the scene says the same.

Paul Kelly having dealt with the figures that I earlier quoted from - the taxation papers themselves - went on to say -

Taxpayers just above and below average weekly earnings are also paying a greater proportion of wages in tax.

Paul Kelly is talking about the years 1985-87.

Hon T.G. Butler: What about the tax brackets?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It is good to see some members are learning over the years. Paul Kelly continued -

For many people, tax reform has a sour taste. Keating has cut the top rate from 60c to 49c, and the next rate from 48c to 40c.

The rate scale is lower, but taxpayers are being carried into higher tax brackets.

That is the very point Hon Tom Butler made by way of interjection. I repeat, this is only one more bit of evidence that tax cuts are illusory. The tax cuts on the agenda this time next year may well not eventuate because the last lot of tax cuts turned into a tax increase; so what right has the Government to expect that ordinary taxpayers will believe they will fair better under the new taxation cuts due in another year's time?

Hon T.G. Butler: The Opposition does not understand anything.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Members can protest all they like but it does not alter the basic fact which I am putting across tonight. The people in those tax brackets, who historically and traditionally ought to be first cabs off the rank under a Labor Government, have been left behind to the tune of something like \$20 per week.

Hon T.G. Butler: They would be worse off under the Liberals.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The third area of my motion is further evidence of the Government showing itself to be totally out of touch with the needs of ordinary Western Australians. It has done so by failing in its document entitled "What is being done about Kids and Crime" to acknowledge any connection between family breakdown and juvenile crime, and by its refusal to acknowledge the need for preventive measures rather than curative ones. We are confronted here with another piece of gloss; another PR hype from the Minister who at least belongs to this Chamber, the Minister for Community Services.

Hon Graham Edwards: She is doing a good job.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The question posed by this document is: What is being done about kids and crime? The document does not attempt to answer the question, it is being put forward as "a major Government initiative aimed at reducing juvenile crime in Western Australia". As far as it goes, and as limited as it is, the document makes some effort to pick up the pieces at the end of the day once the kids have found themselves to be part of the juvenile crime scene. I acknowledge that. But therein lies the real weakness. There is not one reference in this document, in the \$1.125 million program, that in any way tries to address the question of prevention. That is why in the third part of the motion we seek to condemn the Government for relying on that age old activity of putting on a bandaid once the problem has occurred. There are so many things the Government could be doing -

Hon J.M. Berinson: There are so many things we are doing.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: - to assist in the reduction of juvenile crime; but it is not. It is more interested in promoting a piece of paper which in itself is meaningless and makes no effort whatsoever to do anything of a preventive nature. It is also significant that the document ascribes a whole range of causes of juvenile crime; it attempts to explain why we have seen a rapid increase in juvenile crime, but in no way addresses that problem in relation to the breakdown of the family unit in this State. Yet if one goes to any social welfare agency, or to the Jesus People, or to the Minister's own department, and speaks to any sensible social worker, one will be told that the most fundamental cause of juvenile crime is the breakdown in the family unit. One will be told that many problems stem from the breakdown in the family unit and disharmony in the family, and yet none of that is addressed here.

The Government has the temerity to talk about truancy and the failure of schools. However, the Government makes no attempt to say the problem is more fundamental than that. The Government is trying to do something that is shallow and superficial. I would not say it is entirely inappropriate or that it is entirely worthless; to a large extent it is a shallow and superficial response to one of the most serious problems confronting our society today. It is well known that among the conditions that produce juvenile crime are things like alcoholism in the home or homelessness which arises from children getting out of their homes because they are unhappy. Once they leave home they are left with no option but to sleep under railway bridges, and often they turn to drugs and are then in the middle of a problem which this Government is trying to address. The Government is addressing itself to this problem too late and in a curative way. It is simply closing the stable door once the horse has bolted. In the middle page of the document to which I have referred nine alleged initiatives are spelt out to combat crime among the young.

Hon Kay Hallahan: They are not alleged.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It is worse than that. The initiatives are so superficial standing by themselves that I am surprised that a trained social worker like the Minister can put her name to the document.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You do not understand it. I do put my name to it.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I understand it closer than the Minister suggests. I have listened to staff from the Department for Community Services, to people in my electorate and to people from areas where I have shadow responsibilities. I have spoken to reliable people in the field - in many cases people from the Minister's department, people who work full time and on a voluntary basis with agencies like the Jesus People and Anglicare.

Hon Fred McKenzie: You are talking about experts.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Members do not need a degree to understand the extent of the problem. If that were required it would preclude Hon Fred McKenzie from debating anything in this Chamber and that would be silly. He is one of the sensible members on the other side of the House and he does not need a social worker's degree to understand the gravity of the situation which confronts people in this State at the moment. Nine initiatives have been listed and not one addresses the fundamental question of the break down of the family unit.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Read it again.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: If the Minister is referring to the fifth point, which is headed "Parent Skills Training", that is not what I am talking about. Point No 5 is another of those curative things - to pick up the pieces after the problem has exploded. Not one reference in the entire document states that we should look at what help we can give to people in their homes to find ways in which the family, perhaps with outside help, can come to grips with the problem. If that were the case we would not need the PR document that has been published.

Hon Kay Hallahan: It is not a PR document.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Members may have watched a television documentary the other night about a number of young people in Sydney who were living under bridges, in closets and in derelict houses. They were asked by the interviewer, in view of the appalling circumstances in which they lived, why did they not go home. One of the young girls replied, "You have to be joking. This is better than home." The child had escaped from home and I do not think she spelt out the reasons she had left home. The causes in statistical terms are common enough.

Hon Fred McKenzie: It might have been a Liberal home.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: That is a ridiculous comment and is not worthy of someone of Mr. McKenzie's capacity, but it does indicate that even on the back bench of this House we have shallow and superficial people who support shallow and superficial Ministers producing shallow and superficial solutions to problems. The Government is throwing away \$1.125 million and I do not know how the Minister was able to get the Minister for Budget Management to agree to part with \$1.125 million -

Hon Kay Hallahan: He is a sensible man.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: - for a shallow and superficial program. I do not know how she did it

because in normal circumstances he is not easy to con, but he has been sold a pup on this occasion. It is not the Labor Party that is suffering; it is not the people to whom Mr McKenzie referred who are suffering; the people who are suffering are young kids. They are the victims of the problem of juvenile crime.

Hon Kay Hallahan: And their families.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The Minister has indicated that she does not care about their families because there is no emphasis in this document on the positive value of family life.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Read it again.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I have read it on more than one occasion and better than that I have given it to other people and asked them to read it to see whether they can pick up one reference which shows that the Government understands the problem. They have not been able to do that. That is the reason that people have come to the conclusions that the PR hype is a shallow and superficial response to the problem and it is something which will be a blot on the Government's copy book when it leaves office. It will take years for future Governments to overcome the problem and the legacy that this Government will leave behind because it is more interested in this sort of PR hype than anything else. If Government members want more evidence than that they should look at the last State Budget and the priority given to family matters. This Minister was responsible, again with the blessing of the Minister for Budget Management, for obtaining the grand sum of \$30 000 for research into the problem of where the family is at in Western Australia today. Members may think that is not a bad start.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Along with a lot of other money.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: That was \$30 000 for the family. That is to be seen in the context of \$200 000 -

Hon Kay Hallahan: You are distorting the truth.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: - which the Government allocated to the greyhound association. It shows this Government's priorities - \$200 000 to help that association bail out of its problems, but people who want to make a serious study as to where family life is at in this State were allocated \$30 000.

If the Minister was talking about the much vaunted family package contained in last year's State Budget, let me remind members on the other side of the House, in case they did not read it, that underpinning the Government's family policy was kids' helmets. That really gets to the depth of the problem.

Hon J.M. Berinson: What has that got to do with your subject?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It was in the Minister's Budget speech under the heading of "Assistance to families". It is ridiculous to say that giving that sort of assistance will address the serious problems which the Government's PR hype is not capable of doing.

The Government deserves to be condemned; it has not addressed the problem. We could have gone on for days about the neglect that this Government has visited upon the family unit in this State and how it has taken decisions time and time again that have been detrimental to anyone who the Government thinks is odd-bod enough to preserve the family unit; that is, about 95 per cent of Australians. It is a legacy that this Government will leave behind and it will take a long time for successive Governments to rectify the problem.

Hon Fred McKenzie: You do not give an example of the gravity of the problem.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I know the gravity involved in seeking to amend the Address-in-Reply. I understand it has been amended only once in the last 17 years and that was with a serious intent in mind because it related to the Bill of Rights. This matter is equally important to Western Australians as the Bill of Rights and I hope the Government supports the amendment I have moved.

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [5.31 pm]: At one stage of his speech, Hon P.G. Pendal showed an attachment to the word "superficial". He kept calling things superficial, and I could understand his attachment to that word

because it was so typical of almost everything he said. I doubt whether in his previous efforts in this Chamber the member has ever approached the miserable mishmash of concepts he delivered tonight; they were hopeless and without factual foundation or conviction. Indeed, they came with so little conviction that Hon P.G. Pental could not bring himself to distribute the terms of his amendment until he started speaking. He knew he could produce a mass of statistics, that he would be living proof of the saying about lies, damned lies and statistics, and he was very reluctant to provide even five minutes' notice that might have allowed alternative statistics to be collated. As it happens, we do not need a great many statistics for the purpose of this debate because the argument put forward by Hon P.G. Pental simply does not require it.

Hon P.G. Pental has a number of problems: One is that he cannot cope with success. It is not just that he cannot stand to see a Government succeed; his real problem is that he cannot stand to see the State succeed. He cannot cope with the fact that Western Australia is a success State, and that the Government is a success Government. He cannot cope with the fact that in all major economic indicators Western Australia is ahead of the country. He cannot cope with that and, therefore, his response is, on the one hand, to denigrate the achievements and, on the other hand, and much more irresponsibly, to try to talk them down. He has another problem - and heaven help this State if he were ever to become the Minister for Budget Management: He has developed a train of mind which, on the one hand, complains about our revenue on the basis that it is too much and, on the other hand, complains about our expenditure on the basis that it is too little. Wherever he looks he can find good causes on which to spend more money than the Government does, and wherever else he looks he finds every reason for the Government to collect less revenue than it does. To Hon P.G. Pental that makes some sort of economic sense, and I confess at once that I find his reasoning elusive and his economics awful.

He is of course correct when he says that our revenue has increased. He is also correct, but tries to skirt over the fact, when he says that our economy has expanded. He just brushes the second one aside; he is not interested in the expanding economy or an expanding population, both of which are highly relevant to revenue collection.

Hon P.G. Pental: That is irrelevant, you silly man.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The member is only interested in what the Bureau of Statistics says about the percentage increase over a particular period which he has selected for his own purposes. Our revenues have increased at a very substantial rate, and that is nothing to be ashamed of. I am not ashamed, I am delighted because of the foundations from which that revenue springs. Let us consider an area in which our revenue has gone ahead in leaps and bounds; I refer to payroll tax. In 1986-87 the estimate for payroll tax was \$306 million. This year the estimate was \$365 million, an additional \$60 million.

Hon N.F. Moore: What a scandal.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Hon N.F. Moore has the hide to say that is a scandal. What is the basis on which the Government collected that increased payroll tax?

Hon P.G. Pental: You screwed the small businessman.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I give advance notice, with great pleasure, that our estimates will be exceeded; we shall get more than the \$365 million estimated at the beginning of the year. No doubt Hon N.F. Moore will say that is even more scandalous. Let us consider the basis of the expanded payroll tax: It is collected on the lowest rate of payroll tax in Australia. Western Australia was the first State to reduce payroll tax anywhere; only one other State in one other year has reduced its basic rate of payroll tax. This Government has reduced it successively from five per cent to 3.75 per cent. The Government has tripled in real terms the base figure below which payroll tax is not payable; it has gone up three times as fast as inflation and the Government has reduced it by a record amount. It was the only Government in five years to reduce that tax.

Hon P.G. Pental: Tripled the taxation take.

Hon N.F. Moore interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! When I call for order I expect the two members who are interjecting to come to order.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: If after all that the end result is greatly increased payroll tax revenue, the question is how did the Government do it? Was it magic or by some means that Hon P.G. Pental and Hon N.F. Moore cannot understand? How did the Government come to this shameful state of affairs that, on the one hand, it collected more tax and, on the other hand, it reduced the rate of taxation at a record pace? It was done by increasing employment. I spoke before about Western Australia leading the country on the major economic indicators; and none is more important than the rate at which we have been able to increase the employment opportunities of the people of this State.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Do you not mean Government employment?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That is a pitiful statement. I am surprised at the member. I thought that in pitifulness, Hon Phillip Pental was on his own, but the member has now joined him. He knows very well the situation is different.

The PRESIDENT: Order! These interjections have to cease, and the rest of the debate is going to be heard in silence. I will not tolerate shouting across the Chamber. If members do not like what the Minister is saying, they should wait until he has finished and then put forward their own interpretation. In the meantime, the Minister should be allowed to finish what he is saying.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Members will know that I do not want to be drawn aside by these interjections; it is not in my nature to go off on a tangent. However, I cannot leave aside the last interjection about the growth of employment in this State being in the public sector. The Commonwealth Government's economic statement drew attention to its efforts to restrain the size of the Commonwealth public sector. That is an employment force much larger than our own. The Commonwealth Government took some pride in the fact that it had been able to reduce its public sector by 3 000. We did that in this State in one year alone - last year. The truth of the matter is - as I am sure the member will acknowledge - that our very favourable employment position is based essentially in the private, the development and the resource development sectors; in increasing services; in manufacturing; in agriculture - in all these areas.

Hon N.F. Moore: And in the gold industry, which your colleagues are about to tax!

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Employment in this State leads the country, and it is based essentially on private sector employment, not Government sector employment.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I would be interested to see your figures.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I have given already the figures relating to payroll tax. I will now give another set of figures which refer to stamp duty revenue, and which Hon Norman Moore will no doubt also consider to be shameful. The estimated revenue from stamp duty in 1986-87 was \$220 million; and in 1987-88 it was \$301 million. Actual collections for this financial year - and this will be news to Hon Phillip Pental and Hon Norman Moore - will be over \$400 million.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is not a tax on employment, unlike payroll tax.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am delighted that Hon Norman Moore is not complaining about the \$100 million increase in revenue, unlike Hon Phillip Pental. Hon Phillip Pental complains about any increased revenue; he regards it as a criticism of a Government that the revenue of its State should increase.

Hon P.G. Pental: You have so many problems of your own about the casino that you have missed a couple of serious points during all the dogs' dealings.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That is dead duck stuff.

Hon P.G. Pental: We will see about that, comrade! You are the duck.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Just as with payroll tax, an interesting aspect of increased stamp duties arises from the serious stock market crash in October last year. By all accounts that crash should have led - and has led - to major decreases in stamp duty collections on share transactions. However, at the end of this year we will be about \$100 million ahead of our estimates. That is a result of a buoyant economy, record levels of housing construction, and record levels of non-housing construction - resulting from a high degree of commercial activity - which are keeping the building work force working flat out.

Hon Phillip Pental and Hon Norman Moore are sad or angry, or both, because they cannot understand success.

Hon Neil Oliver: Do you disagree that I predicted that last year - and it is already in *Hansard* - and that you disagreed with me?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Hon Phillip Pental asked why is it that, if we are getting all this extra revenue, the people of the State are not receiving any benefits. The premise of that question is wrong; the member assumes they are not receiving any benefits. The people of this State have received enormous benefits over the period we are talking about. A major benefit is the high level of employment. There is also a whole range of services which have been funded as a result of this increased revenue.

Hon P.G. Pental: You have been flogging off half the State.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: To give an example which goes directly to Hon Phillip Pental's professed concern about families, I refer to Homeswest's building program. The present Government came into office in 1983 on a promise to double the rate of public housing construction. We have since tripled it. How do members think we paid for that? Do they think we get houses out of the air? We paid for that out of our revenue.

Hon P.G. Pental: You went out and bought units in South Perth; and that is an utter waste of public funds.

Several members interjected.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Even Hon Phillip Pental does not believe that last statement, so I will not follow him down that line.

In all of these areas, and in a vastly increased contribution to community welfare, we have contributed to the welfare of the general community and to families. Another important element going to the welfare of families - and this will really get Hon Norman Moore going, but it is the truth - is the great restraint this Government has been able to achieve in those charges which impinge most directly on households, such as electricity, gas, sewerage, water, and motor vehicle licences. Despite the Opposition's talk about great increases, the fact is we have kept those charges at either the rate of inflation or well below it.

Hon N.F. Moore: But nobody believes you.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That is the truth. The member does not believe me because it does not suit his professional interest to believe the truth.

Hon N.F. Moore: People do not believe you; that is why you are on your way out.

Hon P.G. Pental: They reckon you use the truth sparingly; and you are certainly doing that tonight.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Hon Norman Moore is making an important concession. Members will notice that he did not challenge the truth of what I was saying about our restraint on charges; he said that other people did not believe us. Hon Norman Moore is wrong about that. He is downgrading the intelligence of the people of Western Australia by saying they are not prepared to believe the truth. It is the truth.

Hon N.F. Moore: I do not believe what you are telling us now, and I do not believe you do either, if you go back to what you said when you first came into Government.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The member is wrong when he says he does not believe us, and he is wrong in his assessment that other people cannot believe the truth - even if he cannot. The long and short of it is this: Yes, revenue has gone up. That is a reflection of the great increase in economic activity. It reflects both the buoyant economy to which I have referred and the increased population.

Hon P.G. Pental: And a greedy Government!

Hon J.M. BERINSON: It is reflected as well in important new benefits to the people of this State.

I do not want to leave this discussion without referring to the other part of Mr Pental's amendment which relates directly to State activities. He has put this in very interesting terms which are worth repeating. After his standard condemnatory introduction he goes on to say in paragraph (3) -

By failing, in its document entitled "What's Being Done About Kids and Crime", to acknowledge any connection between family breakdowns and juvenile crime, and a refusal to acknowledge the need for preventive measures, rather than curative ones.

As it happens, the document does not ignore the role of the family. There are references to families in quite a direct way under the headings of Parent Skills Training, Law Education, Challenge for Youth; and in the final sections of the document there is a reference to initiative which reads -

By focusing on employment opportunities and the relationship between crime and alcohol and drugs, the program will help young offenders and their families.

So that even as a literal question of fact, Mr Pental is wrong in saying that this document fails to acknowledge the need for preventive rather than curative or punitive measures in respect of juvenile crime.

Hon P.G. Pental: I stand by that; it does.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Having said that, I must go on and say that none of that is important. It would not worry me what was said in that document. What would worry me is what the Government is actually doing.

Hon P.G. Pental: That is, what it says it is doing.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Wherever we look we find that the Government has a very high recognition of the need for preventive measures, but it just does not deal with them as a law and order program. For example, if we are talking about the housing program, we are talking about the position of families. If Mr Pental is talking about homeless youth we can similarly talk about the special provisions for homeless youth as well as for homeless families. But we do not put them under a law and order heading. We do not put them under a crime prevention heading. It is a crime prevention measure, but it is essentially a community welfare or a family welfare measure, and that is the way we normally discuss it.

If we are dealing with child care facilities, the same considerations apply. Of course, child care is important to reduce tensions in families and to assist them in many ways. But we deal with that under child care and not under law and order. Similarly with emergency relief and with special measures for employment, especially long term juvenile unemployment. It applies also to recreation. We do not have Hon Graham Edwards standing in this place to talk about measures which he implements for law and order purposes. He describes them as sport and recreation measures, but they have an impact in this area too. It is the same with free driver training. That may seem a very small measure, but when members remember the enormous number of people who go through our justice system, and indeed our prison system, including a high proportion of Aboriginal offenders, who are there because they drive without a driver's licence, one asks oneself, "What is the best thing to do about it? Would it be best to keep putting them in prison, perhaps for longer sentences, or would it be better to go out and without charge and at some trouble train them to the point where they can obtain a driver's licence?"

Hon P.G. Pental: When are you going to do that? You have been in office for five years.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: We are doing it now, and if the member has not noticed -

Hon P.G. Pental: No.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: - it is because he is not looking. That is another of the Mr Pental's many problems - he does not see for want of looking for them.

Hon P.G. Pental: You must write these in invisible ink.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: He prefers to be guided within the limited bounds of his imagination rather than to look at what is actually done.

I refer also to the drug and alcohol programs, to parents' skilling programs and so on. Whether we are looking at the role of the family or at preventive measures in terms of law enforcement, we must not restrict ourselves to headings which literally apply to those two problems. We have to look at related issues with a broader understanding of what is involved. When we do that, far from finding a record which could be the subject of a critical amendment to the Address-in-Reply, we will find a record of which any Government would be proud, and Mr Pental's previous Government in this place never got within a mile of it.

For all these reasons I urge the House to reject this superficial criticism; it leads nowhere and does nothing. I ask Mr Penda, and Mr Moore in anticipation, to try, even against their natural instincts, to develop a more positive approach to what is actually happening in this State. They should not be afraid of acknowledging success; it is there for everyone to see.

Hon P.G. Penda: You could charm the fish out of the sea.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: It will still leave ample scope for nitpicking criticisms. I put it seriously to the member opposite that in this amendment he has gone seriously astray. I urge the House to reject it.

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [5.58 pm]: I support the amendment moved by my colleague Hon Phillip Penda. There is nothing superficial about the question of families. The whole question of the health of the family structure in our society is absolutely fundamental to it. To suggest that this motion is in any way superficial is nonsense and belies the importance of the family as far as I am concerned and as far as my party is concerned in the society which we now have in Australia.

What I said to the Attorney General by way of interjection is that people do not believe him. I was referring to several events in recent political history in Australia which ought to be as clear as the nose on the Attorney General's face. People do not believe him. I refer the Attorney General to several by-elections, including Adelaide and Port Adelaide, and Balga and Ascot in Western Australia. These are four seats which, on the surface, are strong Labor seats. They are the heartland of Labor support. The Labor Party can expect on every occasion to win elections there. What did we find happening in those four by-elections? Massive swings up to 20 per cent or more against the Labor Party - an indication which makes it obvious to everybody in Australia, including the Premier, that the Labor Party has lost its way when it comes to looking after the needs and interests of its traditional supporters.

The people do not believe the Attorney General when he tells them how wonderful everything is in Australia; they just do not believe him any more. The Government cannot get away constantly with all the brochures, full page advertisements, glossy publications and so on any longer because people have seen right through it. That pamphlet about juvenile crime is another classic case.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I have been attempting to tell the Government that it has lost touch with its claimed constituency and that people in the electorates of Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Balga, and Ascot, and in New South Wales, have informed the Labor Party that it is out of touch with their aspirations and their needs. As Hon Phil Penda said, the Government's support for families has been sadly lacking.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is not so. We are leading the way.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is reflected in the swings of up to 23 per cent against the Government.

Hon Graham Edwards: Do you think your candidate did a good job?

Hon N.F. MOORE: He was an excellent candidate.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Graham Edwards: Why did you dump him from your ticket?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I did not dump him.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister chooses to ignore my requests for order. He is not setting a very good example for the members behind him who have finally agreed to conform. I suggest that he does likewise.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Those swings are not just a reflection of the Government's poor attitude towards families and all that is associated with them, but it is also a reflection of the fact that they have less money in their pockets. The taxes and charges being levied against people are reducing their standards of living. They do not like it and they are telling the Government through the ballot box that they do not like it.

The figures included in Mr Pendal's amendment are the sorts of figures that the Australian people understand. The Government is attempting to blind us with science with the Minister for Budget Management churning out all sorts of figures to bluster his way through debates. The people of Western Australia know that he is just blustering and that the Government has been governing on opinions and statements it has put out in newspapers and advertisements.

Hon T.G. Butler: Who froze wages in 1983?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member will have his chance later.

The fact is that the people of Australia are telling Labor Governments across this nation that they have had enough. They are voting overwhelmingly against Labor candidates in traditional seats. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Hon T.G. Butler: Don't get too carried away by the opinion polls.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I never do in politics. I get enthused occasionally with public opinion polls in Western Australia which show that the people of this State have the same views as the people of Ascot and Balga. The Government is a long way behind and it is getting further behind. It will continue to fall behind with the new Premier because he does not have the capacity to get his message across to Western Australians in the same way as the former Premier did. The former Premier was the master of getting his message across, regardless of the facts. He is here no longer; he has been replaced by somebody else. As I said, I get enthused occasionally, but not carried away with public opinion polls. The people are saying that they do not believe that this Labor Government is doing anything for families or about taxes and charges, except to put them up.

I think that the Government got the message, although somewhat belatedly, after the last by-elections. The new Premier, in his statements about a new direction for this State, spoke about caring, about the problems of people on welfare, about education and about the problems of youth. All these things have been ignored until now.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government has set up a bureau which is only a window dressing.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Rubbish.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It issues Press release after Press release and puts posters around the place stating that it is solving the problems of youth.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What about the services?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The people know that the Government has let them down. They knew it in Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Ascot and Balga and they know it in the South West Province. What does Mr Dowding do?

Hon T.G. Butler: Tell us what you are going to do?

Hon N.F. MOORE: A letter has been sent by the Education Department to all senior high school principals. It gives an indication of the panic which exists in Labor circles as a result of its poor showing in the by-elections. The letter is dated 28 March 1988 and is headed, "Community and Social Development - Urgent". It was signed by Mr David Prichard, Ministry of Education's Representative, Family and Youth Development Group and it states -

At short notice the Premier has appointed a group of representatives of Government Departments whose Ministers are members of the recently established Community and Social Development Cabinet Committee. The initial task of the Development Group will be to prepare an inventory of State Government provisions and services for youth.

It then asks the principals to provide certain things within a week.

Hon John Halden: Stunning stuff!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The people will tell the member how stunning he has been because they are ready to toss this Government out. The people who received this letter have had enough, too. It then requests the principals to provide certain information by 8 April, a little over a week. It asks them to provide -

- 1) Programmes/projects currently operating.
- 2) Estimated annual expenditure in the current financial year for both human and non-human resources and consumables; and the source or sources of funds.
- 3) Estimated annual expenditure for the next triennium.
- 4) Formal/informal evaluation of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of each programme/project.
- 5) Areas where additional activities/provisions are warranted.
- 6) Recommended modifications of existing activity.

Please note it is appreciated that this request is at short notice, but the Premier is anxious for Departments to respond as fully as possible given the time available.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Apart from all the interjections that are making life unbearable, we are currently debating an amendment to the Address-in-Reply. The amendment is a fairly narrow one, and I am finding it very difficult, despite a very vivid imagination, to relate the letter being read out by the honourable member to that amendment. In case other members speak subsequently, I want to lay down the ground rules. We are not talking on the Address-in-Reply. We are talking on a proposed amendment to the Address-in-Reply which contains three parts. I recommend that the honourable member contain his comments to those matters.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The amendment says that the State Government has shown itself to be out of touch with the aspirations of ordinary Western Australians. I am simply explaining to the House that in previous by-elections the people of Western Australia have expressed that view and the Government has responded by sending letters like that to every school principal in Western Australia, trying in some way to get back in touch with the aspirations of Western Australians. I put it to you, Mr President, that it is totally relevant to the argument we are having at the moment.

Let us now consider the other document that Hon Kay Hallahan has put out. It is another bit of window dressing in respect of the question of juvenile crime.

Hon Kay Hallahan: No credit!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will give the Minister credit for what she has done, albeit the little she has done.

Hon Tom Stephens: She has been a fantastic Minister.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I listened to the Minister speak on television when she announced the scheme. She said there was a strong correlation between truancy and juvenile crime.

Hon Kay Hallahan: And unemployment.

Hon N.F. MOORE: She went to great lengths to explain how terrible it was that there was so much truancy and said that it was a serious aspect which led to juvenile crime. I agree. A lot of juvenile crime goes on during school hours and nobody knows where the children are, but somebody ought to. I submit to you, Mr President, that because the law of Western Australia says every child shall attend school until the end of the year in which he turns 15, unless given special exemption, there is an obligation on the Government to ensure that it knows where those children are if they are not at school. The system in our schools is that a student who is away brings a note to the school. Many students ignore that requirement and stay away. Many schools find that it is too much trouble to try to find out where the children are, so truancy officers are supposed to go around making sure that students are where they are supposed to be.

It is fortuitous that an answer to a question which arrived today should relate to this matter. I asked the Minister for Education how many truancy officers were employed by the Education Ministry. The answer was 11. Eleven truancy officers are employed across the whole State! That is why there is so much truancy: The Government cannot be bothered employing people to do something about it.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You must be joking!

Hon Mark Nevill: What about the Aboriginal liaison officers?

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister and other members will come to order.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I asked the Minister in the same question where these people were located. I will not read out all the locations, but will give a couple of examples. There is one truancy officer for Kalgoorlie and, presumably, the eastern goldfields, which covers an enormous area. There is one for Perth (south), but there is not one for Perth (north). All the metropolitan area south of the river presumably is being looked after by one truancy officer, yet members of the Government can stand up and say that they will fix the problem of juvenile crime by fixing the truancy problem.

Hon Graham Edwards: How many would you have?

Hon N.F. MOORE: We would employ enough to solve the problem.

The Government is also engaging the Police Force to do the truancy work, as if police personnel did not have enough to do in other areas of law and order in Western Australia. It is tripe for the Government to say that \$1.2 million is being expended on the so-called "Nine Initiatives to Combat Crime".

Hon Kay Hallahan: Juvenile crime.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am reading the Government's headline, not mine.

The Government talks about school support and acknowledges the strong correlation between truancy and juvenile crime. In answer to a question, the Minister for Education said that there were 11 school welfare officers for the whole of Western Australia. How disgusting!

Hon Mark Nevill: What about the Aboriginal liaison officers?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I think Aboriginal liaison officers are a good idea. In fact, they are in our policy, but that is beside the point.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will not call "Order" again. I am saying to those members in the back row who are constantly interjecting - frequently in unison, mostly one after the other - that it is out of order and I will not tolerate it. I do not mind a couple of interjections if they are relevant, rare and reasonable. I will not tolerate others.

Hon Kay Hallahan: The three Rs.

Hon N.F. MOORE: If the Minister for Education or the Minister for Community Services were to say that the Government would increase the number of truancy officers by 1 000 per cent, I suggest that would be going down the path towards doing something about truancy.

Hon B.L. Jones interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The problem needs to be resolved. If the Government is saying that spending \$1.2 million on some sort of publicity campaign with the Minister on television will solve the problem of juvenile crime, without getting people on the ground to sort out the problem, it is having itself on. It will not work. Somebody other than school principals or school teachers must have the job of going out to find where those children are, what they are doing during the day, and why they are not going to school.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What a superficial analysis!

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is not superficial at all. The Minister should just go and live in the real world and find out why kids are not at school.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That's where I live. Where do you live?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Ministers such as Hon Kay Hallahan live in a clouded environment. They churn out all this public relations stuff and reckon they are doing a job of work. The people of Western Australia have seen through that. They believed it for the first couple of years; they do not any more.

Hon B.L. Jones interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member should make a speech herself. She has spent all day interjecting on other people.

Government members talk of increased revenue. Hon Joe Berinson talked about how wonderful it was that there was so much economic activity in Western Australia that he

could not help but earn so much money. He just could not help getting all that payroll tax that increased from \$300 million to \$360 million unexpectedly. I said "scandalous" and I believe it is scandalous. The payroll tax is the greatest disincentive to employment that there is. There should be some other form of taxation in its place. I have always argued against it, and for the Government to boast about the fact that it got more payroll tax than it expected is a false boast because it does not also acknowledge that 56 000 Western Australians still do not have a job. Those 56 000 people would like some of that extra \$60 million from payroll tax instead of being on the unemployment list.

It is interesting that when the Minister for Budget Management boasted about how much money he has, he did not acknowledge that payroll tax is a great disincentive to employment, that 7.6 per cent of our population does not have a job. The unemployment figure has not changed for months. There has been no improvement in unemployment rates in Western Australia. I acknowledge that there has been an improvement in employment rates, but that has been brought about by a few seasonal factors such as the price of wool and a buoyant goldmining industry which the Federal Government is about to put the kybosh on. The goldmining industry employs thousands of people.

Hon John Halden: Thousands?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes; not underground, but in terms of the multiplier effect which the Government argues is what resources development is all about, as it is. More people are employed in the goldmining industry in Perth than in the whole of the goldfields. That is what is so good about resources development. That is why the Minister is running around trying to get his party to agree to uranium mining. He wants uranium mining because of the multiplier effect in Perth and the metropolitan area. The situation exists where one industry in Western Australia, the gold mining industry, is doing well. That industry is in my electorate and the electorate of a member opposite, yet members opposite know that their colleagues in Canberra want to chop the head off the goose that is laying the golden egg.

Hon J.M. Brown: And reduce taxation by 20 per cent.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Jim Brown will come to order and cease interjecting, otherwise numbers here might be decreased by 20 per cent.

Hon N.F. MOORE: One area in Western Australia has set this State above the rest, and I refer to the great wealth produced in the goldfields, yet the Labor Government in Canberra, which I presume members opposite support, is now about to kill the goose that is laying the golden egg. I acknowledge that the State Government is arguing against that tax for the same reasons as I am - that it will get rid of employment. There is no point in people opposite standing in here and boasting about how much they are making from payroll tax when there are still 57 000 Western Australians out of work.

Hon B.L. Jones: A darn sight less than when you were in power.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is not the truth at all.

Hon Graham Edwards: That is so.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Look at the figures and members opposite will find that I am right.

The Minister also tried to justify on the basis of economic development in Western Australia the fact that the increase in tax revenue has been 89 per cent in Western Australia in the past four years. What he did not mention was that we have an additional tax on tobacco which provides an enormous amount of revenue for the State.

Hon T.G. Butler: Do you disagree with that?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government increased that tax fivefold. It also introduced the FID tax and doubled the State fuel levy.

Hon Tom Stephens: What is your lot going to do?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member can make his speech later. This Government doubled the fuel tax to spend the money on Transperth or on the electrification of the Fremantle railway line. I hope Hon Tom Stephens supports my remarks, in view of the fact that the roads in his electorate are as bad as they are anywhere else in this State. This Government is to electrify a railway line for the people in Fremantle while roads in Western Australia are being ripped

up because people cannot afford to maintain them. The Government is putting \$50 million of the fuel tax money into Transperth and the electrification of the metropolitan railway line.

Of course the Government has more money, because it is taxing people more. It has implemented the three new taxes I have just listed off the top of my head.

Hon J.M. Brown: The member does not know of a specific road being ripped up.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know that it will happen. I also know that in my electorate, which covers a big part of Western Australia, not one inch of new bitumen road has been initiated by this Government in the past five years - not one inch! In the mini-Budget announced last week another \$50 million was taken away from roads.

Hon Tom Stephens: It does not sound like a very effective local member.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member for North Province, who has the worst roads in Western Australia, thinks that that is all right.

Hon Tom Stephens: You closed the railway line.

Hon N.F. MOORE: There is no doubt that the amendment moved by Hon Phil Pental is absolutely justified in the circumstances.

Hon Tom Stephens: This is one of the worst speeches you have ever made, Mr Moore.

Hon N.F. MOORE: At least the member who interjected has something to compare it with. I have not heard any of his speeches to compare them.

Hon Kay Hallahan: When they come they are brilliant.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I would like to hear the member stand and defend the \$50 million of road funding money that is to be spent on electrification of the Fremantle railway line. I would love to hear him justify the fact that his constituents pay 2.9c per litre more for their fuel so that there can be better railway lines in Perth. I would like to hear him justify the fact that his constituents pay more for their tobacco than does anyone else in Australia. I would like to hear the member on all those things instead of his sitting sniping at me with inane interjections about the quality of my speech. He should get up and say something! He should rise and tell us why Hon J.M. Berinson is justified in his boast that we have more payroll tax than any other State and that he is delighted that that is so. Let us hear from the backbenchers opposite - get up and justify this!

As I was saying before I was interrupted by that interjection, Hon Phillip Pental is justified in moving this amendment to the Address-in-Reply. I have always adopted the view that to move an amendment in this House, where the mover might expect it to be carried, requires the matter to be given serious consideration. The matters being raised here are of such significance that the motion for the Address-in-Reply should be amended. Matters relating to the taxation situation have already been explained by Hon Phil Pental and I have sought to make a small contribution in that respect. What the Government is doing about child crime and family breakdown is clearly apparent when one measures the Government's public relations exercises with its results. It is achieving virtually nothing!

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is not true. They are empty assertions.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Minister has been in office for five years, is in her sixth year, and now comes forward with a glossy document.

Hon Kay Hallahan: There is nothing glossy about it. It is a good, workable document.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Minister comes forward with a document saying what will be done about juvenile crime after five and a half years in office. She now recognises, as does the Premier, that the Government has a problem out there among its traditional constituents. They have had enough of juvenile crime, and taxes and charges, and enough of members opposite.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Your constituents have had enough of you.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: What happened in places like Adelaide and Port Adelaide, Balga and Ascot, the South West Province, and New South Wales, will happen here right across the board at the next State election because members opposite are out of touch. They are doing

what I said the other night they should not do - defending the indefensible. They are getting behind Hon Joe Berinson when he tells them he is taking more and more money out of the pockets of ordinary Western Australians - in fact boasts about it. That is about it. That is the bottom line. When members opposite wake up to that they might do something about turning the tide. Until they do, they will go down the same path as Mr Unsworth in New South Wales, and that is almost certain.

I support the amendment.

HON A.A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [7.58 pm]: There is an old expression about the arrogant leading the ignorant which explains the Labor Party front and back benches. Anyone who can read figures -

Hon John Halden: What about retirement next week?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I will not continue while these unruly interjections go on.

The PRESIDENT: If this debate is to proceed it will do so with or without some members. I am coming to the end of my tolerance, so I will name the next member who interjects.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: It appears to me that the Government takes a frivolous view of this motion. It takes the view that the people mentioned by Hon Phillip Pandal are dispensable. They are not interested in the average Australian - the person who comes to our electorate offices. I am not surprised that these people do not go to Labor Party electorate offices because they are thrown out of the way so that the Labor Party dogma can come through.

Hon Robert Hetherington: What a disgusting statement! It is not true.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I am talking about the average person in the street. Government members are people who want to put campaigns forward; they want to put their public relations campaign in front of everything. They will not face the truth.

Hon Robert Hetherington: None of that is true.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The truth is -

Hon Robert Hetherington: You have not got it.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I may or may not have it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I warn Hon Robert Hetherington that the comment I made a moment ago is not an idle one. He is to cease his interjections. If he does not agree with the member he can have something to say about it at some appropriate time. In the meantime he must listen to him.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The problem is that we have a Government which does not want to face facts. Whether it be headed by Berinson, Keating, Dowding or Burke does not really matter.

Hon J.M. Brown: Hon Joe Berinson.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Joe Berinson, Hon Paul Keating, Hon Brian Burke or Hon Peter Dowding. It does not matter; the facts are there; facts that you, Sir, and every one of us see every day.

I am one of those house husbands who does the purchasing of the groceries during the week. I see it day by day. For people to say that costs have not risen is complete and utter nonsense. When members of the ALP get upset, one can hear them squealing. Tonight there has been a constant squeal since this debate started because every point made has hit home; every point made by Opposition speakers has hit a soft spot in the Government. There are so many soft spots in the Government that people are calling it the marshmallow Government. That has taken over from the Dowding Government, or should I say the Parker Government, because we do not know whether the broad left is running it or whether Mr Dowding is. The poor bloke cannot even be elected by his peers; he was appointed by his predecessor.

We look at the amendment. There is not a person in Western Australia who would not believe the family unit has broken down, especially during the reign of the Labor Governments, both State and Federal. I am not one of those who thrash the family unit. I happen to be a person who has been divorced. I am not very proud of that, but I have seen what goes on, and I still believe that the family unit is one of the most important things we have in our society.

I disagree with Mr Moore because I do not think we should have truancy officers at all. Principals of schools should be able to deal with that and should be given the power to deal with pupils not coming to school. I do not believe that the police or truancy officers should come into it. I know they are a fact of life, but I dislike the idea intensely.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Mr Moore would like to become one.

Hon N.F. Moore: What?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: When the two members have finished their arguments, I shall go on. It would be naive of any Government to say there has not been an 89 per cent increase in taxation. Even pawnbrokers' fees have been multiplied by six under this Government. That was probably due to the casino - I am not sure. If we look at all the fees which have been doubled, trebled or quadrupled under this Government, we find we are not talking only about pure taxes. After all, this Government has given taxpayers' money away in guarantees to certain people. This week the Treasurer spoke about what he was doing for business. What has he done for business? He said that company tax is coming down, but 55 per cent of the employees in Australia are employed by one-owner or partnership firms, not companies, so they receive no benefits.

I was told today of a partnership trust set up by a husband and wife. They were asked to pay workers' compensation insurance because they had a trust. The only beneficiaries of the trust were the two people working in it who owned it, so this Government, in trying to get more money from people, is grinding them into the ground. Anybody doing anything for himself who does not follow the dogma of the Labor Party, which thinks it is the only organisation which can run anything, is in trouble. We have seen what it has done to farmers. We have seen what it has done to rural business. We have seen what it is doing to city business. It is trying to destroy anybody with the initiative to keep going and produce something for this country. What has this Government produced? Absolutely nothing, except a tax bill that this country cannot afford. The State cannot afford this sort of thing.

The previous speakers asked where we could save money. Just give me half a day in most departments and I reckon I could prune \$2 million to \$3 million in half a day. Can you remember back, Sir, to the days when you first came into this House? The unfortunate thing is that many members have not been here for very long and do not remember. We used to go round schools and hear the big cry from educationists that they wanted cupboards to put their equipment in. When checked, this equipment had not been used for three or four years. The teachers had ordered cassette players, but instead of the teacher taking that equipment when he was transferred to another school, the equipment stayed in the first school. The teacher then ordered another set of cassette players for the next school and then moved on in three years, again leaving the equipment behind. Equipment is lying around this State stored in cupboards, in Education Department buildings in particular. I am pretty sure this happens in hospitals as well, but I do not have an intimate knowledge of that area. There is waste going on hand over fist in this State. When Hon Bill Grayden was the Minister for Education there was talk about cuts, or at least about no increases, in school teachers' salaries. I was not like the rabblers; I went around and asked schools what their complaints were, told them that we had to save money and asked them whether they could give me some ideas on where we could do that. We came up with a list of 90 ideas about where money could be saved in individual schools.

This Government does not listen to these people. It is scared to listen to them because it might get a bit of flak. One can see the tears come to the eyes of Government members when they have to face a hostile meeting; they do not have the guts to go out and fight for what they say they believe in. It is left to people like members on this side to find out what the problems are and to try to solve them. The hysteria from people on my left ever since this amendment was brought forward has convinced me that Hon P.G. Pendal's motion has hit the spot. Government members cannot take criticism in any shape or form. They will not agree something is wrong. A few of them probably could - members like Hon Robert Hetherington, Hon Sam Piantadosi and my friend Hon Fred McKenzie can take criticism.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Spare us.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Sam Piantadosi was not game enough to push his candidate for Premier so I must name him as a person I believe to be pretty honest.

There is no doubt in my mind that this State is collecting far too many taxes and wasting the proceeds. I heard something about the tobacco tax, which was brought in here and sold to this House - as some members might recall - as being necessary to educate people about the evils of tobacco. The Government raised an extra \$34 million from that tax and yet it put only a miserable \$3 million into education about the effects of tobacco smoking. I think that is completely immoral, but that is how this Government works. That is how Keating works.

Hon T.G. Butler: At least we have some idea about how Government works.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I have a very fair idea how it works and I have a very fair idea about the rorts which have been brought in by advisers who subsequently became members of Parliament.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Did you see him flinch when you mentioned the word "work"?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: We realise that he flinches every time. I do not think he could even spell it.

Hon T.G. Butler: I can spell it - W O R K.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Where is the "e"?

Hon T.G. Butler: That is how you spell it and you are wrong.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The member is one of the architects of this wild spending spree. Let us not forget the Labor Party machine which Hon Tom Butler heads up. I doubt whether there are many members left in the machine because they are all working in the Government now. There are so many advisers being appointed out of that machine that many of them have forgotten whether they are working for the Government or the machine; they go away to pick up \$5 000 cheques here and there, which are just donations to the Labor Party.

Hon T.G. Butler: Who does that?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Tom Butler should ask that question in the other place. Hon Tom Butler should not worry about it because he is coming to the end of his tether; he is straining at the rope so much that with any luck he will choke.

Hon T.G. Butler: I have a couple of good years left.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Not by the look of you.

There has been an 89 per cent increase in State taxation for Western Australia in four years.

Hon T.G. Butler: You are fabricating that figure.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Fabrication be damned.

Hon Mark Nevill: What charges have gone up?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: What charges have not gone up? Was Hon Mark Nevill not here when I talked about the pawnbrokers, six times, and car dealers, four times? Hon Mark Nevill should go through the list. The Minister for Community Services had better not shout very much because she was the Minister who did not even have enough money for people in dire distress; she used all the money in the first seven months of the financial year. I had people coming to me and I was being refused help for them.

Let us be dinkum about this. We know that taxes in this State have risen by 89 per cent. That is double the tax take for any other State and it is what one would expect, especially if one talks to the members of the public. I will not deal with what is being done about kids and crime. Like Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, I believe in privatisation. I believe one should privatise kids and crime by sending the kids back to their families. The family unit has been destroyed and we have trouble because we cannot now send our children back to their families to be disciplined. I abhor this modern idea that Government can look after children and do things better for them than their parents can.

All of us receive a pay sheet at the end of the month and we all know what taxation does to our average weekly earnings. Someone mentioned 60 per cent tax. Who brought it in? The Liberal Government brought it in when earnings were a lot lower and the taxation threshold was lower. Now, immorally in my opinion, this Government talks about reducing taxes, but its total tax take is higher because wages have increased and the Government has moved into other thresholds of taxation.

Hon T.G. Butler: I am glad you explained that to me because I am sure Mr Pandal did not understand it.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I understand a lot of things which Hon Tom Butler does not. Hon P.G. Pandal is a young man here, and he will be here for many years; perhaps he has not had the opportunities to meet as many idiots as I have met. I have spent my time dealing with idiots like Hon Tom Butler in this place for a long time.

Hon T.G. Butler: What a thing to say in front of all those kids.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: It is a pity they had to learn what Hon Tom Butler is like. I was going to sit down -

Hon T.G. Butler: But now you won't.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: But now I will.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Now that the children have gone.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: No, I will not. If Hon Tom Butler has not learnt that his interjections make him look foolish, that is his business. He cannot argue with the facts, which are that this Government is the highest taxing Government in the history of this State.

Hon Robert Hetherington: What nonsense.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Robert Hetherington can say "what nonsense", but the facts and figures are there. If a person wears dark glasses, how can he read? I should not say that, because the member can see and he is brilliant.

I am sorry for anyone in the community who cannot see that the tax system of this State is breaking everyone within it. The Government is not looking after the man in the street, the worker, or the small businessman as it has done nothing except drain him year after year. The Government thinks it can get away with that but it will not. Next February, or perhaps earlier if Mr Dowding wishes to call an election, the public of Western Australia will show the Government exactly that.

HON MAX EVANS (Metropolitan) [8.21 pm]: I support Hon P.G. Pandal's motion. We have heard the rhetoric from the Leader of the House about the great contribution this Government has made to the economy. Even with a huge revenue raising exercise, this Government has had a surplus over four years of only \$8.9 million. Where is this money? It can be identified quite easily when interest earnings on the short term money market have not been brought to account.

As I explained to a member earlier, this is like having a wheat cheque for four years in the bank account and not brought into the tax return.

Hon Robert Hetherington: The Court Government did that.

Hon MAX EVANS: It did not. The Court Government would raise it one year and bring it into account the following year. I am glad the member made the point. In the Labor Government's first year in office \$37 million was earned on the short term money market to June 1983 and brought into account on 30 June 1984. The earnings of 1983 were brought into the 1984 year. The earnings in 1984 were \$23.5 million; earnings to 1985 were \$33 million. They were not brought into account the following year or the year after that. Actually the \$23.5 million was brought in one year and taken out the same year just prior to 30 June, due to a surplus and the extra revenue was not needed. In June 1986 another \$53 million had been earned. At that stage \$110 million had been earned on the short term money market, and over three years had not been brought into financial accounts. This would be a magnificent tax avoidance system if one were in private business. To 30 June 1987 earnings were \$45.5 million because the interest rate had dropped, making \$155.4 million on the short term money market. Last year the Government budgeted to bring in \$92.6 million and ended up bringing in none. This year the Government has not budgeted to bring the interest in, whereas the earnings to June 1987 were \$155.4 million. It is estimated that this year \$205 million will be off the balance sheet, when the surplus over the last four years is only \$8.9 million.

In 1983-84 the mortgage duty rates rose from 15c per \$100 to 25c per \$100. With the large

increase in the volume of business in the real estate market this represents a massive increase in stamp duty. Stamp duty on motor vehicle transfers doubled from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per \$100, a 100 per cent increase. The price of some cars has increased 130 per cent over the last two years - so stamp duty there is up more than six per cent on the old value.

Financial institutions duty was introduced at the rate of 5c per \$100 which was the highest rate in Australia, with other States at 3c. What a Government this is. It has made such a lot of money. Over the five years to 1988 an extra amount of \$137 million revenue has been gathered which was not previously available to a Government in this State; that is, completely new revenue. We can disregard what the Leader of the House said about inflation.

Life assurance tax has been introduced at the rate of 10c per \$100 on policies over \$2 000. The drivers' licence fee has been raised from \$11 to \$15 per year which represents an increase of 35 per cent. Tobacco tax gathered during this Government's first year went from 12.5 per cent to 35 per cent. This was supposed to convince everyone to give up smoking. That tax brought an extra \$30 million in the first year but did not cause a reduction in smoking. An offset contribution of \$2 million went to the Quit campaign. This is all extra Consolidated Revenue built up by this "low taxing" Government. I would hate to think that children in years to come will read the Leader of the House's speech and think he did a good job without facing the facts that the taxes had increased. An amount of around \$150 million extra has been raised from the one tobacco tax, even allowing for inflation. So all in all \$287 million extra "new" revenue has been raised by this Government.

The Government has also benefited from the revaluation of land which has impacted on land tax. In inner suburban areas valuations have increased by between 300 per cent and 400 per cent, resulting in extra land tax, which represents another revenue boom to the Government. Maybe the Government can say it deserves it as it put up the price of land, but the boom certainly increases land tax from \$30 million to \$60 million per year.

Earlier payroll tax decreased from five per cent to 4.75 per cent. What a great Government. The next year they lifted it to 5.75 per cent, representing an increase of 21 per cent on payrolls over \$1.8 million. Some companies are paying nearly six per cent on payroll tax on every dollar paid out in wages.

Liquor tax has increased from a dual rate of seven per cent and eight per cent to a single rate of 11 per cent. This is a very real increase. Fuel tax on petrol has increased from 2.17c to 4.17c per litre. Some people are subsidised by claiming a tax deduction for petrol but others cannot claim and must pay these high rates. Diesel tax was increased from 3.95c to 5.95c per litre. These are massive increases from this "low taxing" Government. I agree with Hon P.G. Pendar that this Government is a high taxing Government.

Last year we had a major amendment to the Stamp Duty Act, not because people were ripping off the system, but because the Government wanted to raise more revenue through this duty. Stamp duty on the transfer of shares is 60c per \$100 and was increased to up to four per cent for a company with real estate on the gross value of any property. Mining tenements were also affected. We had major debate last year regarding retrospective payments, and the legislation eventually did not go through. Major increases in stamp duty have been put in place on real estate deals, whether on freehold land or mining tenements. The Leader of the House told us that it was the result of a boom in the economy brought about by his Government. I think the main reason has been the world influence. It also affected the fall in the price of shares.

The Government, to a certain degree, did influence the boom because between 1984 and 1986 it recommended that major Government instrumentalities should get into the equity market. The State Superannuation Board investment trust bought equity shares - I do not know which ones - and it turned over \$70 million worth of shares in one year, mainly in high risk and young entrepreneurial companies. It helped inflate the market, which increased stamp duty.

The State Government Insurance Commission had only six months in the equity market when it was carrying out the recommendations contained in the Rothwells report, which stated that it should get into the equity market. I might add that Rothwells said that the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust could be saved only by increasing third party rates, which the

Government has not done. In 1982 Brian Burke, the former Premier, castigated the Liberal Government because it would not increase third party insurance rates. The rates are still the same because his Government did not increase them in spite of what Rothwells recommended. Instead, the SGIC went into the equity market on 1 January 1987 and in six months it had about \$45 million worth of shares and it lost \$14 million.

Fortunately, the trading figure at the end of the year showed a profit because investments in the fixed term market had increased by \$28 million. One amount was offset by the other. If that had not occurred the SGIC would have had a loss at last June. The paper profit came from fixed deposits which had been there long before Rothwells' report against high interest deposits. The fact is that if a company is earning 15 per cent, the interest rate drops and the deposits in insurance and superannuation funds are increased because they receive better than the market rate. The paper profit came from a revaluation of the fixed deposit, not from the equity market which helped inflame the price of shares in the city.

I make these comments to demonstrate the reasons for the high revenue raised by the State Government and to outline what has happened. If the Government had accounted for it properly it would have had short term interest brought into the balance sheet. The amount of \$155.4 million plus \$8.9 million would give a total surplus of \$165 million for the last four years. The Government should be congratulated for that, except that the money has come from the taxpayers' pockets. That is the only place from where the Government gets its revenue.

Members should support Hon Phil Pandal's amendment. I would like to put the record straight: On several occasions Hon Sandy Lewis tried to rectify interjections made by Hon Tom Butler who was accusing the Liberal Party, when in Government, of freezing wages in 1983. At that time an election was pending and the Government of the day would not have taken that action. However, six weeks after the election, Premier Burke cut public servants' and members' of Parliament salaries by 10 per cent.

HON W.N. STRETCH (Lower Central) [8.34 pm]: I support Hon Phil Pandal's amendment because it is appropriate that he bring to the attention of the public, through an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, the very serious situation that is confronting the family unit. It is commonly felt among people who come to my office and whom I meet in my electorate that the Government is aiming to get everyone dependent on Government so as to control everyone's destiny. That is absolutely disastrous in something that is as fundamental to Australia as is the family. The people regret this action and they do not know what to do about it. They are distressed that so many of the voluntary organisations which have been set up since the settlement of this country and which have looked after the disadvantaged in the community are being taken over by Government agencies.

Even this Government has realised there is no substitute for people in country areas handling the sort of crises that occur, whether they be caused by nature or the occasional actions by people that cause tragedies and upsets in family life. When the rural crisis hit the wheatbelt and grazing areas of Western Australia, the first people who came to the farmers' assistance were the voluntary organisations such as the CWA and the Salvation Army, which extended care to families close to the towns. As usual it was the neighbours who helped people and carried the rural sector through that first traumatic year. The Minister for Community Services will recall that I asked a question about what this Government was planning to do, because at that time we had heard that it had sent consultants to the country areas. Such a move could not have helped because those people, even with the best will in the world, did not have the network to carry out that work. We now see the Government has finally recognised that and turned to the volunteer groups to carry the brunt of that relief work. It is working now in a way that it always should have worked - in a supporting role.

It worries me greatly that the role of private organisations is being usurped by the Government. It can be seen in many areas, even in the regional development councils which have worked on a volunteer basis and which now have a parallel organisation working under Government sponsorship. Lo and behold, there is no funding for the private organisations, not even for the secretarial services, which was always given by previous Governments. Instead we have a super Government organisation which is very expensive and is duplicating the work that most of the volunteer groups have previously undertaken.

I knew there was a lot of meat in Hon Phil Pandal's amendment when the usually placid Leader of the House made a savage attack on me and questioned figures I used when I said that there had been a greater growth in employment in Government services than there had been in the private sector. People say one can do anything with figures, but it is a fact that country people are well aware that the growth sector in country towns is in Government departments and organisations. It is a well known adage around the bush that if a person drives a truck to Albany and has time to look at the cars passing him he will note that approximately three out of every five vehicles on the road are Government vehicles and most of them have one person in them. The wastage in that area is one example of where Hon Sandy Lewis is right. Huge savings can be made. If members attend a conference in the country at which three or four Government departments are represented, they often find that the representatives travel to the venue in separate vehicles. With a little liaison the cost could be cut by 25 per cent. The cost of many Government services has increased and one which came to my attention was included in the Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures which were kindly supplied to me by the library.

We have heard a great deal about Government involvement in business. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures on State Government involvement in business for December 1986, 54 700 people were employed in the finance, property and business services. In October 1987 that figure jumped to 57 700. In November 1987 - people may remember the events of this time - all the private companies cut back dramatically; not so the Government's involvement in finance, property and business, as its figure grew to 58 000. The figure is still rising and in December 1987 - the latest figure available - the number was 58 300. The Leader of the House should bear those figures in mind and I hope he will provide the figures I have been asking for over many years. Members may recall that some years ago when I was sitting at the other end of the Chamber I asked the then Minister for Employment and Training, Hon Peter Dowding, if he would supply the employment figures broken up into jobs in the private, Commonwealth, State and local government sectors. He ridiculed that request and said it was absurd and a waste of money to get that information. Of course it is a waste of money, especially if one does not like the answer!

After the outburst by the Leader of the House, I will again ask the question and I hope he will prevail on his colleague to supply the figures I have requested. I believe Hon Phillip Pandal has done the House and the State a service by bringing forward this matter and I hope the Government will make a realistic attempt to overcome the problems he has outlined, rather than pay them lip service and leave it to the public relations people to do the work that a caring Government would be doing at the ground level with real people and real money.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (14)		
Hon C.J. Bell	Hon P.H. Lockyer	Hon W.N. Stretch
Hon J.N. Caldwell	Hon G.E. Masters	Hon John Williams
Hon Max Evans	Hon Tom McNeil	Hon D.J. Wordsworth
Hon Barry House	Hon N.F. Moore	Hon Margaret McAleer
Hon A.A. Lewis	Hon P.G. Pandal	(Teller)

Noes (13)		
Hon J.M. Berinson	Hon Kay Hallahan	Hon Mark Nevill
Hon J.M. Brown	Hon Tom Helm	Hon Tom Stephens
Hon T.G. Butler	Hon Robert Hetherington	Hon Fred McKenzie
Hon Graham Edwards	Hon B.L. Jones	(Teller)
Hon John Halden	Hon Garry Kelly	

Pairs	
Ayes	Noes
Hon H.W. Gayfer	Hon Doug Wenn
Hon E.J. Charlton	Hon D.K. Dans
Hon Neil Oliver	Hon S.M. Piantadosi

Amendment thus passed.

Motion, as Amended

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

JURIES AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 May.

HON JOHN WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [8.46 pm]: This is not a complex Bill and I do not need to hold up the House for an hour or two. It is proposed in this Bill that the selection of jury panels be now done by computer. This facility now exists in the metropolitan area and with the advance of technology it is proposed to extend it to the areas outside the metropolitan area which are on circuit. As every member knows, a number of cities and towns within Western Australia are on circuit: These are Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Camarvon, Derby, Esperance, Geraldton, Karratha, Kununurra, and Port Hedland. These will move from the manual system to the computer system, which will mean a saving of manpower. Perhaps almost facetiously I ask the Attorney General in his reply to indicate what will happen if the computer breaks down or a power failure occurs. We shall probably then revert to the manual system. The Opposition supports the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee and Report

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Attorney General), and transmitted to the Assembly.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BURSWOOD CASINO MANAGEMENT

Appointment

On motion without notice by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved -

That Hon Mark Nevill, Hon Fred McKenzie, Hon Neil Oliver and Hon Tom McNeil be appointed to serve on the committee and that Hon Tom McNeil be the Chairman of Committee.

House adjourned at 8.57 pm

STATE TAXES, FEES AND FINES BY STATE**SOURCE: ABS CAT. NO: 5506.0 (15/4/88)**

	82/83 to 86/87 (% Increase)	85/86 to 86/87 (% Increase)
NSW	57.0	14.2
VIC	45.7	12.0
QLD	45.2	9.9
SA	69.1	8.8
WA	88.9	24.6
TAS	71.1	15.4

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GRAIN

Royal Commission Report - Grain Storage, Handling and Transport

1. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Minister studied the Royal Commission Report into Grain Storage, Handling and Transport?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) can an average saving of \$7 a tonne be achieved in Western Australia;
 - (b) is he considering more competition in storage and handling services;
 - (c) is he considering making CBH subject to the Trade Practices Act; and
 - (d) is he considering removing the sole receival rights enjoyed by CBH?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The validity of the cost savings estimated by the Royal Commission is being questioned in a number of States, including Western Australia. The concern is that the commission's estimates, at least in Western Australia, are based on a limited analysis and that the saving is unlikely to be attainable in the short term because of investments in existing infrastructure.

(b)-(d) These matters are still under consideration.

A ministerial committee has been formed, comprising the Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Regional Development.

Reporting to the ministerial committee is an intergovernment departmental committee with officers from the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Agriculture, Transport, and Regional Development.

There is also an industry consultative committee consisting of the Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Grain Pool of Western Australia, the Australian Wheat Board, the Western Australian Port Authority Association, the Road Transporters Association, Co-operative Bulk Handling, and Westrail.

These groups will be looking at all aspects of the Royal Commission's work, including the issues raised in the question.

The Government will wait until the recommendations of the ministerial committee are received before considering any changes to the institutional arrangements affecting grain storage, handling and transport.

BURKE, HON BRIAN

Retirement

29. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) On the retirement of Premier Burke, who authorised the card and the statement accompanying it?
- (2) Was it sent to Decision Makers' luncheons?
- (3) If not, to whom and what groups were the card and statement sent?
- (4) How much did it cost?
- (5) Who paid for it?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(5)

The question is unclear; if the member cares to be more specific, the question will be referred for consideration and response.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS *Carson Street Special School*

51. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to my recent representations to her, and to her predecessor, on the question of the future of the Carson Street Special School in East Victoria Park and ask -

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to allow the school to remain open beyond this year?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If the school is to remain open, can the Minister say what prompted her to reverse the previous Minister's earlier decision?
- (4) Is she aware of the constant burglary problems at the school, exacerbated by the removal of the burglar alarm and its replacement by a less sophisticated device?
- (5) Is she aware that two special microwave units have now been stolen, necessitating the parents paying a \$200 insurance excess in both cases?
- (6) Will she order the appropriate authorities to reinstall the original burglar alarm?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

If parents insist on the retention of the Carson Street School, it will continue in 1989.

- (3) The Ministry is responsive to parent opinion and believes that parents will ultimately see the advantages of relocating children to more modern facilities designed to meet their needs.
- (4) A number of break-ins have occurred. Though the present alarm system is directly connected to the police, the apprehension of offenders is made difficult by the location and architecture of the school.
- (5) As from the commencement of second term 1988, the Ministry has assumed responsibility for the \$200 excess.
- (6) No. See (4) above.

WEIRS *Avon River*

53. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Was the construction of a small weir over the Avon River to the north of the town near to where the old Monger's Bridge is located, planned or costed by his department or on behalf of another department?
- (2) If so, what was the cost?
- (3) What problems, if any, were envisaged with the flow of the river during peak flow periods?
- (4) What problems, if any, were envisaged downstream if such a weir was built?
- (5) What flora and fauna disturbances, if any, were considered in the event of the weir being built?

- (6) Were any other ecological or environmental reports or advice sought?
 (7) If the weir was planned, are the plans available for inspection?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The Water Authority has no knowledge of such a project.

(2)-(7) Not applicable.

R & I BANK

Government Liability - Teachers Credit Society

59. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Budget Management representing the Treasurer:

- (1) To date, what is the total liability of the State Government to the Rural and Industries Bank for Teachers' Credit Society bad debts?
 (2) Will the Minister table details of these bad debts?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The Government has injected \$4.4 million into the society. It has agreed to fund any loan losses - estimated at \$34.2 million - as they crystallise and any operating losses. It has also indemnified the R & I Bank for two years against any losses, if they emerge, from the non-commercial loans it purchased from the society.
 (2) No.

EDUCATION

School Maintenance

64. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

What has been the total sum expended by the Government on school maintenance in each of the financial years from 1980-81 to 1987-88 - to date - inclusive?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

1980-81	\$11.76 million
1981-82	\$14.42 million
1982-83	\$16.38 million
1983-84	\$18.13 million
1984-85	\$20.87 million
1985-86	\$22.49 million
1986-87	\$18.70 million
1987-88	\$15.82 million (as at 20.5.88)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Introduction Clubs

65. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

Is it correct that the opening of a friendship or introduction club, catering solely for widowed people and those who have never married, would be prohibited under the Equal Opportunity Act?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Under the Act certain forms of discrimination are made unlawful and people who believe they have been discriminated against have a right to complain to the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity.

If the organisation in question was a "voluntary body" as defined by the Act, the distinction referred to would not be unlawful. The position could be different if the organisation was a "club" or "private enterprise" as defined in the Act.

SENIORS' CARD
Discount Cards - Private Sector

67. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for The Aged:

- (1) When the Minister introduced the free Seniors' Card were any efforts made to cooperate with existing private enterprise discount cards?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Is she aware of assertions by the owners of Discount Card Australia that that company is now going out of business as a result of the introduction of the Government sponsored card?
- (4) Is it correct that the Seniors' Card currently offers discounts at about 90 outlets - a mere four of which are Government services, and some 86 of which are private businesses?
- (5) Is she aware that under the private enterprise scheme of Discount Card Australia, discounts are available at some 1 000 outlets throughout the State?
- (6) Why has the Government promoted the Seniors' Card as a Government measure, when in fact 86 of the 90 discount offers are made available by private enterprise?
- (7) Is she aware that people who have purchased the private enterprise card for \$35 and who have sought refunds on hearing of a free Government-run card have sought to bring Consumer Affairs Department pressure on Discount Card Australia to refund the \$35?
- (8) Can she indicate what number of Government staff have been required to introduce and maintain the Seniors' Card system?
- (9) Has the whole of the Government-run service been costed out, including the cost of producing the card itself, advertising, distribution, and other costs?
- (10) If it has been finalised, will she table a statement of all costs?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

The Seniors' Card has been enormously successful. The Bureau for the Aged has issued in excess of 40 000 cards and applications are coming in at a rate of 500 per day. Despite widespread publicity over the introduction of the Seniors' Card since April 1987, no private enterprise discount card firm expressed concern over its introduction until April 1988 when Discount Card Australia wrote to the Minister for The Aged.

Discount Card Australia has not cooperated with the Government when contacted by Government officers. In fact, on meeting with Government officers on 9 May it immediately registered the name Seniors' Card as its own trading name. This appears to be an attempt to cash in on the success of the Seniors' Card.

Discount Card Australia has also written to the Government expressing the belief that the Seniors' Card was not supported by the Liberal Party. If this is the case the Opposition should make it clear to seniors that this program would be terminated if there were a change of Government.

- (3) The Minister for The Aged is aware of assertions by the Managing Director of Discount Card Australia that the company is going out of business as a result of the introduction of the Seniors' Card. However, the company has provided no evidence that any financial difficulties of Discount Card Australia are related to the introduction of the Seniors' Card. It is important to stress that eligibility for the Seniors' Card is restricted to people over the age of 60 years who are not members of the full time paid work force. This population forms only approximately 10 per cent of the total population covered by Discount Card Australia, which is targeted at the general community.
- (4) The Seniors' Card itself does not offer discounts. Over 110 firms and

organisations have said that they will offer discounts or concessions to holders of the Seniors' Card.

- (5) The Managing Director of Discount Card Australia recently contacted the Minister and forwarded a book of discounts available through its organisation. These discounts are predominantly available in non-metropolitan areas.
- (6) The need for the Seniors' Card was recognised during Seniors' Week 1987 when a number of firms and organisations offered concessions and free admission to seniors. Many retired and elderly people who did not hold a Pensioner Health Benefit Card incorrectly believed that this offer was not available to them, or they had no means of proving their status. Individuals and organisations approached the Government requesting a card which would indicate their status as seniors within the community.
- (7) The Executive Director of the Ministry for Consumer Affairs has advised that he is unaware of approaches by individuals seeking departmental pressure on Discount Card Australia to refund the \$35 annual purchase price of the private enterprise card.
- (8) No extra staff has been required.
- (9) A final costing cannot be finalised as the success of the card has meant that applications for the card are still being processed.
- (10) See (9).

CHILD CARE

Association of Registered Child Care Centres - "Educare"

68. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Has the Minister received an approach from the Association of Registered Child Care Centres WA Inc challenging the views contained in a recent issue of "Educare"?
- (2) Is she aware of the association's claim that much of the information published about child care centres is inaccurate?
- (3) In particular, is she aware of the claim that if child care is left to the commercial sector "there may not be any child care for your under 3 year-old?"
- (4) Is she aware that a recent survey showed that of 35 independent child care centres surveyed, some 34 provided care for the under-threes?
- (5) Will the Minister please make a clear statement of the State Government's attitude towards the independent child care sector, and specifically, whether she endorses the views contained in "Educare" which presses the claims of the Government sector?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The Minister has received from the Association of Registered Child Care Centres WA Inc a copy of a letter addressed to the editor of the publication "Educare" and a copy of one page of "Educare".
- (2) The letter indicates the association's claim that information contained in "Educare" is inaccurate.
- (3) The information provided includes this claim.
- (4) No.
- (5) The Government acknowledges the role of Government-subsidised, non-profit and for profit services in meeting the need for child care.

EDUCATION ACT - SECTION 29

School Councils - Legislation

69. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it necessary to amend section 29 of the Education Act to allow for the formation of school councils?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, is legislation likely to be introduced this session?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Section 29 refers to religious instruction in schools.
- (3) Legislation will be introduced in this session to require the setting up of school based decision making groups. These may take the form of school councils.

PRIMARY EDUCATION
Kensington Primary School - Toilets

70. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister's department received a complaint from the Kensington Primary School over the dangerous state of the staff toilets?
- (2) Is she aware that a female staff member slipped on the floor of these toilets and was put off work?
- (3) When is some action going to be taken to alleviate this problem which has been the subject of many approaches to the Ministry?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The matter has been referred to the Building Management Authority for attention.

PRIMARY EDUCATION
Assembly Halls

71. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many primary schools in WA have covered assembly areas or halls?
- (2) How many do not have this facility?
- (3) Is she aware of the request from the Collier Primary School for such a facility?
- (4) If so, what action has been taken to meet this request?
- (5) If no action has been taken, will she re-order the priorities of her department to accommodate this request?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) 200.
- (2) 328.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The request has been recorded for consideration in a future building program.
- (5) Not applicable.

BAKKE TRAVEL
Road Signs

72. Hon P.G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of views expressed by the principal of Bakke Travel Pty

Ltd to the Minister for Tourism that road signs, etc. denoting tourist attractions "are generally located at the intersection" rather than with sufficient advance warning to allow a turn-off?

- (2) Is he also aware of the observation from the same person that road signs in WA are below the national standard?
- (3) Would he have officers study the positive suggestions made, which result out of a round-Australia road trip on the part of the person involved?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

74. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Is there any allowance provided, in clerical time, for schools handling school buses as compared to schools not handling buses?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Yes.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Marshalling Yards - Bunbury

75. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for The South West:

- (1) Has the South West Development Authority sold the old marshalling yards at Bunbury?
- (2) If so, to whom and for how much?
- (3) If not, what is the authority's valuation of this block of land and when does it expect to dispose of it?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

Please refer to the answer to question 36 asked on 18 May 1988.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Publications

77. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for The South West:

- (1) Is the guide for developers in the south west available to members of Parliament representing the south west area?
- (2) If so, from whom?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The South West Development Authority has a number of publications useful to developers. These are available to members of Parliament.
- (2) South West Development Authority.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DTX - Land Reservations

79. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for The South West:

Is the South West Development Authority still reserving land for DTX?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

No.

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Bunbury

80. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for The South West:

- (1) How many State Government public servants have been relocated in Bunbury?
- (2) Of these how many have come from -
 - (a) Perth;
 - (b) Busselton;
 - (c) Harvey;
 - (d) Manjimup;
 - (e) Collie; and
 - (f) elsewhere?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) There are currently 614 State Government employees under the Public Service Act located in Bunbury.
- (2) No information is available on the point of origin of these public servants.

TRAINS

Diesel Electric Engines

83. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

With the manufacturing of the new 15 diesel electric engines -

- (1) What diesel engines are being used and where are they being manufactured?
- (2) What electrics are being used and where are they being manufactured?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The diesel engine is a model 7FDL-12 to be supplied by General Electric and manufactured in the United States of America.
- (2) The main electric propulsion equipment is to be supplied by General Electric and manufactured in the United States of America.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION

Leederville - History Class

84. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a TEE history class at Leederville TAFE is to close due to lack of numbers?
- (2) If so, will the Minister take steps to retain this class in view of the adverse effect its closure will have on the students in the class?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has advised me -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The eight students currently attending this class are being given the opportunity of transferring to Perth Technical College or Balga College of TAFE, which offer this subject.

EDUCATION

Truancy Officers

85. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many truancy officers are employed by the Education Ministry?
- (2) Where are these officers located?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) There are 11 school welfare officers employed by the Minister for Education. These officers are responsible for attendance matters, including truancy.
- (2) The abovementioned officers are located at the following school district offices, however they provide a Statewide service -

Central Office
Kalgoorlie
Darling Range
Bunbury - North
Scarborough
Perth - South
Armadale
Melville
Balga
Bayswater
Cockburn

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Pundulmurra Centre - Port Hedland

86. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that the Pundulmurra Centre in Port Hedland is to be closed?
- (2) If so, why is this to occur?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) There is no plan to close the Pundulmurra Centre in Hedland.
- (2) Not applicable.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Green Paper - Government Response

87. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the State Government formerly responded to the Green Paper on Tertiary Education?
- (2) If so, will the Minister table a copy of the response and if not, why not?
- (3) Have any amalgamations of departments or faculties taken place between Western Australian tertiary institutions, and if so, which ones?
- (4) If no amalgamations have taken place, are there any proposals being actively considered, and if so, what are they?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The State Government has not responded formerly to any Green Paper on tertiary education, but it has responded formally to the Green Paper on higher education.
- (2) A copy of response has been tabled.
- (3)-(4)

The Government is opposed to interfering in the internal organisation of tertiary institutions, but encourages collaboration between them which reduces unnecessary duplication. Amalgamations or consolidations occur from time to time, as when Home Economics was transferred from Curtin University of Technology to the Western Australian College of Advanced Education in 1986, with the assistance of the Western Australian Post-Secondary Education Commission.

BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS

Costs

88. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) In view of the Premier's laudable arguments against duplication of Commonwealth and State expenditure, will he explain why it is necessary for Western Australian school children to receive a bicentennial medallion from both Governments?
- (2) What is the total cost to the Western Australian Government of its bicentennial medallions?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The medallion symbolises the fact that while Western Australia was not settled as a colony until 40 years after New South Wales, it is a full member of the Federal system. While we are therefore participating in the bicentennial celebration, we maintain our distinct identity. The decision of the State Government to present a medallion has proved highly popular.
- (2) \$1.44 million.

AIRPORTS

Perth Airport - Freezers

89. Hon P.H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister received correspondence from a Mr B. McKechnie of Camarvon with reference to information required to establish freezer facilities at Perth airport?
- (2) If so, when was the correspondence received?
- (3) What action has been taken with regard to the request?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 16 March 1988.
- (3) Advice has been sought from the Department of Transport, which is currently investigating the matter.

WA TURF CLUB

Members of Parliament - Dope Evidence

90. Hon P.H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has any member of Parliament provided evidence to the Western Australian Turf Club, or to any other committee, with regard to the allegations made in Parliament with regard to the use of drugs on racehorses?
- (2) If so, when was the information given?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The Minister for Racing and Gaming understands that no members of Parliament produced evidence to the Western Australian Turf Club regarding the use of drugs on racehorses, nor was such information provided to the racing inquiry task force, which sought the information subsequent to the claims made in Parliament.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Murchison Senior High School

91. Hon P.H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What plans are in place for the establishment of a senior high school in the Murchison?

- (2) If no plans are in place will the Government institute an immediate investigation into the provision of a senior high school at either Mt Magnet or Meekatharra?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) Earlier this year, there were 35 and 45 secondary students enrolled at Mt Magnet and Meekatharra District High Schools respectively. Whilst the situation at both schools will continue to be monitored, it is not proposed to institute an immediate investigation at present.

HOUSING

Retirement Units - Exmouth

92. Hon P.H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When is the anticipated completion date of the retirement units at Exmouth?
- (2) Will the units be provided with airconditioning?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Will the units be provided with adequate built-in cupboard space?
- (5) If not, will the Government consider using funds received from the sale of Homeswest properties in Exmouth to provide airconditioning and sufficient cupboards?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Anticipated completion date is mid July 1988.
- (2)(3)(5)(6) The units are being built under a joint venture between Homeswest and Shire of Exmouth in which Homeswest provides the cost of construction and the shire provides the land. The units are to Homeswest standards which exclude airconditioning.
- (4) Homeswest is providing adequate built-in cupboard space.

CYCLONE HERBIE

Pastoral Lands - Disaster Relief

94. Hon P.H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Will the Minister take steps to accelerate the assistance to pastoral properties in the Gascoyne and Murchison areas after recent damage caused by cyclone Herbie?
- (2) In particular, will the Minister review the excessive red tape and paperwork involved in applying for drought assistance?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Every effort is always made to progress applications for drought assistance as quickly as possible.

HOUSING

Japanese Retirement Village - Port Kennedy-Rockingham

96. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

Is the Minister aware of any proposal for a Japanese consortium to purchase 71 hectares of land in the Port Kennedy-Rockingham area for the purpose of establishing a Japanese retirement village?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

No.

GREYHOUND RACING
Totalisator Agency Board - Turnover

97. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What are the TAB turnover figures for greyhound events for the years -
 - (a) 1984-85;
 - (b) 1985-86;
 - (c) 1986-87;
 - (d) 1987-to date?
- (2) Has there been a drop in TAB turnover for local greyhound events since the introduction of Eastern States betting?
- (3) What is the extent of that drop in turnover?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 1984-85 - \$19 536 000;
 - (b) 1985-86 - \$20 692 000;
 - (c) 1986-87 - \$20 984 000;
 - (d) 1987-88 - \$20 751 000 to end April 1988.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Approximately five per cent, but the overall turnover for greyhound racing has increased by approximately 35 per cent.

GREYHOUND RACING
Bookmakers - Turnover

98. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

What has been the bookmakers' turnover for each year they have been permitted to operate at Cannington?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

To 31 July 1977	\$2 772 520
1977-78	\$4 153 322
1978-79	\$3 258 896
1979-80	\$2 669 665
1980-81	\$2 851 762
1981-82	\$3 389 830
1982-83	\$3 456 938
1983-84	\$3 832 912
1984-85	\$4 553 515
1985-86	\$4 301 633
1986-87	\$4 337 275
To 30 April 1988	\$3 014 773

GREYHOUND RACING
Racetrack - Costs

99. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Where is the money coming from to finance a new greyhound trial track?
- (2) What is the estimated cost and when is it anticipated the track will be completed?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Finance being made available through WA Greyhound Association generated funds.
- (2) Estimated cost is \$155 000 with completion being dependent upon availability of funds.

GREYHOUND RACING

Attendance Figures

100. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What are the attendance figures for the greyhound race track at Cannington for -
 - (a) 1982-83;
 - (b) 1983-84;
 - (c) 1984-85;
 - (d) 1985-86;
 - (e) 1986-87; and
 - (f) figures to date for 1988-89?
- (2) What are the attendance figures for the greyhound race track at Mandurah for -
 - (a) 1982-83;
 - (b) 1983-84;
 - (c) 1984-85;
 - (d) 1985-86;
 - (e) 1986-87; and
 - (f) figures to date for 1988-89?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 1982-83 - 82 922;
 - (b) 1983-84 - 74 031;
 - (c) 1984-85 - 80 769;
 - (d) 1985-86 - 74 976;
 - (e) 1986-87 - 56 625;
 - (f) 1987-88* - 59 534 to 30 April 1988.
- (2)
 - (a) 1982-83 - 36 075;
 - (b) 1983-84 - 34 609;
 - (c) 1984-85 - 40 693;
 - (d) 1985-86 - 40 598;
 - (e) 1986-87 - 37 746;
 - (f) 1987-88* - 22 924 to 30 April 1988.

*It is assumed that the year referred to in (f) is intended to be 1987-88 not 1988-89.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION

Smoking Policy

101. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Is the Minister able to announce the new TAFE policy on smoking in TAFE institutions which was being prepared in 1987?

- (2) If (1) is yes, could he provide a copy?
- (3) If (1) is no, are TAFE staff obliged to observe the policy as specified in TAFE "Manual of Policies" TP201, page 2, paragraph 5, and on page 316 of "The Education Circular" of October 1984?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has advised me -

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ACT
Proclamation of Legislation - Educational Institutions

102. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Could the Minister indicate whether the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act of 1984, amended 1987, when proclaimed, will be applicable to Government primary and secondary schools, and to TAFE colleges and evening technical schools?
- (2) If (1) is yes, could she indicate what staffing arrangements and/or additional resources are being provided to cope with the added responsibilities that will be devolved onto directors, principals, and officers-in-charge?
- (3) With particular reference to TAFE institutions, and to a lesser extent to secondary schools, where workshop and laboratories have the potential for danger or injury, will safety officers be appointed, or will time allowances and/or additional remuneration be available for staff who undertake - or are given - extra responsibilities?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An occupational health and safety section has been established in the Ministry of Education to manage responsibilities expected to result from implementation of the Act.
- (3) The Office of TAFE proposes to employ full time safety officers within TAFE institutions. The Ministry of Education will appoint additional safety officers shortly.

POLICE

School Crossings - Crosswalk Attendant

104. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Why will the Police Department not allow a crosswalk attendant outside the Manjimup Primary School in the mornings?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for the appointment of crosswalk attendants outside schools?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The School Crossing Road Safety Committee has in fact recommended the installation of a type B children's crossing which can be manned by volunteers provided the Parents and Citizens Association make an application for such a facility.
- (2) The following criteria are applied when considering applications for guarded school crossings -

- (a) Number and ages of children concerned - whether attending infants, primary or high school;
- (b) width of road to be crossed, type of road surface;
- (c) maximum speed limit of vehicles permitted;
- (d) type of vehicles using the road in that area;
- (e) warning signs;
- (f) restriction of visibility for the child, the driver, or both, caused by a bend, dip or hill in the road, parked vehicles;
- (g) restriction of visibility to both driver and child caused by rising or setting sun;
- (h) number of motor vehicles passing;
- (i) other hazards such as several roads converging in the vicinity;
- (j) noise of any industry or other activity in the area which could distract the child or smother the sound of an approaching vehicle; and
- (k) any other hazard not listed which may exist.

HOUSING

Teachers

105. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a severe rental housing shortage for teachers working in Manjimup?
- (2) What steps are being taken to overcome this problem?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Education Department is not required to provide housing in the area south of the 26th parallel. However, the shortage of housing at Manjimup has received attention and additional houses will be available in the 1988-89 financial year.

EDUCATION

Personnel - Pay Settlements

106. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Why are all staff employed by the Education Ministry required to convert their method of payment from cheque to direct funds transfer to the credit of a bank, building society or credit union?
- (2) What course of action will be taken if an employee objects to the payment by direct funds transfer being made mandatory?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The unions representing all staff employed within the Education Ministry negotiated, on behalf of their members, changes to award provisions. These changes were incorporated as part of the agreements involved in the four per cent second tier wage increases and are consistent with similar agreements across the total public sector. The Education Ministry is, therefore, bound by the various awards to pay staff via direct deposits to financial institutions.
- (2) All requests for exemption, because of special extenuating circumstances, are being considered with sensitivity by senior officers within the constraints of industrial awards and processes.

HANDICAPPED WORKERS
Government Departments - Subsidies

107. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Are State Government departments and local government eligible for subsidies which are jointly funded by the Department of Employment and Training and the Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons, for the employment of intellectually handicapped people placed by project employment?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) This question should be referred to the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training which administers the Jobstart subsidy. The State Department of Employment and Training has no subsidies for this purpose.
- (2) Not applicable.

HOSPITALS
Margaret River Hospital - Old Hospital Site

108. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When the new hospital is built in Margaret River will control of the old hospital building and site be vested with the South West Development Authority as reported in the Press?
- (2) If yes, what are the reasons for vesting control with the South West Development Authority and not with the Augusta-Margaret River Shire Council?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No decision has been made as to the vesting of the old hospital building and site.
- (2) Not applicable.

SOUTH WEST FOUNDRY
Government Assistance

109. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Was the Minister approached for assistance by the South West Foundry in February 1988?
- (2) What assistance was sought?
- (3) Was any Government assurance, taking the form of a dollar for dollar contribution, given to a group of Bunbury businessmen interested in buying the plant and equipment necessary to keep the South West Foundry open for business?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) No approach was made by the South West Foundry in February 1988. However, a request for assistance was made on 24 February 1988 by the Australasian Society of Engineers, Moulders and Foundry Workers Industrial Union of Workers WA Branch.
- (2) The assistance sought was unspecified.
- (3) No.

PETITION

Capital Punishment - Jackson, Mrs Barbara

111. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Did the former Premier, Mr Burke, accept a petition seeking the reintroduction of capital punishment, on the steps of Parliament House from Mrs Barbara Jackson?
- (2) When did he present this petition to the Parliament?
- (3) If not presented, does the Premier now intend to present this petition to the Parliament?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(3)

The petition in question was addressed to the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives. It was presented to the House of Representatives on 24 February 1988 by the member for Perth.

GRAIN

Railway Transport - Industrial Committee

113. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to my question 2 of 1988 concerning the use of rail in the transportation of grain -

- (1) What industry bodies are represented on the committee?
- (2) Who are the personnel on the committee?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The industry based committee, which is chaired by the Director General of Transport, includes the Western Australian Farmers Federation, Pastoralists and Graziers Association, Co-operative Bulk Handling, Australian Wheat Board, Grain Pool of Western Australia, Westrail, Western Australian Road Transport Association, Western Australian Port Authorities Association and the Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The personnel on the committee were nominated by each of the participating organisations. A full list can be supplied to the member if he wishes to contact my office.

RAILWAY TRANSPORT

Donnybrook-Katanning Railway Line

114. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to my question 9 of 1988 concerning the Donnybrook-Katanning railway line, when is it expected that a decision on this matter will be made?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

A decision will be made when I have had the opportunity to study the results of the Department of Transport's socioeconomic evaluation of the effects of branch line closure.

MINING EXPLORATION

State Forests - Lands and Forest Commission

116. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to my question 17 of 1988 with regard to mining and mineral exploration, can exploration and mining take place in areas of State forest which are under the control of the Lands and Forests Commission?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

It is possible provided the provisions of the Mining Act 1978-1981 and the Environmental Protection Act 1986 are complied with.

FORESTRY

Pine Plantations - Proposals

117. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to my question 19 of 1988 regarding pine plantations -

- (1) In relation to part (1) is the Government considering a proposal or has it not made a decision?
- (2) Has the Government not seen or considered any proposal of this nature?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) From time to time the Government has considered a variety of proposals and has kept this matter under continuous review.
- (2) Not applicable.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF *Aboriginal Employment - Federal Government Assistance*

118. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to my question 21 of 1988 with regard to employment of Aboriginal people in nature, conservation and national parks work, how much funding does the department receive from the Federal Government to assist in employing Aboriginal people?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has been allocated \$71 000 in the financial year 1987-88 by the Federal Government through the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. This funding was provided for contract employment of Aboriginal people in nature conservation.

HOSPITALS

Warren District Hospital

119. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

When can it be expected that contract documentation will be completed for Warren District Hospital?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Contract documentation will be completed when funding is approved. Funding has been requested in the 1988-89 capital works program.

FORESTRY

Brockman Forest - Monetary Values

120. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to my question 30 of 1988 with regard to the value of timber in Brockman Forest, if no monetary value is placed on the timber in national parks and nature reserves, how can land management assessments be made of that area?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Such monetary values are not a consideration in the management of national parks and nature reserves.

WESTRAIL
Marshalling Yards - Bunbury

121. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to my question 32 of 1988 with regard to the value of the old marshalling yards at Bunbury -

- (1) Was the land freehold Westrail land?
- (2) What grant was made to Westrail to offset the relocation costs of the yards?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$5.436 million.

GOLF
Shannon Golf Club - Maintenance Costs

122. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Further to my question 40 of 1988 with regard to the maintenance of the Shannon Golf Club, what has the cost been for maintenance in the last 12 months?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

No separate costs are available.

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT
Road Maintenance - South West Highway

123. Hon A.A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department been involved in cleaning the verges of the South West Highway south of the Shannon?
- (2) If so, why are they cleared to a width of 100 metres?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

In the summer of 1986-87 the Main Roads Department undertook clearing of fallen timber and certain standing trees identified for removal by the Department of Conservation and Land Management - CALM - for forest hygiene reasons. This was done in association with some drainage and shoulder improvement works.

Additionally, Department of Conservation and Land Management has undertaken clearing of undergrowth for fire control reasons. This material has recently been burned.

PRIMARY EDUCATION
School Attendance - Five Year Olds

124. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Further to my question 55 of 1988, will the Minister provide an answer to part (1) of the question, i.e. how many five year olds have not found a place in either pre-primary or pre-school centres this year?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

There is sufficient provision available for all five year olds to find a place in pre-school or pre-primary centres. Thus, if there are five year olds not attending, this is because of a parental decision. Statistics are not kept of children not attending school.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY
School Based Decision Making Groups

125. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Further to my question 3 of 1988, will the Minister provide an answer to part (1) of the question and advise whether or not school based decision making groups are to be compulsory in Government schools?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

This question has already been answered. Schools will be required to set up school based decision making groups with specified powers. The form, composition and size of these groups will not be specified.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
Midland College

126. Hon NEIL OLIVER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer to the Midland College of TAFE - old college site - and a proposal to refurbish accommodation there for a further business enterprise centre to that already existing at Guildford and Osborne Park -

- (1) What courses will require relocation?
- (2) For what period will they occupy that accommodation and is it intended that they are relocated at the new college?
- (3) When is it proposed that the courses associated with clothing and textiles and Aboriginal access be relocated in the new complex?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(3)

No decision has been made on the temporary arrangements for housing the TAFE courses which are still located at the old Midland Technical College site, awaiting the completion of stage 3 of the new TAFE facilities in Lloyd Street, Midland. The courses will be relocated to the new college on completion of stage 3 of the new TAFE complex and should be available for the beginning of the 1989 school year. The relocation of courses will be done in the most efficient and effective way possible and I will ensure that any disruption to the students remaining temporarily at the old Midland College of TAFE is kept to an absolute minimum. The final costs of relocation and refurbishment are not available at this stage.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRISONERS
Edwards - Remission

37. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Corrective Services:

By way of introduction I refer to the *Daily News* of Wednesday, 25 May and the heading "Double killer pleads: Free me early to marry". I quote from that paper, where it says -

Edwards' case is being handled by the Aboriginal Legal Service.

An ALS spokesman said even if the appeal failed, it would try to free him because of his good prison record and the fact he was a young man when he killed the couple.

His fiancée, Nicole Zeug, believes Edwards has a good chance of winning early release and is appealing for community understanding.

Can the Minister give this House a categorical assurance that Edwards will

not be released before his full term of 20 years is up, and that if there is any such decision it must come back to Parliament? I understand that is the situation.

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am in some difficulty in attempting to reply fully to this question -

Hon G.E. Masters: I will put it on notice if you prefer.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: - because I am not sure whether Edwards' appeal has been disposed of and it would be undesirable to anticipate the results of that appeal. I am very happy to deal with all of the matters raised in the Leader of the Opposition's question, but I ask for it to be put on notice and I will reply to it immediately I can satisfy myself that the court proceedings have been finalised.

MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS
Visitors

38. Hon G.E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Are maximum security prisoners allowed visitors on a private basis or are they are at all times under strict supervision?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

To the best of my knowledge all visiting facilities at maximum security institutions are under supervision.

BURSWOOD MANAGEMENT
Solicitor General - Prosecution

39. Hon NEIL OLIVER, to the Attorney General:

In regard to Burswood Management Ltd, does the Attorney General say that the Solicitor General advised in writing that the prosecution recommended in June 1987 by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Mr Smith, should not proceed?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I have previously advised the House, and can only confirm, that I have not myself seen the Solicitor General's opinions and that in referring to his advice I have relied on the final report of the then Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. However, I believe all such matters would be better attended to under the powers of the Select Committee which this Council has established and I would recommend to the honourable member that questions of this nature be left for proper investigation by that means.

Hon P.G. Pendal: I bet you do.

BURSWOOD MANAGEMENT
Attorney General - Documentation

40. Hon NEIL OLIVER, to the Attorney General:

I thank him for that indication. I wonder whether he might assure the House, in view of the fact that a Select Committee has been established to inquire into the matter, that as Attorney General he will make available to the Select Committee all documentation relevant to the matter and will facilitate before that Select Committee his own appearance and that of the former Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the present Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the Solicitor General, and other officers of his department as may be required?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

It would be reasonably difficult for me to facilitate my own appearance, but putting that particular question aside, the Select Committee has ample powers to call for persons and for the presentation of documents. I have no doubt that the Select Committee will conduct its affairs accordingly.

TYPEWRITERS
Government Schools

41. Hon N.F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

I have given some notice of this question.

- (1) What percentage of typewriters used by students in Government schools are manual typewriters?
- (2) Is it correct that a decision to replace these machines is being held up pending a decision on the standard of machine to be provided?
- (3) If so, when is this decision expected to be made?
- (4) Is it correct that the Government is about to make an announcement relating to the provision of new typewriters to schools; and if so, when will the announcement be made?
- (5) How long will it take to replace all the manual typewriters in Government schools?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for prior notice of the question and provide the following information -

- (1) Eighty-five per cent.
- (2) No. Preliminary work has been undertaken to provide a total upgrade of curriculum equipment, including keyboards, to begin in the second half of 1988.
- (3) See (2).
- (4) No, not at the present time.
- (5) Depending on the overall economic climate and within the context of the total equipment upgrade program, it should be five years.

BURSWOOD MANAGEMENT
Attorney General - Documentation

42. Hon NEIL OLIVER, to the Attorney General:

This question is relevant to the Attorney General's answer to my last question, and I thank him for the assurance that he himself will cooperate with the Select Committee.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Actually, I did not give that assurance -

Hon G.E. Masters: Surely you will, won't you?

Hon J.M. Berinson: - but you are quite right to take it for granted.

Hon G.E. Masters: Thank heavens for that.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I thank the Attorney General very much for those comments. What I was seeking from him was a commitment that he would make available to the Select Committee all the documentation relevant to the matter, and that he would facilitate, so that the Select Committee would have an opportunity to examine them, the appearance of the former Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the current Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the Solicitor General, and any other officers of his department who may be required.

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Mr President, the honourable member's question is the same as his previous question, and that also applies to my answer.

SILICON SMELTERS
Compensation

43. Hon BARRY HOUSE, to the Minister for Budget Management:

Is the Government budgeting \$9.6 million for compensation as a result of the decision to move the silicon smelter from Picton to Kemerton?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I do not have the figures with me. I ask that the question be placed on notice.
