

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th April, 1979

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

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

### *Alteration: Petition*

**MR HARMAN** (Maylands) [2.16 p.m.]: I have a petition signed by 61 persons which reads as follows—

We the undersigned teachers of the Maylands electorate object to the proposed alterations to the school year as contained in amendments to Regulations 171 and 193 of the Education Act 1928-1977 and published in the Government Gazette of the 29th September 1978.

We ask that the school year return to the status quo prior to the introduction of the amendments mentioned above.

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

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 10.*

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

### *Alteration: Petition*

**MR H. D. EVANS** (Warren) [2.17 p.m.]: I have a petition from teachers at the Northcliffe High School which reads as follows—

We the undersigned teachers of NORTHCLIFFE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL object to the proposed alterations to the school year as contained in amendments to Regulations 171 and 193 of the Education Act 1928-1977 and published in the Government Gazette of the 29th September 1978.

We ask that the school year return to the status quo prior to the introduction of the amendments mentioned above.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest

consideration, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I have similar petitions from the Yornup Primary School, the Pemberton District High School, the Manjimup Senior High School, the Bridgetown High School, the Walpole Primary School, and the Chowrup Primary School.

In all the petitions contain 59 signatures and I certify that they conform with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that those petitions be brought to the Table of the House. I imagine there may be petitions similar to those already presented and I ask the co-operation of members simply to indicate their wish to present a petition to the House but to refrain from reading the body of the petition. Too much of the time of the House would be taken up otherwise.

*See petition No. 11.*

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

### *Alteration: Petition*

**MR CLARKO** (Karrinyup) [2.18 p.m.]: I present a petition from 74 schoolteachers from within and without my electorate. The preamble and body of the petition are identical with those already presented. I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 12.*

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

### *Alteration: Petition*

**MR McPHARLIN** (Mt. Marshall) [2.19 p.m.]: I have a petition which is similar to those already presented to the House. It bears 46 signatures and conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 13.*

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

### *Alteration: Petition*

**MR T. D. EVANS** (Kalgoorlie) [2.20 p.m.]: I have a petition signed by 26 people from the goldfields. Its contents and form are similar to those already presented. I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 14.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR COWAN (Merredin) [2.21 p.m.]: I have a petition which relates to the same matter as previous petitions presented today referring to the regulations which have been mentioned in the Education Act. I have certified that the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 15.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR McIVER (Avon) [2.22 p.m.]: I have a petition similar to the previous petitions and bearing the signatures of 41 persons from the Avon electorate. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 16.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch) [2.23 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in terms similar to those already presented and bearing 98 signatures. It conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 17.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [2.24 p.m.]: I too have a petition in similar terms from 42 residents of Western Australia. It appears to conform with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 18.*

### *Point of Order*

Mr SKIDMORE: I should like to ask for clarification in relation to the petitions presented. I have looked at the petitions and I believe that each of the 15 petitions I have is an individual petition, because the area covered by each one is different. It appears that, to be correctly presented to the House, each petition should be dealt with separately.

The SPEAKER: The member for Warren adopted the type of approach I suggest the member for Swan should follow. The member for Warren indicated how the petitions differed from one another by referring to the areas from which they came. I ask the member for Swan to adopt a similar procedure when he presents his petitions.

Mr Sibson: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: I was going to call on the member for Swan.

Mr Skidmore: I did not intend to present my petitions. I was simply seeking clarification.

### *Petitions Resumed*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [2.25 p.m.]: This petition contains 66 signatures from the staff of schools in my electorate. It prays as follows—

... that the school year return to the status quo prior to the introduction of the amendments being proposed alterations to the school year as contained in regulations 171 and 193 of the Education Act 1928-77 and published in the Government Gazette of the 29th September 1978.

Mr Bryce: I suggest we need amplification in the back-benches.

Mr SIBSON: To continue—

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

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of this House and I have certified accordingly.

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

*See petition No. 19.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

#### *Alteration: Petition*

MR TAYLOR (Cockburn) [2.26 p.m.]: I also

have similar petitions from the following schools—

Orelia Primary School  
South Coogee Primary School  
Coogee Primary School  
Parmelia Pre-School  
Baldivis Primary School

They contain a total of 20 signatures. I certify that the petitions conform with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 20.*

### JETTY: BUSSELTON

*Lottery to Finance Repair: Petition*

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [2.27 p.m.]: I have a different petition which contains 79 signatures and reads as follows—

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

We, the undersigned citizens of W.A., being aware of the poor condition of the Busselton jetty humbly pray that your Government takes steps to institute legislation permitting an annual lottery to be held to help finance repairs of this jetty.

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

I certify that the petition is in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 21.*

### EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

*Alteration: Petition*

MR BARNETT (Rockingham) [2.28 p.m.]: I have a petition from teachers from the following schools within my electorate—

Bungaree Primary School  
Cooloongup Primary School  
Safety Bay Primary School  
Rockingham Senior High School (3)  
Rockingham Beach Primary School  
Warnbro Primary School

The teachers are objecting to the proposed alterations to the school year. The petition is couched in terms similar to the previous petitions

today, except for the petition presented by the member for Vasse. It contains 126 signatures and I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 22.*

### WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT AREAS: SALINITY AND LAND CLEARING

*Motion for Appointment of Select Committee:  
Standing Orders Suspension*

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [2.28 p.m.]: I move, without notice—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Member for Warren to move Notice of Motion 3, standing on the Notice Paper in his name, forthwith and to enable the aforesaid business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

I am moving this motion in accordance with Standing Order No. 420, which provides for the suspension of Standing Orders in matters of urgency, particularly in matters of public urgency. I understand that Standing Order No. 420 allows this to be done with the concurrence of the majority of members.

Notice of Motion No. 3 on the Notice Paper, in the name of the member for Warren reads as follows—

That a Select Committee be set up to examine and report upon and make recommendations regarding—

- (1) the probable consequences and problems to individual farmers, Shire Councils and communities arising from the Government's amendment to the Country Areas Water Supply Act which introduced controls on clearing from 15th December, 1978 to the following areas—

- (i) the Mundaring Weir catchment area;
- (ii) the Denmark River catchment area;
- (iii) the Kent River water reserve;
- (iv) the Warren River water reserve;

- (2) the various alternative methods of controlling salt levels in Western Australia's rivers which may exist in addition to the curtailment of clearing;
- (3) the advisability of promoting an international symposium to bring together the most authoritative information on overcoming problems of salt encroachment and restoration; and
- (4) the provision of adequate compensation where resumptions and banning of clearing have affected viability of properties.

Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, my reasons for moving this motion and why I believe there is a great urgency in regard to it.

Firstly, I should like to remind the House that on Tuesday last we took the precaution of suspending Standing Orders in order that the House might deal with a particular matter which was in dispute at that time. The clear inference from the Government's attitude at that time was that the matter was urgent, it needed attention there and then, and the only way to resolve the situation was by legislation. The Government decided that we should deal with a Bill forthwith, which would allegedly overcome some of the difficulties being encountered.

We all know what transpired. We are also aware that I told the House there was no urgency on that particular issue, because one of the matters in dispute had been settled and that within 24 hours of the Government's moving the second strike would be over. The Government did not believe this. Subsequent events—

#### *Speaker's Ruling*

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to resume his seat. In the few minutes he has been talking I have had the opportunity to examine the position—to see whether or not he is in order in moving such a motion. I find there are clear indications contained in precedents—one case in 1959 and another case in 1962—when Speakers have ruled out of order such a motion. Against that background I find I must rule out of order the move made by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DAVIES: You have given me the precedent, Mr Speaker, but you have not quoted the reasons for it. I do not know the reasons. Are you able to tell me, briefly, so that I will know whether or not to disagree with your ruling?

The SPEAKER: Perhaps I should read to you what Speaker Hearman had to say on the 9th July, 1959. It reads as follows—

I understand that the hon. member is endeavouring to have the motion standing in his name, as No. 7 on the notice paper, given priority over all other notices of motion.

What it really amounts to is that the member for East Perth is endeavouring to anticipate notice of motion No. 7 on today's notice paper. I can sympathise with the hon. member's desire to bring this matter speedily before the House; but unfortunately the rules of the House, supported by May's *Parliamentary Practice*, do not allow any such anticipation. The only course that is open to the member for East Perth is that which he has already taken; namely, to endeavour to arrange this matter with the Leader of the House; or else he could ventilate the matter—though perhaps not so satisfactorily to himself—by a motion for the adjournment of the House; or by debating the adjournment.

But unfortunately the time-honoured procedure is such that I cannot permit this motion to be debated without notice. I am, however, in the hands of the House, and the matter must rest there. I must rule this motion without notice out of order, as it already appears on the notice paper.

#### **WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT AREAS: SALINITY AND LAND CLEARING**

##### *Motion: Standing Orders Suspension*

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [2.33 p.m.]: It seems that a similar situation existed whereby some priority was sought on that occasion to bring on something which already appeared on the notice paper. Therefore, if I am unable to take the action I proposed, I move, without notice—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Member for Warren to move "that this House requests the Government to give urgent consideration to the plight of farmers affected by its clearing bans and to take steps to alleviate their plight" and to enable the aforesaid business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

I think you will appreciate, Mr Speaker, the position is quite different. This is a new motion I

am presenting to the House. I have some copies of the motion which I will have distributed.

This new motion stresses the urgency of the position which has arisen; the urgency of the matter was brought home to me very forcibly this morning when a deputation waited on me in my office. What we are asking is that the member for Warren be given permission to move a motion as follows—

That this House requests the Government to give urgent consideration to the plight of farmers affected by its clearing bans and to take steps to alleviate their plight.

As I have said, the matter is urgent when people are involved, and the people in this situation are most assuredly involved. I do not want to repeat what I had already started to say because the same remarks about the urgency of the situation apply in relation to the motion I am now moving as applied to the move I intended to make—or sought to make—to bring up notice of motion No. 3 which is already on the Notice Paper.

I feel the Premier would not be agreeable to bringing up that notice of motion and, therefore, I had to take it upon myself, in some other way, to bring to the notice of the Parliament the serious and urgent situation which is developing. It is serious and urgent because it will develop quite easily into a confrontation. I believe the farmers, despite what the Government has said, have indicated that after the 30th June they will not be prepared to abide by any bans. Indeed, they will go on with their clearing and take the consequences.

This, of course, is a clear indication of the Government's intention to let develop another situation of confrontation. I do not think the Government would want to develop confrontation with the farmers. I can understand the Government taking action against the workers and against the trade unionists, but I think that on occasions such as this the Government would seek to avoid confrontation.

We could follow the normal process, and debate the matter in due course, but it is probable we would be lucky to have it brought forward for debate before the autumn session of Parliament concludes. It has been indicated I think—if not publicly then certainly each and every member knows—that the Government would like to conclude possibly by the 18th May. We were to have the first week of the school holidays off, but because of a CPA meeting here, which requires the use of Parliament House—and you, Mr Speaker, and the President, have generously allowed the conference to use the Chamber—we

will have the second week of the school holidays off. That means we will be well into June if we do come back.

I suggest the average time for the Address-in-Reply is about six weeks. We will be lucky, indeed, to get the Address-in-Reply out of the way before the autumn session adjourns. I understand that the Premier is thinking of going overseas and he would clearly like to know what Parliament might be doing.

Sir Charles Court: No.

Mr DAVIES: Would the Premier like to bet?

I think we all appreciate that the motion on the Notice Paper will not be debated before the adjournment, and even if it were debated and the House agreed to appoint a Select Committee, that Select Committee would be unable to complete its inquiries before the 30th June. That is the crisis date and that is why action must be taken at the present time.

The comment has been that the Government is already acting and there is no need for Parliament to confirm that action. I say the Government's actions are not apparent. This Parliament has every right, and a responsibility, to concern itself with what might happen.

After I had spoken to the deputation this morning, I became concerned—the farmers most certainly are concerned—that there has been no indication that the Government intends to do anything which is likely to help the farmers. We know the situation under which the bans were brought into operation, and I do not want to canvass them at the present time. I do know that because of the manner in which the bans were imposed many people have been seriously affected. For instance, I was told of a farmer who, because beef prices were rising a little, was able to put a deposit on a bulldozer. He put the deposit on the bulldozer because he had orders well ahead for clearing land. However, every single order has been cancelled. The man has been left with a brand new bulldozer, a large debt, and no work.

That is only one single instance of how the bans are affecting the farmers and the towns. The bans do not affect only the individual farmers; there are side issues which relate to them and those side issues affect the very towns in and around the farming areas.

I certainly am not going to say that I am an expert on farming matters, or on this particular issue. I am quite certain there are other members in the House who can more forcibly describe the situation which has developed because of the bans. There are a number of National Party members. I do not know whether we will hear

from the National Country Party members because they have been party to the procedures all along.

I understand that at a meeting in Manjimup recently the Minister for Works was given a submission by the people he met. The people who presented that serious and detailed submission to the Minister were told that it would be discussed with them, and that it would receive every consideration. Within a very short time—I think only a matter of days—they received a reply stating that their representations had been rejected. That occurred despite the fact that the Minister gave them a clear undertaking, at the meeting, that the submission would receive every consideration.

So people are being affected, livelihoods are being affected, and the action being taken by the Government, if any, is not apparent to this House at the present time.

I want to repeat that on Tuesday of this week the Government thought it necessary to take particular action because allegedly—and I repeat, "allegedly"—people were being affected by shortages of certain commodities. I want to reiterate: I told the Government that within 24 hours those strikes, about which it was legislating with great concern, would be over. I was told that I did not know what I was talking about.

Mr Laurance: You were not prepared to guarantee it.

Mr DAVIES: Subsequent events proved me to have been 100 per cent correct.

Mr Laurance: A word from you and they do as they like.

Mr DAVIES: Indeed, before the legislation had completed its passage through this Parliament, the strikes were over.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr DAVIES: Did not that make the Government look foolish?

Mr Laurance: One word from you and the union does as it pleases.

Mr DAVIES: There is not the slightest doubt about it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McIver: The Minister knew it too.

Mr T. H. Jones: You made fools of yourselves.

Mr DAVIES: The reason the strikes may not have been settled was that the Government took the action—

The SPEAKER: Order! Would the Leader of the Opposition resume his seat? I ask the House to come to order, and I particularly ask members to refrain from cross-Chamber exchanges. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DAVIES: Thank you, sir. The egg strike was over, and if the transport workers' strike had not been settled on the Wednesday morning, the reason for this would have been the Government's precipitous action. According to the news report, some of the strikers felt they should remain on strike simply because of the action taken by the Government—exactly what we said would happen. As I said, the Government is not concerned with conciliation, communication, and consensus. All it knows is confrontation.

It is quite apparent that we will see confrontation from the farmers if something is not done to assure them that there can be reasonable clearing of land, or to let them know quite clearly and distinctly what the position is. People are being affected. If we wait for the motion on the Notice Paper to be debated, it will be far too late. This matter should be discussed at this time so that the Press, the public, and indeed anyone interested—and there are plenty of interested people—can know what the Government's intentions are. As yet the Government has shown scant interest in the matter. It has not satisfied in any way the people who are being affected. They want to know just what the position is.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [2.43 p.m.]: As the Leader of the Opposition has stated, there is more than sufficient reason for treating this as a matter of urgency. There is certainly far more reason for a suspension of Standing Orders in this case than there was to introduce the legislation that caused such a furor on Tuesday.

I would like to indicate to the House that this matter has arisen and has been precipitated by a deputation of senior members of the Farmers' Union who represent those individuals in the affected areas.

Mr Blaikie: What areas do they come from?

Mr H. D. EVANS: These were executives of the union, representing the affected farmers who reside in catchment areas which have been made subject to clearing controls, which are actually clearing bans.

This situation arose because of the reply of the Minister for Works to a submission presented to him at Manjimup some four weeks ago at a well-attended public meeting. At that meeting comprehensive documents were presented to the Minister, and in all fairness to him, he could not have been expected to reply to the submission at

that time, but he gave an undertaking that it would be evaluated without delay. I would like to quote from the verbatim report of the speech that he made. He said—

I would be prepared to accept it—

He is referring to the submission. To continue—

—as a very suitable document for a commencement of reasonable discussion. Indeed, there is no need to go through it point by point . . . .

The Minister has now replied. However, that was his attitude at the time and alas and alack, he has not undertaken to endeavour to precipitate any discussion of the sort that will be necessary to resolve the difficulty.

In his reply to the Farmers' Union, the Minister made several utterances rejecting, almost in their entirety, the proposals put to him. As a consequence, the Farmers' Union is now in the situation where it feels its members have been dealt with unsatisfactorily and that the Minister is not intending to adopt the recommendations or the suggestions contained in the submission. Indeed, he has given only very limited cause for optimism. He has stated that he rejected the submission put by the Farmers' Union because the proposal required virtually the repeal of the 1978 amending Bill and that would be quite unacceptable. The Government has put itself in such a position that it cannot repeal the legislation now. If it did take that course, it does not require a very great intellect to understand that every bulldozer in the south-west would be out on the catchment areas' field. We know that would happen, and so the Government has lost an opportunity for flexibility and control of the situation. The Minister went on to say—

If further amendments are necessary they will be introduced only after a full and rational consultation with all parties has been possible.

When does he intend to start these full discussions? He has virtually rejected the Farmers' Union out of hand, and the Farmers' Union is representing the people concerned. This is the reason for part of the frustration.

I do not have the time to go into the submission and the reply in detail, but I wished to relate what had occurred. One thing that struck me was that although a large amount of field study and research into farmland salinity has been carried out over the past 50 years by the Department of Agriculture, and also there has been involvement by the CSIRO in recent years, the day before yesterday, in reply to questions, the Minister for Agriculture indicated that not one single

experimentation was introduced in the catchment areas of the south where these bans were introduced.

This indicates a total absence of research before the legislation was introduced. The Government did not even know the names of the people in the catchment areas.

Sir Charles Court: Are you going to tell us something about the reasons for urgency? You have not got around to that yet. You are dealing with the motion, and not the request for suspension.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The urgency has arisen because of the absence of research, and the blame for this can be sheeted home to the Government. This will be even more clearly demonstrated as we proceed. The crass stupidity of the Government has brought about the situation of urgency. It is fairly obvious that the rejection of the Farmers' Union submission has caused great frustration. There is urgency for conciliation, firstly, to redress the injustice of the situation faced by hundreds of farmers in the catchment areas. Conciliation has been denied them. This is one of the reasons for urgency.

I would like to point out the nature of the injustice suffered by the people directly affected.

It must be remembered that farmers were encouraged to take up this new land—the "one million acres a year" syndrome. I have some interesting newspaper cuttings, one of which is from *The Sunday Times*, setting out the very bold and brash claims of the then Government about releasing one million acres of new land each year for farming.

Why should these farmers who at that time were encouraged to take up land now be called upon to bear the full brunt of a change in policy?

Sir Charles Court: When are you going to get around to telling us the real grounds for urgency? You are debating the motion.

Several members interjected.

Sir Charles Court: We want to know what it is all about.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: We want to hear what he has to say on the matter, that is all.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr H. D. EVANS: Mr Speaker, having regard for the—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have called for order two or three times, and when I call for order I expect some recognition to be given to my call. The member for Warren.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Having regard for the approaching senility of the Premier that has been referred to in a previous debate, I will outline the problem again. There is a need for urgency, firstly to redress injustices caused by the change in clearing policy.

Farmers are becoming increasingly intolerant of this situation. At each of the public meetings I attended at Tone River, Perillup, Chowrup and Manjimup, a succession of farmers stood and declared they were going to clear, come what may. They are prepared to go to gaol for what they believe is an important principle. These utterances have been made both in public and in private.

I understand that today they have given the Farmers' Union executive until the 30th June to resolve this problem after which time, if no agreement has been reached, they will continue with their normal clearing programme and put the bulldozers in as they normally do at that time of the year. From about July onwards, farmers awaiting the wet season go ahead with their clearing programme, the extent of which generally is dictated by their financial position and the need for development. The bulldozer contractors are booked up and the indication from these people is that they are going to proceed.

Is that not sufficient cause to treat the matter with urgency to the extent of suspending Standing Orders? We saw Standing Orders suspended recently with far less justification.

This matter also is urgent from the point of view of the need to return to a position of sanity at some of the other catchment areas. I know for a fact that on the Donnelly River and Blackwood catchments, farmers are prepared to go ahead with clearing operations they would not otherwise be undertaking. This surely demonstrates a need for urgency.

I have been told some farmers in the areas already brought under control are still clearing. That is only hearsay, but I believe there is a good chance this could be the case. If it is a fact and unnecessary clearing is taking place on these catchment areas, surely the matter should be considered and resolved on a basis of urgency.

Those are the reasons for urgency, and I am sure that even the thickest of those opposite would be able to recognise them to be true, proper and valid reasons.

I return now to the cause of frustration—which also is a matter for urgent resolution—and the likelihood of a confrontation between farmers on the various catchments and the Government. Many of these farmers were encouraged to take up this land. I fail to see why the people who moved in and took the necessary judgments and risks at that time should be left out in the cold because the community has changed its attitude and approach to the problem of salinity. If a mistake were made at that time, it was not made by the farmers; it was made by the Government and, if we like, by the community itself and, therefore, becomes a proper responsibility of the community.

The individual farmers should not be required to accept the full loss which is incurred. Indeed, the losses may be great. In reply to a letter I wrote to the Minister, he indicated compensation will be payable on the basis of the value of the unimproved land in the area. That is not a proper basis for compensation. In the first instance, who will want land they cannot clear? The value of that land will decrease, and the value of the farms in the area also will be adversely affected.

This matter is of grave concern to the farmers in this area; it is an unsettling thought to realise that individual farmers could be completely ruined because of the ban on clearing. Hundreds of farmers will be affected to a greater or lesser degree; indeed, the productivity and development of their farms are at stake.

If the Government were to discuss compensation on a true and equitable basis, regard would need to be had for the revenue which would be produced over the years by farming cleared land. Further clearing has been denied these farmers and this ban could affect the total viability of individual farms.

I cite as just one instance the case of a man in his late twenties with a wife and one infant child. He has been working as a shearing contractor. He has now broken the ties of his home and gone out on his own. Only 400 of the 1 200 acres of the property he has purchased are cleared and if he is not permitted to clear further land, there is no way he is going to be viable. He has upgraded the house on the property to an adequate standard, built a shearing shed of the required size and upgraded fences and yards. If that young man is going to be simply handed a cheque for the land he cannot clear on the basis of its unimproved capital value there is no way he will be able to continue farming.

These are the sorts of circumstances that have arisen and which demonstrate the nature of the



injustice which exists. It is a new problem and one for which the community must accept responsibility.

It may be suggested that the Minister is taking certain action which will alleviate the position. It is true that in some small way he has altered his original declarations—they were nothing short of declarations—on an administrative basis. They have been modified to the extent that he recognises some anomalies and problems do exist.

For example, the Minister is going to allow a committee to bring forward recommendations when it comes to assessing whether or not clearing can proceed. He has also zoned at least two water catchment areas, creating four zones on the Warren and three on the Kent. The Minister has also indicated he intends to allow an on-going committee to monitor research into saltation and restoration in the same way as the Hunt committee is examining the wood chip industry. He has also indicated he may appoint a consultant to overview the situation.

Endeavours have been made to get the various Government departments to act harmoniously and in unison, but to date there is no indication as to whether there is to be an independent consultant, who he will be, what his qualifications will be, and whether he will be satisfactory.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order! I ask the member to relate his comments to the motion.

Mr H. D. EVANS: If I have been remiss in doing so I shall be more careful because we are discussing a vitally important issue. I come back to the need for urgency in redressing all these injustices. These injustices stem from a total lack of research in the first instance to a total inequity in individuals bearing the responsibility. They should not be required to get to the stage of bankruptcy in some cases when it is a matter for the whole community to pick up the tab.

There is the confrontation aspect which will come to finality on the 30th June, the deadline for these bans. This is the view of the farmers of the area and not of the Farmers' Union. I attended a meeting called by the union at Manjimup and it was resolved that a motion be adopted to confront the Government and to disregard the legislation and proceed with clearing as though the amendment had not been brought down. The President of the Farmers' Union did a sterling job in defusing what was an explosive situation. He said that if the farmers wished to proceed with that motion they would have to find another president because under him a policy of

confrontation of that sort was not to be adopted by the union.

However, this is not the view of the farmers involved who are living in the catchment area in the electorates of Stirling and Warren. Because of this there is a need for urgency, as I have demonstrated. I point out, too, that anything the amendment achieved in bringing about clearing bans has been lost because farmers in other catchment areas know the Government has power to include other catchment areas simply by writing to the Government Printer. As I have said, I know of individuals in the Donnelly and Blackwood catchment areas who are proceeding with clearing at a rate faster than otherwise would have been the case because of the stupidity of the Government and the steps it has taken without research and consideration.

As a consequence, what I said when the amendment was before the House, that there would be great problems which could never be resolved, was certainly a moment of prophetic clarity. The Government has brought this problem down on its own head and it serves it right. The problem is not resolved.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [3.03 p.m.]: The object of the Opposition in moving this motion without notice is very clear. It is a straightout political stunt and it is not unusual—

Mr H. D. EVANS: Complete rubbish! You know the motion on the Notice Paper cannot come to fruition before the deadline date.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I was about to say it is not unusual for Oppositions to do this sort of thing. It is regarded as a tactic intended to embarrass the Government. It is not intended to achieve results because—

Mr Davies: Yes it is.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —the member knows that even if the motion were passed it would not achieve any more than is being achieved now.

Mr H. D. EVANS: What has been achieved? Don't talk rubbish.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Keep calm. We do not want the member to have a heart attack. When one looks at the motion one sees the shallowness of it all. Apparently the Farmers' Union executive waited on the Leader of the Opposition this morning and the Opposition has rallied around and said, "Goody goody". This is achieved to get headlines and to show the Opposition as the farmers' friend. The chances of the ALP convincing the farmers that it is their friend is nil.

Mr Bryce: Keep showing them your arrogance and we will be pleased.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It has been claimed that because the Government took action on Tuesday the ALP has a comparable case. It has not. The action taken on Tuesday was extremely successful.

Mr B. T. Burke: You ended up with egg on your face.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was extremely successful and quite contrary to the predictions of the Leader of the Opposition who said that if we passed the legislation we would have never-ending strife. The people involved could not get the dispute settled fast enough.

Mr H. D. Evans: It was finished before your legislation came through.

### *Point of Order*

Mr DAVIES: I ask the Premier to withdraw the statement that I said we would have never-ending strikes if that legislation went through. That is completely untrue. He knows it and unless he can prove it and show me where I said that, I ask that he withdraw his statement. It is a reflection on what I think of the trade union movement.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): There need be no withdrawal as the words were not unparliamentary.

Mr Davies: They were untrue, though.

### *Debate Resumed*

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition should read the import of his remarks, as it was a question of exacerbation.

Mr Davies: You know that is not true. You did not speak during the debate; you did not have the courage.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I introduced the motion.

Mr Davies: You did not say one word; you read the motion; you did not open your mouth; you did not have the stomach.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I took full responsibility for it.

Mr Davies: You did not say one word. That is an indication of the man's courage. What rubbish!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition should stop being childish for a change.

Mr Davies: Why not start being courageous?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I took full responsibility for what was done.

Mr Davies: You were not game enough to enter the debate; *Hansard* will show that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition is looking childish in the extreme.

Mr Davies: Not one word.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: This motion and the circumstances surrounding it are nothing like the reasons we had to move on Tuesday.

Mr Barnett: You had better sit down; you are getting too old to stand up for too long.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The motion reads as follows—

That this House request the Government to give urgent consideration to the plight of farmers affected by its clearing bans—

This has and is being done. The farmers and the Farmers' Union executive know it.

Mr Stephens: You fooled a lot of farmers.

Sir CHARLES COURT: To continue—

—and to take steps to alleviate their plight—

If the honourable member who moved the motion or his leader can give me a case of where there is any emergent circumstance I assure them it will be dealt with immediately.

Mr H. D. Evans: I could quote dozens; I was waiting for a chance to do so in the motion.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Warren could not give a case of an emergent circumstance where the Minister and his staff have not dealt with it on request. I come back to the motion which is just a straight out, cheap, political stunt using the farmers as a ploy. The motion requests the Government to give urgent consideration to the plight of farmers affected by its clearing bans. Nothing in this motion will change the present situation. The motion asks that we take steps to alleviate the farmers' plight. If there are any emergent cases let us hear about them. I have made an offer to the President of the Farmers' Union to be available at any time if he wants to discuss the techniques of this matter and the procedures that should be followed. He knows he has only to pick up the telephone and he will get an appointment in a matter of hours, if not minutes.

Mr H. D. Evans: Nothing can be done about it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I made a proposal to the Farmers' Union because there were two phases in this matter which were set out clearly.

One relates to the more specific problems of the area under consideration and the other to the much broader and vital question in terms of the longer term picture for farming in this State and the overall question of salinity. I have made it clear to the union that we intend to deal with specific cases as a matter of priority and deal with the broader issue in an entirely different way.

It amazes me that all of a sudden, because the honourable member has received a deputation from the Farmers' Union executive, this matter is to be the subject of a stunt motion in Parliament today.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is not a stunt motion. The need for urgency has been highlighted by the rejection of the submission by the Farmers' Union Secretary.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The proposition has been submitted that some farmers in that area have made a threat to the Government and the community that if they do not get their wishes granted by the 30th June—

Mr H. D. Evans: They have done it publicly.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —they will defy the law—or the bans, which is the same thing—and will take the law into their own hands. I know farmers well enough to be sure they would be reluctant to do that when there is a body available to them which they can consult and from which they can get some decision and action.

Mr H. D. Evans: They cannot. That is the trouble. They are not getting it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Opposition does not know what has been done.

Mr Davies: We do.

Mr H. D. Evans: They have not done a thing. The farmers have nowhere to turn.

Sir CHARLES COURT: All the honourable member does is yap, yap, yap.

Mr H. D. Evans: You do not like it. You are the biggest stunt man we have had.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The fact is that an appeal body has been established by the Minister—

Mr H. D. Evans: Appeal body!

Mr B. T. Burke: Who is on it—the Minister and the Premier?

Sir CHARLES COURT: —in a sensible way so that if farmers feel aggrieved because they are not permitted to clear, they can take their cases to it.

Mr H. D. Evans: But that body will turn to the guidelines which have been drawn up already.

Sir CHARLES COURT: All the farmers wanted when they first made representations was someone other than the Minister to whom they could appeal because at the time they felt it was a matter of appealing from Caesar unto Caesar. The Minister has established a successful appeal body to which the farmers can go and have their cases considered. That body will make the recommendations to the Minister. Therefore, it is not as though something has not been done. The honourable member himself mentioned a number of things which were being done and I remind him—

Mr H. D. Evans: He also mentioned how hopelessly inadequate they were.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —that he was a party to the legislation which brought about the original bans, and I cannot recall his opposing that legislation in the House.

Mr H. D. Evans: You had better have a look in *Hansard*.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I understand the honourable member has had this matter raised with him at some meetings in the country and he was not able to convince the farmers that he had opposed the legislation.

Several members interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I ask him outright: Did he or did he not oppose the legislation?

Mr Davies: Have a look in *Hansard*.

Mr H. D. Evans: Have a look in *Hansard*. The record will show it.

Mr B. T. Burke: Every time he looks in *Hansard*, he misquotes it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Did he vote against the Bill?

Several members interjected.

Mr H. D. Evans: Of course I did not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Did the honourable member oppose the Bill itself?

Mr H. D. Evans: In my speech I opposed it, and I told you what would happen.

Mr B. T. Burke: You have your answer. He said he did.

Sir CHARLES COURT: One or two farmers who raised the matter with me had read the member's comments to see whether he did oppose the Bill, and they have formed the same opinion I did, which is that he did not. However, I will read his comments with great interest.

Mr Davies: It is in the record.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member is saying he opposed the Bill.

Mr H. D. Evans: I opposed the objectives.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member has said he opposed the Bill, but I cannot recall a dissenting voice on that particular legislation.

Mr H. D. Evans: But you heard quite a lot of criticism of the Government. I criticised it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We have a very simple solution. We can look in *Hansard* to ascertain what the honourable member said.

Mr Skidmore: Why don't you shut up then and look?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I come back to my point: This matter is being handled by the Government with all despatch.

Mr H. D. Evans: What are you doing?

Sir CHARLES COURT: There is ample facility available for the union at top level, local branch level, or by individual farmers—

Mr H. D. Evans: The Minister won't meet them.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —to enable them to talk to the Minister and staff and the executive know they can talk to me at any time they like about this matter. We cannot do any more than that and therefore the motion is exposed for what it is; that is, plain hypocrisy and a political stunt using a few farmers as a convenience.

Mr B. T. Burke: You ought to talk about stunt men.

Mr Davies: We will show your speech to the farmers.

Sir Charles Court: I hope you do, because I am going to.

Mr Davies: My word I will.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [3.15 p.m.]: I am disappointed the Premier has seen fit to ignore the motion—I should not say he has ignored it because he has certainly spoken against it—and I am disappointed he has seen fit not to realise the serious nature of the matter and the need for urgent action.

We have heard him comment that the Government is doing something. I suggest it is doing a lot of talk, but not taking much action, and this is what is concerning the farmers, certainly those in my electorate and, according to my knowledge, all the farmers in the areas affected by the legislation.

The National Party was also visited by the executive of the Farmers' Union who stressed the urgency of the matter—

Mr Bryce: I wonder if they bothered to visit the National Country Party.

Mr STEPHENS: —as a result of the rejection of their submission by the Minister for Works.

Mr Blaikie: Which areas did the representations come from?

Mr STEPHENS: It was the executive of the Farmers' Union.

Mr Blaikie: The senior members?

Mr STEPHENS: Yes.

Mr Blaikie interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Vasse, if he insists on interjecting and asking questions which are likely to be answered, to speak at a level to enable us to hear them.

Mr H. D. Evans: You aren't missing much!

Mr STEPHENS: I have a better suggestion. If he has so much to say, let him get up to speak!

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr B. T. Burke: He has corns on his backside!

Mr Blaikie: You haven't told us where the deputation came from.

Mr STEPHENS: The executive of the Farmers' Union.

Mr Blaikie: Do they represent salt-affected areas?

Mr H. D. Evans: The union represents all farmers.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr STEPHENS: I am glad that at long last the member for Vasse has seen the truth.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr STEPHENS: The interjectors are taking up my time. I would rather they took up their own time on their feet.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr STEPHENS: I was particularly pleased to hear the Premier when referring to the comment that the farmers will defy the legislation, used the word "ban". That is the first time the Government has admitted that the farmers are openly defying bans and that the legislation bans clearing. The Minister for Works at the meetings I have attended—the public meetings—has always said it is not a ban but that it is a control of clearing by licensing. Today we have had the admission from the Premier that there are bans and that is the point of view I hold because of the way the legislation has been administered. It has

been administered on the basis of banning of clearing.

In that respect I am disgusted that when the legislation was introduced Parliament was misled. We know the English language. When the legislation was introduced into the House it was held up as being legislation to regulate clearing by a licensing system.

Sir Charles Court: That is what it is.

Mr STEPHENS: The Premier just called it a ban, and that is what it is. If the Premier does not realise that he should get down into the country and listen to some of the affected farmers.

Sir Charles Court: Don't play with words.

Mr H. D. Evans: You say that!

Mr STEPHENS: I do not play with words. During the passage of that legislation through Parliament, no-one voted against it because we thought the legislation meant what was written in it.

A member: You thought?

Mr STEPHENS: It is reasonable to assume that members can read the English language and are aware of its normal meaning, as defined in the English dictionary. However, apparently this was not the case with the legislation under discussion.

A Bill was introduced designed to establish a licensing system to control clearing. If the legislation were administered in a reasonable manner along those lines, I doubt that the motion would be before the House. No doubt virtually every farmer in my electorate and those directly affected would accept some reasonable regulation. However, we do not have reasonable regulation, but a ban, and today the Premier has publicly admitted in this place that it is a ban.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk rot.

Mr STEPHENS: If the Premier looks at the *Hansard* report he will find he mentioned a ban. I wrote it down when he said it because it was the first time the Government had admitted that the legislation was designed to ban clearing, and that is the whole reason that the farmers are so upset. They know I did not oppose the legislation—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! As members know, I have just come into the Chair. The question before the Chair at the moment is whether the Standing Orders should be suspended. I think the member for Stirling should indicate his reasons for stating that the Standing Orders should be suspended. I ask the honorable member not to canvass the general subject.

Mr STEPHENS: I thought that in answering points made by the Premier I would be in order,

and at this stage I have done no more than answer those points.

Before coming to the points I want to make in supporting this motion, and to finish the point I was making with respect to the legislation, I would like to say that the legislation went through this Parliament with a minimum of explanation and with members of Parliament no doubt assuming the English language would have its normal usage and they could accept the legislation on that basis; but we were not told licences would not be granted. It was on the 2nd January this year, only a couple of months after the legislation went through this House, that two fairly senior officers of the Public Works Department said the licences would be refused, that farmers would appeal to the Minister, who would refuse their appeals, and they could get compensation. If senior members of the Public Service were aware of that, why was Parliament not informed of it? We could have debated the legislation on the basis that clearing would be banned.

Mr Bryce: It had to be done in that way so that the secret could be kept.

Mr STEPHENS: I am aware that I must confine my remarks to the motion before the House but I felt it was imperative that I answer the few points the Premier made.

The motion which the member for Warren wishes to move is—

That this House requests the Government to give urgent consideration to the plight of farmers affected by its clearing bans and to take steps to alleviate their plight.

Because of the seriousness of the matter it is essential that this Parliament give quick attention to the plight of the farmers.

I point out that this is nothing new. The National Party was aware of the serious plight of the farmers in the affected areas, and for that reason on the opening day of Parliament we gave notice of intention to introduce a Bill to amend the legislation. So this is not a gimmick or anything else brought about because the Farmers' Union suddenly approached the various parties. The National Party was aware of the problem and had taken steps to remedy it.

I am disappointed that the Premier has indicated the Government will oppose the suspension of Standing Orders to enable the plight of farmers in the affected areas to be considered. The farmers themselves realise the serious nature of the problem. A public meeting at Perillup was attended by over 300 farmers. A public meeting at Chowerup on the same evening

was attended by 300 farmers, and a meeting at Manjimup was attended by over 500 farmers. The Minister for Works was present at all those meetings and attempted to answer queries raised by the farmers. He was not in a position to answer the queries, which indicates that the legislation had not been given proper thought.

Perhaps I should not be surprised but we might have expected the member for Katanning to support this motion and urge the Premier to allow debate to take place. The Katanning electorate encompasses the Shire of Kojonup where some farmers are affected, and I would have thought the member for Katanning would be aware that farmers in his electorate were affected by the legislation. Farming is an important industry, and farmers in the affected areas must be given urgent consideration.

I remind the Premier that late last year the cannery at Albany was under threat and by a Cabinet direction fishermen were instructed to supply their fish to that cannery—quite a socialistic move, of course, but the Premier was prepared to act on behalf of one cannery in the interests of employment. I am now asking, in the interests of the farming community and because of the economic and social consequences of the action of the Government, that he act immediately to alleviate this problem.

The farming communities are being denuded quickly enough already, without action of this kind which will aggravate the situation. The problem has arisen because of the lack of reasonable research undertaken by this Government and previous Governments. The salinity problem has been with us for many years and successive Governments have failed to take action, but now, when it is virtually too late, this Government has come out and slammed the farmers, and Parliament should be given the opportunity to discuss the matter urgently and take reasonable action to assist the farmers in the affected areas.

I support the motion and ask that the Premier reconsider the matter so that we can get down to governing in the interests of all people in Western Australia and not misgoverning them.

**MR OLD** (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.27 p.m.]: I rise to oppose this procedural motion.

**Mr Stephens:** Surprise, surprise!

**Mr OLD:** If the matter in fact comes up for debate I will then give reasons why I consider the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee should not go forward as a matter of urgency.

**Mr Davies:** It is not a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee. We changed that. That was ruled out of order.

**Mr OLD:** What is required at this stage, as the Government realises, is action; and action is being taken, despite the allegations by the Opposition and the other opposition.

**Mr Jamieson:** Did you hear that back there?

**Mr OLD:** The Department of Agriculture has been very active in getting the facts and figures together, and only today I was presented with an assessment of most of the areas concerned. It may surprise some people to see—as undoubtedly they will see shortly—the amount of clearing percentage-wise in the various areas.

We are all concerned about the clearing restrictions and I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the fact that people in my own electorate have been affected has not escaped my notice. It has not been able to escape my notice. I am always pleased to see my electors and to stand by a decision to which I have been a party, unlike some people in this House who will support a Bill and then walk away saying they did not support it. I am quite aware of the situation.

I am also aware that some people are suffering severe hardship. There are one or two such people in my own area and I have discussed the matter with the Minister concerned. However, an allegation has been made by the member for Warren that the Department of Agriculture has taken no part in research in that catchment area.

**Mr H. D. Evans:** It has carried out not one single trial in that catchment area, as you said on Tuesday.

**Mr OLD:** That is correct. I also made the point that the clearing restrictions in the catchment area have to do with salinity in streams, as distinct from salt-affected land.

**Mr H. D. Evans:** How can you divorce the two?

**Mr OLD:** There is little salt-affected land in the areas we are talking about; if there is any such land, it is minimal and therefore does not require urgent research as is the case in other parts of Western Australia. I am surprised that when the member for Warren was the Minister for Agriculture no research was carried out into salinity in his electorate if, in fact, the matter is as urgent as he now claims it is.

**Mr H. D. Evans:** Six years have elapsed, and a lot of clearing has taken place.

**Mr OLD:** I do not know that a lot of clearing has occurred in six years.

**Mr H. D. Evans:** You will find there has been quite a lot.

Mr OLD: I will look into it. At no time has the Government given any indication other than that the clearing restrictions have been imposed because of stream salinity. What we need is action by experts, not by lay people.

Mr H. D. Evans: That is just what you haven't done.

Mr OLD: The member for Warren does not know what is being done. That is his problem; he does not take the trouble to find out. A great amount of research is being carried out by the Department of Agriculture. As I pointed out, the clearing restrictions have been introduced as a precaution against stream salinity, rather than farm salinity. Experience in the Wellington catchment area indicates that minimal hardship to farmers has been caused as a result of amalgamation of farms and compensation. If in fact people are being severely adversely affected, then I can assure the House the Government is keen to have their situations assessed.

To that end an appeals committee has been formed. It is chaired by Dr Morris Mulcahy of the Department of Conservation and Environment. The members are Mr Tom Smith of the Department of Agriculture about whom I have heard members in this House say he is the most expert person in Western Australia in respect of salt land; and Mr Ray Ward, a farmer of Cranbrook who is the President of the Cranbrook Shire. We want people suffering hardship to put forward an appeal so that the committee may consider the matter and make recommendations to the Minister.

I oppose the motion because I feel the various governmental departments have not been given a fair trial in respect of their efforts in catchment areas. I can assure the House that as far as I am concerned and as far as the Government, generally, is concerned, that will be done.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [3.34 p.m.]: I assure the Premier that this is not a political stunt. I remind members of what has transpired in the past. They would be aware that public meetings have been held at a number of centres in the catchment areas. Some meetings have been organised by the Farmers' Union. Recently I attended a meeting conducted by the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia to discuss this very problem.

I put it to the Premier that if the situation is satisfactory as far as farmers are concerned, why have they approached the Leader of the Opposition, and asked him to assist them? The Farmers' Union does not usually come to the Opposition, as Government members would know.

However, farmers have become frustrated because nothing has been done and many farmers do not know where they stand. This applies to farmers in the Wellington Dam catchment area in my electorate.

The Premier criticised my leader for moving the motion. However, the Farmers' Union and farmers generally have taken every action available to them. They have organised meetings at which the Minister for Works has been present, but still no satisfactory solution has been arrived at. So the farmers have turned to the Opposition.

What is worse is that a number of farmers will go broke unless early action is taken. Some farmers in the catchment areas do not have a viable operation, and they cannot become viable unless they undertake further clearing. They must either do that or go to the wall; and that is a plain statement of fact. That is the reason for the urgency in respect of this matter and the reason it should be debated forthwith in the Parliament.

Of course, farmers just outside the catchment area are clearing land as fast as they can because they fear they may be the next to be caught up. At the same time a number of clearing contractors are going to the wall. Those are basic facts, and it is no good the Premier saying we are playing politics, because the Farmers' Union is not happy with the Government.

What did the Farmers' Union say in its written submission to the Government dated the 1st March, 1979? I quote as follows—

The people farming in the affected areas find that they have operated under a delusion of the basic principles of democracy. It is necessary to remind the Government that an essential element of democracy is to consult with the groups of people to be affected; particularly where the livelihood and welfare of people are so adversely and disruptively threatened by legislation supported by insufficient scientific evidence.

Of course, that is in line with the thinking of the Opposition, because similar situations occurred last year. To mention only two, I refer to the matter of referable dams, something which was applied without consultation with farmers; and the matter of the off-road vehicles legislation. Those are only two examples, and I could go on and on.

The views expressed by the Farmers' Union in the document to which I have referred are supported wholeheartedly by the Opposition. The statements in the submission are statements of fact.

Therefore, this is not a matter of endeavouring to score political points. The Farmers' Union came to the Opposition as a last resort because it could not get any action from Government members. The Farmers' Union came to us in the hope that we would take some positive action in the Parliament to rectify the difficult situation in which farmers in catchment areas find themselves. This matter is far more urgent than the stupid motion the Government brought to the House on Tuesday afternoon—it is so urgent that the farmers have asked the Opposition to help them.

I know of a farmer in the electorate of the Minister for Agriculture who is going broke. Farmers have visited me to see if I can assist them, because unless they can clear more land their operations will not be viable. Government members are well aware that that is the situation.

It is all very well for the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture to say we are trying to score a political point; that is far from the truth. The Minister for Agriculture did say action would be taken by experts. It is quite apparent from that statement that Mr Whittington has been deprived of sufficient finance to put his system into effect in the Wellington area.

Sir Charles Court: He has not. Who told you that?

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Whittington has said that, and the member for Mt. Marshall would agree. That is why that member has given notice of a motion he intends to move.

Sir Charles Court: Who told you Mr Whittington had been denied finance?

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Whittington has been starved of finance for the Wellington Dam catchment area. He needs the finance to set up proper controls to overcome the salt problem.

Sir Charles Court: Who told you that? It is not true.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have spoken to Mr Whittington about it, and I have correspondence from him.

The Minister for Agriculture made a statement in Collie that all sorts of things would be done. Unfortunately, Mr Whittington has been starved of sufficient finance to establish the proper control. He has been denied the finance to conduct a proper feasibility study.

Of course, whilst these things have been going on with the CSIRO, I suggest there has been no shortage of money in the Forests Department and the Public Works Department in those areas.

However, this is the situation in which Mr Whittington finds himself.

There are problems I could mention by the dozen. I know of a situation where a young miner has worked most of his life to obtain sufficient finance to clear his land. He has now reached that pinnacle. He has never been away on a holiday. The sordid story is that although he wishes to go into farming, he cannot obtain a permit to clear the land so he can work his farm.

Of course, there are far worse problems than that. One of the worst features is that one cannot obtain a permit to clear scrub. I have objected to the Minister in relation to the plight of one farmer. Scrub has overgrown the farmer's pasture lands, but he cannot obtain a permit from the department to clear the scrub from his farm. Ultimately, the scrub will take over.

Because of the unavailability of pastures on his farm, that farmer will go out of business in a very short time. This is the story.

Of course, the Premier has the temerity to say, "You are trying to score technical points. It is not an urgent problem." Does the Premier think the Farmers' Union and farmers would be organising meetings if the matter was not urgent? Surely the members on the Government side of the House are not naive enough to suggest that this is a matter at which we should be laughing! If members opposite do not take the problem seriously, certainly the members on this side of the House do.

The farmers are supporting the Opposition in saying, "They are a dictatorial Government. No consultation is taking place at all." That clearly demonstrates that what we have been saying about the Government's attitude to people and organisations generally is spot on. Is it any wonder that we on this side of the House are attempting this afternoon to assist farmers with their problem?

Mr Davies: Have they had any meetings in Collie?

Mr T. H. JONES: I am just coming to that point. There was a meeting with Mr MacKinnon last year, but the meeting achieved nothing. Members of the Wellington Dam Catchment Area Committee were in attendance. They have asked me to support the member for Warren's motion because of the complete lack of action by the Government.

The situation is not clear. Whilst the Act prescribes that money ought to be made payable when farms are resumed, there is argument in relation to the value of the land. This question still has to be determined.



I wish to make it known to members of the Government that most of the members of the committee do not belong to the Labor Party, to the best of my knowledge. They are supporters of the Government. In the main, they are supporters of the Liberal Party and the National Country Party.

Mr H. D. Evans: They used to be, anyway.

Mr T. H. JONES: At the Wellington Dam catchment area meeting held in Collie, those attending were critical of the Government for its handling of this matter.

In view of the time, all I wish to say is that I am sure this is an urgent matter. The Premier cannot say that the Opposition is trying to score points. Surely the Minister must know that the Farmers' Union is concerned. Members of the Farmers' Union are going everywhere, trying to tell their story to people in the hope that some action will be taken. That is the reason they have resorted to the Labor Opposition today. I hope as a consequence of what we on this side of the House have said that members will take notice.

Mr Stephens: Next year they will resort to the ballot box.

Mr T. H. JONES: That will be a good idea.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.04 p.m.*

Mr T. H. JONES: During my remarks I hope I indicated that the Opposition is concerned particularly about the farmer and, more particularly, about the small farmer because there are a number of small farmers who have this problem in this State. They are the ones who are worried about the matter I have mentioned. This is not a politicking matter; it is serious. I would be pleased to hear the views of the other members of the National Party. I would be pleased to hear the views of members of the National Country Party also.

There are now two Opposition parties as referred to by the Leader of the National Country Party. At least we have found out the views of the Leader of the NCP in relation to his former colleagues who sat beside him in this Chamber at one time.

Mr Sodeman: Both have the same philosophies and policies too.

Mr T. H. JONES: We asked the Government to give further consideration to the plight of farmers and to alleviate it.

The motion moved is a reasonable one and we thought the Government would support it. It is right and proper, because if anyone has any knowledge at all of the situation, he would know the plight of the farmers in the affected areas. In view of the concern which has been spelt out so clearly in numerous areas in Western Australia, I hope the Government will change its attitude, appreciate the situation, and give immediate attention to the requests of the Opposition.

**MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [4.06 p.m.]:** In speaking to this motion I wish to indicate that I firmly believe the matter to which it refers to be very serious. I do not consider it to be a political gimmick. The farmers in the area are most concerned. Some of them are reaching the stage where they are becoming desperate. A friend of mine sold his farm in Dowerin and bought another in Cranbrook. Fifty per cent of the land had been cleared and he ran right into the clearing suspension. He telephoned me and was furious about the matter.

Mr Stephens: He telephoned me also on a few occasions.

Mr McPHARLIN: I have indicated clearly that we did not expect the Administration to act in the way in which it acted. The action to be taken by the Administration was never defined clearly.

Mr Tonkin: Misleading in the extreme.

Mr McPHARLIN: We expected the Administration to follow the same action which had been taken in the Wellington Dam catchment area. Instead of that the Water Resources Council, which is a responsible body, made the recommendation and the Government accepted it apparently without a great deal of investigation.

We all recognise the salinity problem and, as a farmer who has such a problem, I can assure the House that I have taken a serious view of it for many years. I have attended many field days, I have listened with a great deal of attention to departmental officers and Mr Whittington, and I am of the opinion that the matter is so urgent that it needs immediate action. It does not need delayed action; it needs immediate action. This motion requests the Government to recognise the urgency and to act immediately on the matter. The salinity problems with which we are faced are greater than many people realise. I draw the attention of members to an article on page 4 of the *Daily News* this afternoon. It relates to Bunbury and it says, "dam hit by salt". It goes on

to say that the Wellington Dam may be unsuitable for irrigation purposes soon, because of the rising salinity level.

Mr Davies: In today's paper?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is in today's paper. We have known it for years. This was the reason I took Mr Whittington to see the former Minister for Works (Mr O'Connor) and he agreed, after some discussion, to allow him to have a trial area in Batalling Creek which is a tributary to the dam. This was done because of the rising level of salinity.

I do not know whether members are aware that it is necessary to pull a plug out of the bottom of the Wellington Dam to get rid of the salt, because the water on the bottom is too salty to be used. We can use only the water on the top. Unfortunately the trial area was too small. It should have been 10 times bigger to give the trial a reasonable chance of success. Mr Whittington suffered a great deal of frustration.

Mr T. H. Jones: Do you believe he had sufficient finance to conduct a proper trial?

Mr McPHARLIN: I am saying the area for the trial was too small. In order to conduct a proper trial it should have been much bigger. The article in the *Daily News* goes on to give the levels of salinity. The figures are from the Public Works Department and a university professor says that tests in the United States show that water with a salinity level of 600 to 700 milligrams per litre can be harmful to agriculture. It comments further on the matter. It is a very serious and urgent problem when men of such calibre make comments of this nature.

The reason for my motion on the Notice Paper is to enable a thorough test to be carried out of the type of system advocated by Mr Whittington. It should be tested thoroughly on a large scale, because of the importance and urgency of the whole problem of salinity. I will have a great deal more to say about it when the motion comes before the House. I shall confine my remarks at the present time to the motion presently before the House and I will not go further into the matter which I would dearly love to do.

The Premier referred to a committee which has been appointed by the Minister. I believe it was very aptly described by the President of the Farmers' Union at the Farmers' Union

conference. Instead of appealing from Caesar to Caesar we must appeal now from Caesar to Caesar's wife. I believe that aptly describes the matter. As a person engaged in the industry and affected by salinity and salt encroachment, I speak with all the sincerity I can muster. As one who is associated with farmers who have been engaged all their lives in the industry, who have listened to all the advice available, and who have asked Mr Whittington to put in his interceptor banks and come back a second time to do more, I believe the trial should be a proper one. The people who condemn and knock Mr Whittington will certainly not get any change from me, because he is offering a system which is an alternative and is showing results.

This matter is urgent. It is so serious that it can result in bankruptcy for a number of farmers. If the methods which have been shown to be effective are applied, farmers will be able to continue to farm and control the salinity at the same time. Is not that what everybody wants? Everybody is looking for that.

I believe this motion is urgent. It is "now", not in a month's time, two months' time, or three months' time. The urgency is now, because of the needs of the farmers concerned.

Members need only ask themselves the question, "Why has the Wellington Dam become saline or salty?" It has become salty, because the controls are ineffective. The answer is very simple and I wonder why people do not think about it a little more. The controls are not effective.

Here is the opportunity to implement controls which are proving to be effective. The matter is more than urgent and it should be dealt with without delay. I would be remiss if I did not say that I believe this motion is not a gimmick. I will support it. It is serious and the advisers to the Government have not realised the urgency of it.

I believe the Government advisers are not as fully conversant with the farming community problems as they should be; they are not considering farmers to the degree they ought, because the very heritage and livelihood of farmers is being threatened.

I know the Government does not want to see the farmers go out of business, and does not want to see the farms fold up. We know that. But the Government fails to see the urgency of the situation. I hope the Premier and the Government will see it that way and give more positive consideration to the urgency of the matter before the House.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 22

Mr Barnett	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr Bertram	Mr McIver
Mr Bryce	Mr McPharlin
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Cowan	Mr Stephens
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Troy
Mr Harman	Mr Wilson
Mr Hodge	Mr Bateman

(Teller)

Noes 26

Mr Blaikie	Mr Nanovich
Mr Clarko	Mr Old
Sir Charles Court	Mr O'Neil
Mr Crane	Mr Ridge
Dr Dadour	Mr Rushton
Mr Grayden	Mr Sibson
Mr Grewar	Mr Sodeman
Mr Hassell	Mr Spriggs
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Tubby
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Watt
Mr Laurance	Mr Williams
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Young
Mr Mensaros	Mr Shalders

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Grill	Mr O'Connor
Mr Carr	Mrs Craig
Mr Jamieson	Mr Coyne

Question thus negatived.

Motion defeated.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act Amendment Bill.
2. Wildlife Conservation Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and read a first time.

### SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENTS BILL

#### Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary)  
[5.55 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Since 1902 Sunday entertainment has been regulated by a provision of the Police Act. This also extended to public entertainment on Christmas Day and Good Friday.

The practice of placing some restraint on public entertainment on those days identified with religious observance is, of course, not peculiar to Western Australia.

Mr Tonkin: What about Seventh Day Adventists? What do you have against them?

Mr O'NEIL: I support the view that this practice should continue, and that regard should be had for the preservation of good order, decency, and the avoidance of nuisance. Having said this, I am also mindful of a gradual change in social attitudes, and the fact that in other States and countries a less restrictive attitude has been adopted without causing offence. In 1978 a working party of Government officers examined the local position in relation to overseas and interstate laws and practice, and suggested changes.

Some of the recommendations have already been adopted by administrative action. For instance, it is now permitted that family film entertainment be provided on Sunday afternoons. Previously this form of entertainment was limited to evenings.

It is noticeable that the composition of afternoon audiences includes far more family groups than is the case with evening shows.

The Bill now presented is not a prescription for radical change. Rather, it is an attempt to simplify administration and to bring its operations under one Government department—the Chief Secretary's Department. Hitherto there has existed an untidy division of function involving the Chief Secretary's Department and the Police Department.

The core of the Bill is the provision which creates an offence if a person uses any place to conduct public entertainment for profit on a Sunday or on Christmas Day or Good Friday.

Functions connected with matters of public interest, including the arts, ethics, literature, science, or social duties, are exempted from control.

Other forms of entertainment promoted for profit may be permitted by the Minister, who may issue permission subject to conditions or limitations. Permission may be granted to an individual for a nominated performance or under a ministerial declaration giving a blanket approval to specified forms of entertainment.

There is power to cancel any permit or to vary the conditions under which it is held.

The Bill makes provision to repeal section 76H of the Police Act which currently regulates these matters.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr B. T. Burke.

*House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.*

# QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: DEPARTMENT

*"Western Australian Business Letter"*

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

In part (3) of question 128 on today's notice paper I asked, "What total costs are involved to the department in respect of this newsletter?" The Minister replied that it was purchased in bulk at 75.3c a copy. Could he tell me how many were purchased so that I may do the multiplication and work out the total cost, as asked for?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I do not think the Leader of the Opposition expects me to know off-hand the quantity purchased. The quantity varies and that is why I phrased my reply as I did. However, if he is interested in one particular distribution I will obtain the answer.

## HERBICIDE: 2,4-D

*Supplies and Price*

2. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

I apologise for not having given the Minister any prior notice of the question but the matter came to my notice only a short time ago. The question is as follows—

- (1) Is it a fact that there will be a 27½ per cent price rise, or any price rise, for 2,4-D Ester on Monday next or very shortly?
- (2) Is there any substance in the suggestion that one principal stock firm is holding large stocks of 2,4-D Ester and will not release any until after a pending price rise?
- (3) Will the Minister check available stocks of 2,4-D Ester at all stock firms and suppliers of chemicals in Western Australia as at today, and the supplies which are available for this season's requirements?

- (4) Is it a fact that a chemical factory in the Eastern States is closing down, which will lead to a shortage of 2,4-D Ester here if supplies presently held in Western Australia and supplies manufactured here are sold to the Eastern States to alleviate a shortage there?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (4) I do not think even the member for Moore would expect me to be able to answer that question off the top of my head. I have heard nothing about any rise in the price of 2,4-D. It is a matter on which I would not get any forward intelligence, anyhow. As for checking stocks, we have not been in the habit of doing so. I will investigate the matter and communicate with the honourable member, if he will give me the question in writing.

## FUEL: PETROL

*Marketing: Premier's View*

3. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Why has his view on petrol marketing, stated in a letter dated the 14th December, 1978, from the Deputy Premier on behalf of the Premier to the WA Automobile Chamber of Commerce and quoted in WAACC Service Letter No. 156, which supported the package of measures put forward by Mr Wal Fife, the Australian Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, now changed to one of no support for certain parts of the package, as indicated in his answer to question 21 on Tuesday?
- (2) Which Government departments or instrumentalities made submissions to the Government on the package of measures?
- (3) Does he agree with Mr Fife's assessment that all the components of the package of measures must be implemented if the package is to be successful?
- (4) What are the details of the submissions referred to in (2)?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) I must ask the honourable member to put the question on the notice paper. I have a fairly good memory but I cannot remember every letter I have sent. To the best of my

knowledge there has been no change in policy, but I will have a look at the letter to see what was said.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### *Metropolitan City Councils: Constitution*

4. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it a fact that at least three and possibly more city councils in the metropolitan area are incorrectly and therefore illegally constituted?
- (2) If so, how has the situation arisen and what are the consequences of such a state of affairs?
- (3) Can she indicate what action she is taking to resolve this particular problem?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) I request that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition put the question on notice. It is a matter of which I am aware, but because of the manner in which he has phrased the question I believe the answer needs to be quite precise, and for that reason I would appreciate notice of it and I will reply to it on Tuesday.

### HOUSING

#### *Interest Rates: Reductions*

5. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to my question 187 on today's Notice Paper, relating to proposed Government action to lower interest rates. I asked the Minister whether he would outline to the House the steps he would take to bring about lower interest rates. In his answer he referred to the interest rate subsidy scheme as one of the things the Government has done in this direction. My question is—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that under this scheme, which he says will lower interest rates, borrowers will in fact pay up to 5 per cent more

than is paid by borrowers who make application to and receive money from the State Housing Commission?

- (2) Further, when will he come to grips with his portfolio and provide this House and the public, generally, with some assurance about the interest rate and housing crisis which is becoming too much of a burden for people to bear?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) I indicated in answers to questions asked by the honourable member on the opening day of Parliament and again today the initiatives taken by the State Housing Commission in an effort to reduce interest rates for people in the lower-income brackets. They are obviously the people to whom he refers and for whom his party purports to have a special feeling; and they are the people for whom the present Government has a special feeling.

- (2) As for when I am going to come to grips with my portfolio, I indicate that I came to grips with it many months ago, and if he studies the situation I am positive he will find that this Government has done more to help people with housing problems than has any other Government in the history of Western Australia.

Mr Bryce: People cannot afford to buy houses.

### EDUCATION

#### *Student Guilds and the Australian Union of Students*

6. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it his intention to proceed with further legislation to amend the Student Guilds Act in this session?
- (2) If so, is he aware that the Guild of Undergraduates today voted not to pay affiliation fees to the Australian Union of Students?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) I do not understand the relevance of the second part of the question. I do not think it has any bearing on the matter whatever. So far as the first part

is concerned, I can only repeat what I pointed out earlier: this matter is being considered, and an announcement will be made in due course.

# HOUSING: PURCHASE

## *Applicants: Rejection of Offer*

7. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

As the Minister has claimed to assume such mastery over his portfolio—

Mr Nanovich: Of course he has.

Mr B. T. BURKE: —could he please explain to the House and members on both sides why it is that 11 out of every 12 people offered housing assistance by way of purchase loan by the State Housing Commission are rejecting such assistance or requesting that it be deferred? That never happened under the Labor Government.

Sir Charles Court: The need can't be that great then.

Mr RIDGE replied:

In reply to the honourable member, if he would like to analyse some of the reasons for people not accepting this assistance, he would find many of them have found alternative accommodation or methods of funding.

Mr B. T. Burke: Less than 3 per cent according to your own figures.

Sir Charles Court: I thought you were not to interject during questions without notice.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B. T. Burke: It has never happened under any Labor Government.

## *Speaker's Ruling*

The SPEAKER: I warned previously that when Ministers are subjected to interjections while answering questions without notice, I will terminate questions without notice. Questions without notice are now terminated.

## *Points of Order*

Mr BRYCE: My point of order relates to the interpretation of your warning, Sir. Do you intend to circumvent questions without notice time in the middle of a Minister's answer? As a matter of courtesy to members on both sides of the House, surely we could abide by your ruling after the Minister has replied.

Mr Sodeman: If you were courteous you would let him finish.

The SPEAKER: I will terminate questions on notice when I think they should be terminated.

Mr B. T. BURKE: My point of order is that it is not in order for you to be distinguishing in the manner you appear to be distinguishing in making the ruling you have just made; that is, to impose upon the Opposition the prohibition with respect to interjections which follow deliberately provocative and often misleading statements made by Ministers in answering questions.

Sir Charles Court: You of all people.

Mr B. T. BURKE: My point of order is that the same sort of sanctions need to be applied with respect to the temperance of the answers that are given by Ministers.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Seminars

70. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Industrial Development:
- (1) Re country seminars to be conducted by the Department of Industrial Development, *Daily News* Tuesday, 27th March: Will he advise why Northam, a major regional centre has not been included amongst those towns where seminars are to be conducted?
  - (2) As there are many inquiries made to my office about industrial development, would he have Northam included in the towns to be visited?
  - (3) If "No" would he outline his reasons?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The series of seminars which have been announced cover towns to be visited initially which have a resident Department of Industrial Development regional officer. They are the first of a continuing programme to explain the Department of Industrial Development's wide range of activities.
- (2) Northam will be considered for inclusion in the seminar programme.
- (3) Not applicable.

## RAILWAYS

### Staff

71. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:
- In the event of policies being implemented from the Southern Western Australia Transport Study report which could create redundancy in various sections of Westrail, would he give an assurance that staff now employed in those sections will be retained?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Future transport policies arising from the SWATS recommendations are not yet finalised. Although it is anticipated it may be necessary to relocate some of Westrail's workforce, any redundancies which may arise will be absorbed by natural staff wastage.

## MINING

### Financial Returns

72. Mr JAMIESON, to the Treasurer:
- Has the Government available the comparative financial returns to the State and the Commonwealth from mining activities in Western Australia for each of the last five financial years?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Government has no information on financial returns to the Commonwealth Government from mining activities.

Royalties and lease rentals received by the State for the last five financial years are:

	\$m
1973/74	37.5
1974/75	42.8
1975/76	46.0
1976/77	55.4
1977/78	57.7

Mining companies also pay other State taxes and charges. However, the proportion of those revenues arising from mining activities is not known in all cases.

## ENERGY: HYDRO ELECTRIC

### Ethanol and Aluminium Smelting Plant

73. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Industrial Development:
- (1) Will the Minister for Industrial Development have the feasibility study of the production of ethanol as a prime industry in the Ord region examined in conjunction with the feasibility of a hydro electric power station?
  - (2) Has any departmental evaluation been made of the possibility of using the new method of producing ethanol devised by the University of New South Wales in conjunction with hydro electric power?
  - (3) Would it be feasible that power could be supplied from the proposed hydro power station to the Mitchell plateau for the purpose of establishing a fully integrated aluminium smelting plant?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No. The Government is already keeping abreast of the possibilities for bio-energy using Ord crops.
- (2) No. The Government is of the view that further basic investigations are required at the University of NSW before a meaningful engineering and costing exercise could be attempted.
- (3) No. The Ord hydro power will not be cheap and there is far too little capacity to consider using any of it for aluminium smelting. Moreover the transmission distance to the Mitchell Plateau would be prohibitively expensive under normal circumstances. The Government believes that there will be plenty of opportunities in the medium to long term for using Ord hydro power in the East Kimberley area. For this reason the export of electricity to Darwin will be for a strictly limited period.

**ENERGY: ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES  
AND GAS**

*Fixed Charges*

74. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:
- (1) On what date did the State Energy Commission introduce a fixed charge on consumers of electricity?
  - (2) What was the then charge per quarter?
  - (3) On what dates and for what amount were further fixed charges increased?
  - (4) Has there been any reduction in fixed charges?
  - (5) Are fixed charges for all consumers of electrical current the same?
  - (6) If not, to whom does a variation apply?
  - (7) (a) When householders have both electricity and gas installations on their property, is there a fixed charge on both installations;
  - (b) is there a variation;
  - (c) if so, what are the variations?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 1st October, 1963.
- (2) \$1.00.
- (3) 1st November, 1971, increased to \$1.20 per quarter.  
1st August, 1974, increased to \$1.50 per quarter.  
13th January, 1975, increased to \$1.80 per quarter.  
1st July, 1975, increased to \$2.04 per quarter.  
1st July, 1977 increased to \$6.00 per quarter.  
1st July, 1978, increased to \$7.50 per quarter.
- (4) No.
- (5) No.
- (6) (a) To those low consumption pensioners who hold a pensioner health benefit card.
- (b) Commercial, industrial and general customers.
- (c) Domestic "off peak" water heating tariff customers.
- (7) (a) Yes.
- (b) Only if the customer elects to be charged under an optional tariff (apart from 6 (a) above).
- (c) (i) Domestic "off peak" water heating tariff.

(ii) Gas home tariff.

I would like to remark that the questions have been answered in the context of applying to metropolitan customers on domestic tariff "D".

A variety of fixed charges applied to non-metropolitan domestic tariffs rendered obsolete with the introduction of State-wide uniform tariffs in 1977.

**ROAD: BEECHBORO-GOSNELLS HIGHWAY**

*Route and Resumptions*

75. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:
- (1) Is it intended that the new Gosnells-Beechboro highway will leave Albany Highway at the junction of Astley Street and Albany Highway, or are new resumptions to be taken for the new road to follow the main transmission power-line at Seaforth?
  - (2) Is there to be a roundabout at the junction of the new road at Mills Road?
- Mr RUSHTON replied:
- (1) The long term proposal following the powerline has been recommended as part of the South East Corridor Study which is at present a subject for public submissions to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.  
However, in the first stage, it is intended that the foothills route will join Albany Highway near Astley Street.
  - (2) An "at grade" channelised intersection is proposed for the Mills Road connection with the new route at this stage.

**TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES**

*Licences: Surcharge*

76. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:
- Will he give reasons why a surcharge of \$5 is charged on motor vehicle licences together with a recording fee of \$4?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Surcharge was introduced under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance Surcharge) Act, 1962 (as amended) because of the increased strain on hospital finances of motor vehicle accident cases and the increasing cost of Police supervision and control of motor traffic. Both were imposing a heavy burden on consolidated revenue funds.

Recording fee was introduced on 1st October, 1974, to offset administrative costs of the issue and processing of a vehicle licence.

**HOUSING: RENTAL**

*Rents: Pensioners*

77. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:
- (1) Will he advise if it is a fact that pensioners living in the old Maniana area, whose homes have recently been upgraded, have had their rents raised from \$25 to \$35?
  - (2) If "Yes" will he give a full comprehensive justification for a 37% increase in such rents?
  - (3) If not, why not?



Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) to (3) Pensioners occupying family accommodation, or pensioner accommodation as such, will not be required to pay more than their current rebated rental, notwithstanding any variation to the standard rental as a result of upgrading.

#### EDUCATION: TECHNICAL

##### *Thornlie Technical College*

78. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he confirm that the overhaul of heavy earth moving equipment will form part of the activities of the proposed Thornlie Technical College?
- (2) If "Yes" is it proposed to test such equipment on site following the completion of such overhauls?
- (3) Has any attempt been made by the Education Department to obtain the views of the Gosnells City Council concerning the possible serious effects upon the residents of the adjacent subdivision of Riverglades, emanating from dust and noise pollution?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Has any officer of his department ever issued instructions to the effect that plans, drawings or specifications concerning the proposed college are not to be made available to the Gosnells City Council?
- (6) Is it not a fact that the transportation of any such heavy earthmoving equipment will involve the use of low-loader equipment travelling over subdivisional roads?
- (7) Is it a fact that industrial type activities of this nature would be better carried out in the confines of the nearby Mad-dington industrial estate, rather than in the midst of a quiet residential subdivision, adjacent to riverside regional open space?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) On site tests to which the Council has been invited are being conducted.
- (5) No.
- (6) No. Access will be from Olga Road.
- (7) No. The college has been designed in accordance with the requirements of the Noise Abatement Act, in order that its educational activities may be fully integrated.

#### CONSUMERS AFFAIRS

##### *Beer Prices*

79. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Can the Minister give a comprehensive reason why an 8 oz. glass of beer costs 10 cents more in Western Australia than in any other State in Australia?

(2) If not, why not?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) A check with the Australian Hotels' Association Inc. revealed that beer in Western Australia is not dispensed in an 8 oz glass.

#### RAILWAYS

##### *Armadale-Perth, Bunbury-Perth, and Bunbury Bridge*

80. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that the railway line between Perth and Armadale is being left to run down?
- (2) Can he further advise why the Bunbury bridge is being left to run down?
- (3) If answer to (1) and (2) is "No" can he advise when this railway line will be upgraded?
- (4) If answer to (1) and (2) is "Yes" will he give a full account of why these are being left to run down?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Bunbury Bridge is not being left to run down. Some maintenance work is currently being undertaken on the bridge and further work is also planned. A speed restriction currently in force will be lifted shortly.
- (3) The complete section between East Perth and Armadale received extensive maintenance during 1978. This included re-sleepering, tamping and ballasting and the line is adequate to meet the current and future traffic requirements.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT: RATES

##### *Pensioners: Service*

81. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will she advise if there are council rate concessions available to ex-servicemen or women who are receiving service pensions?
- (2) If "Yes" what steps are necessary to receive such a concession?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes, local government rate concessions are available to ex-servicemen and women who are receiving service pensions provided they meet the ownership/occupation conditions and the income requirements which determine eligibility

for the pensioner health benefit card. TPI pensioners are not subject to an income test.

- (2) Application should be made to the relevant rating authority.
- (3) Not applicable.

## HOUSING

### *Applicants: List*

82. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Does he still maintain that applicants, who cannot be located by the State Housing Commission when that body attempts to contact them, are placed on a pending list and are not taken off any list?

Mr RIDGE replied:

When an applicant cannot be located by the methods which include a visit to last known address and certified mail the application is "pending" 14 days.

If no contact is made in this period the application is withdrawn, but subject to reinstatement without penalty where the applicant can establish acceptable reasons for his failure to respond when initially required.

## HOUSING: PURCHASE

### *Management Fee*

83. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many State Housing Commission purchase home buyers are liable to pay the management fee?
- (2) How many have—
  - (a) paid less than the amount of the fee due;
  - (b) paid none of the amount due?

Mr RIDGE replied:

As at 28th February, 1979:

- (1) 11 181.
- (2) (a) 4 803;
- (b) 1 082.

## HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

### *Staff*

84. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is any ceiling or limit at present imposed on State Housing Commission staff growth?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" when were limits first imposed;
- (b) why were they imposed;
- (c) how have they changed; and
- (d) what are the details of the present limits?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) and (b) As the State Housing Commission is staffed under the Public Service Act there has always been a limit on staff growth. All new staff establishment items require the approval of the Public Service Board. Equally important—proper management practice would ensure staff growth is contained to that which is absolutely needed and can be met without unduly inflating administrative costs.

- (c) and (d) The current establishment ceiling which has applied for 1977/78 and 1978/79 is:

Staff 699;

Wages 265.

The actual staff establishment as at 28th February, 1979, was:

Staff 661;

Wages 258.

## ABORIGINES

### *Aboriginal Housing Board*

85. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What are the areas of responsibility of the Aboriginal Housing Board?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The general purpose of the Aboriginal Housing Board is to encourage the involvement of the Aboriginal community in the determination of their housing needs. The board is responsible for advising the Minister in policy formulation and assisting in management matters, including:

- (1) Determination of needs and priorities.
- (2) Determination of rental levels.
- (3) Assessment of applicants, determination of eligibility, allocation of housing, terms of tenancy and recovery actions.

## HOUSING: RENTAL

### *Aborigines and Caucasians: Eviction Orders*

86. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many eviction orders have been served by the State Housing Commission on—
  - (a) Aboriginal tenants;
  - (b) white Australian tenants,by the State Housing Commission in the past two years?
- (2) How many families in each case were evicted?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Defining an "eviction order" as an order by the court:
  - (a) 135;
  - (b) 228.
- (2) 32 Aboriginal and 46 Caucasian families, respectively.

#### HOUSING: EMERGENCY

##### *Aborigines and Caucasians*

87. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Are the same criteria used in determining applications for emergency listing by Aboriginal and white applicants?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Yes. Common criteria are applied when dealing with applicants of any race, colour or creed.

#### HOUSING: RENTAL

##### *Purchase by Tenants*

88. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What percentage of the total funds made available each year to the State Housing Commission purchase applicants, is devoted to tenants in occupation who wish to purchase homes they are renting from the Commission?
- (2) How is priority determined in the distribution of funds?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 20 per cent. with the exception that no part of the special allocation of \$3 285 000 in December, 1978, is for tenants in occupation.

- (2) Within each region, according to date of application to purchase.

#### HOUSING

##### *Expenditure*

89. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What was the total expenditure on housing by the State in each of the past five years?

Mr RIDGE replied:

1973/74 \$29 148 235.

1974/75 \$53 805 487.

1975/76 \$39 505 431.

1976/77 \$66 105 343.

1977/78 \$84 751 444.

These figures include Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement moneys.

#### HOUSING

##### *Cash Balances*

90. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

For each of the last five years to 30th June, 1978, what were the cash balances and the carry over amount respectively for:

- (a) the State Housing Commission account;
- (b) the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement account;
- (c) the Aboriginal Housing Trust Fund;
- (d) the Home Builders' account?

Mr RIDGE replied:

	30/6/74	30/6/75	30/6/76	30/6/77	30/6/78
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(a) State Housing Commission					
1. Cash balance	20 997	11 809 359	7 400 719	9 084 847	2 446 888
2. Carryover	432 350	Total included with Cwlth/State, *	978 795	433 620	Nil
(b) Commonwealth/State					
1. Cash balance	5 949 004	7 058 677o/d	8 005 247	756 029	4 345 381
2. Carryover	2 763 000	5 330 051 *	5 546 505	5 811 874	4 104 655
(c) Aboriginal Housing					
1. Commonwealth Grant					
1.1 Cash balance	3 293 079	35 975	231 936o/d	1 558 439o/d	994 212o/d
1.2 Carryover	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. State Grant					
2.1 Cash balance	1 266 796	18 003o/d	210 028	126 596	54 633o/d
2.2 Carryover	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(d) Home Builders					
1. Commonwealth					
1.1 Cash balance	537 677	1 304 271	92 616o/d	6 113 461	3 253 044
1.2 Carryover	2 625 061	2 777 866	898 782	7 138 973	3 083 564
2. State Housing					
2.1 Cash balance	41 121	51 444	185 860	55 595o/d	106 030
2.2 Carryover	97 633	11 798	189 800	57 280	111 059

NOTE: The carryover amount is assumed to mean contractual commitments of work in progress.  
N/A—Not Available

**HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES***Terminating Deposits and Legal Fees*

91. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that some terminating building societies have required State Housing Commission purchase applicants to find \$1 500 as deposit and \$1 000 as legal fees from their own resources?
- (2) If so, is this not contrary to the previously stated Government position that a minimum of \$1 500 had to be found by applicants from their own resources?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government's intention is that at least \$1 500 of deposit comes from the applicant's savings. Any balance of deposit and fees can come from either savings or borrowings.

**HOUSING: PURCHASE***Applicants: Acceptance and Rejection of Offers*

92. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are presently seeking purchase assistance from the State Housing Commission?
- (2) What percentage of these applicants is it considered will not accept assistance when it is offered to them?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 5 605 purchase applicants inclusive of tenants in occupation and dual applicants for both rental and purchase accommodation.
- (2) Over the last six months, 1 815 applicants were contacted. An average of 87.8 per cent did not accept assistance for various reasons, including deferment, not interested, ineligible, purchasing privately, and no reply to certified mail.

**HOUSING: RENTAL***Applicants: Number and Rejection of Offers*

93. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are presently seeking rental assistance from the State Housing Commission?
- (2) What percentage of these applicants is it considered will not accept assistance when it is offered to them?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 5 297 applicants, including dual rental and purchase applicants.

- (2) Over the last three months an average of 38 per cent did not accept offers of assistance.

**HOUSING: APPLICANTS***Single Unit Assistance*

94. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants were, at 1st January, seeking single unit assistance:
  - (a) north of the river;
  - (b) south of the river?
- (2) What were the numbers seeking assistance in each area on 1st January in each of the preceding five years?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Number of applicants seeking single unit assistance as at 1st January in years 1974 to 1979 are:

*North of river—*

1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
1 020	543	500	208	359	309

*South of river—*

1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
831	408	362	107	308	180

**HOUSING***Flats*

95. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many State Housing Commission flats are currently vacant?
- (2) Where are they located?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 437.

(2) Coolbellup	....	....	....	62
Fremantle	....	....	....	1
White Gum Valley	....	....	....	4
Kwinana	....	....	....	150
Balga	....	....	....	23
Highgate	....	....	....	3
Lockridge	....	....	....	114
Midland	....	....	....	8
Mosman Park	....	....	....	1
North Beach	....	....	....	3
Wandana	....	....	....	11
Armadale	....	....	....	5
Carlisle	....	....	....	2
Como	....	....	....	1
Langford	....	....	....	7
Karawara	....	....	....	5
South Perth	....	....	....	6
Wilson	....	....	....	1
Bentley	....	....	....	28
Bunbury	....	....	....	2
Total	....	....	....	437

## HOUSING

*Aborigines: Number Accommodated*

96. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many Aboriginal applicants have been accommodated in each of the past eight months?

Mr RIDGE replied:

July, 1978	....	....	37
August, 1978	..	....	30
September, 1978	....	....	34
October, 1978	....	....	40
November, 1978	....	....	54
December, 1978	....	....	30
January, 1979	....	....	37
February, 1979	....	....	80
Total	....	....	342

The above total represents Aboriginal families who have occupied grant funded accommodation.

No records are kept for Aboriginal occupants of Commonwealth/State funded rental accommodation, other than the knowledge that an additional 66 applicants have occupied apartment accommodation from 1st January to 29th March.

## EDUCATION

*School: Hillman*

97. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

Could he please advise me when the demountable building presently being used by the Hillman primary school is to be replaced with a brick building?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

As the demountable classroom is not being used it is being moved to another school.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Fish Processing Plant*

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

- (1) In respect of the Jervoise Bay proposals and with regard to the areas to be set aside for the fishing industry, is it a fact that it is not proposed to construct a processing plant on the site?
- (2) What guarantees can be given that a processing plant will not be sited there in the future?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Yes. The planning report specifically recommends against the location of processing plant for fish in the form of canning, filleting, or fish meal at this location.

- (2) Any move to locate a processing plant at the site in the future would be subject to approval being given by the local authority and would need to be in conformance with the town planning provisions.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Breakwater*

99. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) In respect of the Jervoise Bay proposals what precise purpose will be served by stage 1 of the proposed breakwater?
- (2) Is the estimate of \$7 million to construct it fact?
- (3) Who is it proposed will pay for it?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) To shelter the existing small shipbuilding industry shoreline, the proposed sites for the power boat club and the public launching ramp, and the proposed fishing industry area.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Government.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Oil Platform Construction Site*

100. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) In respect of the Jervoise Bay proposals what other areas were looked at to site the oil platform construction area?
- (2) Would she please list the reasons why each alternative site was disregarded?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) At various times consideration has been given to potential sites on the west coast, including Wilbinga, Owen Anchorage, Rockingham, and Bunbury.
- (2) They were not acceptable for reasons including unstable shoreline, inadequate water depth, incompatibility with existing or proposed land use and lack of satisfactory support infrastructure.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Public Objection*

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

In respect of the Jervoise Bay proposals why was it necessary to have received all public objections to it prior to the making public of the Dr Chittleborough report and the system six study, timed for some one or two months later?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The public submission period was in no way influenced by the timing of the system six or Cockburn Sound studies.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Boat Owners*

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

What guarantees can be given that private boat owners will continue to be able to use the waters of Jervoise Bay in the same way as they do now, after construction begins on the proposed Jervoise Bay industrial site?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The planning proposals provide for development of berthing facilities in the area for offshore construction, fishing, and small shipbuilding. They also provide for offshore breakwaters to protect both recreational and industrial activities which will be developed. Private boat owners who currently use the waters of Jervoise Bay will be able to continue to do so from new and better facilities provided without inconvenience from marine based industrial activity. The planning provides for compatible joint use by private boat owners and marine industry activities.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Scenic Drive*

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

- (1) Is it a fact that under the proposals to industrialise sections of Jervoise Bay the now 5 km of scenic drive will be re-sited behind the limestone ridge so that families who use the road will no longer be able to see the beach?
- (2) If "Yes" why was this considered necessary?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) The planning proposals provide for the development of a new road to carry the major through traffic, which is likely to develop in the longer term, around behind the industrial estate which is located on the eastern side of Cockburn Road.

Cockburn Road would be retained in its present position so that people travelling to locations within this area will be able to do so in the same way as they do now.

It was considered vital that reasonable access, particularly for heavy loads, be available from the industrial estate area across Cockburn Road to the offshore construction yard, small shipbuilding and fishing base to ensure that these shore-front activities could be properly supported from industrial workshops located on the industrial estate.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Gas Platforms*

104. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it fact that the Jervoise Bay proposals necessitate a 900 metre section of beach front being set aside for the construction of two gas platforms?
- (2) Will these be built within five to six years of beginning construction?
- (3) What purpose will the site be put to at the completion of the platform construction?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The shore length involved in the proposed offshore construction site is about 1 000 metres. Approximately half of this area is small limestone cliffs.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The site is planned for use by other offshore oil/gas developers parallel or after the Woodside project. The design of the facilities on this site would allow alternative marine based industry uses in the event that no offshore construction eventuated other than the Woodside project.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Alternative Sites for Back-up Industrial Estate*

105. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) With respect to the Jervoise Bay proposals, what other areas were looked at to site the back-up industrial estate?
- (2) What were the reasons in each case for the rejection?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The land is zoned for industry in the metropolitan region scheme. Its proximity to existing and proposed marine industry makes it an excellent locality for back-up uses relative to alternative sites in the area.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Fishing Industry*

106. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) With respect to the Jervoise Bay proposals, what alternative sites were looked at for the siting of the fishing industry?
- (2) What were the reasons for the rejection in each case?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Various sites from Port Beach to Rockingham were examined.
- (2) In some instances lack of water depth or available adjacent land areas. However, a principal objective of the Jervoise Bay-Woodman Point planning study was to co-ordinate the needs of the various marine uses to best advantage and avoid sporadic development and incompatibility with other community uses or desires.

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Impact*

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

Has the Jervoise Bay Environmental Review and Management Programme considered the impact of the proposed industry on the whole of Cockburn Sound or merely on Jervoise Bay and Owen Anchorage?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The environmental consultant, during his investigation, conducted extensive discussions with the Cockburn Sound study group and in addition employed as a subconsultant the same oceanographic engineer to ensure that the relationship between the proposal and Cockburn Sound were understood.

108. *This question was postponed.*

## COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

*Chittleborough Report and System Six Study*

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

Is it known what effect the proposed industry will have on any recommendations the Chittleborough report and the system six studies will bring down?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The environmental consultant worked in close liaison with the Cockburn Sound study group. In the summary of the Jervoise Bay ERMP (p. 5) the consultant

points out that his environmental management plan "incorporates sufficient flexibility for possible future modification pending the outcome of the proposed ongoing management programme or pending adoption of any unlikely divergent recommendations forthcoming from other investigations such as the Cockburn Sound study group."

The various System 6 committees are currently reviewing the Jervoise Bay proposals.

## ENERGY: GAS

*North-West Shelf: Tradesmen*

110. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) At a meeting in Rockingham on 20th March he is recorded as having said that 7 563 tradesmen would be needed for the North-West Shelf gas project. Will he please list—
  - (a) the categories of tradesmen; and
  - (b) the numbers of each that will be required?
- (2) Would he please indicate where in the State these tradesmen will be working?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) I said over 7 500 tradesmen would be required for the North West Shelf gas project, I meant that over 7 500 tradesmen and related workers will be required directly on the project work.

Actual employment in the State as a result of the shelf project will be far higher. Total figures are currently being calculated as are the categories and numbers.

- (2) A major proportion of the 7 500 employees will be working in the Pilbara region but exact numbers have yet to be established.

Consequential employment in the metropolitan region resulting from the project will be very significant. Member departments of the state manpower planning committee are currently evaluating the overall employment impact of this project.

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

*Projects for Unemployed*

111. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

At a meeting held in Rockingham on 20th March he is on record as having said: "There are 47 000 unemployed in Western Australia, and we have projects in mind that will employ all of them." Will he please indicate:

- (a) what these proposals are;
- (b) how many people will be employed in each; and
- (c) when they are expected to begin?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (a) to (c) I table a document entitled "Mineral Development Projects" which is the most recent resume of the project development prospects by the Department of Industrial Development.

This document outlines in some detail the present status of the various projects.

Members should keep in mind that the employment figures estimated in this document do not include consequential employment which will arise with the developments. It is currently estimated that increased employment could be as much as two or three times that listed in the document.

I do not believe the word "will" was used in my statement, but believe the word "could" was.

The document was tabled (see paper No. 104).

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Sanitary Landfill Studies*

112. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies.

- (1) Has the Metropolitan Water Board done any tests since 1973 around any sanitary landfill sites to determine leachate strengths, movement and rate of dilution?
- (2) Would the Minister please provide details of the results of any such studies conducted between 1973 and now?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Yes. Studies have been carried out jointly by the Metropolitan Water Board and the Geological Survey of Western Australia in the Hertha Road area.
- (2) Details of the results of these studies may be found by reference to the following papers—
  - (i) "Leachates and Groundwater—A Case Study, Perth, W.A." by M. J. Caldwell. Presented at a seminar on Leachates from waste disposal sites, held on 5th November, 1976 in the New South Wales Pollution Control Commission under the auspices of the Australian Environment Council.
  - (ii) "The Movement and Changes in Concentration of Contaminants below a Sanitary Landfill, Perth, Western Australia" by Trevor T. Bestow.

Presented at a symposium on the effects of urbanisation and industrialisation on the hydrological regime and water quality, held in October, 1977 in Amsterdam under the auspices of the International Association for Scientific Hydrology.

## DRINK CANS

### *Recyclable Material*

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

- (1) Does he have any plans to legislate for drink cans to be made of a recyclable material?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Drink cans are already recyclable.

## HEALTH

### *Salmonella: Crustaceans*

114. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that 20 different salmonella strains have been found in crustaceans taken from Owen Anchorage?
- (2) Is it a fact that he or his authorised officer has advocated boiling any items taken from this area to remove the problem?
- (3) Can he indicate if legislation exists in the United States of America which would prohibit the public from harvesting shellfish in an area so polluted in that country?
- (4) What action has been taken by his department to advise ethnic groups of the Owen Anchorage problem?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The former Minister for Health, Mr A. Ridge, issued a press statement on 2nd August 1978, in which he advised people who take mussels from Cockburn Sound to exercise special precautions to minimise the risk of food poisoning. These precautions are worth repeating in full. They are:
  - 1. never handle mussels on kitchen or other food preparation surfaces to reduce the risk of contaminating other foods, especially cooked meats and fresh salads;
  - 2. thoroughly scrub and rinse mussels, cover them all well in a large volume of clean water and bring to the boil;



3. continue boiling for six full minutes after the shells have opened.
- (3) I am unaware of any legislation in the USA which prohibits members of the public from harvesting shellfish in areas to which they ordinarily have access.
- (4) None.

## HEALTH

### *Cadmium Levels in Mussels*

115. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the cadmium levels in mussels taken from areas adjacent to the CSBP jetty are in excess of the accepted Western Australian levels and also in excess of the World Health Organisation recommended safe level?
- (2) Is it a fact that if one ate ten mussels from this area one would have exceeded the maximum safe weekly allowable intake of cadmium?
- (3) For how many weeks at ten per week could one continue to eat these mussels without contracting itai itai disease?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) On 2nd August 1978, my predecessor, Mr A. Ridge, announced in a Press statement that the average cadmium content in mussels collected from around the effluent and operating areas of CSBP exceeded the level prescribed in the Food and Drug Regulations under the Health Act. No maximum levels have as yet been recommended for cadmium in food by the World Health Organisation or associated international bodies.
- (2) Ten mussels a week from this area would on the average provide a tolerable weekly intake of cadmium for an adult according to the provisional levels proposed by the joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.
- (3) Despite the uncertainties involved in the provisional tolerable weekly intake proposed for cadmium, the safety factor is such as to permit 10 of these mussels to be consumed per week indefinitely, at least throughout adult life, without any appreciable risk to the consumer being anticipated.

## COCKBURN SOUND

### *Fish: Heavy Metals Level*

116. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What are the heavy metal concentrations in all samples taken from Cockburn Sound over the last 12 months?

- (2) In each case would he please list the acceptable level by
  - (a) Western Australian standards; and
  - (b) World Health Organisation standards?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) This question is couched in such non specific terms that it is impossible to be sure what the member is driving at. If the information sought is being obtained as part of the overall study of Cockburn Sound, this information will not be released other than in the context of the total study.
- (2) Again I am unable to answer this question. Will the member, in requesting information on standards, please specify what types of product or sample he is interested in.

## PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

### *Membership*

117. Mr PEARCE, to the Speaker:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Member for Karrinyup, the Member for Murdoch and the Member for Bunbury, along with two members of the Legislative Council, the Hon. M. McAleer and the Hon. W. Piesse, in January sought an interview with officers of the Guild of Undergraduates while purporting to be the Parliamentary Education, Health and Welfare Committee?
- (2) Does this Parliament have an Education, Health and Welfare Committee?
- (3) Has the Legislative Assembly appointed the Members for Karrinyup, Murdoch and Bunbury to any position of responsibility even remotely connected with Education, Health or Welfare?
- (4) What action can members of the Legislative Assembly take to discipline members who falsely purport to be members of a Parliamentary Committee?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) I have been advised by the Member for Karrinyup that there is no factual base for the question.
- (2) and (3) No.
- (4) The punitive powers of this House are set out in Standing Orders and the Parliamentary Privileges Act.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

*Meetings and Reports*

118. Mr PEARCE, to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) How many meetings of the Public Accounts Committee have been held since he became chairman?
- (2) On what dates were these meetings held?
- (3) How many witnesses have been interviewed?
- (4) How many reports have been prepared as a result of these interviews?

The SPEAKER replied:

This question in its present form is not admissible.

Questions concerning matters before the Committees of this House should be addressed to the Speaker.

As the House is aware the Public Accounts Committee has not yet been constituted and there can therefore be no Chairman.

**EDUCATION**

*High School: Koondoola*

119. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

Can he say:

- (a) what progress has been made on plans for a high school in Koondoola;
- (b) when work is likely to commence on construction of the high school;
- (c) when it is planned to be ready for the first intake of students?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (a) to (c) A site for a high school has been secured in Koondoola and the school will be built when an additional high school is required in the area.

**TRANSPORT: BUS**

*Mirrabooka Transfer Station*

120. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can he say whether plans for the Mirrabooka bus transfer station have yet been finalised?
- (2) If "No" when is it anticipated that plans will be finalised?
- (3) When will work commence on the bus station, and when is it due to be ready for operation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes, they have.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Work will commence on 16th April, 1979, and is anticipated to be completed by 30th June, 1979.

**EDUCATION**

*Teachers: Education Scholarships*

121. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many teacher education scholarships have been issued in each of the past five years?
- (2) Is the scholarship allowance varied from year to year, and if so, on what basis?
- (3) Are there any 1978 graduates who received assistance through teacher education scholarships who are still without full time appointments?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), how many are involved?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) 1975 1 094.  
1976 675.  
1977 62 (no first year).  
1978 176 (no first year).  
1979 186.
- (2) Adjustments to the scholarship allowance are made in accordance with the National Wage decisions.
- (3) and (4) Not placed at 4th April, 1979.  
Secondary 33.  
Primary 137.

**EDUCATION**

*School: Neerigen Brook*

122. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the deputy principal (male) of Neerigen Brook primary school has his office in a section of a book store room, and the deputy principal (female) has her office in part of the school sick room?
- (2) If so, is this an educationally unsatisfactory situation?
- (3) What action does he propose to overcome possible difficulties?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) A separate office is provided for deputies in all new schools and modifications to provide these facilities are made in older schools as funds permit. Upgrading for this purpose will be undertaken at Neerigen Brook as soon as possible.

## EDUCATION

*School: Neerigen Brook*

123. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:  
When is it proposed to replace the three demountable classrooms at Neerigen Brook primary school with more permanent structures?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Neerigen Brook has reached its maximum size for permanent classrooms. The temporary rooms will be removed progressively as enrolments reduce in the future.

of attendance to be observed by officers shall be from 8.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with the interval of 12.45 p.m. to 1.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive;

- (b) except where otherwise approved by any enactment or under the regulations, the minimum period during which departmental offices shall be open to the public for business shall be between the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive.

With the introduction of flexitime, some departments remain open to the extent of having some officers available until 5.00 p.m., or later.

I am not aware of any particular inconvenience presently being caused by departments and instrumentalities and therefore do not propose to change the current situation.

However, if the Leader of the Opposition can provide me with examples of inconvenience occurring, I shall be pleased to have the subject investigated.

## POLICE

*Street Marches: Permits*

124. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What criteria have to be met by persons applying for a permit to hold a street march?
- (2) Is it a fact that organisers of the abortion rally last Saturday were asked to identify photographs of women who had allegedly taken part in other rallies as a condition of gaining a permit for this rally?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Persons requiring permission to hold a street march apply in writing to the Commissioner of Police in accordance with section 52 of the Police Act.

Inquiries are then made on behalf of the Commissioner to enable him to make a decision. Generally, information is obtained by personal interview with the applicant, bearing in mind subsection 3 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of section 52 of the Police Act.

- (2) No.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

*Office Hours*

125. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

In view of the possible inconvenience caused by some Government departments and statutory authorities not being open after 4.30 p.m., will he ensure that they remain open and staffed until 5.30 p.m.?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Public Service regulations, which are generally also observed by instrumentalities, provide—

- (a) except when the Public Service Board otherwise approves, the hours

## EDUCATION: PRE-PRIMARY

*Schools: Victoria Park and Millen*

126. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:  
When will pre-primary schools be started at Victoria Park and Millen primary schools?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The requirements of both schools for pre-primary facilities to open later in 1979 are being assessed.

## HEALTH: MENTAL

*Greenplace Hostel*

127. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it fact that sewerage alterations were made to Greenplace hostel last March or thereabouts?
- (2) If so, what was the cost involved?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$61 000.

Mr Davies: What?

Mr Young: The expenditure at Greenplace hostel was absolutely necessary because the old soak wells and effluent tanks adjacent to the Swan River foreshore were ineffective, thereby creating a health hazard in the river.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

*"Western Australian Business Letter"*

128. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Who are the publishers of the newsletter entitled *Western Australian Business Letter* distributed by his department?
- (2) Under what arrangements does the department distribute the newsletter?
- (3) What total costs are involved to the department in respect of this newsletter?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The publisher of *Western Australian Business Letter* is Lipscombe & Associates.
- (2) It purchases bulk copies from Lipscombe & Associates for distribution to Ministerial and departmental contacts.
- (3) It is purchased in bulk by the department amounting to 75.3 cents per copy.

129. *This question was postponed.*

ANIMALS

*Dogs: Maddington Area*

130. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the series of articles appearing in the south suburban section of *The West Australian* newspaper over the past several weeks, that "killer dogs" have destroyed goats and sheep in the Maddington area, and that residents fear for the lives of their children, will she advise:

- (1) How many dogs have been captured and impounded by the Gosnells City Council since 1st July, 1978 till 31st March, 1979, in the Maddington area, and what type of dogs were they?
- (2) How many dogs have been recovered by the dog owners from the City's dog pound?
- (3) Has she noticed the series of complaints by residents in the Maddington area?
- (4) (a) If "Yes" will she further advise if any complaints have been lodged by aggrieved persons competent to lodge a complaint with the Department of Local Government;
- (b) if so, what action has been taken by the Department of Local Government in respect thereof?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not available in my department. It is suggested the Member approach the City of Gosnells.
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) and (b) There is no record that any complaints have been received by the department.

COBALT

*Supplies*

131. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he able to explain the increase in the price of cobalt in the last ten months from approximately \$214 to \$960 per drum?
- (2) What quantity and from what source respectively have Western Australian supplies been obtained?
- (3) From where are the supplies currently being obtained?
- (4) Is he able to give an assurance that there is no exploitation by an agent within Australia?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) The rise in price of cobalt sulphate has been caused by the tight world supply situation accentuated by disruption to supplies from Zaire, the major world producer.
- (2) Supplies of cobalt sulphate for the financial year 1977/78 were as follows:  
United Kingdom—27 000 kilograms.  
Belgium-Luxembourg—28 000 kilograms.
- (3) United Kingdom.
- (4) If the Member has evidence to suggest that an agent has exploited the situation, I would be pleased to have it investigated. I have no knowledge of exploitation of the situation.

HERITAGE BILL

*Introduction*

132. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Is the Government giving any consideration to the introduction of a Heritage Bill?
- (2) If "Yes" when is it likely to be introduced?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Legislation is currently being drafted for possible introduction later this Session.

## TRANSPORT

*Fish: Albany-Perth*

133. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With respect to the current arrangements for the transport of wet fish from Albany to Perth, will he authorise backloading from Perth for the firm undertaking the transport service?
- (2) If "No" why not?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Permits to effect backloading will be approved in instances where the goods to be carried are of a class for which road transport is generally granted. Permits will not issue for "backloading" of temperature controlled goods or for general goods for which existing services are presently adequate.
- (2) Not applicable.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF:  
CYCLONE "ALBY"*Lord Mayor's Disaster Fund*

134. Mr STEPHENS, to the Chief Secretary:

With respect to the Lord Mayor's relief fund for Cyclone "Alby":

- (1) What was the total amount collected?
- (2) What amount has been paid out?
- (3) What plans are there for the use of the balance (if any)?
- (4) Has the fund been audited?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Details of the Lord Mayor's relief fund are only available from the Lord Mayor's Office and questions should be directed there.

## WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

*Land Clearing: Restrictions*

135. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to impose clearing restrictions on farms in the Deep and Donnelly River catchment areas?
- (2) If "Yes", from when will such restrictions apply?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

## WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

*Land Clearing: Area*

136. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

What is the—

- (a) total area;
  - (b) area alienated;
  - (c) area of alienated land cleared;
  - (d) area of alienated land not cleared,
- in each of the following:
- (i) The Mundaring Weir catchment area;
  - (ii) the Denmark River catchment area;
  - (iii) the Wellington Weir catchment area;
  - (iv) the Kent River water reserve?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (i) Mundaring Weir Catchment Area
 

(a) Total area	1 470 km <sup>2</sup>
(b) Area alienated	75 km <sup>2</sup>
(c) Area of alienated land cleared	37 km <sup>2</sup>
(d) area of alienated land not cleared	38 km <sup>2</sup>
- (ii) Denmark River Catchment Area
 

(a) Total area	650 km <sup>2</sup>
(b) Area alienated	134 km <sup>2</sup>
(c) Area of alienated land cleared	103 km <sup>2</sup>
(d) Area of alienated land not cleared	31 km <sup>2</sup>
- (iii) Wellington Dam Catchment Area
 

(a) Total area	2 830 km <sup>2</sup>
(b) Area alienated	1 000 km <sup>2</sup>
(c) Area of alienated land cleared	650 km <sup>2</sup>
(d) Area of alienated land not cleared	350 km <sup>2</sup>
- (iv) Kent River Water Reserve
 

(a) Total area	1 650 km <sup>2</sup>
(b) Area alienated	1 000 km <sup>2</sup>
(c) Area of alienated land cleared	550 km <sup>2</sup>
(d) Area of alienated land not cleared	450 km <sup>2</sup>

## WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

*Land Clearing: Farmers' Union Submission*

137. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has the Minister examined the submission on the Country Water Supply Act, 1978, presented to him by representatives of the Farmers' Union of W.A. (Inc.) on 6th March, 1979, at Manjimup?

- (2) (a) If "Yes", has the Minister accepted this submission; and
- (b) if so, does he propose to alter the guidelines and regulations associated with clearing controls on the Warren River and Denmark River water reserve catchment areas to meet the wishes of the Farmers' Union?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) Yes.

- (2) (a) A reply to the submission has been sent to the Farmers' Union.
  - (b) The guidelines for clearing have been reviewed and are about to be issued to all land owners affected by the amendments to the Country Areas Water Supply Act, as well as to Members of Parliament whose electorates are affected and appropriate local authorities. Copies will also be sent to the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association and the Farmers' Union.
- There is no intention to alter regulations which have been in effect since 1976 for the Wellington Dam Catchment.

## EDUCATION

### *School and Pre-school Centre: Australind*

138. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What site has been selected for the building of a school at Australind?
- (2) When will tenders be called?
- (3) When is it anticipated the school will be operating?
- (4) Will the kindergarten pre-school centre at Australind remain in use after the new school is operating, or will a pre-primary centre be attached to the new school?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Because of site acquisition difficulties the final site for the new Australind school has not been finalised.
- (2) and (3) Final details on tenders and school opening depend on site selection.
- (4) Future use of the present transportable pre-primary unit depends on the location of the new school.

## DAIRYING: MILK

### *Licences and Market Milk Entitlements*

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

- (1) (a) Have any dairymen's licences been granted this year; and
- (b) if so, how many?

- (2) As some of these licence holders will require an indication of when a market milk entitlement will be granted to them in order to raise finance for building new dairies, can he say when such entitlements will be granted?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Two persons have been issued with new dairymen's licences for the production of manufacturing milk in 1979. Ten persons who are not currently dairying have been approved for the issue of dairymen's licences for the production of manufacturing milk.
- (2) No.

## SEWERAGE

### *Girrawheen*

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

- (1) Is it a fact that the owners of number 2 Montrose Avenue, Girrawheen, had the whole of their property flooded with sewage 2 to 3 inches deep as the result of faults in the deep sewerage serving their home?
- (2) Is it also a fact that the same problem has occurred on at least two other occasions in the last three years and that the owner has been left with the task of cleaning up the mess on each occasion?
- (3) Does the fault and the resultant flooding constitute a health hazard to the owner concerned and his family?
- (4) Will the Minister guarantee that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that the fault which has caused the flooding will be rectified so that the owner is not put to further inconvenience and possible health hazards?
- (5) Will the Minister give consideration to offering compensation to the property owner to cover the damage and inconvenience he has suffered due to the faulty operation of the deep sewerage installation?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) A blockage in the sewer main resulted in some overflow on to the property concerned on 2nd April, 1979. The blockage was cleared on the same day and the property cleaned up and disinfected by employees of the Metropolitan Water Board. Approximately one-third of the property could have been affected.
- (2) Time delay does not permit the facts of each case to be determined.
- (3) Prompt attention to blockages, followed by normal disinfection minimises any possible health hazard.

- (4) Every reasonable care is taken to prevent such incidents.
- (5) No. Blockages of this nature are caused by circumstances beyond the control of the Metropolitan Water Board.

### EDUCATION

#### *Schools and High Schools: Maintenance*

141. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Does the \$1 million cut back in funds for maintenance work in this year's budget mean that funding for maintenance work in schools will be extraordinarily tight for the remainder of the financial year?
- (2) Is it a fact that a directive has gone out to the effect that only important items in schools are to be kept going?
- (3) If "No" to (2), what curtailments are being enforced, and for what reason?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The reduction in funds allocated for the maintenance, repair and minor improvements to public buildings, including schools, for the 1978/79 financial year, has necessitated close control over all works undertaken.
- (2) and (3) A directive has been issued that only essential works are to be carried out at the present time.

### HEALTH: RADIOACTIVITY

#### *Waste Material: Disposal*

142. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:  
Can he say how and where hospitals in the metropolitan area are disposing of low level radioactive waste material?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Low level radioactive waste produced by hospitals in the metropolitan area is disposed of according to the code of practice for the disposal of radioactive wastes arising from medical and research use in Western Australia, adopted by the Radiological Council. This code provides for the disposal of the waste by:

- 1. incineration, on site;
- 2. controlled release to the sewers within the limits given in the Radiation Safety Act Regulations, on site;
- 3. supervised burial on a sanitary landfill site.

The quantities of radioactive substances disposed of in these ways by metropolitan hospitals are extremely small and only a small fraction of that permitted in the code of practice.

Supervised burial is only permitted when the radioactivity has decayed to extremely low levels after a period of storage.

### EDUCATION

#### *Department: Treasury Officers' Visits*

143. Mr WILSON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it fact that Treasury officers are being sent to the offices of the Education Department each day in an attempt to cut back on spending by that department, and can he say for how long this practice has been adopted?
- (2) If "No" what has been the nature and frequency of visits by Treasury officers to the Education Department since the beginning of the current school year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Treasury officers are in regular contact with officers of all departments on a range of matters which include budget control, accounting procedures and computer systems.  
In the case of the Education Department there have been regular discussions with Treasury officers in recent times on development of improved administrative systems on payment of salaries, staff records, etc. In addition, Treasury budget officers have conferred with officers of the department regularly, in keeping with Treasury's responsibility to ensure that expenditure is kept within the appropriations laid down by Parliament. This is normal practice.

### BEEHIVE INDUSTRIES OF WA (INC.)

#### *Financial Assistance*

144. Mr WILSON, to the Treasurer:

In view of the Government's established recognition of the work being done by Beehive Industries of W.A. (Inc.) in the form of annual grants, is any consideration being given to providing special assistance to this organisation to enable them to re-locate their centre as they must, due to further freeway development?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No request for special assistance has been received by the Government.

However, I am advised that the extensions to the freeway are not included in the Main Roads Department's programme of work for the next five years and it is unlikely that the premises will be required for ten years.

# EDUCATION

## *Schools and High Schools: Geraldton*

145. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:  
What is the present enrolment in each grade at each primary and secondary school in the Geraldton urban area?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The information sought by the member is considerable. He will be advised by correspondence in due course.

# EDUCATION

## *School: Mount Tarcoola*

146. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:  
What provision has been made to enable a programme of landscaping and playing field preparation to take place at the Mount Tarcoola primary school?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

A contract for an automatic reticulation scheme has been let and the necessary planting will be undertaken as soon as the reticulation system is operating.

# EDUCATION: TECHNICAL

## *College: Geraldton*

147. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:  
What provision has been made to enable a programme of landscaping to take place at the Geraldton Technical College?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The Public Works Department senior landscape architect has developed a landscaping scheme for progressive implementation.

The landscaping plan essentially comprises ground cover and native plants which require little water. This has been necessary because scheme water only is available. The consequence of the above is that landscaping development has been a relatively slow process.

# EDUCATION

## *School: Abrolhos Islands*

148. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:  
With reference to children being educated at the Abrolhos Islands during the current rock lobster season, will he please indicate:
- How many children are being supervised in schoolroom situations on each island;
  - how many children are undertaking correspondence individually and on which islands?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- 45 primary plus 3 secondary students who are on correspondence but who attend school for supervision and assistance.
- 5—2 on Beacon Island; 1 on Big Rat Island; 2 on Little Rat Island.

# HOSPITALS: AMBULANCES

## *St. John Ambulance Association: Geraldton and Bunbury*

149. Mr CARR, to the Treasurer:

- Is the St. John Ambulance Association in Geraldton considerably inconvenienced by having only one full-time driver compared with the comparable centre of Bunbury which has approximately seven full-time drivers?
- What steps does the Government propose to take to see that more full-time drivers are provided to support the volunteer drivers who presently carry so much of the workload?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- No.  
A check with the St John Ambulance Association indicates that the one full-time driver in Geraldton is supported by volunteers whose training is being progressively up-graded.
- As an autonomous organisation the association determines its own priorities. However, the association has advised that it is reviewing its overall staffing situation, including Geraldton, in the process of framing its 1979/80 budget.

# FUEL: PETROL

## *Station Roster: Geraldton*

150. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:
- Will he please provide me with a map of the area relating to petrol station roster control in Geraldton?
  - Has consideration been given to making any amendments to the area subject to a roster system?
  - If "Yes" to (2), will he please indicate any changes that are proposed?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- and (2) Yes.
- Investigation has shown that changes to the petrol roster system in Geraldton are not warranted and no changes are proposed.



## GRAIN

*Storage and Sales Overseas*

151. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Are the grain storage units in Cockburn Sound and Fremantle full?
- (2) What is the total amount of grain stored in these units?
- (3) What is the total amount of grain in storage in the State as a whole?
- (4) What percentage of the present bumper harvest has actually been sold overseas?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) The quantity stored varies each day according to receipts and the shipping programme.
- (3) and (4) The other information requested is not available to me.

## EDUCATION

*School: Armadale*

152. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many places are available for primary students in the Armadale primary school special class?
- (2) How many primary students are on the waiting list for this class?
- (3) Which are the nearest primary schools to Armadale with special classes?
- (4) How many primary students are on the waiting list for each of these special classes?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Nine.
- (3) (a) Kintloch;  
(b) Queens Park;  
(c) East Victoria Park;  
(d) Victoria Park.
- (4) (a) Nil—have vacancies;  
(b) Nil—have vacancies;  
(c) Nil—no vacancies;  
(d) Nil—have vacancies.

Note: A survey of need for special classes is currently being made in the Armadale area. The results of this survey will determine establishment of special classes for 1980.

## EDUCATION

*School: Westfield Park*

153. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to my question 836 of 1st August, 1978, what progress has been made in preparing a drainage scheme for Westfield Park primary school?
- (2) When is it expected that suitable drainage for the school will be constructed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) A drainage scheme has been prepared and would link in with the overall district drainage scheme which is currently under construction.

## EDUCATION

*School: Westfield Park*

154. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department have plans to provide additional parking spaces for staff and parents, a bus turnaround and a canteen access road at Westfield Park primary school?
- (2) If so, what priority do these plans have?
- (3) When is it expected that these facilities will be constructed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) High.
- (3) During the 1979-80 financial year.

## EDUCATION

*School: Westfield Park*

155. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to provide landscaping around the new pre-primary school centre at Westfield Park primary school?
- (2) If so, when is this expected to be completed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) A gardener has been employed to develop surrounding areas according to a plan supplied by the Public Works Department landscape section.

## EDUCATION

### *School: Westfield Park*

156. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to fence the pre-primary centre at Westfield Park primary school, in accordance with APA standards?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) A request has been made to the Public Works Department for a cost estimate on the fencing required.
- (2) The area is expected to be fenced as early as possible.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### *Credit Cards*

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

- (1) Has the Consumer Affairs bureau received complaints about the sending through the post or otherwise of unsolicited credit cards?
- (2) If so, what action is being undertaken to restrict this practice?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The sending of unsolicited credit cards is specifically prohibited by Section 63A of the Trade Practices Act. No further action is needed since any breach of this section reported to the bureau would be immediately referred to the Trade Practices Commission.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### *Advertising Leaflets*

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

- (1) Does the Government have a policy with respect to the sending of leaflets which are similar in appearance to telegrams?
- (2) If so, what is that policy?
- (3) Do leaflets exist which read:  
"REALTYGRAM—URGENT  
TO THE HOUSEHOLDER  
ARE YOU CONSIDERING SELLING  
YOUR HOME STOP N. J. HERBERT  
AND CO. PTY. LTD. HAVE BUYERS  
FOR PROPERTIES IN YOUR AREA  
STOP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
PLEASE PHONE 21-8133 OR 60-3098  
A/H STOP

ANDRES MURNICK  
MANAGER"

(4) Have there been complaints with respect to this type of advertising?

(5) What action does the Government propose to take in this matter?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) I am not aware of their existence.
- (4) No.
- (5) None.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### *Readers Digest*

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

- (1) Has he received a complaint about "Articles of Eligibility Giveaways" by the *Readers Digest* in which official numbers give a person six chances to win a prize in the \$60 000 Lucky Number Giveaway?
- (2) Is he aware that *Readers Digest* claims to have given away \$1 483 768 to 76 812 winners in previous *Readers Digest* competitions?
- (3) Is he, or his Federal and other State colleagues, able to verify the accuracy of a statement that claims to have given almost \$1½ million away?
- (4) Will he institute an investigation so as to determine whether this statement contravenes the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisement Act or the advertising provision of the Trade Practices Act?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) *Readers Digest* could be asked to substantiate the statement.
- (4) I have no evidence which would suggest any such contravention and therefore I have no intention of commencing a costly investigation. In any event, *Readers Digest* being a nationally operating company based in New South Wales, the matter would be more appropriately referred to the Trade Practices Commission.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### *Readers Digest*

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

Has the Consumer Affairs bureau received complaints of unsolicited books being sent to residents by *Readers Digest* and being charged to them?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:  
Only one recent complaint of this nature has been received. The consumer is completely protected by the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act and this has been made clear to *Readers Digest*.

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### *Defective Goods: Bankcard Charge*

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

- (1) Do consumers who use a bank card have to pay the bank card charge even when the goods bought have proved to be defective in a material particular?
- (2) Has the Consumer Affairs Bureau received complaints with respect to this problem?
- (3) If so, what are the details?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) A consumer who purchases defective goods has a claim for damages against the supplier. Such a claim encompasses consequential damage. This is a separate transaction to the supply of credit by the bank card operator. Initially any bank card charge would need to be paid by the consumer, but any loss sustained would be recoverable as consequential damage. When defective goods are promptly returned to the supplier, it may be possible for a consumer's bank card account to be credited without any loss.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

### SWIMMING POOLS

#### *Government Action*

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

Adverting to question 2554 of 1978, what has been the Government's decision with respect to supervising the building and installation of underground swimming pools under the Builders Registration Act or under some other Statute?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:  
In terms of the Builders' Registration Act, this matter was the subject of investigation. It has been recommended that no justification for registration of swimming pool contractors is evident at this time.

In any event, there is ample provision to deal with problems in this field by virtue of the Consumer Affairs Act and Small Claims Tribunals Act.

163 and 164. *These questions were postponed.*

### HEALTH

#### *Asbestosis, Mesothelioma, and Lung Cancer*

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

How many cases has there been of—

- (a) asbestosis;
- (b) mesothelioma;
- (c) lung cancer believed to be contracted by employees coming into contact with asbestos in the workplace before the Workers' Compensation Board in each of the following years—
  - (i) 1970;
  - (ii) 1971;
  - (iii) 1972;
  - (iv) 1973;
  - (v) 1974;
  - (vi) 1975;
  - (vii) 1976;
  - (viii) 1977;
  - (ix) 1978;
  - (x) so far in 1979?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The information requested is not available.

Cases of this nature usually only come before the Workers' Compensation Board as a result of applications for a variation in payment or on behalf of dependents of a deceased worker.

### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

#### *Clothing Manufacturing Industry*

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

- (1) Are certain firms in the clothing manufacturing industry entering into arrangements with their employees which avoids, or purports to avoid, the master and servant relationship?
- (2) If so, what action is he taking with respect to the avoidance of the payment of proper wages and the observance of proper working conditions?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Claims have been made by both the Trades and Labor Council and union involved that firms in the clothing trade industry are entering into arrangements to avoid the requirements of the Industrial Arbitration Act.

A complaint of this nature was taken before the Industrial Magistrates Court and pursued by appeal to the WA Industrial Appeal Court in 1977, wherein it was held that a claim to the

effect that an agreement was a sham was not vindicated and that no master-servant relationship existed within the terms of the agreement.

- (2) An employee with a complaint has the opportunity to seek the support of his union to take a case to the Industrial Magistrates Court for determination.

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

### *Youth Support Scheme*

167. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:
  - (1) How many persons are employed under the community youth support scheme in Western Australia?
  - (2) What support is given by the Government to these schemes?
  - (3) Is there any scope for initiative by local committees?
  - (4) If so, what are the details?
  - (5) Has there been any waiving of conditions in Western Australia so as to permit a departure from the norm?
  - (6) If so, what are the details?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) to (6) The Community Youth Support Scheme is a Commonwealth Government programme and accordingly the information sought is not readily available through my department. Answers to these questions should be sought through the Federal Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

### *Mining and Metal Processing Operations*

168. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Mines:
  - (1) How many workers have been killed in metals mining and/or processing operations in WA for each of the past 10 years?
  - (2) How many non-fatal accidents have occurred to workers in metals mining and/or processing operations in WA for each of the past 10 years?
  - (3) How many of such accidents—fatal and non-fatal have occurred to employees of Western Mining Corporation?
  - (4) How many prosecutions have been taken against companies or companies' employees in respect of fatal or non-fatal accidents in their operations, for each of the past 10 years?
  - (5) How many convictions have followed prosecutions taken against companies or companies' employees in respect of fatal or non-fatal accidents in their operations for each of the past 10 years?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (5) The research required to answer the questions does not allow them to be answered at such short notice. I shall write to the member as soon as the answers can be obtained.

## MOORE v DOYLE CASE

### *Implications: Government's Policy*

169. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:
  - (1) When was the last time that the implications of the Moore v Doyle case were on the agenda of the Commonwealth and State Ministers for Labour meeting?
  - (2) What is the State Government's policy with respect to the resolution of the problems that have been visited upon the trade union movement as a consequence of the case of Moore v Doyle?
  - (3) Is it factual to summarise the Government's policy as was done by Mr Street in the Federal Parliament that it sees "little profit in pursuing the matter further"?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The Moore v Doyle case was listed as an agenda item at the September 1978 Ministers for Labour meeting.  
The case also came under general discussion at the February 1979 meeting.
- (2) and (3) The Government is currently examining a proposal by Senior Commissioner Kelly which will obviate many of the difficulties raised by the Moore v Doyle case.

A complete resolution of all of the problems would require reciprocal legislation from the State Governments and the Commonwealth.

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

### *Youths: Employment by Service Clubs*

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

What is the WA Government's policy with respect to the recent announcement by the Australian Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs that young people will be employed without remuneration on projects supervised by service clubs?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

Guidelines for the Commonwealth Government's proposed "Voluntary Youth Community Service Scheme" are still being formulated and accordingly it is not possible to comment fully on this programme.

However, the Federal Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Mr Viner, has stressed that the scheme will be completely voluntary and eligibility for unemployment benefit will not be affected where an individual is unwilling to participate.

#### EDUCATION: PRE-PRIMARY

##### *Centre: Hampton Park*

171. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is it expected that reticulation will be provided for the Hampton on-site pre-primary centre?
- (2) Is he aware that the matter of such reticulation is urgent?
- (3) Has he received representations from the Hampton Park on-site pre-primary Parents & Citizens Association requesting such a facility?
- (4) If so, what are the details?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) The Education Department is consulting with parents but as yet firm proposals have not been decided.

#### ABORIGINES: HOUSING

##### *Funds: Homeless Persons Assistance Act*

172. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

What funds have been made available to Western Australia for the housing of Aborigines pursuant to the Homeless Persons Assistance Act in each of the past three years?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The Homeless Persons Assistance Act is Commonwealth legislation and as such it is administered by the Department of Social Security. A local committee consisting of Commonwealth Government officers, State Government officers and representatives of the private welfare sector make recommendations on the disbursement of grants under the Act.

I am advised by the Department of Social Security that a small sum of money was made available to the Aboriginal Advancement Council's Marlee Hostel at Dianella by way of a daily accommodation subsidy. This subsidy continued until the hostel changed its function.

In addition, I am also advised the grants were approved under the Act to provide for the salary of a social worker and a welfare officer at a proposed night shelter to be operated by the Aboriginal Advancement Council. The proposed shelter did not eventuate and as a result no actual grant was made.

#### INSURANCE BROKERS

##### *Legislation*

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

Has there been any development in the preparation of legislation for the supervision of insurance brokers?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The general question of insurance, including insurance brokers, is presently before the Australian Law Reform Commission which invited, some time ago, by public advertisement, submissions from interested parties.

#### HEALTH

##### *Insecticides: Low Toxicity*

174. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have new types of insecticides with a low toxicity to mammals been developed in the past year by the CSIRO?
- (2) If so, what progress has been made in getting such insecticides on to the market?
- (3) What are the main constituents of the new insecticides?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) CSIRO has sought commercial collaboration in the development and marketing of the materials. I understand that a contract has been arranged with an experienced commercial firm for the development and marketing of those pesticides. Registration for agricultural use may be sought within two years.
- (3) The three materials belong to a chemical group that approximates an interstage between DDT and the synthetic pyrethroids.

#### SALES TAX

##### *Freight*

175. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Transport:

Following my request to the Premier for an approach to the Commonwealth Government for the removal of sales tax on freight which is presently payable, would he advise:

- (a) what action has been taken;
- (b) has the support of other States been sought; and
- (c) what has been the reaction of the other States?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I introduced the issue, particularly in relation to the effect on prices in isolated areas and on wholesaling activities, to the 54th Meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council in Canberra on the 23rd February, 1979.

Member Ministers supported me and agreed that the issue should be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry and Commerce for attention. The reference will be made by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport.

#### CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: EPA

*Recommendations: Endorsement by Government*

176. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) With regard to Red Book 2, 1976 of the Environmental Protection Authority, can the endorsement of these recommendations by Cabinet on 26th October, 1976 be understood to mean that as from the date of endorsement the recommendations become Government policy?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) (a) If not, what then is the legal status of the endorsed recommendations;
- (b) to what extent are they binding to Cabinet or Government?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) to (3) (a) Yes.

(3) (b) They are not binding, but form the basis of Government's policy on creation of National Parks and conservation reserves.

177, 178 and 179. *These questions were postponed.*

#### CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Blackwood River, Hardy Inlet, Swan Lake and Deadwater*

180. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Transport:

Further to question 2548 of 1978 regarding Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet, would he advise:

- (1) Which authority, if any, controls the waters and banks belonging to the area known as the Swan Lake and Deadwater east of the Hardy Inlet in Augusta?
- (2) (a) Are the waters and banks of the Swan Lake and Deadwater within private property indicated "location e, ellis", and the small lakes indicated to the east of these waters within location e, controlled by the Harbour and Light Department;
- (b) if not why not?

- (3) Will he table a copy of the latest map indicating the boundaries of control of the Harbour and Light Department as far as these waters and banks are concerned?
- (4) Will he table a copy of the latest map indicating areas of permitted water skiing and power boat racing on the waters of the Swan Lake/Deadwater area, the Hardy Inlet and the Blackwood River?
- (5) Will he indicate:
  - (a) Who is policing these waters;
  - (b) under the powers of which Act/s can breaches of regulations occur;
  - (c) how often is the policing of the abovementioned activities conducted?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Harbour and Light Department controls navigation on the Swan Lake and Deadwater at Augusta to high water mark, but has no jurisdiction over the banks.
- (2) (a) and (b) If lakes within private property are navigable by marine craft, the navigation is controlled by Harbour and Light Department.
- (3) The responsibility for the control of navigation on all navigable waters of the State rests with the Harbour and Light Department. Navigable waters of the State are those within three miles of the coastline below high water mark and include rivers, lakes and inland waters on which marine craft can be navigated.
- (4) The Deadwater is defined as a water ski area in addition to an area 1 000 metres north and 930 metres south of the area known as Twinchams Bend. There is no specific speed limit set for the Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet except for an 8 knot area between Alexander and Warner Glen Bridges. All power boat events on this river are subject to approval and conditions stipulated by the Harbour and Light Department.
- (5) (a) Harbour and Light Department.
- (b) Navigable Waters Regulations promulgated under authority of WA Marine Act, Shipping and Pilotage Act and Jetties Act.
- (c) The Department institutes mobile patrols at all peak periods of boating in addition to the activities of a resident honorary inspector.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet*

181. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands and Forests:

Further to question 2548 of 1978 regarding Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet, will the Minister:

- (1) Table a copy of a map showing the boundaries of Class C Reserve 25211 (Swan Lake/Deadwater Reserve, Augusta)?
- (2) Table a map showing which part of the waters, banks and lands within the Swan Lake/Deadwater area are controlled by the Harbour and Light Department, the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, and private land owners?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Plans are submitted for tabling. Note different scales.
- (2) Plans as in (1). Shire boundaries extend to low water mark and reserve boundaries to high water mark. The Crown controls the land between high and low water marks. Harbour and Light Department has legislative control of navigable waters to high water mark.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 105).*

## FISHERIES

*South Coast Fisheries Study*

182. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) What recommendations of the Hassell Report into Fisheries of the South Coast of Western Australia have been implemented?
- (2) (a) Is it intended to implement any others; and  
(b) if so, which ones and when?
- (3) (a) Is it proposed to place any restrictions of quantity or in any other way on the salmon which professional fishermen are able to net; and  
(b) if so, what are the details of such intention?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Recommendations relating to legislative changes are under consideration by the Government. Other action taken or in the process of being taken by the Government as a result of the recommendations of the report are:

- (a) Provision of financial assistance for an abalone survey and tuna spotting;
- (b) Planning of a south coast fisheries conference;
- (c) Introduction of a bag limit of five salmon per day;
- (d) Consideration of fishing boat facility requirements by the fishing boat facility committee;
- (e) Examination of ways and means of appointing an officer to provide written material for the fishing industry;
- (f) Arranged for research staff to discuss salmon research data with the leader of each salmon fishing team.

- (2) The report by the all party committee is a valuable document. The recommendations have been and will continue to be of immense value to the Government in pursuing its aim to expand and develop the south coast fisheries.
- (3) There are no new restrictions currently being implemented for the salmon fishery. However, research is proceeding and further management decisions may be required in the future.

## WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREA

*Land Clearing: Warren River*

183. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Will the Minister table a map of the Warren River water reserve area showing the zones into which the areas subject to clearing bans have been divided?
- (2) What are the specific conditions which apply to the clearing of land in each of these zones?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) Guidelines issued to assist district officers of the Public Works Department in their consideration of applications for licences under the amended Country Areas Water Supply Act set out the position. Attached to these guidelines are maps which show the areas in the catchments affected to which specific parts of the guidelines apply.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROMOTION OFFICERS

## *Employment by Government*

184. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) How many public relations officers are employed by the Government?
- (2) Will he advise the number employed by various departments?
- (3) Does the Government differentiate between public relations officers and Government or departmental promotion officers?
- (4) If so, what is the difference?
- (5) In the case of the Government employing promotion officers or the like, will he supply the same details regarding promotion officers or others as requested concerning public relations officers?
- (6) How many public relations officers were employed by the previous Government?
- (7) How many are employed by the present Government?
- (8) Will he provide details of those who have become obsolete, or where for some reason their services have been dispensed with?
- (9) Will he give similar details to the details requested in (7) for any additional persons employed in this field including names?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (9) The information is being collated and will be supplied to the member as soon as possible.

## MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

### *Trips: Overseas and Interstate*

185. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

Will he advise the number of times he or his Ministers have been:

- (a) overseas;
  - (b) interstate,
- since his Government took office and the number of days each has spent both overseas and interstate?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The question asked by the member is in keeping with the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition on the 3rd August, 1978, the response to which was tabled on the 14th September, 1978. On the 18th October, 1978, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked a similar question with minor amendments (see Question No. 1981 and answer). The member asks much the same

question with further minor amendments, and I reiterate that if he has any reason to believe travel is being undertaken of an unauthorised and unnecessary nature in the conduct of legitimate Government business, then I suggest he lets me have the grounds for his beliefs, and I shall have them investigated.

In the meantime, I do not propose to agree to staff being diverted from other duties to obtain the additional information the member requests.

## GAMBLING

### *Illegal Operations*

186. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

How many illegal gambling operations are there currently in Perth?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

There are six premises in Perth known to have conducted illegal gambling operations in recent times.

Since January 1978 these premises were visited by Police a total of 21 times and on each occasion the keeper and all persons found on the premises were charged and convicted.

## HOUSING

### *Interest Rates: Reductions*

187. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Bearing in mind the Government's performance in respect of its promise to substantially lower interest rates on home loans, will he please inform the House of steps he will take as a matter of urgency to lower interest rates in the near future?

Mr RIDGE replied:

As I indicated in answer to Question No. 58 on the 3rd April, discussions were held with permanent building societies in the latter part of 1978, and reductions in interest rates were achieved. Discussions of a similar nature will be initiated when the financial climate indicates that further rate reductions could be effected without risk of reducing the inflow of funds for on-lending to home purchasers.

I have also been examining indirect means by which interest rates to the home purchaser could be reduced, and as a result an interest subsidy scheme was recently introduced. Under that scheme permanent building societies will advance



home loans at interest rates in line with those charged on low interest loans from the home purchase assistance account advances to terminating building societies.

Additionally, I have been giving attention to other areas which might result in more low interest funds being available under home purchase assistance conditions. Although no positive result has yet emerged, those efforts will be continued.

188. *This question was postponed.*

#### LAND: BUILDING BLOCKS

##### *Building Societies: Terminating*

189. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many building lots has the State Housing Commission made available to clients of terminating building societies wishing to erect homes, in each of the past five years?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The State Housing Commission does not require or record information as to sources of finance obtained by purchasers of its residential lots to satisfy the building condition of the land sale.

#### HOUSING

##### *Purchase and Rental: Management Fee*

190. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Is the State Housing Commission currently considering an increase in the management fee?

Mr RIDGE replied:

No.

#### HOUSING

##### *Day Labour Employees*

191. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many day labour employees were employed by the State Housing Commission on 30th June in each of the past six years?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Year	No. of Day Labour Employees as at June 30th
1973	241
1974	244
1975	210
1976	220
1977	244
1978	255

#### HOUSING

##### *Purchase: Finance*

192. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Have staff informing applicants whose turn is reached for purchase assistance or answering inquiries from people with their names already on the commission's purchase list been instructed to inform inquirers that it is now the responsibility of applicants to find their own finance?
- (2) If not, what is the nature of instructions given to staff handling these inquiries?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Registered purchase applicants are formally advised that applicants whose turns are reached are given the opportunity of being referred to terminating building societies for finance assistance under the home purchase assistance scheme. Applicants who satisfy the building society criteria can receive a loan of up to \$27 000 to purchase a house and land of their selection on the open market in the metropolitan area, provided the value of this does not exceed \$30 000. Successful applicants will be required to contribute a minimum of \$1 500 from their own savings and be prepared to find the balance, plus fees from other sources. It is the responsibility of the applicant to negotiate a loan from any of the terminating building societies nominated as still having funds available to service referred applicants.

#### HOUSING

##### *Maintenance*

193. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many

(a) outside;

(b) inside

staff are employed on maintenance work by the State Housing Commission?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (a) 230 full-time plus a variable time proportion of 29 non-metropolitan based construction/maintenance supervisors.
- (b) 15 full-time plus variable time proportion of head office accounts staff and non-metropolitan office staff.

## HOUSING

*Parliamentary Liaison Office*

194. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many

(a) Parliamentary;

(b) Ministerial

representations have been dealt with by the Parliamentary liaison office in each of the last 12 months?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Month	Parliamentary	Ministerial	Total
1978			
April	157	27	184
May	205	18	223
June	186	25	211
July	190	32	222
August	223	38	261
September	158	31	189
October	185	24	209
November	168	22	190
December	183	23	206
1979			
January	183	17	200
February	255	20	275
March	225	16	241

## WATER SUPPLIES

*Cockburn Sound Region*

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

(1) Is it a fact that recent studies of ground water in the Cockburn Sound region have found the following contaminants:

(a) hydrocarbons;

(b) phenol;

(c) herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T;

(d) detergent;

(e) caustic soda (two localities);

(f) ammonia;

(g) nitrate;

(h) chromium;

(i) copper;

(j) nickel;

(k) zinc;

(l) cadmium?

(2) (a) At what localities; and

(b) in what amounts in each case?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) and (2) The information sought is being obtained as part of the overall study of Cockburn Sound and I have no intention of releasing the information other than in the context of the total study.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Western Mining Corporation: Baldavis*

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

Relative to the recent leak in the membrane lining of Western Mining's effluent pond in Baldavis:

(1) What material leaked into the ground water?

(2) What quantity leaked?

(3) (a) Can it be recovered; and

(b) how will this be done?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) The concentration varies with the season but measurements taken on the 21st March gave the following analysis:

Ammonium sulphate	20.5 g/l
Common salt	1.8 g/l
Nickel	0.46 g/l
Copper	0.05 g/l
Cobalt	0.01 g/l

(2) It is not possible to be exact but the quantity is not greater than 100 000 cubic metres.

(3) (a) Investigations are under way and it is expected that the material can be recovered.

(b) By pumping the groundwater back into the pond.

197. This question was postponed.

## PORT

*Rockingham*

198. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

(1) With reference to the proposal in the final report of the Rockingham sub-regional centre study to make Rockingham a port, can she advise what area of land will be required for storage of containers, wool dumping, chandlery, etc.?

(2) What is the precise position in which these facilities will be provided?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) and (2) The study refers to 1968 proposals embodied in the metropolitan region scheme and does not, nor was required to, deal with the issues mentioned.

## PORT

*Rockingham*

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

In respect of the new port proposed for Mangles Bay, can he advise what will be the effect on the recreational environment of:

- (a) Cockburn Sound generally;
- (b) Palm Beach and Rockingham Beach specifically?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

There is no new proposal for a port in Mangles Bay. A preliminary concept for such a facility was reflected in the metropolitan region scheme in 1975. Before any proposal to develop such a port is implemented, there will be detailed investigation of all aspects of the proposal.

## PORT

*Rockingham*

200. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

What studies have been conducted since 1968 which show a need for a further new port to be built possibly in Rockingham?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I am not aware of any such studies in the Rockingham area.

## LAND

*Shipbuilding*

201. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

What area of land is it generally accepted would be suitable to build a 3 000 tonne ship?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

This would be totally dependant upon the method used to construct the various parts of such vessel.

In general terms shipyards capable of building a 300 tonnes vessel would be between three and five hectares.

## HEALTH

*Dental: Subsidies*

202. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that he is currently investigating outer metropolitan areas that could possibly be granted as areas where dental subsidies may be introduced?
- (2) When can a decision on this matter be expected?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes, the investigation relates to categories of persons who may be granted subsidies and not to the particular areas.
- (2) As soon as possible but any change in the existing arrangements is dependent on availability of finance.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Laporte Australia Ltd.*

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

- (1) What studies have been or are being undertaken into the effluent disposal from Laporte Australia Ltd.?
- (2) (a) Are any of these reports available for public perusal;
- (b) if so, which; and
- (c) where can they be obtained?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) I table a list of the studies.
- (2) The two published fisheries reports are available from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

*The list was tabled (see paper No. 106).*

## EXPLOSIVES

*Warnbro Area*

204. Mr BARNETT, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Would he please outline all steps taken by his department to have the high explosives in the Warnbro area cleared?
- (2) Would he please outline the results in each case?
- (3) When can the people of the area expect positive action to clear the area of high explosives?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) All steps possible have been taken. The best detection equipment available to date is not entirely suitable for a task of this magnitude.

A unit of the most advanced type available overseas has been ordered from the United Kingdom by the Commonwealth and efforts are being made to upgrade the effectiveness of existing magnetometer equipment.

Arrangements are in hand for commencement soon after Easter of clearance, using the magnetometer, of a strip of land in the primary impact area along the route of the Mandurah Road project.

## ROAD

### *Ennis Road*

205. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it proposed to extend Ennis Road, Rockingham, in a southerly direction to pass adjacent to lakes Cooloongup and Walyungup and link up with the present Mandurah Road?
- (2) When will work commence?
- (3) When is it expected that work on the road will commence in the area west of Lake Walyungup?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Tenders for this project closed on the 27th March, 1979. The tenders are being assessed now and provided there are no unforeseen difficulties, it is expected that work will commence about mid May.
- (3) This would depend on the construction programme adopted by the successful tenderer.

## WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE

### *Rates: Collection*

206. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Further to my question 2047 of 1978, will the Minister now advise:

- (a) has his department completed its overall investigation of decentralised revenue collection;
- (b) is it possible to say now if Rockingham will be provided with facilities for the payment of water and sewerage rates?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not at this time.

## COCKBURN SOUND

### *Heavy Metals Level*

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

Further to his answers to my questions 1486 and 1558 of 1978 concerning cadmium levels in Cockburn Sound, can he indicate when a positive result is likely to be achieved from the discussions between the company and Government advisers?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

Discussions are still proceeding and I cannot indicate when a positive result is likely to be achieved.

## ENERGY: ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

### *Fremantle and Rockingham Hospitals*

208. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it a fact that Fremantle Hospital has a special line that can be controlled by the power house so that if there is a general cut off that particular power line can be left open?
- (2) In view of the fact in many instances a separate generating plant can be insufficient to carry the required load, can a similar line be installed or arranged for the Rockingham Hospital?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Because of increased electrical demand at the Fremantle Hospital an independent high voltage circuit has recently been installed from the commission's major Fremantle zone substation to the hospital. Should power restrictions be necessary this independent line will be used to continue supply to this high priority connection.
- (2) Geographic location and existing load would not at present justify an independent power line to the Rockingham Hospital, but it is connected from a high voltage ring main to optimise security of supply.

## EDUCATION

### *Schools and High Schools: Rockingham Electorate*

209. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What numbers of children are enrolled at the following schools for 1979:
  - (a) Rockingham High School;
  - (b) Safety Bay High School;
  - (c) Rockingham Beach primary school;
  - (d) Bungaree primary school;

- (e) Cooloongup primary school;
  - (f) Hillman primary school;
  - (g) Safety Bay primary school;
  - (h) Warnbro primary school?
- (2) What were the numbers at the same schools at this time last year?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

	1st March, 1978	1st March, 1979
(a) Rockingham Senior High School ....	1 291	1 111
(b) Safety Bay High School ....	179	358
(c) Rockingham Beach Primary School ....	466 (—)	388 (—)
(d) Bundaree Primary School ....	622 (72)	636 (72)
(e) Cooloongup Primary School ....	152 (24)	276 (48)
(f) Hillman Primary School ....	541 (50)	524 (44)
(g) Safety Bay Primary School ....	747 (72)	735 (72)
(h) Warnbro Primary School ....	457 (50)	530 (56)

Note: Pre-primary enrolments shown in brackets included in totals.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

##### *Rockingham Offices*

210. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

What State Government departments are contemplating establishing offices in the Rockingham area?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

At the present time the Government accommodation committee has no submissions from Government departments for the establishment of offices in the Rockingham area.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Chittleborough, Dr G.: Report*

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

- (1) When is it expected the Chittleborough report on Cockburn Sound will be completed and available to the public?
- (2) When is it expected the system six study will be completed and available to the public?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The report of the Cockburn Sound study is expected to be presented to the Government soon after the completion of the study in June, 1979.
- (2) The system six report is expected to be made public about the middle of this year.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: OWEN ANCHORAGE

##### *Industrial Effluent*

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

- (1) What plans does the Government have to upgrade the current noxious industries discharge into Owen Anchorage?
- (2) When is it expected implementation of those plans will commence?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government is still examining the various alternatives.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Cost Benefit Analysis*

213. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) With reference to the Jervoise Bay proposals, has a cost benefit analysis of the whole proposed industrial estate been done which includes the fishing industry and wharves, etc.?
- (2) Where is this available to be perused?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) No formal costs benefit analysis was done. The requirement was for a planning study to be carried out to produce a balanced approach to recreational and industrial uses of the Jervoise Bay-Woodman Point area.

214. *This question was postponed.*

#### EDUCATION

##### *Teachers: Australian Teachers' Federation*

215. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it fact that the Australian Teachers' Federation has decided to affiliate with the Australian Council of Trade Unions without conducting a referendum of the members of the constituent bodies?
- (2) Is it fact that when the vote on the issue was taken at the Australian Teachers' Federation conference, only two affiliates of the Australian Teachers' Federation voted against Australian Teachers' Federation affiliation with the ACTU and they did so on the basis that 80 per cent of the membership of the affiliates had rejected the proposal in referendums?

- (3) Has the State School Teachers' Union of W.A. Incorporated conducted a referendum of its members to ascertain if they desire to become affiliated through the Australian Teachers' Federation with the ACTU?
- (4) Is the State Government concerned at the attitude being adopted by the W.A. State School Teachers' Union in relation to this issue?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) I am advised that at a recent conference, the Australian Teachers' Federation decided to affiliate with the ACTU.
- (2) I believe this is so.
- (3) Not to my knowledge.
- (4) The Teachers' Union in this State is able to determine its own attitude in this matter without Government interference.

Mr. Skidmore: Best bit of industrial news I have heard.

Mr. P. V. JONES: I have not finished yet. However, in the view of the stated union aspirations where being accepted and recognised as having an interest and concern for the "professional", as distinct from "industrial" aspects of education, I trust the executive of the union will ensure that all decisions taken reflect the majority view of union members.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

##### *Roads: Closure*

216. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is a local authority empowered to close part of a road for a limited period?
- (2) If so, on what basis may the local authority proceed?
- (3) If so, what is the basic procedure which must be followed in relation to the partial closure and, in particular, what public notification must be given?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes—under prescribed circumstances.
- (2) The Member is referred to  
Sections 301 (b), (c) and (d)  
331(2),  
331A  
331B  
333  
334  
and 244(7)
- (3) The requirements differ according to the section of the Act utilised.

217. *This question was postponed.*

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

##### *North City Holden*

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

Is the Consumer Affairs Bureau taking action against North City Holden because it sold a Kingswood automatic sedan, 1975 model, to S. and E. M. Phillipson by taking the vehicle to the Phillipson home rather than doing business at the yard, as required by law?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

Since the member was instrumental in referring this matter to the Consumer Affairs Bureau for investigation and is aware that Mr and Mrs Phillipson were interviewed by the bureau's solicitor on Tuesday the 3rd April, he will also know that investigations are still being undertaken by the bureau to determine whether a breach of the Motor Vehicle Dealers' Act has occurred.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

##### *Household Cleaning Agents*

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

- (1) Has a report been made on household cleaning agents and similar liquid non-edible substances by the consumer products safety committee?
- (2) If not, when is it expected that the report will be made?
- (3) Will the report be made public?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) to (3) No. The question of household cleaning agents and similar liquid non-edible substances *per se* has not been referred to the consumer products safety committee.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

##### *Drink Dispensers*

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

Has the Government banned the sale of drink dispensers which leach zinc or other heavy metals into drinks with a high acidic content?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

No. The particular product has been banned under the Trade Practices Act. Although the products are not known to be on sale in Western Australia, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs is moving to ban the products under the Consumer Affairs Act.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

*Hire-Purchase Act: Relief*

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

How many individual people have received relief from the Commissioner pursuant to section 36A of the Hire-Purchase Act in each of the following years:

- (a) 1975;
- (b) 1976;
- (c) 1977;
- (d) 1978;
- (e) to date in 1979?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (a) None on record.
- (b) and (c) None.
- (d) 79.
- (e) 300.

## FUEL: PETROL

*Price Differential*

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

Pursuant to the Consumers Affairs Bureau's inquiries into the pricing of petrol in Esperance:

- (1) What is the price differential between Esperance and
  - (a) Albany;
  - (b) Perth?
- (2) Are these price differentials justified by the cost of freight?
- (3) If so, what are the details of such justification and how were they arrived at?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The present differentials are not known. When the bureau last inquired, on 9th March, at the request of the Trades and Labor Council, the general differential between Albany and Esperance for super grade petrol was 2.9c per litre in favour of Albany. Additionally, there was at that time one discount outlet in Albany for which the differential with Esperance was 4.3c per litre.

At the time of the inquiry referred to, no comparison was made with Perth prices because it was not requested.

- (2) and (3) Not known.

## APPRENTICES

*Female*

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

- (1) Did his immediate predecessor receive a letter dated 27th October, 1977 from the Trades and Labor Council asking the Government to outline its attitude to girls and women becoming apprenticed in trades which in the past have been the sole prerogative of males?
- (2) Which trades is it Government policy for women to be excluded from?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As indicated in my reply to the Trades and Labor Council, the Government does not place any prohibition upon employment of girls and women in any apprenticeship trade.

## EXPORTS

*Government Policy*

224. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Does his Government support the tactics of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, Hon. J. D. Anthony, MHR, which he has used in attempting to obtain for Australia better prices for exported resources?
- (2) Will he make a ministerial statement to the House on this question?
- (3) If not, to what degree does he not approve of Mr Anthony's tactics and what is the rationale for his views?
- (4) Does the Government's policy adhere to that of Mr Anthony's when he states that greater cohesion and co-ordination amongst the sellers would result in better terms to Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No. In giving such answer, it is not conceded that the Federal Minister's methods will obtain better prices—or bigger tonnages—for exported resources.
- (2) and (3) My views on this subject have already been made quite clear in public statements reported by the Press.
- (4) Greater cohesion and co-ordination amongst sellers is largely a matter for the sellers themselves to decide after examining all commercial implications—not an area for Government intervention. However, this does not prevent sensible consultation with Governments—both Commonwealth and State—where there are appropriate matters of mutual concern and responsibility.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Plumbing Code*

225. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When was the draft national plumbing code gazetted?
- (2) If the code has not yet been gazetted, when is it expected that it will be?
- (3) Is it fact that for the past 12 to 18 months it has not been possible to purchase copies of the draft national code?
- (4) Is it also fact that as a consequence of this difficulty teachers of apprentices have had to photocopy the material?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The draft national plumbing codes have not been gazetted.
- (2) The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board by-laws are being reviewed to conform with and include the draft national plumbing codes. These should be available within the next six months.
- (3) Supplies have been limited pending the review referred to.
- (4) This could be the case when copies of the codes have not been available.

## HEALTH

### *Asbestos Products*

226. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has been taken to inform citizens of the dangers of using asbestos products?
- (2) (a) Is it fact that migrants are particularly at risk because of the language barrier; and  
(b) are any special efforts being made to inform migrants of the dangers?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The dangers of working with asbestos have been repeatedly discussed for many years with representatives of Government departments, the medical and allied professions, the public, the media and trade unions and very many individuals who have sought information from the Public Health Department. The division of occupational health has published and distributed a booklet entitled *Asbestos and Health* to persons who might possibly be exposed to asbestos. Few, if any, substances have been as widely discussed as asbestos in recent years.

(2) (a) No;

- (b) Exposure of migrant workers to asbestos is controlled automatically by the application of the asbestos regulations of the Factories and Shops Act, and all premises where asbestos is used are supervised by the inspectors employed under that Act and/or by officers of the occupational health branch.

## HEALTH

### *Asbestos Products*

227. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has there been any alteration to building codes so as to take cognizance of the dangers of the use of asbestos in buildings?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) If not, is any action contemplated?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) The Public Works Department does not intend taking any action to seek an amendment to the Uniform Building By-Laws.

## EDUCATION

### *School Buildings: Asbestos Ceilings*

228. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Which schools contain asbestos in their ceilings?
- (2) What action is being taken to remove the hazards that may be present from such ceilings?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Many schools contain forms of asbestos in their ceilings. However, the department is not aware of any ceilings being other than the asbestos cement sheet material.
- (2) There is no evidence to show that any hazard exists in the use of cement sheet asbestos. Therefore, no action is envisaged.

## ENERGY: NUCLEAR

### *Evaluation Study*

229. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What stage has the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation study reached?



- (2) To what extent is the Western Australian Government involved in this study?
- (3) How are possible differences of opinion between the State Government and the Australian Government resolved?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) It is hoped that a report will be available by the end of this year.
- (2) WA is not directly involved. The Commonwealth Government is represented on several committees of the study.
- (3) Any differences of opinion which may arise are settled by the normal processes of State-Commonwealth liaison.

### OIL TANKERS

#### *Inspections*

230. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the Government implementing a procedure which has apparently been implemented in other States by which all oil tankers are inspected at their first port of call in this country so as to ascertain the handling and safety precautions observed during loading and discharging operations, qualifications and experience of the crew and the seaworthiness of the ship?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The procedures referred to are carried out by Federal Department of Transport surveyors in Western Australian ports.

For a number of years at the Port of Fremantle, Fremantle Port Authority pilots have been appraising the seaworthiness of tankers before they proceed through port waters.

Tankers, when handling cargo at Kwinana, are under the surveillance of FPA jetty superintendents throughout the operation and in the inner harbour bunker operations are overseen by the harbour master's officers.

### COMMUNITY WELFARE

#### *Disabled Persons*

231. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Are figures available as to the numbers of disabled people in Western Australia as a total and as sub-totals of particular disability groups?

Mr YOUNG replied:

No.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, however, undertook a health interview survey throughout Australia in 1977-78 which will provide estimates of the numbers of disabled people in Western Australia both in total and in particular disability groups. Two preliminary reports referring to Australia as a whole are already available (A.B.S. documents 4309.0 and 4310.0) and a final report for Western Australia is expected later this year.

### STATE FORESTS

#### *Mining Reforestation*

232. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands and Forests:

- (1) Has there been a development of two 70 hectare trial areas which aim to determine the best species of tree for reforestation of mined sites or dieback areas?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) Who is bearing the cost?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Two trial areas have been developed to allow fine screening of species that will be used for rehabilitation in the northern jarrah forest. Particular characteristics under investigation are—root growth and transpiration habits.
- (2) (a) Del Park, 80 ha. in extent was planted in 1978. 70 species with up to 4 different provenances of each species were used.  
(b) George Block, 90 ha. are currently being developed for planting in 1979 and 1980. At least 70 species plus provenances will be used.
- (3) Costs are borne jointly by the Forests Department, Public Works Department and Alcoa and investigations are co-ordinated by the Hunt steering committee.

### IMMIGRATION

#### *Refugees: Indo-Chinese*

233. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) What proportion or number of refugees from the Indo-Chinese region has Western Australia agreed to take in—  
(a) 1978;  
(b) 1979?
- (2) What agreement, if any, has been entered into with respect to 1980 or further?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no formal agreement on the acceptance of refugees, and the Commonwealth Government allocates them between States on the availability of Commonwealth hostel accommodation.

## HEALTH

### *Lead Levels: Fruit*

234. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the National Health and Medical Research Council yet reached a decision on the reduction of lead levels in fruit and fruit products other than dried fruit?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) If not, when is it expected that a decision will be reached?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (3) The National Health and Medical Research Council is conducting a general review of its recommended standard for metals in foods, which includes a maximum residue limit for lead in fruit and fruit products other than dried fruit. This review has not yet been completed, but a decision is expected by the end of the year.

## HEALTH

### *Lead Emissions from Motor Vehicles*

235. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What research has been conducted into the relationship between human illness and lead emissions from motor vehicles in the past two years?
- (2) Has a determination upon these matters been made by the National Health and Medical Research Council?
- (3) Has that Council reviewed its 1973 recommendations on lead emissions from motor vehicles?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) There have been numerous reports on studies, but the results are inconclusive. A reasonable assessment of the current situation indicates an increase of 1 to 2/ug of lead per 100 ml of blood for each increment of 1/ug per cu.m. of lead in air but no human illness arising from lead emissions from motor vehicles has been conclusively demonstrated.
- (2) Council recommended the adoption of a policy designed to ensure that urban lead in air concentrations will not increase above the existing levels.
- (3) No.

## HEALTH

### *Lead Catchment Devices on Motor Vehicles*

236. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What is the Government's policy with respect to the fitting of lead catchment devices on motor vehicles?
- (2) Have there been discussions recently with Ministers from other States and from the Commonwealth?
- (3) If so, what are the details?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The Government is not yet convinced that lead catchment devices are a practical means of controlling atmospheric lead levels.
- (2) and (3) There have been some general discussions at government officer level at various national committees.

237 and 238. *These questions were postponed.*

## POLICE

### *Security Agents*

239. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Adverting to question 24 of 1979, is the Government satisfied with the degree of protection afforded to citizens against harassment by people such as Kenneth Ross Pierce of 23 Mentone Road, Balga?
- (2) Are the police concerned at the actions of people such as Pierce who act as if they are security agents and yet are not registered as such?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. As previously advised the person concerned had not acted in such a manner as to warrant police action as this question would imply.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION: BOARD

### *Hearings: Public and Private*

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

Will he now name the section of the Workers Compensation Act which he claimed on opening night permitted the board to hold certain of its proceedings in private and which therefore overrides section 28, but which he was unable to cite in the House on 4th April?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

Sections 12A and 12B which specifically provide for interlocutory applications.

## EDUCATION

*High School: Mandurah*

241. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What criteria will be used to determine when the Mandurah High School will cater for Year 11 and 12 students?
- (2) Based on current projections of the criteria referred to above, can he give a possible forecast of when the school will cater for Year 11 and 12 students?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The department must examine closely all administrative, financial and educational implications before a decision can be made. It must be appreciated that the cost of additional facilities, accommodation and staff is considerable.

If such facilities for years 11 and 12 are available in a nearby school, the duplication may be uneconomic.

- (2) Mandurah High School was built in one stage to accommodate years 8, 9 and 10, and it was not planned that years 11 and 12 be added until it was seen to be economically and educationally sound.

The situation will be under constant examination, but it is not possible at this stage to forecast when it might happen.

## COCKBURN SOUND

*Recreation: Report*

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

- (1) Has the Cockburn Sound study group prepared a recreation report on the sound?
- (2) Was that report completed on or about July of 1978?
- (3) Does the report refer to the possible effects the proposed Mangles Bay port will have on Palm Beach and Rockingham Beach?
- (4) Will he please provide me with a copy of the report?
- (5) (a) Will he please make the report available to the public;  
(b) if not, why not?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

(5) (a) No.

- (b) The report forms part of the overall Cockburn Sound study and as such will be incorporated in the final report of the study. I do not intend to release the recreation report other than in the context of the total study.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Statutory Coastal Authority*

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

- (1) Does the Government have plans to set up a statutory coastal authority or authorities?
- (2) If "Yes" when?
- (3) If "No" why is it not considered necessary?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The development of a coastal policy is being examined by the Conservation and Environment Council. A subcommittee of the council is currently advertising world-wide for a coastal management consultant to assist in the detailed development of the policy.

## TRAFFIC

*Off-road Vehicles: Legislation*

244. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Why has the off-roads vehicle legislation not been proclaimed?
- (2) When is the Government going to take action to reduce the inconvenience caused to many members of the public by indiscriminate users of off-road vehicles?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The proclamation of the Control of Vehicles (Off-road areas) Act has been deferred pending the preparation of the necessary regulations.
- (2) It is anticipated that the regulations will be finalised and the proclamation of the Act will take place in the near future.

# RECREATION

## *Cooloongup and Walyungup Lakes*

245. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Is she able to indicate a time scale for the development of Lakes Cooloongup and Walyungup as recreational areas?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

No.

# COCKBURN SOUND AND JERVOISE BAY

## *Tourism: Study*

246. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

(1) Have any studies been done in the Rockingham area which compare the benefits of the tourist dollar from those people using Cockburn Sound with that of any proposed expansion of the industrial complex?

(2) What studies have been done and will the Minister provide me with copies of them?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) and (2) No.

# CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## *Leschenault and Peel Inlets*

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

(1) Who are the people who have been commissioned to do a study of Peel Inlet and Leschenault Inlet?

(2) Will he provide me with a copy of their brief?

(3) When is it expected the report will be available for public comment?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young Pty. Ltd.

(2) Yes, and I table a copy.

(3) August, 1979.

*The brief was tabled (see paper No. 107).*

# COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

## *Scenic Drive*

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

(1) Has the Environmental Protection Authority as one of its coastal policy guidelines a section which says: "The proposed use should not detract from, but as far as reasonably possible, should enhance or protect environmental quality and natural scenic amenities."?

(2) How then does this equate with the proposal to reroute 5 km of scenic drive in the Jervoise Bay area?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) By its nature a shipbuilding operation must be adjacent to the coast and therefore is seen as a legitimate use in the terms of the EPA draft coastal policy guidelines. The development of an inland route for major through traffic is compatible with the guidelines.

# COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

## *ERMP: Comments*

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

(1) On page 82 of the Environmental Review and Management Programme on Jervoise Bay, it is stated: "Although the potential industries to be established in the industrial estate to the east are not known the same provisions are recommended." Can he advise why the consultants were not provided with information as to the nature of the industries to establish?

(2) Will he please advise how an Environmental Review and Management Programme can be prepared for an area when it is not known what industries will establish?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) The nature of such industries is not yet known.

(2) The present ERMP examines the general concept rather than the detail. Appropriate environmental investigations will be undertaken when any industry is proposed.

250. *This question was postponed.*

# HEALTH

## *Women's Refuge Centre*

251. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it a fact that women's refuges are 75% funded by the Federal Government?

(2) Is it a fact that the balance of 25% is made up by State Governments in all states except Queensland and Western Australia?

(3) Is he aware of the hardship this places on the voluntary workers at these institutions who as a result have to spend much of their time fundraising instead of manning the refuges?

- (4) Will he give consideration to increasing the Western Australian content of the subsidy to 25%?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Some women's refuges are funded by the Federal Government for 75 per cent of operating costs and 50 per cent of capital costs.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) If an organisation has true community support, then this should be demonstrated by an ability to attract donations to be used as a contribution towards the cost of operating the refuge.
- (4) The Western Australian content is 25 per cent of operating costs. There is no intention of increasing the State Government share (half of the total contribution from State sources) for the reason stated in (3) above.

#### LAND

##### *Rockingham*

252. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) How much land does the Government own in the area bounded by Dixon Road, Mandurah Road and Patterson Road, Rockingham?
- (2) Would he please provide me with a map showing Government holdings and private holdings in the area mentioned in (1)?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 383,299.3 hectares.
- (2) Yes.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Wetlands*

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

In regard to the Jervoise Bay rationalisation proposals, what measures will be adopted to avoid pollution of the wetlands to the east of the industrial area both by the new Cockburn Road and by the industrial area?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

Any future industry will be required to comply with the air and water pollution requirements of the Public Health Department and Public Works Department respectively.

254. *This question was postponed.*

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *Justification for Development*

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

In view of the fact that the Environmental Review and Management Programme on the Jervoise Bay proposals did not study in detail water circulation in Jervoise Bay and in fact recommends a detailed current measurement programme extending over at least one year, what environmental justification exists for the Government to proceed with an industrial complex without full details?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The EPA will review the ERMP in the light of public submissions and report to the Government in due course. It would therefore be premature for me to comment at this time.

#### TRANSPORT

##### *Air: Blind Persons*

256. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that blind persons travelling with Australian interstate airlines are eligible for a 50% reduction if they travel accompanied, but must pay full fare if they travel alone?
- (2) Is this an equitable situation?
- (3) If not, will he approach the airlines asking them to allow blind people to travel with a 50% reduction at all times?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes. However, interstate airline companies do offer a concession to blind persons travelling without an attendant in that if they travel with their guide dogs, the dog may travel in the cabin free of charge.
- (2) Information supplied to me is that the concession is designed for those blind persons who cannot travel alone and on those grounds the concession could be considered equitable.
- (3) I have already done this with one airline and I am following the matter up with the other.

**ENERGY: ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES**

*Power Station: Redbank*

257. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Energy Commission has breached the Engine Drivers Country Power Station (State Energy Commission) Award No. 19 of 1975 at Redbank power station, Port Hedland, by appointing an engine driver to the position of acting leading hand?
- (2) If so, will he ask the State Energy Commission to abide by industrial awards?
- (3) Is it also fact that unions in Port Hedland have constantly complained that State Energy Commission officers are attempting to cause friction with the union movement?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No. There is no leading hand allowance in the Engine Drivers Country Power Station (State Energy Commission) Award No. 19 of 1975. An engine driver acting as a leading hand is paid the general rate appearing in other energy commission awards.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) No such complaints have been received by the State Energy Commission.

**ENERGY: ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES**

*Electrical Appliances*

258. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Are changes contemplated to the existing uniform approvals scheme related to safety of electrical articles?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated such changes will be made?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The matter of electrical appliance approvals is presently under review by the regulatory authorities approvals committee of the Electricity Supply Association of Australia.
- (2) At this stage of the consideration it is not possible to indicate the timing of changes, if any, to the scheme.