

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 17

Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Carr	Mr Taylor
Mr Davies	Mr Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Dr Troy
Mr Grill	Mr Wilson
Mr Harman	Mr Bateman
Mr Hodge	

(Teller)

Noes 27

Mr Blaikie	Mr O'Connor
Mr Clarko	Mr Old
Sir Charles Court	Mr O'Neil
Mr Cowan	Mr Rushton
Mrs Craig	Mr Sibson
Dr Dadour	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grayden	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr Harman	Mr Tubby
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Watt
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Williams
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Young
Mr Mensaros	Mr Shalders
Mr Nanovich	

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr McIver	Mr McPharlin
Mr Barnett	Mr Crane
Mr T. H. Jones	Mr Laurance
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Ridge
Mr Bryce	Mr Coyne

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR GREWAR (Roe) [5.16 p.m.]: Sir, I would like to preface my remarks and join other speakers in complimenting you on your appointment as Speaker of the House. We know you will perform your duties with impartiality, dignity, and decorum.

I congratulate the member for Wellington on her promotion to the Ministry and the members for Gascoyne, Murray, and Karrinyup on their appointment as officers of this Parliament. I also welcome new members. I can well recall my period of difficult adjustment to this place and I offer any assistance and help I may be able to give to them.

It is always somewhat sad when members retire, resign, or are defeated at the polls, and I will personally miss Tom Hartrey, Jim Moiler,

(33)

Harry Fletcher, Don May, and John Tonkin. Their ideology was different from my own but I respected their views and admired them as people. They were dedicated to the cause of Western Australia and contributed much in their terms of office in the Parliament.

As we enter this session, the economy is still very much depressed. It is in a mess, with inflation and unemployment running at unacceptable levels. There are signs of improvement, but they are very vague. The new Budget will not do much to help. The economy needs strong corrective measures. Some of the provisions of the Budget will obviously help, but stronger ones will be necessary to get the economy back onto an even keel.

I am surprised the Federal Government did not grasp the nettle more firmly and give a stimulus to the economy by reducing interest rates or allowing more in the way of tax relief. This would have given a stimulus to business which it needs so desperately if it is to provide further employment. Tax reductions would have been a significant help. They would have eased the pressure on wages and given an incentive to people to work harder.

Cuts could have been made in the Federal Budget in the fields of social welfare and education to compensate. I will talk more on social welfare later on, but in connection with education we do not need much of the equipment we have in schools today. The Greek teachers of old did not require more than an olive tree. Certainly they did not need the audio-visual equipment or air-conditioning which are expected in schools today.

I have mentioned unemployment. I would like to know just how bad unemployment really is and what the figure of 5 per cent means. How many of these people are genuine? I can only refer to my own electorate where many of the unemployed are unemployable. A number of them are Aborigines. I do not want to kick this can around too much in case I am again accused of being a racist.

Mr Jamieson: You come out and see the youth every Monday—

Mr GREWAR: I will come to that in a moment.

Mr Jamieson: That is my worry. The Government is not getting onto it.

Mr GREWAR: These people are unemployable and are not contributing to the economy. In the words of a Chinese leader, it does not matter whether a cat is white or black, as long as it catches mice. In many cases these people do not wish to catch any mice.

How many are pieceworkers who, on the termination of their employment, immediately register

for unemployment benefits? How many are married women who are not really serious about joining the work force? How many are duplications, and how many other errors are involved? I know of one case of a man in prison. He has been there for eight months and he is still receiving his cheque.

I would say from my own experience that the figure could be reduced to half and that would give us the genuine number of unemployed.

Recently we have read and heard a great deal about industrial disputation. My own electorate—a rural one—has been very much affected by recent disputes; and I cite the wool industry, the live sheep shipping trade, and now the embargoes on wheat to Indonesia. The main thrust of industrial disputation has been directed towards production industries, and agriculture especially. The primary producer is devoid of blame, but he has to bear the brunt of it. He is battling now for economic survival and this industrial disputation is adding considerably to his costs and making it much more difficult for him to compete on world markets.

I have been an employee most of my life. I have been a member of a union, and I have more recently been an employer. I have some understanding of both sides and there are injustices in both sectors. We are all in the boat together and must work in unison for the sake of this country. The ordinary Australian, whether an employee or an employer, is a reasonable sort of fellow. He is fair-minded and has the interests of Australia at heart. The employer is anxious to give a fair reward as well as make a profit. The employee is anxious to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. There is an urgent need for both parties to come together on problems and to adopt a give-and-take attitude in order to restore harmony in industrial matters.

We did have a fairly harmonious situation some time ago but this is now changing. It is obvious to all of us that this has been due almost entirely to the entrance on the scene of militant trade unionists who are making demands beyond reason.

Several members interjected.

Mr GREWAR: They have ceased to become engaged in industrial matters and are now debating political issues and ruining industrial harmony. These people are nothing short of traitors to this country and should be charged with treason.

Several members interjected.

Mr GREWAR: In their own interests the unions must rid themselves of these people. If they do not the employers have alternatives which could have dire consequences to the workers of this country.

Mr Bertram: The workers have no alternatives.

Mr GREWAR: They could get rid of the militant left-wing communists.

Mr Bertram: They have no say in making the law.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GREWAR: I would like to make my speech and to say a few words about social welfare. We have gone too far and many taxpayers are concerned that much of their taxation is spent in propping up our social welfare policies. Since man has progressed from the tribal village to the sophisticated urban society, the care of the needy has become more the responsibility of Government. Social welfare issues have become political footballs by all parties on the hustings. Governments have risen and fallen on these issues. We need a social welfare policy but it must be within our means. We have gone too far in many fields. I do not intend to knock the aged, the infirm, or the needy, but I want to knock the abusers. We are all aware of these people, including members on the other side.

Mr Bertram: You have to be more than aware of them.

Mr GREWAR: I am referring to the dole bludgers who are not interested in working. They make no attempt to locate or retain jobs. They enjoy the goodwill of the taxpayers while sitting on their surf boards. These people are parasites and we need to stop the abuse. I will suggest a means whereby it could be stopped.

I believe welfare benefits should be adjustable. In the first one or two months after being dismissed from the work force, the recipient should receive more than is currently paid to allow him to adjust and to obtain work. This will cost additional money. However, after a period of 12 months the amount could be reduced to a mere subsistence level. A loan scheme should be established. A loan could be provided based on need and the ability of the person to repay it later. This would give the recipient more self-respect and make him less dependent on the taxpayer. It would give him a greater desire to go back to work. The bludger would be given an opportunity and if he did not take it he would be denigrated to the level of a beggar.

Unemployment benefits should be subject to some sort of means test. The pieceworker who earns a high income during his period of employment and pays higher tax believes in many cases

that he is entitled to the dole when he ceases employment. I do not think the dole was ever intended for these people.

Members on this side of the House share the concern of others about school leavers. Nothing would be more soul-destroying than for a young person who has left school not to be able to obtain work.

The State or Federal Government should implement a national service scheme, not on military lines but on civil projects so that these young people can find some place in the work force and develop some skills that they might not otherwise obtain. It would give them some sense of purpose.

Mr Bertram: You want direction of labour.

Mr GREWAR: No.

Mr Bertram: It would have to be.

Mr Blaikie: He wants them to be provided with an opportunity.

Mr GREWAR: The world has been jolted by statements of just how finite our fossil fields are, especially petroleum. We have become greatly dependent on these fuels because they are necessary for the running of our sophisticated society. The time of reckoning is with us now and we need alternative energy sources. Eventually we must rely on solar energy, but until technology can achieve a breakthrough in its efficient utilisation we will have to use uranium. We are all aware of the hazards involved but we have no options. It is a necessary stop-gap measure.

We are delighted that the Government has entered into this field and that it will establish a solar research institute. It is only by study and research that we can hope to achieve the breakthroughs. We hope that the funding for this institute will not be restricted too much. In the solar energy field we must think big; we are playing for high stakes if we wish our society to continue to progress into the 21st century.

As promised by our Government, a forum of study of the rural and allied industries has been established under the guidance of a steering committee. The first conference has been held with delegates from many diverse interests in agriculture drawn from many parts of the State. It is the first time such a conference has been held. The interrelationship between the two separate interests should not be in conflict; they are interdependent—almost symbiotic with the health of one affecting the health of the other.

There are reasons for concern in agriculture. Our fortunes are in the balance, with terms of trade forever widening. By this I mean the relationship of costs to prices received.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has predicted that conditions will not improve unless some positive action is taken. It is suggested there is room for economies on costs and for more efficiency in agricultural practice. It is too much to hope for long-term price increases with our competitors being heavily subsidised and selling below cost. We must match them, but with our inflation rate much higher than the rate in our competing countries, our prospects are not bright.

Maybe our solution is to join forces with some of our competitors and establish a base price. We could join with New Zealand and make a strong bloc on meat sales. We could do the same with South Africa and New Zealand on wool. The world wants our products but it must be prepared to pay for them during the depressed times so we remain in business.

Many countries are uniting under a single buyer agency taking away much of the demand normally supplied by a multiplicity of buyers. Much as I dislike it, Australia may have to have a single seller organisation; private enterprise could still operate within such a structure.

I hope the Rural and Allied Industries Conference thinks beyond the farm gate and ceases to flog the old issues which have been flogged for so long and have got nowhere, because they are insoluble or for some other reason. The thrust of the conference must be innovative and original.

I commend the Government on its intention to set up a water resources council. There is no more precious resource in this country than water. Unfortunately it has taken a severe drought to make people realise this. People in the country who have to look after their own water supplies have long realised it. The council should give consideration to future policies for the exploitation of water resources. Again the council will have to think big and plan in advance for the years ahead, and with inbuilt contingencies. It must think beyond simply collecting run-off and the development of underground aquifers. It must study schemes which now seem to be uneconomic or impracticable, such as desalination and transporting icebergs from Antarctica. Agriculture is a major user of water. Large volumes are collected in the Darling Range area and piped into the wheatbelt through the comprehensive water scheme.

When the scheme was devised, many of the underground soil structures were found to be unsuitable for the construction of dams and underground water tables were found to be saline. However, technology today has made it possible

for water to be collected on almost all farms in Western Australia, but it is expensive to construct dams. It is far cheaper to use water from the scheme.

The farm water scheme has been mentioned by a previous speaker. It is a very innovative scheme which has done much to relieve the difficult water position in the driest parts of the State. However, it is difficult for a farmer to attract the loan. Very few farmers have first security mortgage available and this is a requirement to obtain the loan. I urge the Government to give consideration to a way in which loans can be made available without a first mortgage priority.

The almost impossible has happened. We are now in our second consecutive year of drought. This has never happened previously since the settlement of the State of Western Australia. The drought last year left many people financially ruined, especially some of the new land farmers who had previously been managing due to good cereal prices. Many old-established farmers were able to carry one year of drought. However, the prospect of a second year makes the position almost impossible for both new and old-established farmers.

I do not know how far the banks and financial institutions will go this year. Their performance last year in supporting drought-affected farmers was very creditable. The Government must be expected to carry a bigger load than it did last year. The community is most appreciative of the help the Government gave in 1976. However, last year many farmers had financial resources they do not have now and loan requirements will be greater.

The drought-affected farmer has three options available to him. He can seek agistment for his stock, which costs money; he can purchase grain, which also costs money; or he can sell stock or capital equipment to generate funds to carry on.

It would be a tragedy if the third alternative were adopted; it would have extreme consequences in the years ahead for our livestock industry and it would considerably affect the abattoirs and the live sheep trade. I trust the Drought Consultative Committee will study these problems and liaise with banks and the Government to enable generous funds to be made available during the current drought.

Previous speakers have mentioned that 7 000 of the 50 000 beef producers in Australia are non-viable. They will be non-viable even if the price of beef doubles. Many beef producers must be sacrificed. In some areas it may be possible to lessen the impending disaster. The

producers could improve their technical efficiency but I would say most of them are doing that now. Some could diversify and some could amalgamate and get economy of scale operation. Allied industries may be able to contain costs. However, this is not likely. Rail freights have recently been increased, and killing costs have now risen by 25 per cent.

It may be possible to contain some of the costs in shipping, which is now on a volume and not a weight basis. Perhaps a bigger component of cattle could be exported live, in parallel with the live sheep trade, thus offering a more attractive alternative than selling to the local processors. However, I can imagine the strong reaction of the Meat Industry Employees' Union.

It has been suggested Australia should have a two-tier price scheme for beef. This has tested the brains of many people recently. Unfortunately, the local price is governed by the export price, and most of our product is sold overseas. When the export price is low, the home consumption price is also low. Australians now have the cheapest meat in the world.

A levy could be imposed at the point of sale. This is one way in which extra money could flow back to the producer. The Government could help with the provision of long-term loans to enable farmers to diversify, purchase land, and restructure debts. There was little offer of additional help in the Federal Budget.

I fail to see why foreign aid must be given in monetary terms. The beef producer needs help now, and it could be the wheat producer next year. We have poverty at home and it is ludicrous to spend \$426 million on foreign aid, which is the figure projected for this financial year.

Mr Bertram: What percentage of the Budget is that?

Mr GREWAR: If foreign aid were granted in terms of product it would give a tremendous boost to our beef industry and allied industries such as the abattoirs. Rural industry carried Australia for 200 years. It now needs a shot in the arm.

In the past few months considerable developments have taken place in the live sheep trade. We now have a quota system which is monitored quarterly. The system was introduced to rationalise a chaotic situation which was developing and give continuing viability to the abattoir system. It has been a disaster for producers. This trade was extremely profitable, with the price of shipping wethers being double the price which could be obtained through the abattoir system.

Primary producers are blaming the Government for intervening by imposing quota restrictions. It has interfered with supply and demand forces. Primary producers are concerned that the Government has bowed to union pressure. The unions did not care about us in the three years we were suffering hardship. In fact, during that period wages in the industry increased by approximately 280 per cent.

I am not denigrating the abattoirs but that side of the industry must adapt and change to different product demands. The 25 per cent increase in killing charges will place an extra burden on primary producers. We have an expanding demand for live sheep and it is a highly profitable trade. It is an industry which could go from strength to strength.

The Government intervened when shipping companies could not agree on quota allocations. I ask why they should agree. The Government imposed quotas on numbers and various shipping companies on a history basis, with no regard for new ventures.

We now have a system which is almost monopolistic, with reduced demand and falling prices. Several weeks ago it was possible to get anything between \$30 and \$40 for a shipper; yesterday prices were between \$14 and \$19.

Mr Old: They sold yesterday for up to \$24.

Mr GREWAR: In Esperance we have 43 000 sheep ready for shipment now, I am led to believe by stock agents. They cannot be held any longer. We have asked the Minister to provide us with a sheep boat. He has today advised that a shipping company will provide one in September. But it is too late for many; 16 000 sheep have already had to be transported to Perth, at an extra cost to the producer of \$1.50 a head.

Because of the quotas we now have an over-supply and a lesser demand, and prices must be expected to tumble. It is an economic corollary.

Restrictions on trade will have repercussions later on. Farmers, because of a less profitable position, will not put the effort into breeding, and this will have repercussions in the abattoirs in the years ahead. A live sheep trade needs encouragement to develop and I urge the Minister to consider relaxing quotas and allowing the normal supply and demand forces to take effect. The Government is under criticism.

I would like to thank the Government for its confidence in granting a \$2 million subsidy to the Esperance Meat Exporting Company. This meat-works will be important to us in the future. Negotiations are close to finality and we hope an announcement about construction will be made in

the next few weeks. It will give a great boost to our town and allied industries, as well as to primary producers.

Much has been said about decentralisation by both country and city members during this debate and on former occasions. Country members expressed the need for decentralising industry into country areas, and city members expressed concern at the growth of the city bringing associated problems. Volumes have been written on the sociological and management problems of centralisation of industry.

This Government has some achievements to its credit, notably in the Pilbara with its resource development. Much of the administration of Government has been moved to country locations. Just as we criticise the Federal Government for its centralist policies, country people criticise the State Government for its centralist policies towards Perth. Much more must be done in this field and we must go about it with much more resolve.

This can be achieved by a Government in two ways; firstly by restricting or limiting industries which can establish in the city. We do not now hear much talk about the jumbo steel industry which was proposed some time ago. It would be a crime if that industry were established within 50 miles of Perth, and there are other obnoxious industries which should not be centralised here.

Another means of decentralising is by incentive. Country locations must be attractive, not only for industry but also for employees; but they are too costly, despite having resources close to hand.

In Esperance there is a salt deposit two miles from the post office, with all the facilities and infrastructure of our town, including standard gauge railway, power, water, land, labour, and a port. Processing seemed to be the obvious next step. However, the company has moved its operation to Perth. Extraction will take place in Esperance but the processing will be done in Perth. The reasons are obvious. The operation would be too costly in Esperance. These extra costs must be balanced by incentive.

Victoria has done it very successfully. We give some small freight concessions and interest subsidies but they are not enough. Decentralisation is in the national interests. Initial costs might be higher but these will be recouped later on. Decentralisation is an investment in the future.

I am pleased to learn the Government is initiating land releases again following a Cabinet sub-committee study. The first release is to take place in the next few weeks in the Esperance area, and we hope it will be followed by others. We would

like to see these releases on a continuing basis. The Shires of Ravenshorpe and Esperance have only 32 per cent of their land alienated, whereas in most other shires the percentage of land used for agriculture is 75 to 80 per cent. We are virtually the last frontier for rural development in an area receiving 13 inches or more of rain each year.

I would like to criticise the EPA for the critical stance it has taken in relation to land releases and the creation of reserves in my electorate. I do so with firm resolve because my electorate is fully behind me on this matter.

The CTCR looked at our area and saw vast areas of undeveloped virgin land, and suggested increases in the size of our already very large reserves at Fitzgerald and Cape Arid and in the Hann National Park. It set aside new reserves, embracing many millions of hectares in the Dundas area. We realise that these reserves are necessary and are our heritage, but there must be a balance in respect of competing usage. The CTCR report was accepted almost in its entirety by the EPA, despite the views expressed by local authorities and other groups. These views were wiped aside, and a biased report was presented to Cabinet.

My constituents are concerned, and because of this we asked the Minister to visit our area to explain the position. The Minister came down to see us, and faced hostile audiences. He explained to them that the vesting was not permanent and that other pressures for land uses could see the vesting orders cancelled.

However, the audiences were unconvinced. They were of the opinion it would take a famine to have these areas released for vesting. We have a different ball game now because there are too many conservation groups which would not allow that re-vesting to occur. We want this land to be left as vacant Crown land, and if there are specific areas that should be retained as reserves, we are quite prepared to go along with this; but not just to have millions of hectares of land set aside without a detailed study.

Mr Speaker, how am I going for time?

The SPEAKER: You have until 6.01 p.m.

Mr GREWAR: Thank you, Sir. Esperance in my opinion is the logical focal point for a fishing industry on the south coast. It is the centre of the south coastal area ranging from Cape Leeuwin to the southern ocean border, and it is the logical place for a fully integrated fishing industry. Esperance has always had a small fishing industry, but because of lack of markets it has never had a processing industry, and it has not been able to develop to its full potential.

No investigations have been made, despite attempts to have research undertaken into the potential of the area. Recent stimulus has come from private enterprise which has been fishing in the waters off Esperance recently, and some startling results were produced. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has ascertained from this study that the area has a yield potential of 50 000 tonnes of pilchards, 500 to 1 000 tonnes of tuna, employing 20 boats, and 20 000 tonnes of wet fish which would employ something in the order of 8 to 10 trawlers.

In addition, a small amount of crayfishing and shark fishing would continue. However, we have problems in that we have not an adequate boat harbour. We urgently require facilities to service our fishing boats. The PWD is monitoring the establishment of a boat harbour. We would like action once the industry gets under way. We are very parochial in Esperance, and we are concerned that the Government could direct its favour to Albany.

However, Esperance has so much more to offer than Albany. The fishing resource is closer and it has a standard gauge rail service to Perth. I am sure private enterprise will eventually determine that Esperance is the logical place to establish a fishing industry.

I turn now to the matter of voting. Unfortunate instances in the last State election have highlighted the need for electoral reform. I pose the question: Should voting rights be mandatory, or should the right to vote be subject to some standard of literacy? In an ideal world the vote of each person would have equal value, but this cannot apply in our situation because it could be against the best interests of good government, as many of the votes are cast by people who have no conception of what government is all about.

Someone once said that people should earn their right to vote, and he went on to say that the more responsible a person is in respect of his community, the greater should be his voting power. I am not entirely suggesting that, but I am suggesting there should be some standard of literacy or ability to understand the significance of government to entitle one to vote. I leave the subject to members.

Finally, it is with some sense of guilt that I broach my next subject: The futility of much of the debate that occurs in this House. I refer particularly to amendments that have been moved to the Address-in-Reply. However, the same will apply on other occasions. In the case of the amendments to the Address-in-Reply, the debates served little purpose; they have been repetitious and just plain boring. Such amendments simply delay the House,

and we already sit for long enough when we could be more gainfully employed. I do not wish to see debate stifled, but I do want to see a reduction in the amount of time allocated to such debates.

A competent speaker who knows his subject can put his case across clearly in half the time presently allocated. The longer a person speaks, the more he displays his lack of knowledge of the subject. I suggest in such cases members should go back to school and learn the subject better or research more thoroughly before they speak.

In closing, Mr Speaker, I say that I support the motion. I commend Sir Wallace Kyle for the part he has played as Governor of this State, and I commend him on the respect and admiration he has shown for the people of Western Australia.

Mr Jamieson: God save the Queen!

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Shalders.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)

[6.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 6th September.

Question put and passed.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Closing Time

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I desire to inform members that questions for Tuesday, the 6th September, will be accepted until noon on Friday, the 2nd September.

House adjourned at 6.07 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): In view of the pressures upon us as far as time is concerned, I suggest I call questions one after the other and ask Ministers to hand in the answers. I am seeking leave of the House to do that, and if there is a dissentient voice, we will go through the normal procedure. Is leave granted? As there is no dissentient voice, I take it leave is granted.

RECREATION

Local Authority Leisure Facilities

513. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Is he aware that Western Australia's allocation in Federal budget grants to the States which are passed on to local government authorities for capital assistance for leisure facilities has been reduced by 90% from \$726 000 to \$72 000?
- (2) What will the effects of this reduction be for the on-going programmes of local government in respect of provision of community leisure facilities?
- (3) Can he give further details as to areas in which programmes may have to be reduced or abandoned and could he name these programmes?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In 1976-77 the State Government established the Community Sporting Facilities Fund, and through it committed \$1 029 000 to local government authorities for the development of sporting and recreational facilities, and a further \$504 000 was allocated to the provision of community leisure facilities through the Community Recreation Council. The Government is giving consideration to continuing this form of assistance.
- (3) No.

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

Federal Funds

514. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that Federal Government grants paid direct to local government authorities for pre-schools and child care services have been reduced by 7.47% from \$670 000 to \$620 000 in the last Federal budget?
- (2) As these figures are notional and do not imply an expressed commitment to provision of the amounts mentioned, will he make representations to the Federal Government to have the amounts upgraded?

- (3) What will be the effect of these cutbacks on establishment and operation of child care services for children, including educational services?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The amounts referred to by the member are shown on page 98 of the Federal Budget Paper No. 7, "Payments to or for the States and Local Government Authorities 1977-78."

The amounts quoted are grants made direct to local government authorities by the Commonwealth office of child care under the childhood services programme. These funds represent a contribution towards the cost of establishing and operating a range of care and associated services for children, including educational services for young children. The State is generally not advised of the specific project components of these grants by the office of child care, however, I understand that costs associated with day care centres represent a large part of the total. The reference to educational services apparently relates to the practice of some local authorities of employing a pre-school teacher in these centres. To my knowledge, no grants are made direct to local authorities for pre-school purposes.

- (2) and (3) As pointed out above, the State Government is not directly involved in this area of the childhood services programme and is not, therefore, in a position to comment on the effect of possible cutbacks in Commonwealth funding. For the same reason, the State is not in a position to make representations to the Federal Government on a matter of which it has little detailed knowledge.

BUS AND RAIL TRANSPORT

Federal Funds

515. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What will the effect be of the 25.5% decrease in urban transport assistance grants available to Western Australia in the last Federal budget, on the maintenance and upgrading of public transport, including metropolitan bus and rail systems?
- (2) Will he list the specific areas in which cutbacks will be necessary?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) While Western Australia has received considerably less than the funds which it applied for from the Federal Government under urban transport assistance grants in the last Federal Budget, in actual fact the amount allocated in this year's Federal Budget for new projects is \$642 000 higher than the previous year.
- (2) The full effect cannot be ascertained until this year's State budget is introduced.

HOUSING

Balga

516. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the State Housing Commission have any current planning proposals for the following special residential zoned areas of land in Balga—
- (a) land bordered by Halland Way and Edale Way;
 - (b) land bordered by Edale Way and Majella Road;
 - (c) land between Majella Road and the proposed Mirrabooka regional centre?
- (2) If "Yes" what progress has been made with these proposals, what type of development is proposed, and when is it anticipated that development will begin?
- (3) If "No" to (1), what priority is being given to the development of these areas in the future?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The State Housing Commission is currently examining the areas for residential development.
- (2) and (3) Plans are at a very preliminary stage and consideration will be given to an admixture of single detached dwellings, town houses, duplex units, and pensioner units.

Development will depend upon the availability of services and funds, having regard to the commission's statewide responsibilities.

CITY OF STIRLING

Appointment of B. T. Oliver

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

With reference to the appointment of City Engineer to the City of Stirling:

- (1) When was Mr B. T. Oliver first appointed to the City of Stirling as an Engineer?
- (2) Did Mr Oliver at that time have a municipal engineer's certificate issued under and pursuant to the Local Government (Qualification and Municipal Officers) Regulations 1961?
- (3) Did Mr Oliver have at that time:
 - (a) previous local government experience;
 - (b) local government experience or experience in the Main Roads Department in the terms of regulation 24(d) and (e) of the said regulations?
- (4) Has Mr Oliver passed the examination "Powers and duties of a Municipal Engineer"?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), when did he complete that examination?
- (6) Has Mr Oliver at any time applied to the municipal engineers examination committee for the issue of a municipal engineer's certificate pursuant to the said regulations?
- (7) If "Yes" to (6) when did he apply and what was the outcome of that application?
- (8)
 - (a) Did he impose conditions on his approval (if any) for Mr Oliver to be appointed to the position of city engineer in the City of Stirling in 1974;
 - (b) if not, why not?
- (9) Was Mr Oliver appointed in that year from a list of 33 applications for the position, a short list of seven applications and appointed without an interview?
- (10) Why did he not intervene in Mr Oliver's appointment when at least three of the applicants of the seven on the short list had extensive local government experience?
- (11) Is he aware that the City of Stirling has appointed Mr Oliver as a consultant engineer to the city pursuant to the terms of an agreement (which for a full year could cost \$40 000 to the City of Stirling) without implementing the procedures required by section 274 of the Local Government Act?
- (12)
 - (a) Does he or his department intend to take action against the City of Stirling on the appointment of this consultant;
 - (b) if not, why not?
- (13) Is it his intention to allow local government authorities to contravene the provisions of the Local Government Act?
- (14) When the position of city engineer at the City of Stirling was advertised recently, is he aware that consequent upon that advertisement there were 11 applicants for the position?
- (15) Is it a fact—
 - (a) that Council of the City of Stirling on Tuesday, 15th August resolved not to appoint a city engineer but to engage Mr B. T. Oliver as consultant;
 - (b) that Mr Oliver advised the council that all applications were unsuitable, not to interview and recommended that no appointment be made;
 - (c) that of the 11 applications, four had extensive local government experience;
 - (d) that in the case of one applicant for the position not only did he have extensive local government engineering experience but also qualifications in accountancy and economics?
- (16) Is it a fact that in making such a recommendation to the Council of the City of Stirling, Mr Oliver had a conflict of interest?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Mr Oliver was appointed Senior Executive Engineer on 11th February, 1974.
- (2) and (3) No.

- (4) and (5) There is no record of this in the Department of Local Government.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) 30th June, 1976. The committee resolved to grant a certificate on his passing an examination in the subject "Powers and Duties of a Municipal Engineer".
- (8) Mr Oliver was appointed City Engineer in November, 1975.
 - (a) and (b) The condition of approval was that stipulated by the council, i.e. that he must acquire a certificate of qualification as a municipal engineer.
- (9) Mr Oliver was appointed to the position of City Engineer from 33 applicants. There is no departmental record regarding interviews.
- (10) Approval was granted of the appointment as required under section 160 of the Local Government Act. Council requested the appointment of Mr Oliver who had by that time approximately 21 months' service with the City of Stirling.
- (11) and (12) My understanding is that these arrangements have not been finalised.
- (13) and (14) No.
- (15) The matters listed are not within the area of my responsibility. It is suggested that the questions be directed to the council.
- (16) This question is not relevant to my administration.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

Letter to Members of Parliament

518. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:
- Will the Minister table a letter allegedly distributed to Members of Parliament concerning Wildlife Conservation Regulations and described as a means to 'clarify' the situation requiring a change in the regulations and to assist Members replying to constituents?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Yes, copy tabled herewith.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 203).

URANIUM PROCESSING

Experimental Work

519. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has a report on the tests conducted on 16 men and the building concerned with uranium testing at the Western Mining Corporation plant at Kwinana, been compiled by the Radiological Advisory Council?
- (2) Will he table the report or provide me with a copy of it?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) No, there was nothing to report as no worker registered a dose. The Radiological Advisory Council was made aware of the testing programme.
- (2) Not applicable.

URANIUM PROCESSING

Tailings Dam

520. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has any check been made by his department subsequent to Friday's earthquake on the Western Mining Corporation tailings dam at Baldavis to ensure that no breach has occurred that may allow radioactive waste to seep into the water table?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) when was it done; and
 - (b) what were the results?
- (3) If "No" to (1), why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) As it is considered that such action would be a waste of time and effort.

I make this comment in the knowledge that shock waves experienced in Perth were such that no buildings were damaged. This means that there would be no likelihood of a flexible plastic membrane being holed.

HEALTH

Radium and Thorium

521. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the radioactive half life of radium?
- (2) What is the radioactive half life of thorium?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Radium has a number of isotopes. The one with the longest half life is Radium 226, 1 620 years; the shortest is 220, 1/40th second.
- (2) Thorium has a number of isotopes. The one with the longest half life is Natural Thorium 232 with a half life of over 1 000 000 000 years; the shortest is 223, 9/10th second.

HEALTH

Radium and Thorium

522. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is his department aware that approximately 50 tonnes of uranium waste containing the radioactive materials radium and thorium has apparently been dumped in a tailings dam at Baldavis?
- (2) Is his department complacent about this apparent disregard for the people of the area?
- (3) Does his department feel that the dam constructed is suitable to ensure that none of this radioactive waste seeps into the water table and enters the food chain?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There is no disregard for the people in the area and no health hazard whatever.
- (3) Yes.

URANIUM PROCESSING

Tailings Dam

523. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Would he please advise the exact size of the Western Mining Corporation tailings dam at Baldavis?
- (2) Would he please advise the exact location within the above dam that the waste was deposited?
- (3) How was the uranium waste transported to the dam site?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 70 acres.
- (2) Within the boundary of the dam there is a truck receival hopper. The trucked material is tipped into the hopper.
- (3) By truck.

URANIUM PROCESSING

Tailings Dam

524. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does his department conduct tests on a number of bores around the Western Mining Corporation tailings dam at Baldavis?
- (2) How many bores are tested and how often?
- (3) What is the exact location of each of the bores?
- (4) How long have the tests been going on?
- (5) What does the department look for when the tests are made?
- (6) Have any tests ever been done to determine if radioactive waste has seeped into the water table?
- (7) Will he produce the results of all the tests in questions (5) and (6)?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Three, twice yearly.
- (3) Franc's bore, Knight's bore, Thompson's bore.

In addition, tests have been done at East Shore Lake, WMC House, Dowson Well, Davies Well, Malaxos Well.

- (4) Since August, 1969.
- (5) The appearance, pH, colour, odour, total soluble salts, sodium chloride, sulphate chloride, sulphate, arsenic, copper, iron, nickel, nitrogen as ammonia and nitrate.
- (6) Yes, but only very recently.
- (7) Yes, all available results have been tabled.

The results were tabled (see paper No 202).

URANIUM PROCESSING

Tailings Dam

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the dumping of 50 tonnes of uranium waste in a tailings dam at Baldavis?
- (2) Were sufficient safeguards employed at the time to ensure no leakage of radioactive material occurs during the radioactive life of the thorium and radium contained in the waste?
- (3) If "No" what action would his department recommend should be taken?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.

GAMING HOUSES

Police Surveillance

526. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) When did he receive the 1977 annual report of the Commissioner of Police?
- (2) Has he read the 1977 annual report of the Commissioner of Police?
- (3) If so, has he seen the reference on page 21, "With regard to gaming houses, there are 7 known premises in Perth, 2 at Fremantle and 1 at Kalgoorlie"?
- (4) Has he also seen the reference on page 21, "Branch surveillance of gaming houses ensures that the criminal element does not gain control"?
- (5) If so, will he explain how branch surveillance achieves that end?
- (6) What forms does branch surveillance of gaming houses take?
- (7) If it is possible for branch surveillance of gaming houses to ensure that the criminal element does not gain control, why is it not possible for branch surveillance of gaming houses to ensure that the law in respect of casinos is obeyed, namely, that they be not allowed to operate?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Precise date not recorded but it was shortly before the report was tabled on the 17th August, 1977.
- (2) to (4) Yes.
- (5) Regular surveillance of known gaming establishments enables police to identify any known criminal element who may seek to become part of the management, or attempt to gain control of the premises.
- (6) Police use whatever means are practicable in effecting surveillance of these premises in order to gain evidence of gaming and to keep a check on persons resorting thereto.
- (7) Police cannot ensure that people will not break the law but can only take any necessary action after the commission of an offence.

BIRDS

Poisoning

527. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Has any approach been made to the Minister's department to obtain costs for poisoning birds on Perth's offshore islands?
- (2) Who or what department or committee made the approach, and when?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes—to be considered as one of the possible methods of managing silver gull populations.
- (2) Interdepartmental committee on management of silver gulls.

WATER BORES

Golden Bay-Peelhurst Area

528. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

Further to my questions on the bores sunk and monitored by his department in the Singleton-Peelhurst area, can he give an unequivocal assurance that there is no plan by his department to draw water supplies from this area for the purpose of augmenting the metropolitan supply?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There are no current proposals by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board to abstract groundwater for public water supply purposes within the Peelhurst-Singleton area.

529. *This question was postponed.*

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Children Under 5: Advisory Committee

530. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the special advisory committee to investigate pre-school provisions for children under five been appointed?
- (2) If "Yes" who are the members of the committee?
- (3) When will the committee be holding its first meeting?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) Those persons proposed for membership have all been invited, but not all acceptances have yet been received. I am hopeful of announcing the composition of the committee in the near future. The committee will assemble as soon as is possible after finalising composition.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Children Under 5: Levy

531. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended that parents with children under five attending kindergarten will be required to pay levies to the Education Department to subsidise teachers' salaries?
- (2) If "Yes" what will the levy amount to for each child?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) No. Parents of children more than one year below school attendance age will be required to continue to pay the existing levy.

PRE-SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY

Transfer to Education Department

532. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Was the property at 1186 Hay Street, currently occupied by the Pre-School Board, originally privately bequested to the Kindergarten Association of W.A.?
- (2) Can he say what were the terms of the bequest?
- (3) What legal implications are involved in the appropriation of the property by the State Education Department?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Due to the fact that this question requires considerable and detailed research, it will be answered as soon as possible.

PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Teachers

533. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he confirm that in employing teachers for community based pre-school centres in 1978, the Education Department will give priority to those who are 'bread-winners'?

- (2) If "No" what criteria will be used in the selection of teachers?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes, within the limits set by the assurances given that existing trained staff will be retained.
- (2) Not applicable.

534. *This question was postponed.*

SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

Replacement of Diesels

535. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What representations were made to the Government as a result of investigations by a senior mechanical engineer from Westrail into the replacement of diesel engines and other equipment for the suburban rail service?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The purpose of the Westrail engineer visiting England was entirely private but while there he ascertained for the department what spare engines and parts were available for suburban rail cars and these are being acquired as necessary.

SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

New Diesels

536. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government yet placed orders for new diesels for the suburban rail system?
- (2) How many diesel cars does the Government intend to purchase?
- (3) When is it expected that the new diesels will be operating?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) No. The Government has not placed orders for new diesel rail cars for the suburban system. As to date insufficient funds from the Federal Government Urban Public Transport Assistance scheme have been available to cover these items. I believe that the limited State funds likely to be available for railway improvements should be devoted to upgrading of the Kwinana-Koolyanobbing line which I see as priority one.

SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

Sunday Services

537. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any reductions been made in the number of off-peak and Sunday suburban rail services in the past three years?
- (2) If so, when and on what lines?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), will he list each of the services which has been reduced or stopped?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) Details requested by the member in part (3) of this question will take some little time to complete.

I will forward the information to him as soon as it is available.

SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

Safety Precautions

538. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Have any steps been taken to reduce the speeds of suburban passenger trains, or to take other precautions as a result of the decreasing quality of suburban rail track and the age of suburban rolling stock?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

It has not been necessary to limit the speed of suburban passenger trains as rolling stock and track are receiving normal maintenance.

SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

Diesels and Locomotives: Age

539. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the age of the oldest passenger carriages still in operation on rail routes?
- (2) When were new diesels last purchased for use on suburban rail routes?
- (3) What is the age of the latest type of locomotive currently in use on suburban rail routes?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 28 years.
- (2) 1968.
- (3) 23 years.

BULK MILK

Freight Increases

540. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Dairy Industry Authority increased the freight charge on the cartage of bulk milk to producers recently?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) from what date did the increase take effect;
 - (b) what was the freight charge prior to the increase;
 - (c) what is the current freight charge?
- (3) Will producers receive an increase in the price of bulk milk to offset freight increases?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) No. The cartage rates from farm to dairy produce factories remain as fixed from the 1st June, 1977.

They are—

- 1.06 cents per litre for market milk;
- .17 cents per litre for cream milk.

RAILWAYS

Picton and Bunbury Wharf Area

541. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it proposed to make any changes to the existing railway track in the Picton and Bunbury wharf area?
- (2) If "Yes" what are the details of any proposed alterations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. They will realign access between the south-west main line and the lower south-west without the need for trains to enter Bunbury and provide access between the lower south-west main line and the inner harbour. The details of these proposals are too complex to explain in a Parliamentary question.

STATE ELECTIONS

Expenses of Candidates

542. Mr CARR, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) How many candidates contested the 1977 State election?
- (2) How many candidates, if any, have not yet submitted a return of electoral expenses?

- (3) Will he please provide a list of all candidates who have submitted returns and the expenditure figure declared by each?
- (4) If "No" to (3), will he provide details of—
 - (a) how many candidates have submitted a return indicating expenditure in excess of the allowable limits;
 - (b) the highest figure submitted by any candidate?
- (5) Does the Government intend to take action against any candidate for—
 - (a) failure to submit a return;
 - (b) exceeding the permitted expenditure limit;
 - (c) submitting an inaccurate return?
- (6) Does the Government intend amending the Act during this Parliament to bring the allowed limits more into keeping with present day costs?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 171.
- (2) 19.
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) 17;
(b) \$10 579.39.
- (5) and (6) Since I propose to make recommendations for legislative action concerning election expenses, no action is currently proposed.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

Bus Transport

543. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:
 - (1) Is it the policy of his department that bus children be transported to the nearest Government primary school?
 - (2) If not, will he please explain the position?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Children are transported by school bus to the most appropriate school in an area, having regard to the school accommodation which is available at the schools in the immediate vicinity. The department makes every endeavour to ensure that children who are transported to school by bus have continuity of educational environment by attending the same school for their primary or secondary education. However, in the larger

country towns where enrolment pressure on permanent school accommodation is being experienced at several schools and a new school is to be provided, rationalisation of school bus routes and the school of attendance of bus children is sometimes unavoidable.

SCHOOLS

Boundary Rezoning

544. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:
 - (1) Where primary school boundaries are rezoned, does the department have a policy allowing students in their later school years to complete their primary education at the same school?

- (2) If "Yes", will he please state the policy?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) When primary school boundaries are changed children in their last two years of primary education are given the option of completing their primary education at their current school or of enrolling at the school within whose catchment area they reside.

If children on school bus services are involved, it is sometimes not possible to extend this option to the older pupils because of difficulty associated with the routing of the buses.

SCHOOL

Mount Tarcoola

545. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:
 - (1) Have land negotiations for the proposed Mount Tarcoola primary school been finalised?
 - (2) Have tenders been let?
 - (3) If "Yes" to (2), will he advise details?
 - (4) If "No" to (2), when are tenders expected to be let?
 - (5) When is construction expected to commence?
 - (6) When is it expected to be completed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) As soon as negotiations and clearances regarding the site have been finalised.
- (5) Construction will start later this year.
- (6) The school buildings are expected to be completed during first term 1978.

TOURISM

Development Projects

546. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What is the amount of moneys that have been allocated to tourist development projects in the financial year ended 30th June, 1977?
- (2) Would the Minister provide details of—
 - (a) each project;
 - (b) each area; and
 - (c) individual amount involved?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(1) \$199 960.

(2) (a) to (c)—	\$
City of Stirling servicing loans — Scarborough beach development	7 510
Town of Cottesloe servicing loans — Cottesloe beach development	5 878
Shires—Broome pearling lugger project ..	13 000
Bruce Rock—gas fired barbecues	824
Busselton—gas fired barbecues	1 277
Coolgardie—extensions to caravan park	31 000
Cranbrook—caravan park construction	20 000
Cunderdin—municipal museum display	253
Esperance—restoration—town jetty	13 500
museum park facilities ..	5 850
Irwin—Denison camping area	4 000
Lake Argyle Homestead—redevelopment ..	3 000
Merredin—gas fired barbecues and floodlighting railway station re-development ..	4 000
Mingenew—improvements to caravan park	177
Moora—improvements to caravan park	4 834
Narrogin—improvements to caravan park ..	5 000

Northampton—fencing Kalbarri foreshore reserve	8 367
Pingelly—gas fired barbecues	440
Quairading—caravan park construction	4 250
Toodyay—gas fired barbecues (3 areas)	3 010
West Pilbara—caravan park extensions ..	50 000
York—Balladong farm	10 000
information sign board	285
Avon Park facilities	2 435
Old Cemetery Reserve—redevelopment	245

TOURISM

Country Centres

547. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

Would the Minister advise those country centres considered by his department as principal centres for tourist development and promotion?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

In view of the wide and varied nature of tourist attractions in this State and the influence of State-wide seasonal climatic changes on patterns of tourist flow, no useful purpose would be achieved in having the Department of Tourism differentiate between country centres in matters of tourist development and promotion.

It would in any case be a matter of opinion and therefore inadmissible as a Parliamentary answer.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Busselton-Margaret River and Augusta Areas

548. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Would he advise the number of occasions and the reasons, where known, for lengthy disruption to power supplies in the Busselton-Margaret River and Augusta areas since 1st April, 1977?
- (2) Would he advise of any works to upgrade main lines and instal substations serving districts as above, and when these works can be anticipated to commence?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Faults Busselton, Margaret River, Augusta areas:—

Date; Area; Cause; Time off; Time on.
16th April, 1977; Yallingup line; Swans in conductor; not reported; 9.10 a.m.

9th May, 1977; Vasse-Yallingup, 22 kV; Insulator broken; 7.21 p.m.; 8.50 p.m.

24th May, 1977; Margaret River-Yallingup 22 kV; Pole over in storm; 11.21 p.m.; 4.30 a.m.

Areas other than Quininup, Dunsborough and Yallingup on at 1.15 a.m.

17th June, 1977; Section of Busselton Town; Repositioning of 3 MVA recloser; 11.55 p.m.; 1.25 a.m.

17th July, 1977; Dunsborough-Yallingup 22 kV; Organised shut down for Main Roads Department; 12.00 midnight; 3.15 a.m.

20th July, 1977; Capel-Margaret River 66 kV; Failure in Capel substation; 6.28 p.m.; 8.47 p.m.

20th July, 1977; Margaret River-Yallingup 22 kV; Trees across line; 11.37 a.m.; 12.20 p.m.

9th August, 1977; Margaret River-Yallingup 22kV; Conductor broken at Cowaramup; 10.15 p.m.; 11.25 p.m.

- (2) Proposed Subtransmission Works in the Augusta, Margaret River and Busselton areas:—

- (1) Capel 66/22 kV Substation.

Re-construction of 22 kV and 66 kV switchyards and increase in transformer capacity from 2 x 15 MVA to 2 x 19 MVA. Additional 66 kV line from Picton substation and additional 22 kV feeder to district. Electrical installation in progress and commissioning date late 1977.

- (2) Margaret River 66/22 kV Substation.

Installation of additional 5 MVA 66/22 kV transformer. Work to commence in October, 1977 and transformer to be commissioned late 1977.

- (3) Busselton 66/22 kV Substation.

New 66/22 kV Zone substation to be constructed with 2 x 10 MVA

transformers, 4 x 22 kV feeders to district, 2 x 66 kV lines from Capel substation and 1 x 66 kV line to Margaret River.

Civil work to commence October, 1977 and substation to be commissioned during 1978.

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES

Purchase of Land

549. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Treasurer:

As indicated in the 1977-78 budget that \$500 000 would be available for purchase of land to add to the State's national parks and nature reserves, would he give details of—

- funds spent;
- area and district of properties purchased; and
- number, location and size of properties still under consideration?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I assume the member is referring to the 1976-77 Budget and not 1977-78, as stated in his question.

- and (b) The following table, prepared for the Conservation and Environment Council will supply the desired information.

- The member will appreciate that Government negotiations must remain confidential until finalisation.

Total Expenditure to 30th June, 1977

	State Fund Completed	\$
Turner Locations—Greenough Flats	87 500
Wake & English Locations 1340 & 1341	4 210
Naturaliste	
Willmott Location 762—Freycinet	60 000
Bassett-Scarfe pt. location 742—Yalgorup	192 500
Papalia Lots 105 and pt. 93—Benger	2 615
Italiano Lot 11—Benger	1 750
D'Apostino pt. Lot 3—Benger	750
Frisina lots 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21—Benger	8 500

	\$
Shine Lots 21 and 23—Benger	3 400
Partridge pt. Lot 5—Benger	875
Prowse Locations 361 and 659	
Capel	42 000
Sturgess—Binhalya	44 000
	<hr/>
	\$448 100

STATE FORESTS

Pine Plantations: Loss of Trees

550. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) (a) Has the Forests Department made any assessment of loss of pine trees generally attributed to low rainfall in its plantations, in the Blackwood Valley;
- (b) what is the extent of loss; and
- (c) the areas concerned?
- (2) Have there been any other losses evident in other plantations and, if so, could details be provided?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) The results of the assessment have not yet been fully analysed.
- (c) The areas concerned are mainly plantations of nine years or older which are situated on steep, rocky slopes with shallow soils and which are not thinned.
- (2) Yes, drought deaths have occurred in other Government plantations, including Gngara, and in some private plantations in the Blackwood Valley, this year. The details are not available as yet.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Apprentices

551. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Adverting to question 334 of 1977 in which he refers to "the number of apprenticeships currently available in Government departments and instrumentalities", how many—
 - (a) registered; and
 - (b) probationary,
 apprentices are actually employed by each of the Government departments and instrumentalities respectively;
- (c) to which trades do they belong; and

(d) in which year of apprenticeship are they placed?

(2) How many—

(a) registered; and

(b) probationary,

apprenticeships are currently available (as defined in his answer to question 334) in each of the Government departments and instrumentalities respectively;

(c) to which trades are they available?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Numbers of apprentices in Government departments and instrumentalities are as follows:
 Apprentices employed by Government departments and instrumentalities as at the 23rd August, 1977
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Minister for Works | 336 |
| W.A. Fire Brigades Board | 4 |
| Government Printing | |
| Office | 32 |
| Perth Dental Hospital | 14 |
| State Housing Commission | 23 |
| Main Roads Department | 55 |
| Medical Department | 86 |
| W.A.I.T. | 14 |
| Forests Department | 22 |
| Fremantle Port | |
| Authority | 24 |
| Harbour and Lights | |
| Department | 2 |
| University | 10 |
| Minister for Public Health | 19 |
| Metro. Transport Trust | 87 |
| MWSS & D Board | 162 |
| State Energy Commission | 164 |
| Mines Department | 2 |
| Agriculture Department | 3 |
| Education Dept. (TED only) | 6 |
| WA Meat Commission | 31 |
| Royal Perth Hospital | 44 |
| Sir Charles Gairdner | |
| Hospital | 29 |
| King Edward Memorial | |
| Hospital | 13 |
| Princess Margaret Hospital | 5 |
| Fremantle Hospital | 11 |
| Westrail | 464 |
| Total | <hr/> 1 662 |

At this stage it is not possible to separate registered and probationary figures because the new automatic data processing system is not yet ready to provide this information.

- (1) (c) and (d) Because the new ADP system is not yet ready these figures cannot be provided without considerable work.
- (2) (a) to (c) The number of apprenticeship opportunities is determined by the training capacity of each establishment. It is not related to the maximum ratio of apprentices to tradesmen stipulated under relevant industrial awards.

Departments and instrumentalities have been especially requested to create more apprenticeship opportunities and the promotion programme this year has resulted in a 32 per cent increase in Government apprentice population.

HOMES OF PEACE

Contravention of Award

552. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware that on 6th June, 1974, Magistrate P. J. Sharkey found the Homes of Peace were guilty of contravening clauses 2A and 22 of the Nursing Assistants (Homes of Peace) Award (complaints 93-105 inclusive of 1974)?
- (2) Is he aware that the Homes of Peace have admitted that they are at present contravening the very same clauses of that award?
- (3) Will he, as a believer in law and order for all, including employers, use his influence as a Minister of the Crown to ask the Homes of Peace to honour the award?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Where a person contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of an award, a worker may lodge a complaint with an industrial inspector of the Department of Labour and Industry, who may apply on behalf of such worker to an Industrial Magistrate for the enforcement of the award.

Alternatively, if the worker is a member of the appropriate union bound by the award, then that union may apply on behalf of the worker to an Industrial Magistrate for the enforcement of the award, as was done previously in the case already cited.

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

Transfer to Education Department

553. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

Is it a fact that though a considerable number of pre-school centres are either owned by and/or subsidised financially by local authorities, he has not had the courtesy to keep them informed of the proposal to take over the functions of the Pre-School Board?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No. Discussions with parties involved have been through the Pre-School Board or the established co-ordinating committee.

Where pre-school centres continue as community based kindergartens existing relationships between parent committees and local authorities will continue as formerly. Regarding centres which transfer to the Education Department, the well established procedure of involving the local authority in all negotiations will continue to apply.

RAILWAYS

Meekatharra-Mullewa

554. Mr COYNE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Could the Minister provide details in the categories as outlined hereunder relating to the Mullewa-Meekatharra railway over the period indicated:

(a) tonnage—

received;
forwarded;
total;

(b) gross revenue—

received;
forwarded;
total;

(c) trading result,

for the years 1970-71 to 1975-76 respectively?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

				1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
(a) Net Tonnage									
Forwarded	....	....	....	33 000	28 000	13 000	20 000	32 000	30 000
Received	....	....	....	60 000	62 000	58 000	69 000	62 000	56 000
Total	....	....	....	93 000	90 000	71 000	89 000	94 000	86 000
(b) Gross Revenue				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Forwarded	....	....	....	362 300	300 100	185 900	265 300	356 200	444 472
Received	....	....	....	848 000	879 300	808 200	1 017 700	1 138 100	1 289 251
Total	....	....	....	1 210 300	1 179 400	994 100	1 283 000	1 494 300	1 733 723

(c) Trading results for individual sections of line are not available.

SCHOOLS

Federal Funds

555. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) To what projects have funds from the combined total estimated amount available to Western Australia in capital grants for Government schools from the 1976-77 and 1977-78 Federal budgets been committed?
- (2) How much has been allocated to each of the projects?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) The information sought is detailed and relates to more than 100 projects, and also includes estimates in addition to final costs. The member will be advised as soon as details are available.

MILK INDUSTRY

Duffy and Duffy

556. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware that the Dairy Industry Authority has recently refused an application by Duffy and Duffy of Wonnerup, via Busselton, for the respective applications to have separate milking parlours but utilising a joint milk room?
- (2) Is he aware that Messrs. Duffy and Duffy intend milking over 1 000 cows?
- (3) Can he give reasons for the refusal?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Mr and Mrs Duffy had stated that the proposed facilities will have a total throughput of 1 000 cows.

- (3) C. D. Duffy and J. E. Duffy are separate licensees. I am advised by the Dairy Industry Authority that under the requirements of registration and licensing, it is necessary for each applicant to provide separate and complete dairy produce premises, including separate fully equipped milk rooms, as an integral part of the respective dairy buildings.

SCHOOL

Wattleup

557. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

What is the anticipated enrolment of the new Wattleup school in 1978?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

226 (including 40 pre-primary pupils).

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Albany Highway-Harris Street Intersection

558. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In view of his reply to question 485 of 1977 will he advise—

- (1) Are his records absolutely correct in respect of the numbers of fatalities occasioned as a result of accidents which have occurred at the curve in Albany Highway near Harris Street, Beckenham?
- (2) If "Yes", can he explain exactly how and from what source he obtained his information?
- (3) Does he consider a few hundred yards past Harris Street, not the location as asked in question 485 of 1977?
- (4) If "Yes", why?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The accident records kept by the Main Roads Department are compiled from accident report forms collected by the Road Traffic Authority. In view of the care taken by that authority in investigating fatal accidents the department's records should be regarded as correct.
- (3) Accidents occurring within 10 metres of the building line are considered as intersection accidents. An accident occurring a few hundred metres past the intersection would not be classed as an intersection accident unless an incident at the intersection was known to have been a cause.
- (4) Accidents are classified by type in an attempt to identify the possible cause so that remedial action can be considered. It is therefore important to isolate intersection accidents from non-intersection accidents.

RAILWAYS

Malcolm-Kalgoorlie

559. Mr COYNE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What tonnage of concentrates was railed from Malcolm to Kalgoorlie in 1975-76 and 1976-77 and what was the gross revenue that accrued to Westrail over the same periods?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

	Gross Tonnes	Revenue \$
1975-76 Malcolm-Kalgoorlie	117 030	1 219 764
1976-77 Malcolm-Kalgoorlie	106 454	1 089 637

It is expected that tonnages on this line will increase because of Agnew Mining Company commencing operations next year.

RAILWAYS

Kalgoorlie-Esperance

560. Mr COYNE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Could the Minister provide details in the categories as outlined hereunder relating to the Kalgoorlie-Esperance railway over the period indicated:

- (a) Tonnage—
received;
forwarded;
total;
- (b) gross revenue—
received;
forwarded;
total;
- (c) trading result,
for the years 1974-75, 1975-76, and 1976-77 respectively?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) to (c) The information requested by the member concerning the Kalgoorlie-Esperance section of railway is not readily available and will take some little time to compile. I will forward it to him as soon as it is available.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

WESTERN MINING NICKEL REFINERY

Effect of Kambalda Retrenchments

1. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

What effects is the dismissal of nickel miners at Kambalda expected to have on employment at the Western Mining nickel refinery, Kwinana?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

As part of the company's cut-back programme there will be approximately 50 personnel retrenched from the Kwinana operations.

ACTU

Double Standards on Indonesia

2. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in today's issue of the *Farmers' Weekly* which reports that the ACTU—New World Travel Service is promoting package tours to Indonesia?
- (2) If so, is he aware that Mr Bob Hawke and Mr Harold Souter have connections with this company?
- (3) Is he also aware that Western Australian unions affiliated with the ACTU are refusing wheat shipments out of Western Australian ports on Indonesian flag vessels?

- (4) If "Yes" to (3), will the Minister draw to the attention of the parties concerned the apparent double standards which are evident in this case?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. I understand both Mr Hawke and Mr Souter are directors of ACTU—TNT Travel Pty. Ltd. which is incorporated in New South Wales and is proprietor of ACTU—New World.
- (3) Yes. This, of course, highlights a most remarkable case of double standards. The unions are prepared, purportedly on a matter of principle, to retaliate against Indonesia for alleged atrocities in East Timor, but this so-called principle does not extend to cases where an organisation of which they are part is engaging in commercial operations relating to Indonesia.
- (4) This double standard would already be apparent to the parties involved but for some reason they have chosen to ignore it.

P. E. MULLALLY

Discussions between SEC and Minister

3. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (a) Was the Executive Administrator of the City of Stirling, Mr P. E. Mullally, employed as a legal officer at the State Energy Commission during 1976?
- (b) Did the Minister at any time during Mr Mullally's employment discuss with a commissioner of the State Energy Commission, Mr J. B. Kirkwood, Mr Mullally's involvement as a private citizen with the Tresillian controversy?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I preface my answer by saying that the honourable member sent me a question which does not coincide with what he read. Nevertheless, I think I can give him an answer as follows—

- (a) Mr Mullally was employed during 1976 with the State Energy Commission as an assistant legal officer.

- (b) My understanding—based on prevailing practices of all State Governments of any political colour—is that a Minister is entitled to, indeed has to, have the opportunity of private and confidential discussions with officers of his departments or instrumentalities without being subject to public scrutiny.

LIQUOR

Television Advertisements

4. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Does he share the well-publicised view recently expressed by the Very Reverend Vernon Cornish and supported by thousands of concerned parents and responsible citizens that a total ban should be placed on alcohol advertisements on television?

- (2) If "No", why?

The SPEAKER: I believe the question asks for an expression of opinion and I ask the member for Mt Hawthorn to read the question again.

Mr BERTRAM: My question is as follows—

- (1) Does he—that is, the Premier—share the well-publicised view recently expressed by the Very Reverend Vernon Cornish and supported by thousands of concerned parents and responsible citizens that a total ban should be placed on alcohol advertisements on television?

- (2) If "No", why?

The SPEAKER: In my view that is clearly a question asking for an expression of opinion. Therefore, it is out of order.

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Ministerial Interference with Private Activities

5. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

Does his Government have a policy covering interference by Ministers in the private activities of civil servants?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No Government needs a policy in respect of that matter because I would hope that no Government would have Ministers who would interfere in the private affairs of its public servants. But if the honourable member wants to be specific

about the matter, and wants something investigated, I think he should let me have the details.

GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Federal Funds

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Ministerial Interference with Private Activities

6. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

How seriously would he regard interference by a Minister of the Crown in the private lives and activities of employees belonging to his department?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The former Premier and former leader of the Labor Party would have said that question is "supposititious", or something of that kind. If the honourable member wants an answer to a matter of that kind he should be specific and should refer to a particular incident where he believes there has been some infringement of personal rights and liberties.

7. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

What is Western Australia's allocation in Capital grants for Government and non-Government schools in Federal funds from the 30th June, 1976, to the 30th June, 1977, under the relevant States Grants (Schools) Act and States Grants (Schools Assistance) Acts assented to on the 24th November, 1976 and the 16th June, 1977?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I have no knowledge of this question. If the honourable member would like me to provide that information, which I am happy to provide, he can put the question on the notice paper. But I certainly do not have that information off the top of my head.