

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 2nd November, 1978

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR BATEMAN (Canning) [2.18 p.m.]: I present a petition as follows—

TO—

THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will do all it can to prevent the sexual exploitation of children by way of photography for commercial purposes.

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

This petition bears 135 signatures, and I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 43).

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR McIVER (Avon) [2.19 p.m.]: I have to present a petition from 10 residents of York, and the wording is the same as that of the previous petition. It conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 44).

NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES REGULATION BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. On the 25th August, 1977, the Commonwealth Government announced its decisions regarding

uranium development. These were based on the recommendations in the two Fox reports. One decision was the development of uniform codes of practise to control health and safety in the uranium industry.

The State Government announced its policy, approving and encouraging uranium mining, processing, export of yellow cake and beneficiation—subject to adequate safeguards—by way of a motion by the Premier which was carried in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th October, 1977, and in the Legislative Council on the 10th November, 1977.

In April this year the Commonwealth unilaterally introduced enabling legislation to Federal Parliament. The legislation in its original form was unacceptable to the States. As a result of pressure from all States, the Bill was substantially amended before being passed.

The amendments mean that implementation of the codes will be through State legislation. The Commonwealth cannot use its legislation to implement codes within a State unless the State makes a specific request for the particular code to apply.

The State then needed to look to its own legislation as the vehicle for code adoption and implementation. After careful consideration of various options it was decided that a new Act was needed to allow for consolidated adoption of codes of practice.

The Bill before the House is that proposed Act and has been written to reflect the provisions, where relevant, of the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Nuclear Codes) Act, 1978.

Mr Davies: Has that Act been passed?

Mr MENSAROS: I think so, yes.

The object of this legislation is to make provision for protecting the health and safety of the people and the environment from possible harmful effects associated with nuclear activities. The means by which this will be achieved is by the formulation and adoption by regulation of codes of practice that will ensure that the nuclear industry is controlled to the extent necessary to meet the objects of the Act.

The nuclear activities defined in this Bill are those associated with what is commonly called the nuclear fuel cycle. This cycle includes the mining and milling of radioactive ores; processing these ores to the point where they can be used in nuclear power generation; storage of radioactive waste, both short and long term; and the recycling of radioactive fuels such as uranium and plutonium.

At present only mining and milling will take place in Western Australia but there is the strong likelihood of further processing and nuclear power generation in the future. While there is no move towards nuclear power station waste storage in Western Australia the legislation will allow for proper control should this ever occur.

The nuclear activities defined in this Bill are those associated with the nuclear fuel cycle. The definition is narrower than the one used in the Commonwealth Act. This reflects the criticism made of that definition that it brought areas such as medical and research uses of radioactive substances into the ambit of the Act.

The codes developed under the proposed Nuclear Activities Regulation Act will not intrude into those areas which are more properly controlled by the Minister for Health through the Radiation Safety Act, 1975.

The Bill provides for the formulation and adoption, by regulation, of nuclear codes. These may be developed by the State in co-operation with the Commonwealth. There is a discretionary power to adopt acceptable parts of Commonwealth codes without having to adopt the total code.

A single Minister will be responsible for the formulation of codes and the writing of regulations to implement a particular code. In this process he will be required to consult with other Ministers of the Crown. There is also a provision for public comment to be obtained on both the formulated code and the regulations that are written from the code.

The administration of the regulations will be delegated to Ministers with special interests or expertise regarding the nuclear activities dealt with by the regulations. It would be expected that these other Ministers would use existing administrative machinery, including inspectors, to ensure the regulations were observed. There is no present intention to set up an elaborate, new system of inspectors. It is believed the existing structures can be adapted to the new regulations as they are developed.

The Minister responsible for the Act will have the ability to act quickly in the case of special situations. These are defined to be when the laws of the State are deficient in an emergency situation. This is seen as a necessary safeguard to allow for unforeseen circumstances.

After 14 days any direction given by the Minister will lapse automatically unless the Governor acts to extend the period for up to six months after the initial action by the Minister. The Bill provides for recovery of costs or expenses incurred by the Minister in a special situation.

To keep the public informed regarding the regulation of nuclear activities the Minister administering the Act is required to prepare an annual report for presentation to Parliament.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Skidmore.

URANIUM (YEELIRRIE) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.29 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. The purpose of the Bill before the House is to ratify an agreement between the Government and Western Mining Corporation Limited.

The agreement sets out the conditions for establishment of a uranium mining and treatment operation at Yeelirrie situated in the north of the eastern goldfields approximately 240 kilometres from Leonora and approximately 650 kilometres north-east from Perth.

Although it will be some years before planning and investigatory work can be taken to the stage where construction of the treatment plant will commence, it is considered to be most important that the corporation and the State reach agreement at this stage so that the basis of development could clearly be understood by both parties.

Equally, it is important that developmental companies, financiers and people and Governments overseas as well as elsewhere in Australia should clearly understand that from the point of view of the Government of Western Australia the way is clear for the Yeelirrie uranium development to proceed, provided always of course that every health, environmental and other safeguard will be taken.

The agreement will lead to a development of major significance to Western Australia. Benefits will flow from the initial capital investment likely to be in the order of \$320 million which will have a substantial flow-on effect through the economy. During the construction phase approximately 800 to 1 000 people will be directly employed in the construction activity. The completed plant will require 650 workers for its operation together with 200 permanent contractors providing a service back-up to the venture. This will give rise to a new township for approximately 2 500 people.

As a forerunner to the main development, it will be necessary for a metallurgical research plant to be erected in Kalgoorlie to allow final testing of the Yeelirrie ore. Site works for the research plant are scheduled to commence in early 1979, subject to environmental approvals,

and will involve 35 persons on site, approximately another 90 persons on fabrication work during the construction phase, and 60 permanent employees during its operation. During the first year or two the research plant will be utilised to test Yeelirrie ores; but thereafter it is proposed that it will have an ongoing function as a research plant for ores for other minerals from throughout the region.

Ore taken from the mining areas during the main development will be put through a nearby treatment plant to produce uranium oxide and vanadium oxide, called "yellow cake" and "red cake" respectively. The 4 000 tonne output will be transported by road to a container port, probably Fremantle. The major inputs to the treatment plant will be caustic soda and fuel oil, which will provide a major transport task.

This project is quite different from most other developmental projects in that the input to the mine site is infinitely greater than the output of produced material. In an iron ore mine there is virtually no input, and there are millions of tonnes of ore shipped out. In this case, there is a larger input, although when compared with other activities even that is fairly small. There is a minimal output, because all the production is in the form of concentrated yellow cake.

Mr Jamieson: Not unlike gold production?

Mr MENSAROS: The member for Welshpool is quite right in this, yes.

It is considered that the most appropriate way to explain the full implications of the agreement to members would be to discuss each of the clauses generally in the order in which they appear in the agreement.

As previously mentioned, the agreement is between the State and Western Mining Corporation Limited, the present holder of the mineral claims at Yeelirrie. However, it is expected that the project will be developed as a joint venture between three participants.

Firstly, there is the Yeelirrie Development Company Pty. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Mining Corporation Limited which will be incorporated in Western Australia. This is quite a significant and important feature compared with many of the previous larger developmental projects. This company is expected to hold a 75 per cent interest in the project.

Secondly, there is Esso Exploration and Production Australia Inc., which is expected to hold a 15 per cent interest. Members will know that company is part of the Exxon group, which is one of the largest groups of companies in the world.

Thirdly, there is Urangesellschaft Australia Pty. Ltd., a prospective holder of 10 per cent. That is a West German company.

Whilst the joint venture agreement between these parties has not yet been concluded, it is expected that it will be finalised in the near future. Accordingly, although the negotiations of the agreement were between the Western Mining Corporation Limited and the State, it was with the knowledge and presence of the other prospective venturers. It is anticipated that the other parties will be included in the agreement by an assignment which will require the approval of the State in the usual way of these agreements.

The agreement at clause 4 provides that the terms of the agreement do not come into operation until there is a ratification by this Parliament. Clause 4(3) is a special feature of this agreement in that it gives the corporation until the 31st December, 1979, to conclude its joint venture arrangements, and in particular to be aware of the full requirements of the Government in respect of the protection of the environment.

If the joint venturers give notice that they wish to proceed, then the balance of the agreement comes into effect. If such notice is not given, then the agreement terminates.

In view of the special nature of the project and the requirements of the nuclear codes of practice, there is a need for a restricted zone to be created around the mining operation and any future areas to be the subject of mining. For this reason it has been necessary to create the temporary reserve described in clause 5 of the agreement now before members.

I will explain in more detail the nature of what is proposed when I discuss the mineral lease clauses of the agreement.

Reference has already been made to the metallurgical research plant which is proposed to be established near Kalgoorlie. That is commonly called the "pilot plant". To facilitate the development of this plant it is necessary for the State to take certain actions in respect of leases, easements, and licences. These are set out in clause 7.

Under the provisions of clause 8 of the agreement, the corporation is obliged to submit by the 31st of December, 1982, its proposals for a mining and treatment project with a capacity to treat 1.21 million tonnes of ore per annum. In formulating its proposals, the corporation must have due regard for the environmental review and management programmes already submitted by the corporation and the State's responses thereto.

The proposals will cover all aspects of the project including specific proposals in respect to safety. A separate proposal is also required for the management of the environment.

The standard provisions of all agreements ratified by this Parliament in recent years relating to the consideration and approval of the proposals are contained in clause 9. The corporation is required under clause 10, once approval is given, to implement them and have the treatment plant in operation four years thereafter.

If it is desired at any future time significantly to modify expand or otherwise vary the activities beyond those approved then it is necessary for additional proposals to be submitted and considered by the State in the same way as the initial proposals.

Clause 12 of the agreement relates to the ongoing consideration of the corporation's environmental management programme submitted initially as a proposal.

This clause provides for programmes of investigation, research and monitoring to be carried out continuously with an obligation to report to the Minister at yearly intervals with detailed reports being required three yearly.

The Minister, on the basis of the detailed report, has a right to call upon the corporation to submit additional detailed proposals for the management of the environment.

Complementary to these particular provisions of the agreement is the inclusion at clause 41 of the standard environmental clause which has been included in all new ratified agreements since 1971.

A very important aspect of this agreement is that contained in clause 13. It requires the corporation to comply with those nuclear codes of practice referred to therein until such time as by a separate Act of the Parliament of the State, the State is empowered to adopt the necessary nuclear codes of practice, that being the legislation I introduced recently.

Only a short time ago I explained to members the contents of a Bill entitled Nuclear Activities Regulation Bill, under which the State will have the requisite powers for the consolidated adoption by the State of such nuclear codes of practice.

As has been the State's practice in other ratified agreements of this nature, provision has been made in this agreement for Western Australian professional services, labour, materials and equipment to be used as far as it is reasonable and economically practicable in connection with the project.

As a further measure to strengthen this requirement which is contained in clause 14 of the agreement, an additional provision has for the first time been included in the proposals clause for a submission to be made on the intended use of local professional services, labour and materials.

Water for the Yeelirrie project will be obtained from groundwater reserves in the region. Two water schemes are likely to be developed, one to supply potable water to the township, and the other to supply a lower quality process water for the treatment plant.

The normal provisions relating to the development of these water supplies including the right for the State to acquire the facilities if it so desires are included in clause 15 of the agreement.

A significant feature of the project is in relation to the transportation task in that the inwards tonnage which will comprise mainly caustic soda and fuel oil is many times greater than the output.

Caustic soda and fuel oil will be consumed in large quantities, estimated at 52 000 tonnes and 71 000 tonnes per annum respectively when the plant is in operation.

Yellow cake and red cake, as I have already explained, will require transport to a container port and the quantity is approximately 4 000 tonnes per annum.

In considering the transport requirements of the project, there were three possible solutions—
through Geraldton by road;

through Esperance by rail to Leonora and then road;

through Fremantle by rail to Leonora and then by road.

The opportunity to use the outports of Esperance or Geraldton was preferable to concentrating activity on Fremantle.

In considering whether the transport should be through Esperance or Geraldton, it became apparent that Yeelirrie was virtually on the "watershed" of these two options. The agreement therefore provides for either one or other of the alternatives to be taken up.

Clauses 16 and 17 relate to the sharing of the cost of a sealed road from Yeelirrie to Leonora and the transport of caustic soda, fuel oil and other bulk commodities from Esperance to Leonora by rail.

Clause 18 provides that the corporation may after consultation with the Railways Commission request the Minister that it be allowed to transport

its requirements via Geraldton rather than via Esperance. The Minister must make his decision on the basis of which of the options is cheaper from the corporation viewpoint, taking into account full operating, maintenance, and capital costs.

It is significant that if the corporation chooses the Geraldton option, it will be required to contribute three-quarters of the cost of a sealed road from Mt. Magnet to Yeelirrie which will cost about \$13 million at today's costs.

If the corporation elects to transport its inward tonnages from Esperance to Leonora by rail the freight rates set out in the first schedule to the agreement will apply unless they are varied as a result of consultation between the Railways Commission and the corporation.

The next clause of the agreement deals with the generation and supply of electricity. If available the corporation shall purchase its requirements of electricity from the State Energy Commission or as an alternative contribute towards the cost of augmentation of the State Energy Commission's facilities to enable it to supply the necessary power.

However, it is anticipated that, with the approval of the State Energy Commission, the corporation will generate and supply its own power requirements. The usual proviso for the State to acquire these facilities if it so desires has been included.

As I have already foreshadowed, the mining operations of this project are unique and hence it has been necessary for special provisions to be included in the mineral lease clause.

The uranium mineralisation occurs at shallow depth and the main ore body has been identified as being approximately 9 000 metres—that is nine kilometres—long with an average width of 750 metres and being approximately three to seven metres in depth.

The ore reserves are estimated at approximately 34 million tonnes at a grade of 0.14 per cent uranium oxide containing approximately 46 000 tonnes of contained uranium oxide.

The ore body will be mined by selective open-cut methods. It is expected that 1.21 million tonnes of ore per annum will be mined giving an approximate 22-year life for the total operation. Additional drilling is likely to extend the resource thus the life of the project.

A plan—a copy of which I will now table—shows the mineral claims presently registered in the corporation's name.

The paper was tabled (See paper No. 462).

Mr MENSAROS: The agreement provides that the corporation will be granted a mineral lease over the area shown hatched yellow on the plan. This will include the initial mining activity, together with the treatment plant and the tailings disposal area.

The ore treatment plant will be located approximately 2.5 kilometres north of the open-cut mining operation. From the throughput of 1.2 million tonnes of ore per annum it will produce approximately 2 500 tonnes of yellow cake (uranium oxide) and 1 000 tonnes of red cake (vanadium oxide).

The process of converting the ore to yellow cake and red cake is essentially of a hydro-metallurgical nature and involves grinding of the ore, leaching under pressure utilising caustic soda, separation of solutions containing the uranium and vanadium from the solid wastes, and recovery of the yellow cake and red cake.

In processing the ore, some 95 per cent of the uranium and 80 per cent of the vanadium will be extracted. The ore residue will issue from the plant as tailings and a number of options for its containment are being examined by the corporation in liaison with the Department of Conservation and Environment.

Both the treatment plant and the tailings disposal will be the subject of detailed proposals to be submitted by the corporation under the proposals clause. The State will thus be enabled to carefully consider all aspects prior to any approvals being given.

Outside of the initial mineral lease there are a number of mineral claims held by the corporation—edged in blue on the plan—which the corporation will explore during the five-year period commencing when the treatment plant comes into operation. These mineral claims have been surrounded by the temporary reserve—shown in red—which I have already referred to. The corporation has the right during the five-year period to add to its mineral lease so much of the blue mineral claims and temporary reserve as is necessary for its future operations and to comply with the safety requirements of the nuclear codes of practice.

There is also a provision for the corporation to be granted a special Land Act lease of the land shown in green on the plan which is a part of the Yeelirrie pastoral lease held by the corporation. Similarly there is provision for areas of adjacent pastoral leases to be resumed for the same purpose. The purpose of this lease is to give the corporation responsibility for areas of

land surrounding its project which may be affected by the draw-down of underground water caused by the mining operations. The corporation intends to develop the area as a de-stocked buffer zone.

Under the provisions of clause 22 the corporation is to be granted a special lease on which the new township of Yeelirrie will be developed for the corporation's work force. In the event that circumstances arise in the future which necessitate it being an open township, there is provision for declaration under section 10 of the Land Act, and the granting of freehold title.

Clause 23 obliges the corporation to meet all costs of development of the township.

Very careful consideration has been given by the Government to the provisions contained in the agreement relating to the royalty to be paid to the State. In essence the corporation will pay royalty at the rate of 3.5 per cent of the f.o.b. value in respect of uranium oxide shipped or sold from the mineral lease.

Mr Davies: What do you expect the production figure to be?

Mr MENSAROS: We expect it to be 2 500 tonnes of yellow cake per year.

Mr Davies: What is roughly the value of a tonne now?

Mr MENSAROS: As calculated today, it could be expected that 1 per cent of royalty will produce \$1.7 million. The revenue to the State from royalties will be quite substantial.

The meaning of the expression "f.o.b. value" has been fully explained in the agreement. However, provision has been included that where it is considered that either the f.o.b. value or any of the other costs or charges referred does not reflect a true and proper value or that a cost or charge has not been properly incurred the Minister shall determine the f.o.b. value and/or treat the charge as not being properly incurred.

Might I explain here that on the world market it is not yellow cake mainly which is sold. Furthermore, the safety requirements adopted by the Commonwealth, and agreed to by the State, require that the point of handover—until which point Australia is responsible for its safety—is at the hexa-fluoride point. Therefore, we had to devise a method to calculate the hexa-fluoride price back to the f.o.b. value of yellow cake shipped in the port. That f.o.b. is the basis of 3.5 per cent royalty.

If the corporation does not agree with such determination the matter may be referred to arbitration.

The agreement provides for a review of the rate of royalty seven years after the treatment plant comes into operation and at five-yearly intervals thereafter.

Also I might add here that the State was in a very difficult position because it virtually had to initiate a policy of uranium royalty. Despite the fact that royalties are being discussed for the Ranger project in the Northern Territory, there are vast differences between that project and the Yeelirrie project. Firstly, the Ranger project ore is much higher in grade, and there is less overburden to be treated to obtain the same tonnage of yellow cake. Secondly, that project is much closer to the coast and, thirdly, there are devices through which the Commonwealth Government contributes to the infrastructure which we do not have at all.

Perhaps more importantly, the royalty negotiated with regard to the Ranger project goes in two categories to the Aborigines. One will be a straightout royalty, and the other will be according to the terminology of the Commonwealth compensation legislation to the traditional owners of the land. It is our understanding that neither the Commonwealth nor the Northern Territory will receive any royalties from that project. We had to cut virtually new ground because although there has been a precedent it could be considered to be almost notional. It goes from $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent to 2 per cent. However, the $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent is combined with other provisions; namely, percentage of the profit. The 2 per cent is rather notional, as not much export occurred in that State with 2 per cent royalty. So, this State, by agreeing to a royalty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, has laid the path, and has definitely achieved a royalty which will be of benefit to the State, and a royalty which is higher than all royalties previously known, yet it is commercially viable from the point of view of the company.

The corporation is required under clause 26 of the agreement to keep under constant review with the State the feasibility of further processing.

The usual stamp duty exemption clauses to cover this agreement have been included, but have been extended in one aspect because of a particular requirement of the project.

In order to meet its 75 per cent share of the cost of construction and development of the project, which is very substantial, the corporation intends to raise the necessary equity capital by preselling its products.

It is expected that the customers of the corporation for these products will require some form of security over the corporation's assets. It has therefore been agreed that the State may exempt from not more than 75 per cent of the stamp duty which might be chargeable on any relevant documents associated with these special financing arrangements when they are presented for assessment, if the State, under hand of the Treasurer, so determines.

I must stress that this special exemption can be applied only in respect of arrangements for the purchase of the products of the corporation pursuant to the agreement. In other words other borrowings or fundings of the project not associated with the sale or purchase of the products will be subject to stamp duty assessment in the normal way.

I do not propose to go into detail of any of the remaining provisions of the agreement, since these are standard to agreements of this nature and should be understood by members of this House.

I can earnestly and sincerely assure all members of this House that the utmost consideration and thought has been given by the Government, in the negotiation of this agreement, to all the provisions contained therein.

I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Mines) [3.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. The principal Act which this Bill proposes to amend relates to the control of explosives and also regulates as to the storage of dangerous goods.

As far as dangerous goods are concerned the regulatory powers under the Act are concerned mainly with the storage of such goods. However it is considered, and I am sure members will agree following the recent cyanide spillage near Wooroloo, that there is a need for the Act's regulatory powers to be extended to cover the transport of dangerous goods, particularly by road vehicles. In this regard the Bill provides for the prescribing of regulations for the carriage of dangerous goods and the licensing of vehicles carrying such goods.

Also, following recent amendments to the explosives regulations to effect the United Nations classification for explosives in Western Australia,

an amendment to the Act was highly desirable to provide such classification. It was recognised that not only explosives but also other dangerous goods should be classified in Western Australia in the manner recommended by the United Nations.

The need for uniform classification of dangerous goods has been recognised by all other Australian States and each is preparing suitable legislation to effect this requirement—for example, the New South Wales dangerous goods regulations, gazetted on the 11th July, 1978. Already in Western Australia we have had confusion due to the difference in labelling requirements for dangerous goods which could lead to potentially hazardous situations; for example—

drums of highly flammable liquid arriving into Western Australia from overseas bear the label "Class 3 Dangerous Goods"—the class 3 dangerous goods of Western Australia are merely flammable oils of hazard similar to distillate fuel oil; and also

the UN classification of liquefied petroleum gas is Class 2 dangerous goods, whereas in Western Australia Class 2 dangerous goods refer to flammable liquids similar to kerosene.

The possibility of a disastrous occurrence through misinterpretation and mishandling of these dangerous goods is self-evident. Hence there is urgent need for amendment to the third schedule to the Act in order that the United Nations recommended classification of dangerous goods may be followed in Western Australia.

Certain other tidying up amendments are also required to—

- (a) Correct a metrication omission and allow for greater control, in the public interest, over the type and quantity of explosives that may be carried in road passenger vehicles plying for hire or reward;
- (b) allow for the gazettal as dangerous goods of any substances considered to be a direct danger to the public;
- (c) allow for the prescribing of safety requirements required for hazardous substances without imposing on the public all other provisions of the Act;
- (d) allow for packaging and labelling of dangerous goods;
- (e) allow for consultation between the chief inspector and his inspectors before any remedial action or the cessation of a dangerous practice is imposed;
- (f) increase the maximum penalty for breaches of the Act;

(g) allow for the provision of information on dangerous goods involved in any accident;

(h) provide for the prescribing of forms.

I would like to point out that apart from the tidying-up provisions this is only enabling legislation for the Governor to be able to proclaim regulations to contain the various codes and rules regarding the transport of dangerous goods. The regulations will be worked out and in due course laid on the Table of the House.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

BILLS (4): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor and Deputy Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Control of Vehicles (Off-road areas) Bill.
2. Nuclear Activities Regulation Bill.
3. Uranium (Yeelirrie) Agreement Bill.
4. Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act Amendment Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

In Committee

Resumed from the 1st November. The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarke) in the Chair; Sir Charles Court (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Part 2: Premier and Treasurer—

Vote: Miscellaneous Services, \$123 518 000—

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after item 15 had been discussed.

Item No. 39: Diabetic Association of W.A., \$300—

Mr DAVIES: I seem to recall that recently the Diabetic Association was seeking funds, yet according to the Estimates there was no expenditure last year although \$300 was budgeted. Have we found an organisation to which we are offering money that is not wanted? If so, could we find some more?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I invite the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to the fact that there is another item relating to diabetes research, which is a separate item. The item we are discussing is a grant towards the association's holiday camp for diabetic children. The grant is

made available in each year the camp is conducted. I understand at the camp children are taught the disciplines necessary for diabetic treatment, such as testing procedures. The amount of the grant was established with the association and to the best of my knowledge it is to enable the association to conduct its holiday camp.

Item No. 42: Environmetric Systems—Refuse Disposal Studies, \$7 500—

Mr DAVIES: I am not certain what "environmetric" means as distinct from environmental. I have not come across anything of this nature before. Last year \$15 000 was voted for these studies, \$7 500 was used, and an amount of \$7 500 has been allocated this year. Can the Premier enlighten us as to what is happening? What is the programme related to and what will be the outcome of the studies? Are the studies continuing, or will they finish after this year?

Sir CHARLES COURT: If I recall correctly this matter was the subject of a query on a previous occasion. The provision has been made for the balance of an approved State Government grant of \$25 000 to Environmetric Systems Pty. Ltd. for research and pilot studies for waste disposal. The problems of waste disposal in the community today are more pressing than ever before and environmental and health hazards are critical and demand immediate solutions.

By way of clarification of this item, a proposal was submitted to the State Government by Environmetric Systems Pty. Ltd. for a grant of \$25 000 to undertake feasibility studies into the economic viability of a swill processing plant which could be "plugged" into a complete waste recycling plant. On the recommendation of a technical committee appointed by the Cabinet on the 11th August, 1976, to examine such matters, the Government agreed subject to certain conditions to a grant of \$25 000. Amounts of \$10 000 and \$7 500 were paid in 1976-77 and 1977-78 respectively and this year's allocation provides the balance of the approved amount.

I must admit that when the name first appeared on my desk I was a little querulous about it, but when the matter came before Cabinet and the recommendation of the technical committee was received, we were convinced it was a desirable expenditure to assist in studies into this problem.

Item No. 43: Family Planning Association, \$19 500—

Mr DAVIES: The amount granted last year to the Family Planning Association was \$7 500, all of which was spent. This year the amount is \$19 500. I do not cavil at the money being spent

on this association because in a relatively short time it has managed to go out into the community and do some tremendously good work. It faced some initial organisational difficulties, but that was several years ago and I believe it is now operating most effectively.

Although I am pleased an additional amount of \$12 000 is being provided this year I wonder whether in some way this is related to the new federalism and the shortfall in funds from the Commonwealth Government. Can the Treasurer explain the increase?

Sir CHARLES COURT: This is largely an internal transaction within the Government. The explanation is that as from the 1st July, 1978, the Public Works Department will bill the association for rent charges and, therefore, the increase is necessary to cover rent charges. The allocation is being made through the Miscellaneous Services Vote so that sufficient money will be available to meet the annual charge.

In the past years the Family Planning Association has received assistance by way of an annual operating grant paid by the Treasury, and by way of free accommodation in Koonawarra House, the rental being paid by the Public Health Department. Although the annual State operating grant of \$7 500 assists the association to meet costs associated with providing expert advice on all aspects of family planning, the Commonwealth is mainly responsible for funding requirements.

That really means we are ensuring that the association will not be disadvantaged by the annual rental charge, and for accounting reasons it is necessary to do this through the Miscellaneous Services Vote.

Item No. 50: Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention, \$30 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I have previously raised the matter of the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention, and I see once again the parsimonious handout to the foundation has been increased by only \$4 000. I have consistently said it is time the Government did something better than simply allowing the foundation to carry on in the manner it is carrying on. I have said its operations are insufficient in respect of training in matters of industrial accident prevention, and I have suggested greater funding would allow the foundation to operate in a more satisfactory manner than it can at the moment.

I am bitterly disappointed that this year only \$30 000 has been provided for the foundation, an increase of only \$4 000 over the amount expended last year. Can the Treasurer shed more

light on this? Does he feel this amount is adequate, or is the Government merely paying lip service to the matter of industrial safety?

Sir CHARLES COURT: We must realise that the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention is a body that represents the bringing together of a great deal of expertise within industry, and I believe it is most desirable. If there is a heavy financial involvement of government my experience is that we lose the benefits of this voluntary coming together of people with a common cause.

My understanding is that the foundation would be very satisfied with the assistance it is getting from the Government. I know of no complaint from the foundation that it is not receiving enough, bearing in mind of course that this is only one facet of industrial safety, education and training and the general process of trying to cut down industrial accidents.

There is no lack of unanimity within the Parliament on the importance of getting to grips with this problem in view of the suffering and hardship which is caused—forgetting the financial aspects of the matter—not only to the person who is injured but also to his family.

Let me deal more specifically with the \$4 000 increase to which the member for Swan referred, and which appears under the general heading of "Miscellaneous Services". The member for Swan should bear in mind there are some items the Government cannot properly record within the departments to which they belong and they eventually finish up under the Miscellaneous Services heading. We are now up to 219 items under this heading. When the member for Welshpool and I first came to Parliament we would have been lucky to find 50 items under this heading. It has become something of a repository for all those items which cannot be placed elsewhere.

The item provides for an actual grant to assist the foundation to meet salary and operating expenses and the cost of printing safety manuals which are issued free of charge to first-year apprentices in the metal, building, electrical and meat trades. Provision has been made in 1978-79 to increase the annual payment for the publication of manuals from \$6 000 to \$10 000 following a decision to make safety manuals available to pre-apprenticeship students, and to cover increased costs of supplying the manuals.

I know of no dissatisfaction with the amount, but if the member for Swan believes there is dissatisfaction I would be only too pleased to

discuss it with the foundation. However, the foundation has never shown any reluctance to come and see me about matters of this kind.

Item No. 51: International Congress of Bio-Chemists, \$10 300—

Mr DAVIES: The International Congress of Bio-Chemists was voted \$5 000 last year and spent only \$2 000; this year its vote is \$10 300. This item intrigues me. What kind of support are we giving for that amount of money? Have we undertaken to run an international congress in Western Australia and pick up the tab, or is it some kind of funding we might receive back at some time in the future?

I did notice a similar item last year which does not appear this year, where the Mining and Metallurgical Institute received \$5 000 to assist it to hold its 1978 joint conference. This seems to be very generous of the Government, and I am just wondering in what way we can be associated with the International Congress of Bio-Chemists to the extent that it has already cost the taxpayers of this State \$2 000, and is likely to cost them an additional \$10 300 this year.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The explanation in both specific and general terms is very simple. There is a lot of competition to hold international conferences in the different capital cities. It brings a tremendous upsurge of economic demand at the time they are held. One of the most outstanding examples of this was the conference held by the International Society for Musical Education, when something like 3 000 people representing many countries came to this city.

The Department of Tourism has established an organisation to go out and seek these conferences. However, the International Congress of Bio-Chemists was in a different category because its members made a very professional study of all the capital cities of Australia to see whether they could find one which, in the year 1982, could cope with a minimum of 5 000 visitors. This meant the timing had to be right to provide for accommodation, lecture halls, plenary sessions and above all, facilities for technical displays of a very sophisticated nature, where security and a number of other things were involved.

From that study in which the then Federal Government was involved, Perth was able to put forward the best case—believe it or not—to be able to cope with this number of people, provided they came at a time which was propitious; namely, when the university was in recess and that type of thing.

In the course of negotiations with this truly international congress, we established a set of guidelines which we follow to assist the local committee or the institute or whoever is organising this to attract the calibre of speakers appropriate to such an international conference. The Government provides a sum of money which is tailor-made for each particular case so that the committee, as part of its bid to have an international conference held in Western Australia, can assure the organisers at the international level they will be able to attract certain "name" people of the calibre required. It is usually a fairly modest amount.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the allocation last year to the Mining and Metallurgical Institute. That was in a similar category where, because of the pre-eminence of Western Australia in matters to do with minerals, it was very important we be identified with attracting the right type of people to Australia for this conference.

In the case of the International Congress of Bio-Chemists, the matter was being negotiated as far back as 1975. It became something of a pace setter. Members can imagine that when the bids were taken throughout Australia, it was a great surprise to us that we could compete with places like Melbourne and Sydney. We now know we can compete and win these conferences if we time them properly.

For that reason, I am glad the Leader of the Opposition has raised the matter because it enables me to explain to members the Government's policy in connection with these international conferences. Even the interstate conferences are important, because they are very lucrative in terms of expenditure. Hardly any of these conferences does not attract something like 300 or 500 people. When delegates decide to come to Western Australia they usually bring their wives because of the extra distance and time involved; they make it something of a holiday trip, as well as attending from the business aspect.

The detail of this item is as follows: In 1975 the Council of the International Union of Bio-Chemists agreed to hold its 1982 international congress in Perth.

Perth's selection as the venue of this major international congress is all the more notable in that determined competition was encountered from other Australian cities and at least three European countries.

It is expected that the congress will attract up to 5 000—I believe that figure is more likely to be 8 000—visitors to Western Australia, including

many of eminence in the medical profession, thereby increasing the State's tourist potential and Perth's significance as a convention centre. In addition, of course, benefits will accrue to medical practitioners.

In line with the Government's policy of attracting conferences of major international significance it has been decided to provide a grant of \$65 000 towards administrative expenses, \$10 300 of which is expected to be required in 1978-79 for preliminary organising expenses.

The Leader of the Opposition will appreciate that the local committee could not afford to be out of pocket for the full amount between now and 1982. So, by arrangement with the Treasury there is a method by which it can draw this money progressively. It suits us very well because we do not need to allocate the full amount in one year's Budget.

Item No. 57: League of Home Help, \$14 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I note the vote for this item last year was \$3 400, while expenditure was only \$3 333. However, this year it is to be increased to \$14 000. I hope this means the League of Home Help is expanding its operations and that the Government has recognised this and is supporting the league.

Sir CHARLES COURT: For an initial period of three years commencing 1978-79, the annual grant to the league is to be increased by \$9 000 to facilitate the appointment of a financial administrator with the object of introducing improved accounting and budgetary controls. Provision is made also for a reduction in the level of Commonwealth recoup under the States Grants (Home Care) Act. From the 1st July, 1978, the level of recoup has been reduced from two-thirds to one-half.

The League of Home Help provides a variety of services for the aged such as accommodation, social centres, a meals-on-wheels service, a chiropody service, and a home help service. An annual grant of \$10 000 is paid to the home help service of which one-half is recouped from the Commonwealth under the States Grants (Home Care) Act. Financial assistance for the league's social centres is also provided under item No. 125.

Item No. 60: Meat and Allied Trades Federation, \$10 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: The federation had a vote of \$10 000 last year which it did not use and I am therefore wondering why we are allocating another \$10 000 for 1978-79.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have explained on previous occasions that the federation operates a display centre at the Claremont Showground for the purpose of promoting the consumption of meat products in Western Australia.

In order to enhance the prospect of achieving a higher rate of consumption, the federation proposes to upgrade the centre at a cost of \$30 000. Because of the importance of the industry in Western Australia, the Government has agreed to assist towards the cost of the project by matching contributions with those of the industry on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to a maximum of \$10 000.

Provision was made for this payment in 1977-78, but the federation was unable to claim the payment in that year.

The original request was for the Government to provide the total amount as assistance to the meat industry in an effort to get consumption increased. We felt the industry should make a contribution and we were prepared to assist on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$10 000 if it instituted a project of \$30 000. The speed with which it draws the money will be related to the work it undertakes and the way it is able to qualify for the amount we have agreed to pay.

Item No. 66: National Trust of Australia (Western Australia), \$60 000—

Mr TONKIN: For what purpose is this money allocated? Is it for accommodation, salaries, or for the purchase or restoration of buildings?

Sir CHARLES COURT: An annual grant is provided to assist the National Trust in meeting general administrative costs. In addition the State meets the trust's share of staff pensions under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act.

Higher salary and other costs necessitate an increase from \$55 000 to \$60 000 in the 1978-79 financial year.

The honourable member would know the main purposes of the trust. He will realise that in 1976-77 the trust moved into its new headquarters in the old Perth Boys School which was made available by the State after it had been restored in a very fine way.

Mr Tonkin: No assistance is given for looking after old buildings?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The allocation is for general administrative costs and would not cover capital expenditure.

Item No. 68: Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of WA, \$137 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: Last year the association had an over-expenditure of \$68 000 which obviously shows it has great needs. This year's allocation is down on last year's expenditure and I am wondering whether the increase was a non-recurring expenditure or whether this year's allocation is insufficient.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Organisations such as this have developed a fairly good communication with the Treasury on their financial and budgetary problems. It is not unusual that when they run into a special problem, as foreshadowed by the member, this is taken care of so as to help them with their liquidity problem at the time.

With very few exceptions, these organisations welcome the fact that experienced Treasury officers work closely with them. Some organisations are more expert on the accounting side than others. Because of budgetary problems and cost pressures these days there has been a general tendency to improve budgetary control within organisations.

We try to have officers within the Treasury who develop a communication with particular organisations so they can then have a more sympathetic understanding of the problems of the particular organisation rather than having officer A, B, or C allocated to consider their problems. Most organisations talk about their own Treasury officer rather than talk about the Treasury itself, and this is encouraged.

In 1977-78 the association received a supplementary grant of \$68 000 to meet its operating deficit. This explains that whilst it appears it has had a decreased allocation, it is only reflecting a special payment in 1977-78. Provision is made for a grant of \$118 000 towards the operating costs of the association's Shenton Park centre for the disabled. Provision also is made for the first of 10 special grants, each of \$19 000 to meet the annual repayments on a loan of \$120 000 which was obtained by the association to meet the shortfall in funds available for extensions to the association's nursing home.

The association had to raise money to fill a gap and we agreed to give it 10 special grants of \$19 000 each year, which in turn will cover the payment, including interest, on that special financial accommodation it hopes to achieve.

Item No. 70: Perth Convention Bureau, \$40 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I would like to know what this bureau is. It has received an increase of 100 per cent on last year's allocation.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I referred to the bureau when answering a question from the Leader of the Opposition regarding the biochemists congress to be held in 1982. This bureau, financed by the Government and by the private sector, has the responsibility of promoting Perth as a convention centre. It promotes not only Perth but also the whole of the State and it has done a wonderful job. It operates on a very tight budget. It has some very dedicated people on it who sell Western Australia in a very fine way. The bureau has been eminently successful.

With the approaching 150th anniversary members can imagine the pressures which are on and which will continue well after the 150th anniversary because that is what it is all about; that is, to project us into the future.

After some study of the budget of the centre, bearing in mind that we held them very tightly, it was felt there should be an increase of \$10 000 and that is the level of the annual grant. There is an increase of \$10 000 because of the 150th anniversary next year. That was a once-only grant. That explains why the amount has gone up to \$20 000 instead of being just \$10 000.

Item No. 72: Police Pipe Band, \$1 600—

Mr DAVIES: It appears that the band receives an annual grant of \$1 600. The band does a tremendous amount of good work over the length and breadth of the State. A huge amount of voluntary effort is involved, because not only do the members of the band play during working hours for which they are paid, but they must also practise together. Unless members of a band practise together fairly regularly they are not able to reach a very high standard. I do not know whether the Premier has ever played the bagpipes, but I know he has some knowledge of music.

Possibly more than anything else the band has created enormous goodwill for the Police Department.

Members have used the services of the band at some time or other all over the State, and I wonder whether we should not consider its becoming a permanent part of the Police Force so that its members become full-time bandmen. I do not know whether in the long run it might not be cheaper that way rather than the bandmen being paid overtime and penalty rates.

I do not know whether it would be possible to calculate the exact cost of the band to the Government, but because of the increasing demand for its services we should consider making the band a full-time permanent adjunct to the Police Force.

The bandmen would then know that they would be in the band for the whole of their lives until they elected to leave the Police Force to enter some other sphere.

I know that some people will want to remain in the band in a voluntary capacity because of the enjoyment and tuition they receive. However, the band is being used on many occasions, not only for parades. The band provides excellent entertainment for all kinds of organisations, including senior citizens, the Red Cross, fetes, fairs, and the like and it is all rubbing off on the Police Force because the band is well received.

I believe it is having difficulty in keeping its members together because of the system under which it operates. I do not want a comment from the Premier at this stage, but I would like him to consider the matter and decide whether or not the band should be a permanent fixture of the Police Force, paid for as a unit of the force rather than have it operate as it does at present.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I can understand the enthusiasm of the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the Police Pipe Band, but I shudder at the thought of the bandmen being recruited as policemen. I wonder what we would do if we were short of policemen and there was a riot in Wellington Street. Would we ask the band to race down to soothe the rioters with their pipe music? As a matter of fact, if they performed well enough they might succeed where other measures have failed because it would not be the first time that music had charms to soothe a savage breast!

We must consider the origin of the band. I think it was formed in the days of Commissioner Napier, and that is why the bandmen wear the Napier tartan. They do wonderful work and should be encouraged.

The band assists in maintaining the Police Department's public image. There is no doubt that wherever people go the police are known because of their band, and wherever they appear they are a great credit to the force because they feel some personal commitment in their appearance, their performance, and their conduct.

It is also the official pipe band for the City of Perth and it performs at Government House functions in addition to staging performances for charitable functions. Membership is voluntary and performances do not interfere with the normal duties of the officers concerned. However, there must be occasions when, because of the time-table of things, the commissioner would have to make some arrangements if all the bandmen were on duty at a time they were required to perform.

We should understand that it is all voluntary effort, like any other band, and the members are not only voluntary members, but they also give of their time.

With the size of the force we have it would be completely impossible for us to accept the commitment of a police band of any sort which would be the counterpart of the 5th Military District Band of the armed forces.

Mr Davies: It could be a permanent nucleus.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is best we leave the situation as it is. The band has a happy arrangement with the commissioner. I have not asked any questions as to whether the bandmen do appear on occasions when they should be on duty, because the less we know about that the better. I well recall that one particular band in another service was able to appear at country shows in the middle of the week because all members took certain leave to which they were entitled. By a coincidence they all took that leave on the same day.

Sitting suspended from 3.47 to 4.05 p.m.

Item No. 75: Returned Services League—State War Memorial, \$1 000—

Mr DAVIES: The State War Memorial has been under maintenance and repair for some considerable time and has received quite an amount of money. It is part of our system but I am wondering whether the Returned Services League is now to get an annual grant of \$1 000 related solely to the war memorial, whether the money is to be used on maintenance, and if so whether the memorial will be kept permanently maintained so that we do not again have the situation where it falls into neglect because not enough money is spent on it. I do not begrudge the money but the Premier might be able to tell us why the Returned Services League is now getting \$1 000.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The provision referred to is for 50 per cent of the anticipated cost in 1978-79 of maintenance of the State War Memorial in Kings Park. The memorial was constructed in 1929 with funds raised by public subscription. The Returned Services League at that time accepted responsibility for its maintenance, and with the passage of time the structure has deteriorated because of water seepage, vandalism, and so on. The Government has acknowledged it has a responsibility to assist with its maintenance and preservation.

In 1976-77 the Government contributed \$5 000 towards an appeal launched by the RSL for the restoration of the memorial. At the same time we entered into a continuing commitment on behalf

of the Government of the day to meet half the future maintenance costs. The league regarded this as a very satisfactory arrangement; it was better than our saying, "We will give you X dollars a year." So we have accepted the commitment for half of the maintenance costs in the future, and naturally from time to time the league will come along with its programme and agree on the amount required. I hope the league in fact keeps up the maintenance to a high order because in the long run that is the cheapest way to do it.

Item No. 81: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, \$7 000—

Mr DAVIES: In the autumn session of Parliament I asked whether the Premier was aware that, according to published figures and an article I had read, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was encountering some financial difficulty. I pointed to the position which existed in South Australia, where considerably more funds were allocated to the society than in Western Australia.

It is always bad to draw an analogy in situations like that because we do not know all the circumstances, but it appeared from the published article that the RSPCA was in some difficulties and the Government might have been somewhat parsimonious in the amount of money it was giving to the society.

It is an essential organisation to have in the community and many people call upon its services at all hours of the day and night. They find now, however, they are unable to call on it out of normal business hours because the organisation apparently does not have sufficient funds and therefore the capacity to maintain around-the-clock services. This means other people in the community—probably local authorities, the police, the fire brigade, or some such body which might not have the expertise—are called upon to deal with matters which properly fall within the province of the RSPCA.

The query originally came to me from the State Executive of the Labor Party, and when I sent back the answers I received in reply to my questions it was pointed out that the situation was not quite as stated in the answers. The answers stated in part that the Government had not received any request for funds from the RSPCA—and I could not imagine it volunteering any funds. I could not argue with the attitude of the Government at that time.

Some statements were published about that time expressing considerable concern about the RSPCA and the position in which it found itself, and I promised to take the matter further. The

matter having been given some impetus, I thought there might have been a request to the Government through the usual channels from the RSPCA—and I point out I have not had any direct contact with that body—for an increase in the amount, because its service was falling far short of what we would expect the organisation to supply to the community.

I think *The West Australian* then ran an article saying it wished the Labor Party would mind its own business and that the RSPCA was doing very nicely. We are quite happy to mind our own business but I would have thought in the circumstances, where the RSPCA was not able to provide the required service, it might have welcomed some support, even though it came from the ALP, in trying to raise a little more money.

Apart from drawing attention to the fact that we believe there has been no dramatic improvement in the society's finances, can the Premier tell us whether the matter has been discussed at Treasury level, whether an approach has been made, and whether that approach has been successful and therefore the amount allocated for the present financial year is the same as that provided in the last financial year?

I repeat that on its own admission the society is not able to supply the services we have been able to expect from it over the years, and that is a pity because it is a very well respected organisation. I would hate it to become "high hat" because it thought the Labor Party was trying to give it some support.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Following the questions asked in this place and the articles written about the matter, I personally involved myself in the society's affairs so as to see what had been the relationship between the Treasury and the society. I do not want to canvass the full details of it; suffice to say I saw fit to contact the president to ask him outright whether the society was dissatisfied with the payment it had received from the State Government, and if so on what grounds.

Mr Davies: I think the president was previously a Liberal Legislative Councillor.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Let us leave that out of it at the moment, because I presume he is there by election. I asked him outright whether the society was dissatisfied, and if so why, because it was worrying me that this was becoming a contentious issue and various statements were being made inside and outside this Chamber which did not seem to add up to the attitude I was adopting towards the society or the attitude of the Treasury officers.

The explanations given to me by the Treasury officers were quite satisfactory to me, and I therefore asked the president to assure me personally that everything was in order and there was nothing about which I had not been informed. There might have been some aspect of the society's work we should know about which would change our attitude towards financial assistance, bearing in mind we have no right to tell the society how to run its affairs or what service it should give.

Mr Davies: Or to encourage it to spend money.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The response was that the relationship between the society at the official level and the Treasury was a satisfactory one, and no action by me was called for. However, we left it on the basis that if the society finds from time to time that it needs some further assistance, negotiations can be reopened. If the Leader of the Opposition looks at the financial statements, I believe he will find that the Government assistance is not unrealistic in all the circumstances.

Mr Davies: It did not indicate why it was cutting back on its services to almost business hours, did it?

Sir CHARLES COURT: This is the decision of the society in the operation of its services, bearing in mind that it is caught up in cost escalation just like everyone else. We have had to leave that to the society. I certainly was not prepared to interfere in its service, and say, "We will give you \$X to continue your service 24 hours a day and seven days a week."

Mr Davies: Unfortunately animals are not aware of business hours.

Item No. 82: Royal Western Australian Historical Society, \$5 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: It is rather intriguing that last year there was an over-expenditure of \$31 000. Can the Treasurer indicate what that amount was for?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The annual grants to the society were initiated at the level of \$1 000 in 1965-66, and were increased progressively up to \$4 000 in 1975-76. The grant assists in meeting administrative costs and the costs associated with maintaining the historical museum and library at the society headquarters which is known as Stirling House in Nedlands.

In 1977-78 the annual operating grant was increased to \$5 000 to offset the increased administrative and other costs.

I believe this is the crux of the query raised by the honourable member. In addition, a special grant of \$30 000 was made to clear loans made

for the purpose of developing Stirling House and so relieve the society of considerable interest and capital repayments. Stirling House is now the centre for 45 affiliated local societies throughout Western Australia, and I believe it is fulfilling an important service in a very practical and modest way.

By way of further explanation, a conference was held between myself and the society. Out of that conference, a budget was put forward for consideration and advice. The Treasury and I then came up with a proposition, and we felt that by giving the society \$30 000 to get rid of part of a debt, we were doing it more out of kindness with this once-only payment than by giving so much a year, in which case the society would still have the debt. It was for this reason that we gave the lump sum.

Item No. 84: St. John Ambulance Association, \$2 436 000—

Dr DADOUR: Last year I spoke on this item, and I see that the estimate has been increased to \$2.436 million from \$2.1 million last year. When I spoke to the last Budget I raised the alarm that the St. John Ambulance Association had decided to venture into the air ambulance field. The Apex Club of Western Australia was good enough to raise over \$100 000 so that the association could purchase a plane. Last year I asked why this was necessary because we already had the Royal Flying Doctor Service providing an adequate service not only in emergencies, but also in non-emergencies on request.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service fell over backwards to accommodate the St. John Ambulance Association and to help it. A fair amount of advertising has appeared in the Press and apparently the St. John Ambulance Association aerial ambulance has been used on a number of occasions to bring people from the south-west of the State to either the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital or the Royal Perth Hospital.

My question is this: Has the Government been called upon to pay for any of this service which I believe to be an unnecessary duplication?

I have here the annual report of the St. John Ambulance Association for the year 1977. Unlike most organisations, the association has a 12 months' budget from the 1st January each year. I note that the income earned by the aerial ambulance up to the 31st December last year was \$60 670. When I tried to find out the cost of running the aerial ambulance for that period, I found that the cost of maintenance to the aeroplane was \$11 871, and air charter expenses

amounted to \$31 954. Apart from these figures, I can find no reference to the cost of running the aerial part of the association's service. One wonders how much of the expenditure of the aerial ambulance is buried under the figures given for "Personnel" which covers items such as salaries, wages, superannuation, uniforms, and many other types of expenditure.

I feel certain that the expenditure for the aerial ambulance would have been in excess of its earnings. Can the Treasurer tell me whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the cost of this unnecessary duplication is not borne in any way by the State Government?

Last year we tried earnestly to avoid this duplication, but unfortunately it is now a reality because of the autonomy of the association—we were more or less told to mind our own business on this score. Can the Treasurer tell us whether he has taken any steps in this direction, and if so, what they are?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I well recall the comments made before on this matter. At that time we had considerable difficulty in arriving at a good basis of communication between the association, the Government, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. However, my colleague, the Deputy Premier and Chief Secretary, together with the Minister for Health, have done their best to achieve a degree of communication and to get away from what appeared to be public confrontation, and an attitude of almost touting for business, although that is perhaps too harsh a way to express it.

We were concerned about the duplication of costs and the fact that it had become an established service without any proper evaluation of the better economics that would result from co-operation rather than from dual operation.

The latest situation as I understand it, as a result of some work by the parties involved, is that the communication of all concerned is improved greatly. In recent months I have not heard the same sort of concern that was being expressed earlier about overlapping of the services. I will make some inquiries to see whether an arrangement has been worked out in regard to the areas of operation and co-operation, including maintenance.

If the honourable member would like the information recorded in *Hansard*, I will give him an idea of the way in which the money is allocated. It is important that he should understand the different allocation of the funds this year compared with last year.

In 1977-78 the association received a total grant of \$2 099 613. This amount was dissected as follows—

	\$
Operating grant for the ambulance service ..	1 875 000

I am sorry that there is no breakup in regard to the air service and the road service. To continue—

Capital subsidies—

Building projects—

maximum regional centres ..	\$15 000	
maximum subcentres	\$10 000	51 613

Additional ambulances—	\$5 000	
each ..		5 000

Replacement ambulances —		
\$4 000 each ..		128 000

Unspecified capital items ..		40 000
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\$2 099 613

An operating grant of \$2.006 million will be provided in 1978-79, and that is an increase on the figure of \$1.875 million for the previous year. In addition the capital grant provision will be increased from \$224 613 to \$350 000, the previous limitations will be removed and the association will be allowed to determine its own priorities. This was a bone of contention that has now been resolved.

The Government has agreed to meet, by way of an advance, the annual instalments on borrowings of \$500 000 obtained by the association for the purchase of an alternative headquarters building in Belmont preparatory to vacating its present site to permit the widening of Wellington Street. Members know that this move has been hanging over the association for a long time. Repayment of the loan will be over a period of 10 years, and provision is made for the first instalment of \$80 000.

Accordingly the association's grant will be increased by 16 per cent, and the details of this are as follows—

	\$
Operating grant for the ambulance service ..	2 006 000

Contribution towards capital costs ..	350 000
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Instalment on Belmont property	80 000
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\$2 436 000

From the information made available to me, I am not able to give the breakup of the cost of operating the aerial ambulance and the road ambulance. I will endeavour to find out this information.

Item No. 86: Salvation Army—Red Shield Appeal, \$12 500—

Mr SKIDMORE: I again rise on the item relating to this appeal. The amount of this grant has remained at \$12 500 as it was in 1977-78. I suppose in these times of economic downturn we should not rush in recklessly spending the Government's money, but I would like to make an appeal on behalf of the Salvation Army. I have a degree of affection for this organisation, and I am quite sure the Treasurer is aware of its activities during the troublesome years from 1939 to 1945. Of course in these days it plays a major part in looking after the social welfare of people in distressed conditions.

I believe the Government has been a little parsimonious on this occasion. If it is not possible to increase the amount this year by a supplementary grant, I hope that it will be increased next year, at least up to \$15 000. I hope that my appeal on behalf of this organisation does not fall on deaf ears.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the honourable member knew my background he would know that I have a soft spot for the "Salvos"; this organisation does not need to push me very hard for assistance. However, the honourable member would find that the organisation itself feels we have treated it quite generously in the circumstances. We discussed the nature of this appeal and the way in which the Salvation Army feels it can best be helped having regard for the work it does.

Mr Skidmore: They had a little trouble this year, I understand.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I understand that they had a very successful appeal.

Mr Skidmore: They did? I thought they did not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: My colleague, the Minister for Health, is a very active collector for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. He would probably be able to answer the member for Swan.

Mr Young: It was the Telethon which went badly.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Salvation Army had a record collection?

Mr Young: I think it was a record.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We watch the situation very closely.

Item No. 87: Samaritans of W.A., \$9 760—

Mr DAVIES: The Samaritans are down \$2 000 on their grant. This worries me a little. Last year they were allocated \$11 760, but this year it has been reduced to \$9 760.

This counselling organisation is probably one of the least known but best used organisations. There is a paradox in that statement which I will try to explain. This organisation is least known by the community at large and it is the most used by a section of the community that is able to benefit from the counselling given by the organisation.

I am sure most members know that in the main this is a telephone counselling service. It provides an around-the-clock service for people in distress who wish to talk over their problems. The counsellors are trained. The organisation is not exclusive, but it vets carefully any person who wishes to become a counsellor or seeks to belong to the organisation. The organisation is based on the Samaritans in England. This is an organisation which can perform a wonderful task in this particular field.

I am a little concerned that the Samaritans will receive a grant which is \$2 000 less than the grant allocated last year. I am wondering whether there is any specific reason for that. If, for instance, it is because the organisation is operating more efficiently and it does not need extra money, or because it is using more voluntary labour, that is to be applauded. The fact that in these days of inflation its grant is down by \$2 000 concerns me somewhat.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I cannot be precise as to the reason the grant has been decreased by \$2 000. All I can say is that it was the subject of the annual review that takes place.

The background should be understood. In 1975-1976 the Samaritans established a new headquarters in Subiaco at a cost of \$28 000. The Government agreed to service the necessary borrowings at an annual cost of \$5 760. If members work that out, they will find that sum actually amortises the debt.

In addition, there was provision for a grant for operating costs. The \$9 760 is divided: \$4 000 grant; \$5 760 towards the loan servicing.

Mr Davies: That probably accounts for it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition will find that this was the figure arrived at based on discussions with the Samaritans. Applications for grants are received in their dozens. I set aside a whole morning to go through all of these matters with the Treasury.

Item No. 97: Tertiary Institutions Service Centre, \$648 000—

Mr DAVIES: I have to be perfectly frank in saying that I have no knowledge of the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre. It is receiving a fair thump of the Budget—\$648 000. I am not sure what the organisation is, and for what the allocation is to be made. I am prepared to be advised. If the Treasurer can tell me what it is all about, I will be better off.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The higher provision is necessary to cover an expected increase in the rates of fees payable to examiners and supervisors, and general increases in other costs—

Mr Davies: What is the centre? Can you tell me?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have details which were given in answer to a question by a colleague of the Leader of the Opposition on a previous occasion. There is provision of \$6 000 for salary adjustments; provision for the higher costs of examiners' and supervisors' fees and services totalling \$47 000; and there is a sum of \$8 428 allocated for other net increases in general administration expenses. That makes a total of \$61 428.

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre was established for the twofold task of conducting the Tertiary Admissions Examination and of operating the joint applications centre which processes the applications for entry to the four tertiary education institutions—namely, the University of Western Australia, the Murdoch University, the Western Australian Institute of Technology, and other teachers' colleges. The centre now performs the functions previously undertaken by the Public Examinations Board. The item in the Miscellaneous Services Division provides for the administrative costs of the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre.

This is one of those items which is placed in the Miscellaneous Services Division because it cannot be included under any other head. It appears to me that this has become a permanent feature, and it might be as well for it to be fitted into another niche. In the meantime, it is dealt with in this way.

Mr Davies: Thank you. I am now much better informed.

Item No. 100: Tuberculosis and Chest Association of W.A., \$50 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I wish to ask the Treasurer the reason for the sudden appearance of a grant to the Tuberculosis and Chest Association of

W.A. of \$50 000. I trust that my fears that the incidence of the dreadful disease of tuberculosis is on the increase are completely unfounded.

I am curious to discover why that organisation would need \$50 000. I have no doubt the need has been well and truly substantiated; but I would like some information on the matter.

Sir CHARLES COURT: This item provides for a grant towards the capital cost of a new 20-bed hostel. The hostel will cost \$420 000, of which the Commonwealth Government will fund \$296 000, and the association will provide \$74 000.

The new hostel will accommodate handicapped persons undergoing assessment and training at the association's sheltered workshops at Claremont. The workshops were founded to rehabilitate former tuberculosis patients. However, with the decline in the incidence of that disease, people whose handicaps arise from different causes are now employed in the workshops.

A grant of \$35 000 was provided in 1971. That assisted in the development of the workshops. The State also provided grants of \$12 000 towards operating costs in each of the four years, 1973-74 to 1976-77. The grant was discontinued when the workshops achieved profitability, to the credit of those concerned.

If the member for Swan ever visits the workshops in Claremont, he will see that they are efficiently run. If I recall correctly, there are two areas in operation now. The work of one section complements the work of the other. Very fine work is carried out there.

The work carried out at the workshops is of a rehabilitative and occupational nature. The workshops are expertly organised. Florence Hummerston is the guiding hand in the workshops, and she has been for a long time. She is a former councillor.

The member for Swan would discover that the workshops embrace people other than tuberculosis sufferers.

Item No. 120: Decoration—City of Perth and Country Towns, \$39 500—

Mr DAVIES: Under this item last year a sum of \$29 500 was allocated, and \$13 147 of that was used.

I am wondering whether we will receive value for the extra \$10 000 allocated this year. When one sees the Christmas decorations in the city, it is like meeting old friends. Like old friends, they look a little more tired and a little more jaded than the last time one saw them.

I am of the opinion that the city would be better left undecorated, unless a better job is done than has been done in the last couple of years. It surprises me that although there was money available, \$16 000 was not used.

I will probably be accused of knocking Christmas. That is the last thing I wish to do, and it is the last thing I wish to be accused of. However, I believe if decorations are to be put up, they should be worthy of the City of Perth, particularly as we approach our 150th year in 1979. No doubt there will be many people visiting the city in the Christmas period. The decorations from last year were tired, and they looked frowsy.

I know that business houses contribute a little towards the decorations; but when one compares the street decoration with the decorations of the business houses, no real comparison may be made. I repeat that I am surprised that \$16 000 of the allocation was not used. I was firmly of the opinion that the effort made last year was the best that could be done with the money available.

Now we are prepared to budget for an extra \$10 000, making the total allocation \$39 500 for the financial year. If more effort will be put into decorating the city, I am prepared to see that the allocation is continued. However, if there will only be those decorations which have hung over the intersections for a number of years and adjusted in only one or two minor ways, then it would be better if decorations were not put up at all.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition has reacted in this way. I think the people concerned do a good job.

Mr Davies: The decorations are frowsy.

Sir CHARLES COURT: They do not find it easy to obtain the finance.

The item provides for the Government's annual contribution towards the cost of decorations installed in the central city area during the festive season and on other special occasions. In addition, the item provides for State assistance to enable country towns to develop similar displays in conjunction with the State's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Provision is made for an annual grant of \$8 500 plus a special grant of \$2 000 for the State's sesquicentenary celebrations to the Perth Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the city decorations scheme since 1961-62. I might add that great difficulty has been experienced because the support from private industry ebbs and flows. The Chamber of Commerce has experienced difficulty in keeping the

scheme alive. The Government does not feel that it can accept full responsibility because if it does the sky will be the limit. The Government would be criticised if the decorations did not meet the particular dimensions and aesthetic sense of the critics.

In addition, provision is made for a grant of 25 per cent of the cost, to a maximum of \$3 000, to towns outside the metropolitan area with populations in excess of 5 000 persons to assist in the purchase and installation of decoration equipment.

Those are the two contributions for the year—one for the city and one for the country. Contributions to the decoration of the city area also are received from the City of Perth and the business community. They will contribute a total of \$54 500 in 1978-79. It is anticipated that town authorities will be supported by their local business communities in developing displays in country towns. Eleven towns will qualify for the grant.

In looking at the increase, members must remember that the allocation is partly for the city and partly for the country.

Item No. 121: Halls Creek Shire Council—Russian Jack Statue, \$16 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: The last time I raised the matter of poor old Russian Jack we had quite a light discussion about the history and the background of this matter. Russian Jack was evidently a personality in his own right in the early days of this State.

I note that Russian Jack is not yet standing on his plinth. Although there was an allocation last year, none of that money was spent. The sum has now been increased to \$16 000.

Can the Treasurer advise me how the statue is going, and why there is an allocation of an additional \$4 000?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Russian Jack is going along nicely. I cannot tell the honourable member exactly when he is to be installed *in situ* at Halls Creek; but he will be. I understand it will be a very desirable portrayal of Russian Jack and his barrow. "The man and the barrow" is the title to be used, I believe. I could not be precise about the actual time; but following the calling of tenders and the acceptance of a sculptor to do the job, this is the extra provision to cover the cost. In other words, inflation has caught up with Russian Jack!

Item No. 125: Senior Citizens' Centres—Maintenance Grants, \$54 000—

Mr DAVIES: I am fairly closely associated with these centres and I have never been able to get my hands on that kind of money. I am wondering in what circumstances it is paid out. There are subsidies, but they are paid by the Public Health Department for various pieces of equipment and furnishings for homes and centres. As far as my committee is concerned, we have had to meet almost the whole of the maintenance cost of the centres out of our own finances. However, four maintenance grants for senior citizens' centres totalling \$54 000 have been made available to local authorities throughout the State. I am wondering how it is allocated and the conditions one must meet to get one's hands on a little of the money.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We must take items 125 and 126 together. The provision is based on the estimated claims from centres eligible for the subsidy. Government assistance is available towards the operating deficiencies of senior citizens' centres. This assistance is extended also to the City of Stirling for a central kitchen which supplies meals to the centres operated by the city. The upper limit of the grant was increased from \$1 500 to \$2 000 in 1976-77.

Item No. 177: Pensioners' Travel Concessions—Reimbursements to Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust, \$2 423 000—

Mr HODGE: I would like the Premier to explain why the amount for reimbursements for pensioners' travel appears to have been reduced this year. I noticed last year all the money was used except for approximately \$300; but this year there is a substantial reduction.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The lower provision makes allowance for a reduction in the number of pensioners using public transport following fare increases from the 16th July, 1978. As fares paid by pensioners were increased by the same amount as the general fare increase—5c—the cost of the concession in 1978-79 should have been about the same as expenditure in 1977-78. However, a drop in patronage and hence a reduced number on which the concession is calculated is expected following the fare increase.

I might add that this is a figure that is worked out between the various instrumentalities which are responsible for transport and those which have to provide the funds. In other words, the medium through which the transport is provided has to be reimbursed and as a result of this the financial adjustments are necessary. The Treasury has

agreed on a figure with the MTT which is the figure which is recorded in the Budget. It just so happens the figure is \$230 000 less than last year. A certain degree of estimating is involved in arriving at the figure, but the Treasury and the MTT have arrived at it between themselves.

Item No. 180: Rail Freight—Rebate on Flour, \$10 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I rise merely to ask a question not so much in regard to the actual amount, but to inquire as to why the rebate on flour was granted in the first place.

Sir CHARLES COURT: In answer to the honourable member, provision has been made for the expected tonnages of wheat consigned for conversion to flour for export. It is a long-standing arrangement to encourage this particular type of traffic. This item provides for a rebate on freight where wheat is consigned to a flour mill for conversion into flour and the flour sent to a port.

Local flour millers are thus able to compete with their counterparts in other States to get a similar concession. In addition, country flour mills are entitled also to a 10 per cent concession on the normal freight rate which is paid to encourage decentralisation of industry.

Item No. 181: Railways—Recoup of Operating Loss on Re-opened Lines, \$352 000—

Mr McPHARLIN: I should like the Premier, if he will, to give us some information as to which particular railway lines this refers to.

Sir CHARLES COURT: This goes back a long way. The lower provision reflects mainly reduced cyclical maintenance of railway track on the Lake Grace-Hyden line and a reduced harvest on the Burakin-Bonnie Rock line resulting in marginal operating costs.

The Lake Grace-Hyden and Burakin-Bonnie Rock railway services were reopened on a seasonal basis in 1960. The Katanning-Nyabing section was reopened in 1961 on a similar basis. The condition of reopening the lines was that the costs involved should not be a burden on railway finances and any loss incurred was to be recouped to the undertaking.

This item provides for the actual loss incurred by the railways on these lines in 1977-78.

Item No. 185: School Children's Fare Concessions—Reimbursements to Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust, \$578 000—

Mr HODGE: I should like to ask a similar question to the one I asked the Treasurer previously. I should like to know why the estimate for the reimbursement of the MTT for school

children's fare concessions has been reduced so substantially. It seems to be a fairly major cut and I cannot see how there can be such a decrease in the numbers of school children travelling or using the MTT.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member will appreciate that in arriving at the amount of reimbursement the Treasury had regard for the amount of revenue that is earned by the transporting authority, because of the fares that are imposed. My understanding is that in respect of the pensioners' and school children's concession the decrease in the reimbursement to the authority, namely the MTT, is a reflection of the extra revenue obtained.

The MTT, of course, cannot get it both ways. It cannot get the fare and the reimbursement. So, as in the case of pensioners, it is a reflection of the accounting which has been worked out between the MTT and Treasury.

Mr Hodge: Have the fares for school children gone up?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I shall read the minute in full. It reads as follows—

The lower provision is due to the increase of 5c in students fares from the 16th July, 1978. Prior to the fare increase, the Government recouped the trust the difference between the school children's concession fare of 10c and the upper limit of half fares of 20c; that is, 10c per journey. As the upper limit was not changed in the review of fare and the new students fare is now 15c, the Government recoup has been reduced from 10c to 5c a fare—a reduction of 50 per cent in the concession.

In other words, it is an accounting adjustment as in the case of pensioners.

Item No. 189: Acquisition of Land, \$1 850 000—

Mr DAVIES: The amount allocated has dropped fairly dramatically from \$3.5 million to \$1.85 million. This I presume is some of the money which is used by the Suburban Lands Trust for buying land for future development and for development almost immediately, for sale and return to the public. It has been on a subsidised basis from the Commonwealth, from memory.

Am I right in assuming the reduction this year is related to the fact that a lesser amount of money is being made available by the Commonwealth Government and, therefore, it does not

have to be matched in the manner in which it had to be matched in the past? Does it mean the activities of the trust are running down, or what is the explanation for it?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The breakup of the amount which explains why the acquisition of land costs are being budgeted at \$1.85 million is a very lengthy and detailed summary. If the honourable member is so inclined, I will be only too pleased to table a summary of it at an appropriate time so that the whole of the acquisitions can be made known. It would take me a long time to read the whole of the minute.

Mr Davies: Would you like to send me a copy of it?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will have it paraphrased and sent to the Leader of the Opposition.

Item No. 190: Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations, \$25 000—

Mr HODGE: I was wondering whether the Premier could explain to me who or what the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations is? I admit freely I do not know and it spent a reasonable amount of money last year. It has been allocated another \$25 000. I should like to know who are the members of the council, what they do, and on what they spend the money.

Sir CHARLES COURT: This is a body which has been set up with its headquarters in Hobart. I think this was part of a decentralisation scheme at the Federal level.

Mr Skidmore: It is pretty well decentralised.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Provision has been made to meet the State's contribution and expenses of delegates attending meetings of the council during 1978-79.

The successful operation of our system of Federal Government demands the fullest co-operation and co-ordination of activities between spheres of government.

To pursue this aim an Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations has been established to bring together representatives of the Federal, State and local governments and private citizens for the consideration of common problems.

In accordance with the agreed cost-sharing arrangement this item provides for a State contribution of \$17 000 towards administration costs and \$8 000 for fares and accommodation of State delegates.

Mr Jamieson: It sounds like a mini Constitutional Convention.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I might add this matter has been under scrutiny from the Premiers' Conference, because all the States of the Commonwealth are involved. In theory, of course, it was intended to bring together not only Commonwealth, State, and local government, but input from the community was expected also.

Members will appreciate when we try to give practical application to such a concept it is not as easy as it sounds. At the moment I will have to wait before I pass judgment on the work of the organisation, because we have not yet been able to see the results of its work. Reports on its work have been received at Premiers' Conferences, but to date we have not reached a stage where we can make an evaluation of whether the exercise is successful. Needless to say Tasmania supports it and believes it is a very good body, because it meets in Hobart.

Mr Hodge: Who are the representatives on the council?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am not sure about that. I could give the honourable member the names of the representatives.

Mr Hodge: They are not members of Parliament, are they? They are public servants.

Sir CHARLES COURT: They could be either members of Parliament, public servants, or they could be civilians from outside the Public Service. An annual report has been tabled, if not in this Parliament in the Federal Parliament. I believe it has been tabled here. I suggest the member for Melville should have a look at that report and if he has any further queries he should let me know.

Item No. 193: Ex Gratia Payments, \$50 000—

Mr JAMIESON: The Premier is usually good enough to make available to the Leader of the Opposition the details of these *ex gratia* payments. I do not want them to be publicised. I simply want an idea of what they involve. Could we be given that information this year?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I shall be only too pleased to send a list to the Leader of the Opposition, as is customary.

Item No. 194: Forest Pest and Diseases Committee, \$4 500—

Mr SKIDMORE: In 1977-78 the Forest Pest and Diseases Committee received a budget allowance of \$5 000 but spent only \$4 967. The figure is to be reduced this year to \$4 500.

I would have thought that this committee, which is so active and obviously doing such a good job, would have been granted more, bearing in mind the need for the community to understand the investigations carried out into forest pests and diseases. Perhaps the committee is running contrary to other committees looking into dieback and other diseases. Can the Premier tell me a little more about it?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The provision under this item is required to meet the State's share of a national works programme for 1978-79. It is based on the recommendations of the Forest Pest and Diseases Committee which had its inaugural meeting on the 4th April, 1978.

The Forest Pest and Diseases Committee was formerly known as the National Sirex Committee and is run and administered in the same manner as under the former title.

In 1962 a meeting of Commonwealth and State representatives decided to set up machinery for the eradication of the sirex wasp. The cost of the committee's work programme is borne by the fund which is financed by contributions from each State, some private contributions and a matching Commonwealth contribution.

In other words, the allocation is not now confined to the original concept of eradicating the sirex wasp.

Item No. 195: Gold Stealing Detection—Contribution to Chamber of Mines, \$30 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I am intrigued to note that the Budget allowance for 1977-78 was \$160, and the expenditure was only \$153. The funds to be made available for gold stealing detection have all of a sudden gone up to \$30 000. There is only one mine of note producing gold, and that is at Telfer. Is a road block to be placed on the road to Telfer by the gold stealing staff? I would like to know why we should contribute to the Chamber of Mines for gold stealing detection.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I think the honourable member will realise, as I read the minute to him, that it is not quite what it sounds. When dealing with the Government, we have an extraordinary situation. For instance, those who have been Ministers will have had the harrowing experience of going to Executive Council to authorise write-offs of deficiencies in stock. They sometimes run into quite large sums, but usually at the bottom of the minute there are surpluses which, quite often, are larger or comparable with the write-offs. There is a balance between losses and profits. It is rather like the Army.

Mr Jamieson: Except they used to have a fire more regularly in the Army; that is the difference!

Sir CHARLES COURT: One thing about the Army, one was careful not to have a surplus because there was a system for deficiencies but no system for surpluses. My note states that this contribution is determined by the recoveries of gold made in the preceding year. During 1977-78 the Chamber of Mines spent \$59 032 in order to maintain its detection staff who recovered stolen gold which realised \$51 279.

The Chamber of Mines meets the full cost of maintaining the Police Gold Stealing Detection Branch. Stolen gold, when recovered, can rarely be traced back to a particular mine and the proceeds from the sale of this gold are therefore paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

To the 30th June, 1975, proceeds of the sale of gold up to \$6 000 and half the additional proceeds up to a further \$6 000 were returned in the following year to the Chamber of Mines in consideration of its expenditure on gold stealing detection.

For the period the 1st July, 1976, to the 30th June, 1978, the proceeds of confiscated gold were paid to the Chamber of Mines up to the cost of maintaining the detection staff, with the maximum payment being \$25 000 in any one financial year.

On the 1st July, 1978, the basis for determining the contributions payable to the Chamber of Mines was altered to take the following form—

- (a) The payment to the chamber in 1978-79 in respect of 1977-78 proceeds to be increased to \$30 000.
- (b) Commencing the 1st July, 1978, the proceeds of stolen gold, up to the cost of maintaining detection staff, be paid to the Chamber of Mines. Such payments to be made prior to the 30th June in each year so that payments will be offset by revenue receipts.

No provision has been made for contribution to the Chamber of Mines based on 1978-79 receipts, as any payments made during 1978-79 will be offset by revenue collections.

So, next year perhaps we will read the next exciting episode!

Mr JAMIESON: Is it only in the Kalgoorlie locality that the Chamber of Mines operates? My colleague mentioned Telfer. Is it just a matter of "cops and robbers"? We have heard about people attempting to steal considerable amounts

of gold, but the security at Telfer is well organised. Telfer is in an area to which most members of Parliament do not have ready access, and we hear only tales about it.

I am wondering whether the gold detection takes place throughout the whole of the State, or is it concentrated in the eastern goldfields?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I could not confidently answer the question. I will certainly find out for the honourable member whether or not the detection is peculiar to the eastern goldfields or whether it extends to new finds outside that area.

Item No. 199: Housing Research Information Centre, \$25 000—

Mr JAMIESON: This appears to be a new department. Private enterprise groups seem to conduct these types of centres. The housing industry has a centre at the end of Parliament Place, and information is available on various types of building materials. Why should the Government step in and set up a research information centre in addition to what is already available?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The financial assistance to this centre was previously provided through the State Housing Commission, and that is the reason it has not been apparent in the Budget. It is not something new, but it is a new item under "Miscellaneous Services". My minute states that in accordance with Government policy it was agreed to provide financial and other assistance to the Housing Research Information Centre in 1978-79.

Financial assistance to the centre was previously provided through State Housing Commission funds and it was agreed in view of the nature of the service provided by the centre to relieve the commission of this commitment.

The centre is available to all industry and consumers to advise on architectural, legal, technical and financial matters relating to the housing industry. At present the centre is located at the university and an alternative site in the city is being sought.

This item provides for a grant of \$25 000 towards the centre's annual budget of \$39 000 to help finance the cost of salaries and other administration costs.

As the centre provides a service to both consumers and the housing industry in general it is felt that support should also be sought from industry itself in future years. It is considered also that fees for services should be adopted in order to become self-supporting.

In other words, now that this assistance will no longer be provided by State Housing Commission funding, it becomes a new item in the Budget. We will finance part of the costs. We believe industry should pay more, and a service fee will be charged so that the centre can be self-supporting.

Item No. 217: Telephone and Telex Charges—Central Government Buildings, \$215 000—

Mr JAMIESON: I realise that most Government telexes are concentrated in the Central Government Buildings. Much of the time of the staff of the Leader of the Opposition is taken up in dispersing public relations information. Undoubtedly, the same would apply to the Premier's staff if it did not have access to telex. I think we have reached the stage where this type of modern technology should be available to the Leader of the Opposition. I believe the service is used mainly in the activities of the Premier's publicity and public relations section. There is also a day-to-day record of telegrams and telexes. Most organisations seem to have access to this type of equipment. I know the unions find it necessary to have that access. They keep a record of all telegrams and telexes received and despatched.

I wonder whether in future allowances the Premier can make the telephone and telex system in the Central Government Buildings available to the office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will refer the matter to both the under secretary and the Chairman of the Public Service Board for study. I think they are the appropriate people. I could not be precise, but it has occurred to me there has been some reference in recent times. I will have the matter examined.

Members will realise that the estimate is not only for the Central Government Buildings; all Government buildings are involved. The traffic is very heavy, especially with regard to Loan Council matters. The information comes in by the mile, and much of it is on a coded basis. I will certainly have the matter examined.

Vote put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bayswater Shire: Town Planning Scheme 17

2208. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In respect of the Bayswater Shire town planning scheme 17, did Mr Watson or any other person from the Local Government Department interview Mr Arthur Marshall, auctioneer, or his son, Robert John Marshall?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What was the nature of charges made against a person named Marshall by the Police fraud section in connection with town planning scheme 17?
- (4) Did the Local Government Department initiate this action?
- (5) What was the result of the charges against Marshall?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (5) The member is referred to the answer to question 2087 on the 25th October, 1978.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: BAYSWATER SHIRE COUNCIL

Land Deals

2209. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of the sale of lot 431 by the Bayswater Shire Council, is it not common practice among local government authorities to accept that once approval of zoning from the Town Planning Department and Taxation Department valuation are obtained then the site is approved for sale?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The member is referred to the answer to question 2087 on the 25th October, 1978.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bayswater Shire Council: Motor Vehicles Sale

2210. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) When did the Bayswater Shire Council first dispose of motor vehicles in the manner described by Mr Watson?

- (2) (a) Did the Local Government audit inspectors adversely comment on this method of sale;
(b) if so, when?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The member is referred to the answer to question 2087 on the 25th October, 1978.

TRANSPORT: BUS

MTT: Annual and Long Service Leave

2211. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

Does the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust have any record of the amount of annual and long service leave which has accrued but not been taken by its staff?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Yes. As at the 30th June, 1978, the figures were:—

accrued annual leave—\$2 096 536
accrued long service leave—
\$2 267 772

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Climate

2212. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it his Government's objective to create a climate which will allow private enterprise to operate successfully at all levels?
(2) (a) Is his Government satisfied with its efforts in creating this climate;
(b) if "No" why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) This is not only the objective of the Government but was also successfully achieved in considerable degree by the same political parties and philosophies during the 1959-71 period in office, and is also responsible for the State being poised to proceed into another important era of development in spite of the setbacks received due to the policies of the Labor centralist and socialist Government in Canberra in 1972-75.

Mr Jamieson: One thing it will never die—it will live on forever.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Mt. Hawthorn serves these questions up to me; we have a deal on.

Mr Jamieson: Nobody ever remembers the McMahon Government now.

Sir CHARLES COURT: To continue—

- (2) (a) and (b) We are always striving to do better, no matter what successes might be achieved.

POLICE

Warrants to Search and Seize

2213. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it the Government's policy to restrict the lawful right of the police to obtain warrants to search and to seize things?
(2) If "Yes" in what circumstances?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no move to restrict the ultimate right of police to search for documents. Administrative arrangements have recently been made to impose some safeguards on the execution of search warrants in relation to documents in respect of which legal professional privilege is claimed.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Applications for Assistance

2214. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Does the Legal Aid Commission keep any records as to the number of applications for legal aid that are received and rejected?
(2) (a) If "Yes" will the Minister supply these details for the period since the commission commenced business;
(b) if "No" why?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) The Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia has supplied the following information:—

From the 17th April to the 30th September, 1978—

5 579 applications were received.

3 690 applications were assigned,

1 327 applications were rejected.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Funding

2215. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What action, if any, has he taken and when to obtain a possibly more satisfactory allocation of funds for legal aid from the Federal Government?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia is an independent statutory body and the State Government would not be involved unless it were requested to do so by the commission.

No such request has been received.

I am informed, however, that the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia has been in contact with the Commonwealth commission on the subject of funds.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

South African Government's Policy

2216. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question 1914 of 1978:

- (1) Will he give particulars of the progress the political leaders in South Africa have made and to which he referred in his said answer?
- (2) Will he give particulars of what his Government believes the South African leaders should be reminded of when he said "much more has yet to be achieved"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I do not think it is appropriate to attempt to set out in detail in the answer to a question in Parliament all of the considerable progress made by the political leaders in South Africa.

Suffice to say if the member had personal knowledge of South Africa over the last 10 or 15 years, he would be able to see the steps that have been taken to respond to world opinion in respect of the relationship between the different racial groups in South Africa.

- (2) The answer to this part of the question flows on logically from the answers given to question 1914 and the answer given to (1) above.

Mr Jamieson: It is funny how different people can get different impressions.

MAGISTRATE

Albany

2217. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Further to his reply to my question without notice on 12th October, 1978 touching on the warrant issued to search for and seize certain papers from an Albany magistrate, in precisely what office of what building were the said papers situated—

- (a) when the said warrant was obtained;
- (b) when the said warrant was executed?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

A search warrant was not issued to seize court documents from the Albany magistrate. It was issued in regard to court records held by the person in custody and control of the records, the Clerk of Courts at the Albany Court House Building, Stirling Terrace, Albany.

- (a) and (b) The private office of the Clerk of Courts, Mr Holmes.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Correspondence with Russian Ambassador

2218. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) What follow up action has he taken and when following upon the receipt by him of the letter dated 7th August, 1978 from the Charge d'Affairs a.i. of the Embassy of the USSR?
- (2) If none, why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) From the attitude of the Embassy of the USSR, as expressed in their 7th August, 1978 letter, and the general attitude of the USSR in these matters, there is no obvious immediate action which can be taken by the State Government but we will certainly not lose any opportunity to make our point in appropriate USSR circles.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Correspondence with Russian Ambassador

2219. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question 2126 of 1978, since he says that the international covenant makes no assertion of numerical equality—what form of equality does he understand by the expression "equal suffrage" which occurs in article 25 (b) of the said covenant?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The member is referred to the first sentence of article 25 which has an express qualification of paragraph (b) of that article.

The expression "equal suffrage" in paragraph (b) is expressly made subject to not unreasonable restrictions. That is the form of equality which is embodied in the international covenant, and there is no assertion of numerical equality to be found there.

ELECTORAL ACT AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Amendment

2220. Mr BERTRAM, to the Chief Secretary:

When does he next expect to introduce amendments to the

- (a) Electoral Act;
- (b) Electoral Districts Act?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (a) and (b) When necessary.

ABORIGINES

Voting Equality

2221. Mr BERTRAM, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it a fact that thousands of Aborigines in Western Australia who wish to be treated equally with white Western Australians currently have a vote in State elections worth more than 16 times the value of the vote of an elector enrolled for the districts of—

- (a) Scarborough;
- (b) Karrinyup;
- (c) Whitford;
- (d) Balcatta;
- (e) Mount Hawthorn?

- (2) If "Yes" what action does he propose to take to correct this situation, and when?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

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

MINING

Iron Ore: Mt. Newman Mining Ltd.

2222. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it a fact that Mt Newman Mining Ltd. is in the process of transferring a large number of its city staff to the north-west?

- (2) If "Yes" how many persons are involved in this transfer and how much notice is being given to the staff?

- (3) (a) Are such staff as opting not to transfer to the north-west being treated as redundant; and

- (b) if so, on what terms?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Between 100 and 110.

Staff were all advised of a move in September 1978 and individual discussions completed in October 1978.

People are to move progressively from December 1978 to April 1979 taking into account individual needs.

- (3) (a) There will be a significant number of staff retained in Perth. However, some redundancy will occur.
- (b) Redundant staff will have a minimum of 3 months notice. Other terms are not yet finalised.

EDUCATION

School Terms and Holidays for 1979

2223. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the school commencing and closing dates for 1979?
- (2) What school holidays will occur during 1979?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Teachers commence on Thursday, 1st February, 1979. Children commence on Monday, 5th February, 1979. Schools close on Wednesday, 19th December, 1979.

- (2) 5th March Labour Day
13th April Good Friday
16th April Easter Monday
17th April Easter Tuesday
25th April Anzac Day
Monday, 14th May to Friday, 25th May
4th June Foundation Day
Monday, 27th August to Friday, 7th September
8th October Queen's Birthday.

TRAFFIC

Narrows Bridge

2224. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it not a fact that in peak traffic periods, traffic is banking up because of congestion on the Narrows Bridge?
- (2) How much longer will the Narrows Bridge be able to cope with the traffic requiring to cross it?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Some congestion at peak traffic periods does occur at the Narrows Bridge.
- (2) It is anticipated that the Narrows Bridge will cope with the cross river traffic for the foreseeable future.

TRAFFIC

Main Street

2225. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much longer will it be before the necessary work will be done and equipment installed so as to allow traffic in Main Street, Osborne Park, to travel directly into Brady Street and thence on to the Mitchell Freeway?
- (2) What is the reason—if any—for this delay?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) As part of the freeway extension plans, a modification to the intersection of Main and Brady Streets was agreed to in 1970 by the MRPA, Main Roads Department, City of Stirling and City of Perth. Following detailed plans being prepared in early 1977, the City of Perth alone raised objections. Agreement on the proposal has not yet been reached.

ELECTORAL

Enrolments

2226. Mr BERTRAM, to the Chief Secretary: How many electors are currently enrolled for each of the following electorates:

- (a) Mount Hawthorn;
- (b) Balcatta;
- (c) Whitford;
- (d) Karrinyup;
- (e) Scarborough?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

The figures as at the 30th October, 1978, are—

- (a) 16 511
- (b) 18 276
- (c) 24 215
- (d) 17 596
- (e) 15 096

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Loan Polls: Validity of Votes

2227. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

Can she elucidate on the validity of a vote cast in a loan poll if a voter has only marked one square with the numeral "1" and left the other square blank?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The term "validity" in the question appears to relate to a question of law.

However, marking a ballot paper in the manner described is in conformity with the instructions contained in the twenty-sixth schedule of the Local Government Act and with sections 121(2) and 127(3).

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Child Care Centres

2228. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What is the total number of child care centres in Western Australia registered with the Department of Community Welfare?
- (2) Of this number how many are privately and publicly owned?
- (3) What fees do privately and publicly owned child care centres charge?
- (4) What cost to the State are these centres?
- (5) For how many children do both types of centres cater?
- (6) How many of these children come from single parent families?
- (7) How many of these children are from two parent families with both husband and wife working?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 304.
- (2) Privately owned day care and occasional care centres—73
Publicly owned day care and occasional care centres—40

Family care centres—191

"Publicly owned" child care centres may be run and supported by such bodies as local authorities, community based committees and church groups.

- (3) The department has no control over fee-setting.

Figures from a census taken by the department in August, 1978 are at present being processed by the Bureau of Statistics. An initial estimate of fees indicates that the range for weekly full-time care is \$15-\$45.

- (4) These centres are no cost to the State Government apart from two centres where the salary costs are borne by the Department of Labour and Industry (State Immigration Office) and the Mental Health Services (Community Development Centre).
- (5) 3 905.
- (6) and (7) No figures available as this information is not collected by the Department for Community Welfare.

HEALTH

Slimming Centres

2229. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

Because of the possibly serious effect to health caused by excessive dieting on the advice of unqualified people selling dietary business, will he advise:

- (1) Does his department ensure weight control centres such as the one advertised on page 8 of Tuesday's *The West Australian* 31st October, 1978, are registered?
- (2) If "Yes" with whom?
- (3) Is it a fact that people accepting dietary advice from such businesses must sign a contract regarding monetary payments etc.?
- (4) If answer to (1) and (3) is "Yes" will he investigate these types of selling agencies to prove their *bona fides*?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) If this is a fact then it is a commercial contract between the client and the organisation only. If any

individual subsequently feels aggrieved in relation to misrepresentation, harshness or unconscionable terms, he or she has the right to approach the Bureau of Consumer Affairs for advice or an investigation on the matter of complaint.

- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) There have been no complaints about centres of this type. The Government, however, has been concerned about unqualified persons giving advice on dieting and is considering introducing legislation to register dietitians.

LANDS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENTS

Professional Staff

2230. Mr BRYCE, to the Acting Minister for Lands and Forests:

- (1) How many professional staff are employed by:
- (a) the Lands Department; and
- (b) the Forests Department?
- (2) What has been the resignation rate of these professional officers over the last three years?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) 246
- (b) 95
- (2)
- | | Lands | Forests |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| 1976 | 8 | Nil |
| 1977 | 5 | 3 |
| 1978 to 10th October | Nil | 3 |

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Professional Staff

2231. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many professional staff are employed by the Public Works Department?
- (2) What has been the resignation rate of these professional officers over the last three years?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 718.
- (2) 1975-76 30
- 1976-77 32
- 1977-78 27

TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Professional Staff

2232. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) How many professional staff are employed by the Town Planning Department?
- (2) What has been the resignation rate of these professional officers over the last three years?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) 1978—43 + 2 contract—planning officers
14 planning assistants
15 draftsmen
- (2) 1976—4 planning officers; 3 planning assistants; 1 draftsman
1977—4 planning officers; 2 planning assistants; 2 draftsmen
1978—6 planning officers; 3 planning assistants; 2 draftsmen.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Belmont: Renovations

2233. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has money been allocated for repairs and renovations at the Belmont Senior High School?
- (2) In the light of his undertaking to the parent action group and the staff buildings committee of the Belmont Senior High School on 21st September, 1978 to "rebuild the Belmont Senior High School", is it intended to proceed with routine repairs and renovations?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Limited funds will be provided this financial year for the more urgent repairs only, not for renovation. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were here, I would tell him the reason for the reduction. As he is aware, due to the programme we have entered into to rebuild part of the school over a period, there will not be the need for such extensive repairs and renovations.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Belmont: Sewerage

2234. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

Has money been allocated this financial year to connect Belmont Senior High School to the district sewerage scheme; if so—

- (a) when will work commence; and
- (b) in the light of the decision to re-design and rebuilt the school, will the connection be made only to the school gymnasium at this stage?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (a) and (b) No.

MINING: IRON ORE

Projects in Pilbara

2235. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Does the State Government have an estimate of—

- (a) the cost to the State Government for infrastructure purposes associated with the four iron ore projects in the Pilbara; and
- (b) the cost to the companies concerned for infrastructure purposes associated with the four iron ore projects in the Pilbara?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) and (b) The information requested is being collated and I shall advise the member when it is available.

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Professional Staff

2236. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many professional staff are employed by the Main Roads Department?
- (2) What has been the resignation rate of these professional officers over the last three years?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) 309
- (2) 6.8 per cent per annum.

GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY
OFFICERS

Salaries

2237. Mr JAMIESON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What are the comparative current rates per annum of salary for the following Government officers or their equivalent where applicable in each of the Australian States:

Chief Executive Officer, Road Traffic Authority;

Commissioner of State Taxation;

Deputy Under Treasurer;

Director of Administration, Medical and Health Services;

General Manager, Metropolitan Water Board;

General Manager, State Government Insurance Office;

General Manager, State Housing Commission;

Surveyor General, Department of Lands and Surveys;

Under Secretary for Labour and Industry;

Under Secretary for Lands;

Under Secretary for Law;

Under Secretary for Mines;

Under Secretary for Works;

Under Secretary, Premier's Department;

Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water Board;

Town Planning Commissioner;

Crown Solicitor, Crown Law Department;

Director, Department for Community Welfare;

Parliamentary Counsel, Crown Law Department;

Principal Architect, Public Works Department;

Commissioner of Public Health and Medical Services;

Co-ordinator of Industrial Development;

Director General, Education Department;

Director, Mental Health Services;

Director of Agriculture;

Director of Engineering, Public Works Department;

Under Treasurer;

Administrator, Royal Perth Hospital;

Chairman, Rural Housing Authority;
Chief Executive Officer, W.A. Meat Commission;

Deputy Chairman, Public Service Board;
Commissioner, Public Service Board;

Assistant Commissioners (2 positions)
Main Roads Department;

Assistant Commissioners (2 positions)
State Energy Commission;

General Manager, Fremantle Port Authority;

General Manager, Totalisator Agency Board;

General Manager, W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission;

Public Service Arbitrator;

State Librarian, Library Board of W.A.;

Director of Environmental Protection;

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations;

Commissioner of Police;

Auditor General;

Chief Industrial Commissioner, W.A. Industrial Commission;

Chairman, Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust;

Chairman, Public Service Board;

Chairman of Commissioners, Rural and Industries Bank;

Commissioner of Main Roads;

Commissioner, State Energy Commission;

Conservator of Forests;

Director General of Transport;

Commissioner of Railways;

Stipendiary Magistrate—

First year

Second year

Third year

Fourth year

Fifth year

Senior Stipendiary Magistrate;

Deputy Chief Stipendiary Magistrate;

Chief Stipendiary Magistrate?

- (2) What are the comparative current rates per annum of salary for the following Parliamentary officers where applicable in each of the Australian State Parliaments:

(a) Clerk of the Legislative Council;

(b) Clerk of the Legislative Assembly;

(c) Chief Hansard Reporter?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) In view of the fact that there are acknowledged statutory bodies and tribunals which consider the remuneration of the people covered by item (1) of the member's question I do not think it is reasonable to expect the State Government to make inquiries in all Australian States, as requested by the member.

Either the individuals themselves or the organisations to which they belong can make their representations to ensure that they receive proper consideration and the State Government has been prepared to abide by the present methods of fixing remuneration in this State.

- (2) I will endeavour to seek this information, including the authority in each State responsible for fixing remuneration of these officers.

WATER SUPPLIES

Meter Readings

2238. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the number of meters that must be read by the Metropolitan Water Board in order to determine the volume of water consumed by each residential property for which the consumption year commenced between 15th January, 1978 and 30th June, 1978?
- (2) How many meters identified in (1) are read bi-annually?
- (3) How many of the first bi-annual meter readings, i.e., the reading which shows the volume of water consumed in approximately the first six months, for residential properties identified in (2) has the Metropolitan Water Board—
- (a) completed;
- (b) not completed?
- (4) In what suburbs are the residential properties identified in (1)?
- (5) How many of the meter readings for the residential properties identified in 3 (a) correspond approximately to the period—
- (a) January-June 1978;
- (b) February-July 1978;
- (c) March-August 1978;

(d) April-September 1978;

(e) May-October 1978;

(f) June-November 1978?

- (6) Further to question (5), how many of the meter readings corresponding approximately to the period—

(a) January-June, exceeded 75 kilolitres;

(b) February-July, exceeded 62.5 kilolitres;

(c) March-August, exceeded 50.0 kilolitres;

(d) April-September, exceeded 37.5 kilolitres;

(e) May-October, exceeded 25 kilolitres;

(f) June-November, exceeded 12.4 kilolitres?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) 242 370 as at 30th June, 1978.

(2) All.

(3) (a) 181 320 to 31st October, 1978.

(b) 61 050.

(4) All suburbs within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage area.

(5) (a) 7 527.

(b) 47 053.

(c) 52 508.

(d) 43 196.

(e) 31 036.

(f) 61 050.

(6) The board's records are not kept in a form which would make an answer readily available.

ENERGY

Solar: Home Use

2239. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What would be the extra capital costs incurred with the incorporating of various solar collection devices and insulation to supply all heating and cooling requirements for—

(a) a new home;

(b) an existing home?

(2) What would be the annual savings in—

(a) energy expressed as kilowatt hours;

(b) in money terms,

for a home so equipped?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The capital cost of solar heating/cooling systems depends on many factors including:

Size and design of home.

Climatic conditions.

Type of system adopted.

Required comfort level.

Costs in Western Australia are estimated to be between \$3 000 and \$15 000 depending on the factors listed.

- (2) Annual savings are also dependent on the factors listed in (1) above, and are heavily influenced by the usage pattern of the householder. A well designed installation would be capable of providing up to 75 per cent of the energy requirements through the solar system.

Work is currently in hand to investigate the various aspects of solar airconditioning, including several projects financed by grants from the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia.

FISHERIES

Licences

2240. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) What are the qualifications concerning professional river fishing licences?
 (2) How many such licences exist?
 (3) (a) Who are the holders of these licences; and
 (b) when were the licences issued?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Licences to fish in the Swan/Canning estuarine fishery are restricted to those fishermen that were licensed at 1st July, 1977.
 (2) 29.
 (3) (a) holders of licenses:—

G. Fooks

Mr Scook

H. Woods

Mr Bathgate

L. Marriot

P. F. Smith

H. Harris

J. W. Mountain

O. Bennett

R. Pierce

S. J. Holden

W. V. Winter

W. F. Gill

V. Martin

W. F. Phillips

J. Munro

R. Smith

A. Kenworthy

L. Babich

R. Bales

B. Cook

R. J. Sewell

A. Madalini

H. Smith

N. Carter

D. McKenzie

H. G. Simpson

D. Thomas

L. A. Edwards

- (b) date licence issued:—

28th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

28th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

19th Jan. 1978

4th Jan. 1978

8th Jan. 1978

9th Jan. 1978

12th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

17th Aug. 1978

21st Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

4th Jan. 1978

11th Jan. 1978

30th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

2nd Jan. 1978

24th Jan. 1978

5th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

19th Jan. 1978

13th Jan. 1978

11th Jan. 1978

20th Jan. 1978

24th Jan. 1978

26th Jan. 1978

14th Sept. 1978

29th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

29th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

16th March 1978

16th Dec. 1977 (for 1978)

24th April 1978

9th Jan. 1978

27th April 1978

2241. *This question was postponed.*

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Public Works Department

2242. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

In view of the statement by the Minister for Labour and Industry in answer to question 2105 of 1978, that he is not in a position to say whether there are any further anticipated retrenchments in the Public Works Department or any other Government department, can he, as Leader of the Government, offer any information about possible further retrenchments?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The member must appreciate that there is movement taking place all the time in the type of projects and the type of workforce that is involved in public works projects, and the projects of other Government departments and instrumentalities.

Also, when he is talking about the Government employment he has to realise that the employment is substantially in two forms—that covered by the Consolidated Revenue Budget and that covered by the Capital Works Budget.

Whilst there has been tight control on the employment of staff, etc. covered by the Consolidated Revenue Budget, there has not been any overall cut-back nor is any planned in the total employment factors within that Budget.

However, on the Capital Works side, it is a different matter and this will vary from time to time according to the nature and the state of completion, etc. of projects.

So far as Government and semi-Government instrumentalities are concerned, the position is no different from ordinary employers where there are seasonal and other ebbs and flows of the workforce, and it is impossible to be precise about the position at any one time, or in the foreseeable future.

HOUSING

Interest Deductibility Scheme and Home Savings Grants

2243. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

In the light of his protests to the Federal Government over many matters and in the light of the crisis in the Western Australian home-building industry and the difficulties many young people are experiencing in getting homes of their own—

(1) Has he protested to the Federal Government over its decisions to end the tax deductibility of home loan interest payments and to impose a delay of up to a year on the payment of home savings grants?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) If not, will he do so?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) I refer the member to my reply to question 1439. As I said on that occasion, I have spoken personally to the Prime Minister on these matters on several occasions. However, it must be understood that the Commonwealth Government is responsible for its own budgetary strategy and that this must be viewed against its overall economic policy objectives of reducing inflation and lowering interest rates.

MINING: BAUXITE

Alcoa: Regeneration Programme

2244. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Acting Minister for Lands:

With respect to areas which will be mined to provide bauxite for the Wagerup alumina refinery and which will subsequently be subject to attempts at reafforestation, will she give consideration to naming these areas the Sir Charles Court National Park so that future generations may correctly identify the Premier's contribution to their heritage?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I shall give this question the consideration that it deserves.

HEALTH

Sunglasses

2245. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

As the answer to question 2144 of 31st October 1978 indicates that the local college of ophthalmologists is of the opinion that some sunglasses are not as efficient in the reduction of glare as indicated in advertisements and that therefore there seems to be a *prima facie* case for misleading advertising, will he investigate such advertisements with a view to taking any action that may be warranted?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Yes.

DAIRYING: MILK

Skim Milk Powder

2246. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is any Government agency responsible for prices of skim milk powder?
- (2) If so, who?
- (3) What was the cost of skim milk powder per ton at August 1977 and August 1978?
- (4) What are the reasons for any increases between those periods?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Australian Dairy Corporation.
- (3) \$493 and \$540 per tonne respectively.
- (4) The major factors believed to have influenced the corporation to increase the assessed market value were the stock on hand situation, the liquidity of the skim milk powder pool and the ability of the market to pay a higher price.

POLICE AND RTA

Resignations

2247. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many—
 - (a) policemen;
 - (b) Road Traffic Authority patrolmen, have resigned in the 12 months ended 30th June, 1977 and in the past four months?

- (2) Will he list the classifications of the positions held by the men who have resigned from—

- (a) the Police Force;
- (b) the Road Traffic Authority?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL.) replied:

Assuming the date in (1) is meant to be 30th June, 1978—

		1/7/77- 1/7/78-	
(1)		30/6/78	31/10/78
(a)	52	19
(b)	14	6
(2) (a)	2nd class sergeants	5	1
	3rd class sergeants	—	1
	senior constables	4	—
	1st class constables	9	6
	constables ..	34	11
		—	—
		52	19
		—	—
(b)	2nd class sergeants	1	—
	Senior constables	2	—
	1st class constables	4	1
	constables	7	5
		—	—
		14	6
		—	—

EDUCATION

"The Role of the Guidance Officer in WA Government Schools, July 1978"

2248. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many copies of a report entitled "The Role of the Guidance Officer in W.A. Government Schools, July 1978" have been printed?
- (2) How many were distributed and to whom?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) 880.
- (2) 650 to schools and Education Department branches.
170 to guidance officers.
30 to other States and departments.

SEWERAGE

Swan Location 6400

2249. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Can the Minister say whether there are any proposals under consideration for the provision of sewerage to Swan location 6400 and adjacent areas in Dianella?
- (2) If "Yes" can the Minister say when it is anticipated that sewerage will be provided in this area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no provision for sewerage works to serve this area in the current development plan 1978-83 made public by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

REEF MOTEL.

Thefts, Mismanagement, and Misappropriation of Funds

2250. Mr PEARCE, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the Government's substantial loan for the Reef Motel, Mandurah, what steps did the Government take to check the financial viability of the project and the expertise of the management when it committed itself to the loan?
- (2) Is it a fact that the services of the Reef Motel general manager, hotel consultant and executive chef have been terminated by the owner?
- (3) Is it also a fact that there were 51 people on the payroll prior to the opening of part of the complex and the size of the payroll was \$7 000 to \$8 000 per week?
- (4) Is it a fact that since the partial opening of the establishment the number of staff has been reduced to 14?
- (5) Is it a fact that substantial quantities of the motel's cutlery and cooking utensils are missing and cannot be accounted for?
- (6) Is it a fact that \$17 500 has been spent on printing stationery for the motel?
- (7) In view of rumours suggesting theft of goods, gross mismanagement, and misappropriation of funds at the Reef Motel, is the Government satisfied that its investment on behalf of the Western Australian taxpayers is being adequately protected?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The application for the guarantee of a loan in relation to the construction of the Reef Motel, Mandurah, was examined in detail by officers of the Department of Tourism and reviewed by the Treasury.
- (2) to (6) The information requested by the member is considered to be confidential to the operations of the company and it would not be appropriate for the Government to release this sort of information.
- (7) I am advised that it is considered there is adequate security for the loan which has been guaranteed by the Government.

RAILWAYS

Reserves: Burning Off

2251. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are railway reserves burnt off annually to remove the fire danger of dried vegetation and to eliminate potential habitats for pests such as snakes?
- (2) If not annually, at what intervals are railway reserves burnt off?
- (3) Does Westrail have to comply with local government by-laws with respect to burning-off on railway reserves?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Burning off on railway reserves is undertaken periodically at the discretion of Westrail's district engineers for the protection of railway assets and private properties and in conjunction with the requirements of local shire councils and the Bush Fires Board.
- (3) Yes.

ENERGY

Alumina Refineries: Pinjarra, Wagerup, and Worsley

2252. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) With reference to question 2164 of 1978 can he give specific details of—
 - (a) estimated recoverable coal reserves;
 - (b) the cost of construction of coal fired units to supply energy for each of the proposed alumina refineries;

(c) the annual consumption of coal by these units;

(d) the estimated life of the Collie coal basin as a source of fuel for Western Australia's energy needs for both alumina refining and electricity?

(2) Are any reports available which would indicate the State Energy Commission has this information on record?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) (a) To date, in the categories of measured, indicated and inferred, 390 million tonnes has been estimated by the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department to be economically extractable.

(b) and (c) No. The member is seeking commercial information which I feel is not appropriate for a Parliamentary question. I would suggest that the member direct these questions to the companies concerned.

(d) No, since this would depend on the actual alumina industry developments and the amount of coal required by other industrial users.

(2) No public documents are available.

2253. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Pinnacles

1. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Adverting to my question 2160 regarding the Pinnacles area at Cervantes, I asked the Minister whether he had been contacted by a Mrs Joy Baker and the answer was that the National Parks Authority was not aware of any communication from a Mrs Joy Baker. Would the Minister now advise whether he received a letter from Mrs Baker?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the member for notice of the question. I had a check made in the Department of Conservation and Environment and a letter was found on the files to that effect. I apologise for not having the answer yesterday; at that time I did not know the letter had been received.

MINING: GOLD

Fimiston Mines

2. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is it correct, as reported by the Chairman of Directors of Kalgoorlie Mining Associates yesterday, that the Mines Department vetted and verified the Kalgoorlie Mining Associates feasibility study into the reopening of the Fimiston goldmining lease?

(2) If so, on what basis was the vetting and verification done?

(3) Is it a normal function of the Mines Department to do this, or is it done by virtue of some agreement between the department and the company?

(4) If it is done by virtue of some agreement, what are the general terms of that agreement?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) to (4) It is a fact that officers of the Mines Department—and I would like to add also officers of the Department of Industrial Development—have studied the report and found that under the facts and conditions under which it was submitted it is a report which ought to be accepted. In other words, they did not find any fault in the report; there was no under or overstatement.

The basis of this was simply that I had negotiations with the company and told it that obviously the Government would be interested on a confidential basis in the studies in respect of whether the Fimiston mining operation could go ahead.

I have told the House previously that was done on a confidential basis, like most reports which come to the Minister for Mines. I have also told the member that I can only talk about the report if the company agrees, which happened recently when the chairman of the company announced the contents of the report which had been prepared.

In respect of whether it is a normal function of the department: of course it is a normal function, particularly of the Department of Industrial Development and also of mining engineers and geologists of the Department of Mines, at the request of the Minister.

MINING: BAUXITE

Alcoa's ERMP: Government's Action

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

(1) Relative to recommendation 3.2 on page 13 of the technical review committee report on the first Wagerup environmental review and management programme, now known as the draft ERMP—

- (a) has the Government taken any action to establish a legal basis for the proposed Pinjarra ERMP;
- (b) if "Yes", what action has been taken;
- (c) if "No", when does it intend to take action?

(2) Relative to recommendation 3.3 of the same report, has the Government clarified the legal status of the Wagerup ERMP and the revised ERMP; if not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) It is not the intention of the Government to enter into debate on the report prepared for the company by the Environmental Protection Authority.

BIRDS

Confiscation

4. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Adverting to my question 2173, will the Minister advise:

- (1) Where were the four birds that were confiscated housed?
- (2) Were these birds kept in isolation from other birds of the same species so that they can be readily identified?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", will the four birds confiscated now be returned to their owner?
- (4) If the answer to (2) is "No", how is the department going to identify the birds so that they can be returned to their rightful owner?
- (5) What species of birds were confiscated?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (5) I know the member gave notice of this question, but I have not received the reply from the department. I will be happy to endeavour to make the answer available to the member for Swan as soon as I receive it from the department.

CLOSE OF SESSION: SECOND PART

Target Date

5. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Is the Premier able to indicate when the present parliamentary session will end? We have made considerable progress with the earlier list of proposed legislation with which he provided me. For the benefit of members, generally, and the plans they need to make, perhaps it is possible for him to give some indication as to when the present session might conclude?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I would be posing to have the wisdom of Solomon if I made an estimate of when this session will actually end. The Government has made its legislative programme clear to the Opposition. To the best of my knowledge there is only one other Bill hovering around; there is the possibility of having to introduce a special small Bill in connection with the Reserves Act as a result of a situation that has developed on the goldfields which apparently requires early clarification, so as to clear the way for a possible project there. Apart from that I do not know of any other legislation.

I would rather leave it at that and confer with the Leader of the Opposition, as I undertook to do on Tuesday, about when we can slot in private members' business on a suitable basis. We still have a long way to go with some legislation, particularly the Estimates; now that we have got to the departmental estimates they are being debated in more detail than is normal. That is up to members.

At this stage I am not prepared to hazard a guess. The Government has left its plans very flexible for a cessation of the session in either two weeks or four weeks, whatever is the tempo of the business.

CONTROL OF VEHICLES (OFF-ROAD AREAS) BILL

Local Authorities

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

Firstly, can she say when local authorities were supplied with copies of the Control of Vehicles (Off-road areas) Bill?

Secondly, what opportunities will be provided for local authorities to consider the new Bill and make submissions to the Minister prior to its passage through the Parliament?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

There would have been no opportunity for local government authorities to have asked for a copy of the Bill before it came to the House yesterday. There has been consultation with local government authorities over the last six months and even prior to that time they were being consulted. That is not to say every one of the 138 authorities has been consulted, although all were given the opportunity to make a submission on the first Bill which came to the House earlier in the session. The executive of their association is well aware of the contents of the Bill now before the House, and I am sure all those interested will ensure they obtain copies of the Bill, which will be supplied to them at any time from now on.

MINING: GOLD

Fimiston Mines

7. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

What further action does the Government contemplate taking in respect of the reopening of the Fimiston leases,

either in association with Kalgoorlie Mining Associates, or independently of KMA?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I have released a Press statement in connection with this matter. What the Government, in full understanding with the companies will do, is consult with other companies which have sufficient background, interest, and solidity in this type of mining so they as private companies also could have a look at the study. Perhaps they could have an input based on their own experience which might be based on different techniques. Perhaps they can come up with some solution which would result in better economic development than that proposed by KMA. If we can find willing people elsewhere, the present partners in KMA would be quite prepared to start negotiations in regard to some sort of joint venture in order to develop the project.

MINING: BAUXITE

Government Control

8. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) How does the Government reconcile answers to questions by me which assured me the State had legal control over bauxite mining with the recommendations of the EPA Technical Advisory Committee, that the Government, "As a matter of urgency explore ways of regaining a greater degree of legislative control over bauxite mining"?
- (2) What action is the Government taking to regain legislative control over bauxite mining?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) and (2) The TAG report is an advisory report to the EPA. The EPA has considered the report and many other submissions before making its recommendations to the Government. The EPA advice and its recommendations have been heeded and acted upon.

COMMUNITY WELFARE

Family Support Services Scheme

9. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

The Minister will recall that yesterday I asked a question about the rejection of the Melville City Council's application for funds under the WA Family Support Services Scheme. The Minister said the application had not been rejected by the State committee, but by the

Federal Minister (Senator Guilfoyle). Will the Minister undertake to find out from the Federal Minister why Melville's application, which was recommended by the State committee, was rejected by her?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I will be attempting to speed up an answer from the Federal Minister in respect of applications not only from the City of Melville, but also the other five applications which were rejected.
