

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 14th March, 1972

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.m.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. J. C. Bartlett) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the third session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber; and, having heard His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Albany Highway-Royal Street Intersection: Petition

MR. BATEMAN (Canning) [3.35 p.m.]: I present a petition addressed as follows:—

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

We the undersigned residents and electors of the Kenwick-Thornlie suburb in the State of Western Australia, do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will install traffic lights at the intersection of Albany Highway and Royal Street, Kenwick.

Your petitioners respectfully submit the following reasons:—

- (a) The increasing amount of accidents almost daily.
- (b) Children attend school by crossing at this intersection.
- (c) The increased traffic resulting from the increased housing development in the area.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will give immediate consideration to the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Albany Highway and Royal Street, Kenwick.

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

This is to certify that the above petition conforms to the rules of the House.

I have signed the petition and the signatures number 1,113.

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

QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. STATE FINANCE

Decision of Premiers' Conference, June, 1971

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

- (1) What amount of additional finance has been made available to Western Australia by the Commonwealth since the Premiers' Conference decision of June, 1971?
- (2) When and under what conditions was this extra money made available?
- (3) Will the estimated deficit be altered as a result of the additional aid from the Commonwealth?
- (4) What amount comes to the State monthly under the Rural Unemployment Grant?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for adequate notice of this question, which has enabled me to obtain the following answer:—

- (1) It is expected that \$7,778,000 will be made available in this financial year.

- (2) December 1971—

Grant for the relief of unemployment in nonmetropolitan areas at least two-thirds of which is to be expended on wages—\$1,180,000;

Capital grant for expenditure on primary and secondary schools—\$620,000.

February 1972—

Additional revenue grant for budgetary purposes—\$1,700,000;

Addition to works and housing programme to provide increased employment—\$2,990,000;

Addition to semi-governmental borrowing programme—\$448,000;

Additional grant for the relief of unemployment in nonmetropolitan areas—\$840,000.

March 1972—

A capital grant of \$2,500,000 for the purchase of an additional unit load vessel for the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission has been announced by the Prime Minister.

- (3) Yes.

- (4) \$197,000 were received in January, and \$196,000 in February; and it is expected that \$406,750 per month will be received in the period March-June, 1972.

2. BUILDING SOCIETIES

Rate of Interest: Legislation

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:
When will a firm decision be made by the Government about legislation to control building society interest rates in view of the fact that the present uncertainty is having an adverse effect on the flow of deposit moneys, and already there are indications that this means the equivalent of approximately 20 fewer homes a week? I should add that I realise this particular legislation was mentioned in the Governor's Speech; but I also have in mind the comments in this morning's paper in this regard.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for giving me adequate notice of this question, the reply to which is as follows:—

There is no evidence that the announcement by the Government of its intention to control the rate of interest which building societies may charge on loans to home buyers has had an adverse effect on the flow of deposit moneys.

Any falling off which has occurred in deposit moneys should more properly be attributed to the reality of the reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on deposits which the societies have voluntarily made and they anticipated would result in a reduction in deposits and for which they have made substantial provision.

The Government proposes to have various aspects of the law relating to building societies examined, and as the societies have promised to co-operate in such examination it is not proposed to proceed with legislation already foreshadowed at present.

3. NAVAL BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND

Garden Island: Use

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:
Despite the Commonwealth Government declining to participate in a joint study for future usage of Garden Island as recommended

unanimously by motion in the Legislative Assembly last year—

- (1) Has his Government proceeded to make its own assessment?
- (2) If not, why not, and will the Government do this immediately to ensure our Government's recommendations are placed before the House of Representatives Public Works Committee in April, and direct to the Prime Minister?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), what are they?
- (4) Did he take the opportunity when in Canberra recently for the Premiers' Conference to press our Parliament's recommendations for Garden Island?
- (5) Will he advise the Government's decision on the request for transfer to Garden Island of the ship maintenance and building yards planned by the Fremantle Port Authority for Mangles Bay?
- (6) Does the Government oppose the opinion of the Young Labor Movement against siting of the Stirling base in Cockburn Sound and, in fact, support the present construction programme?
- (7) Does the Government oppose the Commonwealth Government's invitation to other countries to use the Stirling naval facilities when completed?
- (8) Will he table the Garden Island file?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I thank the member for Dale for giving me adequate notice of this question. The answer is as follows:—

- (1) to (8) For the purpose of endeavouring to secure the use of parts of Garden Island for various types of public recreation, the Government, since taking office, has been making representations to the Prime Minister and has taken advantage of every opportunity available to press the case. The latest instance of this was by letter under date the 29th February last.

The Government has given notice to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works of its intention to make a submission in April next.

The file will be made available for the honourable member's perusal upon application to the Premier's Department.

The **SPEAKER**: In view of the time I will take only one more question without notice.

4. SEX SHOP

Introduction of Banning Legislation

Mr. **THOMPSON**, to the Premier:

- (1) Is there any truth in the Press report that the Premier will introduce legislation to outlaw an orgy shop that opened in Perth today?
- (2) If so, will he say when such legislation will be introduced?
- (3) Have officers of the Police Force inspected the shop; and, if so, are those persons operating the shop acting within the present laws?

Mr. **J. T. TONKIN** replied:

- (1) to (3) It is the intention of the Government to do everything in its power to prevent the shop from operating. An examination of the situation shows quite clearly that the law in Victoria does not permit such a shop to operate. That is the reason there is no such shop in Victoria and contrary to the reason given by the proprietor who is opening such a shop in Western Australia; namely, that suitable premises were not available. The police did visit the shop with a view to seeing what was on sale and I am informed they took possession of some of the material. The Government will proceed with amending legislation as early as possible to stop this blot on Western Australia from continuing for one hour longer than we can prevent it.

MINING BILL

Leave to Introduce

Mr. **J. T. TONKIN** (Melville—Premier) [3.47 p.m.]: In order to preserve the privilege of the House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for "An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law relating to Mining and for incidental and other purposes."

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. **J. T. Tonkin** (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) [3.48 p.m.]: Accompanied by members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His

Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

Mr. **BROWN** (Merredin-Yilgarn) [3.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

The Tonkin Ministry has been in operation for one year only, and at the outset I thank the Premier for assisting me by including remarks that I intended to make during my speech this afternoon in his answers to questions without notice.

I refer, of course, to the financial stability of the State of Western Australia; and when one talks of the financial stability one reflects on the present unemployment situation in Western Australia. From the point of view of those in the rural community it can be said that despite this serious unemployment position there is opportunity within country regions. This has been brought about by our Government as a result of its attitude to country people and its support of decentralisation. I refer to the \$500,000 which has been made available to local authorities from the Local Authorities' Assistance Fund. This action has not received the publicity it deserves, but it has given renewed confidence to country people.

Furthermore, the Unemployment Benefit Fund created as a result of representation to the Commonwealth has been made available to country people, thus stimulating their interests and pursuits.

With the opportunity of increased wheat quotas—although sometimes I feel we must consider the abolition of this type of system—the improvements in the return to the woolgrower, the possibility of further abattoir facilities which will enable a satisfactory marketing of our mutton and lamb, coupled with, of course, the stability within the beef and pig industry, the rural interests of Western Australia are on an upward trend and will make their contribution to the economy of the State.

Water—its conservation and distribution—is one of the most important assets any citizen can have. With the completion of the existing comprehensive water

scheme, the Government is now faced with the proposition of embarking on future extensions. On this occasion I would like to make a plea for my own electorate, the water deficiencies of which were exemplified during the drought period. I trust that when the distribution takes effect it will not be as a result of political expediency but rather to give the citizens the opportunity to enjoy this commodity which they so rightly deserve.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. BROWN: When talking of water one naturally refers also to electricity and we trust that further extensions will be made to this facility.

We must look to the Commonwealth for extensions to its postal and telecommunications services, including the telephone system. Reference to the P.M.G. must include mention of the television services available. We recognise that in 1975 it is proposed colour television will be introduced into Western Australia. We as a Parliament have a responsibility to make representation to the Commonwealth Government for adequate coverage for those areas which are not already served but which deserve to be; and, furthermore, whilst the Commonwealth is embarking on the expenditure of these millions of dollars it has a responsibility to ensure not only that people receive a television picture but also that an adequate programme is available for them to enjoy.

Our party has always been known for its programme of social reform; this has been the basis of our existence. We are accepting the challenge and will establish a new security facility within the metropolitan area, a fact which recognises that though people in the Fremantle gaol, which is overcrowded, may not be entitled to the opportunities we enjoy, at least they are entitled to be treated as human beings. The Government's intention is, therefore, one to be commended fully. I am sure the people of Fremantle will wish to make representation to the Government to secure the area of land on which the existing gaol stands. I trust the area will be utilised for the benefit of the Port of Fremantle which is equal to any port in Australia. I hope the area will be made available to the people there as, similarly, the wireless hill area was made available to the people of the City of Melville.

I regret time precludes me from continuing further with the Address-in-Reply, but I feel one final matter is worthy of consideration. I refer to people who are responsible to the newspaper media, whether they be cadet reporters, journalists, leader writers, or editors. Their function in the State of Western Australia, for the impact it has on the people, is as great as if not greater than that of the Parliament in which we are assembled. In view of their responsibilities I respectfully suggest to them that they be productive

rather than provocative; that they alert people rather than alarm them; and be purposeful rather than patronising. This attitude would help to make our great State greater and we in Western Australia would lead the way.

MR. LAPHAM (Karrinyup) [3.58 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [3.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.00 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 15th March, 1972

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (19): ON NOTICE

1.

TAXES

Increases

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

Can the people of Western Australia expect 1972-73 to be free from further impost of State taxation?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

It was reported in *The Australian*, Friday, 10th March, 1972, that in the financial year 1970-71 according to figures released by the Commonwealth Statistician, State and Local Government taxes for each person rose in every State except Western Australia in which State there was a fall of \$2.47. The people of Western Australia can expect that the Government will do its utmost to maintain such an excellent record.

2.

STATE FINANCE

Additional Commonwealth Grants for Works and Housing

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

(1) What additional moneys for assistance to the State's works and housing programme were granted to Western Australia at the recent Premiers' Conference?