

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 2 June 1988

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 10.45 am, and read prayers.

PETITION

Conservation - Shark Bay

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [10.46 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

Mr Pearce: Two pages! That makes a mockery of the people of Shark Bay.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HASSELL: The Leader of the House should recognise that these petitions keep coming in.

Mr Court: We have had more petitions on this subject than on any other.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think we all recognise that these petitions keep coming in.

Mr HASSELL: The petition reads as follows -

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

We, the undersigned respectfully sheweth:

That following the Hon. Minister for Planning's promises, made at the public meeting at Shark Bay on 24 March 1988, in which he said "if the local people do not want Heritage Listing of the Hamelin Pool then the State Government will not proceed to nominate it and will oppose that Listing. . . in the most unequivocal terms that the State Government will oppose the total listing of Shark Bay for World Heritage at all. . .", that the people of Shark Bay and other citizens are deeply concerned that the Government has agreed that further consideration be given to World Heritage listing for Shark Bay, and

- (a) believe the special features of the region can be best protected through finalisation, of the Shark Bay Plan in consultation with local people,
- (b) do not want transfer of control of the area to the Commonwealth or overseas influences,
- (c) calls on the State Government and Parliament to cease consideration of World Heritage listing,
- (d) calls on the State Government to oppose and fight against any World Heritage listing.

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

The petition bears 14 signatures and I certify that it conforms to 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 27.]

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Cowan (Leader of the National Party), and read a first time.

SWAN RIVER TRUST BILL

Second Reading

MR HODGE (Melville - Minister for Waterways) [10.52 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for a strengthened and better coordinated approach to protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers, particularly in relation to their planning, use, development and management.

Since settlement, the Swan and Canning Rivers have been an integral feature of Perth. Initially, they provided the major transport route for the colony and it was logical that the metropolitan region grew up around them. Today the rivers are the major recreation and landscape feature for Perth and are subject to a wide range of uses and pressures. These include a strong community desire to maintain public access and conserve the rivers as a healthy living system.

People want a diversity of recreational activities including fishing, water sports and passive activities such as picnicking, sightseeing and walking. As well, the rivers continue to provide a major transport route and a focus for residential and commercial development.

It has become increasingly clear to the Government that in order to balance all of the conflicting demands and provide protection for the waters, foreshores and catchments, the river system must be treated as a single entity. For example, there are currently 10 State Government agencies and 20 local government authorities with certain responsibilities for planning and management of all or parts of the rivers. It is vital that these bodies and the community work together to achieve our aim of maintaining and enhancing a functional healthy river environment for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

In the past, the responsibilities of the various bodies, State and local, have not always been well coordinated and there have been some inconsistencies, overlaps and gaps, both in management and planning activities. In particular, some applications for development around the river have caused conflict and uncertainty, with criticism that not all of the interests have received proper consideration. To overcome these difficulties and to provide for a strong sense of direction for planning, use and management of the rivers, the Government established two closely related reviews in November 1986.

The first of these was the formation of a task force to prepare an overall strategy aimed at defining how the river should be managed now and in the future. The second was an independent legislative and administrative review to provide recommendations on procedures for decision making, particularly in relation to development proposals. This review was undertaken by Mr Chris Zelestis, a prominent Perth barrister.

In September 1987 the Government released the draft Swan River Management Strategy for public comment. I commend honourable members to read this document as it provides a valuable basis for the development of the management program for the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Also in September the Premier announced that as a result of the recommendations in the Zelestis review, the Government intended to introduce legislation into Parliament for a new body with overall accountability for the Swan and Canning Rivers. Procedures to establish this body, the Swan River Trust, are contained in the Bill, and the Acts Amendment Bill defines the trust's relationship to the other key Government bodies and legislation to do with the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Before outlining the main elements of the Bill I wish to summarise how it is intended the trust will operate.

Mr Chris Zelestis in his review of legislative and administrative arrangements placed great stress on the need for coordination and clear procedures for all of the bodies, State and local, involved with planning and managing the river system. He also emphasised the need to treat the rivers as a regional asset and consider them as a whole in making any decisions. A balanced relationship between State Government and local government interests was therefore seen as vital and Zelestis' preferred approach was to establish a separate body, the Swan River Trust, which represented the key interests in providing advice and making recommendations to the Government of the day.

This philosophy and Zelestis' detailed recommendations have been incorporated into the legislation to establish the Swan River Trust. Our aim is that the trust will represent State, local government and community interests, and that in providing advice and recommendations it will bring together all of the involved parties.

It must also be stated very clearly that the trust will not take over the existing implementation and management roles of local government and the involved State Government bodies. While the trust will have the responsibility of reporting to the Minister for Waterways on use and development of the rivers, responsibility for such matters as navigation and management of foreshore reserves will remain with the relevant State and local government bodies. However, it should be stressed that the establishment of the Swan River Trust provides for the first time a mechanism that enables local government authorities a direct input into the planning and management of the Swan and Canning Rivers.

The trust will therefore have a very important role, to work in partnership with all of the involved bodies, to ensure that the best overall planning and management of the rivers takes place. In this sense the trust can be said to be accountable for overall planning and management while other State bodies will be responsible for particular aspects of planning and management such as navigation, management of conservation reserves, definition of the parks and recreation area and flood control.

The Swan River Trust Bill incorporates the main recommendations of the Zelestis report and provides for a single body that will be a central contact for all matters to do with the Swan and Canning Rivers. In particular, it will provide for a central decision making mechanism for all applications for development or use of the rivers and for consolidated advice to be provided to the Government.

Part I of the Bill states that the Act will come into operation at a date to be fixed by proclamation and sets out certain formalities of the Bill. The Government's intention is that the Bill will not be proclaimed until regulations and administrative procedures have been developed to clearly set out how the development approval process will work in practice. This is most important as the Government wants to remove any current confusion about the way in which development applications are referred and handled. Our intention is to have the Act proclaimed in early 1989. Development has been defined to include a new or changed use of land or the waters as well as the building of structures.

The area of responsibility for the trust is defined as the management area and is described in schedule 1. The management area comprises the waters of the Swan, Canning, Helena, Lower Avon and southern rivers and the adjacent foreshore presently reserved under the metropolitan region scheme. Local government authorities have been consulted about the extent of the boundary and their suggestions have been included as far as possible. If there should be a dispute as to the boundary of the land, that is, whether it is within the trust's management area, provision is made for ascertaining the views of affected persons or bodies and submission to the Governor for a final decision.

It is intended that the management area be extended in the future to include new foreshore reserve along the rivers as it is established under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Changes to the management area will be by regulation and the Bill provides that in each case local Government and the Minister for Planning will be consulted before any regulations are made.

Part 2 of the Bill establishes the trust as a body corporate and sets out its membership. Of the eight members the chairman and two others are to be independent while three are to be nominated by the Ministers administering the State Planning Commission Act, the Marine and Harbours Act and the Water Authority Act respectively. The other two are the Waterways Commissioner and a nominee of the Local Government Association.

Clause 23 of the Bill provides for additional local government representation on the trust from a municipality whenever a development or any other relevant matter in relation to that municipality is being considered. Thus, the local government authority in whose area a river orientated development is being proposed will have direct representation on the trust for that proposal.

The functions of the trust are set out in clause 7. They include the specific role of advising and recommending to the Government on all development proposals and the broader role of working with other State and local bodies to protect and enhance the rivers for recreation, conservation and a range of uses. Additionally, the trust will take over the existing functions of the Swan River Management Authority and control pollution in the rivers as a delegated body under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

An important power provided to the trust is the ability to delegate to certain persons or

bodies any of its functions other than a function vested in it by Part 5. This will aid the trust in its working relationship with other Government agencies, especially local government.

Staff of the trust will normally be provided by the Waterways Commission which has a Statewide role in advising on waterways management. Some additional staff will be provided to enable the trust to carry out its functions.

Part 3 provides for the preparation of a management program by the trust. It is intended that the program will define in some detail the operating procedures and policies the trust proposes to adopt and how it will interact with other State and local government bodies.

Before the management program is finalised extensive consultation must take place and it must be advertised for public comment. It is therefore an important document which should provide a clear description of the trust's role and how it will carry out its functions in partnership with relevant bodies. The management program must be reviewed by the trust at least every five years.

Part 4 of the Bill sets out the financial provisions. The trust will be responsible for managing its own finances and in addition to receiving funds from Consolidated Revenue it will also be able to accept gifts and bequests. Therefore, it will be able to act as a trust in a financial and a social sense.

Part 5 of the Bill concerns development control and is central to the role of the trust in advising the Government on all applications for use and development on and around the rivers. It is proposed that all applications for development within the management area be referred to the Swan River Trust which in turn will be required to consult widely before reporting to the Minister for Waterways. It will be an offence to carry out development without the approval of the Minister for Waterways. The trust will determine the level of documents to be submitted with an application and may advertise the proposed development for public comment. The Minister can direct the trust to advertise any proposal for public comment. In reporting to the Minister the trust must consider all public comments.

Where reclamation of greater than one hectare is proposed the existing provision of section 60 of the Waterways Conservation Act, that the approval of both Houses of Parliament must be obtained, is continued.

Once the trust has reported to the Minister copies of the report shall be provided to the applicant, each relevant public authority and local government authority, and any person who made a submission if the proposal was advertised. The Minister may publish the trust's report. After considering the trust's report the Minister will determine the application by approval, approval in a modified form with or without conditions or restrictions, or refusal of approval. Any approval must be consistent with policies or approvals granted under the Environmental Protection Act and the trust's management program. Once approval has been granted the applicant has the opportunity to request reconsideration of any condition or restriction.

Many applications will be for matters of a minor nature and the Bill provides for the power of approval to be conferred on the trust for certain classes of development prescribed by regulation.

Part 6 of the Bill sets out provisions for enforcement.

Inspectors and authorised persons will be empowered to inspect and enter premises for the purpose of enforcing Part 5 and the regulations. The trust's inspectors will be its eyes and ears and will demonstrate to the public that the trust is effectively monitoring the development approval process. Inspectors and authorised persons will be able to take action where offences occur and in the case of certain offences will be able to serve on-the-spot infringement notices. Mostly the inspectors will have an educative role with the general public but it is important that in some cases on-the-spot action can be taken.

Power is provided to the trust to serve notices to either stop or modify a development that contravenes an approval. If such a notice is served the affected person can appeal to the Minister who can confirm or vary the direction.

A further important enforcement provision allows the trust to remove property that is abandoned, derelict or dangerous provided adequate notice has been served on the owner if that person can be found. Under the Waterways Conservation Act it is often very difficult to

remove derelict or dangerous boats and some hazardous situations have occasionally continued longer than desirable.

Part 7 of the Bill contains a number of general provisions.

Regulations can be made by the Governor to cover all of the matters in the Bill that require further definition or detail. They can include a variety of matters that may adversely affect the amenity or good management of the land and waters in the management area and provide for the imposition of fees and charges. An important additional power to regulate is provided to control or prohibit the exhibition of advertisements or signs in the management area. This is a power that has not previously existed and is essential to maintain the visual attractiveness of the rivers.

Provision is made in Part 7 for the Minister to review the operation and effectiveness of the trust Act as soon as practicable after five years and report to both Houses of Parliament.

Schedule 1 describes the area in which the Bill applies while schedule 2 is a list of all the local government authorities whose boundaries abut the management area. Schedule 3 contains transitional provisions to allow the Swan River Trust to supersede the Swan River Management Authority.

In the drafting of the Swan River Trust Bill there has been extensive consultation, first through the preparation and consideration by the Government of the Zelestis Report and more recently with a number of State Government authorities, the local government authorities which abut the rivers, and the Local Government Association. I am certain this Bill would not have been so comprehensive or reached this stage without the assistance and cooperation of all concerned.

When this Bill is proclaimed, Western Australia will have legislation to the forefront of any in the world to protect, maintain and enhance the centrepiece of Perth, the Swan and Canning rivers.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Watt.

ACTS AMENDMENT (SWAN RIVER TRUST) BILL

Second Reading

MR HODGE (Melville - Minister for Waterways) [11.10 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is consequent on the Swan River Trust Bill and provides for amendments to a number of Acts to give effect to the Swan River Trust Bill. In particular it incorporates recommendations in the Zelestis review of legislative and administrative procedures, provides clarification of the role of the Minister for Waterways in the planning process, and establishes the trust's relationship to the Waterways Commission and the Waterways Conservation Act.

Part 1 provides that the amendments shall come into operation on the day on which the Swan River Trust Act 1988 comes into operation. Part 2 sets out amendments to the Conservation and Land Management Act to provide a consultative mechanism between the trust and the Department of Conservation and Land Management where marine and land nature reserves or parks are to be established in the trust's management area or where any amendment is proposed to such parks and reserves or certain other reserves to which that Act applies.

Parts 3 and 5 amend the Jetties Act and Marine and Harbours Act to ensure that approval is granted under the Swan River Trust Bill 1988 before a jetty licence or riverbed lease is issued in the management area. In this respect the trust will play an important role in bringing potential developers together with key State and local government bodies to work out the best form for a development proposal on the rivers. Part 4 amends the Land Act 1933 so that the Swan River Trust is consulted before any land in the management area is reserved, or the purpose of any such reserve is changed, or the area diminished.

Parts 6 and 7 amend the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act and the metropolitan region scheme to ensure that amendments made under the region scheme are

not contrary to the provisions of the Swan River Trust Bill, that certain clauses of the metropolitan region scheme do not apply to a development to which the development control provisions of the Swan River Trust Bill apply, and that a planning control area under the Metropolitan Scheme Act cannot be declared in the management area of the trust. Part 7 also amends the region scheme to provide that where an application for development crosses into or abuts the trust's management area where a foreshore reserve does not exist, the State Planning Commission shall give full particulars of the application to the Minister for Waterways. As a consequence, the Minister for Waterways can make recommendations to the Minister for Planning concerning any development conditions which are required to protect the river environment. The Minister for Planning will then refer the Minister for Waterways' views to the State Planning Commission which will determine the application in the normal manner. If a difference or dispute arises provision is made for consultation at ministerial level to resolve the matter.

The philosophy behind this approach is that the Minister for Waterways should not have the absolute power to determine - approve or disapprove - a major development which enters or abuts the management area but which has wider implications than its effect on the river alone. It is intended that in these cases the application should go through the normal planning process but that the Minister for Waterways should have a strong say in the decision making for the development as it affects the rivers. Where a development abuts the foreshore reserve or in the opinion of the State Planning Commission is likely to affect the rivers, it will be referred to the Swan River Trust for advice.

Part 9 continues the theme by providing that where there is an appeal under the planning process against a decision of the State Planning Commission the Minister for Waterways shall have the same standing in the appeal as the Minister for Planning if the appeal relates to land or waters that are in the trust's management area. In other words, where the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal hears an appeal, it shall have due regard to the views and recommendations of the Minister for Waterways.

Part 8 amends the Parliamentary Commissioner Act to place the Swan River Trust Bill under the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner.

Part 10 amends the Waterways Conservation Act to make it clear that the powers and functions of the Waterways Commission under the Waterways Conservation Act do not apply to the trust's management area. Taken together with the Swan River Trust Bill, these amendments clearly establish the trust's role over the Swan and Canning Rivers. Specifically, the trust is required to report to the Minister for Waterways on all major development proposals and uses of the rivers and carry out the tasks that are now performed by the Swan River Management Authority.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Watt.

MISUSE OF DRUGS AMENDMENT BILL (No 2)

Second Reading

MR TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie - Minister for Police and Emergency Services) [11.16 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to correct certain anomalies that have been identified which, since the introduction of the Misuse of Drugs Act, have affected the administration of the Act and prosecutions instigated pursuant to its provisions. Other minor changes of a cosmetic nature have been made. However, these do not alter the tenor of the legislation serving merely to make the reference proper. The Bill also seeks to amend the definition of "botanist" in lieu of the proposed transfer of the Western Australian Herbarium from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The tying of the Herbarium to a particular department is not essential for the purposes of the Act and subsequently the reference has been removed.

Section 8 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to cause or induce a person licensed under the Poisons Act to manufacture, sell or supply any prohibited drug to administer or

supply to him by injection or otherwise a prohibited drug. The Misuse of Drugs Act came into effect in September 1981 and since that time several charges alleging offences against that section have been dismissed as the prosecution failed to establish that the pharmacist who administered the prohibited drugs was licensed. In many instances the principle pharmaceutical chemist of a business is the holder of the licence in respect of the business whereas the pharmacist who dispensed the prohibited drugs was not. To prevent any further avoidance of prosecution for purely technical reasons, the Bill proposes to extend the Act to include reference to persons acting on behalf of the licensee such as an employee, partner, agent or locum.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is an excellent vehicle by which the police in the State have been able to control the movement of illicit drugs. However, at the time of drafting this legislation the actual volume of prohibited drugs or plants likely to be seized could not be anticipated. Consequently, the Act makes no allowance for their destruction other than in those instances where no person is likely to be charged with an offence or the court has ordered their destruction. With the seizure of large quantities of cannabis plant - a total of 26 675 plants were seized between 1 July 1987 and 31 December 1987 with a further 7 013 plants seized as at 18 February 1988 - the Police Department is experiencing difficulties in their storage and security. This is further aggravated by the need to transport the plants and drugs to the court for evidential purposes. With an approximate street value of \$500 for a single 91 centimetre cannabis plant and \$8 000 for a 28 gram deal of heroin, the value of the drugs and plants held is also of concern.

The need, therefore, is to facilitate the early destruction of prohibited drugs and plants. To this end, the Bill seeks to empower the Commissioner of Police, subject to certain requirements, to authorise the destruction of all or part of any prohibited drug or plant so seized. Any material retained for evidential purposes is subject to an order of the court. The Bill provides for the analysis or identification of the prohibited drug or plant and the issue of a certificate to that effect. Further, in the interests of the accused, it provides for a copy of the certificate to be served on the defendant as soon as is practicable after that person has been charged with the commission of an offence in relation to the prohibited drug, plant or other thing.

Changes to the conspiracy provisions of the Act are also to be made extending the sentencing options available under the provisions of the Criminal Code to those courts determining drug conspiracy charges under section 34 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. The conspiracy provisions are out of step with the general criminal law of this State in that a conviction for such an offence under the Act results in mandatory imprisonment with no option of a fine. The Bill will amend this provision therefore allowing the courts to exercise their option in conspiracy matters of imposing either a fine not exceeding \$100 000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 25 years, or both.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cash.

SECURITY AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL

Order Discharged

On motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), resolved -

That Order of the Day No 5 be discharged from the Notice Paper.

JURIES AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas - Minister for Agriculture) [11.21 am]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill deals principally with the random selection by computer of jury panels for circuit court sittings. It will replace the less efficient manual system which is now used. Selection of jury panels for criminal sittings of the Supreme and District Courts in Perth is made by computer. The computer also prepares the jurors' summonses. It is proposed to extend that program to also provide for the selection of jury panels for circuit court trials.

Circuit court sittings are held at Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Derby, Esperance, Geraldton, Karratha, Kununurra and Port Hedland. Considerable savings in time of court staff will result. Computerisation will also eliminate the requirement that a justice of the peace be present on every occasion when a jury panel is selected under the manual system.

The Bill also removes the provision in the current Act for the attendance of parties or their solicitors on the selection of a jury for a civil trial. Instead, there will be a requirement that the summoning officer supply a list of the names of selected jurors to each party involved in the litigation.

In practice, the computer system of the Western Australian Electoral Commission is used and it would not be practicable for parties or their solicitors to attend.

Proceeding with the legislation at this stage will enable it to be implemented with the introduction of the 1988-89 jury books as from 1 July 1988.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

GERALDTON MID-WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 19 May.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.23 am]: At the outset I advise that the Opposition supports this Bill. During the course of the debate Opposition members will raise concerns they have not only about the way in which the Bill has been put forward, but also about some of the issues in the mid west region. We will also take the opportunity of this debate to look at the Government's track record in the field of regional development.

Since the last State election there has been a lot of action in Geraldton by the Government. It is no secret that after a pretty close poll the Government has realised it will have to do quite a bit of work in Geraldton if it wants to retain the seat of Geraldton at the next election.

I advise members opposite, particularly the member for Geraldton who is handling this legislation as the Minister for Regional Development, that it is too late to start using political stunts to try to build up the Geraldton seat. At the end of the day people judge the success of a Government, not by how many Government personnel or buildings are pumped into a town, but by how much private investment is attracted to a town, in this case, Geraldton. It is not good enough for the Government to build flash buildings in a town and say, "We are doing something for your area." The Government must have the confidence of the private sector before it will invest in a certain area.

One point I want to raise and which other speakers from this side of the House will also raise when debating this legislation is the name of the Bill. The title is, "Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority Bill". It is interesting that the South West Development Authority did not have the name of "Bunbury" in its title. The same applies to the Great Southern Regional Authority which does not have the name of Albany or another town in that region in its title. However, in this case, it will be the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority and this alone highlights that the Government is trying to build up the seat of Geraldton in its favour.

The concern I have is that this authority will take in the mid west region, not just the seat of Geraldton. Within the mid west region there are many major towns and it is important, when carrying out a regional development strategy, that services are not centred in one area. I thought the Government would have learnt from its experience with the South West Development Authority.

A concern which quickly developed in relation to the South West Development Authority was that too much emphasis was being placed on Bunbury and not enough emphasis was being placed on the region as a whole. The Government has realised its error and it is desperately trying to be seen to be doing things for the towns outside Bunbury. That is the reason it has increased its interest in Collie and the Warren area generally. It is trying to get rid of the perception and fact that it sees Bunbury as the focal point for the South West

Development Authority. The Government is not interested in the area outside the city of Bunbury.

Mr Thomas: That is not my experience.

Mr COURT: The member says that it is not his experience, but recently some Opposition members visited most of the local authorities in the South West Development Authority's region and one of the common criticisms was that everything seemed to be focused on Bunbury and that the Government tended to want to shift services to Bunbury. It is similar to the old argument people in the country use; that is, all services are centred in Perth.

Taking my argument one step further the initial implications are that the Government will fall into the same trap with the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority as it did with the South West Development Authority. Recently some members of the Opposition visited the towns in the mid west region, for example, Morawa, Three Springs and Mingenew. The representatives of the local authorities to whom we spoke expressed concern that too much emphasis was being placed on the city of Geraldton. Of course, the greatest concern of the people in these towns is that many services have already been taken away from country towns due to rationalisation of Government bodies such as Westrail and Telecom. As a result Government officers have been taken out of towns and the towns' people are concerned that services will be centralised in Geraldton.

I would like the Minister to explain how the Government has been able to get this authority up and running. Advertisements for directors have been placed in the newspaper and obviously funding has been allocated to the authority. We are debating the legislation today, but from all accounts the authority is up and running. I know that the Government speaks of having an interim authority, but I would appreciate it if the Minister could explain what an interim authority is, and on whose authority the Government appointed people to it and funded its operations when we are only today debating in the Parliament the legislation to set up that authority.

The Minister for Regional Development in a Press release of 6 November 1987 said that the position of director of the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority would be advertised that weekend. Applications were to close on 26 November and it was proposed to have the appointment finalised in time for the official commencement of the authority on 1 January. The Premier, in a Press release in October 1987, said that the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority would operate from 1 January 1988. I would appreciate it if the Minister could explain how an authority, the legislation for which we are still debating in the House, could operate from a date that has passed. The Government has to be careful of pre-empting decisions of the Parliament, because the Parliament could well decide that it does not want the authority to be established.

Mr Carr: We did exactly the same as we did with the South West Development Authority and the Great Southern Development Authority, in that each of the three was initially established as a section within the Department of Regional Development and funded through the department's budget. We are now legislating for the authority to become a statutory authority from 1 July, at which time it will have its own budget and will deal directly with Treasury. But in that interim period it is, in Public Service terms, a section within the Regional Development Department, even though we have already given it the name that it will have.

Mr COURT: I appreciate the explanation that the Minister has given, but it should be spelt out clearly that it is a part of the Regional Development Department. The Government should not say that there will be an authority on a certain date when some six months later we are still in the process of debating the legislation to establish that authority.

The purpose of the legislation is to plan, coordinate and promote the economic and social development of Geraldton and the mid west. We all support that concept. In a way, it is a bit of a motherhood statement. The authority is being set up with a board, an advisory committee and the necessary support staff. Again, I would appreciate it if in reply the Minister could indicate the sort of budget envisaged for the authority and the number of support staff that will be required.

The legislation also states that a board member must disclose a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in matters being considered or to be considered by the board. I do not believe that

provision existed in the legislation setting up the Great Southern Development Authority and the South West Development Authority.

Mr Carr: It was, but there was no penalty. The difference here is that we have imposed penalties. When we debated the Great Southern Development Authority Bill, the member for Albany raised the query as to why there was no penalty and suggested that there should be. We have accordingly provided for a penalty in this legislation.

Mr COURT: I ask whether there is another reason for providing for a penalty. Have problems occurred with the other authorities, leading to criticism that members with pecuniary interests have been getting decisions their way?

Mr Carr: No. There have been no problems with the Great Southern Development Authority, which comes under my jurisdiction, and I am not aware of any problems with the South West Development Authority.

Mr COURT: We all support the stated aims for setting up the authority, but we have to make sure that it is not a case of the old story, "We are from the Government; we are here to help you." We have to make sure that the authority does not inhibit development. That can easily occur when Governments want to have more say in what takes place. There has been criticism of the duplication involved. The local government people say that their role and responsibility is to cover certain areas of administration. They have above them the State Government and the Federal Government. Regional development authorities have now been set up and they also want to have a say in what takes place. The State Planning Commission seems to be becoming a powerful body which can direct where and what can take place. On a recent visit to the Busselton-Margaret River area I found all the different people and Government departments that are involved in trying to plan the future of a place quite confusing. There is a great deal of duplication of functions and we have to make sure that the development authorities do not add to the red tape and inhibit development rather than promote it.

It is said that the development authorities should expedite developments. They should act as umpires rather than key players in the developments. It is of concern that the trend is for Government to become more and more involved, particularly the current Government. The Government seems very keen to take a direct part of the action in different business activities. The Government wants to be one of the players.

One of the biggest bumbles that I have seen in recent times was the Government's handling of the siting of the silicon project in the Bunbury area.

Mr Blaikie: Was it what you would call a costly bungle?

Mr COURT: It was an extremely costly bungle. The Government used the South West Development Authority because it wanted a favourable political decision to be made prior to the by-elections. With great haste the South West Development Authority had to find the site for the project and purchase it. I will not delay the House by relating what took place, but the end result was a major bungle. The project was sited elsewhere and at the end of the day the decision will cost the taxpayers of this State millions of dollars. I understand that the South West Development Authority now owns the site at Picton. Worsley was probably quite pleased that it had the opportunity to sell it when the Government wanted to move so quickly.

Mr Blaikie: I wonder whether the WADC was involved in part of that transference of Government property.

Mr COURT: The member for Vasse is quite right. When I spoke of duplication, I did not mention all the other Government departments that could have been involved because we have some time constraints in the House. But who knows what would have been the involvement of WADC?

The WADC has been involved in trying to put together a big development project involving both water and land at Mandurah. The project has been extremely controversial. I believe that the Cabinet has now given the WADC the chop on that particular project and the South West Development Authority has been asked to try to put some sort of deal together. I ask the member for Mandurah whether that is correct.

Mr Read: I would not know about that.

Mr COURT: The member does not know that the WADC is not involved?

Mr Read: The controversy in regard to the WADC was politically inspired in regard to that marina.

Mr COURT: By the Labor Party?

Mr Read: No. It was made into a political issue just prior to the last election.

Mr COURT: A lot of these things become political issues. When the major redevelopment of the centre of a place is involved, of course it becomes a political issue. I am just saying that the WADC has for some years been trying to put together that development. It is running into major obstacles in Mandurah, and the Cabinet has decided not to give the WADC the mandate to do that. Instead, it has been handed to the South West Development Authority which will try to put the deal together.

Mr Read: That was a development proposal. A number of proposals were put forward for the marina and nothing was definite. It would have to go before the Shire of Mandurah before anything could be done. There was a lot of beat-up.

Mr COURT: Was it a beat-up by the WADC?

Mr Read: No, by the Liberal Party prior to the last election, when it chose to make it an election issue.

Mr COURT: If it was a beat-up, why has Cabinet decided to take it from the WADC and give it to the South West Development Authority?

Mr Read: It was made a beat-up by a series of half truths.

Mr COURT: Is the member for Mandurah saying that the Cabinet is dealing in half truths?

Mr Read: They were spread by the Liberal candidate in that campaign.

Mr COURT: Why would Cabinet spend its time considering it, if that were the case?

Mr Read: A classic example was the notice put up in the Peninsula Caravan Park, printed by the State Printing Division, stating that eviction notices would be issued. That was a lot of balderdash and the idea was to stir up the residents of the caravan park with fears about the terrible things the WADC would do.

Mr COURT: I understand that the South West Development Authority has been told to fit the caravan park complex into a proposed redevelopment.

Mr Read: Obviously you know more than I do.

Mr COURT: I am in the Opposition; the Government is making the decisions. If the member for Mandurah wants to be fully informed about what is going on in his party, he can talk to members of the Opposition at any time and we will bring him up to date. After five years that concept, which is an important part of the redevelopment of Mandurah, has still not been put together.

Mr Read: The South West Development Authority has done an excellent job in Mandurah and the Murray area generally.

Mr COURT: We debated that subject this week during the Address-in-Reply debate and I will allow local members from the Opposition to cover that area and to make those comments.

Mr Read: Who are they?

Mr COURT: Who are they, and who will they be? The Mandurah area will become very strong Liberal territory in the future. Mandurah is the one place I would like to live, apart from the suburb in which I presently live.

Mr Read: If you improve your manners, we might accept you.

Mr COURT: I cannot afford to shift there yet.

A further problem with these development authorities is that they override local government. That has certainly been a big concern and already a backlash has occurred to these development authorities which do not work together with local authorities. The Government is experiencing such a backlash in the south where local authorities believe they have not

been included in the important decision making processes, and that people who sit in high rise buildings are given the authority to make decisions without taking into account the local councils which have been elected to carry out their duties in these areas. The local authorities are so close to the action that they have an understanding of local conditions. That is not to say that the Government should not take a broader overview of what is happening in the region; but local government should be involved with the authorities carrying out the overview of the region. That would help cut out much of the criticism from local governments that they are not part of the decision making processes. Almost every local authority we have visited has raised this issue.

My next point relates to the selection of representatives on the advisory committees. It is important for the Government to ensure proper representation from the regions under discussion. Some concern has been expressed by people who will be affected by the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority that it will concentrate too much on Geraldton and ignore the wider region. It is important to ensure that representatives from a cross section of the region are appointed. It must be appreciated that the mid west region covers a huge area, and communication and attendance at meetings are not easy in an area of that size. I understand the difficulties involved when dealing with distances such as that between Meekatharra and Geraldton, but if people from these outer regions are to make an effective input, they must be appointed to the advisory committees.

I take this opportunity to make general comments about the region. Some of my colleagues, who live, work and operate in the region and who have a very good understanding of it, will also make their observations about the developments taking place in the region. The mid west is a very fortunate region in that it has diversified strengths. It does not rely on one or two industries but can proudly boast of being the leader in agricultural industries, including the pastoral industry, and the mining, fishing, and tourism industries. It has access to the natural gas pipeline running through the region, and Geraldton is very strategically located to handle the transport moving to and from the north of the State - which itself is a rapidly developing region. Geraldton has a very strong economy which thrives because it is a major port and the centre for the many industries to which I referred.

I now refer specifically to the mining industry: Most people tend to think of the mid west region as an agricultural region, rather than an area with large mining operations. The mining industry, together with agriculture, is the backbone of our State's economy. In this region mining is carried out for mineral sands, talc, gold, lead, silver and zinc - a diversified range of minerals. It was interesting to read that the Big Bell mining company will be flying people in and out of Geraldton. That is a very good concept because the people will come not only from Geraldton but also from the surrounding region. The area has proved to be a very good source of workers. I have some general comments to make to the Minister in relation to this new concept of fly-in, fly-out. The Big Bell mining company made a wise decision when it chose Geraldton.

I can recall during the construction of the platform for the Harriet project talking to some of the Bechtel and Clough people involved in building that platform at Geraldton. They explained that they needed welders with certain skills to build the platform. Members will recall that they put it together very quickly; in fact, I was surprised at how quickly they were able to construct that platform at Geraldton. The Bechtel and Clough people said that the people in Geraldton did not have the required welding skills, but in cooperation with the Government and the Education Department they were able to quickly train people to the skills required. They said that the end result was a first class work force.

Mr Thomas: They had a training run on the Woodside model.

Mr COURT: They built one of the modules.

Mr Carr: They built about four or five modules for Woodside and a fair reservoir of skills was built up in that exercise.

Mr COURT: There was a difference between building the Woodside modules and the welding skills required for the Harriet project.

Mr Carr: A lot of complicated welding skills were required for the Woodside module, as well.

Mr COURT: They commented that the work force was easily trained and reliable.

On a recent visit to the Argyle project it was explained that they were conducting a fly in - fly out system between Perth and the project. I have some reservations about that procedure because it is pulling people from one end of the State to take them up there. Big Bell to Geraldton is different. We examined the Kajibup mine at Fitzroy Crossing where they are flying people in, mainly from Broome, and from Kununurra and Derby as well.

The concern raised in relation to the Broome exercise was that although the workers in Broome were keen to work at Fitzroy Crossing under a system involving one week on and one week off there was a shortage of suitable accommodation for that work force in Broome. Everyone wants to live in Broome and likes the idea of one week working in the mining industry and one week living at Broome, but that shortage of suitable accommodation is a problem that must be solved.

The same problem will not arise at Geraldton because many of the people who want to work on this sort of project are farming people. In fact, when we looked at the different types of employees attracted to Argyle we found that there were a number of farming people from throughout the south west who drive to Perth from places such as Dumbleyung and then fly to Argyle to work under their system of two weeks on and two weeks off. In one case two brothers who are farmers had alternative shifts so that there was always one brother minding the farm. Of course, one would never see one's brother for a year the way that system works. The mining industry has found that farming people are very good employees. I would like to think that that project will do well.

I turn now to the Golden Grove project. When we visited the Morawa Shire they expressed their concern that there was too much emphasis on Geraldton. They were keen for a road to be established from Morawa to service a mine near Yalgoo. They put forward a good argument that a town such as Morawa, and nearby towns, would be quite capable of providing many of the basic services required by the mine.

On talking to the shires in Three Springs and surrounding areas where they have contact with the mining industry it was interesting to hear people say how important the mining industry is to the viability of those towns, and how important is the income that it provides and the families that it brings into the area. It was interesting to see that the mining industry plays a significant role in that area. It also has quite an effect on towns in parts of the agricultural regions where mining takes place.

When one talks about this region one must talk about the gold industry. We have talked about Cue, Mt Magnet and Meekatharra, towns which in recent times have done extremely well because of the boom in the goldmining industry. Having been able to build up and prosper because of that boom in the industry the people involved are now concerned about the effect that new taxation proposals will have on the viability of some of these places. The complaint in Meekatharra nowadays is that there are insufficient air services and that although they have built a new hotel one cannot get accommodation. Those are the signs of a thriving industry and it would be sad if that drive were lost because of taxation removing incentives to open marginal deposits. We are talking here about both the Federal Government tax and the State Government's proposals, whatever it wants to call its tax - whether a community levy, "Taylor tax", or a State gold tax. The member for Kalgoorlie will, if for nothing else, go down as having introduced the "Taylor tax".

Mr Taylor: If that is the case, I will die a happy man. Why does the member for Nedlands not come to Kalgoorlie and debate it with me at some time?

Mr COURT: Every time we go to Kalgoorlie the local member steps into the main street and there is a Press release quoting the member saying that we stood on the wrong spot, or something like that. I have never known a member who is so sensitive about people entering his electorate. If one goes to a school there that is overcrowded and says something about that, the member comes out asking, "Did you not know that we planned to build a new one?" If it were not for our visiting Kalgoorlie nothing would ever happen there. Every time we raise a subject things get fixed there.

The point I make to the member for Kalgoorlie is that he might be talking to certain people in the goldmining industry there, but the sorts of goldmining communities that I am talking about in this region are not as large and in many cases are mining marginal deposits. I can assure the member for Kalgoorlie that they get scared when there is talk of introducing new taxes.

I turn now to the Yeelirrie uranium deposits. There was talk that uranium was to be shipped through Esperance or Geraldton.

Mr Carr: The emphasis was on where the inputs would come through. There was to be 50 000 tons of input and the question was whether they would pass through Geraldton or Esperance. The other small amount, which was to be exported, was to go out in small containers through Fremantle.

Mr COURT: If Yeelirrie went ahead there was an opportunity for Geraldton to be involved in that development.

Mr Carr: The member's father was pushing strongly for it to go through Esperance.

Mr COURT: It could have gone through Esperance or Geraldton. The point I am making is that it is Labor Party policy that is stopping that industry getting off the ground. All members of this House must agree that it was one of the most embarrassing experiences that one could witness when last night the Deputy Premier was humiliated by his own party members not supporting his comments on uranium mining.

Mr Gordon Hill: Rubbish.

Mr COURT: What does the Minister mean by saying "rubbish"? I have never seen a party so divided on an issue.

Mr Carr: Last night was about procedures.

Mr COURT: We are trying to support the Deputy Premier and members opposite in what they are doing in an attempt to achieve uranium mining.

Mr Gordon Hill: That is a stunt.

Mr COURT: I can tell the Minister who just interjected what was clear last night: His party is split down the middle on this issue. Members opposite have allowed their Deputy Premier to go out and promote the cause of trying to change the policy on uranium mining; and they are now not supporting him. It might be a joke for the Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, but we are talking about the development of a region in which the mining industry plays an important role. The uranium mining industry has the potential to be one of the major export earners for this State, and some of this mining activity could occur in the Geraldton region, but that will not occur because of the actions of members opposite.

Mr Read: It is a Federal policy.

Mr COURT: Members opposite want Canberra to do everything for them. They want everything to be centralised. They do not believe in the role of the States. They will not stand up and fight for what is taking place in this State.

Mr Gordon Hill: That is not what he said, but you would not understand that.

Mr COURT: All right; it is a Federal Labor Party policy. We cannot mine and export uranium because it is a Federal Labor Party policy - is that the excuse? Members opposite are not doing anything to change that policy. Their Deputy Premier tried to do something, but he was left completely out on a limb and was humiliated last night by the actions of his own members.

Dr Alexander: I believe you support a consumption tax.

Mr COURT: Members opposite tried last night to talk about consumption taxes and Floreat Park. We are talking now about the uranium mining industry.

Agriculture is also one of the mainstays of this region. Agriculture has diversified into wheat and sheep farming in particular. During the past four years wheat and sheep farmers have had an extremely difficult time. I know about that from personal experience because we are involved in that kind of property. Many of the people concerned - as the Minister knows only too well - have still not recovered from those difficult years. They were caught in a squeeze, with prices falling and costs increasing, and to top it off, with the high interest rates their land values crashed so they had difficulty in getting security. I believe the member for Scarborough was on the hardship committee which went through a lot of that area. Some very tragic cases have come out of these financial battles in recent years. We in the metropolitan area tend to not worry about what has been taking place in the country, but many family farms have been lost, and the recovery is tending to be slow. We should

recognise the great contribution those people have made and that they have gone through difficult times. I would like to support the Minister for Agriculture in this regard.

It was reported today in the Press that action was being taken by the United States Government to try to muscle in on more of the international wheat markets with its subsidised products. That action is of great concern, and it is action that at the end of the day the United States Government will regret. Wheat farmers are going to have their recovery weakened by the fact that the United States could be interfering with what happens to the price of wheat in the next few years.

Increasing wool prices have made a great contribution and have helped many people out of difficult situations on the pastoral and sheep farming fronts. Within the mid west region, a lot of innovative work is being carried out in the agricultural sector, such as work related to the salinity problems and to trying to stop the land degradation which has been taking place. We have seen also in recent years an increase in the number of people growing lupins. The emu farming industry was mentioned by the member for Greenough during debate the other day. We have spent some time talking to people involved with that industry. The industry is in its infancy, and the people involved are taking a certain amount of risk. It seems to me that certain Government departments are making it difficult for them. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has its views on the subject, whereas the Department of Agriculture is giving those people every encouragement to try to get ahead. Emu farming is an interesting adjunct to the area because it does not require large areas of land, and it will be interesting to see what the demand will be for the products of emu farming. These people made it clear to us they believed they were being restricted by red tape, and they wanted to get rid of a lot of that red tape and be allowed to get on with trying to develop the industry.

The fishing industry plays an important role in the mid west region. If we look at the fishing community around Australia, the lobster fishermen in Western Australia are about the only fishermen who have a record of being reasonably successful. Most fishermen seem to be struggling, yet the lobster fishermen along our coast have had tremendous returns. We have also the wet line fishermen and the scallop fishermen. The interesting aspect of the fishing industry and the success of the lobster industry is the spin off effect occurring from it to the people who service that industry. The big boom came initially in the boat building industry in Perth, and many local boat builders did extremely well out of the success of the fishermen around this area. Geraldton quickly established its own industry, which is capable of building world standard lobster fishing boats and wet line fishing boats. I am not completely up to date with what has taken place in the last year. I know one of the builders in Geraldton, Millman's, had some difficulties in coming under the Government's bounty scheme. I do not know whether they have been able to overcome those difficulties.

Mr Carr: We got them a bounty, but notwithstanding that Millman's had its own financial problems and has failed.

Mr Reg Tubby: It was too late.

Mr Carr: The bounty was not the problem.

Mr COURT: Mr Millman did receive a bounty after many years of struggling.

Mr Carr: It was not after many years.

Mr COURT: It was after many years, because we have brought it up in this House over some years.

Mr Carr: "Years" is not the right word. A couple of months were involved.

Mr COURT: The system was changed. Millman's was a classic case of a boat builder who did well in the lobster fishing boat industry and wanted to expand further, but when the system was changed it became detrimental to him.

The fishing boat industry and the servicing of boats operating in that industry are in themselves quite large industries, but it is important that with the fishing industry we do not relax on its current success. We have to develop ways of making better use of that resource and of ensuring that people are being trained as we break through into new areas.

I compliment the Geraldton Regional College of Technical and Further Education for the work it is doing in training people. Recently we attended a seminar - I forget in which town

it was held; it might have been Three Springs or one of those areas - where the college was helping a number of farmers to improve their management techniques; and they are participating in that in conjunction with the private sector. I know the college is doing a lot of work in helping people in the fishing industry. It is important that a regional college such as this fits in well with the industries that are developing in that region.

In the tourism field, not only Geraldton, but also other parts of the region have a good track record. It goes without saying that if we are to expand tourism in this State we must make sure that the facilities are adequate to meet the standards people require. This region has outback attractions, as we know from some of these station properties. The member for Murchison-Eyre, with his properties in the area, knows only too well the tremendous thrill overseas visitors get when visiting our outback regions.

Geraldton itself, as a major port, must make sure that the port properly caters for future expansion. Already a lot of grain and certain minerals are being shipped out of Geraldton. It is important that the planning is in place to ensure that the port can expand and take the type of ships which will be required as those features develop.

They are in a catch 22 situation in that there is a limit to how much the port can be expanded, and whether new port facilities can be developed to cater for other industries coming to the area which will require those port facilities. I would like to think that the planning is well and truly under way to make sure that the existing port can be properly upgraded and to enable that expansion to take place, both in agriculture and in the mining industry.

In Geraldton certain plans are under way to upgrade the town. One of the major criticisms I have always had of the planning in Geraldton is that it does not take advantage of the beautiful waterfront. One has only to walk down the main street to see that it has a character of its own. One walks out of the back of the shops onto the seafront and sees rows of old toilets and barbed wire fences. If one looks beyond that, the view is one of the most beautiful one could find anywhere. I hope Governments of either persuasion will be able to turn the town around.

Mr Carr: It is starting to happen.

Mr COURT: Yes, but advantage must be taken of the fact that waterfronts anywhere in the world are a great attraction, particularly where there is a beautiful ocean with a living, thriving, fishing industry. To be able to witness that is a major attraction in itself.

Mr Clarko: If only they could do something about the rather too regular sea breeze.

Mr COURT: The member for Karrinyup talks about the sea breeze. As a yachting person, I think the sea breeze in Geraldton is rather good. We do a lot of sailing in Geraldton, and we regularly had a regatta there at Easter. Geraldton has some of the best dinghy sailing waters one can find, probably because of the strong winds. I know the windsurfing people enjoy sailing out of Geraldton. From an ocean racing point of view it is a very difficult place to get into; it is very dangerous as far as reef structures go but, all in all, the sailing activities are another great attraction.

We could discuss many other issues and opportunities related to this region, and members who follow me will describe how it affects them in particular. I want to sum up by saying that it is important for the Government not to fall into the mistake of centralising everything when it talks about regional development. The Government wants to centralise everything in Bunbury, or all the services in Geraldton. It is important to get the proper balance where all the towns involved in the region can share and be equally involved in the provision of Government services; people must not be plucked out of their towns and put into so-called regional centres. They see these people in silver buildings and they say, "They do not give a continental about us out there in the regions." Geraldton is seen as being as bad as Perth when it comes to talking about who is actually making the decisions.

The mid west region we are discussing today is a major contributor to the economic and social development of this State. Its strength lies in its diversity. Not many places can proudly boast of having such a diversity of industry, with mining, agriculture, fishing and tourism. A lot of traffic moves through the area going up and down this large State of ours, so the region has tremendous strength as a result. It has contributed a great deal to the development of this State, and it would not hurt us to think for a few minutes about many of the pioneers involved in helping to get that region off the ground, whether it is the people

who opened up the land, or those who pioneered the fishing industry in that area. We are inclined to take it all for granted these days, particularly those of us who come from Perth. Those pioneers have done a lot to open up new developments.

This is a region with a great future. I hope the authority we are debating today will help the region develop and not hinder it by ill-conceived political interference. I can assure this House that the Liberal Party has a very strong commitment to the development of the region and the people living in it.

MR REG TUBBY (Greenough) [12.18 pm]: It is a pleasure for me to take part in this debate on the important move to establish the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority. It is very difficult to follow such an extensive speech made by the shadow Minister for Regional Development in which he reflected a thorough understanding of a very large portion of Western Australia and an in-depth understanding of the activities taking place in these regions, particularly the mid west. I know he likes nothing better than to get out into the areas and speak with the people directly involved in activities in these regions. For that reason I am sure he will make an excellent Minister for Regional Development after the next State election.

I have a great interest in the establishment of the development authority because of the role I hope it will play in the coordinated development of the future of the mid west region, which incorporates, as has been mentioned before, an enormous area of Western Australia. It stretches from the coast to the border of South Australia. This area takes in large agricultural areas involved in pastoral, mining, fishing and many other activities.

I have a criticism of the Minister and the Government in that they have pre-empted Parliament and made a mockery of the debate today because the board of the authority is already in place, the advisory committee is already in place, the director has been appointed and offices and staff set up. Parliament has been pre-empted, and I do not agree that this should have taken place. For the life of me I cannot see why that action should have been taken.

I have no criticism of the people who have been appointed; as a matter of fact I congratulate the Minister on the quality of those people. I do not believe it would be possible to appoint a board of more capable people of more sound background and diversification of interest and experience. It is certainly a very capable board and I am sure that the diversification of experience of its members will ensure that it makes a very solid contribution.

Another matter that concerns me greatly and which has already been mentioned by the previous speaker is that the authority is proposed to be called the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority. I ask the Minister why the Geraldton local authority has been given that special mention. In my opinion the mid west is now a well known and well identified area of Western Australia. We have the South West Development Authority and the Great Southern Development Authority; why should this one not be called the Mid-West Development Authority? That would place local authorities in the whole region on an equal basis. It is tremendously important for all of the local authorities inland to be seen as being on an equal basis with Geraldton, rather than naming the authority after Geraldton with the Mid-West tacked on. It is most important that the authority be seen as a truly mid west regional concept. I cannot stress that strongly enough, having been involved in regional development for many years and having lived in the area that is being covered by this authority. The whole region is interdependent, with Geraldton depending on the mid west region for what it produces and the mid west depending on Geraldton for the services it provides. I ask the Minister to explain why Geraldton has been given this special mention as, after all, Geraldton is only part of the mid west region. I believe it is unfair to give one local government priority over another if the authority is to be seen as a truly regional concept. Perhaps the Minister does not think this point is important, but it is most important to the other local authorities concerned. I do not believe it can be justified on a population or production basis, and I think most of the activities of the authority will be outside Geraldton if worthwhile industries are to be attracted. I believe that, because of the importance of the setting up of the authority, the Minister should forget his own petty, personal interest and look to what is best for the sound development and foundation of this regional development authority. The Minister is putting his own personal interests ahead of the betterment of the region. We all know Geraldton is the most marginal seat in the State and he is in a desperate

position, trying to hang on by any means possible. I wonder whether the Minister has declared his pecuniary interests as he expects the local authorities to do.

Mr Carr: Pecuniary interests, did you say?

Mr REG TUBBY: Yes.

Mr Carr: What pecuniary interests?

Mr REG TUBBY: I am referring to the Minister's job - his future.

Mr Carr: How pathetic.

Several members interjected.

Mr REG TUBBY: It is not a ridiculous statement; that is the current perception in the area. I can see no justification for the action the Minister has taken other than the one I have made.

There is also concern about the proliferation and duplication of administration in Geraldton. In reading this Bill I can see many cases where the proposed Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority will be in conflict with the responsibilities of local government. I hope that will not be the case, but there do seem to be areas where conflict and overlapping will occur. For instance, in Geraldton itself we have the city council with an administration directly responsible to the people in health, planning, and many other matters, yet from reading the Bill it is clear that the development authority also will be involved in these types of activities. We also have a fully staffed ministerial office in Geraldton, which is an absolute waste of taxpayers' money when we already have the member for Geraldton's electorate office. The member certainly is entitled to have that electoral office and it is essential for a member who is to serve a country electorate; however, the ministerial office is being widely questioned, possibly even more so now that the development authority is to be established.

My deputy leader has extensively covered many of the activities in the region and I do not intend to waste the time of the House by repeating what he said. However, I will make this comment: If the authority is allowed to operate in an independent way, I believe that the people who have been appointed to the board will do a magnificent job in coordinating planning and development of the mid west region. However, the general feeling in the local authorities and in Geraldton itself is that the development authority should be covered by the department that is now administered by the Minister. People in authority in the local area who have been involved in discussions with the Minister - industry leaders and business leaders - have been quite dismayed at the inability of the Minister to communicate with them. It is felt that the authority will fill this gap and I am sure that the vast experience of the members of the board will enable them to communicate with industry leaders and fill the big void that has been created by the present Minister for Regional Development. I do not blame the Minister because I know his background has not led him into this type of negotiation and it must be very difficult for him to communicate. However, that comment has been made to me on several occasions by people who have been involved in the discussions recently. They were quite shocked at the inability of the Minister to communicate with industry leaders.

I fully support the establishment of a mid west development authority, although I hope the Minister will see fit to alter its title after the expressions of concern that have been made by the previous speaker and myself that the name of the authority includes "Geraldton" with the remainder of the region tacked on. It should be seen to be a true, open, regional concept with all local authorities being seen to be on an equal basis, working together, not with priority being given to one local authority over the others. As I have said, they are all totally interdependent. Altering the name as we have suggested will give this authority a far better foundation on which to work - a truly regional concept.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [12.27 pm]: The National Party will support this legislation. There is no question that there is a great need for decentralisation in a State as large as Western Australia. At the conclusion of the war we had a population balance of about 50 per cent in the metropolitan area and 50 per cent in the country. Of course, we all know that now about 80 per cent of our population is in the metropolitan area and unfortunately that percentage seems to be growing. It is certainly growing much too rapidly.

I say, perhaps a little facetiously, that in the last week or two we have had numerous debates in which the question of one-vote-one-value has reared its head. One way to overcome this

problem would be to maintain our electorate districts as they are. This may encourage Governments to promote industries within the various electorates and balance up the population that way. It would be a legitimate excuse for a bit of pork barrelling, I might add, to balance it up and attain one-vote-one-value on a basis which could be of benefit to the State, in so far as we would spread the population in a vast area on a more equitable basis.

I must raise some doubts about whether we are proceeding along the right track. I give the Government full marks for its endeavours - I would not like to be accused of being a knocker. I think we have to give this new approach a full opportunity to be successful but I might add that some doubts are being raised about whether it will achieve its desired objectives. Years ago, the concept of regional administration was introduced as one way of encouraging decentralisation. I do not think I need to go to any great lengths to say that basically that attempt failed. There were regional administrators throughout the State who administered nothing. They were really glorified departmental officers creating a degree of bureaucracy throughout regional areas. If we did a cost benefit analysis of their operations, we would find it largely all cost and no benefit.

We now have the concept of regional development authorities. We have the Bunbury one and the Albany one, and now we have the mid west one. I rather support the contention that "Geraldton" is unnecessarily mentioned in the Bill title. For example, if one considers the Great Southern Development Authority; even without calling it that, I can assure the House and the Minister that many of the local government areas outside Bunbury were apprehensive that it was really an attempt at centralisation for Albany. In other words, that it was decentralised centralisation. That fear is there without actually putting wording in the title of the Bill.

Mr Carr: Do you think that the GSDA has been reasonably successful in seeking to administer the areas outside Albany as well as Albany?

Mr STEPHENS: I think there has been some endeavour to do that. However, even at this early stage, growing doubt is being expressed about the effectiveness of the Great Southern Development Authority. To be fair, it has not had a long enough run at this stage. Most people are saying that all it is doing is churning out reports and inquiries, which could have been initiated from Perth without the cost of additional bureaucracy.

Mr Carr: But better done with local input than done from Perth.

Mr STEPHENS: Okay, but there have been consultancies and so on. Basically at this stage only reports have been produced. Hopefully they will manifest themselves into something tangible but I am apprehensive because there is an old saying that if one does not want to make a decision, one refers the matter to a committee. It appears to me that if one does not want to make a decision now, one has a report prepared.

I am sounding a note of warning and caution: I believe that it needs a trial run of perhaps three years. I notice in this legislation, as in the legislation dealing with the Great Southern Development Authority, that there will be a review in five years. I think that a review is appropriate, although I think that five years is too far down the track. In that period a considerable amount of taxpayers' money could be consumed. A more appropriate time would be three years; a cost benefit analysis could then be undertaken and a resumé of the activities of the authority could be given, which would determine whether the concept of the authority is working along the right lines.

Bearing in mind the fact that the Federal Government wants to have constitutional authority for local government written into the Federal Constitution, there is a fear among local government authorities that these regional development authorities are being set up as part of a grand design of the centralised power in Canberra, in order to take over the control of local government. Local government generally is rather apprehensive of losing its authority. I am not saying that is happening, but local government is apprehensive of what could happen. The Minister should take cognisance of that in any administrative or developmental plan in which he is involved. He should make sure this does not happen. The fear is there, although I do not have any proof of it - at this stage it is too early for that - but I can assure the Minister that doubts have been raised with me on many occasions.

It is important in respect of the work of local government that we maintain its authority and independence. Perhaps in the future, if reconstruction occurs or changes are made, we could

look at involving more local government authorities in the decision making process. Local Government has the administrative setup in existence without creating another bureaucracy, which would be fairly costly. At the time regional administration was phased out, it was costing the taxpayers something like \$250 000 a year for the Albany region alone. At the moment in round terms the regional development authority's budget is about \$500 000. The National Party questions whether this is the most effective way of achieving the very desirable aim of decentralisation.

If changes are necessary in order to achieve a result, perhaps we should be looking at a structure which involves local government more closely with a minimal creation of another bureaucracy parallel to local government. There is no question that in assisting in decentralisation, it is important to maximise the natural resources within a region and to see that any benefaction carried on in the region enhances the employment market. Over and above that, it is desirable to look at reducing the freight factors for regional areas. I am not being critical when I say that private investors look for the best return for their money. As a consequence, they tend to come to the Perth metropolitan area because that is where the growth is. It is very difficult to attract private investors into some of the country regions. Of course the investors get a better return on their dollars invested in the metropolitan area, but it is also true that public sector costs in the metropolitan area are now higher than in country regions.

Therefore taxpayers are asked to contribute more to develop the public sector facilities than is required in places like Geraldton, Bunbury or Albany. Thus the return is greater to private investors in the city while the cost to the community is a lot higher. I believe we should develop a mechanism to encourage development in the country. This may mean that initially taxpayers would pay more, but in the long term they would be better off because they would not be burdened with excessive costs that occur as a city develops. I know a lot of work has been done in this respect; at one stage the optimum size of cities was round 500 000 people and after that the public sector costs grew out of proportion to the growth in the community. That being so, freight is one area which should be given a considerable amount of attention. It is for that reason I am very disappointed that in the years I have been in Parliament more encouragement has not been given to regional areas for the development of, for example, the shipbuilding industry. This is one industry where the freight component would have been considerably reduced; the raw materials would have had to be sent to these centres, but by the time the ships were constructed, they could get to wherever they were going under their own power. However, the encouragement was given to the metropolitan area. We even brought in legislation to allow a reserve to aid the development of a shipbuilding industry within the metropolitan area.

The same could be said of technology. Most technology developments have high costs but low freight components. This is an area in which Government could have encouraged development outside the metropolitan area but instead we saw the development of a technology park within the metropolitan area. This exacerbates the problem and it has now reached the point, as was indicated in a debate the other day, where people who wish to live in the metropolitan area are being crowded together. The Government is looking at ways and means of reducing the great Australian dream - the acquisition of a home on a quarter acre block. I think it is essential to give serious consideration to encouraging any move toward decentralisation.

The Government should be prepared to use the taxpayers' dollar to encourage that as this will be a saving in the future. The National Party supports the Bill while realising the problems associated with it. We would be happy to cooperate with the Government in overcoming those problems and in bringing about a genuine move towards decentralisation in this great State.

MR FRED TUBBY (Dale) [12.41 pm]: I support the Bill if this is the only way the Government can spend funds in country areas. Enough local government and Government departments exist already to carry out development in country areas. Community groups in country areas could also receive Government funding for future projects. This Bill will have no great effect; it is a vote-buying exercise. As a vote-buying exercise, similar legislation was effective in Bunbury and Mitchell; but not in Albany. This legislation will not be effective in buying votes in Geraldton either.

On Tuesday speakers from the Government side applauded local government for its enterprise. I agreed wholeheartedly with those statements. The difference is that I do not agree with the call for recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution because this recognition already exists in the Western Australian Constitution. If the Government supports local government to such an extent why place another tier of government between local government and the State?

Mr Read: That is not what it does.

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is exactly what it does. It places another bureaucracy between the local community and the State Government.

Mr Read: It will help them.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Help them, baloney! In his speech the Minister related the great things which have been done already - the authority has initiated a number of projects of potential benefit. The key words are, "a strategy to improve post secondary education; improving commercial links between the Murchison and Geraldton; encouraging mining companies to operate from Geraldton and the mid west; ongoing planning". As the member for Stirling said, it is all words and nothing concrete.

Mr Carr: You cannot have it both ways.

Several members interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: One member at a time; the chalky first.

Mr Read: Would the local authority in Geraldton and the mid west oppose that?

Mr FRED TUBBY: No. They would not oppose it because they can see this is the only way that money will be poured into the region. If this is the only way this Government can pour money into the regions, I will support the Bill. It is a poor situation when the Government will not support local government to carry out its work.

Mr Carr: You misunderstand.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I do not misunderstand anything. The Minister carries on with the centralisation of power. The Government wants local government centralised into the Australian Constitution. Now the Minister is talking about centralising local government into an authority in all regions around the country.

Mr Carr: The member has just criticised the creation of the authority as being words and not action, and then criticises the Government for doing too much. The member cannot have it both ways.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Government has not done anything. It sets bodies up and people see those bodies as being another tier between them and the State. Nothing is done except reports are written.

Mr Troy: Is that what the member thinks about the South West Development Authority?

Mr FRED TUBBY: Exactly, and when the Government does move it sets up a bus service. The people in the offices down at Bunbury have a game which is something like winning Bingo. They play "spot the passenger". How much is that project costing the State?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Alexander): Order! This is not intended to be a question and answer session between the member for Dale and the members opposite. I ask the member for Dale to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. In my opinion this Bill sets up another tier of bureaucracy between the local community and the State Government. We have enough tiers already. If this Government wants to put money and projects into country areas, this can be done through local government, through community recreation associations, and through a whole host of Government departments without setting up another expensive bureaucracy. What does the Bunbury exercise cost? Around \$1 million?

Mr Carr: Does the member oppose this Bill?

Mr FRED TUBBY: I support it if this is the only way the Government can carry out projects in the country, but I berate the Government if this is the only way. The Bill is about centralisation; it is about power. It means another office in Geraldton; how many offices in

Geraldton does the member want? He has two offices there already and now is starting up another.

Several members interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Listen, my friend, my old mother talks for herself. She can get a 13 per cent swing against the Government without any help from me. At the next election, whoever is endorsed, Geraldton will become one of the safest Liberal seats in this State.

Mr Carr interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: For four years I owned a block at Geraldton and I guarantee that over the last eight years I have probably spent more time in Geraldton than the Minister has.

The Minister said that funding for the authority would be provided in the main from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and approved by Parliament. As pointed out by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the project has already been set up, yet no funding has been approved, and the Bill has not been passed, but the project is off the ground.

Mr Read: How would the Opposition go about setting it up?

Mr FRED TUBBY: I hope the Opposition would go about it in a completely different way.

Mr Read: The member for Murray-Wellington has suggested the creation of more development authorities.

Mr FRED TUBBY: If that is the only way this Government can do things for the country areas -

Mr Read interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I do not need to tell the member for Mandurah that I am new to this place. I do not know what other people have said on this side of the House in the past. I know what I believe. I believe what we need is less government - not more authorities, not more government. The way to achieve that is to support local government. We should have fewer public servants right across the board - whether in Geraldton, Bunbury or Perth. I stand for less government not more government. Let us support local government.

Mr D.L. Smith: Whom would you sack?

Mr FRED TUBBY: I will not sack anyone, my friend. But we would not put on any more, as this Government has.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Mr Acting Speaker, I think it is time that the Chair intervened. The member for Dale is a new member. I am not here to defend his ability to debate in this House, but I cannot tolerate that a certain member is interjecting constantly. The new member has no chance to put his point of view across within the time allocated. It is most unfair and the Chair should take action.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Alexander): I believe that is not a point of order. I certainly do not believe the member for Murchison-Eyre has the right to instruct the Chair how to proceed in its duties. A few minutes ago I asked the member for Dale to address his remarks to the Chair. Perhaps at the same time I might have asked members on the opposite side - I had already done so once - to interject in a more orderly manner. I now repeat that request. I remind the member that if he proceeds in this way he must recognise that attempting to respond to every interjection, on the one hand, and continuing with his speech on the other, will lead to a disorderly situation. I am not here to tell the member how to speak, I am here to keep order. For that reason I repeat my request to the member to address his remarks to the Chair, and the members on the opposite side to restrict interjections. There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I thank the member for Murchison-Eyre for trying to protect me. I assure him that I can handle any interjections from members opposite without too many problems. I have put up with children, teachers and parents all my life, and the rabble on the other side of the House will not put me off at this stage.

I do not wish to add any more to this debate, except to say that I support the Bill on the premise that this appears to be the only way for the Government to spend money in country areas. I would prefer to see the Minister for Local Government support local government and forget about the concept of centralising power as much as he can.

MR LIGHTFOOT (Murchison-Eyre) [12.51 pm]: I support the Bill before the House today. The Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority, as the member for Greenough suggested, would better serve the people in that area if the word "Geraldton" were omitted from the title. That point can be taken up at the Committee stage. The inclusion of the name enhances the Minister's prospects of re-election in Geraldton, but it would serve no useful purpose for me to go into detail about the fine margin that exists in that electorate.

There are many aspects of the Minister's second reading speech which need clarification. For instance, what other Government agencies is it proposed would advise the authority? Will the Western Australian Development Corporation, for instance, or Exim step in? It is well known that I am opposed to the involvement of Exim, in particular, and almost equally opposed to the WADC, in any facet of free enterprise in this State. The fact that the books and details of accounts are constantly being asked for by this side of the House, and constantly being refused, adds to the antipathy that has built up over the past few years towards that Government sponsored and owned corporation. I preface my support for this Bill by saying that if I thought the WADC was going to be involved - and it seems to be spreading its deadly tentacles through every facet of industry and commerce in this State, interstate and overseas - I would be very reticent about so doing.

The area that the authority is proposed to encompass is vast by any world standard. The shires incorporated in this Bill include Geraldton, Chapman Valley, Northampton, Greenough, Coorow, Perenjori, Mullewa, Mingenew, Yalgoo, Cue, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Wiluna, Sandstone and others which I may have missed. Even the Shire of Wiluna, which is 344 000 square kilometres, is a vast area.

Within the area are the fishing industry, including lobster, shark, tuna, and shellfish; and the mining industry, including gold and rare earths associated with mineral sands like rutile, ilmenite and leucoxene. We spoke yesterday of the vast potential of uranium, and the Yeelirrie deposit is right in the middle of the boundaries of this proposed authority. This State, because of the philosophical demands of the Labor Party, misses out on \$300 million a year from that Yeelirrie deposit, and the significant potential to increase that sum because of the growing demand for uranium throughout the world. If the 20 deposits, commercial, near commercial, or at a stage which could be exploited, were to come on stream, this State would enjoy at least an additional billion dollars. The former Minister for Minerals and Energy acknowledged in a very pragmatic way that the loss to this State is in the vicinity of \$600-\$700 million.

It is not just a matter of money. Money is not much good to a State or a community, such as that in this proposed authority, unless it is converted to something that adds to the quality of life. Had the Yeelirrie deposit gone ahead, and had other mineral deposits been exploited, a standard gauge railway line would have been built from the hinterland near Yeelirrie, picking up other minerals such as talc, copper, lead, zinc, and manganese, which lie on a rough line to the Port of Geraldton. By not developing that deposit at Yeelirrie, Geraldton missed out on an enhanced throughput at its port, and the possibility of a standard gauge railway line from the hinterland to the Port of Geraldton.

Mr Carr: That project has been channelled through Esperance, you know.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: What the member for Geraldton is saying is that that was an alternative. In all feasibility studies there are alternatives. The fact that the Yeelirrie deposit was to be extracted and upgraded to U-308 in Kalgoorlie, where a pilot plant exists - had the member for Kalgoorlie put his weight behind that development instead of being against it for philosophical reasons - meant that Kalgoorlie would have enjoyed an upturn in the mid 1970s instead of being almost devastated as it was.

In answer to the Minister's comment, one part of the feasibility study included the ore being upgraded to U-308 standard and shipped from Kalgoorlie through Perth. As the Minister said, included in that feasibility study was the possibility of its being shipped through the Port of Esperance.

Mr Carr: It was not the product, the ore was always going to go out through Fremantle because that was only a couple of thousand tonnes, but the -

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Not the ore, the ore is the stuff in the ground. It was the enriched ore at the stage of U-308 that was to be shipped out. Had a standard gauge railway line been built, and those commodities gone through the Port of Geraldton, they would have been nearer in steaming time to the markets of Europe, Japan, the United States and the Middle East, which is an advantage that Geraldton has over Fremantle and Esperance. I spoke of the potential of minerals in that vast area and, given the right infrastructure and encouragement from the Government, they would include nickel, salt, copper, manganese, phosphate and coal.

[Resolved, that leave be granted for the member to continue his speech at a later stage of the sitting.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on p 907.]

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 pm

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Report

MR BURKETT (Scarborough) [2.16 pm]: I move -

That the report be received.

The main issues to be dealt with by the committee today are the substitution of matters of public importance and adjournment of the House debate, the incorporation of second reading speeches that have already been made in the Legislative Council, the presenting of lists of papers tabled by the Clerk in lieu of individual presentation by Ministers, the possibility of regularly avoiding the Committee of the Whole proceedings with uncontested Bills, some minor changes to the procedure for summoning witnesses to Select Committees, and Select Committee reports including directions to a Minister requiring a reply to a Select Committee report.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.18 pm]: The reason this matter came on so quickly today is that we realised we could not move a matter of public importance as we did last session when a Sessional Order was introduced to allow us to have matters of public importance. This session we would either have to do a similar thing or change the Standing Orders. I thank the Leader of the House for allowing us to move a matter of public importance today. After we explained our reasons to him this morning, he cooperated with us and we have agreed to pass the amendments to the Standing Orders.

MR LEWIS (East Melville) [2.20 pm]: I am disappointed that the method for dealing with in camera evidence by a Select Committee has not been considered by the Standing Orders Committee. I served on the Select Committee inquiring into the sale of the Midland Abattoir during which time the situation arose - I must admit I was rather raw at that stage -

Mr Pearce: What's new?

Government members interjected.

Mr LEWIS: Maybe some of those loony lefties on the back bench should listen and I might be able to make a contribution to this debate which would benefit the Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the member will address his comments to the Chair and ignore the interjections we will make progress.

Mr LEWIS: The ground rules for that Select Committee were laid down at the start. One of those rules was that all evidence would be heard in open session. The Standing Orders provide that any member of a Select Committee may move that evidence be heard in camera, and under the Westminster system I understand that means behind closed doors and in private. The important point I make is that our Standing Orders are silent on what happens to that evidence. Nothing in the Standing Orders requires a committee to indicate that hearings were held in camera. Because of the ignorance of the members of the Midland Abattoir Select Committee, the Press was excluded on the basis that the evidence should be heard in camera. As a result nearly all evidence taken by that committee was held in camera.

According to Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* evidence heard in camera cannot be made public in the findings of the committee. That rule naturally impinges upon the ability of the chairman of the committee, or an individual of that committee who may wish to make a minority report, to report, because nothing heard in camera may be disclosed to the public.

I have given the facts and I remind you, Mr Speaker, that on your orders all the evidence of the Select Committee inquiring into the Midland Abattoir which was supposed to be heard in camera - and I question that it was - was destroyed. Therefore, evidence heard in camera is not held in the records of this Parliament.

There is an obligation on you, Mr Speaker, as Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, to lay down for the information of members precisely how evidence shall be taken by Select Committees. We must determine whether evidence will be taken in open session, behind closed doors, or in committee. A lot of evidence should be heard behind closed doors and at certain times evidence should be heard in committee - I have no argument about that. However, evidence heard behind closed doors should, after the report of the committee, or indeed after a minority report, be able to be disclosed and put on the public record. There should be a clear distinction between evidence heard behind closed doors and evidence heard in committee.

I am surprised that the chairman of the Select Committee to which I have referred has not brought this matter forward as he indicated to me he would. Mr Speaker, as you are Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, I ask you to bring this matter forward at the next available opportunity.

The SPEAKER: The member may wish to expand on what I have to say.

It is not true for the member to say the matter has not been brought before the Standing Orders Committee, because it has. What is true is that no decision has been reached on the matter. However, it is listed for future discussion. It is a vexed problem and a very real problem. If we were to deal with it too quickly and come up with a decision which was not realistic, the member for East Melville would be the first member to jump to his feet and question it.

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell) [2.27 pm]: In brief response I advise the member for East Melville that if he checks the majority report and the addendum to the report prepared by me as chairman, he will find that I recommended to the Standing Orders Committee that the Standing Orders be reviewed to consider the matter the member has raised. When it came to writing the report of that committee we were directed by you, Mr Speaker, and the Clerk not to include substantial parts of that evidence and the problems were as outlined by the previous speaker.

Much of the evidence would have been embarrassing, not to the Government but to other political parties. Its inclusion would have been valuable, but it could not be included for the reasons I have outlined. I recommend to the Standing Orders Committee that it expedite whatever consideration it has given to the matter.

Question put and passed.

Standing Orders - Amendment

The Standing Orders were amended, on motions by Mr Burkett, as follows -

Standing Order No 2 -

To delete the definition of "Clerk" and substitute the following -

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the Assembly, or the Deputy Clerk or the Clerk Assistant when performing his duties.

Standing Order No 23 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -

23. In case of the unavoidable absence or illness of the Clerk of the House, the duties imposed upon him shall be performed by the Deputy Clerk or the Clerk Assistant.

Standing Order No 47 -

To delete this Standing Order.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr MENSAROS: There would be no objection to deleting this Standing Order if the proposed replacement were to stand. However, I understand from verbal advice that that proposed new Standing Order is subject to amendment. If the substitute Standing Order were amended in such a way that amendments could be moved to matters of public interest motions, I would not be in favour of deleting Standing Order No 47. The motion "That the House do now adjourn" served the purpose of enabling discussion of matters of public importance, whether expressed in that way or not. Although it was not used very frequently, when it was used to discuss a matter of urgency it was usually by arrangement.

New Standing Order No 82A, the proposed replacement for Standing Order No 47, sets a time limit, whereas there was no time limit with adjournment debates. I would not object to the time limit itself, but I am concerned that if an amendment to a matter of public interest can be moved, the debate can move away from dealing with the original motion to dealing with the amendment. That amendment, according to the custom of the House, can differ entirely from the original motion. If the proposed new Standing Order is to allow an amendment to the original motion, it is not a true substitute for Standing Order No 47. I have to speak in a hypothetical way because I do not know what will happen. I only heard that that was the case; perhaps the Minister will enlighten us. I would be opposed to the deletion of the Standing Order if that were the case.

Mr PEARCE: I will make the position clear so that all members know what is intended. The Government has brought on discussion of the report of the Standing Orders Committee in order to enable the Opposition to raise a matter of public importance today. The Government is agreeable to all the amendments to the Standing Orders with one exception. It does not accept that there ought not be a right to amend motions that might be moved by a member under a matter of public importance schema. The reason for that quite simply is that it will always be possible for an Opposition to move tricky motions in a way that would force a Government to vote yes or no.

Mr Court: Like what happened last night.

Mr PEARCE: That is not a bad example. Let us suppose that as a matter of public importance a motion were moved that the Minister for Planning should stop taking bribes. The Minister cannot vote yes or no on that motion without either conceding that he was taking bribes somewhere along the line and should stop, or that he should not take the bribes that he has been taking. The reality is that the Minister for Planning does not take bribes. I regret to report to the House that he has never even been offered one. In those circumstances, in order to have a vote on the Government's side which properly reflects the situation, the Government would need to have the capacity to seek to amend a motion of that kind. That is why we believe it is unfair that motions can be moved substantively under the matter of public importance provisions, but that motions moved under the adjournment process - whereby it is sought to adjourn the House in order to move a motion - are never substantively before the House if the motion is not passed. Members then have to withdraw their motion before it comes to a vote, which makes them look silly in the public eye. That is what we are seeking to overcome.

If a member of the Opposition is to have the right to move a substantive motion, he ought not seek to take away from the Government the right to amend that motion. The Deputy Leader of the National Party has proposed to me that it might be a bit unfair if amendments are brought in at the last minute and voted on when there has been no proper discussion of them. Given the time constraints, I can see how that might happen. He and I have agreed that it might be quite proper for the Standing Orders Committee to consider that aspect. It should consider whether to impose guidelines as to when an amendment would have to be moved in a matter of public importance debate in order to give members a proper time to canvas the amendment within the time constraints.

Mr Court: You would have to add to the time.

Mr PEARCE: That can be discussed by the Standing Orders Committee. It does not have to be decided right now because in putting the matter of public importance in the amended form, we are not changing anything, because the Government has amended matter of public importance motions in the past. We are retaining the status quo, according to the Sessional Order. The Standing Orders Committee seeks to add an extra constraint which the Government is not prepared to accept.

With regard to the comments of the member for Floreat, when we get to the matter of public importance motions, the Government will seek to move to take out that prohibition on moving amendments to substantive motions moved under the guise of a matter of public importance. Given the support which I expect to enjoy in the House on that particular occasion, I think it is moderately likely that the amendment will be passed. The Opposition will then have to decide whether it wants to agree to the arrangements on that basis or whether it would prefer to have the adjournment debate provisions which we currently have and let the matter of public importance provision go.

My understanding was that the Opposition sees advantage in the matter of public importance proposals as they currently operate and will support us. If that is not the case, the Opposition can let us know because that would obviously shape the Government's thinking with respect to the whole matter. We were the ones who suggested matters of public importance. It was a suggestion of mine, made on the basis that members who had moved motions under the adjournment debate provision were concerned that they looked foolish in the Press when it was reported that they had to withdraw the motions without their going to a vote.

Mr STEPHENS: The National Party recognises the problems that have been advanced by the Leader of the House. We will support the amendment although we are not completely happy that the Standing Order is to be deleted. As the Leader of the House said, if the Standing Order were not deleted we would revert to the status quo.

If members like to check the *Hansard* they will possibly note that on the first occasion we used the matter of public importance procedure as a Sessional Order, at the end of the debate a Government Minister moved an amendment. The Opposition had the opportunity to vote only yes or no. It had no opportunity to debate the amendment. I rose on a point of order on that occasion, pointing out the problems that this was creating. We will have to address ourselves to the problem. It was discussed in the Standing Orders Committee and we recognised that if the time for debate were extended the Government might oppose the debate dragging on for an unlimited period.

I hope that the Opposition will accept the situation that exists. We are virtually continuing with the status quo. We should give the Standing Orders Committee the opportunity to have further discussion on the matter. It may be able to come up with a mechanism whereby an amendment must be moved by the first speaker from the Government or the Opposition. That would give succeeding speakers the opportunity to talk to the amendment.

Mr Pearce: A possible way of dealing with it - because there has to be two hours' notice of a proposed matter of public importance - would be to say that if the Government were seeking to move an amendment it would have to give notice of the amendment to the Speaker before the motion was introduced in the House.

Mr STEPHENS: Yes; we would then be aware of the situation before the debate started.

The National Party acknowledges the situation and supports the amendment.

Mr WATT: The other side of the argument has been put by the Leader of the House and the member for Stirling, and I understand the argument they have put. However, I thought it might be worthwhile simply to record the thoughts of the Standing Orders Committee in proposing the amendment before us. By and large the types of matters of public importance that are debated are motions of substance which require either acceptance or rejection. It was my understanding that the Standing Orders Committee intended that motions of this type should simply be voted on to accept or reject the proposition, and that would be the end of the matter. Over the years it has become practice when debating matters of public importance for the Government to turn those motions around by amending them, thus giving itself a pat on the back. That practice is understandable but not desirable. The intention was to dispose of the matter with a negative vote and that is the premise on which this was started.

Question put and passed.

The Standing Orders were further amended, on motion by Mr Burkett, as follows -

Standing Order No 48 -

To delete this Standing Order.

Standing Order No 82 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -

82. The House shall proceed each day with its ordinary business, in the following routine: -
- (a) presentation of petitions;
 - (b) giving notices of motions;
 - (c) considering a matter of public interest in accordance with Standing Order 82A;
 - (d) questions without notice, at the discretion of the Speaker,
 - (e) motions and Orders of the Day, or vice versa as set down on the Notice Paper, subject to Standing Orders 223 to 228 inclusive.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr COURT: This amendment will enable a matter of public interest to be included in the procedures of the House and it is listed before questions without notice which will be proceeded with at the discretion of the Speaker. I realise that under the original Standing Order No 82 questions without notice were to proceed at the discretion of the Speaker.

As you, Mr Speaker, are aware, the Opposition has tried on a number of occasions to have questions without notice asked at the beginning of the proceedings, as listed in this amendment. We ask members of the Government to reconsider our proposal to bring question time forward. It would be a far more effective time for both sides of the House and certainly it would be a better time for the media because they could use the issues raised in question time before their deadlines for the evening news programs. The present time of 5.30 to 6.00 pm is too late for that exercise. I ask members of the Government to reconsider this proposal and to support the Opposition by bringing question time forward in the proceedings.

Question put and passed.

Standing Order No 82A -

To insert the following Standing Order -

82A.

- (1) A member may propose to the Speaker that a matter of public interest be submitted to the House for discussion. The member proposing the matter shall present to the Speaker, at least two hours before the time fixed for the meeting of the House, a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed; and if the Speaker determines that it is in order, he shall read it to the House after Notices of Motion, if any, have been given. The proposed discussion must be supported by five members, including the proposer, rising in their places as indicating approval. The Speaker shall then call upon the member who had proposed the matter to speak.
- (2) The Speaker may permit a motion in accordance with this Standing Order on no more than one day in any sitting week and, in the event of more than one matter being presented for the same day, priority shall be given to the matter which, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the most urgent and important, and no other proposed matter shall be read to the House on that day.

- (3) It shall be competent for a member to move a substantive motion under this Standing Order notwithstanding no notice has been given of such a motion but no amendment to such a motion may be moved.
- (4) No member is permitted to address the House for more than 30 minutes on any question under this Standing Order and, in any case, the debate on such a question may not extend for more than one hour in total.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr COURT: I wish to express the concern of members on both sides of the House with regard to amendments introduced in the final stages of a debate on a matter of public interest. When that occurs, it is not possible to properly debate the amendment to the motion. I hope that this situation will not be abused and we would like the new Standing Order, as printed, to be complied with.

Mr Pearce: I shall move a further amendment to delete the words that no amendment to the motion may be moved.

Mr COURT: The Opposition does not support that change because it could lead to the ridiculous situation in which amendments are introduced in the last minute of the debate and no time is left for further debate.

Mr PEARCE: To overcome the problem, I move an amendment -

To delete the words "but no amendment to such a motion may be moved" from sub order (3).

I understand that the Standing Orders Committee is seeking to address a real problem in terms of the fairness of a debate which may follow if an amendment were moved in the 59th minute of a 60-minute debate. In order to kill that mouse, it has used a cannon and blasted away. The way in which the Government and the Opposition approach matters of public interest by the Government giving the Opposition the right to move a substantive motion, which it currently does not have, at the same time as depriving the Government of its right to move an amendment, creates an imbalance. An effort has been made to address a problem and to arrive at a fair solution, but in solving one difficulty, another has been created. It is not beyond the wit of the committee members to find a way of addressing that problem so that it does not create that imbalance.

I have suggested two possibilities: First, a requirement could be made that if an amendment is to be moved, it would have to be moved by the first speaker on the other side at the beginning of his or her speech. However, the simpler mechanism is that given that matters of public importance must be notified to the Speaker and the Government two hours in advance, a requirement could be made that any member seeking to move an amendment to a proposed motion would have to notify the Speaker of the amendment before the Speaker read the letter seeking leave for the matter of public interest to be debated. All speakers in the hour would have the capacity to debate the amendment because they would know it would be moved.

I suggest that the Standing Orders Committee should consider those two possibilities or perhaps even wiser options. If it is done expeditiously, I will make sure that the Government provides time for discussion on any further amendment to clear up this matter.

I also give the House an undertaking that should the Government seek to amend a motion on a matter of public interest before the Standing Orders Committee has debated this matter, I will ensure that such an amendment is moved by the Government's first speaker at the beginning of his speech. In most cases, that will be 10 or 15 minutes into the debate. In the worst case, if the Opposition chose to speak for the first half hour, it would come in the second half of the debate. However, I do not think the Opposition is likely to be quite so foolish.

Amendment put and passed.

Question, as amended, put and passed.

Standing Order No 115 -

To add the following sub order -

- (2) A member in charge of a Bill may, by leave of the House, have incorporated into Hansard the speech in which the second reading of the Bill is moved, where that speech is substantially the same as a speech given in the Council on that Bill.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr COURT: I hope that the proposal in this amendment does not become common practice. The second reading speech on all Bills is extremely important and we should not treat the procedures of this House with a rubber stamp. The Opposition will support this amendment, and I understand that with only one dissenting voice, the speech will be read in the House.

Question put and passed.

The Standing Orders were further amended, on motions by Mr Burkett, as follows -

Standing Order No 232 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -
232.

- (1) Papers may be presented pursuant to Statute, or by command of His Excellency the Governor.
- (2) When papers that are to be laid upon the Table of the House are presented by a Minister, either the Minister or the Clerk shall read the description of the paper to the House and the Speaker may then direct the papers be laid upon the Table of the House. A list of those papers which have been tabled shall be published in the Votes and Proceedings.

Standing Order No 260 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -

260. After the second reading, unless it be moved "That this Bill be referred to a Select Committee" the Speaker shall enquire of the House if leave is granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading of the Bill but, if leave is not granted the Speaker shall put the question "That the Speaker do now leave the Chair, and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of this Bill".

Standing Order No 370 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -

370.

- (1) If a Select Committee so desires the committee may invite any person to attend a meeting of the committee for the purpose of giving evidence.
- (2) Should the committee so resolve, the Chairman of a Select Committee shall direct the Clerk of the House to summon a witness to be examined before that committee.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr COURT: As I understand, the purpose of this amendment is to soften the way in which people are invited or asked to come to a Select Committee hearing. It enables the committee

to invite a person to attend a meeting of the committee for the purpose of giving evidence and, if that person does not accept that invitation, as I understand he can then be summonsed. Is that correct?

Mr Burkett: Yes.

Mr COURT: The present situation is that witnesses are summonsed but under this amendment they will be invited and then summonsed.

Question put and passed.

Standing Order No 378 -

To delete this Standing Order and substitute the following -

378. Every report of a Committee -

- (a) shall be signed by the Chairman thereof,
- (b) shall include a statement showing the actual (or estimated) costs of the operation of the Select Committee, and
- (c) may include a direction that a particular Minister is required within not more than three months, or at the earliest opportunity after that time if Parliament is in adjournment or recess, to report to the House as to the action, if any, proposed to be taken by the Government with respect to the recommendation of the committee.

Mr BURKETT: I move -

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr COURT: In this amendment one of the most important things that we see is that the action being taken, or to be taken as a result of that Select Committee, is reported by the Minister. Too often members of this Parliament spend a lot of time doing work on these committees and when the reports come out that is the end of the matter. Therefore, it is important that the Minister be required within three months, or at the earliest opportunity after that time, if Parliament is in recess, to report to the House on the action taken. That is important, just as it is important to ensure that there is a proper statement of the costs involved. It introduces more accountability to the operation of the committee.

Question put and passed.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Western Australia's Reputation - Damage by Government

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett): Honourable members, I advise that today I have received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition which is within the prescribed time limit and in accordance with the relevant Sessional Orders of the Legislative Assembly indicating that he wishes to move as a matter of public interest a motion expressing the grave concern of the House at the continuing damage being done to the reputation of Western Australia as a stable and desirable place for investment.

[Five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow the debate. Under Sessional Orders we will proceed with the debate on the basis that it will last no longer than one hour. Half an hour will be allocated to speakers on my left and half an hour to speakers on my right. As per a Standing Order which now exists, amendments are permitted.

I caution speakers in respect of this motion that in my view paragraph 2 perhaps will cause some members to transgress upon what would normally be called reasonable parliamentary language. I suggest that members use caution in respect of that matter, because I will sit people down if they transgress.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch - Leader of the Opposition) [2.57 pm]: I move -

That this House expresses its grave concern at the continuing damage to the

reputation of Western Australia as a stable and desirable place for investment arising from -

- (1) a growing perception of cronyism and favouritism with people receiving favourable and preferential treatment from the Government especially as exemplified by the Rothwells dealings;
- (2) a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government, exchanging business favours for political support especially as exemplified by the T.C.S. donation;
- (3) the role of the State Government in seeking, at the same time, to be
 - . the rule maker,
 - . the umpire,
 - . the enforcer, and
 - . a player in the business world;
- (4) community concern that the prosecution process, the due process of law, may have been tampered with politically, especially in relation to the recommended casino prosecution;

and therefore calls on the Government -

- (a) to fully account for its actions by answering Parliamentary questions and explaining its dealings to Parliament;
- (b) to remove itself from its multiple role in the business world;
- (c) to give true independence under the law to such bodies as S.G.I.C. and S.S.B. by appointing respected independent business people to their boards and ceasing the current political involvement.

The first three sitting weeks of the Session have seen a remarkable chain of events. Let us recap on what has happened since we came into this House a little under three weeks ago. First, we are all aware of the Government's support some time ago for Rothwells Ltd via a Government guarantee of \$150 million. What has happened in this three week period is that Rothwells has embarked upon a major expansion program under the protection and support of that guarantee. The Government has therefore extended to Rothwells a competitive advantage enjoyed by no other company in Western Australia and, I put to you, Mr Speaker, no other company in Australia.

The Opposition has no problem or concern with Rothwells, or with any other company for that matter, purchasing coalmines or any other asset around this State, or indeed around Australia. What we do have is concern that that company does so in a situation that must be, by any stretch of the imagination, termed as a favourable position extended to it by the Government of Western Australia.

The second outstanding revelation in this three week period has been that a \$5 000 donation has gone across to the ALP from the Teachers Credit Society via a senior public servant, Mr Kevin Edwards.

Mr Grill: That is speculation.

Mr MacKINNON: That is not speculation. In the Supreme Court a director of the Teachers Credit Society under oath indicated that the extension of the line of credit from the R & I Bank was per the instruction of that senior public servant, Mr Kevin Edwards, and that the \$5 000 donation, as we know, then went to the ALP from Mr Edwards within days.

Thirdly, I refer to a revelation reported by journalist Martin Saxon that in June the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs released a report - in the commissioner's words, his final report - showing that he had at that time recommended in favour of prosecuting the Burswood people because of the prospectus that they had put forward, only to see him within a few months completely reverse that decision.

The fourth revelation is in relation to the SGIC, that its property sales, profits from which the Government so loudly trumpeted about, were carried out under the cover of secret business deals and support extended to the purchasers of those properties by the Government of the

day. Secret deals were done in the sale by Mr Holmes a Court of his Bell shares to the State Government Insurance Commission.

The final revelation in relation to property was that the Government is now looking desperately to buy back the Perth Technical College Site to extricate itself from a deal, at a reported cost to the State Superannuation Board of in excess of \$50 million.

Mr Peter Dowding: Who said that?

Mr MacKINNON: That was confirmed on the ABC last night by none other than the chairman of the board.

Finally, we received confirmation in that same news report last night of the fact that \$49 million has now gone from the State Superannuation Board to Rothwells. This was again another secret deal. There are common threads running through all of these startling revelations, any one of which would have been a major scandal. A litany of scandals has come to the attention of the Parliament within the first three weeks of this Session. The first common thread is that all those revelations - with the exception of the Rothwells purchase of the coal interests - were made public not by the Government but by journalists or the Opposition.

Mr Peter Dowding: The Government's support for Rothwells was announced publicly.

Mr MacKINNON: I say for the benefit of the Premier, who last night could not even stand up and defend his own Deputy Premier, and who sought a pair only ten minutes before the vote - and that is how much backbone this Premier has -

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not true.

Mr Gordon Hill: You are telling lies again.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr LIGHTFOOT: I distinctly heard the former Minister for Police and Emergency Services say that the member is lying again; and I find it most abhorrent to hear a Minister saying that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did hear a member on the Government side utter the words, "You are telling lies again." I ask the Minister for Employment and Training to withdraw that remark.

Mr GORDON HILL: I withdraw my remark.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: The common thread is that we did not receive an answer, and all the information - with the exception of the Rothwells situation - had to be ferreted, gleaned and forced out from the Government.

The second common thread of all the secret deals, including the Rothwells deal, was the failure by the Government to be accountable to this Parliament. The only answer given was that the information is commercially confidential, and the Premier will account to this Parliament by making available the annual reports of each of those organisations.

People in Western Australia and elsewhere in Australia are now asking what is going on in the West. We listened last week to a speech given by Des Keegan, a journalist from *The Australian*, at a 500 Club luncheon. His speech was not totally complimentary to my party. However, he said that people in the Eastern States are shaking their heads in amazement. They are asking why this Government is playing favourites; why does it want to be a player and a rule maker; why is it allowed to play fast and loose with the taxpayers' funds; and why is it taking risks that are unnecessary and that - in the words of one journalist - would make Alan Bond look timorous?

It is time that this Government realised it has to face up to its responsibilities and report to this House what is going on. If this Government continues to hide behind the timid, weak excuse that it is commercially confidential, the facts will come out by one means or another and the Government at the end of the day will be the big loser. The public of Western Australia have expressed concern and are entitled to expect some answers from the Government in which to date it has mistakenly placed its trust.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [3.05 pm]: I formally second the motion.

Mr Peter Dowding: Now the real Leader of the Opposition is standing up. It is no wonder your leader is worried about an early election. He wants to keep the discipline in the party before it all falls over.

Mr Hassell: I second the motion so ably moved by the Leader of the Opposition and point out that the motion expresses the fact that there is a growing perception within the community that this Government is one of cronyism and favouritism.

Several members interjected.

Mr HASSELL: I have not replied to the interjections and I do not intend to do so as my time is limited on a very important issue. I ask for the opportunity to speak uninterrupted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the member the protection that I afford to every member of this House when I am in the Chair.

Mr HASSELL: There is within the community a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government.

Withdrawal of Remark

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker, for whom I am deputising, made a ruling before this debate started that the words referring to a corrupt Government are unparliamentary, and he said he would not allow those words to be used in the debate. I would ask the member for Cottesloe to withdraw those remarks.

Mr HASSELL: On a point of order. With respect, the Speaker did not say that. The Speaker said that the words would allow some people to say some things that were unparliamentary. If the words in the motion were unparliamentary then that section at least of the motion would have been ruled out of order. It is not defamatory, much less unparliamentary, to say that a Government is corrupt; and I can assure the Deputy Speaker that is a fact of law.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 3.09 to 3.17 pm

Deputy Speaker's Ruling

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: At the start of this debate the Speaker made reference to clause 2 of the motion which refers to "a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government". He warned members at the start of the debate that he would not allow them to enlarge on that or continually refer to it. Accordingly I make the ruling that members cannot continually use the assertion in the motion, and continue to repeat that assertion. That is, members cannot use the words, "a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government" without providing evidence. If members wish to challenge me on that point and continue to repeat those words I will sit them down.

Point of Order

Mr MacKINNON: Could you give me guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker? You mentioned then that members must not "continually refer". Does that mean that in the debate we are allowed to, as the member for Cottesloe did, use words to this effect - that there is a public perception abroad that this Government is corrupt? Those are the words he used. He has not continually used them; to my knowledge that is the first time. If he used them two, three or four times, perhaps that would conform with the definition of "continually" rather than "singularly". What I want to know, for his guidance and mine, is your definition of "continually using those words".

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In answer to that point of order, when the member for Cottesloe was on his feet he did not say "there is a growing perception abroad". He made no reference, last time he used the words referring to Western Australia as a corrupt State, to the word "abroad". Members on both sides of the Parliament know what is tedious repetition, and I do not intend to tolerate tedious repetition. Your point of order was incorrect because the words you mentioned were not used by the member for Cottesloe.

Mr MacKINNON: I am not being mischievous; I am trying to seek guidance so that we know what the position is. Are you saying members on this side of the House are not to use the words, even once, "this is a corrupt Government"?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. You are being quite frivolous and quite mischievous. I said that members cannot continually use the assertion in the motion without providing the evidence, and I made that quite clear.

Debate Resumed

Mr HASSELL: I cannot have said too much because not even a minute of my time has gone. What I was pointing out was that this motion is founded in fact - the fact that there is a growing perception of cronyism and favouritism with people receiving favourable and preferential treatment from the Government. That is a statement of fact.

Mr Parker: It is not.

Mr HASSELL: It is a fact that there are many people who believe that that is the situation.

Mr Parker: There are 25 of them sitting on the other side of the Chamber.

Mr Peter Dowding: Aided and abetted by the promotions of yourself, Mr Hassell.

Mr HASSELL: It is also a fact that there is a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government. For my own part let me say very clearly that I believe we have the most corrupt Government in Australia.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I made it quite clear that in this debate I would not tolerate the action which the member for Cottesloe has just stated; namely, to enlarge on the words "a growing perception that Western Australia has a corrupt Government". I said that if a member continued to enlarge on that - and within a minute the member for Cottesloe said that in his opinion Western Australia has a corrupt Government - I would sit the member down. I sit the member for Cottesloe down.

Point of Order

Mr HASSELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I am entitled to say that, just as the member for Perth said that the Perth City Council was corrupt. There is no difference and I am entitled to say that in this House. I could say it outside the House; far more can I say it inside the House. I have barely spoken for a minute and I want to develop my argument. Mr Deputy Speaker, you said something before about producing evidence. I have not produced evidence because I have not dealt with the remarks I want to make. This place, above all, is a place of free speech and it is not for the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to protect the Government from unpleasant things. I am entitled to say what I am saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a matter of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker endeavouring to protect the Government or to protect anybody else. Those words were referred to by the Speaker at the start of this debate and I thought I clarified them quite well in answer to the point of order by the Leader of the Opposition.

You, the member for Cottesloe, within 60 seconds, challenged the ruling that I had made. If you do not agree with my ruling you are more than welcome to move dissent from the Chair. While this debate continues we will not have any enlargement on that wording. Is that clearly understood? Because if there are further enlargements on that, such as any member standing up and saying what you said, that member will be sat down.

Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling

Mr HASSELL: I move -

To dissent from Mr Deputy Speaker's ruling.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr HASSELL: It is the most outrageous ruling that has ever been made in my time in this Parliament.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr HASSELL: That ruling represents a blatant attempt by the Chair to protect the Government from accusations being made in this House. Mr Deputy Speaker, it is in no way

avoidable that the attempt to stop me from saying that this Government is corrupt is an attempt to stifle the freedom of speech in this House.

Furthermore, Mr Deputy Speaker, you told me that you were going to sit me down. I have never before heard of the authority of a Speaker to sit a member down. The authority of a Speaker, which is upheld by the House, is an authority to name a member and that authority is exercised, as a rule, sparingly and after usually several warnings.

I just wonder where we are going when we try to bring forward a debate about fundamental issues - about what the whole community is talking about - and that is attempted to be stifled.

Points of Order

Mr PETER DOWDING: On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Blaikie: Cut it out.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Just a minute, this is a point of order. I do not want to waste the time of the House unnecessarily.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the member has moved some dissension from your ruling. There is certainly some confusion in my mind about the exact parameters of your ruling.

Mr Blaikie interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PETER DOWDING: I beg the member's pardon?

Mr Blaikie: You are now undermining your own Speaker.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am not undermining the Speaker, I am just saying on a point of order that I think the member for Cottesloe has misunderstood.

Mr Lewis: You are trying to redress a situation that has got out of hand.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PETER DOWDING: It is not out of hand at all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! When I call order, whether it be the member for East Melville or anybody else I will not have them continue with their interjections. I warn the member for East Melville.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr PETER DOWDING: Mr Speaker, I have just risen on a point of order. It seems to me that the member for Cottesloe has misunderstood the nature of the ruling of the Deputy Speaker, and I think that in his moving the motion currently before the Chair - and the member for Cottesloe has every right to move a motion; I am not trying to stop him doing that - we are missing the essential element; that is, an understanding on his part of the limits as properly prescribed by the Chair for this debate.

Mr Blaikie: You are debating it, not making a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am making a point of order.

Mr Lewis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Will the Premier resume his seat? I am not going to allow this debate to degenerate. When I call order I expect everybody in the House, including the member for East Melville, to come to order immediately.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Mr Speaker, I was going to suggest as a point of order that it might be appropriate if the direction were clarified. The member for Cottesloe can then make his decision about whether or not that is a direction he complies with.

Mr MacKinnon: Isn't that what I sought to do in a point of order?

The SPEAKER: Order! That applies to you as well.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition is not very good on his

feet, but I am suggesting now that that is an appropriate mechanism for dealing with what the member for Cottesloe clearly has asked for, and it is a direction which I think he has misunderstood.

The SPEAKER: I will try to clarify the situation and then, hopefully, we can proceed with the debate.

Members will recall my comments at the start of the debate. I was concerned at the language used in the motion. Nonetheless, a substantive motion like this is sometimes the only way that members of the House can express a point of view which may at some other times be considered unparliamentary. Of course, the words used in the motion would in the normal course of events be considered unparliamentary. That was the justification and the reason behind my cautioning members on expanding on the words used in the motion. I would still consider that any expansion of those words into the unparliamentary realms of the word "corruption" would cause me to sit members down.

I said that at the beginning of the debate and I do not resile from that. I believe the Deputy Speaker to be perfectly correct. I will just say this: What I would like to see is that if the member for Cottesloe feels strongly that he has a case in respect of the words which he wants to apply to the Government, he must put the case first. I will not tolerate a situation where he makes an accusation and then endeavours to go on in any other direction that he cares. I believe very strongly that this is a serious accusation, on which I am not prepared to protect anyone. I am also not prepared to have accusations made like this in this place without justification being provided first.

Irrespective of what the Deputy Speaker said, if the member for Cottesloe is prepared to accept that situation, I will allow him to continue his remarks. However, I caution the member for Cottesloe that if he says again what he said at the commencement of his remarks when the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, I will sit him down.

Mr CLARKO: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am sure you are aware that in the past many Oppositions in the Westminster system have moved motions of this type, which said that the Government does not have the confidence of the House because it is corrupt. I am sure you are aware, Mr Speaker, of motions of that nature. Once such a motion is moved, surely it is logical that members must talk about corruption and that in no way can talk about corruption, in a motion of this sort, be out of order. This motion does not say that the Government is corrupt; it talks about other matters relating to that word.

In fact, the word "corruption" has been used in this House within the past 12 months by the member for Perth, who chose to use his own definition of "corruption". Subsequently I spoke on that particular matter and I used the word "corruption" frequently in the narrow, peculiar sense used by the member for Perth and in the dictionary sense of the word. Therefore members must be able to talk about corruption, and if a motion is specifically about that - for example, if it was claimed that a Government, any Government, was thieving or doing anything reprehensible, and a motion was moved which specifically related to that - my understanding of Erskine May and others is that it can be used then when it may not be able to be used at any other time within the Parliament. Mr Speaker, I am sure you appreciate that, and I would ask you to keep it in mind in respect of our motion, which argues for something less than that.

Mr HASSELL: On the same point of order -

The SPEAKER: I do not need assistance with that. I will certainly keep it in mind.

Mr HASSELL: Mr Speaker, if I might say to you under this same point of order, I have no ambition, for the sake of it, to pursue the dissent motion. I heard your remarks at the beginning of the debate and I took them in what I thought was the way you intended, which was to say that you were not going to allow us to get up and say, for example, that the Premier was corrupt or the Deputy Premier was corrupt, or anything like that. I understood and I accepted that. I did not raise a point of order - although I was listening carefully and deliberately to what you were saying - because I thought I understood what you said. It is perhaps unfortunate that you left the Chair. I think it is entirely different, when one is talking about what is unparliamentary - and I submit it is entirely different - to say on the one hand the Government is corrupt, which is something that can be said outside Parliament and which is not of itself defamatory, and on the other hand to say that the Premier is corrupt, which I did not say and I am not saying. They are quite different issues.

Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling - Withdrawn

Mr HASSELL: I do not want to waste the time of the House or unnecessarily proceed with the dissent motion. On the basis of my understanding of your ruling - I have expressed my understanding of it, it could be wrong - with the consent of the House, I will withdraw the dissent motion and go back to trying to draw out the second of my points. I have five or six points to make, and I have not even reached the second.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Debate Resumed

Mr HASSELL: Let me, for the sake of the House, approach this matter in another way. At present, there are five matters of major public concern related to the conduct of the Government. Firstly, there is the matter of the casino prosecution, where the issue is whether there was political interference in the recommended prosecution. That is the simple issue and it has been in the hands of the Government to respond to that issue and to clear it up. However, the Government has refused to do so because the Government, I believe, has something to hide.

I believe the Government is frightened to bring out the facts. Let the House just be clearly reminded of the basic situation. In June 1987 a full and final report recommending a prosecution in the casino matter was released. Three months later, in October, a short Press release was issued by the then Commissioner for Corporate Affairs saying that there would be no prosecution. The Government suggested that there is another report, but it refuses to produce that other report. The issue remains on the table and unresolved.

Mr Peter Dowding: May I ask you a question? The whole issue of whether a prosecution should lay on the Table or not is his and his alone, is it not?

Mr HASSELL: The Premier will not solve this problem by asking questions and taking up my limited time. The fact of the matter is that the question is whether there should be a prosecution in the casino issue, which is more important than the other matters. If there has been financial corruption, that is one thing, but if there has been a corruption of the prosecution process in the sense that there has been political interference to stop a prosecution, stopping a prosecution today is followed by starting prosecutions on political grounds tomorrow. That is a corruption of democracy itself. That is the most serious issue of all.

Mr Peter Dowding: Like directing the police on what to do, isn't it?

Mr HASSELL: It is like directing the police to do things for a political purpose.

That issue should be cleared up by the Government, but it has not been. It will not be cleared up by the Government's stonewalling. It will stay around for as long as the Government refuses to deal with it. It is not, as the Premier said last night, that the Opposition is making an attack on Mr Dempster, the casino -

Mr Peter Dowding: Or Mr Smith?

Mr HASSELL: Or Mr Smith. I think Mr Smith has a strong duty to speak out. Both Mr Smith and the Solicitor General have been given highly paid jobs with independence from the Government so that they will protect the public interest. The public interest demands that those people speak out, and their failure to do so is a failure of their duty. I say that quite deliberately. That is not an attack on them; that is an attack on their conduct and a suggestion that their conduct has not been adequate. I do not resile from that.

Secondly, there is the issue of the Bell-Bond-SGIC share deals and the National Companies and Securities Commission inquiry. I tell the House and the Premier, there is not one person on St George's Terrace in business who does not believe there was an arrangement between the vendor of the Bell shares, the Bond Corporation and the SGIC. I am telling the House the facts: People believe there was an arrangement. It is believed they acted in concert, to use the technical expression.

Mr Peter Dowding: There is a belief that you have been in touch with the NCSC trying to push that idea.

Mr HASSELL: I contacted the NCSC because thousands of small shareholders missed out on at least \$1 per share.

Mr Peter Dowding: Did your leader do the same?

Mr MacKinnon: I contacted them several times.

Mr HASSELL: Indeed. That is the body which should investigate the matter, and is now investigating it. We have been trying to get the NCSC to be more vigorous. Indeed, it was after the Federal Liberals and ourselves took up the issue that the NCSC first appointed a Queen's Counsel and started getting stuck into them.

Mr Peter Dowding: Do you claim some responsibility?

Mr HASSELL: That shows up the difficulty of the Government's position. My time is limited and as these are important issues I will not be diverted by interjections.

I took up the matter with the National Companies and Securities Commission deliberately and totally legitimately. I would do so again tomorrow without hesitation in similar circumstances. It is not up to the Government to attack the Opposition for doing its job.

Thirdly, I wish to refer to the matter of the Bond and Connell deals on the Perth Technical College and the David Jones sites. The Government is urgently negotiating to get out of the financial commitment made by the State Superannuation Board on funding the purchase of the David Jones site.

Mr Peter Dowding: Your leader referred to the Perth Technical College site.

Mr HASSELL: The Government has acknowledged that the deal was a bad one. Both that deal and the Perth Technical College site deal were handled by Mr Brush. Whatever else we can say about Mr Brush, with certainty his business acumen has been shown to be disastrously lacking. In a business sense he is a disgrace. When Mr Bond rang me recently after debate in this House I asked him in what capacity he would employ Mr Brush. Mr Bond, with his acumen and ability, would not put Mr Brush in a position that would allow him to act on behalf of the Bond Corporation in the deals that the Bond Corporation did with Mr Brush when he was Chairman of the State Superannuation Board.

Fourthly, the Rothwells guarantee was used by Mr Connell as a lure to get in funds. The other night the Deputy Premier said that the guarantee -

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not true. It was not a lure to get in funds; it was part of a rescue package.

Mr HASSELL: The Premier does not understand what I say. I have a Rothwells brochure which was put around urging people to deposit money and telling everybody what a good company it was. Here is the brochure.

Mr Peter Dowding: Is the member saying that Rothwells should not trade its way out of difficulties?

Mr HASSELL: The Premier does not understand. In the *The Australian Financial Review* of 4 December 1987 an advertisement relating to Rothwells in part reads -

Rothwells Shareholders

You're in Strong Company

Rothwells passed each test, and is today stronger and more viable than ever.

The State of Western Australia has pledged a \$150 million guarantee facility.

The Deputy Premier said that the guarantee facility was given to the National Bank, not to Rothwells.

Mr Peter Dowding: He did not.

Mr Parker: It was a guarantee to the National Bank to be advanced to Rothwells.

Mr HASSELL: I am not disputing that, but here is Rothwells using it. I say to the Deputy Premier that if that matter were investigated by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs there would be serious questions about the propriety of advertising on that basis. There might be a question about the legality of advertising on that basis.

Mr Peter Dowding: What has that got to do with us?

Mr HASSELL: The Premier says, "What has that got to do with us" and continues to attack us because -

Several members interjected.

Mr HASSELL: I cannot answer every interjection at once. I can only say to the Premier that he has repeatedly tried to make out that the Opposition is pulling people down because it questions deals. We have not questioned the Government about ordinary commercial deals in any way whatsoever. We have questioned the Government about political deals. Does the Government not understand that for as long as it has a man like Kevin Edwards in the Department of the Premier - a political person who is also on the boards of the SGIC and the State Superannuation - he will continue to do deals? He is trying to push people around and do deals on the David Jones site.

Mr Peter Dowding: What do you mean he is trying to push people around?

Mr HASSELL: He is trying to rearrange things on the Terrace.

Mr Peter Dowding: Where is the evidence?

Mr HASSELL: The fact is the Government continues to have people involved in doing deals which are not truly commercial in nature; they are political and therefore the Government is confusing itself about whether it is the rule maker, the umpire, enforcer of rules, or a player in the game. The Opposition does not question business people, as they are in business to make money; they have no particular morality in relation to the making of money. We do not expect them to. We do not attack them personally.

Mr Parker: You have attacked Mr Connell, and you have attacked the Rothwells advertisement.

Mr HASSELL: The Opposition questions the Government over the way in which it deals with taxpayers' money. The Government has tried to put pressure on local authorities to deposit money with Rothwells. The Deputy Premier sought to get people to deposit money with Rothwells.

Mr Parker: That is absolutely untrue.

Mr HASSELL: An amount of \$7 million was put into Rothwells by the United Credit Society after the stock market crash. The manager of that credit society, within the 12 months before the crash, had warned people they should not be putting money into Rothwells. He had doubts about that, yet United Credit, with the encouragement of Government, put \$7 million into the bailout, as evidenced in *The Australian* on 22 March 1988 where the heading "United Credit 'aided Rothwells bailout with \$7m'" appeared. This happened even though previously the manager of that organisation had made it clear to many people in the business world that he did not think that was appropriate.

Once again the Government has refused to provide information to satisfy the public and this House about the Teachers Credit Society donation and whether compliance has been made with Federal law. There is a deeper issue regarding when the Government should have been aware that the Teachers Credit Society was in trouble. I challenge the Premier to produce the records and minutes of the Credit Union Advisory Committee for the 12 months prior to the Teachers Credit Society crash. It is not the present Premier's fault, because he was not the Treasurer at that time, but the Credit Union Advisory Committee had warned the Government over and over again.

Mr Peter Dowding: Warned who? The Government or the registrar?

Mr HASSELL: One assumes, through the registrar.

Mr Peter Dowding: One assumes! What evidence do you have? Did it warn the registrar or the Government?

Mr HASSELL: It is the Government's advisory group. The Government is responsible; that is the principle of responsible Government.

I return to the point of the motion. The motion is about the perceptions of Western Australians; the loss of investment; the continual articles which have been written in the Eastern States media about things going on over here - and some which have been written by journalists here who are withstanding all sorts of pressures to make sure that the stories are written.

These people see that this State Government is rotten to the core. It has received donations

and it has cronies and favourites who are receiving deals from the Government. This small band of people are seen for what they are and this State is losing out as a result. The Premier should go to the Eastern States and talk to senior business people. They will get the message across to him that this State is a laughing stock.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [3.51 pm]: With due respect to both the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Cottesloe, I have not heard anything which substantiates many of the remarks made in this Parliament for some time which relate to the first two parts of this motion. Time after time we have heard a constant barrage of allegations made under parliamentary privilege attempting to enforce the view that there is a degree of cronyism, favouritism and corruption. The media has reported these allegations using the rules of parliamentary privilege which state that the media may only report accurately what was said in the Parliament. On occasions, the media have couched many of their statements in fairly vague terms with just enough accuracy to ensure that they do not find themselves in the courts. Nevertheless, there has been the imputation that somebody is corrupt, that somebody has been favoured, or that something has happened.

It appears to me that it is time that members of Parliament - that is, the group that I feel responsible for - should put up or shut up. In another place the National Party has already moved to make a facility available to allow people to put up. In the case of the casino inquiry we have moved for a Select Committee to which evidence of corruption can be given. We have proposed that a Standing Committee be established for the purpose of allowing members of Parliament, or any other people for that matter, to put any evidence they have before the Committee. In other words, we are saying that it is time that the Parliament and its members were prepared to put up some of the evidence they keep talking about but which we do not see. With that in mind, I wish to amend the motion.

Amendment to Motion

I therefore move -

To delete all words after "arising from" with a view to substituting the following -
allegations and counter-allegations of corruption and

- 1 (a) calls on all persons who have knowledge of corruption involving any Parliamentarian, any public servant, any person on contract to the Government or any person who manages or acts as agent for Government assets to present such evidence to the proposed Standing Committee of the Legislative Council that is to be established for the specific purpose of investigating allegations of corruption;
- (b) calls on all members of State Parliament who have made allegations of corruption under the protection of Parliamentary Privilege to ensure that all the evidence in support of those allegations is made available to the proposed Standing Committee on Corruption.
- 2 Calls on all persons who have knowledge relevant to the inquiry into certain matters relating to Burswood Management Ltd and the Burswood Property Trust to present such evidence to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council.
- 3 Reminds members that Parliamentary Privilege is not a licence to make unsubstantiated allegations of corruption or impropriety against individual citizens, corporate bodies or government agencies.
- 4 Expresses its support for an all-party Standing Committee to monitor and report on all aspects of negotiations and dealings between the Government and the private sector.

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [3.55 pm]: For some time, the Opposition, led by the member for Cottesloe, has tried to heighten the perception of some murky pool of events. Frankly, I am dismayed that he should use that mechanism, not for doing what in the end result he says he wants to do, which is to give expression in this House to the feelings in the community. The members opposite have tried to create that feeling in the community; they have spread that feeling far and wide.

The member for Cottesloe told us today that he and the Leader of the Opposition asked the National Companies and Securities Commission to take an interest in matters in this State because I assume they did not feel that the NCSC was taking an active enough interest in the way the Government was doing its job. What damages communities everywhere is people bad mouthing the community. Anybody can approach the Government with proposals for investment and development and we listen to them.

Mr Parker: And we do.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Yes, we do. We genuinely want to see the high rate of investment that has occurred in this State since this Government has been in office continue. We do not listen to one group or another group; we listen to everybody. My diary indicates that I have meetings with representatives of BHP, CRA, builders, and union officials. I have been out to look at the Rolls Royce jet turbine blade project which is marvellous and which began under our Government. Anybody who wants to come into this State with money, ideas, innovation and vigour will not be turned away and I challenge the member for Cottesloe to tell me one person who has come into this State with enthusiasm for a project and been rejected.

Mr Bridge: He could not show you one.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Deathly silence. I will go a step further. We have had just about enough of these allegations from the Leader of the Opposition who thinks that every time there is something to know he should know it, whether it has some commercial impact or not.

I remind the National Party - because it is an important issue - that the largest contract that this State has ever entered into in the history of Western Australia was the North West Shelf gas project; a contract which, quite frankly, was poorly negotiated on behalf of the State of Western Australia. If we had not rescued it, it is likely that it would have led this State to the brink.

Mr Stephens: Why remind us?

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am reminding the National Party that that contract has had more impact on this State than any other contract in its history.

Mr MacKinnon: It was a damn good contract.

Mr PETER DOWDING: How does the Leader of the Opposition know?

Mr MacKinnon: You said it was.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I did not.

Mr MacKinnon: You said it was the biggest ever entered into.

Mr PETER DOWDING: But how does the Leader of the Opposition know it was a good one?

Mr MacKinnon: Because we are living off the benefits.

Mr PETER DOWDING: How do the people know it was a good one when the former Government did not make the contract known to them? That Government wrote into the terms and conditions of that contract a requirement that it be forever secret.

Mr Trenorden: Why do we have to know about this?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Because it is illustrative of the people who sit on the Opposition benches. They know that commercial confidentiality is an essential element of corporate activity.

I again remind the Leader of the Opposition that there is absolutely no question that the former Government kept the terms of that document secret and ensured that the details were never made known to the public of Western Australia. That contract had a billion dollar impact on this State. Not only that, as the Deputy Premier reminds me, they entered into a contract with the Griffin Coal Mining Co Ltd for the supply of coal. It was a long term contract that would have had a huge commercial impact on the whole State and on the availability of fossil fuel for the State. Having seen the contract I am not surprised they wanted to keep it secret. It was a commercially confidential document which, at their insistence, was never to be released to the public.

Mr Parker: It made tens of millions of dollars for the owner of the coal mine.

Mr MacKinnon: Was it renegotiated?

Mr PARKER: Yes.

Mr MacKinnon: Was it before or after the Fiji business?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Together with the gas contract it was renegotiated in the State's favour. If the Leader of the Opposition doubts that, and subject to the Deputy Premier's advice, I will let him have a look at the contract and he can make a judgment about what sort of benefits flowed to the State. I offer a challenge that might shut him up.

We have a situation where the Opposition, when in Government, recognised the principle in respect to contracts which are by a factor of 100 bigger than any contract referred to in this debate. They kept the contract secret for commercial reasons. This Government rescued those contracts and it will continue to keep them confidential. I assure members that those contracts have been renegotiated for the benefit of the people of Western Australia.

It is absolutely nonsense to say that any commercial contract entered into by anyone has to be revealed to the public because that is the process under the Westminster system. It is not a process that the Opposition, when in Government, followed and it is not a process that works.

The truth of the matter is that the Opposition wants to prevent Government agencies and instrumentalities from being able to do things which actively promote the State and the interests of the State. I am absolutely horrified that the Leader of the Opposition, after his pitiful contribution, should allow the former Leader of the Opposition to make such outrageous allegations without any new evidence.

The member for Karrinyup actually admitted that allegations of corruption in motions like this are "a standard Opposition tactic". If this is a standard Opposition tactic, given the harm it can do to commerce and industry in this State, it is a reflection on the Opposition. I am absolutely mortified that it should do this.

I will go through the six allegations: First, the Government's support for Rothwells. Second, the Government's support for the depositors of Teachers Credit Society. Both these matters have been dealt with extensively in this House and nothing about the way in which those guarantees were put in place was ever kept secret. In fact, the publicity about them was essential to ensuring that a merchant bank which had made a great contribution to Western Australia did not fall over.

I would have thought that the confidence of the commercial sector would be constantly undermined by the words, phrases and utterances of the Liberal Party Opposition. The confidence of the commercial sector in a commercial institution is paramount if it is to successfully move out of the difficulties confronting it since the stock market crash. The Opposition has never allowed it to gain that confidence. An offer was made to the Opposition to participate in knowing and supporting what was being done.

Mr MacKinnon: When was that offer made?

Mr PETER DOWDING: It was made at the time the matter was being negotiated.

Mr MacKinnon: We were told we could have all the information after the negotiations.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Leader of the Opposition is a disseminator of untruths when it suits him.

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: If the Opposition leader can contain himself I would like to complete my remarks.

Mr MacKinnon: We were given one hour.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will contain himself.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Leader of the Opposition knows very well that the Government of the day made him an offer to give him the details of what was taking place because it was important that the negotiations were seen as a positive move by the Government and the Opposition of Western Australia, but he was not game enough. He had to ask the shadow leader, who is consumed by this passion -

Mr Parker: He also asked a former Premier's son - the crown prince.

Mr PETER DOWDING: He asked both members and he came back and said that the Opposition had better not.

We have been through this time and time again. We have seen extraordinary circumstances with the failure of Robert Holmes a Court, having accumulated a huge amount of Western Australian wealth, to take over BHP. The State Government Insurance Commission took a stake in a fire basement sale of BHP shares and I ask the member for Murchison-Eyre what they are worth today.

Mr Lightfoot: Let us go back to some of the other portfolios.

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: It will return a profit on the BHP transaction and I do not think that investing in a big Australian company is a speculative risk. It had the option of a property in central Perth which will create a change far greater than the massive change supported by all political parties - Forrest Place. It is a huge redevelopment, at public expense, which gives great commercial advantage to a major retailer; that is, the Boans-Myer group, which will make millions of dollars as a result of this redevelopment. Is the Opposition suggesting that we should not have gone ahead with that redevelopment?

It is obvious that Perth will benefit from a redevelopment of the area south of St George's Terrace. The property developers involved will develop in a spectacular way something that will be good for all Western Australians. If the State Government Insurance Commission made a profit of \$67 million after making all the arrangements and -

Mr MacKinnon: Are you guaranteeing a profit at the end of the contract?

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The SGIC has said it will make a \$67 million profit after discounting every commercial provision in that contract. The Opposition will see that in due course.

Mr Parker: Since its allegations about the leaseback it thinks the profit will be more than that.

Mr PETER DOWDING: That is right. We have a situation where the SGIC has said publicly that it is renegotiating its position in respect of the David Jones site and not the Perth Technical School site as the misinformed Leader of the Opposition has said and that it can be worked out commercially. Nothing can be done commercially if it is subjected to the sort of harassment that the Leader of the Opposition and his front bench sought to subject it to.

Mr Hassell: If you wanted it to come out you would answer questions.

Mr PETER DOWDING: That would destroy the commercial activity as it would with the North West Shelf and the Griffin Coal contracts.

I am holding up a copy of today's edition of the *Daily News* opened at page 3. I must be a bit slow; I suddenly twigged to the reason why the Leader of the Opposition was so interested in promoting the idea of a snap election. It is the third time this year that he has said there will be a snap election. The first time he said it was just after I became elected Premier. Obviously, that threw him into a tizz. The second time was before Parliament began sitting, and the third time is now after the release of our excellent package of State taxes and charges. He is terrified that if the discipline slips from his members the shadow Leader of the Opposition or the boy prince who sits next to him will climb over the top of him.

We oppose the motion. We do not think that the amendment is the right step to take. The right step would be a statement that commercial activities should be allowed to progress without the smear and innuendo from the front bench of the Opposition.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas - Minister for Agriculture) [4.10 pm]: There is nothing new in the allegations made in the motion before us this afternoon. The Leader of the Opposition referred to a remarkable chain of events. If this debate has proved anything this afternoon, it has proved in a very dramatic way that the Leader of the Opposition is nothing

more than a wimp. This debate offers the most dramatic example so far as to who really leads the Opposition in this State.

I remind the House that the Leader of the Opposition spoke on the motion and did little more than read through the allegations which I have no doubt were drafted by the shadow Leader of the Opposition. That is probably the truth. The Leader of the Opposition smiles in his sheepish way and the shadow Leader of the Opposition keeps significantly quiet studying his notes, no doubt not hearing what I am saying. I think I have got very close to the truth here and we are seeing this afternoon an example of leadership by default on a grand scale.

If there is any leadership on the other side this afternoon, it has probably come from the National Party. We will not support the motion and we will not support the amendment. We will not in any way add to any perception that there is anything other than propriety in the dealings of Government with business in this State.

Mr Cowan: Even if you don't add to it, you have to acknowledge that it does exist and if it exists you have to do something about it. Because most of it comes from this place, this place should do something about it. That's all we are suggesting.

Mr GRILL: Yes, but we will not add to that perception or give any credence to it this afternoon by giving credence to the motion. The motion should be dealt with in a very peremptory way. It was tempting simply to say that there was nothing in it; that it was just a regurgitation of the stuff that has been put forward by the member for Cottesloe for some days; and that it did not deserve a substantive answer. However, not to answer it would have led to the assumption that there was some credence to it. There is no credence to it at all. Even though it is not supported by the National Party in any form or fashion, I do not think that we should accede to an amendment.

Mr Lightfoot: It's supported by John Stone. The National Party's head man said it was the most corrupt in Australia.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRILL: Let us talk about the allegations made by John Stone, because there are some comparisons to be drawn. The first similarity is that by and large the words used by Stone were very much the words used by the member for Cottesloe this afternoon. The other glaring similarity is that the Leader of the National Party, on behalf of his party, immediately dissociated himself from those types of allegations. They are the similarities. I am very indebted to the member for Murchison-Eyre for raising the matter of John Stone, because he was not able to produce one shred of evidence in support of the allegations that he made some weeks ago.

Mr Parker: In fact, he withdrew them.

Mr GRILL: The Deputy Leader is right. John Stone apologised and is now in the process of endeavouring to reduce the damages which in due course he will have to pay to the people whom he libelled, probably criminally libelled, on that occasion.

Mr Lightfoot: The Government says, "Don't speak about us, or we will serve you with a writ."

Mr GRILL: The member for Murchison-Eyre is a fellow traveller with Stone. We all know that. He does not have to demonstrate that here. In fact, he is a fellow traveller with the apartheid people from South Africa.

Mrs Beggs: He is a good friend of John Samuel's too. He was here with him last night and at lunchtime.

Mr GRILL: That is right.

Mr Marlborough: He is a good friend of Ronald Reagan's as well.

Mr MacKinnon: Your Premier is so brave he won't go outside and say what he said about Mr Samuel.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRILL: In closing my remarks, I refer to a real leader of the Liberal Party, a person who led it with some distinction, although it was at times dubious. I refer to Sir Charles Court. That Premier had a little saying that if something is repeated often enough, no matter how untrue it might be, in the final analysis people might believe it.

Mr Bertram: Goebbels had the same philosophy.

Mr GRILL: That same philosophy is the one that is being followed here almost to the letter by one of the acolytes of that particular Premier. The member for Cottesloe was a fairly grovelling acolyte of that Premier, but that philosophy is being followed here to a T. His remarks are not only intemperate, they are also fatuous and outrageous. I do not think we should have anything to do with them. The motion will be defeated along lines that will demonstrate that.

This Government is probably the most wholesome and honest Government that the State has seen in a very long time. The activities of the Government in every way have been proper and above reproach. We do not support the motion or the amendment.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (6)			
Mr Cowan		Mr Trenorden	
Mr Schell		Mr Wiese	
Mr Stephens		Mr House (<i>Teller</i>)	
Noes (43)			
Dr Alexander	Mr Cunningham	Dr Lawrence	Mr Thomas
Mrs Beggs	Mr Donovan	Mr Lewis	Mr Troy
Mr Bertram	Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Lightfoot	Mr Fred Tubby
Mr Blaikie	Mr Evans	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Reg Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough	Mrs Watkins
Mr Bridge	Mr Grayden	Mr Mensaros	Dr Watson
Mr Burkett	Mr Greig	Mr Parker	Mr Watt
Mr Carr	Mr Grill	Mr Read	Mr Wilson
Mr Cash	Mr Hassell	Mr Ripper	Mr Maslen (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Clarko	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr D.L. Smith	Mrs Buchanan (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Court	Mr Hodge	Mr P.J. Smith	

Amendment thus negatived.

Motion Resumed

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (21)			
Mr Blaikie	Mr Grayden	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Reg Tubby
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Greig	Mr Mensaros	Mr Wiese
Mr Cash	Mr Hassell	Mr Schell	Mr Maslen (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Clarko	Mr House	Mr Stephens	
Mr Court	Mr Lewis	Mr Trenorden	
Mr Cowan	Mr Lightfoot	Mr Fred Tubby	
Noes (27)			
Dr Alexander	Mr Donovan	Dr Lawrence	Mr Thomas
Mrs Beggs	Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Marlborough	Mr Troy
Mr Bertram	Mr Evans	Mr Parker	Mrs Watkins
Mr Bridge	Dr Gallop	Mr Read	Dr Watson
Mr Burkett	Mr Grill	Mr Ripper	Mr Wilson
Mr Carr	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr D.L. Smith	Mrs Buchanan (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Cunningham	Mr Hodge	Mr P.J. Smith	

Pairs

Ayes

Mr Thompson
Mr Williams
Mr Crane
Mr Watt

Noes

Mr Tom Jones
Mrs Henderson
Mr Taylor
Mr Pearce

Question thus negatived.

ACTS AMENDMENT (EDUCATION) BILL

Second Reading

DR LAWRENCE (Subiaco - Minister for Education) [4.27 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purposes of the Bill are twofold: First, it facilitates and enhances the provision of financial assistance to non Government schools. Specifically, it enables the low interest loans scheme to be implemented and changes to be made regarding the payment of recurrent grants. Secondly, it formalises the establishment of the Ministry of Education with the Chief Executive Officer as its head. I shall address these objectives in turn.

The financial assistance provided by the Government to non Government schools includes the provision of funding for capital development projects and recurrent funding based on student numbers. The Bill provides a framework for change which will enable the Government to respond in a more effective way to the needs of non Government schools.

Capital assistance will be provided through a low interest loan scheme which will replace the interest subsidy arrangement that has operated for a number of years. The new scheme has been developed in close consultation with representatives of non Government school systems and has been well received by them. Loans will be provided by the Government at concessional interest rates to finance approved capital projects in new and existing non Government schools. The scheme will operate initially for a three year trial period. During this time new schools may apply to borrow up to \$5 million and existing schools up to \$3 million. Interest rates will be determined annually on the basis of the relevant State borrowing rate. In 1988 -

The base rate, which will apply to most projects, will be six per cent per annum;

loans for the construction of approved new schools will be at 1.5 per cent per annum less than the base rate;

schools classified by the Commonwealth as being among the most highly resourced schools - categories 1-3 - will pay a rate of 1.5 per cent per annum above the base rate.

Schools which are presently receiving interest subsidies under the existing scheme will continue to receive them. The interest subsidy scheme will not be formally wound up until all obligations under the scheme have been met. I am confident that the new scheme will greatly assist in the provision of school facilities in the non Government sector.

Recurrent funding, which is paid on a per capita basis to non Government schools, is presently transmitted directly to individual schools. In order to simplify administrative procedures for a number of non Government schools, the Government has agreed to make block payments of per capita grants to non Government school system authorities. This change has been developed in close consultation with representatives of the Catholic Education Commission, the Seventh Day Adventist Conference and the Anglican Schools Commission. Schools which operate outside systems will continue to receive their grants by way of direct payment.

The existing section 9A of the Education Act limits the types of financial assistance which the Government can provide to non Government schools because of the specific nature of the provisions. This section is being repealed and replaced with broader provisions to allow some flexibility to amend programs and provide additional forms of assistance within the established framework. Details of funding arrangements will be contained in notices published in the *Government Gazette*.

The Bill provides that Government subsidies to non Government schools are payable only in respect of students who are permanent residents in Australia. It is inappropriate for Government subsidies to be paid in respect of students who are temporary residents. The Bill gives the Minister the power to waive the requirement for permanent residents in exceptional cases, such as those involving Rotary exchange students.

The change in designation from "Education Department" to "Ministry" reflects the broadening of the role of the former department. It signifies an important development from a department involved only with schools and school programs to a Ministry concerned with assisting the Minister in coordinating educational activities at all levels. The adoption of the title "Chief Executive Officer" for the person who heads the Ministry is in keeping with recent development in public sector management and emphasises the overall administrative and financial responsibilities of the position. In formalising these changes, the use of generic terms has been adopted in this Bill, and in other Acts in which the former designations appear. This will allow specific titles to be adopted and, if required, changed without the need for further legislative amendments.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Fred Tubby.

GERALDTON MID-WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR LIGHTFOOT (Murchison-Eyre) [4.33 pm]: Prior to the lunch suspension I was talking specifically about those areas of the hinterland that will be affected by this proposed legislation. I will touch briefly on one of the most neglected areas of the shires, and in particular of Yalgoo, Mount Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Wiluna, Sandstone, Leonora and Menzies. I refer particularly to roads and their neglect.

Communications are a necessary part of the development of any nation. One of the great areas of neglect in the past few years has been that of roads in the shires that I have just mentioned. For instance, the Shire of Sandstone does not have a bitumen road and there are no sealed roads connecting that shire or the Shire of Wiluna. This is 1988 when we are boasting of 200 years of settlement in this country, yet I can think of areas, particularly from Mullewa to Camarvon, which are not in my electorate, but which I feel, because they are to be affected by this Bill, will have to be redressed. The people connected by the road from Mullewa via Gascoyne Junction to Camarvon are cut off every time there is cyclonic rain. They have got used to this over the years.

This is one area that the Government could look at with respect to this development Bill - the sealing of that road, not just for the people who live there because sealed roads are for tourists, for use in relation to national security and as an alternative road to the Great Northern Highway, so this ought to be a priority.

The other road that needs to be looked at seriously is the one from Menzies via Sandstone to Meekatharra. It is currently a dirt road and under tremendous pressure from road trains and other trucks carrying heavy mining equipment and ore for treatment at various plants away from where that ore is mined. There is an alternative route that would be cheaper although perhaps not as convenient for the people who use it; that is, from the terminus of the sealed road at Leinster through Wiluna and west to connect the frontier town of Meekatharra. That is an area well within the compass of the proposed authority.

Another area, which extends to the extreme east of the proposed authority's boundaries, encompasses the largely Aboriginal settlements of Warburton, Warakuna, Jamieson and several others where, of course, there are no roads, very few communications and where, by any third world standard, they are pitifully poor notwithstanding the millions of dollars that have been poured into those areas over the decades.

A particular aspect that causes me some concern is the increasing traffic via the settlement of Ayers Rock. That traffic comes from the Northern Territory and, of course, is made up of motor vehicles from all of the Eastern States. They enter Western Australia largely via the township of Warburton, or via Docker River in the Northern Territory. Several hundred

vehicles a year come through there including busloads of tourists and there is no agricultural check point as there is at Kununurra and the settlement of Norseman at the beginning of the black road across the Nullarbor. I do not think that the area is used at this stage to pass the stringent checkpoint at Norseman.

Mr Thomas: It would be an expensive way of running apples.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: I was not talking about apples, but of livestock and fruit that comes in with tourists, who may have brought it from their backyards and which may contain Mediterranean fruit fly or other diseases that we are trying to keep out of this area, and particularly of the introduction of declared or noxious plants. The authorities should be looking seriously and quickly at setting up a checkpoint on the border to check the hundreds of vehicles that come through now without even a cursory check by the Department of Agriculture. I have no evidence that this route has been used to bypass the agricultural checkpoint in Norseman or the one at Kununurra, but it could easily be used for that purpose, which causes me some concern.

The pastoral industry, which is a multimillion dollar industry, and which is within the planned authority's boundaries, is made up substantially, but not exclusively, of wool production and beef. Wool, of course, is by far the greatest dollar earner in that area. In order to enhance the wool industry, the authority could look at value added aspects of that industry such as having the Australian Wool Commission conduct regular auction sales in Geraldton of wool produced in the area, but not exclusively in the area. I see no reason not to extend that idea because it is a good way of decentralising that particular aspect of the industry. As an extension of that, the industry should look at wool scouring and spinning plants in the area for wool produced in the hinterland and coastal areas of the envisaged authority.

I have mentioned the beef industry, which ought to be enhanced by the establishment of an export abattoir in that area. Thousands of head of beef bypass Geraldton annually to come down here for slaughter and export; and it does the decentralisation of those areas no good to have a potential multimillion dollar industry bypassing a place like Geraldton that offers infrastructure, port facilities and less cruising time to overseas markets when with some assistance from this proposed authority an industry could be set up there to process beef for the advancement and benefit of the people in that area.

Tourism is one area that I have not had much to do with over the years, except to say that I am well aware of the magnificence of the tablelands east of Geraldton. It encompasses the most magnificent wildflowers found anywhere in the world and their diversity is quite breathtaking. I think that the member for Vasse spoke about this fact and said that this State ought to label its number plates "The Wildflower State", because anyone who has seen the wildflowers in this area east of Geraldton would understand that that would be well justified. I hope one day we are officially known again as "The Wildflower State". I can recommend to members that they take a trip through Geraldton, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra and Sandstone to see the magnificence of the wildflowers in September. I guarantee this will be a good year for wildflowers because of the heavy rains.

The historic towns in the area are another interesting tourism aspect. Cue is one of the smallest towns in the Murchison goldfields but it attracts the largest number of visitors, partly because of its historic buildings which have been preserved. Some of the credit must go to this Government, which in the early days of its tenure restored the former Workmen's Club, and on this rare occasion I am prepared to congratulate the Government for that. It did not help the Government's endorsed candidate to win that area, but it was a magnificent restoration - so good that the Cue Shire Council shifted out of its building and into that restored building. The surrounding areas and Cue was where the man who was later to become President Hoover worked as a young engineer at the turn of the century. That is an aspect which has not escaped the tourist guidebooks.

There are throughout the area some large Aboriginal communities, which are of great interest because their artifacts and skills exceed greatly those that we have. I speak particularly of the wooden devices which they carve, and it is tragic that their work is becoming less skilful, although still very interesting.

The emu farm east of Wiluna raises emus and treats emu leather. The excess emu eggs are

carved in a magnificent fashion. They are very expensive, but the expense is warranted because they are so unique.

An Opposition member: The chicks are expensive also.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: Yes; the emu chicks are expensive because of Government legislation, and that is something we ought to address when this authority is established.

This area has also some of the oldest rocks in the world. The rocks on the plateau are in excess of 4 000 million years old - four billion years old! These rocks have never been covered by sea during that period. They are the very foundations of the earth, and it gives one an eerie feeling to stand on these rocks which have been so worn and eroded over the years. That aspect is worth recording in our tourist brochures.

The Booylgoo Range, which lies between the townships of Agnew and Sandstone, is a magnificent ancient folded mountain range, and it is now only a small fraction in height of what it was in its peak magnificence many millennia ago. The road leading to them is a dirt road, which does not attract a lot of visitors. It was a pristine area when I went there first in the mid 1960s. It is still relatively pristine, and I recommend that the authority looks also at that area as a point of natural beauty to be exploited for tourism.

Many historic homesteads have been built by pastoralists who are long since gone, but they have been maintained by their families and those who came after them.

There are in the area massive open pits which are going to be left in place. I hope the authority will take an interest in them because although mining does not in its life beautify an area, there is no reason to think that once these massive ore bodies have been removed the area left should not be beautified. In recent times the granting of licences has dictated that certain things should be done to ensure that these areas are restored to an attractive condition, which again could be exploited by the tourist industry. Some of the pits in that area have had between 10 million and 20 million tonnes of dirt removed from them, and they will obviously leave deep, wide scars on the earth, but over the years they will return to a natural condition with grasses and eventually mulga, annual bushes and so on, and this could be hastened with herbage planting and reforestation. The watertable on abandonment starts to seep up and is often, in its undisturbed state, between 20 and 50 feet from the surface, and when the watertable does rise it will form magnificent artificial lakes.

An important aspect of the area is the lack of roads. We have been made aware during many speeches in this place, and particularly from this side of the House, that about \$7 billion is collected annually by the Commonwealth Government from the sale of petrol and diesel products. Only a fraction of that amount is returned to the areas where it is raised. For every dollar that is spent by motorists, 67c goes into State and Federal Government coffers. It is time that both Governments faced their responsibilities and returned that money to the shires or to the Main Roads Department for the maintenance of those roads that are so vital for the success of this authority.

I support the Bill.

MR CARR (Geraldton - Minister for Regional Development) [4.45 pm]: I thank members opposite for their support of the legislation, although it seemed to take some hours for them to indicate their support.

Mr Court: That is not true; that was the first thing I said.

Mr CARR: I thank the member for his support. I suppose the amount of time taken to express that support means it was warm support. I admit there was a stage during the debate when I wondered whether the legislation was being supported. The member for Dale appeared to be fairly critical of a number of matters relating to the Bill. I suspect he was probably really opposing the Bill but thought the appropriate thing to do was to support it, even though his view was one of opposition.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised most of the important issues relating to the legislation, although a number of other members followed up some of his comments. I intend to respond in order to some of the issues raised by him. The first point made related to an allegation that a lot of activity had taken place in Geraldton since the last election, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition implied that the establishment of the authority had come about only because of the closeness of the result of the last election. I can tell the

member that the groundwork for this development authority started in 1985 when steps were taken to put together funding for a regional development study of the Geraldton mid west region. That study came to fruition in an established form in early 1986 and then proceeded for some 18 months before it reported in late 1987. So the groundwork of that study, which led ultimately to the development of the authority, commenced in 1985.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition made the point that we should not judge the success of a regional development policy by how much Government activity is going into a Government area but rather by the amount of private sector investment that is occurring in a particular region. I am happy to have the Geraldton region judged on that basis because there is at the moment an unprecedented level of private sector investment taking place. One notable project is the Big Bell goldmining project, which will provide 220 jobs. The Golden Grove project looks extremely promising, and if it is able to commence it will provide a further 200 jobs.

A foreshore development is taking place. Admittedly it is a Government initiative, but that scheme will open up the way for significant investments. For example there is a major hotel complex. A major shopping centre also is likely to go ahead in the near future. We have a proposal to build a paper pulp mill making paper pulp out of wheat straw. All those private initiatives add up to close on 1 000 jobs. If we add the Commonwealth Government's supply base proposal, we are looking at close on 1 000 jobs being created, and most of them by the private sector. It is clear that the private sector is showing confidence and investing in that region, and its activity complements Government activity there.

Many members criticised the name of the authority and questioned that the name "Geraldton" was part of the title. They referred to the fact that previous development authorities did not have town names in them, namely the South West Development Authority and the Great Southern Development Authority. The reason for the inclusion of the name "Geraldton" was not based on any ulterior political motive, as the member for Greenough implied, but rather on the extent to which the term "mid west" is identified elsewhere in the State.

Members who live within the mid west region, like the member for Greenough and me, are familiar with the term "mid west". However, it is a relatively new term; probably it was first used about 15 years ago.

Mr Reg Tubby: It was early 1960.

Mr CARR: No, not at all. The region we are talking about has been known by a number of different terms. It is still referred to in weather forecast terms as the central coastal region. It has been referred to as the Greenough region. The previous Government tried to call the whole area the Greenough region. A number of people used the term "Geraldton region" meaning the area adjacent to Geraldton.

The simple truth is that the term "mid west" is emerging only now in the appreciation of others in this State as the name of that region. If the member were to go down Hay Street and ask people, "What does the south west region mean?" most people would be able to define it quite reasonably in geographical terms. If he asked them, "What does the great southern region mean?" most people would be able to describe it quite reasonably, too. If he asked about the mid west, a lot fewer people would be able to give an accurate answer.

Mr Reg Tubby: It would be better if you referred to the Australian Mid West Authority.

Mr CARR: The term "mid west" will gain currency and become better known. We may reach the stage where it is sufficiently well known for us to drop the word "Geraldton" from the title. I have not put it there for any particular motive, but when the Geraldton mid west study was considering its recommendations, and when the interim members were establishing the authority, there was considerable discussion about what the name should be. A fairly strong body of opinion said that it needed "Geraldton" in it so that people elsewhere in this State knew what we were talking about.

We should not look at Geraldton as one of the towns in the region in the manner the member for Greenough described it. Looking at population terms, I use the term Geraldton to mean the urban centre, where we have 25 000 to 26 000 people out of a total of about 45 000. I do not want to make too big a point about the majority of the population being in Geraldton, but I make the point that Geraldton is not just one of the towns of the region; it is the regional centre, it is a particular focus, and it is the main centre for the region.

Mr Reg Tubby: The reason for its being there is because of the mid west. Geraldton would not be there if it were not for the mid west.

Mr CARR: And vice versa. That is the reason for the name. It is a matter of trying to strike a balance. Concern was expressed during the debate that the authority would be too much Geraldton based and not enough hinterland based. Since this board was announced and put in place I have had criticism directed at me because the board does not have enough people from Geraldton on it; it is hinterland based. People see bias, depending on where they sit. That is a fact of life. It is very difficult, as the member himself acknowledges, to strike a balance where there is reasonable representation over such a vast and diverse area.

Mr Reg Tubby: I have no argument with the diversification of the board; I think you have done an excellent job in that regard with the balance. I still see it as being unbalanced as a result of mentioning one local authority, but you have explained why.

Mr CARR: We are really attempting to strike a balance. It is not just a matter of balance brought about by representation, but in my opinion the authority has already set about the task of proving by its work that it wants to service the whole region. Members of the staff have been quite active in getting out and moving around the hinterland, through the agricultural areas and into the Murchison. I am fairly confident that with a little goodwill the board will quickly demonstrate its ability to serve all the region.

There was some criticism that the authority was established prior to the legislation being enacted. I explained that by interjection to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition this morning. The South West Development Authority and the Great Southern Development Authority were put in place as a division of the Department of Regional Development and the North West for six months prior to the statutory approvals being gained, and that has been followed here. I see that as being perfectly reasonable. We could have waited and done nothing about putting the authority in place until 1 July, when it takes on a full statutory basis, but that would have meant a waste of six months. We had already made the decision to establish it, and to my mind, once that decision had been made, the proper course of action was to look for the quickest reasonable way of establishing it, and that is what we have done.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked about the budget and the staff. It is proposed that the authority will have a staff of eight. At the moment about six have been appointed and advertisements have been appearing for the last couple of positions. We expect to have a staff of eight in place within a relatively short period of time.

Mr Reg Tubby: Will they all be based in Geraldton, or will they live at different centres like Meekatharra?

Mr CARR: They will be based in Geraldton in that that is the office from which they will work, but it must be understood that they will service the region and they will travel regularly into the region. Perhaps at some future stage we could look at a separate sub office of the authority with someone living in a different centre, but that has not been considered at this stage. However, I would not rule that out as something to be provided further down the track.

We see the main function of the authority as a facilitator to encourage and assist other bodies to do those things which are properly their functions. I do not see the authority as doing something which some other authority has a statutory duty to do. I do not see the authority as doing what the State Planning Commission should do, or what any other Government department should do.

Mr Fred Tubby: The powers of the authority include power to purchase, sell, lease, take on lease, mortgage, exchange or otherwise acquire, deal in or dispose of real and personal property.

Mr CARR: That was explained when we dealt with the Great Southern Authority Bill. That is intended to be a means to facilitate large scale development. There are occasions where developments occur and we play a handling role. I will give the member a couple of examples. The old Geraldton regional prison, which has recently been renovated and turned into a new complex, passed through the Department of Regional Development and the North West. While this office was part of the Department of Regional Development and the North West we were able to place that building within that department. With the authority being in place, the authority would take responsibility for that building while it was in the transition process and then pass it on to the new body that is to operate it.

A more important example would be the redevelopment of the Westrail land. We presently have land that is the province of Westrail. Ultimately most of that land will finish up as private freehold land which will be sold to private interests, but there will need to be a role, presumably to be played by the authority, as holder of that land. So there may be an appropriate time when that land is actually held in title by the development authority and it may have expenditure coming through its budget in relation to that land. That is not to say that it will be the builder and operator of the hotel in the future, but it is a facilitating mechanism put there with the intention that it be able to have that power to control that land as part of the process of the development of it.

I want to emphasise as strongly as I can that we see the role of the authority as a facilitator. It does not have the power to do any of those things which are properly the power of local government. It is a facilitating and coordinating agency rather than a prime doing agency.

Mr Read: One of the shires in the member for Dale's area, the Shire of Boddington, has actually made a conscious decision at shire level, and has written to ask that it be considered as part of the South West Development Authority area. It wanted to go in, so there is not the reaction against it from the shires that the member might think.

Mr CARR: Much has been said about the conflict between the authorities and local government, but my experience is that that conflict has been overstated. My experience with the Great Southern Development Authority is that that authority generally has been welcomed by local government. Certainly when we circularised every local government throughout the Geraldton mid west region and sought their response to the form of the legislation I think only one council wrote back with some suggestions. A number of others wrote back with strong expressions of support but only one expressed any queries and they were in the form of suggestions they thought we should follow through, some of which we were able to implement. So there is a strong level of support from local governments in the region.

By way of an aside, the South West Development Authority is the authority most often referred to as being in conflict with local government. In fact the Director of the Department of Regional Development, Dr Wally Cox, has just completed the review of the South West Development Authority, as required by the legislation, and that report will be coming forward very soon. However, Dr Cox did say to me today that in discussion with local governments around the south west region there was generally a fairly strong level of support for the work of the authority. Local governments in many cases would make comments such as, "We do not have problems working with the authority, it is only other people who say they have some problems." So, by and large, I think the question of disputation between local governments and authorities is overstated and I am confident they can work effectively together.

Mr Reg Tubby: The Greenough Shire has expressed concern that there is no representative of local government, and in particular of that shire, now on the authority; yet that local authority, because of its location, obviously will be involved in much of the development that will take place in industry closer to Geraldton.

Mr CARR: There are a couple of points to make about that. First of all, all of the people appointed to the authority and the advisory committee are appointed as individuals because of their ability to contribute to the whole of the region. No-one is there as a delegate from any particular agency. Notwithstanding that, we did manage initially to appoint two local government representatives to the board as well as six persons nominated from local government to the advisory committee. I understand that the elections saw Willy Scott from Mt Magnet and Bob Ramage from Geraldton defeated, so those two local government people are still there but not in the capacity of local government representatives.

With regard to the Greenough Shire, it is important to note that the reason a representative from that shire was not appointed to the committee was that it did not nominate. Even the article in the *Geraldton Guardian* on Tuesday, to which the member referred and which had a very big headline saying "Concern at lack of representation", did acknowledge at the tail of the article that the Greenough Shire, through some administrative failing of its own, did not put forward the names. So, with the greatest respect, I cannot be blamed for the authority's not putting someone from that shire on the advisory committee.

All of the appointments - to both the board and the advisory committee - have been made for a period expiring at the end of this year. Also we have appointed only 12 of the positions to the advisory committee when the Act will say that we can appoint 14; so there will be scope at the end of this year to make appointments.

Mr Reg Tubby interjected.

Mr CARR: I am certainly not going to create a situation where, the moment somebody screams, "We are missing out", I will rush to give them representation. After all, concern has also been expressed to me that no-one from the Geraldton City Council is on either the authority or the advisory committee, no-one from the fishing industry is on the advisory committee, and no Aboriginal persons are on either of the bodies. Concern is being expressed from some bodies that are not represented and we will be attempting to see that the composition is as balanced and reasonable as possible. But both the member for Greenough and I know that there are some 19 local governments in the area which all want to be on it, as well as all the interest groups. We will attempt to have as balanced a board and advisory committee as we possibly can, and that may mean some changes. On the other hand, I do not want to rush to replace somebody who has only just been put on the board or the advisory committee and is contributing well.

A number of members took the opportunity during the course of the debate to canvass issues occurring throughout the region, almost like an Address-in-Reply debate. I do not think it is really necessary at this stage for me to comment on the various issues that were raised relating to the various industries and so on. I am sure that the board of the authority will be studying the *Hansard* transcript and will see the issues that have been raised by respective members. In that context I will not go into replies in any sort of detail, but will proceed to move the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Dr Alexander) in the Chair; Mr Carr (Minister for Regional Development) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title -

Mr COURT: I reinforce the comments made by speakers on this side of the Chamber in respect of the inclusion of "Geraldton" in the Bill's title. This Bill deals with the mid west region. Leaving aside the political argument, the whole purpose of regional development is to spread the authority, so to speak, around the region so that every part of the region is seen to be equally important. Immediately "Geraldton" is included with "Mid-West Development Authority", it becomes the "Geraldton Development Authority".

I know that is a perception, but it is the first thing which comes to most people's minds. It might be that at a later stage the mid west as a region becomes known as such, and "Geraldton" will not be required in the heading. Inland authorities have expressed concern to members on this side about the name of the authority, and I ask the Minister to take that into account when considering this matter.

Mr REG TUBBY: I support the remarks made by the Deputy Leader. Although I do not see the current name of the authority as a disadvantage, it would be an advantage if the authority were to be known as the "Mid-West Development Authority". It would start the authority off on a sounder basis and, as the Deputy Leader said, spread the authority equally among local authorities throughout the mid west area.

I know the mid west region is not as well known as the great southern and the south west regions, but in order to identify the region properly and effectively, the authority should be known as the Mid-West Development Authority, without the inclusion of "Geraldton" in its title. Geraldton is easily identifiable, but the rest of the region will not attain the identity it deserves as quickly as it should if the authority's name remains as it is.

Mr CARR: I will be brief because the points raised were canvassed in the second reading stage. I believe the term "mid west region" is not sufficiently well known at this stage outside the area concerned for people to understand its location. I reiterate that it may well

be appropriate at some time in the future, when the region is better identified by that term, to change the name of the authority.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Board of management of Authority -

Mr REG TUBBY: In keeping with the changes which have taken place recently, is the reference to "chairman" and "deputy chairman" correct? Should it be "chairperson" and "deputy chairperson" or is it intended that a man will always be in the chair and deputy chair of the authority?

Mr CARR: I am one of those people who tends, as far as I can, to refer to people as "chairperson" because I believe that is a more reasonable approach. However, Parliamentary Counsel seems wedded to the view that "he" means "she" and "man" mean "person". I think it is simply a practice of Parliamentary Counsel to continue to draft legislation in those terms. I am glad the member raised it, because it offends me too.

Mr Reg Tubby: It does not offend me.

Mr CARR: Be that as it may, it is not intended that the chairman should always be a man. It is intended that the position be available to the best person to take it. Although we have here the term "deputy chairman", in reality the deputy chairman is a woman.

Mr LIGHTFOOT: I am rather perturbed about the composition of the board and the powers it has to appoint members or other organisations, such as authorities, to the authority. That is, authorities other than the proposed authority. Somewhere the legislation provides that the board should have a board of management comprising a chairman, deputy chairman and so on.

In respect of the Western Australian Development Corporation, it has been the practice that the chairman of that organisation becomes the chairman of other organisations, such as Exim, the Goldbank and so on. I illustrate what I am about to say by quoting a magazine article headed "Corruption and Graft in the Burke Regime", which reads -

Then there is a character called John Horgan. He is the Chairman of EXIM and WADC ventures, which are not accountable to the taxpayer, but use millions of dollars of taxpayers money to prop-up their ill fated adventures into the private sector.

I do not want that criticism to be levelled at this authority, because I am giving it my support - inconsiderable as it may be - and I do not want criticism to come back at me as it did when I supported the Goldbank legislation. In that case, Mr John Horgan was subsequently appointed chairman of the Goldbank. When I had some conversations with the precursors of the Goldbank, I was assured that Mr Horgan was not going to become the chairman. However he put on such a turn, such a whiz, that he was made chairman to keep him quiet. I would not like to think that this would happen in respect of this authority, with the appointment of the WADC, Exim or Mr Horgan to that authority.

Mr CARR: The first point to make is that the authority will be regionally based.

Mr Lightfoot: That is not specified, Minister.

Mr CARR: It does not specifically say that, and there is nothing in the Bill which says, "Someone from Perth or one of the Perth agencies cannot be appointed." It is the very clear intention of this Government, at least - and I would suspect of successive Governments over the years - that the board of the authority should be made up of regionally based people. I give the member this Government's assurance that the members of both the board and the advisory committee will be people based within the region.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6: Membership of Board -

Mr COURT: Could the Minister tell me whether all the people have been appointed to the board? The Bill mentions the membership of the board and the number of people on it. Have all of those positions been filled?

Mr Carr: Yes.

Mr COURT: Could the Minister tell me who they are?

Mr Carr: The seven members of the board are Bert Pepperell, who is the chairman, and Margot Boetcher, who is the deputy chairman; the other four members are Bob Ramage, Willy Scott, Colin Bartlett and Kevin Altham. They make up the six. The seventh person is the director ex officio, Graeme Stephens.

Mr COURT: Are these people representative of the mid west region?

Mr CARR: Yes. Margot Boetcher is a farmer; Willy Scott is from Mt Magnet; Colin Bartlett is from Mingenew; and the other three are from Geraldton.

Mr COURT: So the mining, agriculture and tourism areas are represented?

Mr CARR: As far as we have been able to do so. We had difficulty including all interests so we tried to find a balance so the board would not be too large. We tended to appoint people with two or three credentials or who could represent two or three different interests.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Functions of Authority -

Mr TRENORDEN: The clause describes the activities of local government. Last year I visited Europe and looked at similar type authorities in England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Similar activities occur in the United States and Canada. I support the clause but I am disappointed that the authority is to be formed in such a bureaucratic way. In the countries mentioned, this type of development has already been tried and discarded because it is bound not to work. Bureaucracies tend to be self-perpetuating and, given a change of Government after the next election, I will push for the type of action which takes place overseas; that is, for amounts of money to be paid directly to local government bodies to administer these activities. In other countries, the effect on local promotion of business and social activities has been dramatic. Unfortunately in this State the Government believes that bureaucracy should be built up. We already have local government in Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany and Mandurah and competent people in those places would be happy to pick up the finance to promote their towns. It has always been a bone of contention with me that the South West Development Authority picks up almost the same amount as the Small Business Development Corporation. I do not begrudge what is about to happen at Geraldton but the project is being initiated in a highly cost ineffective and inefficient manner.

I do not know a single person appointed to the board; no doubt they are competent people. However, I do not understand why money could not be given directly to the Geraldton City Council or the shire to allow it to do its own thing. These bodies were elected by the people of the region to be responsible for the region; it is absolute nonsense to create this incredible, bureaucratic organisation and add to administrative costs.

Mr COURT: The member for Avon has reinforced one of the main concerns expressed by the Opposition about the establishment of this additional form of bureaucracy. Local government is concerned that its traditional role and responsibility is to be taken away by the establishment of this body. The Minister has said that he wants the authority to be a facilitator and not to interfere in the role of other Government operations such as the State Planning Commission. The Minister would have to agree that, just as major concerns have been expressed about interference in the role of local government with the South West Development Authority, he must also be aware that if this becomes another form of bureaucracy on top of that already in place it could act as an inhibitor of development and not a facilitator.

I hope this message reaches the Government and those people who will be involved in running this authority. If they start interfering and local government does not receive full input and proper consideration or is overridden, the same problems will occur as those between local government and the SWDA.

Mr CARR: The whole purpose of the authority is to work with and assist other agencies which have statutory responsibilities for carrying out certain functions in the area. Primarily that means local government.

Mr Trenorden: Duplication.

Mr CARR: The member was trying to say that local governments can do what authorities can do. There are 19 local bodies within the authority area.

Mr Trenorden: Are they incompetent?

Mr CARR: I am not saying they are not competent; they are restricted in their ability to operate on a whole of region basis. That group of 19 councils was one of the bodies which presented a submission to the Commonwealth Government program to get funding for the study which led to the creation of this authority. There was a strong level of local government support for this project throughout the region. I assure the member I am committed to this authority's helping those bodies which have proper statutory authority to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

Clause put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr Carr (Minister for Regional Development).

[Questions taken.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

On motion by Mr Carr (Minister for Local Government), resolved -

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.15 pm on Tuesday, 14 June.

House adjourned at 6.02 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE *Building and Construction -Facilities*

180. Mr MacKINNON, to the Speaker:

- (1) What facilities are included in the current extensions being constructed at Parliament House?
- (2) What is the total budgeted price for the contract?
- (3) How much has been expended on the contract to date?
- (4) Will he table plans of these extensions?
- (5) If not, why not?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) The facilities include showers, changerooms, toilets, storerooms and an exercise area.
- (2) A provision of \$269 000 was approved for showers, changerooms and toilet facilities and a provision of \$190 000 was approved for an exercise area and equipment.
- (3) The Joint House Committee was advised at its last meeting that expenditure to 13 May 1988 was \$193 895. There is a further committed expenditure of \$83 902.
- (4) No.
- (5) The approved drawings are available through the Joint House Committee.

TREASURY CONTROL *Investment - Short Term Cash*

283. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

Now that the Western Australian Treasury Department has been expanded to include four assistant under-treasurers will the Treasury now take back its function of investing the Government's short term cash reserves currently handled by the Western Australian Development Corporation?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

No.

ABORIGINES *Committees - Rural Areas*

340. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Would he provide detail of Aboriginal committees in isolated and remote areas of the State that have -
 - (a) SEC;
 - (b) reticulated water services?
- (2) In each instance what is the yearly cost of -
 - (a) maintenance;
 - (b) services; andwhat Government agency accepts responsibility for payment?
- (3) Further to (1) and (2), what are the yearly recoups of individual name dwellers from each country?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Detail of such Aboriginal committees is not available.

(2)-(3)

These questions are not understood.

WA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Investment - Tourist Complexes

371. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government support the WADC's investing in tourist complexes in Asia, the United States and Britain?
- (2) If yes, does the Government see it as a better investment than investing in Western Australia itself?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) I understand the Western Australian Development Corporation has taken an investment in a project to market the technology involved with the Underwater World Aquarium concept. The export of this technology, in conjunction with another Western Australian group, is in the Government's view of benefit to the State.
- (2) Not applicable.

HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF
Hazardous Wastes - Metropolitan Area

387. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does his department maintain records of all toxic wastes that are disposed of at rubbish tips in the metropolitan area?
- (2) If not, is his department aware of the toxic wastes that are disposed of at rubbish tips throughout the metropolitan area?
- (3) If no to (2), is it possible that dangerous toxic wastes could be being dumped in the metropolitan area and be a hazard to the public?
- (4) Is there any possibility that a lack of knowledge of the toxic wastes being dumped could create a situation where a mixture of toxic wastes and/or chemicals could be dumped in a common rubbish tip and create a volatile situation?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) No, but the department is informed by tip operators of unusual wastes which may be toxic or hazardous, and appropriate advice or direct supervision is provided as required.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Tip operators exercise close control but the possibility of unauthorised dumping which could be a hazard to the public cannot be excluded.
- (4) Yes, but the possibility is considered to be remote.

PEARCE, MR
Bills

394. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

Will he please list the title or description of Bills which he is going to introduce during the current sitting of Parliament?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The Government has not yet determined which Bills, if any, it will introduce during the current session.

YACHTS
Cultural Heritage - "Perie Banou", "Parry Endeavour" and "Australia II"

406. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

Has the Government instigated negotiations to ensure that *Perie Banou*, *Parry*

Endeavour and *Australia II* remain permanently in Western Australia as a part of this State's heritage?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Australia II belongs to the Commonwealth's National Museum of Australia. By arrangement, it is on loan to the Western Australian Museum until 1990 when it may be possible to negotiate an extension of the loan. It is at present on display as part of the "Sails of the Century" display in the Western Australian Museum's facility at B shed, Victoria Quay. The new display has been developed with the support of this Government.

The Government is anxious to purchase the *Perie Banou* and the *Parry Endeavour*.

GOLDCORP AUSTRALIA *Nugget Gold Coins - Sales*

407. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) What have been the monthly sales of GoldCorp Australia's gold coins since they were released in 1986?
- (2) Have these sales compared favourably with sales of the Canadian Maple Leaf, the American Eagle and the South African Krugerrand over the same period?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) According to the latest information published by GoldCorp Australia, total sales of Australian Nugget gold coins since they were first released in November 1986 amount to 980 233 coins, representing 457 156 ounces or 14.2 tonnes of gold, and earning Australia more than \$256 million in export income.

GoldCorp's target was to achieve a 10 per cent share of the world market by the end of the third year of trading. This target was achieved by the end of the first year. The Government considers this to be an outstanding result.

SUBMARINES *Building and Construction - Western Australia*

409. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

What response did he receive from the Federal Minister for Defence, Mr Beazley, when he submitted a written proposal for the Federal Government to reconsider Western Australia as a site for the submarine construction project following the major industrial disputation at the submarine construction site in South Australia?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I am informed that the construction phase of the facility is on schedule and that there has been no time lost due to industrial disputes.

PRIVATISATION *Government Policy*

410. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Would his policy support the privatisation of any State Government operations which resulted in the taxpayers receiving a better service at a cheaper price?
- (2) If yes, has he identified any Government operations where this could be achieved?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

The Government supports that development of resources in those particular services and throughout the economy which leads to their most efficient and productive use and which also leads to socially responsive and responsible

pricing mechanisms. As the Thatcher Government has discovered, private monopolies can be less efficient than public monopolies as well as being socially unaccountable. Privatisation per se is not a solution for anything. Quality management, industrial relations and production efficiency are being solutions to this nation's problems, the correct use of public and private funding and equity are all part of this and need to be determined on a case by case analysis. The Government constantly is reviewing its services to ensure they are efficient and effective in the manner in which they fulfil their social and economic responsibilities.

PAY SYSTEMS *Government Policy*

417. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Does his policy favour the abolition of the holiday pay loading and penalty rates as currently applied in industry as part of a new wages system?
- (2) Could his proposals be incorporated in a new wages system negotiated with all the participants in the Western Australian work force?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Government believes that in the current or any wage system the abolition of the holiday pay loading and penalty rates in isolation would be ineffective. The perennial attack by a small section of the community, including the Opposition, on annual leave loading addresses only a minor cost and evokes conflict. This State Government prefers to address the question of labour costs through a consensus, non-adversarial process.

All costs are low compared to other costs such as workers' compensation insurance. We have addressed there major labour costs through a recent tripartite - employers, union and Government - review of the Workers' Compensation and Assistance Act and will be legislating to bring these costs under control.
- (2) I am not sure what proposals of mine the member refers to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT *Recognition - Australian Constitution*

419. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he sought advice as to whether the proposed "recognition" of local government in the Australian Constitution will in any way inhibit the State Minister's power to dismiss corrupt or inefficient local governments?
- (2) If yes, what is that advice?
- (3) Has he sought advice on what recourse would be available against a State Minister who dismissed a corrupt and inefficient local government?
- (4) If yes, what is that advice?

Mr CARR replied:

(1)-(4)

It is not the practice of the Government to provide legal advice. However, I draw the member's attention to the explanatory memorandum which accompanied the introduction into the Commonwealth Parliament of the Constitution Alteration (Local Government) Bill 1988. This advice noted that section 119A "is not intended to preclude a State from providing for particular local government bodies to be amalgamated with other such bodies. Nor is it intended to preclude laws providing for the dismissal of a local council in appropriate circumstances, subject to a new local government body being elected within a reasonable period".

DAWESVILLE CUT
Land Resumption

425. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Concerning the announcement on the Dawesville Cut: With all the engineering study, environmental review and management proposals and inquiries over the past five years that the Cut has been promised, has the Government at any time spoken to the owners of the land as to their intentions?
- (2) Is it a fact that an officer of the Department of Marine and Harbours on an inquiry told the owners that he was not permitted to talk to them?
- (3) And on the basis of the above, is it the Government's intention to resume the whole of the 540 acres of private land through which the Cut is proposed?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes. The Government has previously agreed to purchase the land required for the construction of the channel at fair market price and provided the landholders decide to sell. To date, six lots have been purchased at a total cost of \$263 468.
- (2) I am not aware if what the member says is correct. Certainly no departmental officer would be permitted to negotiate with landholders outside previously stated Government policy. If the member could be more specific I shall arrange for the Department of Marine and Harbours to check the substance of the allegation and advise further.
- (3) No, not necessarily. It may be that a negotiated settlement can be arranged with those landholders whose land is filled during the course of construction. The settlement would have to reflect the betterment of the land created by the construction.

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
Retirement Village - Port Kennedy-Larkhill Area

430. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the State Planning Commission received an application to commence development under the provisions of the Metropolitan Region Scheme Act to do with the construction of a "retirement village" on approximately 71 hectares of land in the Port Kennedy-Larkhill area of the metropolitan area?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) what is the technical description of the land on which the development is proposed;
 - (b) who are the developers; and
 - (c) what is the expected date of commencement?

Mr PEARCE replied:

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Electoral Rolls

432. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

When will the rolls be printed and available for the new Legislative Assembly electoral districts?

Mr PEARCE replied:

Printing of the electoral rolls for the 57 Legislative Assembly electoral districts will start next August. They will be available in printed form in the following month of September.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Electorates Index

433. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

- (1) When will the index, showing Legislative Assembly electoral districts and corresponding Legislative Council electoral regions for streets, towns, etc., be ready for distribution?
- (2) Will members of Parliament receive copies of this index?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The Streets and Towns Directory showing Legislative Assembly electoral districts and Legislative Council electoral regions will be ready in a preliminary form by the end of next September.
- (2) Yes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Road Closures

441. Mr TRENORDEN, to the Minister for Local Government:

With respect to a local government seeking to close off a road in order to create a mall -

- (1) What is the formal procedure that has to be followed to gain the necessary concurrence from the various interested government departments?
- (2) Which government departments are involved in the decision making process?
- (3) How long does the decision making process normally take?
- (4) (a) Are there provisions for "fast tracking" this process;
(b) if so, what are they?

Mr CARR replied:

(1)-(4)

A recent Supreme Court case has raised some doubts about the processes used for road closures in certain circumstances. The Department of Local Government is seeking Crown Law advice on the adequacy of the present road closure provisions of the Local Government Act.

The issue is an important one and I will write to the member with more information when the department has received the legal opinion.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
East Perth Power Station Site

448. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) What will the East Perth power station site be used for in the future?
- (2) If there are considerations being given to its future use, who is undertaking those considerations?
- (3) If nothing is finalised yet with respect to that site, when is it considered that a decision will be made in that regard?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The East Perth power station is part of the East Perth urban renewal project. A number of options are being examined but no final decisions have been made.
- (2) Considerations regarding its future use are being undertaken by LandCorp in association with other Government agencies. LandCorp has the project management responsibility for the East Perth project.
- (3) It is unlikely that there will be an answer before the end of this year.

RASILE, MR

Appointment - Government Work

457. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for The South West:

- (1) Could he please explain why normal rules applying to the allocation of Government architectural work did not apply when, in January, Mr Rasile was appointed as a paid consultant to supervise contracts totalling several million dollars in the south west?
- (2) Could he please explain why the normal work allocation system as used by other Government departments and statutory bodies and also in private enterprise was not applied?

Mr GRILL replied:

(1)-(2)

The South West Development Authority is an independent statutory body with its own construction powers, and enters into contractual arrangements in accordance with its governing legislation.

The appointment of Mr Rasile by the South West Development Authority is not in contravention of rules applying.

PASTORAL LANDS

Elvire and Koongie Park

458. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Lands:

Will she please provide to me the breakdown of the purchase price of \$193 000 for Koongie Park and Elvire Stations so as to show the amount of the purchase price allocated to -

- (a) the value of the lease;
- (b) the value of fixed assets; and
- (c) the value of moveable assets?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

The details requested by the Leader of the Opposition are not available from information recorded within the public domain area.

These details were in all probability arranged in a private agreement between the vendor and the purchaser.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Expenditure

460. Mr MacKINNON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Does he recall in his answer to question 252 of 25 May, which referred to amounts spent on departmental and instrumentality non-classified advertising, he answered, "This information is not readily available."?
- (2) Is he aware that in answer to a similar question - No 2295 of 28 October 1987 - the former Treasurer was able to quantify the expenditure as being \$3.8 million at 30 September 1987?
- (3) Why has the position changed since that time so that this important information cannot be made available?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A small proportion of classified advertising is included within the overall advertising total available.

I am advised that to extract the exact amount expended on classified within this overall total would take considerable time. As I stated in reply to

question 252, I am not prepared to commit resources to this task at this time but, if the Leader of the Opposition could advise me of his specific needs, I will arrange for the classified component to be extracted and advise him in writing.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE "Virus" Programs

464. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Is he aware of major concerns being expressed in both the United States and Europe about so-called "virus" computer programs - rogue programs that are transferred from a contaminated floppy disc onto a computer's master software?
- (2) Is there any evidence of "virus" computer programs in Western Australia?
- (3) If yes to (2) -
 - (a) what action is currently being taken to counter the problem;
 - (b) what legislative action is proposed?
- (4) Is he able to advise approximately what percentage of State Government department and agency data processing budgets is spent on security systems to prevent computer crime?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There is no evidence of "virus" computer programs in the WA public sector.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Security is an integral feature of all hardware and software products; as such, it is not possible to provide a meaningful assessment of specific expenditure on security systems.

HOUSING LOAN INTEREST RATES

465. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the Minister expect home loan interest rates to rise as a result of the Commonwealth Government's May economic statement?
- (2) Is it the State Government's intention to subsidise some home loan interest rates again before the State election?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1)-(2) Home loan interest rates are affected by a number of factors and are kept constantly under review.

SHIPPING

Industries Assistance Commission Draft Report - State Shipping Service

467. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

In view of the IAC draft report on coastal shipping, what positive action has he taken in respect of the operations of the State Shipping Service?

Mr PEARCE replied:

What the Government requires of Stateships is set out clearly in the commission's corporate objectives which include maintaining regional services to the north and creating opportunities to develop exports from the State. Examples of positive action put into place well before the IAC draft report was published are the Stateships services to Papua New Guinea and South East Asia. Nothing in the IAC draft report detracts from the positive path on which our State's shipping service is now embarked.

PORTS
Regional Service Fee

468. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why does the Government continue its regional service fee at the same level of \$16.9 million per annum, given that there is a reduced level of service relating to its "community service" obligations?
- (2) Is he satisfied that the services provided at all Government operated ports in Western Australia are necessary, and are not maintained or forced on the users in order to raise revenue and/or keep a person or persons employed?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) This quantum is merely an assessment of the value of regional services to the north given the present resources at the disposal of Stateships and the level of services provided. The basis for arriving at this quantum is detailed in the commission's annual report for 1986 and has been advised previously to the member in my letter of 7 April 1988.
- (2) I am not aware of any evidence supporting the thrust of this question. However, if the member has any evidence, he should refer it either to myself or to the Western Australian Port Operations Task Force, as the Government is concerned that ports in this State operate as efficiently as possible and is already acting to this end.

SHIPPING

Industries Assistance Commission Draft Report - Seamen Subsidies

469. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Given the findings of the IAC draft report on coastal shipping, is it believed to be fair and reasonable for taxpayers to subsidise every seaman employed on the Western Australian coast by between \$35 000 and \$80 000 annually?
- (2) In view of the IAC draft report on coastal shipping, is it the Government's intention to introduce foreign flag competition on to the Western Australian coast?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The findings of the IAC draft report have been found deficient and misleading in many significant matters commented upon. The alleged subsidy to Australian seamen is a typical case in point where the entire cost of sea transport has been attributed to seafarers with total disregard to the fact that a major component of that cost is incurred by land based activities; for example, an expense which is common to both Australian and overseas operators.
- (2) Broad policy for Australian coastal shipping is primarily defined and implemented by the Commonwealth Government. It is a Federal responsibility. Any amendments to such policy remain a Federal responsibility.

SHIPPING

Industries Assistance Commission Draft Report - Government Policy

470. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does his policy agree with the findings of the IAC draft report on coastal shipping part A?
- (2) Is it fact that coastal shipping on the Western Australian coast is inefficient and has resulted in higher transport costs which in turn has discouraged further processing of raw materials in this State?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The Government's policy on coastal shipping is primarily directed at Stateships. In this respect the Government is well satisfied with the current performance of Stateships and I would refer the member to my earlier answer to question 467.

- (2) The Government is concerned to ensure that the waterfront is operating as efficiently as possible. To this end, the Western Australian Port Operations Task Force was established last year to improve communication between the waterfront industry and the Government. Also, I have a comprehensive submission to the Inter-State Commission Inquiry into the Australian Waterfront.

TRADING HOURS
Retail Trade - Packaged Meat

471. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Is it intended to amend existing legislation or regulations to allow the sale of packaged meat in excess of 500 grams on Saturday afternoons and Sundays under the new retail trading hours legislation?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

This question was directed to the wrong Minister. I have referred the question to Hon Gavan Troy MLA, Minister for Labour, who will reply in writing.

TAXI CONTROL BOARD
Lease Driver

472. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is there a lease driver on the Taxi Control Board?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Did any lease drivers nominate for recent Taxi Control Board elections, and if so, why were these nominations not accepted?
- (4) Is it considered to be in the interests of the taxi industry to have a lease driver on the TCB, and if so, what action does he propose to take to assist in this matter?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The lease driver representative stood down in December 1987 following his acquisition of a taxi car. His nominated deputy resigned in April 1988. An election was called in May 1988 for which no nominations were received for a lease driver representative on the board.
- (3) No.
- (4) I am concerned that no lease driver nominated for the May 1988 election. The action which can be taken to ensure that a lease driver representative is on the board is under consideration.

STATESHIPS
Cement

476. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has Stateships carried cement from Singapore to Port Hedland or other north west ports during the past 12 months?
- (2) If yes, what quantities of cement were carried by Stateships and in what form is the cement carried as cargo?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) On the assumption that the member is referring to building cement, the answer is no.
- (2) Not applicable.

WATER AUTHORITY
Catchment Dams - Walleroo Rocks

477. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Further to his answer to part (4) of question 354 dated Thursday, 26 May 1988, has the Western Australian Water Authority advised the Environmental Protection Authority of possible pollution to the catchment dams at and around Walleroo Rocks east of Coolgardie, in the event that the previously announced Rhone Poulenc proposal for the location of a toxic waste disposal facility in this area is proceeded with?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

Yes, the Water Authority advised the EPA that the proponent may need to give further attention to the probable impact on water reserves and facilities existing in the region, and commented that if the potential disposal sites in the Koolyanobbing-Coolgardie area were considered in the final selection of a site, there will be a need to demonstrate that there is no risk of contamination to water supplies.

TRAFFIC LAWS
Truck-Trailer Combinations - Freeways

478. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why are truck-trailer combinations restricted from using the freeway system?
- (2) If the reason is associated with the carrying capacity of the Narrows Bridge, will he take action to allow the truck-trailer combinations to use the freeway system north and south of the Narrows Bridge?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Truck-trailer combinations are permitted to use the freeway system providing that they are within the current regulation limit of 38 tonnes. Only fully laden truck-trailer combinations with a gross mass significantly in excess of the regulation limit have been denied access to the freeway. The load carrying capacity of the Narrows Bridge is the limiting factor.
- (2) I discussed this matter recently with the Western Australian Road Transport Association. Arrangements have been made for the Main Roads Department and the association to jointly consider this proposal.

PETITIONS
Parliamentary Procedure

479. Mr HOUSE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In light of his interjection during my Address-in-Reply speech on Thursday, 26 May with regard to the handling by the Government of petitions presented to the Parliament, will he give the House more details of how this scheme works?
- (2) Will he tell the House, to whom the Minister responds; that is, is it to -
 - (a) the individual member of Parliament who presented the petition;
 - (b) the people who signed it; or
 - (c) to somebody else?

Mr CARR replied:

This question will be answered by the Premier to whom a similar question was addressed.

PETITIONS
Cabinet - Parliamentary Procedure

482. Mr HOUSE, to the Premier:

- (1) Can he tell the House as to when his Cabinet last discussed a petition presented to the Parliament?

- (2) Will he tell the House whether all the petitions presented to the Legislative Assembly are discussed by the Cabinet?
- (3) Will he detail what actions are normally taken by the Government on petitions presented to the Parliament?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

While the details of Cabinet discussions are confidential, I am able to advise that Ministers are free to raise in Cabinet any matter that is the subject of petition.

- (3) On receipt of a petition by the Parliament, petitions are forwarded to the appropriate Minister for his/her information. It should be noted that petitions are not presented to the Government but to members of the Parliament.

BUS SERVICES

Wellington Street - Mounts Bay Road

485. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many bus arrivals and how many departures now occur at the existing terminal each week day in Wellington Street?
- (2) How many bus arrivals and how many departures are expected each week day at the Wellington Street terminal, after the Mounts Bay terminal has come into full operation?
- (3) How many bus arrivals and how many bus departures are expected at the Mounts Bay terminal after it has come into full operation?
- (4) How many buses will go to both the Mounts Bay Road terminal and the Wellington Street terminal in the one journey?
- (5) What are the passenger estimates for the situations mentioned in -
 - (a) (1) arrivals;
(1) departures;
 - (b) (2) arrivals;
(2) departures;
 - (c) (3) arrivals;
(3) departures; and
 - (d) in (4)?
- (6) What impact will the proposed rail electrification have on the Wellington Street bus terminal?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Bus arrivals 546;
bus departures 530.
- (2) Bus arrivals 546;
bus departures 530.
- (3) Figures for the new bus junction are based on current planning projections, and are obviously subject to amendment before the junction begins operation -

Bus arrivals	1 435;
bus departures	1 430.
- (4) Seventy four.
- (5) The member should understand that the two facilities will operate in at least one fundamentally different way. Virtually all buses entering the Perth Central Bus Station terminate there. Passengers travelling to the city must disembark there and walk or catch a City Clipper to their final destination. In the case of the new bus junction, passengers will have a much wider range of

travel opportunities. Unlike the Perth Central Bus Station, the bus junction will also serve major through-routing and transfer functions, which are not reflected in the following figures -

(a)	(1)	17 600;
	(1)	16 600;
(b)	(2)	17 600;
	(2)	16 600;
(c)	(3)	7 100;
	(3)	6 500;
(d)		2 200.

- (6) Virtually all bus services utilising the Perth Central Bus Station originate in the northern suburbs and therefore the proposed electrification is expected to have minimal impact on the bus station.

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION
Electricity Generation

490. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

What percentage of electricity generated by the SEC has been produced using -

- (a) natural gas;
- (b) coal;
- (c) oil;

on a quarterly basis for the years 1980-1988?

The answer was tabled.

[See paper No 219.]

DOG LICENCES
Plastic Discs

504. Mr REG TUBBY, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he received complaints from dog owners regarding the problems being experienced with losses of the plastic licence registration discs?
- (2) If yes, is consideration being given to returning to the use of metal discs?

Mr CARR replied:

(1)-(2)

A complaint was recently received from a local government on this matter.

It was advised that the Dog Act only requires that a dog registration tag be of a durable material with the choice of the material being for decision by each local government. No consideration is being given at the moment to changing this arrangement.

CIGARETTES
State Government Taxation

506. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it correct that in the case of cigarettes stolen from shopkeepers, 35 per cent State Government tax still has to be paid on these cigarettes, even though they are no longer available for sale?
- (2) If so, will he give consideration to allowing shopkeepers a credit on these stolen articles?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

Business franchise - tobacco fees - only apply to retailers who purchase

tobacco products from an unlicensed wholesaler; for example, wholesalers outside the State. In this case, the fees are calculated on the basis of sales actually made in the previous two months.

CRIME
Brentwood

507. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) How many shops have been broken into in the Brentwood and Queen Streets, Mt Pleasant, shopping areas in the last 12 months?
- (2) (a) How many shops have been broken into more than once; and
(b) how often?
- (1) Is he aware of the total amount of goods stolen during these robberies?
- (2) Have any of the people responsible for the break-ins been apprehended?
- (3) Have any of the goods been recovered?
- (4) How many police officers are stationed at Brentwood Police Station?
- (5) How many officers are on duty at night at that station and in the area?
- (6) How often are mobile patrols in the area at night, particularly in the shopping centres?
- (7) Does he intend to increase the number of patrols?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Thirteen shop break-and-enter offences in the Brentwood area in the last 12 months.
- (2) (a) Four;
(b) one shop three times; three shops twice.
- (3) Yes - \$17 500.
- (4) No person charged.
- (5) No.
- (6) Thirteen officers.
- (7) Officers on patrol at night are -
1600 hours to 2200 hours - 2 officers;
2200 hours to 2400 hours - 4 officers;
2400 hours to 0600 hours - 2 officers.
A diverter system switches incoming calls to Fremantle when the station is unattended.
- (8) Periodic patrols of the premises.
- (9) The Warwick Mobile Patrol concept is currently being evaluated with a view to the possible extension of the scheme to Palmyra. If implemented, it should result in additional on-road personnel.

EDUCATION
Austudy

509. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is she aware that the start of the 1988 academic year has, once again, been plagued by delays and confusion in the administration of Austudy?
- (2) Has she made any representation to her Federal counterpart to explain the considerable uncertainty and hardship that such delays and confusion cause?
- (3) If yes to (2), has she received any assurance that this perennial problem will not occur in the future?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) While the member knows that the administration of Austudy is not my responsibility, I am advised that the start of the 1988 academic year was not characterised by delays or difficulties in the administration of Austudy in Western Australia. On the contrary, I understand that in 1988, the local Office of the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training took an average of three weeks to process an Austudy application, from date of receipt to payment. This appears to me to be evidence of impressive administrative efficiency.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

INDEPENDENT LIVESTOCK MARKETING REPORTING SERVICE

Government Assistance

512. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

With reference to question without notice 44 asked on 25 May 1988, what is the estimated total of funds required to maintain the independent livestock market reporting service?

Mr GRILL replied:

\$198 000 per annum.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Road Closures

513. Mr TRENORDEN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Which Government agencies have an interest in the closure of a gazetted street?
- (2) How long would it take to close a street under normal conditions?
- (3) Can the process be expedited?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Section 288A of the Local Government Act specifies the procedure to be followed when a local government wishes to close a street permanently. Other provisions apply for the temporary closure of streets and for the closure of private streets. A local government must advertise its intention in a newspaper, and take into account any public objections before submitting the proposal to the Governor for approval, through the Minister for Lands.
- (2) This would vary depending on whether or not objections are received and on other particular circumstances in each case.
- (3) Particular proposals can be given priority when this is warranted. If the member wishes to raise a particular problem with me, I shall have it investigated where it is within my portfolio.

PHOSPHATES

Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary Catchment Area

518. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What is the amount in tonnes of modified superphosphate which has been used each year - since available - in the Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary catchment area?

Mr GRILL replied:

The amount of "coastal super", a slow release form of phosphate fertiliser, used in the Peel-Harvey catchment area has been as follows -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coastal Super (tonnes)</u>
1983	765
1984	1933
1985	2402
1986	996
1987	600 *

*Preliminary estimate.

LEE REPORT *Drainage Rates*

519. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Following the release of the report of the Lee inquiry into drainage rating, would he detail those recommendations that have been agreed to by the Government?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

Certain rating anomalies highlighted in the Lee report have been addressed and announced by the Government.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS *Busselton Drainage District - Drainage Rates*

520. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

With the Government's decision to remove rural properties in the 80 metre plus height area of the Busselton drainage district from paying rates -

- (a) on what date will this decision take effect;
- (b) will accrued interest be required to be paid; and
- (c) will the outstanding rates that were applied in the two years be abolished, and if not why not?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (a) The amendment to the boundary of the Busselton drainage district will be completed prior to the end of June and the resultant adjustment to rating will take effect from 1 July 1988;
- (b) interest charges in relation to unpaid drainage rating in the Busselton district raised during the period of the drainage review will be waived;
- (c) no, it would be inequitable to abolish the outstanding rates.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS *Lee Report - Government Rejection*

521. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Why did the Government reject the recommendation of the Lee report that all existing drainage districts be abolished, and the control and responsibility for all minor drainage transferred from West Australian Water Authority to Local Government?
- (2) When did the Government make its decision?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The Government has rejected this recommendation following consultation with relevant local authorities who did not support the transfer of such responsibility for the control and maintenance of the drainage systems.
- (2) 11 April 1988.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS
Busselton - Drainage Rates

522. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

With the revelation in the Lee report that the recent increase in urban drainage rates of the Busselton drainage district may not have been correctly applied, what action is the Government proposing to redress this situation?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

See answer to question 45.

BEEKEEPING
Diseases

523. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would he detail the measures to be adopted to control -
 - (a) European brood disease;
 - (b) American brood disease
 should a beekeeper have infected hives?
- (2) Are either of the diseases eligible for compensation, and if so, to what extent?
- (3) What has been the amount of compensation and number of hives affected in each of the last five years?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1)
 - (a) European brood disease is not known to be present in Western Australia. An eradication plan has been prepared to deal with an outbreak of European brood disease in Western Australia;
 - (b) American brood disease is a notifiable disease. Infected apiaries are quarantined. Infected hives are either destroyed by burning or sterilised by irradiation.
- (2) Both diseases are eligible for compensation under the provisions of the Bee Industry Compensation Fund Act. Registered beekeepers may claim compensation for bees and beekeeping equipment destroyed or recover the costs of disinfection, pursuant to the provisions of the Beekeepers Act 1963. Compensation is funded by a levy on beekeepers.
- (3) Compensation - including costs of irradiation - paid over the last five years is -

1982-83	\$23 956.68
1983-84	\$68 077.16
1984-85	\$45 881.59
1985-86	\$20 906.35
1986-87	\$22 248.90
1987-April 1988	\$33 458.33

A detailed check of all claims for the last five years will be necessary to obtain the total number of hives involved. This information can be provided later if required.

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS
Duplication of Services

524. Mr COWAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Following his recent comments about the duplication of Commonwealth and State Government agencies and services -
 - (a) has he had any assurance from the Commonwealth that it will abolish any of its activities that duplicate State Government functions;
 - (b) if yes, which ones and when?

- (2) Has he had any assurance from the Commonwealth that it will not establish any more departments or agencies to duplicate State Government functions?
- (3) Has he given any assurance to the Commonwealth Government that, where a Commonwealth-State duplication is identified by his proposed committee, the State will hand over its function to the Commonwealth?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(3)

At the recent Premiers' Conference it was agreed that areas of concern about Commonwealth-State duplication be referred to joint ministerial councils.

ORGANISED CRIME

Northbridge

526. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Is he aware of claims of organised crime being involved in illegal gambling in the Northbridge area?
- (2) If yes, what is the extent of organised crime in Northbridge and throughout Western Australia?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(1)-(2)

Recent newspaper claims of organised crime involvement in Northbridge gambling have been inquired into by the Liquor and Gaming Branch and the claims are not substantiated. Proprietors of coffee lounges where known card games take place have been interviewed and have also been advised that any breach of the law in relation to gaming will be dealt with by way of prosecution.

HONEY

Antibiotics

528. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the department detected -
 - (a) chlordimeform;
 - (b) other antibiotics
 in honey?
- (2) (a) Did his department consider prosecution of persons for use of antibiotics; and
 - (b) if so, why was that decision not proceeded with?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture has not, itself, detected chlordimeform or antibiotics in honey. However, chlordimeform was reported in one consignment of Western Australian honey exported to West Germany. This was below that country's violative level. Antibiotics were detected in 1986, as part of the Commonwealth's national residue monitoring program.
- (2) (a) Yes, one beekeeper;
 - (b) the view of the senior officer responsible was that the particular circumstances of this case did not warrant prosecution.

HONEY

Quality Control - Chemical Residues

529. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Would he detail those countries which are concerned over chemical residues in Australian honey?

Mr GRILL replied:

No advice has been received from foreign Governments. However, importers in Japan and West Germany have expressed concern over chemical residues in honey and are requiring certain standards to be met to enable imported honey to be marketed.

REFERENDUMS

Federal Government - Referendum Questions

532. Mr COWAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that in an address to the 9th Australian Statistical Conference at ANU earlier this month, Mr Gary Morgan of the Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd said in part, in reference to the proposed Federal referendum questions -

"Any public opinion polling company who asked questions as blatantly biased as the Government proposes would completely lose credibility."?

- (2) Does the State Government's understanding of democracy preclude the framing of referendum questions in the way described by Mr Morgan?
- (3) If yes to (2), has he informed the Commonwealth Government of this?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

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

PROSTITUTION

Government Policy

533. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Has the Labour Party changed its policy commitment to the legalisation of prostitution?
- (2) Has the Government changed its intention to legalise and regulate prostitution?
- (3) What is the reason for the delay in implementing the repeatedly announced legislative intention?
- (4) When will legislation be introduced?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1)-(4) I have had discussions with the Women's Advisory Council, local government and the police. The matter is under review and no decision as to proceeding or otherwise has been made at this time.

HOUSING

Westlea Apartments - Repair and Reconstruction

534. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What plan is being pursued in relation to the redevelopment of Westlea Apartments?
- (2) Is it correct that half the tenants are to be moved out?
- (3) Where will they be moved?
- (4) (a) What expenditure is involved; and
(b) over what period?
- (5) What is the basis of removal of tenants?
- (6) Will special circumstances - for example, local employment - be taken into account?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Bed sitting room flats with shared facilities are being progressively converted into one bedroomed apartments. Initially 22 flats are being converted. Experienced officers are personally liaising with each tenant.
- (2) No. Only eight of the 22 are currently occupied.
- (3) Where tenants are affected they will be relocated to their preferred area wherever possible.
- (4) (a) Circa \$200 per person;
(b) circa three to six months.
- (5) Tenants will be relocated where renovation work is about to take place in an occupied unit.
- (6) Yes.

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

Substation - Marvel Loch

535. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Further to question 403 of 1988 relating to the SEC substation at Marvel Loch, in what newspapers and on what dates were advertisements placed inviting tenders for the earthworks associated with the site preparation?
- (2) Is the Government or the SEC accepting any responsibility for the nonpayment of subcontractors?
- (3) What action, if any, is the Government or the SEC taking against Industrial Investments to ensure that the subcontractors are paid?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Because the contract was comparatively small in value and in view of the customer's urgent timetable, SECWA sought quotes directly from four firms with appropriate experience in the work. Newspaper advertisements were not used.
- (2) No. It is not legally possible to do so.
- (3) Appropriate commercial discussions have taken place. However, there are no means of compelling such payment apart from legal action initiated by the subcontractors.

RADAR

Cars - Legislation

536. Mr GREIG, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Will he confirm that the Government is not considering legislation to outlaw the use in cars of radar detectors?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking not to introduce legislation outlawing the use in cars of radar detectors?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) At this time there is no consideration to outlaw the use of radar detectors in cars, although I have had discussions with the police on this matter.
- (2) No.

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Duplication of Services - Committee Members

542. Mr COWAN, to the Premier:

- (1) With respect to his proposal for a committee to identify and review the duplication of Commonwealth and State Government agencies and services, who will be on the committee?

- (2) When will the committee report?
- (3) Will the committee's report be made public?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The committee will be chaired by Ian Taylor as Minister assisting the Treasurer and will include representatives from the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and the Public Service Commission.

- (2)-(3) These matters are to be decided at the first meeting of the committee.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

STATE SUPERANNUATION BOARD *Bond Corporation - Central Park Development*

73. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the Chairman of the State Superannuation Board, Mr Rolston, said in an ABC report of 1 June that the State Superannuation Board is currently trying to extricate itself from the Bond deal on the Central Park development?
- (2) If yes, why has Mr Rolston been allowed to comment on this State Superannuation Board business transaction but not on the deposit of funds made by the State Superannuation Board to Rothwells Ltd?
- (3) Has the Government been involved in any negotiations in relation to the State Superannuation Board extricating itself from the deal?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1)-(3) Nothing new emerges from the Leader of the Opposition. It was stated quite clearly that the transaction in respect of the David Jones site and not the Perth Technical College site as stated earlier this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition has changed as a result of which, while there were commercial benefits for the State Superannuation Board, it is no longer appropriate for the board to be involved in an investment of that character. Those things have been said publicly time and time again.

Two major things have changed. The first is that, when the agreement was entered into, the State superannuation scheme was going to have problems, by virtue of its nature, investing the sort of moneys that had been coming into the scheme. As a result, there were some very difficult long term problems with the superannuation scheme for State public sector employees. We debated those changes in this House for hours. Does the Leader of the Opposition remember that?

Another thing that was changed was that, in the early stages of the new super scheme, the cash richness of the State Superannuation Board would change. However, in the long term, the community was saved millions of dollars by the very courageous decision of this Government to amend the scheme and negotiate it through with its work force.

As a result of those changes, a very different situation emerged for the State Superannuation Board. It no longer wanted to be in a position of obtaining a fully commercial return at the end of a 10 year period which a fund rolling with surplus cash would normally find a perfectly acceptable investment. It does not want year-by-year returns, but as long as the year-by-year profitability is there on those returns, it is a proper commercial transaction and one which results in a commercial return over the period of the investment.

The second thing that has been said publicly about it - I wish the Leader of

the Opposition would be frank about what has been said in the past - is that the nature of the building has changed dramatically. I do not carry the figures in my head. However, there has been a dramatic increase in the size and dimension which the State Superannuation Board -

Mr Court: It is committed to pay for it and now he is trying to extricate himself from the deal. That is all we want to know.

Mr PETER DOWDING: That is where the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is wrong. The character of the transaction has changed and the chairman of the board is of the view that this is an appropriate time for the board to negotiate itself out of the transaction at a profit.

Mr Court: To get rid of a liability that was going to sink it.

Mr PETER DOWDING: It is not a liability; it is a commercial transaction from which the commercial returns emerge for the whole period at an appropriate commercial return, but not until the end of the period which suits the Superannuation Board as it used to be but which probably does not suit it as it is now, and it has the capacity to negotiate its way out of it.

It seems to me that the Opposition somehow or other wants to draw some adverse inference from it so that it will make it more difficult for it to negotiate its way out of it. I will have more to say about that in a few minutes.

RADIO 6PR

Purchase

74. Mr MARLBOROUGH, to the Premier:

Is the Premier aware of a Press report alleging that a senior Liberal Party source has said that a search of the Federal Broadcasting Act had provided grounds for an iron clad objection to the acquisition of Radio 6PR by the Totalisator Agency Board to be lodged with the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

This is exactly the point I think this House needs to know about and understand.

I remember when the member for Murchison-Eyre wrote to Secretary of State Schultz and put some propositions to him which were adverse to the interests of Australia and the Australian economy. He did that with the excuse that anything was desirable if it brought down a Labor Government. It did not matter if it adversely affected every member of the community and it did not matter if it created economic loss to the community! He did it with the intention of making life difficult for a Labor Government. To his credit, the Leader of the Opposition was so embarrassed about what the member for Murchison-Eyre did that he got on the phone after a long while and somehow obtained some sort of abject withdrawal by the member for Murchison-Eyre and an apology.

That is the sort of attitude that has taken hold of members opposite all over again. We have said repeatedly that if it continues to attack commercial transactions the way it has done, it will adversely affect the public. What have we found? We have found that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Cottesloe have contacted the National Companies and Securities Commission to encourage it to investigate certain transactions.

Mr MacKinnon: That was not what I said. I said I contacted the NCSC. I did not tell you why.

Mr PETER DOWDING: What for?

Mr MacKinnon: Am I not allowed to telephone the NCSC?

Mr PETER DOWDING: If I am wrong in what I am saying, the Leader of the Opposition should tell me why he did it.

Mr MacKinnon: I wanted to find out what was going on, so I asked.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Did the Leader of the Opposition know what the member for Cottesloe was doing?

Mr MacKinnon: Of course I did.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Did the Leader of the Opposition know what he was trying to find out?

Mr MacKinnon: How do you know?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Because he told us.

Mr MacKinnon: I know what he told you.

Mr Court: Why did you ring your wife today?

Mr PETER DOWDING: I did not; I should have. I will at six o'clock.

Not only did members opposite say that they had contacted the NCSC, but also the member for Cottesloe made it unequivocally clear that he did it because he was dissatisfied with its activities and felt it was appropriate to gee it up a bit.

Not only that, either the Leader of the Opposition or the member for Cottesloe contacted the Federal Liberal Party to try to increase the pressure.

Now we are seeing a political attempt to interfere in the racing industry's efforts to stay on top in these difficult times. It is a political act to try to bring the racing community to its knees in pursuit of the same mad goal of discrediting the Labor Government.

The President of the Western Australian Trotting Association, Jim Snooks -

Mr MacKinnon: A good bloke.

Mr PETER DOWDING: He is a very good bloke and a man who has been very close to Liberal Governments. He is a good operator and a person who has been friendly to me; every member of my Government knows and respects his views. He has lashed out a warning that the objection to the sale of radio station 6PR to the Western Australian Totalisator Agency Board would bring political backlash. He also said that the WATA and 6PR were used as political footballs.

Last year the Leader of the Opposition, who pretends to be the strongest leader yet, gave unqualified support -

Mr MacKinnon: At least he supports his colleagues which is unlike what you did last night.

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: If I had colleagues like the Leader of the Opposition, I would live in fear. I have excellent colleagues and I have known and worked with many of them for years.

Last year the Leader of the Opposition gave unqualified support to legislation enabling the TAB to acquire 6PR. What has changed? Nothing, except the Opposition has seen a way in which it can cause financial difficulties to the State Government Insurance Commission.

Mr MacKinnon: Plenty has changed. You own 20 per cent of *The West Australian*.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Does the Leader of the Opposition deny that he has threatened to lodge an objection with the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal over the purchase of 6PR by the TAB?

Mr MacKinnon: I have not threatened to do that, I have lodged it.

BRYCE, MR
Pay Settlements

75. Mr CASH, to the Premier:

With reference to his recent answers to questions 28 and 260, does the Premier deny any part of the following, and if so, which part or parts -

That the former Deputy Premier, having received his superannuation entitlements under the parliamentary scheme, now also has -

a car and its service and fuel provided by the Government body DOCIT;

\$35 000 per annum as Chairman of the Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council;

\$14 000 per annum as part time Commissioner of the R & I Bank;

a suite of offices provided by the Government at Technology Park;

a full time secretary paid by the State;

one other full time staff person provided or to be provided by the State; and

overseas travel from the State, including two overseas trips so far since his retirement in February from Parliament.

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

If the member for Mt Lawley had really wanted a genuine answer he would have put the question on the Notice Paper. However, he wants to slur a man who has served Western Australia well. A former Deputy Premier is entitled to continue to serve this State.

Opposition members were crowing because the Government asked Brian Burke, who as everyone knows hates flying - and when Parliament was in session, so we wanted to be here; if we had not the Opposition would have squawked - to go to Rumania. He did not receive any remuneration for that. Commercial interest said it was important that we send someone to Rumania and we sent someone who had just retired as Premier.

The former Deputy Premier is doing a job for the State. Is the Opposition suggesting he should cut himself off and not make a contribution to the State?

Mr Court: He appointed himself to those positions before he retired. It is a joke.

Mr PETER DOWDING: In the Opposition's mad pursuit of other people it should remember that there are members of its party who retire and take up jobs for the Government. Some of them take up jobs for the Government under Labor Governments and some take up jobs in the event of there being a Liberal Government. Whether the Opposition likes it or not those people who have so much experience and have contributed so much to this State still have a lot to give and I do not want to demean them in their role of doing so.

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS
State Energy Commission

76. Mr THOMAS, to the Deputy Premier:

(1) How does today's announcement of increases in energy tariffs compare with previous years?

(2) Can he advise the possible causes of any real increases during the last eight years?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) I am pleased to advise that the Premier's announcement on State Energy Commission tariffs means that there will be no increases in electricity and gas tariffs in the 1988-89 financial year. It is the third successive occasion on which this Government has cut tariffs in real terms. The magnitude of that achievement can be measured by the fact that the real domestic metropolitan tariffs for the 1988-89 financial year would have been 28 per cent higher if the rate of increase of the previous Government had been sustained from 1980-81 to 1985-86. It represents an average saving to the average family of more than \$11 per month.
- (2) One of the major reasons that the rate of increase was maintained during that period was the legacy to the people of this State for the deals undertaken during the Court and O'Connor Governments.

Mr COURT: The North West Shelf has got you through. If that project had not been under way there would have been no economic activity.

Mr PARKER: Not only from the North West Shelf contract, but also from the Griffin contract to which the Premier referred earlier today, the advanced building of the Muja power station ahead of time and other projects I could mention. It meant that the capital servicing requirements of the SEC were so great that the ways in which the former Government and this Government, in its first two or three years in office, had to service those requirements were substantial indeed.

I am pleased to say that, as a result of the strong economic growth in the State, first, there has been an annual increase in the demand for electricity of between seven and eight per cent. Secondly, the Government has been able to come up with a zero tariff increase for this year. This is because of the management techniques it has applied in the State Energy Commission. For example, when we took over office there were 6 100 employees of the SEC and today, with far greater facilities, and with pipelines and new power stations commissioned since then, the SEC has under 5 700 employees; that is the difference between our management skills and those of the previous Governments.

URANIUM *Government Policy*

77. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the State Government's policy on the mining, export and further processing of Western Australian uranium?
- (2) Will he support the previously announced move by the Deputy Premier to bring forward for debate at next week's ALP national conference the question of the ALP's policy on the mining and export of uranium?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

I thank the member for the question because it gives me an opportunity to do two things. It gives me an opportunity to correct a very silly and trivial misstatement by the Leader of the Opposition during the course of an earlier debate today. He said that I had requested a pair 10 minutes before the vote in a debate last night.

Mr MacKinnon: It might have been 11 minutes before.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Leader of the Opposition said it. He did not say he thought it. He did not say he had been told it. He did not say I might have. He said it as a fact.

Mr MacKinnon: Yes, I did.

Mr PETER DOWDING: It is an absolute falsity. For once in his life, the Leader of the Opposition may feel motivated to say he is sorry or something like that.

Mr MacKinnon: When did you ask for that pair?

Mr PETER DOWDING: I asked for it early in the afternoon.

Mr MacKinnon: Why wasn't it recorded with our Whip until 10 minutes before, when your Whip came and asked us about it?

Mr PETER DOWDING: My staff can confirm it. The Whip can confirm it.

Mrs Buchanan: Yes.

Mr PETER DOWDING: It is such a trivial thing.

Mr MacKinnon: Caught out again! Everybody saw you walk in and talk to your Whip who walked over to our Whip.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Is the Leader of the Opposition saying that I am misleading the House?

Mr MacKinnon: I am saying that we were given the pair 10 minutes prior to the vote after you spoke to your Whip.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I have caught out the Leader of the Opposition. I have given him my personal assurance that his statement is wrong. I have indicated, and the Whip has indicated by interjection, that he is wrong. I have assured him that I have evidence of that from my staff and yet even on such a trivial point the Leader of the Opposition is not prepared to give way.

The House was misled on a second occasion this afternoon. It was misled by me. I told the House that the Leader of the Opposition had announced on three occasions since I was elected Premier that there would be an early election. I am embarrassed to say that I was wrong; there were four occasions.

Point of Order

Mr Lightfoot: The Premier has been going on for some minutes about nothing whatsoever to do with the question. He really should answer the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr PETER DOWDING: I just want to tell the House -

Mr Court: Answer the question on uranium.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I will answer the question on uranium because I think, with all due respect, that the reason the member is so excited about the uranium issue is the same reason that the Leader of the Opposition is so excited about the potential for an election.

A matter of days after I took office, I was doorstopped by journalists who said that the Leader of the Opposition had said that I should deny strong rumours that there would be an early election. I asked the journalists whether they had heard the strong rumours. They admitted that they had not. Just after the by-elections, the Leader of the Opposition said that there would be an early election. On the day I left for the Premiers' Conference I was told that at the end of his breakfast held to discuss capital punishment, where he had some peripheral issues to discuss, he said that there would be an early election by the end of June. Today we have the fourth occasion. By gee, he must be nervous!

I am not nervous about a debate on uranium policy. The policy of the Government is that it is bound by the Federal platform.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

West Lynwood Primary School - Repair and Reconstruction

78. Dr WATSON, to the Minister for Education:

Can the Minister advise what action has been implemented following the requests of parents concerning the recent fire damage to the West Lynwood Primary School?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

I am pleased to inform the member that the West Lynwood Primary School, which was extensively damaged by fire, is now being repaired. There has been some delay in this matter - about which local members have rightly been concerned - basically because it was complicated by the removal of asbestos. The drawings have been prepared for the minor alterations and the quotations obtained. Work should commence next week. It is expected to be completed expeditiously. The work will be carried out by the Building Management Authority construction operations in association with private subcontractors. Parents can be assured that the work will be carried out as soon as possible.

HORSE RACING

Southern Districts Thoroughbred Association - Government Loans

79. Mr TRENORDEN, to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Can the Minister recall telling State Parliament on 10 November 1987 that the \$500 000 interest free loan to the Southern Districts Thoroughbred Association was for "extra racehorse training facilities"?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of a recent newspaper article in which Len Pike was attributed with having said of the Lark Hill complex, "The whole idea of this concept was that one day it would become a race course. And that's what we intend to do."?
- (3) Can the Minister reconfirm her statement of six months ago that the Lark Hill complex is for extra racehorse training facilities only?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1)-(4)

I thank the member for Avon for some notice of the question. I cannot be responsible for what Len Pike says. I can only be responsible for what I say. When I gave that statement in the House, that was exactly what I meant.

Mr Trenorden: It does reflect on you though, doesn't it?

Mrs BEGGS: Why should it reflect on me?

Mr Trenorden: He made that statement.

Mrs BEGGS: If the member listens for a minute, he might understand the Government's position on the matter.

At the time the Government gave that interest free loan, we were approached by a group of people heavily involved in the racing industry in this State. That group had identified a very serious lack of training facilities. Members of the group approached the Government with a very good proposition. They would provide an excellent training facility in less than 18 months if the Government were to give them that interest free loan. I had visited the track at Ascot on several occasions for trackwork training in the morning. I could see for myself the very dangerous situation that existed there because of the shortage of facilities. On that basis the Government gave that body an interest free loan.

The training facility has come about for more reasons than just the provision of that interest free loan. Hundreds of people have given hundreds of hours of their time voluntarily to make sure that that excellent complex is almost up and running.

Mr Peter Dowding: Is that the one we saw?

Mrs BEGGS: Yes.

Mr Peter Dowding: The Government put some money into it, but a huge amount of money was put in by individuals.

Mrs BEGGS: An amount of \$100 000 was put in by the Western Australian Turf Club and other amounts were put in by a range of people. It will be an excellent training facility. If at a later date that same group of people wish to pay back the interest free loan, having decided that they want to apply to make that complex a fully blown racetrack, they can do so.

Mr Trenorden: So you agree it is a racetrack?

Mrs BEGGS: That decision will not rest with me. The member knows that as well as I do.

Mr Trenorden: You support it?

Mrs BEGGS: I am not supporting it. I do not decide. If the member knew anything about racing, he would know that neither the Government nor I decide whether a racetrack should be licensed. That is totally within the province of the Western Australian Turf Club.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Kix

80. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister seen the article in today's *The West Australian* about the marketing of a new alcoholic drink called "Kix" in a way that is likely to encourage under age drinking?
- (2) If yes, what view does the Minister take about the likely marketing of this drink in Western Australia?

Mr WILSON replied:

(1)-(2)

Yes, I have had my attention drawn to that article and I have had some discussions today with the Health Department and the Alcohol and Drug Authority about the product. The initial impression that I have obtained is that there does not seem to be anything particularly wrong with the product as such, but there is certainly deep concern about the marketing strategy being adopted by the manufacturer. The brand name being used, Kix, seems to be deliberately framed to appeal to young people; in other words to potential under-age drinkers. In that sense it is to be seen as highly objectionable. Some of the advertising material seems to be in breach of the voluntary code for advertising of alcoholic beverages, which requires that such advertisements be directed only to an adult audience.

I understand that the Victorian Government has already held some talks with the manufacturer, but it is clearly a national problem. The matter has already been discussed by a committee of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, which is in charge of developing national policies in this area.

The product is not yet available, thankfully, in Western Australia and I can assure the House, the public generally and particularly concerned parents of young people that the Government will be taking appropriate and strong steps to ensure before it is introduced in this State that it is not marketed in a way to encourage under age drinking. I expect the potential marketers of the product in Western Australia to take due notice of this warning.

I have been favourably impressed by the responsible attitude adopted by a number of liquor retail outlets to the sale of this product, and I look forward to the cooperation of all sectors of the industry in promoting responsible alcohol consumption patterns.

I am sure that other members will have noted, as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services who was the former Minister for Health has noticed, that the manufacturer of Kix is Elders IXL. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to use his good offices with the Federal President of the Liberal Party, Mr Elliott, to ensure that the marketing of Mr Elliott's product in Western Australia is distinctly directed only to adults, and that he will not become responsible for encouraging under age drinking in this State.
