

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Thirty-first Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on 8 August 1985, to 15 August 1985, when it met for the despatch of business.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Professor Gordon Stanley Reid).

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, 15 August 1985

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3.00 p.m.

The **PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair, and read prayers.

VISITORS

Welcome

THE PRESIDENT: Honourable members, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure on behalf of the members of the Legislative Council to welcome you to this the third session of the Thirty-first Parliament of Western Australia and I trust that you enjoy the afternoon and the proceedings.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr L. B. Marquet) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Professor Gordon Stanley Reid) summoning the third session of the Thirty-first Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Professor Gordon Stanley Reid) entered the Council Chamber at 3.05 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech—

Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The formal Opening of Parliament provides an opportunity for the people of Western Australia to hear in sober and responsible form, the programme of legislation that my Government intends to introduce. It is an opportunity to provide the whole community with a guide to the Government's aims, activities and aspirations.

This, the third Session of the Thirty-First Parliament of Western Australia, will be the last Session before the State elections.

At the outset I would like to thank the people of this State for the kindness and the warmth of the feelings they have shown to my wife and me during our official duties. Invariably, on our visits to centres throughout the State we have been received with warm hospitality. We have gained great pleasure in meeting the members of innumerable voluntary service groups in all areas.

Honourable Members, I turn now to matters which concern you directly.

The past financial year has been characterised by a continuation of the strong economic growth experienced in the previous 12 months with Australia's emergence from economic recession.

In areas such as retail sales and building activity Western Australia has recorded rates of growth significantly above the national average.

The State is also leading the rest of the nation in job creation, with employment growth of 8.7 per cent during the two years to June, 1985, compared with 5.8 per cent for Australia as a whole.

The Government expects economic recovery to continue during 1985/86. Forward indicators of activity, such as building approvals and investment expectations, point to increased private sector investment.

The Government's policy has been directed at reducing the cost of the public sector on families and businesses and, with the co-operation of the private sector, at developing new employment opportunities.

Later this Session Honourable Members will see that this process continues when the Government will bring down another Budget reflecting sound, responsible, economic management.

The success of the policies pursued so far is reflected in the Government producing, for the second year in succession, a better than forecast Budget result: a small surplus of \$811 773 for 1984/85.

There are undoubtedly areas of concern despite the favourable record of economic progress achieved by the Government. The continuing high level of unemployment, particularly among the young, is unsatisfactory; and it is the same with the economic situation which confronts the rural sector.

But the Government remains convinced that the policies it is pursuing offer the best chance for the community to work together to achieve the best progress possible for the State.

In framing its 1985/86 Budget the Government will continue to limit severely increases in taxes and charges.

Honourable Members will be aware that a 10 per cent across-the-board cut in land tax for 1985/86 has already been announced.

Departmental spending programmes will be maintained but will be subjected to the most rigorous dissection of planned programmes. In this Session the process of financial accountability will be given further emphasis with the introduction of a new Financial Administration and Audit Act. The legislation will replace the existing Audit Act, passed in 1904. It will more adequately provide for modern accounting, auditing and financial management practices to ensure a high level of Government accountability and financial control by Parliament.

The significant changes brought about at this year's Premiers' Conference and Loan Council Meetings have created a stability in Commonwealth/State financial relations which will allow the Government of Western Australia to

plan its programmes and finances in the immediate future with a degree of certainty that has not been possible previously.

The Government's commitment to improving efficiency is continuing to be demonstrated through the activities of the W.A. Development Corporation's asset management programme.

The WADC and the EXIM Corporation have both become widely accepted in the community as practical examples of how the capacity of government can be used to stimulate private sector activities.

EXIM's recent success in securing a new burst of interest in foreign airlines servicing Perth is an important step in opening the door to Asia and realising the Government's belief that much of the State's economic future lies in exporting to the Asian region.

When I last opened Parliament in July 1984, the first item addressed was parliamentary and electoral reform. The Government remains committed to the two fundamental goals of providing effective laws for the resolution of parliamentary deadlocks and creating an electoral system fair to political parties and to the electors of this State.

Of the seven Bills rejected by the Legislative Council, five dealt with reforms in this area.

The Legislative Council has, however, accepted a reform which establishes a co-operative agreement with the Commonwealth Government allowing all citizens to become enrolled for both State and Federal elections by signing a single claim card. The more accurate electoral roll resulting from this agreement will benefit all subsequent elections and referenda.

Various proposed electoral amendments will be brought very shortly before Parliament. Their purpose is to increase public participation in the electoral redistribution process, to reduce confusion by aligning State law with recent reforms in Commonwealth law, to allow optional preferential voting, to allow political party names on ballot papers, to ease the definition of a formal vote, to close the polls at 6.00 p.m. and many other improvements to the 1907 Act.

Following the defeat of the Aboriginal Land Bill in the Parliament earlier this year, the Government is proposing a number of substantial initiatives, to be announced in this Budget, aimed at promoting Aboriginal social and economic advancement.

During this Session legislation will be introduced to fulfil the Government's commitment to reform the laws relating to rape and sexual assault. The worst types of sexual assault offences will be subject to a maximum punishment of 20 years' imprisonment. The legislation will also aim at minimising the pressures of the court processes for the victims of sexual assault.

The Government will also amend the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act to allow the use of a last name for entry into births register by which it is intended that a child shall be known, provided the name is given in accordance with a recognised religious custom or naming procedure.

This alteration should satisfy not only the needs of W.A.'s Islamic community but also other communities with naming procedures different from the Anglo-Saxon norm.

Legislation is also being drafted to amend the Criminal Code following the review of existing law by Mr. Michael Murray, Q.C. Penalties for assault offences will be increased sharply and the provisions affecting restitution and compensation will be modernised to provide relief for the victims of criminal offences.

Since coming into office the Government has been actively seeking the implementation of the export phase of the huge North West Shelf natural gas project. As recently as July 4 this year this Parliament passed the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Amendment Agreement Act 1985, the purpose of which was to clear the way for the formal signing of sales and purchase agreements with eight Japanese energy utilities.

Such massive developments as the gas project—the biggest single resource project in Australia's history—are necessarily spread over several years. The export phase is estimated to cost \$8 500 million during a construction period of 15 years and generate up to 5 000 jobs. Servicing this endeavour will require 300 new homes to be built in Karratha.

By the time first shipments of liquefied natural gas reach Japan—scheduled for October 1989—the project will have resulted in a significant level of contracts being let to local industry and the transfer of substantial amounts of technology to this State. The Government is working closely with the North West Shelf consortium, local industry and the trade union movement to ensure that the maximum volume of work possible is undertaken in Australia, particularly Western Australia.

The unsatisfactory state of the world market for aluminium and the absolute commitment of the Government not to provide subsidised electricity led earlier this year to the shelving of the proposal to construct an aluminium smelter in the South West of the State. While this was a disappointment to the Government, a range of other resource-based projects is giving new impetus to the State's development activity.

Honourable Members will be aware that the \$465 million Argyle diamond mine is expected to be completed on schedule, and within budget, by the end of the year. As well, the State can expect to see the development of a major tantalite deposit at Greenbushes, construction of two ilmenite beneficiation plants at Capel and at Geraldton, the start of the production of the Harriet oilfield, and dozens of new gold projects.

The Government has also received proposals for the establishment of an ammonia urea plant, for a sodium cyanide processing complex and for the stripping of liquefied petroleum gas from North West Shelf gas. There is also a feasibility study underway into a project for monazite processing at Geraldton.

All these developments are supported strongly under my Government's determined policy to ensure that there is a move towards a significantly higher degree of secondary processing of the State's mineral wealth.

Honourable Members will be aware that the revival in the iron ore industry has continued. The Government has been involved closely in several initiatives to strengthen the industry's performance: the shipment of 91 million tonnes of ore from the Pilbara in 1984 set a record.

The initiative in forming the Iron Ore Industry Consultative Council as a forum to discuss issues facing the industry by representatives of government, the iron ore companies and unions, has proved to be one of the most significant steps in the industry since its establishment. A mission from the Consultative Council last month travelled to Brazil to inspect and report on the operations of the Brazilian iron ore industry, our major competitor on world markets.

It was encouraging to note the dramatic fall in the number of working days lost in the industry through industrial disputes with the figure for 1984 being less than half the figure for any one of the preceding three years.

The Government's determination to secure the best possible return on Western Australia's mineral wealth led to an agreement in June between the State and Commonwealth Governments and West Australian Petroleum for new royalty arrangements covering the Barrow Island oilfield. These arrangements will bring an extra \$48.5 million in revenue to the State during the next seven years. Negotiations have also secured significant relief for the State from the onerous take-or-pay conditions of the supply agreement for domestic gas from the North West Shelf to the State Energy Commission.

The State Energy Commission now estimates that some 95 per cent of the existing market for natural gas has been captured with new commercial customers such as Hamersley Iron being signed up. Gas sales to domestic consumers have increased substantially—by 18 per cent—in the past financial year; and in the Perth area, the number of new gas installations in 1984/85 was 13,000, double the rate of three years ago.

It is often forgotten in our mineral-rich State that primary industry accounts for around 40 per cent of Western Australia's export earnings.

The 1984/85 season was exceptional with the gross value of the State's agricultural production reaching a record \$2,674 million. This followed a record grain harvest exceeding nine million tonnes, including 6.5 million tonnes of wheat.

Despite this productivity, many farmers are facing serious financial difficulties and the Government has made the strongest arguments, alongside industry representatives, to achieve some alleviation of Federal Government imposts.

The Government has emphasised the need to reduce farm costs to help farmers overcome their financial problems and has urged the Federal Government to modify tariff and fuel policies to ease current farm cost burdens.

The Government has adopted a policy of working with farm organisations. This has already resulted in a substantial programme of wool transport deregulation and the containment of grain freight costs.

Special loans have been made available to allow farmers who were not eligible for Rural Adjustment assistance to plant crops in 1984 and 1985.

A Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation has been created to replace the Rural Adjustment Authority. It will improve and streamline the Government's rural lending and financial assistance schemes.

The parliamentary Session ahead will see the introduction of legislation to provide the framework for the rationalisation of the meat industry.

As mentioned earlier, the retail sector in Western Australia has performed better than the retail sector in the nation as a whole. Retail sales during the two years to the end of March this year increased 23.7 per cent to \$346 million. At the same time bankruptcies declined by nearly 25 per cent. Of particular importance to retailers and other businesses, especially those classified as small, is the Government's continued commitment to reducing the charges they face.

Members will recall that Western Australia is the only State where the rate of payroll tax has been reduced. Changes to the threshold from which it applies have resulted in nearly 2 000 additional businesses being totally exempt from the tax in the past year. Businesses have also benefited from a real reduction of 25 per cent in water rates as the Government adopts a user pays basis for water charges.

As well, stamp duties applying to the credit business, instalment purchase arrangements and on the issue and discounting of bills (other than promissory notes) have been abolished.

It is an accepted argument that businesses are burdened by too much Red Tape. The Government is committed to reducing the pettifogging regulations which shackle business. It will continue to hunt down useless regulations. The pathway already established will be extended to provide for a compulsory review of all Government regulations.

Existing regulations which cannot be justified will be revoked and all new regulations will have a maximum life of ten years. An office of Regulatory Review will be established to examine all existing regulations for their economic impact with the first priority for review and repeal being given to those which affect the business community.

It is also intended to introduce legislation concerning the State Superannuation Scheme. The proposed legislation will remove discriminatory provisions within the scheme, provide superannuation for permanent part-time Government employees and amend current legislative anomalies.

One of the Government's most significant achievements has been to upgrade dramatically the importance of the tourism industry in the State. There are now 107 projects related to tourism underway in the State. In value these total approximately \$1 900 million.

The anticipated spending resulting from an increased flow of visitors in the new year is likely to create up to 15 000 jobs of which about 7 000 can be attributed directly to the defence of the America's Cup in 1987.

Legislation to amend the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act will be brought forward in the Session to provide stiffer penalties for illegal betting. This action is being taken following recommendations contained in the report of the Costigan Royal Commission and as a result of an agreement between the States and the Commonwealth.

It is also planned to legislate to split the functions of the Licensing Court and to extend the moratorium on liquor licences until the end of next year.

Members will be aware that the Government has made a commitment to increase the Police force by 150 officers this financial year which will be the largest increase in police numbers for nearly a decade.

Questions of law and order are among the most serious confronting the Government and the Western Australian community today. Responsibilities are being met through substantial funding and by the support of prudent policies and initiatives. The importance of community co-operation is encouraged as part of the Government's aim of involving as many sections of the community as possible in the process of decision-making on these questions.

The Government has initiated a steady succession of changes in local government during its term. It has broadened the franchise for local government elections, introduced reforms in rating and by the end of this Session will have amended about 25 per cent of the provisions of the Local Government Act dealing with the powers of the Governor and the Minister.

The Government will continue its review of the Act to extend more autonomy to local government.

In the key area of Health, the Government will amend the Medical Act to provide for two commissioners to be appointed to the Medical Board, to clarify and make more effective the conduct of inquiries by the Board, to provide

for regional or auxiliary service for specialists, to provide for the control of incorporated practices to prevent abuse, and other matters.

The Government will also amend the Hospitals Act to ensure acceptable standards of care in Nursing Homes and to transfer responsibility for all matters pertaining to hospitals from the Health Act to the Hospitals Act.

The creation of a Minister for the Aged followed by a Bureau for the Aged and its associated advisory council represent major Government initiatives. The Government is confident that sufficient avenues now exist to ensure that aged people in Western Australia will be involved in creating further improvements for themselves, particularly following the success in May this year of the first government-sponsored Senior Citizens' Week.

In the area of housing the Government will continue to introduce initiatives to increase the opportunities for low income people to achieve home ownership. Since March 1983, sales to tenants of State Housing Commission homes have increased by 90 per cent.

Further action is being taken to reduce the clustering of public housing in the community. This includes the sale of some rental homes, vigorous open market spot purchasing, and a broadened social mix in new housing construction. Rentals for public housing have again been held below the inflation rate, and the elderly will pay no increase at all.

During the Session the Government will legislate to create a Western Australian Heritage Council and a State Heritage Register of places having heritage value.

Action has been taken to ease problems in managing public lands by creating the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It has begun work to establish a major marine park in the North West around the Ningaloo Reef, one of Australia's finest coral reefs.

Agreement has also been reached with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to establish a training scheme for Aboriginal people to become park rangers in the Pilbara National Parks. The Aboriginal communities concerned have given solid support to the project which will be based at Millstream.

Unemployment is a matter which greatly concerns the Government. More than 50,000 new jobs have been created since the Government assumed office but much remains to be done. Numbers of schemes have been

introduced to bring long term improvements in the job market and to help unemployed people find rewarding work.

The Government is currently drafting legislation for an Industrial and Commercial Training Commission to co-ordinate all training and retraining needs of industry and commerce in the State.

Legislation is also to be brought forward covering the portability of long service leave in the building industry following intensive consultation with the industry and construction unions.

In education, the reforms recommended by the Beazley and McGaw Committees are being put into practice progressively over a number of years to ensure a smooth transition to new educational practices.

The process of change is being carried out in consultation with the various groups in the education community.

The Government will reinforce its strong commitment to pre-school education by making good the \$4,860,000 cut by the Commonwealth from its pre-school funding.

Initiatives will continue to be taken to improve statutory planning procedures with amendments to the Town Planning Act designed to speed the issue of new land titles and also the processing of subdivision and lease applications.

Honourable Members will be aware that the Government has also directed the drafting of a revised Transfer of Land Act as the present Act dates from 1893. Ample opportunity for public comment on this generally non-contentious, but economically vital, legislation will be given after the Bill has been introduced.

The creation of the Building Management Authority to manage the design, procurement and construction of all government buildings involved a substantial restructure of the Public Service. This will result in major savings in public expenditure.

Legislation will soon come before you this Session to abolish a number of Government agencies which have outlived their usefulness.

Amendments to the Agricultural Products Act will abolish the Apple, Citrus and Stonefruit sales advisory committees.

Separate legislation will abolish the Industries Assistance Board, Advisory Committee on Industrial Development, the Land Resumption for Industries Committee, the General Fisheries Advisory Council, the Health Edu-

cation Council, Local Boards of Health, the Closer Settlement Board and Advisory Committee, and the Distressed Persons Relief Trust.

In a number of cases, the Acts establishing these organisations will be repealed.

The Government believes it can be justifiably proud of its achievements in regional development.

The Bunbury 2000 concept continues to be a major success with the completion soon of the 11-storey Bunbury Tower and of an atrium-style hotel. The city's railway yards have been moved to a location out of the city centre to allow expansion of the business and commercial district.

The Albany Tomorrow strategy group has been formed and the Great Southern Region Economic Study, which was released recently, will be used as a basis for its work.

My Government's legislative programme also includes the introduction of:

- Amendments to the Taxi-cars Co-ordination and Control Act.
- Previously announced amendments to the Environmental Protection Act.
- A Skeleton Weed and Resistant Grain Insects (Eradication) Fund Bill.
- Amendments concerned with the integration of the metropolitan and country water authorities, and
- Safety standards applying to gas appliances.

I now declare this Third Session of the Thirty-First Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your deliberations.

[His Excellency and members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.]

[Questions taken.]

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.00 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon. D. K. Dans (Minister for Racing and Gaming), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): I have to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to honourable members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

HON. J. M. BROWN (South-East) [4.02 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please your Excellency:

We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

Mr President, the opportunity to move this Address-in-Reply motion and to respond to His Excellency's Speech is a privilege I fully appreciate.

May I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, on the performance of his duty, particularly as it relates to making the position of Governor even more approachable to the people of this State. I know that the many people whom Professor Reid and his wife have met, even in the relatively short period that he has held the office of Governor, believe that he is carrying out his duties with dignity and resourcefulness.

Mr President, it is an honour for me to lead the response to His Excellency's Speech, which has detailed the key points of the Government's legislative programme in this session.

The skill and ability that the Government has displayed over the past two years transcends any previous Government's performance.

There is no doubt that the economic performance spelt out in Professor Reid's remarks is something which all parliamentarians from either side of the political spectrum must acknowledge as being an achievement of real note.

It is quite clear that Western Australia has surpassed the highest expectations in economic performance. A State-by-State analysis would clearly indicate that we lead the rest of the nation. There is, at a national level, a mood of cautious optimism for the economy in the coming year. In Western Australia, I believe that optimism will be well rewarded.

The successful Government team led by the Premier, Hon. Brian Burke, MLA, has produced results, and will continue to do so. The policies being pursued are responsible and effective. I do not have to remind honourable members that the Government assumed office in 1983 with, in State terms, a massive deficit left by its predecessors.

Urgent action had to be taken to reduce the overspending by the Liberal-NCP Administration which had over-committed itself in its search for electoral support after nine years in office.

The Burke Government has turned that situation around. Public spending programmes are being reviewed with vigour to ensure that they are cost-effective and that they meet the needs of the people whom we in this Chamber have been elected to represent.

Because the Government has been able to achieve the first steps in a move to make the public sector accountable—greater than the accountability of any public company—the Government has also been able to pass on the benefits of those changes to the public and the community at large. For the second year in a row, the Burke Government has been able to keep charges for State Government services at a minimum level and, in most instances, below the rate of inflation. It is quite clear that the policy could not be pursued unless efficiencies were being achieved in the areas of government administration which had previously been allowed to run wild.

Together with five other members of this Chamber, I believe our Standing Committee on Government Agencies has made a substantial contribution to the improvement in accountability in the public sector. This can be readily identified by the Government's announced intention to introduce new audit legislation and corporate plans for the public sector, both of which have been promoted by this committee.

Mr President, the introduction of adult franchise in local government elections was a triumph for democracy. Allowing every 18-year-old to vote in local government elections was

achieved only through the persistence of the Government and finally supported by the local authorities themselves.

Following the example set by the Government, local authorities have applied themselves assiduously to containing rates for the 1985-86 year. Country local authorities' rates have shown minimum movement because of the rural outlook.

I believe the Grants Commission allocation for 1985-86 has enabled councils to maintain their services to their communities.

The \$49.4 million distribution to the 139 councils in WA means a notional increase of 8.13 per cent on 1984-85. The final increase could be as high as nine per cent. I know that many local authorities would not survive without the allocation from the Grants Commission.

I would like to remind honourable members that this Government has taken important steps in looking after a key sector of the Western Australian economy which is facing a difficult period. I refer, of course, to the agricultural industries. Agriculture returns of \$2.7 billion in 1984-85 would be the highest level achieved, both in terms of production and dollars received, yet we are in a period of crisis. The industry is looking for bipartisan support to overcome its difficulties.

We have heard a lot about the impact of Government charges on an industry which has to take world market prices for its products. This Government, in co-operation with industry organisations, such as the Primary Industry Association and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, has made the strongest representations possible to the Federal Government on such questions as tariffs and fuel excise, and we will continue to press for those changes to be made so that agriculture does not bear a disproportionate share of the cost burden, nor does it have to struggle to survive in an adverse climate without some assessment of its direct needs being made and assistance being provided.

A decision of importance is the deregulation of the transport of wool in the entire State which commences in January 1986. The introduction of measures to reduce the cost of grain and fertiliser transport has been another successful initiative.

From 1 July of this year, the Government has established the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation replacing the old Rural Adjustment Authority. Its charter has been

expanded and one important and natural change was to place all Government financial schemes for farmer assistance under the control of the corporation.

Mr President, we should respond to the Governor's message concerning electoral reform. The Government believes that the issue of electoral reform, particularly as it applies to this House, both in regard to its representation and in regard to its role and function as a genuine House of review, should be applied and, as the Governor said, legislation will be before us this session which will bring modifications to the electoral system.

So far as this House is concerned, a positive aspect with which I have been involved is the inquiry over the last two years into devising a committee system for the Council. As a co-chairman of the Select Committee, I am hopeful that our final report deadline of late September can be met. While the worth of a committee system cannot be overlooked, I feel sure that the adoption of the committee's recommendations will lead to a wider degree of reform of this House.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without making reference to the importance to this State of the America's Cup defence. It might seem incongruous to some people that a member such as I, representing a land-locked area of the State, should be stressing the significance of the America's Cup to the State's future.

However, not only the areas of Perth and Fremantle will benefit from the activities surrounding the defence of the America's Cup. We in the rest of the State will certainly expect to see a spin-off from the cup, and I would suggest to the Chamber that there are few areas of Western Australia which will not receive benefits from the cup.

The State Government has done much, in the past year, to assist the further development of the gold industry.

Most importantly, it has achieved an agreement with the Federal Government that a gold tax will not be introduced in the next financial year.

In the Federal arena, it has received approval in principle for the production of an Australian bullion coin. This coin would be principally marketed overseas to compete with the South African kruggerand and, to a lesser extent, the Canadian maple leaf. Initial studies indicate that this coin could very quickly capture up to 10 per cent of the world market. From then on it would achieve a continual growth rate

resulting in large sales and export earnings. In short, the Australian bullion coin has the potential to be a runaway success.

At the same time, the Government has undertaken to develop the Perth Mint into a very competitive and modern international gold facility. It is proposed to redevelop the mint with a new refining and coining complex such that it will be ideally placed to undertake specialist coining operations.

In view of Kalgoorlie's regional significance to the gold industry, the Government has requested that the Western Australian Development Corporation examine the form and extent of the Mint's activities that could be undertaken in Kalgoorlie. At this very moment, the Managing Director and Secretary of the Western Australian Development Corporation are in Kalgoorlie discussing this matter with local interests.

Under the sound economic management of the Burke Labor Government, the mining industry in general has continued to prosper. In terms of both mining turnover and exploration expenditure, Western Australia was the leading State in 1983-84. This is indicated by figures recently released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which show that in the 1983-84 financial year—

Total turnover rose by 13 per cent to a record \$3 220 million—nearly a quarter of the national total;

over 18 000 people were employed in the industry in Western Australia, five per cent more than the previous year and the highest number on record;

private mineral exploration expenditure rose—against the national trend—to \$185 million;

1.9 million metres of exploratory drilling was carried out—the highest figure for 14 years; and

exploration for gold accounted for over half the total expenditure.

These results show that the mining sector, and particularly the gold mining sector, is in a very healthy state indeed. Proposals such as the Australian bullion coin and the redevelopment of the Perth Mint will enhance opportunities in this already buoyant sector.

Mr President, two major initiatives of the Government are the Western Australian Development Corporation and Exim Corporation. I

know that they are stimulating the private sector into production and expansion. One particular partnership between Exim Corporation and the private sector is the production of tractors at Merredin. This operation has seen an expansion of the work force from eight employees to a staff of 38 and still growing. Apart from an Australia-wide distribution, overseas orders from Saudi Arabia for WA-produced tractors have been finalised. I believe this is another testimony of the Government and industry working together.

I would like to share with you the meeting between Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Dawn and myself.

Last September, when at the Isle of Man for the thirtieth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Dawn and I were introduced to Her Majesty, the Queen Mother. After the initial introduction, I said to Her Majesty, "We are the home of the America's Cup, Ma'am." Her eyes glowed as she responded, "Wasn't that wonderful? We were all barracking for you." "Yes, Ma'am," I replied, "it certainly put Western Australia and Perth on the map."

The Queen Mother then asked me what part of Western Australia I represented. I advised her it was the eastern wheatbelt and the goldfields. "What part of the goldfields, Mr Brown?", she inquired. "Kalgoorlie, Ma'am," I replied. "Kalgoorlie", she said with her eyes aglow again, "I have been there and it was really booming." "It is booming again but with a greater degree of stability", I responded. "Give my good wishes to the people of the goldfields—that is lovely", Her Majesty finally concluded.

I believe the remarks of the Queen Mother who has now had her 85th birthday, are a tribute to Western Australia and the electorate of South-East Province that I have the privilege to represent.

Mr President, it is with pleasure, enthusiasm, and great optimism that I move this motion.

HON. FRED McKENZIE (North-East Metropolitan) [4.19 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. G. E. Masters (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CRIME: MICKELBERG CASE

Inquiries

1. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Attorney General:

In the light of public opinion following his statement in this House on 4 July surrounding the Mickelberg case, are any further investigations being carried out or any further inquiries being considered by the Government?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

All inquiries initiated by me are complete and were the subject of my statement to the House last month. No further action is contemplated.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

DTX Australia Ltd: Involvement

2. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

(1) Has the Attorney been in contact with the Corporate Affairs Commission over allegations that Government Ministers or members are involved in the Western Australian high technology company DTX Australia Ltd?

(2) If yes, how many times has the Attorney General been in contact with the commission over this matter?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

(1) and (2) As best I can recall, I have had either two or three interim reports from the acting commissioner.

CRIME: MICKELBERG CASE

Attorney General's Statement

3. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney General:

Will he inform the House whether he still stands by the statement he gave to the House at the last sitting of Parliament that the fingerprint experts involved in the Mickelberg case have now changed their minds and now do not support the view that there is any possibility that the fingerprints were made by a silicon hand and not a human hand?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I stand by my earlier statement in all respects.

"EDWIN FOX"

Purchase

4. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Tourism:

In view of the commitment today by His Excellency the Governor for the Government to legislate for a WA heritage council, would he inform the House of what progress has been made by him or the Tourism Commission to bring the 19th century convict ship, *Edwin Fox*, to WA from New Zealand as a permanent tourist attraction in time for the America's Cup challenge?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

I hope to have a statement prepared in the next week.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Bows and Spear Guns

5. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Would the Minister tell us whether his department is considering the imposition of restrictions on the sale of hunting or target bows, spear guns, or any other implement likely to cause or known to have caused injury to humans or animals?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

As the member knows, consideration has been given to the position of cross bows. I am unaware of any other consideration given to the items referred to by the member.

AMERICA'S CUP

Funding: Accountability

6. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Leader of the House:

(1) Is a report correct that the handling of Federal and State funds allocated to the America's Cup challenge is out of control, with little or no accountability?

(2) Does the Government intend to set up a trust in an attempt to bring about the necessary control and accountability of the funds?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

(1) and (2) No.

CRIME: MURPHY CASE

Western Australian Intervention

7. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

- (1) What was the constitutional matter which prompted the WA Government to intervene in the Murphy case before the High Court this week?
- (2) Did the intervention by WA support any of the arguments by Murphy's counsel?
- (3) Did the Attorney General receive any request to intervene on Murphy's behalf; if so, from whom?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) I will take the questions in reverse order to emphasise at the outset that there was no question of the State intervening in the case in question on behalf of Mr Justice Murphy. The intervention was on behalf of the State and it concerned a constitutional matter. That matter arose from a challenge presented to the validity of section 68 of the Judiciary Act. It in-

volves a relatively narrow question concerning the limits of Commonwealth jurisdiction in respect of the performance of certain duties by State magistrates.

That question having been raised in the course of many other matters presented by counsel representing Mr Justice Murphy, the State intervened to present arguments on its own behalf and did so for two reasons. In the first place, it is desirable to ensure where questions of this nature are raised that the limits between Commonwealth and State jurisdictions are properly defined. It is not only desirable for its own sake in terms of constitutional certainty, but because in our own case it had particular practical implications. I have been advised on a number of occasions that committal proceedings on Commonwealth matters would involve a State magistrate in hearings lasting as long as two or three months. Obviously it is undesirable that the limited services available from the magistracy should be devoted in that way if there is any cloud hanging over their constitutional validity. For the combination of those reasons, the State intervened and for those limited purposes.
