

the Bill. I have reams of information concerning it. Mr Dans said that the Opposition has four opinions—none of which he presented to the House—and that there are differences between them. I have my information and my brief and I have checked them thoroughly and found that what I have said is accurate—

The Hon. R. Thompson: We hope.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: —and acceptable—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: To you.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: —to me; that is right. That is as far as the matter goes.

I again thank members for the interest they have shown in this Bill. Considering the somewhat heated state the Chamber reached once or twice, and despite the difficulties occasioned you, Mr President, and the Chairman of Committees and his deputies, in general, reasonable decorum has prevailed and we have not reached the situation reached sometimes in debates in other Parliaments.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We did not reach an emergency situation.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is right. I congratulate you, Mr President, and the Chairman and his deputies.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: I raised a question regarding the regulations made under the parent Act and the effect of the provisions in this Bill on those regulations. Were you able to ascertain any further information?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I distinctly remember the honourable member raising that point and I as distinctly remember answering it during the Committee stage. What I said then was correct. The regulations under the parent Act will stand unless there is a definite conflict and only then will they be set aside for the period of the emergency.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—17

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. M. McAleer
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. G. W. Berry	Hon. I. G. Pratt
Hon. Clive Griffiths	Hon. J. C. Tozer
Hon. J. Feitman	Hon. R. J. L. Williams
Hon. T. Knight	Hon. W. R. Withers
Hon. A. A. Lewis	Hon. D. J. Wordsworth
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	Hon. V. J. Perry
Hon. G. E. Masters	

(Teller)

Noes—8

Hon. R. F. Claughton	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs
Hon. D. W. Cooley	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. S. J. Dellar	Hon. Grace Vaughan
Hon. Lyla Elliott	Hon. D. K. Dans

(Teller)

Pair

Aye

No

Hon. N. McNeill Hon. R. T. Leeson

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

House adjourned at 6.09 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 10th October, 1974

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

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HYGIENE

*Inquiry by Select Committee:
Personal Explanation*

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [2.17 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: I propose to ask the House whether it will grant permission for the member for Swan to make a personal explanation. However, I warn members that if there is any dissentient voice he will not be able to do so. Is there any dissentient voice? As there is not, leave is granted.

Mr SKIDMORE: When I read the transcript of the speech I made on the motion of the member for Maylands, I found I may have misled the House. I therefore wish to correct the statement so that the House will not be so misled, if it has been. I said—

The Trades and Labor Council appointed a board known as the Construction Safety Board.

Quite obviously the Minister for Labour and Industry believes—and perhaps rightly so—that I referred to papers issued by the Government-appointed Construction Safety Board, but this is not so. The Trades and Labor Council established a committee known as the Construction Safety Committee and that is the committee to which I should have referred. The papers I mentioned throughout my speech were those issued by that committee. I hope that this explanation will clarify any misunderstanding concerning what I should have said as distinct from what I said.

QUESTIONS (29): ON NOTICE

1. PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTRES

Establishment

Mr BATEMAN, to the Premier:

As he has indicated in his Budget Speech for 1974-75 he intends to construct four pre-primary school centres for the purpose of admitting five year old children in the 1975 school year, will he advise—

- the areas these four pre-primary schools will be allocated;
- the total cost of the proposed pre-primary schools to be constructed?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) Montrose primary school, East Girrawheen.
- Southwell primary school, Hamilton Hill.
- North Scarborough Junior primary school, Scarborough.
- West Busselton primary school, West Busselton.
- (b) The estimated total cost of the construction of these pre-primary school centres is \$202 900.

2. NON-GOVERNMENT RAIL SERVICES

Governing Legislation

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would he please advise if the provisions relating to safety pursuant to the Government Railways Act are relevant or applicable to the conduct of a non-Government rail service such as the proposed tourist rail service being considered for the Boulder loopline?
- (2) If "No" is he aware of any other law concerning safety and applying to non-Government rail services?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

3. TOURISM

Rail Service at Boulder

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Would he please list the nature of financial grants and terms of eligibility available for application from the State Department of Tourism that could possibly be appropriate for helping to establish and maintain a tourist rail service on the existing Boulder loopline?
- (2) If he is aware of similar information regarding the Australian Government Department of Tourism, would he please supply it?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) To be eligible for assistance from the Department of Tourism the loop railway proposal should be—
 - (a) adopted, supported and submitted for consideration by a municipality or another acceptable public organisation;
 - (b) properly costed including provision of working capital sufficient to cover the establishment period;

- (c) supported by evidence of a management and operating programme suitable for such a venture;
- (d) accompanied by technical studies as to its viability and compliance with the requirements for public safety;
- (e) suitable arrangements having been made for the control of the land and stations en-route.

The Department of Tourism initiated discussion on this subject with Kalgoorlie interests in 1972 and the matter is being further examined at the present time.

- (2) Information as outlined in (1) would permit the Department of Tourism to evaluate the project to establish whether it should be submitted to the Department of Tourism and Recreation as a proposal worthy of a grant from Commonwealth sources having cognizance for the priority of other tourist works.

4. ALCOHOL AND DRUG AUTHORITY BILL

Interim Committee

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Who are the members of the interim committee who act as a working party to formulate proposals for the drug and alcohol legislation now before Parliament?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Hon. R. J. L. Williams, M.L.C.
 Dr J. Pougher.
 Mr D. Coates.
 Mr C. Lee.

5. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Collie Depot: Staff Replacement

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it correct that the SEC has determined that where SEC workers are resigning from the SEC depot at Collie they are not to be replaced?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) who issued this instruction;
 - (b) on what date was the instruction issued;
 - (c) what are the classifications that will be involved;
 - (d) what were the reasons for the change in policy not to replace staff;
 - (e) will not this policy result in additional overtime being worked at the Collie depot;

- (f) does this policy only apply to the Collie depot;
- (g) if (f) is "No" what other depots are involved?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No. On account of the difficult financial position, especially loan raising, however, a general instruction has been given requiring a critical review before replacing employees.
- (2) See (1) above.

6. WATER SUPPLIES

Carnarvon: Morgantown Development

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it correct that the Public Works Department provided a water service to the Morgantown stage I development at Carnarvon at a cost of \$233 per lot?
- (2) Has the department quoted a cost of \$411 per lot for similar services to Morgantown stage II development?
- (3) How does the Minister justify an escalation of costs of this magnitude?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) Yes, in June 1968.
- (2) In June 1974 the department submitted to the shire an estimate of \$37 000 to reticulate 96 lots, an average of \$386 per lot.
- (3) Escalation of costs is due to the effects of inflation over the intervening six years, and larger diameter pipes were required. The 1974 estimate includes \$8 000 for headworks charges. The 1968 estimate did not include any headworks charges.

7. LAMB

Imports from the Eastern States

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

- (1) Is the report contained in *The West Australian* newspaper of 9th October, 1974 that lamb carcasses from Victoria were being received in Western Australia, correct?
- (2) What quantity of lamb from Victoria has been imported into Western Australia in the past 12 months, and on what date was each shipment received, and what was the name of the importer in each case?
- (3) Are lamb carcasses imported into Western Australia from the Eastern States subjected to branding and grading requirements of the WA Lamb Marketing Authority or

the regulations of the Department of Health, and if so, what requirements must be met to comply with each of these controlling authorities?

- (4) (a) Is any charge made on lamb imported into Western Australia by the Lamb Marketing Authority or the Department of Health, and if so, for what purpose;
- (b) if not, can legitimate charges be made for any purpose?
- (5) If the report referred to in (1) above is correct does the Western Australian Government propose to take any action with regard to the importation of lamb; if so, what action, and, if not, why not?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Statistics on quantities of lamb carcasses imported from other States are not available.
- (3) Lamb carcasses imported into Western Australia for local consumption are subject to normal inspection by the Public Health Department's meat inspectors. The Marketing of Lamb Act, 1971, does not require lamb from other Australian States to be graded or branded by the Lamb Marketing Board.
- (4) A charge of 16c per head is made on lamb carcasses imported into Western Australia by the Public Health Department for inspection services.
- (5) Section 92 of the Constitution guarantees free trade between the States. The State Government has no constitutional power to legislate to impede interstate trade. If imports continued at significant levels it would be necessary to examine the need to ensure that standards set by the Lamb Marketing Board were maintained.

8. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Employees: Tertiary Qualifications

Mr LAURANCE, to the Premier:

- (1) What Government departments conduct schemes to assist employees to gain tertiary qualifications?
- (2) What form does this assistance take?
- (3) How many persons are in receipt of this assistance on—
 - (a) a full-time basis;
 - (b) a part-time basis, from each department?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Individual departments are not responsible for conducting schemes to assist public servants to gain tertiary qualifications.

Rather they assist in the administration of various schemes, for which the Public Service Board is responsible.

- (2) There are currently a number of schemes, including—

(i) Full-time study:

Depending upon circumstances, leave without pay or study leave on full or part pay may be granted. Officers in the welfare field may be granted assistance of \$70 a week, plus allowances for dependants, to undertake full-time studies in social work, subject to satisfying a number of pre-requisites. Also a number of officers are still studying under 80% of salary scheme which was last offered in 1973.

Although full-time cadetships are now only offered in the fields of dental science and clinical psychology, there are still a number of full-time cadets completing their studies in other areas.

In 1974 a two year course for training dental therapists, run by the Public Health Department was introduced.

(ii) Part-time study:

The current study assistance scheme provides for officers to be granted up to 5 hours a week "time off" on full pay to attend formal tuition in approved courses.

Traineeships leading to careers in drafting, engineering surveying, examination of survey plans, hydrography, quantity surveying and valuing.

Under this scheme trainees work full time in a department, and undertake by part-time study, where appropriate during working hours, the relevant academic course.

It is pointed out that the hydrography course is undertaken by correspondence.

Further, as cadetships were offered in the above fields up until 1973, there are a number of cadets still completing their courses part-time.

- (3) The statistics as at 30th June, 1974, were—

(a) full-time study:

61 officers were granted approval to undertake full-time studies in 1974.

12 officers currently studying social work under the "80%" and "\$70" schemes.

210 full-time cadets.

56 trainee dental therapists.

- (b) Part-time study—883 (including cadets and trainees).

9. CARNARVON HIGH SCHOOL

Site

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the area occupied by the senior high school site at Carnarvon?
 (2) Has the Minister endeavoured to acquire further land to increase this area?
 (3) Has any approach been made to the Federal Department of Transport in an endeavour to acquire land controlled by this department and adjoining the high school site?
 (4) If (3) is "No" will the Minister institute such an approach?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 3.43 hectares (8 acres 1 rood 32 perches).
 (2) Yes.
 (3) No.
 (4) Yes.

10.

HOUSING

Rents: Determination

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the method of determining the rental to be paid by occupants of Housing Commission dwellings by—

- (a) non-Aboriginal families;
 (b) Aboriginal families?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (a) Rentals are calculated on an economic basis to meet outgoings on amortisation, insurance, maintenance, rates and taxes and administration.
 (b) Dwellings for Aboriginal families are provided from non-repayable Commonwealth and State grants and rentals are charged on the following basis—

	Conventional Housing	Transitional Housing
1st year of occupancy	\$5.00 per week	\$3.00 per week
2nd year of occupancy	\$7.00 per week	\$5.00 per week
3rd year of occupancy	15% of income	15% of income

11. **CARNARVON HIGH SCHOOL**

Adjoining Land

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the area of that piece of land controlled by the Federal Department of Transport which adjoins the site of the senior high school at Carnarvon?
- (2) Is he aware for what purpose the Department of Transport requires this piece of land?
- (3) Will it be used for this purpose?
- (4) What restrictions would be placed on any development on the land owing to its proximity to the Carnarvon aerodrome?
- (5) Does he know if it would be possible for the Department of Transport to relinquish control of all or part of this land in order for it to be utilised in the expansion of the high school site?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Portion of Carnarvon town lot 570 with an area of 4.2973 hectares was compulsorily acquired in 1951 by the Commonwealth of Australia which is the registered owner in fee simple (certificate of title volume 372 folio 83A).
- (2) to (5) These questions could only be answered by Commonwealth authorities but a reference on departmental files indicates that the acquisition was "necessary to provide safe clearance for planes landing on the runway at the accepted flight slope of 1 in 40".

12. **COST OF LIVING**

Inquiry

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is the Government intending to conduct an inquiry into factors affecting the cost of living in the major regional centres and other country areas of the southern half of the State, along the lines of the recently published Pilbara study and the Kimberley study as recently announced?
- (2) If not, will he explain why not?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) To conduct an inquiry into factors affecting the cost of living in the southern half of the State would be a task of great magnitude and cost. Considerable information already exists concerning the problems in country areas and the Consumer Protection Bureau has already conducted inquiries into the price of beer and lamb which included country areas. If local Members,

after inquiry, feel there is a specific consumer problem in their particular electorate I would be happy to refer it to the Consumer Protection Bureau.

13. **GERALDTON-GREENOUGH ROAD**

Upgrading

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the particularly poor condition of the last 12 miles of the Geraldton highway between Greenough and Geraldton?
- (2) Does the Government propose to take prompt and urgent action to repair or upgrade this section of road?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The surface of some sections is irregular. However it is reasonably sound and not yet in urgent need of reconstruction. Particular attention is being given to the maintenance of this section of road.
- (2) Answered by (1).

14. **LAND**

90 Leonora Street: Retention as Open Space

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the area on and around the recently demolished home at 90 Leonora Street, South Como in Canning Bridge, to be retained as open space for a park?
- (2) If so, are the existing trees to be retained?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This property is required for the Kwinana Freeway extension. The trees will be retained until the design detail is completed and it is known whether they can be retained permanently as part of the landscaping proposals. In view of the honourable member's interest, I certainly hope that they can be.

15. **ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX**

Narrogin Electorate: Collection and Expenditure

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What amount of funds collected by road maintenance tax was expended in the local government authorities which comprise the Legislative Assembly district of Narrogin in 1973-74?
- (2) Are there figures available of the funds collected from these areas?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$147 400.
- (2) No. However, a regional survey carried out some years ago indicated that while 55% of the total road maintenance funds were spent in the south-west and great southern regions, only 35% of the collections were raised in these regions.

16.

RAILWAYS

Lake Grace-Hyden Line

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

Has the WAGR any intention to close or limit the use of all or part of the railway line from Lake Grace to Hyden?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Lake Grace-Hyden section is a seasonally operated line which is opened yearly between approximately September and December, mainly for the clearance of grain. The line is being opened this year as usual.

However, economics of keeping the line open are examined every three years and the study in this regard is to take place shortly.

17.

PINGELLY HIGH SCHOOL

Library-Resource Centre

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have tenders been considered for the construction of a library/resource centre at the Pingelly District High School?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) who is the successful tenderer;
 - (b) when is it anticipated work will commence?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) Tenders are currently under examination.
- (2) (a) No decision has yet been made.
- (b) This is dependent on date of acceptance of tender.

18.

TRAFFIC

Pedestrian Crossings: Formula

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Traffic:

Following on from question 21 of Wednesday, 9th October—

- (a) Is it permitted to establish crosswalks where it is felt circumstances warrant such, even though the stipulated formula cannot be met;

- (b) who is empowered to establish crosswalks in such circumstances;
- (c) are such crosswalks recognised by the Police, Main Roads Department and insurance companies;
- (d) are there any limitations placed on the establishment of such crosswalks?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Subject to the Traffic Act, 1919-1973 approval of the Road Traffic Safety Authority is required for the erection of all regulatory traffic measures. This would include pedestrian crossings. Warrants have been developed to assist in establishing the need for pedestrian crossings at particular locations and are used as a guide to consistent and safe treatment.
- (b) The Commissioner of Main Roads or in certain circumstances the local authority where traffic control rests with the local authority, is the sign erecting authority and thus empowered to establish the crosswalk subject to the prior approval of the Road Traffic Safety Authority.
- (c) The only crosswalks that can be recognised by law enforcement officers are those legally established.
- (d) The Road Traffic Code would make it an offence to establish a pedestrian crossing without the prior approval of the Road Traffic Safety Authority.

19.

CREMATORIUM

Establishment

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Local Government:

Has consideration been given to the establishment of a crematorium, outside the metropolitan area, and if so, would he table a copy of any report, survey, etc., available?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

No detailed survey has been made but the Administrator of the Karakatta Cemetery recently expressed the following opinion—

It is considered a crematorium could not operate without subsidy unless it performed a minimum of 200 services per annum.

Adopting the usual formula of accepting the death rate at 8 per 1000 and cremations at

50% of the funerals, the crematorium would need to serve a district comprising some 50 000 persons to achieve the required rate.

The cost of the chapel would naturally vary according to the size and the style of architecture, but the minimum would be a hall capable of accommodating 20 persons seated and 80 standing, plus a sound-proofed cremation and workroom, where the actual cremation would take place.

The installation of a single unit cremator and accompanying equipment would cost not less than \$25 000.

The actual running costs would be approximately \$400 per annum for fuel and oil and \$6 000 for the crematorium attendant's wages.

The administrator advised today that he now believed the population figure quoted for economical operation was conservative.

20. WATER SUPPLIES

Dunsborough and Quindalup

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has the Public Works Department "taken over" the Dunsborough Water Board, and if so, when were negotiations finalised?
- (2) Would he advise if his department has proposals to provide an improved water supply for the Dunsborough townsite?
- (3) Would he initiate a survey for the extension of the Dunsborough water scheme to include Quindalup?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) Yes, the scheme was taken over as from the 1st January, 1974.
- (2) and (3) Yes.

21. MARGARET RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Reticulation of Grounds

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have funds been allocated for the provision of pumps and associated works to improve reticulation of the Margaret River High School grounds?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what is the estimated cost and projected date of operation;
 - (b) when will tenders be called?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) \$9 000. It is hoped to start work next month but completion is dependent upon location of a suitable water supply and delivery of a pump.
- (b) Tenders closed on 20th August and a recommendation has been made.

22. LAND AGENTS ACT

Infringements and Registrations

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Can he advise the number of infringements to the Land Agents Act in each year since 1970 by—
 - (a) land agents;
 - (b) land salesmen?
- (2) Have any land agents or land salesmen been deregistered for breaches of the Act since 1970, and if so, would he advise the number concerned?
- (3) Would he advise the number of—
 - (a) land agents;
 - (b) land salesmen,
 registered at 30th June, 1974 in accordance with the Land Agents Act?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

	(a)	(b)
	Land agents	Land salesmen
(1) 1970	3	1
1971	2	3
1972	Nil	2
1973	4	1
1974	4	6
(2) 1970	4	1
1971	2	1
1972	Nil	1
1973	2	1
1974	1	2
(3) At 30-6-74	861	2440

23. EASTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Fourth-year Subjects

Mr MOILER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

In reference to the second paragraph of his answer to my question 2 on notice on Tuesday, 8th October—

- (a) to whom was it pointed out, and when, the additional facilities required at Eastern Hills High School for fourth-year classes would possibly not be available in February 1975;
- (b) what subjects may be limited by the absence of the proposed buildings?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (a) From 14th February, 1974 when the District Superintendent first reported on the accommodation needs of Eastern Hills High School in relation to the possible upgrading of the school, until 2nd August, 1974, when the decision to upgrade the school was announced, all discussion of the proposal was conducted against a background of presumed accommodation pressure.

The principal pointed out and the Education Department accepted that accommodation problems would be a limiting factor on the courses which could be offered. Another factor which was anticipated to lead towards limitation of course availability was the option of attendance at Governor Stirling Senior High School which would reduce the demand for some subjects.

- (b) Because of both factors mentioned in (a), it is possible that foreign languages, home economics, physics, chemistry, mathematics II and mathematics III may not be available.

24. RAILWAY SIDINGS

Upgrading

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the inadequate stock holding and loading facilities at Shark Lake, Scaddan, Salmon Gums railway sidings?
- (2) Is it intended to upgrade these facilities?
- (3) If so, what improvements are planned, and when?
- (4) Is consideration to be given to floodlighting the area to enable night loading?
- (5) If (2) is "No" why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Facilities at Salmon Gums and Scaddan are considered adequate. The holding capacity for live-stock at Shark Lake is being examined by the Railways Department.
- (2) There are no plans to upgrade the facilities at Scaddan and Salmon Gums except for alterations necessary as a result of standard gauge working. Improvements to Shark Lake will depend

on results of the Railways Department's inquiries and the amount of traffic offering.

- (3) See (2).
- (4) At the present time no, but the Railways Department will investigate the need for lighting.
- (5) Not applicable.

25. MIDLAND ABATTOIR

Killing Charges: Lambs

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Could he advise the killing charges for sucker lambs at the Midland abattoirs?
- (2) What is the extra charge for mulesed lambs?
- (3) How can the extra charge be justified?
- (4) Who authorised the additional charges?
- (5) What date did new charges come into effect?
- (6) Were farmer organisations advised of additional charges prior to implementation, and did they concur?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Slaughtering charges for sucker lambs at Midland Abattoir are as follows—
 - (a) Local consumption—
 - (i) Up to and including 16 kg dressed weight—\$2.12 per head.
 - (ii) Greater than 16 kg dressed weight—\$2.12 per head plus \$0.078 per kg for each kg over 16 kg.
 - (b) Export—
 - (i) Up to and including 16 kg dressed weight—\$1.72 per head.
 - (ii) Greater than 16 kg dressed weight—\$1.72 per head plus \$0.078 per kg for each kg over 16 kg.
- (2) There is no extra charge for mulesed lambs.
- (3) to (6) Not applicable.

26. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Grants Commission Allocations

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) How much finance has the Australian Government undertaken to allocate to local authorities in Western Australia this financial year, following the recommendations of the Grants Commission?
- (2) What amounts were provided to each local authority in the Perth metropolitan region?

- (3) What amounts were provided to the following local authorities—

Geraldton;
Albany;
Bunbury;
Northam;
Merredin?

- (4) How many local authorities applied to the Grants Commission?
(5) How many did not apply to the Grants Commission?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) \$4 959 000.

(2) Cities of—	\$
Fremantle	125 000
Melville	147 000
*Nedlands	Nil
Perth	Nil
South Perth	95 000
Stirling	490 000
*Subiaco	Nil
*did not make a submission for a grant.	
Towns of—	\$
Canning	172 000
Claremont	22 000
Cockburn	110 000
Cottesloe	30 000
East Fremantle	27 000
Gosnells	120 000
Mosman Park	13 000

Shires of—	\$
Armadale-Kelmscott	60 000
Bassendean	50 000
Bayswater	150 000
Belmont	135 000
Kalamunda	82 000
Kwinana	65 000
Mundaring	44 000
Peppermint Grove	Nil
Rockingham	37 000
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	7 000
Swan	110 000
Wanneroo	75 000

(3) Geraldton	120 000
Albany-Town	90 000
Shire	45 000
Bunbury	Nil

Mr Harman: Do you want to read them quickly because it is embarrassing you?

Mr RUSHTON: It is not embarrassing me, it is only some of our money coming back. To continue—

*Northam-Town	Nil
Shire	16 000
Merredin	32 000

*did not make a submission for a grant.

- (4) 131.

- (5) 7.

Mr Harman: It is embarrassing you, isn't it?

Mr RUSHTON: Not a bit: I hope the Opposition is embarrassed at the intrusion of the Commonwealth Government.

27. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Roe Electorate: Expenditure

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Transport:

As in answer to my question on 27th August he indicated that expenditure of road maintenance tax in the Shires of Esperance, Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe, Gnowangerup and Kent dropped from—

\$256 471 in 1970-71; to
\$255 345 in 1971-72; to
\$159 767 in 1972-73; and
\$168 214 in 1973-74,

could he explain the reason for the reduced allocation in 1972-73 and 1973-74?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The total collections of road maintenance charges dropped from \$3.990 million in 1970-71 to \$3.822 million in 1971-72, \$3.359 million in 1972-73 and \$3.682 million in 1973-74. However, other funds are also used for maintaining roads and the total amount allocated for road maintenance purposes to this area was higher in 1973-74 than in 1970-71.

28. MONEY LENDERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Reference to Law Reform Commission

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Minister received any recent request from any organisation to refer to the Law Reform Commission the question whether or not the Money Lenders Act should in the best interests of the borrowing public be amended?
- (2) If so, would he please name the organisation(s) concerned?
- (3) Will the Minister comply with the request and delay the passage of the present amending Bill, awaiting the report of the commission?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Building Workers' Industrial Union of Australia.
- (3) No.

29. BUS STATION

Esplanade

Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

Would he please provide full details including sketches of proposals for a second bus station at the Esplanade?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Professor Stephenson has been commissioned by the Government, the Perth City Council, and the MRPA, to prepare a report relating to the co-ordination of development in the central area of Perth. This study involves people mobility which includes the investigation of public transport facilities. Any reference to a terminal at the Esplanade has resulted from this investigation. It is not anticipated that any details will be available until Professor Stephenson submits his report at the end of 1974.

QUESTIONS (14): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. ALWEST PROJECT

Viability

Mr J. T. Tonkin (for Mr MAY), to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of a report received by Australian Associated Press indicating that the American Company Reynolds Metals is withdrawing from the Alwest bauxite project?
- (2) If so, does he agree with the company spokesman who announced in Richmond, Virginia, that the project is not considered viable at this time?
- (3) In view of the many and conflicting reports being publicly announced regarding the Alwest project will he kindly provide Parliament with an up-to-date accurate statement of the present position?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Clontarf for some notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) I have not seen the detailed report that has been referred to, nor have I seen a transcript of what I understand was said on the Australian Broadcasting Commission programme this morning. However, I have been given the general content of the remarks and, based on that, I would say that I understand the general import

of this statement. I am seeking to obtain a transcript of the statement.

- (2) I am at a loss to answer this question in proper detail and with confidence, because I have not seen the full report and I am not aware of how the company spokesman describes "viability" or what expressions of doubt he made about the project. As far as I am concerned, there is no change in the situation regarding the viability of the project. In all these projects, we are subject to very severe cost escalations to a point which has made many projects quite dubious unless they can negotiate appropriate price increases. In most cases, such price increases are practical because of the general world trend in respect of inflation and price adjustment. I do not say or admit that the project is not viable today because of the escalation of capital costs; on the other hand we and the companies may be able to negotiate appropriate price increases. Nevertheless, I know this produces some problems for the companies because of the very high cost not only of the extra capital involved but also of servicing that money. Not only this project is having to reconsider its approach to financing and economics; practically every capital-intensive project has the same problem.

- (3) I should like to quote a statement I made this morning on the matter. It reads—

The Premier Sir Charles Court, said today the State Government had not been advised officially of any withdrawal by Reynolds Metals from the Alwest alumina and bauxite project.

"We have had no advice of any withdrawal by Reynolds," the Premier said.

"We have always understood that there could be variations in both the amount and proportion of their interest because of the need to have a multiplicity of international partners to make the project viable.

"It could also be that there is some confusion about the time-scale as distinct from any withdrawal.

"None of the joint partners, including Reynolds Metals, have advised us of any impending withdrawal."

As late as five minutes before the House assembled, I contacted the local representative of the company who said he has received no advice of Reynolds withdrawal. I am inclined to the view that it is more a confusion about the time scale rather than overall viability. I conclude by saying that when the previous legislation relating to Alwest was before the House, the then Government declared that the final partners in the project had yet to be determined, but it was expected that Reynolds would remain one of them, in combination with other partners yet to be determined. That is still the situation.

2. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Review by Counsel

Mr T. H. Jones (for Mr MAY), to the Premier:

This question is without notice, but I am sure the Premier will be able to answer it.

- (a) Will the Premier advise the composition of the senior counsel who were requested to review the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Act Amendment Bill?
- (b) Subsequent to advising Mr Hawke and the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, will he table a copy of the review findings?

Str CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) The counsel we consulted was Mr E. F. Downing QC, who was recommended to the Government as being the most appropriate person to advise on questions which had to be answered.
- (b) I do not think the Government should be expected to table such an opinion at this stage. I have written a letter to Mr Hawke, but I have yet to sign it; I am hoping to get it away this evening. However, it is not the intention of the Government to table the review findings for reasons which I think the member for Collie would realise upon reflection.

3. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Industrial Stoppage

Mr THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware that thousands of unionists ignored the recent instruction by the Trades and Labor Council to take part in the illegal strike on the 1st October?

Mr McIver: Thousands?

Mr THOMPSON: Yes, thousands.

Mr McIver: There may have been 13 or 14 of them.

Mr THOMPSON: To continue—

- (2) Is he also aware that some unions plan further disruption to services in their endeavours—

Mr Bateman: Who wrote the question for you?

Mr THOMPSON: —to punish those who did not come to heel. I should like to quote a circular letter—

Mr Bryce: It sounds as though the Minister for Labour and Industry was the author.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr THOMPSON: It is headed, "re: 24 Hour—

Mr. T. H. Jones: The Minister should be able to answer this one; he wrote the question.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr THOMPSON: They do not like it, Mr Speaker.

Sir Charles Court: Guilty consciences!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr THOMPSON: The circular is headed, "re: 24 Hour Stopwork—October 1, 1974."

Point of Order

Mr HARTREY: Is it appropriate for the honourable member in asking a question to start reading a speech?

The SPEAKER: I was listening to the member for Kalamunda to endeavour to ascertain whether it was necessary for him to quote the entire letter to give meaning to his question. I would ask him, if possible, to keep his question as short as he can, as I expect Ministers to keep their replies as short as reasonably possible.

Mr. HARMAN: Mr Speaker, you have ruled previously that questions directed to Ministers should come within the ambit of their portfolios. I ask: Does this question come within the ambit of the portfolio of the Minister for Labour and Industry?

Mr O'Connor: You have not heard the whole question yet.

Sir Charles Court: I do not know who else would handle the question.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order taken by the member for Maylands is appropriate if I can determine the quality of the question. I ask the member to be patient, as I ask other members to be patient to try to see what the question is about. Will the member for Kalamunda endeavour to be as brief as possible in the question he is asking?

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr THOMPSON: Yes, Mr Speaker, I will be as brief as I can. However, I suggest that the quality of the question can be determined from the attitude adopted by members opposite.

Mr Davies: Thank you, Dorothy.

Mr THOMPSON: The circular letter from which I should like to quote was sent by a union to its several branches within the State. One part of it states—

In view of claims for action by all members who took part in the stoppage and in the interest of the image of the union as a whole, the State Executive unanimously carried the following motion on Monday, 7th October, 1974:

Point of Order

Mr DAVIES: I draw attention to the notices of questions pad, a copy of which has been supplied to all members. This states—

Examples of Inadmissible Questions.

Questions should not contain:—

11. Quotations.

Is the member right, or is the book right?

The SPEAKER: In respect of questions, particularly questions without notice, it is very difficult to determine whether or not they are admissible without first hearing them. At times they are permitted, and the Speaker must allow some tolerance in regard to a certain point being given to a question.

I have already asked the member for Kalamunda to be as brief as possible in giving point to his question. I do not like long questions without notice of this kind being asked, as it is difficult to determine their admissibility. Will the member for Kalamunda proceed as quickly as possible?

Mr O'Connor: The Opposition is terrified!

Questions Without Notice Resumed

Mr THOMPSON: I shall continue with the directive of the Amalgamated Postal Workers Union—

That this union ask each member who worked during the 24 hour stoppage on 1/10/74 to donate one day's pay to the union distress fund. That although some excuses—

The SPEAKER: I would ask the member for Kalamunda to sum up his question.

Mr THOMPSON: The union is asking for a donation of one day's pay from the workers who have adopted a responsible attitude by going to work, and have not submitted meekly to a direction of the Trades and Labor Council. The third part of my question is—

(3) Will he take all necessary steps to ensure that State and Commonwealth departments support those of their employees who chose the responsible course, rather than allowing themselves to be led into a strike—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I would ask members to keep order.

Mr THOMPSON: To continue with the third part of my question—

—for party political purposes?

Point of Order

Mr HARMAN: The member for Kalamunda is asking the Minister to give an assurance on behalf of a Commonwealth Department. The Minister cannot give such an assurance.

Mr Young: You seemed to be a bit of a genius when you were a Minister.

The SPEAKER: I will permit the Minister to endeavour to answer the question as briefly as he possibly can.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for Kalamunda for very brief notice of this question, because I received it only when I came into the Chamber. The answer is as follows—

(1) Yes.

(2) and (3) Yes. I shall certainly take all necessary steps to ensure that the State Government supports the State Government employees who turned up for work. I would hope

that the Commonwealth Government would give similar support to employees of the Commonwealth departments.

4. AMALGAMATED POSTAL WORKERS UNION

Industrial Stoppage

Mr THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Will the Minister take note of the particular union involved, the Amalgamated Postal Workers Union, which intends taking action to the extent of depriving services to certain areas?

Point of Order

Mr HARTREY: On a point of order, the Minister for Labour and Industry in this Parliament has no control whatsoever over the Amalgamated Postal Workers Union.

The SPEAKER: From what I have heard of the question, it is inadmissible. The Minister involved has no control over this union.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

5. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Beer Price Inquiry

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In answer to question 12 on today's notice paper the Minister indicated that the Consumer Protection Bureau had conducted an inquiry into the price of beer. Would the Minister be kind enough to accord the consumer in Western Australia the opportunity to look at the report; and would the Minister be prepared to table the report at the next sitting of the House?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I would ask the honourable member to place the question on the notice paper.

6. OIL FUEL

Royal Commission Report

Mr Taylor (for Mr MAY), to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

I understand that notice has been given by the member for Clontarf and I am asking the question on his behalf.

- (1) Is he aware that the Royal Commission on Petroleum has called for reports from major oil marketers and refiners on reported shortages of fuel in

Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland rural areas?

- (2) Is he in a position to advise the source of this report in so far as it affects Western Australia?
- (3) Can he indicate if there are any areas in Western Australia where fuel shortages are being experienced?
- (4) If so, will he advise the reason for such shortages?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

In reply to the third deputy of the member for Clontarf, the answer is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. There has been no direct approach from the Petroleum Royal Commission.
- (3) I know of no areas in Western Australia which are presently experiencing fuel shortages.
- (4) Answered by (3).

7. TEACHERS

Status: Training

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that two-year trained teachers, who complete 10 years of satisfactory service with the Education Department, will be then given three-year trained status?
- (2) Can such teachers qualifying for three-year trained status then qualify to receive the teachers' higher certificate by subsequently passing any four units under the auspices of the Teachers Centre for Further Education?
- (3) If this is correct, will teachers so gaining three-year status be credited for higher certificate purposes when all or any units passed were under the auspices of the Teachers Centre for Further Education prior to this condition being approved; and if not, why not?
- (4) What accreditation will be given towards the higher certificate to teachers gaining three-year trained status under this system and who have, under the old higher certificate conditions, completed the examination in education theory and one of the two required theses?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. Additional study is a requirement of progression from three to four-year trained teacher status.

- (4) If such an unusual situation existed the teacher concerned should apply to the department for a specific ruling.

8. PEDESTRIAN OVERWAY

Great Eastern Highway: Rivervale

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the planning and design work for the pedestrian overway to be constructed over Great Eastern Highway at Hawksburn Street, Rivervale, been completed?
- (2) When will work actually commence on the erection of the overway?
- (3) How long is the construction phase expected to last?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of constructing the overway?
- (5) How is the project being financed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Commencement date not yet set.
- (3) 15 weeks.
- (4) \$70 000.
- (5) Belmont Shire Council—one third; Main Roads Department—two thirds. However, the shire council has now advised that funding is beyond its financial means at this time.

9. HOUSING

Katanning: Press Statement

Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

I redirect the question which I asked of the Minister for Housing to the Premier. Although I have not given prior notice of it, I am sure he will be able to answer it. I understand a recent Press release indicating that 200 houses are to be constructed at Katanning is not factual. Would the Premier advise the House of the current situation, as to whether it is factual that no statement has been made by the Government to repudiate the report in the Press; and give the current situation relating to the Press report?

Sir CHARLES COURT: With your concurrence, Sir, I suggest the Minister for Industrial Development should answer this question.

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The honourable member misunderstood the sense of the Press statement, or the Press statement was not correct. It was never said, or meant to be said, that 200 houses are being con-

structed in Katanning. It was said that provision of land had been made to enable the State Housing Commission, in due course, to build 200 houses. The land available is sufficient to build 200 houses. During the present financial year the intention is to build, I think, 13 houses.

10. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Review by Counsel

Mr HARTREY, to the Premier:

Arising from the answer he gave to the member for Collie concerning the nature of the legal opinion on the fuel Bill he told the public he had received—

- (1) Why does he not see fit to disclose what he says is the opinion?
- (2) If he will not disclose it, how will it be of any value to him or anyone else?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) I am surprised that, with his legal experience, the honourable member has asked this question. The fact is that, in consultation with the President of the ACTU and senior TLC representatives, the Government undertook to have the whole of the Bill reviewed by the Crown Law Department to see whether there were any matters in regard to which, on reflection, it did not accurately interpret the intention of the Government or whether, among other things, any of its provisions went further than the intention of the Government and what the Government had told the public and Parliament. We wanted two specific matters reviewed; that is, the provision concerning which it was alleged that there is power of conscription, and how far proposed section 41 goes. These matters were of particular importance to the ACTU and the TLC. In addition I also undertook to seek an opinion from an independent counsel, because, without implying any disrespect to the Crown Law Department, some people might say that, after all, it is a Government department. So it was agreed that we would seek outside counsel on certain aspects; which we did. I think the

honourable member would agree that the man recommended to us and whom we selected following that recommendation, is a competent person.

Hartrey: He is very competent.

Sir CHARLES COURT: He has given us an opinion which confirms what we told Mr Hawke and his colleagues from the TLC. I have conveyed that in a general way to the public and I am now writing in more detail to Mr Hawke. The honourable member will realise that certain people who are opposed to this legislation—and particularly members of the TLC—have foreshadowed that they might take some action in respect of this matter on both a Commonwealth and State level. Surely, therefore, he would not expect us at this juncture to table the opinion we have in respect of this matter, any more than I would imagine the TLC would send us the opinion it has obtained.

At this stage I believe we are quite within our rights and we are doing the sensible thing from the public's point of view—and do not forget that we represent the public in this matter—in keeping the opinion as part of the Government's records at the moment; and we will let the future look after itself.

11. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Review by Counsel

Mr HARTREY, to the Premier:

The Premier is quite right in saying that the Government represents the public and the TLC represents the unions. However, does he not believe that, as the Government represents the public, the public are entitled to know what the Government has ascertained in the public's interests?

Mr Bryce: Of course they are.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I do not know how far one has to go to explain this matter to the honourable member; but I think I have explained the situation adequately. An opinion has been obtained which confirms what we told the public, Parliament, and Mr Hawke and his colleagues.

Mr Bryce: You are not game enough to reveal it to the public and Parliament.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It will be produced at the appropriate time.

12. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Review by Counsel

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

Relative to the matter with which the Premier has just been dealing, I put this specific question to him: Was the counsel asked to give an opinion on that part of the Bill which takes away the protection from self-incrimination inasmuch as it provides a penalty for refusal to answer a question; and is he prepared to indicate to the House whether counsel confirmed or otherwise that that provision is in accordance with present democratic principles?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In view of the nature of the question, with respect, and not in any way with a desire to avoid it, I suggest that it be placed on the notice paper because the particular matter mentioned is not to the best of my knowledge in the Bill.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The refusal to answer a question and a penalty of \$500 and six months' imprisonment.

Sir Charles Court: Refer to the clause.

The SPEAKER: Order!

13. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Review by Counsel

Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

Is it a fact that he gave an undertaking to the President of the ACTU (Mr Hawke) that he would provide him with a copy of the findings of the independent outside counsel he would appoint to examine this particular piece of legislation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I will repeat the honourable member's question as I understand it so that there is no misunderstanding about it. He asked me whether I undertook to give Mr Hawke a copy of the opinion when it was received. To the best of my knowledge the answer is, "No". My colleagues were there and I undertook to have the matter submitted to an outside counsel and to advise him of the result, but not to make the opinion available to him. I do not think he would expect it.

The SPEAKER: I will accept one more question without notice.

14. MUJA POWER STATION

Extensions

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Yesterday he promised to furnish additional information in regard to question 12 dealing with the development of the Muja power house. Is he able to give that information now?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I am not able to do so because I did not undertake to supply the information by way of answer to a parliamentary question. What I did undertake was to let the honourable member know if there is any more information and he will receive a letter accordingly.

SALE OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Industrial Development), read a first time.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Acts Amendment (Road Traffic) Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Traffic), and read a first time.
2. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.
3. Road Traffic Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Traffic), and read a first time.

APPROPRIATION BILL (GENERAL LOAN FUND)

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [3.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this measure is to appropriate from the General Loan Fund the sums required to finance certain capital expenditure, details of which are given in the Loan Estimates to be distributed at the end of my speech.

Moneys paid into the General Loan Fund consist of new borrowings approved by the Australian Loan Council, repayments to the fund of sundry advances made in previous years, and grants from the Commonwealth for general capital purposes.

The total 1974-75 programme for State Governments approved by the Loan Council at its meeting in June, 1974, was \$925 million. This is an increase of 10 per cent on the amount approved for 1973-74 after adjustment for the transfer to the Commonwealth of full financial responsibility for tertiary education.

The transfer took place on the 1st January, 1974, and as a result the Loan Council programmes, both in 1973-74 and 1974-75, were reduced by the "savings" to the States of estimated capital expenditures on tertiary education. Accordingly, the transfer resulted in no financial gain to the States.

During the course of the June, 1974, meeting all Premiers stressed the inadequacy of a rise of only 10 per cent in the programme having regard to the substantial increases which had taken place in wages and material costs. It was pointed out that these cost increases would more than absorb the proposed rise of 10 per cent in the programme and as a consequence the 1974-75 States' works programmes would be reduced, in physical terms, below the level of last year.

Notwithstanding this fact, the Prime Minister would not agree to any further increase in the programme.

However, as a result of a renewed submission by the Premiers at a conference held on the 13th August, the Commonwealth changed its attitude to the States' request for additional capital assistance and agreed to an increase of a further 10 per cent on the programmes approved at the June Loan Council meeting.

Although this addition to the programme was welcome, I would draw attention to a comment by the Prime Minister when he advised me of the increase.

Mr Whitlam wrote as follows, and I quote—

I am informed that there has been some concern expressed on the part of the larger State authorities at their borrowing prospects this year. The addition to States' programs would, in addition to its other benefits, put the States in a better position to provide assistance to their authorities if this should appear desirable as the year progresses.

My interpretation of this comment is that the Commonwealth expects the States to make some provision for a possible shortfall in semi-governmental borrowings and that this was one of the reasons for its changed attitude to the States' request for an increased capital allocation in 1974-75.

It is becoming evident that the State Electricity Commission and the Metropolitan Water Board, in particular, will have difficulty in filling their 1974-75 borrowing quotas, and accordingly it has been decided to hold in reserve \$8 million of this year's General Loan Funds in order to cushion a possible shortfall in semi-governmental borrowings.

As already advised to the House, it has also been decided to set aside \$8.746 million of the 1974-75 general purpose Commonwealth capital grant to cover the estimated deficit on revenue account.

After provision for these two reserves the amount available in 1974-75 from the General Loan Fund for works listed in the Estimates is \$88.560 million.

In addition to approving the annual works and housing programmes of the States, the Loan Council approves an aggregate annual borrowing programme for the larger State semi-governmental and local authorities.

At its June, 1974, meeting, the council agreed that larger authorities would, from 1974-75, be those borrowing more than \$500 000 in a financial year, thereby lifting the previous limit by \$100 000. Smaller authorities are now defined as those borrowing \$500 000 or less.

The 1974-75 borrowing programme approved for the larger authorities in this State totals \$35.956 million which is \$2.723 million more than the amount borrowed last financial year.

The distribution between the larger authorities of the 1974-75 borrowing programme is shown in an attachment to the Estimates.

Although semi-governmental authorities in this State were able to raise their full quota of loans in 1973-74, there must necessarily be reservations at this stage about the prospects of filling the larger programme approved for this financial year.

The present tight liquidity situation is affecting most lending institutions and it would be unwise, in these circumstances, not to anticipate some shortfall in borrowings.

It may well be necessary as the year progresses, to take special steps to supplement raisings from Australian sources and, in this respect, I do not rule out the possibility of borrowing overseas.

In the meantime, we have deemed it prudent to hold in reserve \$8 million of our 1974-75 General Loan Fund allocation in order to supplement our semi-governmental borrowings should the need arise.

The Loan Council also agreed at its June, 1974, meeting that the policy adopted in recent years of not imposing any overall limit on borrowings by smaller authorities would be continued in 1974-75.

The aggregate loan raisings in 1973-74 of these smaller borrowers was \$25.470 million compared with the estimate for 1974-75 of \$30.240 million.

State authorities in this category are expected to raise \$6.5 million in this financial year to assist the financing of their works programmes. Details are also shown in an attachment to the Estimates.

Commonwealth Specific Purpose Payments of a Capital Nature

These payments by the Federal Government are not subject to Loan Council approval and because they are fully described in the Commonwealth publication *Payments to or for the States* I do not propose to deal with them in any detail.

Certain of these advances are paid to the State for direct transmission to various authorities such as the Main Roads Department, the Rural Reconstruction Authority, the several tertiary education institutions, and the independent schools, and for this reason they are not included in the Estimates.

Other payments to the State form part of the funds available to finance the works detailed in the Estimates and these have been listed under appropriate headings. The total of the sums so listed is \$77.575 million for 1974-75, compared with \$31.294 million for last financial year.

Although the 1974-75 Commonwealth advance for welfare housing purposes was set initially at \$22.9 million, it is expected that a further amount of \$2.1 million will be made available to the State during the course of this year.

This total of \$25 million is considerably higher than the amount of \$13 million received last year.

These advances are now outside, and in addition to, the State Loan Council programmes. They are determined each year by the Federal Minister for Housing and Construction after consultation with the appropriate State Ministers and are repayable, with interest, over 53 years.

Another large Commonwealth payment to the State falls under the heading of "Education".

In this instance, the assistance is by way of grant and totals \$15.831 million for 1974-75. The amount spent last year from this source of finance was \$4.019 million.

The sum provided by the Commonwealth to eliminate the backlog of metropolitan sewerage works will also increase in this financial year from \$3.8 million to \$15 million. Included in the payment for 1974-75 is an amount of \$3 million in respect of works commenced before the 1st July, 1974.

Thirty per cent of this year's assistance for sewerage works will be provided as a grant and the balance by way of loan bearing interest at the long-term bond rate.

Grants allocated in 1974-75 for hospital and health projects amount to \$7.049 million compared with \$1.595 million expended under these Commonwealth programmes in 1973-74.

There are other proposals for the provision of funds by the Commonwealth for programmes that are yet to be finalised.

In cases where the total of funds to be made available to the State is not yet firm and details of the programmes are not yet settled, they have not been included in the Estimates.

Internal Funds

Internal funds of certain State instrumentalities are also an important source of finance for capital works. Depreciation funds, cash balances, and profits are the main items.

It is expected that expenditure which is to be financed in 1974-75 from these sources will total \$65.609 million compared with \$43.822 million in 1973-74. Details are given in the Estimates.

Other Funds

Contributions from mining companies and property developers for the provision of Government services and loans raised by local authorities for specific works, also add to funds available for capital works.

Amounts spent last year from these sources totalled \$9.635 million and expenditure this year is expected to total \$15 million.

Works Programme

With the funds available from the sources I have described, a works programme of \$283.350 million is to be carried out this year, financed as follows—

	\$
Proceeds of Commonwealth loans	56 278 000
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grant ..	21 641 000
Loan repayments	8 086 000
Balance in General Loan Fund at the 30th June, 1974	2 555 000
Borrowings by State Authorities listed in the Estimates	36 506 000
Commonwealth specific purpose payments	77 575 000
Internal funds	65 609 000
Other funds	15 100 000

Last year, a programme of \$208.388 million was carried out with finance from similar sources and so planned expenditure in 1974-75 represents an increase of \$74.962 million which is 36 per cent above the outlay in 1973-74.

Expenditure from the General Loan Fund

Of the total finance required for the planned works programme, an amount of \$88.560 million is to be supplied from the General Loan Fund for the purposes listed in the Estimates.

Full details of the programme are set out in the Estimates together with the source of funds to be employed. The amount to be provided from the General Loan Fund and which is subject to appropriation is clearly identified.

As in most cases specific works to be undertaken are set out in the Estimates, there is no need for me to comment on all items and I shall therefore confine my remarks to some broader aspects of the programme.

Education

A dramatic increase in expenditure on school buildings is proposed in the current year.

We have programmed to spend a total of \$31.7 million on new school buildings or on additions and improvements to existing schools in 1974-75, compared with an amount of \$18.3 million expended last year.

Three new high schools and 11 primary schools will be commenced during the year and major additions are programmed for existing schools to keep pace with rising enrolments.

Today, much emphasis is placed on fostering the spirit of inquiry in young children but the awakening of children's interest would be ineffective if facilities were not available for them to follow up their interest and obtain for themselves the information they seek.

For this reason, a library-resource centre is seen as the central feature of a primary school and a programme of providing these centres in every primary school has commenced.

Resource centres and covered assembly areas are now provided in the initial building stages of all new, large primary schools. In addition, the department is now able to plan for their provision in existing schools, and this year 21 resource centres will be added to established primary schools.

In the past, administration facilities in primary schools have been minimal because of the overriding need for classroom accommodation. This deficiency is now being corrected and administration areas are to be progressively upgraded. Improvements to staff offices, storage space, and staff toilets will be made in a number of primary schools this year.

New primary schools are built on the now well known open area plan. Where a number of classrooms are added to existing schools, they are, if practicable, built to a cluster design.

However, many primary schools in older established areas are not likely to be expanded and it is necessary to partly rebuild them or otherwise upgrade them to bring them more into line with modern standards. The programme provides for upgrading work to be done this year on a number of older primary schools.

A similar programme is being carried out in secondary schools. Essential classroom accommodation is being supplemented by the provision of specialist facilities of various kinds. Libraries or library extensions will be added to five high schools and new or improved science facilities will be added to six others in the current year.

Combined school halls and gymnasiums are to be added to four metropolitan and one country secondary school this year as part of a programme to provide these facilities in every secondary school.

The growing demand for post secondary education has resulted in considerable pressure on the technical education division particularly to expand technical education opportunities in country areas.

Proposals announced recently by the Commonwealth Government will bring a welcome injection of additional funds for technical education in this State.

In the meantime, provision has been made for the construction of a new technical school at Geraldton, the addition of a printing trades complex at Bentley, redevelopment of the Eastern Goldfields Technical School, and additions to five other technical institutions.

Special provision has been made for the expansion of education facilities for handicapped children.

An amount of \$550 000 has been allocated for a new school at Chidley Point to provide remedial education for children in remote areas. Residential accommodation for the children will be provided and also a number of self-contained flats so that mothers of young children can live in, while their children receive specialised education instruction.

The existing training centre for handicapped children at Balga is to be expanded and a new school is to be constructed in the Fremantle area to replace premises at present provided by the Slow Learning Children's Group.

Two primary schools will become the base for special units for children with emotional problems and a further two units are to be provided for deaf children in an attempt to integrate these children into a normal hearing environment.

These are the highlights of a most comprehensive programme to upgrade education facilities throughout the State and to provide full education opportunities for all children, including the handicapped.

Hospitals and Health Services

Planned expenditure on hospitals in 1974-75 amounts to \$24.2 million against actual expenditure last year of \$15.7 million.

Although no major new works are set down for commencement this year, funds have been provided to enable accelerated progress to be made on the many projects currently under construction.

High priority has been given to work in progress at the Fremantle Hospital where a total of \$3.1 million is to be spent on a new 60-bed ward block and a new kitchen and cafeteria. Funds have also been provided to enable design work to proceed on the stage 1 extensions, laboratories, and outpatient clinic for that hospital.

A total of \$8.6 million has been allocated for the continued development of the Perth Medical Centre, the greater part of which will be expended on the diagnostic and administrative centre commenced last year.

Other major works for which substantial sums have been allocated include the new Rockingham hospital, extensions to the Perth Dental, Carnarvon, Osborne Park, Katanning, and Dampier Hospitals and the new Western Australian school of nursing.

In addition to the general hospital programme outlined, \$3.4 million is to be expended on improved hospital and health facilities for Aborigines. With the assistance of Commonwealth grants for Aboriginal advancement, new hospitals are being built at Fitzroy Crossing and Warburton Range, a children's ward is being added to the Derby Hospital and a hospital block and laundry to the Derby Leprosarium.

Substantial progress will be made this year on the establishment of the comprehensive school dental service. In addition to continued development on the Mt. Henry School of Dental Therapy site, a start will be made on the second dental therapy school at Warwick.

As a further step in the programme to provide dental examination facilities in all primary schools, provision has been made for dental clinics to be installed in eight schools in the current year. The programme will be accelerated next year as more trained therapists become available and as additional Commonwealth grants for this purpose are provided.

The completion this year of the new tertiary training unit at the Pyrron Centre will enable accommodation and training facilities to be provided for an additional 64 mentally handicapped persons.

Good progress is being made with the provision of separate, specialised facilities for mentally handicapped persons with differing degrees of disability. In addition to the completion of the Pyrron extensions, major remodelling of the Dorset Hostel at Armadale will enable 32 severely mentally

handicapped persons with physical defects to be cared for in modern, well-equipped surroundings.

The new Milford hostel at Bassendean, which will be completed early in 1975, will accommodate 24 mentally handicapped persons who are capable of mixing in the community and who will attend outside employment or sheltered workshops.

Construction will commence this year on a new complex at Inglewood which will comprise a 36-bed unit for socially acceptable mental retardates, an adult day activity centre to provide daily training facilities for mentally handicapped persons who live at home, and a special care day centre for 32 children and adults who are both mentally retarded and physically handicapped.

A further step forward in outpatient psychiatric care will be taken with the construction of psychiatric clinics adjacent to the Armadale and Swan District Hospitals. Funds have been provided for work on these clinics to commence this year.

Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage

The Metropolitan Water Board will undertake a greatly expanded programme of work this year involving expenditure of \$42.9 million compared with \$33.6 million in 1973-74.

Work on overcoming the backlog of deep sewerage in the metropolitan area will be greatly accelerated with the assistance of a Commonwealth grant of \$12 million under the national sewerage programme for 1974-75. A total of \$24.4 million is programmed for expenditure on metropolitan sewerage works this year including reticulation of deep sewerage in 11 suburbs which have been served by septic tanks for many years.

The Canning tunnel will be completed this year and it is proposed to upgrade the pipeline linking the tunnel with metropolitan reservoirs to improve greatly the rate at which reservoirs are replenished during periods of excessive draw.

A total programme involving expenditure of \$10.4 million on water supplies and \$2.9 million on sewerage is planned for country areas and towns.

As yet, Commonwealth loans under the national sewerage programme have not been made available for sewerage works in country towns. However, discussions on the possibility of funds being made available for sewerage works in some regional centres will take place soon and it is hoped that additional funds may be forthcoming for this purpose.

A new sewerage scheme and improvements to the town water supply will be constructed at Eneabba to provide facilities for the town extension resulting from the mineral sands mining development.

A sum of \$1.1 million has been allocated for the continuation of water supply and sewerage reticulation at Mandurah and further work will be undertaken on the new sewerage schemes at Wyndham and Roebourne.

Major improvements will be undertaken to existing water supply schemes at Port Hedland, Coorow, Moora, Lake Grace, and Dunsborough-Quindalup, the latter scheme having recently been taken over from the Busselton Shire.

Work will continue on the development of the up-river source of supply for the Carnarvon irrigation scheme.

Housing

As I stated earlier, advances under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement are expected to amount to \$25 million in 1974-75 compared with \$13 million last year.

Moreover, the Commonwealth Government has made it clear that additional funds will be made available if they can be spent during the year.

Although it would appear that unlimited money is available for housing, members should bear in mind that Commonwealth funds may only be applied to what is described as welfare housing; that is, applicants must be able to satisfy a means test requirement that restricts housing under the scheme to low-income earners.

The conditions are so restrictive that there is an obvious limit on the number of houses that can be built and taken up under the scheme.

The Housing Commission continues to build houses under the State Housing Act and this year plans to expend \$8 million in addition to the funds available under the Commonwealth scheme.

In total, 1 065 dwelling units are scheduled for commencement this year which, together with units under construction at the 30th June last, will enable 1 151 dwellings to be completed in 1974-75 with a further 850 units under construction at the end of the year.

In addition, the commission will undertake an extensive programme of renovations and improvements to rental homes built before 1967. Approximately 800 units are listed for attention this year.

Provision has been made for further homes to be built this year under the Aboriginal housing programme and work will commence on the construction of 45 houses at Roebourne.

An expanded programme of construction is to be undertaken this year by the Government Employees' Housing Authority which has programmed to expend \$4 million on housing for Government employees in country areas against expenditure of \$2.3 million in 1973-74.

Other Items

As further information on specific works may be obtained from the responsible Minister when the Estimates are being dealt with in Committee, I propose to comment on only a few other items of general interest.

A start will be made this year on the Eneabba-Dongara rail link to enable mineral sands to be railed to Geraldton for shipment. The estimated cost of the work is \$9.2 million of which \$2.7 million is programmed for expenditure in 1974-75.

Another important railway project will reach fruition this year with the completion of the standardisation work between Esperance and Leonora.

A works programme totalling \$50 million is to be undertaken by the State Electricity Commission of which the largest item of expenditure is \$26.4 million for work on the two 200 megawatt generating plants at Kwinana and associated switching stations and transmission lines.

An amount of \$5.4 million is scheduled for expenditure on dredging and rock removal in the new inner harbour at Bunbury and on construction of the No. 1 berth which is required for shipment of woodchips.

A further \$400 000 will be expended on the Carnarvon fishing boat harbour to complete dredging and berth facilities.

The problem of beach erosion at Mandurah and Busselton is being actively investigated in an endeavour to find a long-term solution. A provision \$400 000 has been made this year for replenishment works at the town beach area in Busselton and for beach erosion control measures to be implemented at Mandurah before the 1975 winter. The nature of the work to be undertaken at Mandurah will depend on the results of current investigations.

An amount of \$2.6 million has been provided to permit the completion of the police building on the causeway site. This building, which should be ready for occupation early in 1975, will fulfil a long awaited need in giving the Police Department a central headquarters and a modern communications system.

Important contributions to the preservation of our historical heritage will be made with the allocation this year of funds for the restoration of the old Residency at Albany and the old Perth Gaol. Restoration of the Albany Residency is scheduled for completion in 1975 when the building will be re-opened as a branch of the Western Australian Museum. The old gaol is being restored to a condition in keeping with its importance as an example of early colonial architecture and of convict-labour construction.

A new Art Gallery and Library are components in an overall plan to establish a cultural centre north of the Perth Railway Station. A further step towards the establishment of the centre will be taken this year with the allocation of \$60 000 for design work on both the Art Gallery and the Library.

Funds have been provided to enable the old Geraldton Maternity Hospital to be converted to a community centre. Short-term residential care for neglected children and needy families will be provided at the centre, the facilities of which will also be made available to welfare organisations for community activities.

The provision of electorate offices for members of Parliament will be completed this year with expenditure of \$107 000 on furnishing and partitioning. Expenditure of this sum will bring the total cost of works required for this move to \$161 000.

Conclusion

In conclusion I might say that in addition to appropriating moneys from the General Loan Fund for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1975, the Bill provides for the grant of supply to complete requirements for this financial year.

Supply of \$30 million has already been granted under the Supply Act, 1974, and further supply of \$58.560 million has been allowed for in the Bill now under consideration.

This total of \$88.560 million is to be appropriated for the purposes and services expressed in a schedule to the Bill.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the measure seeks ratification of amounts spent during 1973-74 in excess of the Estimates for the year. Details of these excesses are also given in a schedule to the Bill.

Before I table the Estimates of Expenditure I desire to make a minor correction to a statement I made regarding the Under-Treasurer. When I was speaking on the General Estimates I referred to the fact that I thought this was the 15th Budget he has prepared, but on checking this aspect I find it will be his 16th Budget; of which this, of course, is the second half, being the Loan Funds part of the Estimates. Last week we introduced the General Revenue Estimates.

Another interesting item I uncovered is that the Under-Treasurer has been associated with Budgets from as far back as 1934-35—in other words for 40 years. I think this speaks well for his stability and capacity to stick with it for that long! We all commend his work.

I commend the Bill to members. In so doing, and having moved the second reading, I ask permission to table the Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending June, 1975.

The Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending June, 1975 were tabled (see paper No. 285).

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.06 p.m.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [4.06 p.m.]: When the Treasurer was delivering his speech on the Appropriation Bill, introduced on Thursday of last week, I listened with some amusement as I heard him use one after another, as excuses, explanations which he would not accept when our first Budget was introduced in 1971.

The Treasurer complained of the difficulty of Budget preparation against a background of high and rising inflationary pressures, but in 1971 he refused to accept that those aspects should create very much difficulty. Fortunately, the records show that subsequently he admitted that those inflationary pressures were already present before we became the Government.

If members refer to page 3995 of *Hansard* for 1973, they will observe the report of what the then Leader of the Opposition said on the 16th October, of that year. I quote his remarks as follows—

The simple fact is that because of these unprecedented increases at the national level which carried on through to the States every State had to go to Canberra for assistance.

The Treasurer was referring to a period when there was a Liberal-Country Party Government in office in Canberra, and when there was a Liberal-Country Party Government in office in Western Australia, and when those unprecedented increases were then being experienced. However, when we introduced our Budget in 1971 the then Leader of the Opposition (Sir David Brand) moved a motion which was tantamount to a motion of no confidence by seeking to delete the word "now" from the motion "That the Bill be now read a second time", for the purposes of inserting the passage "on the 31st December, 1971".

The then Leader of the Opposition argued that the basis for his action was that we had imposed very substantial increases in taxes and charges to make up for extravagant promises we had made. It is interesting to read back through the speeches made by various members of the Opposition on that occasion in support of their argument that we were wholly to blame, and we really had no excuses.

The Treasurer has now warned us—quite rightly, I think—that the Budget which he has introduced could be wide of the mark. I venture to say circumstances will prove it to be very wide of the mark!

In recent times the Treasurer has indicated he is not a very good judge. For example, when referring to the meeting which took place in the Supreme Court Gardens, when a large number of unionists and other people congregated for the purpose of showing their opposition to the fuel and energy Bill, the Treasurer estimated there were not more than 4 000 people present. If that is the best he can do in judging the size of a crowd, then one immediately questions his judgment with regard to other matters.

In connection with the estimate he gave of the cost of the promises he made during the 1974 election campaign, indications have since proved he was very wide of the mark. For example, he said to implement the proposal for traffic control would not cost more than \$100 000 a year in expenditure of revenue. But, in the present Budget, an amount of \$700 000 has already been provided and I propose, as I proceed, to show how very wide of the mark the Treasurer has been in connection with a number of other calculations.

Mr O'Connor: The Leader of the Opposition might get a shock on the transport one, so he should not say too much.

MR J. T. TONKIN: I think the Minister for Transport is in for a shock too; probably a bigger shock than he anticipates at the moment. I will not say any more in that regard just now, but I will remind the Minister that those who live longest say most.

Mr Clarko: They get the most, too.

MR J. T. TONKIN: On many occasions, I have said how fortunate it is for the Liberal Party the daily paper in this State supports that party, and anyone who chooses to make a study of the Press statements from time to time must agree. I propose to go carefully into what was stated in the paper about our promises and costs and what has been stated in the paper about the Budget now presented to us. I repeat: The circumstances under which the Budgets were introduced were somewhat similar. In the words of the Treasurer himself, these unprecedented inflationary forces were then in existence.

As has been the custom for some time in Western Australia, although not for a great length of time, *The West Australian* desired that the leaders of the contending parties cost their promises. So, on the 13th February, 1971, the costing of the promises which I then made—and which were taken by Sir David Brand and others as being most extravagant—was listed, and it totalled \$9.5 million, including a sum of \$3.5 million which would not

have been a cost to revenue at all. This would have come from road funds, had it not been replaced by some other method of raising funds for road expenditure. I want members to keep that figure in mind—the overall total of \$9.5 million inclusive of \$3.5 million for the loss of road maintenance tax. On election promises *The West Australian* had this to say—

Neither the Premier, Sir David Brand, nor the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tonkin, can perceive clearly how the State Treasury will stand in 1971-72.

The only certain factor is that, unless the Commonwealth has an unlikely change of mind and gives them emergency help, all the States are bound to find their financial difficulties aggravated next year. This year Sir David is facing a deficit of perhaps \$6 million.

State taxes have been reduced and nobody wants to reverse the process or to increase State charges. The Government's costs are bound to keep rising. Primary industry is sick. Though there will be a routine adjustment in Commonwealth payments under the new financial agreement and a further rise in the State's royalty collections, W.A. would be extremely lucky if it avoided another deficit next year, even if there were no election baits to add to budget troubles.

There are then three paragraphs which are not particularly pertinent to this debate. To continue—

This means that Mr Tonkin has undertaken to find an additional \$5.5 million on financial assumptions that are simply not warranted by the present outlook.

An additional \$5.5 million! Now we come to what *The West Australian* said about the 1971 Budget, and the date of this article is the 17th September, 1971. It commences—

In its first Budget, the Tonkin Government has not been deterred from hitting the public harder to support an unwarranted scale of expenditure.

I interpolate here that this "unwarranted scale of expenditure" provided for an increase of \$56.3 million. To continue—

The Budget penalises the motorist. It bumps up taxation and charges by \$12 million. The effects will be spread throughout the community, but they will fall mainly on the business sector and mining companies.

If the hard-pressed man in the street feels a sense of relief it is only because he was expecting worse from the Government, which, ahead of the

Budget, made hefty increases in payroll tax and water and hospital charges.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you will forgive me here if I say one would think one was reading what ought to have been written about the Budget introduced last week. But no, this was written about my Budget introduced in 1971. It goes on to say—

The Budget imposts are bad enough, but the public has become accustomed to having heavier demands made on it. The demands are no easier to meet because they are announced in instalments.

It was bad luck for the Government that it came to office during a downturn in the national economy. It cannot be blamed for the troubles of rural industries or for cost-push inflation. But, at the stage when it was making extravagant election promises,—

Remember the figure of \$9.5 million. To continue—

—it should have seen economic troubles looming. The danger signs for the economy were obvious then. The Government erred badly in ignoring them.

It is paying the penalty now: electors will search the Budget in vain for signs that the Government intends to fulfil this year many of its pre-election undertakings outside education.

I again interpolate to say the Treasurer has already indicated that because of the circumstances obtaining he is obliged to defer some of his election undertakings. To continue with this quotation—

This is certainly not the time for it to attempt to do so. But its new-found economic realism ends at this point. The most disturbing feature about the Budget is that it is inappropriate for prevailing conditions.

There could scarcely be a worse time to be planning the biggest increase in expenditure in the State's history—

Remember this is \$56.3 million. To continue—

—and bumping taxes and charges to make spending on this scale possible within a deficit of \$3.5 million. Given that a big increase in its wages bill—something in the order of \$30 million—is inescapable, the Government should have concentrated on making economies wherever practicable before setting out to improve its services.

In order to make a big increase in spending on education and child welfare and to finance some small initiatives, it has greatly narrowed the field available to it to raise still more revenue. With a revenue gain of \$57 million, it is slugging the community in increased taxes and charges, yet

budgeting to increase last year's deficit of \$4.3 million to almost \$8 million by the end of this year.

In framing the Budget the Government had a chance to show that there would be no departure from sound economic management despite a substantial change in W.A.'s financial circumstances. Labor's first Budget falls short of meeting that challenge.

We see nothing but condemnation from first to last in this report, using adjectives of the type which would convey to the people generally how vicious were these charges being levied upon them.

We know what the present Budget proposes. We have some idea of the charges which have already been levied, and which the Treasurer himself has categorised as vicious increases. So they are, on practically everything—rail freights and fares, bus fares, shipping freights, hospital fees, pay-roll tax, drivers' licenses, registration of vehicles, stamp duty, and liquor licenses. All these charges have been increased and at a much higher rate than that imposed by my Government.

Now one would have thought that a newspaper which makes some pretensions about being fair might have dealt with the present Budget in a somewhat similar way to that in which it dealt with the Budget that we introduced. However, listen to this, and I quote from *The West Australian* of the 4th October, which says—

Budget bites

Fresh evidence of the financial plight of the States was hardly needed. But it has been provided in the Budget that Sir Charles Court brought down yesterday.

It is a Budget that takes the Government a step closer to desperation point, leaving few taxing avenues untapped and demonstrating once again the narrow revenue-raising capacity of the State.

Two or three years ago an increase of \$152 million in State Government spending would have signalled a tremendous expansion in services.

This is a traditional expenditure of \$152 million, yet the \$56.3 million additional expenditure that we undertook was a dreadful thing. To continue with the quote—

Today it is barely enough to maintain existing standards.

No criticism, oh no, but a justification for this expenditure. To continue—

Most of the expansion that will take place will be financed from revenue provided by the Commonwealth. The contribution is welcome, but, as Sir Charles pointed out, Commonwealth grants often have conditions that compound the revenue problems of the States.

Most of the new taxes and charges announced—plus the many that have

preceded them—come to West Australians by courtesy of Canberra which, despite its own tax bonanza, has refused to supplement grants due to the States under the financial-assistance formula.

The same thing, with equal or more justification, could have been said of our Budget. But no, the Press then referred to the hefty charges which were put on the people because of our extravagant promises. To continue—

In a year when the effects of inflation have reached new peaks and when the inadequacy of Commonwealth-State financial arrangements has never been more apparent, Canberra has told the States to paddle their own canoes. The resultant increases in taxes and charges hit the citizen just as squarely as if they had been imposed by the Commonwealth—making a mockery of tax relief given in the Federal Budget.

Without the extra assistance it sorely needed, WA had no choice but to follow other States in tax increases and new levies.

The West Australian is putting forward excuses and explanations. We do not see a criticism of the Government such as was levied against us, although the circumstances were similar. To continue—

That does not make them any more palatable. The increases—especially those that are sure to lead to dearer water and electricity and higher business costs—are going to hurt. Rural dwellers will feel the pinch of higher water charges, but increases were inevitable with a \$24 million loss looming for country water supply operations.

The most frightening aspect of the Budget is Sir Charles's warning that the estimates might be wide of the mark and that a review might be necessary before the financial year is up. There could be no better illustration of the susceptibility of State Governments (and thus State taxpayers) to inflation than the Budget provision to meet increased wages and salaries. The impact of increases granted last year and those likely this year is calculated at \$87 million, and even that estimate could be exceeded.

There are a few welcome expenditure proposals, such as higher book subsidies for some secondary school students.

After this apologia, there creeps into this editorial one breath of criticism which, under the circumstances, *The West Australian* could hardly have escaped because for some years it has been plugging for State control of traffic by the police. So, it would have been something in the nature of a complete somersault for it to allow to pass unnoticed the provision of

\$700 000 in the Estimates for a commencement of some sort of traffic control, although the Minister does not quite know which sort it will be.

However, it is going to be different from a straightforward control by the police, or so we are told. The concluding part of this editorial states—

But there is one unwelcome provision—the \$700,000 set aside for the first stage of the Government's ill-conceived scheme to transfer traffic control from the police to a new authority. The sum is not great, but it will accelerate quickly. Even worse is the unnecessary duplication and loss of efficiency that must result from the move.

Mr O'Connor: How much more would it cost for a total police takeover?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am glad the Minister asked that question, because when the promise was made during the election campaign, I asked the officers of the Premier's Department and the Police Department to endeavour to cost the proposal contained in the Leader of the Opposition's policy speech. As a result, we were given a set of figures.

Mr McIver: There are not many large towns left to take over; practically all of them have been taken over already.

Mr Nanovich: They have surrendered.

Mr McIver: They have brains.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I was informed that to establish a State-wide independent traffic authority would cost \$3 million a year in running expenses, with a capital expenditure of \$5.8 million.

Mr O'Connor: That would cost more than a police takeover.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That was the estimate given to me of the Liberal's proposal. If the police were to do it, under the existing system, with what has already been applied in certain areas but with some expansion, the information given to me was that it would cost substantially less.

Sir Charles Court: I think you will get a very pleasant surprise from the taxpayers' point of view on Tuesday.

Mr McIver: We will get a surprise to know of the form it will take, and you know it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In connection with this matter, from information in my possession, quite a few people are in for a few surprises.

Sir Charles Court: Pleasant surprises.

Mr McIver: You will get a surprise, all right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: To get back to my initial point, the Treasurer does not seem to be very good at estimating costs.

Mr Clarko: It depends on what information the officers were given. You could not have done too well with the education

question. You gave the officers the wrong premises; you even said you were going to buy up all of Mt. Lawley.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I would remind the member for Karrinyup that so certain was the then Leader of the Opposition and the member for Scarborough that the figures being used by me which came from the Treasury were wrong that at the first opportunity they were going to have an inquiry into this, just to prove how false we were in our calculations. I should like to quote from *The West Australian* of the 25th March. Naturally enough *The West Australian*, which supported the then Leader of the Opposition and was anxious to get him into Government, gave very big headlines to this article, as it invariably does. The article states—

The Opposition Leader, Sir Charles Court, yesterday accused the Labor Party of hiding behinds piles of invented cost estimates on the Liberal Party's election promises.

Just mark that! Invented cost estimates! These estimates were prepared by officers of the Treasury—the same officers who are there now—and the Under-Treasurer, who has been quite rightly eulogised by the Premier as a most efficient and dedicated man and who has been associated with the preparation of 16 Budgets. The estimates which he made and which were supplied to me are supposed to have been invented; that was the Treasurer's excuse. I mention this to show the lengths he is prepared to go on the hustings for political advantage. The article continues—

He said that Treasury cost estimates of the Liberal proposals made public by the Premier, Mr Tonkin on Friday had exaggerated real capital costs by \$250 million.

Mr Tonkin's statement said that the Treasury put a figure of \$315 million on capital costs and \$26.3 million a year in running costs.

The Liberal's own costing put these figures at \$58.7 million and \$9.2 million respectively.

Sir Charles said that Labor's fictitious costing, which multiplied the real figures by five, would be a scandal in any other setting but the present election campaign.

Let members listen to this—

"We are seriously concerned at the way professional Treasury officers have been degraded by association with the Labor Party's exaggerated estimates to make them seem credible," he said.

It is as well that the House and the people should know the truth. I wanted these promises accurately costed. The top officers of the Education Department offered their co-operation because they were so astonished at the proposals. I accepted their offer and they collaborated

with the officers of the Treasury and supplied to me the figures to which I have referred. There was not the slightest intention or attempt on my part to influence them in any degree whatever.

Mr Clarko: How would they cost our proposal to permit five-year-olds to enter school? Was it stated that it would be on a half-yearly basis, a yearly basis, or a term basis?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: How would the Liberal Party know?

Mr Clarko: Which one did they use?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The member for Karrinyup is a Government supporter now; let him ask the Treasurer.

Mr Clarko: As for buying up Mt. Lawley, that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Let the member for Karrinyup ask the Treasurer.

Mr Clarko: Would you include all the houses around Mt. Lawley High School?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I suggest that the member for Karrinyup ask the Treasurer; it will be easy for him to do that. The Treasurer may permit him to approach the Under-Treasurer and the officers of the Education Department to inquire as to how they arrived at these "fictitious figures". Nothing could be more simple. The way is wide open. We know how co-operative the Treasurer will be!

Mr Clarko: Those figures came from the "Dream Time".

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am telling the member for Karrinyup and everybody else that the figures which were published in connection with the costing of Liberal Party promises were supplied to me by responsible departmental officers, without any interference on my part.

Mr Clarko: But tell me firstly how they calculated the cost of the five-year-old entry. I suggest that you do not know. The officers could have taken three alternative positions.

Sir Charles Court: I do not want to interrupt your line of thought, but would you answer one simple question on this? Why did you refuse the Opposition's request that these officers be allowed to talk to us, as the then Opposition, to obtain an explanation from us as to exactly what was meant by the promises?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I simply determined my attitude on my assessment of what the attitude of the present Premier would be in the same circumstances.

Sir Charles Court: Therefore, the estimates are not fair to the officers.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: By way of illustration, I merely mention that, in connection with his fuel and energy legislation, the Premier undertook to refer the matter to outside counsel in order to ascertain whether what the Government had been saying about the Bill was correct. Having

received the report, he then issues a statement that the legal opinion confirms the Government's view.

Sir Charles Court: What is wrong with that?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: But is he prepared to make the statement available? Not on your life! We must accept his assertion that it is correct. I say that in the same circumstances, I am entitled to adopt the same attitude; when I pledged my word that these calculations were made by departmental officers, I was entitled to rely upon them as being estimates made to the best of their ability and on the same principles they apply when they make estimates contained in the Budget.

Sir Charles Court: That is not the point at issue.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is the point, as I see it.

Sir Charles Court: No, it is not. The only question I raised was why you did not allow the officers to obtain the correct premises from us so that they could base their estimates correctly.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It will be something new to me if this were to occur. Perhaps my party might try at the next election to see whether the Premier is prepared to make his Treasury officers available so that we can cost Liberal Party promises. It will remain to be seen what will happen when that occurs.

Sir Charles Court: I suggest you make that request at the appropriate time. You might be surprised at the answer you receive. I also hope that your party keeps its promise at the next election and reminds the electors of the fuel and energy legislation.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will leave that question for the time being; the answer will be given in due course.

In further support of my attitude that reliance should be placed upon the Treasury officers, I took the unusual step of supplying directly to the Press a statement which the Under-Treasurer provided, without my making a statement, but based on information supplied to him. The statement, contained in *The West Australian* of the 25th March, 1974 states—

Finance steady, but problems lie ahead.

WA's financial position at the end of this financial year will be almost the same as it was at the end of 1970-71—the first financial year to be completed during the term of the present Labor Government.

The Under-Treasurer, Mr K. J. Townsing, said this in a summary of the State's finances made public by the Premier, Mr Tonkin, yesterday.

So, I handed to the Press the statement as prepared by the Under-Treasurer dealing with the financial position.

It is no wonder that the threat of the Treasurer and the member for Scarborough was not carried out when the present Government took office; the threat was to have an immediate inquiry to ascertain just what the financial position of the State was, and whether the Treasury was empty. Nothing has been heard about that since, but great play was made about it at the election, that the true position was not being stated by me as Treasurer.

I think it would be perfectly true to say that never before in this State's history have so many increases in taxes and charges—and of such magnitude—been imposed upon the people. One wonders what the effect will be on the community in general.

This Budget is highly inflationary; it could not be more inflationary than it is. It hits certain sections of the community very hard, but did *The West Australian* in its leading article come out and say this? There were apologies all the way through, and there was soft peddling; that is in marked contrast to what was said with regard to the first Budget of our Government. One knows the political philosophy of *The West Australian*, and one has to accept that. At least, it has been consistent; it has not been any different.

Mr Rushton: You are reflecting on what you said before.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: One ought to expect a little fairness occasionally from that newspaper, especially on matters of such importance as this with regard to the assessment of relative Budgets. There is no need for me to say much more about this matter. All one has to do is to read both editorials of that newspaper. One should look at the figures and what was said about the increase in the expenditure of our Government by \$56.3 million, and the increase in the Budget of the present Government by \$152 million. One would have thought that some comparison would be made, and that it would have pointed out what this type of expenditure really meant in a situation of inflation such as that which exists at the present time.

The Government has introduced an innovation with regard to levies on State instrumentalities. It is to take 3 per cent of the gross income of the Fremantle Port Authority; 3 per cent of the gross income of the State Electricity Commission; and 3 per cent of the gross income of the Metropolitan Water Board. Inevitably this will lead to further increases in taxes and charges by those State instrumentalities; this cannot possibly be avoided.

The Fremantle Port Authority will increase its charges to the users of the port, to enable it to recover this lost revenue to the Government. The Metropolitan Water Board which was obliged to increase its taxes and charges, without a

knowledge of the present levy—and it put them up on the justification of the necessity to enable it to obtain enough revenue to pay for the expenditure—will find that with the present levy, the increased charges already imposed will not be sufficient to enable its revenue to meet its expenditure. Therefore it will be obliged to impose further increases in water and sewerage rates.

Coming to the State Electricity Commission, over the years I used to criticise the Government in office for allowing the SEC to make its charges so high that it was able to make big profits. In ordinary circumstances one should regard State instrumentalities not as profit-making institutions, but as institutions established for the purpose of rendering a service at no additional cost to the taxpayer; that is to say that its charges should be such as would enable the instrumentality to balance its books, without having to levy charges on anybody else.

Because of the difficulty of the Government to provide the massive sums of money required for capital expenditure the Brand Government for years allowed the SEC to impose charges which resulted in quite substantial profits.

Sir David Brand: All that was ploughed back into capital works, and you did the same thing.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I have said that, because it could not get the capital funds from the Government. So, the Government allowed the instrumentality to raise this money by way of profit which it then used for capital expenditure.

Mr Mensaros: That was continued under your Government.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I admit that. I was about to say that this profit was made during the whole period of our Government, but the profit made in 1973-74 was the lowest profit that had been made for many years. I make that point not for the purpose of trying to claim any credit for my Government, but simply to emphasise the seriousness of the step the Government is now taking.

If the SEC is still making substantial profits it is possible that the levy of 3 per cent would still leave it, on the present rates, in a position to make some profit. However, I say very deliberately that the imposition of the 3 per cent levy will put the SEC in the red on current rates. The Government is in no position to provide the loan funds necessary for the very substantial capital expenditure which the SEC has to face—many millions of dollars. What will the Government do?

Orders have been placed by the SEC for new machinery, and two new units are to be installed at the Kwinana power station. The machinery is being constructed for the purpose. Where will the money come from

to pay for the contracts already let in connection with this? That is what I would like to know.

The Government has reduced the capacity of the SEC to provide the loan funds itself. I repeat that in my view the Government is in no position to make up the shortage; so, we come back to the statement of the Under-Treasurer in, I think, 1970, that he did not know where the money would come from. The position now must be even worse than it was then with the 3 per cent levy which has been imposed. I say it is absolutely inevitable that there will be increased charges for electricity before very long, although the Minister said—and quite truthfully in answering a question a short time ago when he was asked whether immediate increases in charges were contemplated—"No". Of course, there is a difference between "immediate" and "next week"; I would say that before very long—I cannot say exactly how long—the SEC will be forced into the position of having to impose increased charges.

I was surprised that the Government was able to bring down a Budget which provided for very substantial increases in the cost of water to the country people. I would have thought that with a coalition Government—the Country Party is supposed to be very concerned about the welfare of country dwellers, more particularly as some of them are now experiencing financial difficulties because of the low price of meat—it would have been extremely difficult for the Government to arrive at an agreement which would result in not only increasing the rate in the dollar, but also increasing the cost of water to be supplied.

I would point this out: in 1972 when comparatively our Government was in just as much difficulty financially as the present Government is in, in order to help the rural sector which was then passing through a drought period, we actually reduced the cost of water to the country people. I think the reduction was 1.5c in the dollar to the domestic consumer, and 1c in the dollar to the business consumer.

That concession was not arrived at easily by our Government, because we were facing almost a certain deficit, as was proved to be the case. However, because of the extreme difficulty in country areas, and in accordance with our undertaking to help people in the rural areas, we budgeted for a reduced income because of this concession.

Turning to the revenue of the Liberal-Country Party Government that is now in office, in its very first Budget it takes away this concession which a Labor Government gave to the country people.

Mr McPharlin: You said you were in similar difficulties when you introduced your Budget, as the present Government is in introducing the present Budget.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes.

Mr McPharlin: That statement is not quite correct.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Of course, it is.

Mr McPharlin: You would get an accumulated loss and face inflationary problems.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We also had inflationary problems. The Under-Treasurer indicated the inflationary problems before the Brand Government left office.

Mr Laurance: Not 23 per cent inflation.

Mr Rushton: It was 4½ per cent.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I repeat that the world is full of surprises. I was, indeed, surprised that in its first Budget the present Liberal-Country Party Government would take away from the country people a concession which the Labor Government gave them.

Sir Charles Court: The increased revenue is less than 10 per cent of the loss this year.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is a fact, and it should be recorded, that a Liberal-Country Party Government has taken away from the country people a concession which a State Labor Government gave them. Members opposite may use any amount of explanation or give as many excuses as they like; but that is the plain fact of the matter.

Mr May: It must have been interesting around the Cabinet table.

Mr Laurance: Did the Labor Government take any concessions away from country people?

Mr McPharlin: We did not like doing it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That may be so, but the Government must take the responsibility for it.

Mr Sodeman: And you must be realistic about your criticisms.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Never mind. *The West Australian* will excuse it for the Government. It will gloss over it and the Government will get away with it. I pose this question: Supposing two years ago our positions had been reversed and the Liberal-Country Party had been in Government and had given this concession and in our first Budget we had taken it away, what would the reaction have been? We would never have heard the end of it; but there it is.

Several members interjected.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is a difficult pill to swallow, but it must be swallowed.

Mr Sodeman: What is the alternative?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The situation is that a concession a State Labor Government gave out of consideration for the plight of the farmers in a situation of financial difficulty has been taken away by a Liberal-Country Party Government.

Sir David Brand: It is a pity you would not influence your Labor colleagues in the Federal sphere regarding this matter.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I want to say a few words about the Government taking half the profits of the Rural and Industries Bank. I do not object to the Government deriving some revenue from this source, although I will say that it must have the effect of reducing the capacity of the bank to some extent to continue to lend money as it desires.

This is my objection. It has always been an endeavour on the part of the bank to function, not as a Government instrumentality but in competition with other banks as a bank. What the Government has done has clearly and unmistakably acclaimed to the world that this is a Government instrumentality. What the Government could have done was to increase the cost of the money it makes available to the R. & I. Bank—put up the interest rate. That would have had the same effect of giving the Government increased revenue but without this movement which unmistakably says to the world that this is a State instrumentality and the Government can push it around in any way it likes.

Sir Charles Court: Do you say that with regard to the Commonwealth Bank?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We have no control over that.

Sir Charles Court: The Commonwealth Bank not only pays income tax, but also contributes half its profits.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Maybe; but I have no control over what it does. I am indicating what I consider should have been done in this State. I can see no justification for a private enterprise Government going out of its way to declare that the R. & I. Bank is a State instrumentality completely under Government control and that the Government can take from it what it likes when it likes.

Sir Charles Court: This does not change it at all. Did I understand you to say that you would have preferred us to charge a higher rate of interest?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes.

Sir Charles Court: That would punish the bank and it would have no chance of redress. Under our proposal, if the bank makes no profit, it makes no contribution.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: If it makes no profit, the justification for its existence is gone.

Sir Charles Court: There could be situations when it makes no profit.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I cannot envisage one.

Sir Charles Court: I can.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I cannot envisage a situation under which a bank can continue in existence without making a profit.

Sir Charles Court: The R. & I. Bank is not a conventional bank and never has been.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am expressing my opinion about this matter, and I say that the way it should have been done more expeditiously and without the disadvantages was to charge it more for the money it uses and it would then have adjusted its rates accordingly, because it must be remembered that it offers a higher rate of interest now than do the private banks. It can do so because of the favourable situation it enjoys. If the cost of the money it is utilising—the money that is provided by the Government—is increased to it, then the increased revenue would come to the Government without the disadvantages about which I have complained.

I notice that the specific purpose grants which the Treasurer does not like and in connection with which he has indicated the stage might be reached where he refuses to take them—and I will believe that when I see it—

Sir Charles Court: It could be impossible for us to finance the counterpart for it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will believe that when I see it because when it was in office before the Government was not inhibited in any way in raising money from road users in order to qualify for matching money from the Commonwealth.

Sir Charles Court: I was expressing a cautious note.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That was never raised then.

Sir Charles Court: You could get to a point where you could not tolerate it any further.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, but I do not think that will be so. I think that while the Treasurer is complaining on the one hand he is, on the other hand, anxious to get it as quickly as he can because he will gain a tremendous advantage this year.

The specific purpose grants will increase from \$6.1 million, which we received in 1973-74, to \$17.8 million this year. That is a sizeable amount of money to be made available and should make a very worthwhile contribution towards dealing with an unemployment situation.

One aspect of the Government's administration which is worrying me considerably, and it will blow up in the Government's face before very long, is the edict which has gone out to the various departments that they are not to replace anyone whose services are no longer available. This edict has been issued even to hospitals in regard to nurses. Members can just imagine what will occur if the number of nurses available for their work continues to be reduced. Either patients will lack attention or the nurses will have to work overtime with consequent additional cost instead of reduced cost. This is operating in practically every department at present.

Sir Charles Court: I am sorry, I did not get your point. Did you say there was to be no recruitment at all?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am saying that an edict has gone out to the effect that people whose services are no longer available for some reason or other are not to be replaced.

Sir Charles Court: I know a limit has been placed on growth, but there are cases where you do not need to recruit while there are others where the establishment must be kept up. The idea is not to expand.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am saying that the Government is not keeping up its establishment in a number of departments, and one of them is in connection with the nursing profession. I am indicating that this procedure can continue for a limited time only.

Dr Dadour: I find that very hard to believe.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is not the first thing the member for Subiaco has found hard to believe, but has eventually had to believe. I suggest that the honourable member, who is in a better position than I am to do so, should make a few inquiries.

Let us come to the Premier's Department, a department with which I am understandably very familiar. As yet no appointment of an under-secretary has been made, so we have an acting under-secretary who, under Public Service regulations, must, within a certain time, receive the same salary as an under-secretary. Then, what happens to the position of the acting under-secretary?

Is it to be said that the department can function satisfactorily with one man when previously two were required? Two have been required for a long time and the work of the department has increased, not decreased.

I have had a look at the figures which are shown for the running of this department, and I question those figures very much, because I just do not accept that the department could be run on the estimate made.

The amount for wages and salaries in the Premier's Department in 1973-74 was \$297 800, and the figure provided for 1974-75 is \$340 017. When we make allowance for increases in wages and salaries which inevitably take place, and for the proposed expansion of this department foreshadowed in the policy speech and in connection with which I believe a feasibility study was undertaken, the question immediately arises: How can the Government's proposals be financed by the sum set aside?

A saving of \$61 556 has been achieved through savings of wages and salaries of the State Civil Emergency Service. Excluding those wages, the 1973-74 Premier's Department wages bill was \$278 461. The 1974-75 estimate for the same group is only \$297 800. Within this area no sum has been allocated for an under-secretary for 1974-75, but \$22 600 has been

allocated for one vacant position. Allowances for higher duties, relieving, etc., have been cut from \$37 563 to a mere \$9 300. The Government has set aside a saving of \$6 100 for delays in filling vacancies.

If we look at contingencies, we find administration expenses rise from \$49 147 to \$62 000 for 1974-75. My opinion is that this is considerably underestimated in view of the substantial increases in postages, cables, and telephone expenses.

With regard to Royal Commissions, on the hustings the present Minister for Works promised that the Liberals would have a housing inquiry by Royal Commission. The following appeared in *The West Australian* of the 11th March—

Libs Plan Housing Inquiry

A Liberal government in WA would appoint a royal commission on home ownership, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr O'Neill, said yesterday.

Then he went on to indicate his reasons.

I do not know that adequate provision has been made for the Royal Commissions this Government will appoint. A costly one in connection with TAA is in progress at the moment. I believe these contingencies are underestimated. They go from \$203 605 in 1973-74 to a reduced figure of a mere \$100 000 for 1974-75. I express the opinion that that is very much underestimated.

The more I think about the matter and the more I consider it, the more I am prepared to accept the likelihood that before very long there will be an adjustment of income and expenditure, as the Premier has foreshadowed.

Total contingencies have dropped from \$402 356 to \$290 000. The reduction consists of \$40 826 for Civil Emergency Services and \$103 605 for Royal Commissions. Included in the 1974-75 Estimates is a \$13 000 pay-roll tax bill, while in 1973-74 there was no revenue from this source.

Let us have a look at the Department of Industrial Development. In wages and salaries provision has been made for expansion of staff with one vacant position at \$9 100 in the Division of Development and seven vacant positions worth \$53 200 in the Division of Industries. The allowances have risen from \$16 349 in 1973-74 to \$46 400 in 1974-75. An amount of \$23 500 has been set aside for savings due to delays in filling vacancies.

Apparently that is the pattern. The Government will delay as long as possible the filling of vacancies, with the inevitable result that some people will be called upon to work overtime or service to the people, generally, will suffer. In some departments, that might not matter a great deal—delay wastes only the time of the public—but in hospitals, for instance, where nurses are not replaced it is a very serious matter indeed. I hope the member for

Subiaco, who seems to doubt this is taking place, will make some inquiries in order to ascertain what is the true position.

The Premier's philosophy about Budgets is that they should be inspiring and exciting. I can certainly find nothing inspiring or exciting in this Budget.

Mr Bryce: He has had a change of mind since then.

Mr May: It is inciting.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Budget is far from being inspiring or exciting. It is a very depressing Budget because not only must we accept the very substantial increases in taxes and charges already imposed but we have also been warned of more to follow.

Mr Nanovich: Can you find any good points in the Budget?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, I can.

Mr Nanovich: What are they, in your opinion?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In my opinion, the extra expenditure on education with regard to both Government and private schools is to be applauded, as are also the increased allowances to students from remote areas.

The Budget as a whole is far from being exciting and imaginative. All it does is impose additional burdens on the people, with a threat of more to follow; and, as was to be expected, the blame for this situation is placed on the Australian Government.

When we were in government, endeavouring in similar circumstances to manage the finances of the State and to meet promises which would have cost only a fraction of the cost of the promises made by this Government, we were subjected to a no confidence motion and we were blamed for everything that was wrong. I suppose that is politics, Mr Speaker.

However, one should endeavour to deal with the facts and put the only proper interpretation on the facts. If difficulties are being experienced—I frankly admit the Government is facing difficulties through escalation in costs, and through rises in salaries and wages—the Government need not think the passage of this Bill will stop wages and salaries rising unless a method is found to prevent the increases in the cost of living and the rises which are taking place daily, in some areas, in the price of goods which are required by the people in order that they may live.

It is not our intention to move a vote of no confidence in the Government, as the Opposition did when we were in Government, but we simply point out that the Government has levied charges upon the people to a degree never before experienced and the Government should accept the responsibility for it. If it were not for the extravagance of a number of promises the Government made, these charges would not be as high as they are. It is because of an endeavour to implement those promises that the increases are so much higher.

I close on this note: a proposal to spend \$290 000 on a referendum on daylight saving is completely indefensible, in my opinion. At a time when the Government is scratching for funds in order to keep charges down, it proposes to spend a sum of that magnitude. While attempting to save money by refusing to replace people who are needed in various departments, it will waste \$290 000 on a referendum.

Mr Nanovich: Did the Opposition not suggest a referendum on the Fuel, Power and Energy Resources Act Amendment Bill?

Mr May: That was warranted.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Opposition suggested the Bill should be withdrawn.

Mr Nanovich: You suggested a referendum on it, too.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We suggested it should be withdrawn.

Mr Barnett: Withdrawn and a referendum held.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: One more point has come to my mind; that is, Her Majesty's Theatre. I had information that quite a good offer was made to the Government under terms and conditions which would have been attractive, and that the Government has turned down the offer because it has another alternative.

The replies to questions I asked the Premier indicated that was not the true position at all but that it would be a costly proposition to acquire Her Majesty's Theatre and the matter was still being looked into. I remind the Premier of what he said in his political notes in *The West Australian* on the 20th September, 1973, when he was the Leader of the Opposition. He said—

W.A. Arts Council

We supported the Bill to establish the W.A. Arts Council. We believe it will assist us, when returned to Government, to increase help to the arts in conjunction with other ideas we have for the better use of recreation and leisure time and for social welfare generally.

In the debate on the Bill, Mr Lewis made four main points:

I remind members that Mr Edgar Lewis, who was previously the Minister for Education, was speaking on behalf of the Opposition at the time. The political notes continue—

The Ministries for Recreation and Cultural Affairs should be joined together for better efficiency and use of funds . . .

The State Government's apparent lack of concern about the probable loss of Her Majesty's Theatre . . .

If the then Opposition was so concerned about my Government's inability to appreciate the need for the retention of Her Majesty's Theatre, here is the opportunity for the present Government to establish that it really meant what it was saying when in Opposition by taking steps to acquire Her Majesty's Theatre in order to ensure it will be available for the various branches of the arts which desire to use it.

Sir Charles Court: The papers on that matter are before me. The costs are astronomical.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [5.26 p.m.]: The Leader of the Opposition drew attention to the very arduous times which the Government will bring about but he did not highlight the extent of the area in which the impact will be felt; that is, in the country areas. I am surprised that a Budget of this kind survived the Cabinet room to be brought into this House. Perhaps I am not surprised.

Mr Sodeman: How did you feel about the Federal Budget?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The costs to which reference has been made, which will directly affect country people and in particular rural producers, are the 3 per cent levy on the gross revenue of the State Electricity Commission, the Metropolitan Water Board, and the Fremantle Port Authority, the removal of the concession on country water supplies, and the increase in the stamp duty on cheques. The increased liquor license fee is incidental but nevertheless it is a further impost which will find its way into the recreation costs of country dwellers.

The 3 per cent levy on the State Electricity Commission must increase the cost of electricity additionally to the increase brought about by rising wages. It is a levy on gross income, not net income. To meet the levy the SEC will be forced at some future time to increase its charges.

Although I have not had time to check the introductory speech of the Premier, I think he said the utilities would be hard pressed to raise their loan commitments this year. Although some provision has been made for them, it is inevitable that charges will be increased to meet the total amount, which is expected to be \$46 million by way of loan in the current year and in excess of \$50 million next year. The same applies to the Fremantle Port Authority and the Metropolitan Water Board.

It is simply a deferment of charges but an endeavour is being made to camouflage and hide it. Ultimately it must be passed on. However, the State as a whole has had such a battering with increased charges that deferment is the wisest course from the Government's point of view.

The country water supply provision, as indicated, will probably result in an increase of something in the order of 11 or 12

per cent. Coming at this time, in an area where water is absolutely vital, and coupled with fuel costs, the impost on the industries which are least able to face it will possibly be the last straw.

This has come on top of several other sharp increases. I remind you, Mr Speaker, of the increase in shire rates. In my area the rates have increased by 500 per cent. So the problem of liquidity facing the farmers is a very real one. Having regard to the fact that all charges—including licenses, probate, and freights—have already been increased, it is rather surprising that at this time we have strong condemnation of the Commonwealth Government by the State Government. Indeed I have in my hand a Press report of the speech of a Liberal member in another place who moved a motion of censure on the Commonwealth Government for doing precisely what the State Government is doing. This Government is compounding and aggravating the problems of rural dwellers. It is accusing the Commonwealth Government of doing something and then turning around and doing precisely the same thing in all the areas available to it.

I would remind the Government of the situation confronting many rural industries and, in particular, the beef and apple industries.

Sir Charles Court: Did you say we had increased the rate of probate?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I think the Treasurer's words were that charges in this direction would be minimal.

Sir Charles Court: In respect of probate? There is no reference to any increase in the rates of probate.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Treasurer referred to a minimal increase in this direction, and he qualified his remarks. I will have to check his speech to find the exact words. However, I am aware no major increase has been announced, and I am not very concerned about that.

The problem of increased charges is doing nothing at all for the rural industries which have been hit so badly. Some of them are in such a position that they may have the greatest difficulty in surviving. May I refer to the beef industry, which is not now confined only to the south-west but extends right throughout the agricultural areas. I would like to show briefly what has befallen this industry by referring to comparative prices received for stock in the last two years.

In 1974 the average price per kilo of baby beef has been as follows—

January	....	....	....	....	81c
March	....	....	....	....	82c
June	....	....	....	....	80c
September	....	....	....	....	60c

However, in June, 1973, the average price received was 86c. The significant fact is that the price has declined to an average of 60c during the month of September. Cow beef, which is dependent on the export market, declined from 72c in January, to 59c in March, to 41c in June, and to 32c in September; whereas the average price in 1973 was 70c.

Again I refer to the fact that during this collapse of prices to a level where it is now not economical to produce beef as a single venture, charges for electricity and water were increased, and the rates of stamp duty and freight also rose. These are the facts of the situation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the farmers concerned find themselves in a desperate situation. Liquidity is a problem which has proven well-nigh impossible to overcome. Many of these farmers have taken advantage of stock firm finance at considerable rates of interest, and over a limited period. Those who have had dealings with stock firms will know that their finance is extended for a limited period, and they place pressures on the farmers even to the detriment of the economic situation of farmers.

Beef is not an overnight cash crop. The farmers who have diversified into beef have done so over a period of time. In the last several weeks I have compiled statistics from a fairly large area to indicate the meaning of the fall in beef prices and the corresponding rise in costs. I know one young farmer who bought a number of stock in 1973 and recently sold them at a loss of \$3 000. I spoke to a farmer last week who brought in a truck load of stock which he purchased a few months ago, and he sold them at a loss of \$700. He is not going to bring in any more. Another farmer to whom I would like to refer is selling his stock at a steady loss of \$25 to \$30 a head. This is the situation in which beef farmers find themselves. No suggestion is made in the Budget speech that these people should be assisted.

Surely when we consider that situation with the one facing the Tonkin Government in 1971 we find it is not vastly different. In 1971 a ludicrous position developed following the lack of initiative and leadership which preceded the Tonkin Government; and a similar situation is facing us now. On the south coast in particular drought loans were being refused to farmers because they could not give a first mortgage to the Rural and Industries Bank. At that time the Tonkin Government made available a special loan to those farmers, taken against a crop lien; and this kept hundreds of farmers on their farms until such time as they could take advantage of the Rural Reconstruction Scheme finance.

Mr McPharlin: The beef prices at that time were vastly different from those of today.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The fact remains that we assisted them by making funds available to them when they could not take advantage of drought relief finance. We made special loans available which were extended not only for the first year, but into the second year. If I recall correctly, in excess of 96 per cent of those loans were repaid; and this was to the surprise of the Rural and Industries Bank officers who did not anticipate such a high rate of repayment. That is a tribute to the farmers who were suffering the tremendous ordeal of adverse conditions.

It is something like that which is required at the present time. Our assistance enabled many farmers to obtain Rural Reconstruction Scheme assistance even two years later. At the same time, the Rural Reconstruction Authority was set up in such a way that its administration has defied criticism ever since.

At present the beef industry is in serious trouble, but no specific mention of it is made in the Budget. Surely it merits some specialised finance. In the United States of America feed lotters are receiving \$2 billion to assist them in the present situation; and the only difference between their situation and ours is one of magnitude. The feeders there are a strong lobby. It is a tremendously wealthy and highly capitalised industry in the United States, but at least something is being done.

The Premier publicly advised growers to hold on to their breeding stock. If that was not just hot air, then perhaps—to use the common vernacular—he should put his money where his mouth is and assist the breeders to do just that, and tide them over the next few months because feed starts to become scarce at the commencement of summer and many farmers will have to quit their stock at disadvantageous prices if they do not receive assistance. The only solution I can see to the problem is the provision of special finance of this kind, and I call on the Government to do something in this regard.

Stock firm finance is generally for a term of about eight months, although the concessions vary a little. As I indicated, the firms can apply pressure on a farmer at the wrong time; and the money must be repaid at the decision of the stock firm rather than at the decision of the farmer.

If interest rates continue to rise they will become crippling, and many farmers in the south-west and agricultural areas will not survive unless prices rise dramatically. According to the Australian Meat Board there is not a great chance of that occurring. The board's prognosis for meat is that the outlook will not be optimistic until at least well into next year. The board's intelligence with regard to markets has not been of a high standard. Indeed, in the April issue of its publication the board was most eulogistic and optimistic about beef prices for as far

into the future as it could see; and yet in a short time a total collapse occurred in the market.

Mr Stephens: At about that time Gough was saying we had never had it so good. How far out was he?

Mr Harman: That sort of remark doesn't achieve much.

Mr H. D. EVANS: At about that time members opposite were saying, "We will put things right—up." As the member for Maylands interjected, the attitude of members opposite towards the farmer does them no credit; and this attitude has been apparent for a considerable time. However, I will come back to that later and deal with it in its proper context.

I would like now to draw the attention of the House to the situation confronting the apple industry. Its situation can only be described as desperate. The season is coming to a culmination that has been fairly obvious for some time. The situation has been eased only as a result of the price support provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments in the 1974 season. This industry is suffering in the same way as the beef industry. All farm inputs have risen, and the increased electricity charges and water charges—and we know irrigation costs must rise—taken in conjunction with the rise in freight charges, are a serious impost on the orchardists. Prices and charges in respect of motor vehicles, sprays, fertilisers, and almost everything else have risen correspondingly; and the most damaging of all has been the increase in shipping freights. I do not think anyone can overlook the fact that the recent oil crisis resulted in sea freights rising to a dangerous level. This is a situation which must be tackled if the orchardists are to survive the forthcoming season. No mention of the industry is made in the Budget.

I would like to list the major problems confronting the apple industry; but before I venture into that I would seek your guidance, Mr Speaker, as to whether I should move to adjourn the debate and ask for leave to speak again so that we can proceed with other business.

The SPEAKER: Do not move the adjournment; just seek leave to continue your remarks at the next sitting of the House.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Mr Speaker, I seek leave of the House to continue my remarks at the next sitting.

The SPEAKER: The member for Warren seeks leave to continue his speech at the next sitting of the House. I warn members that if there is a dissentient voice he will not be given permission to do so. Is there a dissentient voice? As there is no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.47 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the Governor's salary from \$17 000 to \$25 000 with effect from the 1st May.

It has been the practice to review the salary of the Governor following reviews of parliamentary salaries. However a review was not carried out following the 1971 determination by the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal.

This means that the salary has not been adjusted since October, 1969, when it was raised from \$14 500 to \$17 000.

Salaries paid to the Governors of other States are—

	Salary	When fixed
New South Wales	30 000	1973
Victoria	20 500	1968
Queensland	35 000	1973
South Australia	20 000	Since 1969
Tasmania	25 000	1973

However these payments are not a completely accurate indication because Governors of some States meet expenses of various kinds which in other States are met by the Government.

Having regard to payments in other States and to the fact that there has been no variation of the salary of the Governor in this State over the past five years, an increase to \$25 000 effective from the 1st May, 1974, is considered reasonable.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [5.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill, for an Act to amend the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act, has seven main purposes; namely—

- (1) Extend the definition of the word "prescribed" to include a rule made under a Statute.
- (2) Clarify the power of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to control and discipline within the institute.
- (3) Delete the current requirement that the Council of the Western Australian Institute of Technology

seeks the approval of the Minister for Education of terms and conditions of appointment and employment of staff.

- (4) Provide for the use of a graduation seal on awards made by the council of the institute.
- (5) Clarify the authority of the institute in matters relating to the internal government and enforcement of sanctions within the institute, by clear prescription.
- (6) Authorise the practice of reporting financial results of the institute bookshop on the basis of financial periods ending on the 30th June each year.
- (7) Validate previous actions of the council of the institute in making statutes for the determination of the manner in which disciplinary power may be exercised, penalties, and the manner of enforcement.

Members will probably recall that a similar Bill was introduced by the previous Government towards the end of the last session. However, on that occasion the proposed legislation was allowed to lapse.

I now intend to examine each of the proposed amendments in some detail.

The first amendment seeks merely to extend the definition of the word "prescribed" to include a rule made under a statute.

Members will be aware, no doubt, that in the Interpretation Act, 1918, "prescribed" means prescribed by the Act wherein the term is used or by regulation, rule, or by-law made thereunder. In an Act such as the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act, new classes of subordinate legislation are mentioned and provided for, for example, statutes, and rules made under those statutes, as distinct from rules made under an Act itself.

Therefore, when the institute Act was passed by Parliament in 1966, it was necessary for the purposes of that Act to go beyond the meaning of the word "prescribed" in the Interpretation Act, and so the definition of "prescribed" was put in the institute Act.

However, at that time, no mention of rules made under statutes was made in the definition, and the proposed addition to the definition in the Bill before the House is to put in only what is considered should have been put in 1966.

The next amendment relates to the powers of the chief executive officer of the institute who is the director. It is felt that the present wording of section 14 of the principal Act may be construed to confine the powers and duties of the chief executive officer to those prescribed in the statutes.

It is desired by the institute to ensure that the Act contains all necessary heads of power relating to control and discipline and this amendment will authorise the director as chief executive officer, to exercise all such powers and duties whenever they are prescribed such as in by-laws or rules or in the statutes themselves.

The next proposed amendment relates to section 17 of the principal Act which empowers the governing council of the institute to appoint staff under such terms and conditions as the Council thinks fit and the Minister approves.

Subsequent to the enactment of this provision, the Government has established the Western Australian Tertiary Education Commission by Act No. 84 of 1970. Under paragraph (e) of section 12 of that Act, the Tertiary Education Commission is given statutory authority to determine such matter and is required—

to consider—

- (i) The terms and conditions of appointment and employment including salary payable, of the staff, whether academic or otherwise, of each tertiary education institution; and

- (ii) all claims relating to these terms and conditions,

and make recommendations thereon to the governing authority of the institution.

Consequently, the current requirement to seek the Minister's approval is redundant and because of its incompatibility with the spirit, intentions, and provisions of the Tertiary Education Commission Act, it is desirable that it be deleted. Such action would be compatible with the provisions of the Murdoch University Act proclaimed last year.

The next, the fourth, proposed amendment relates to subsection (2) of section 18 of the principal Act which currently requires any award made by the council of the institute to be given under the common seal of the institute.

The common seal has particular signatures, custodians, and endorsements specified and it is considered more appropriate by the institute for the respective dean's signature to appear on awards with that of the director.

Understandably, practical difficulties have arisen with the preparation of large numbers of certificates and it is desirable that the practice be adopted, similar to that of universities, where certificates are pre-printed with facsimile signatures and embossed with a separate graduation seal.

The next, the fifth, proposed amendment with which I wish to deal concerns section 20 of the principal Act. Subsection (4) of section 20 relates to the making of by-laws for the management and control of institute land and amendment is considered desirable by the institute as the

existing provisions have been found to be impractical, making internal government and enforcement of sanctions most difficult. The power to enforce traffic by-laws and such like, is currently very limited.

Furthermore, it has become necessary for the institute to acquire the power to charge fees for car parking facilities following a recommendation contained in the third report of the Australian Commission of Advanced Education covering the triennium 1973-1975.

The commission in recommending the charging of a fee for the use of car parks, pointed out that it saw these as having a very low priority in view of the demand for education facilities. The fees charged would assist the colleges when they are required to provide and finance other parking facilities.

The repeal of subsections (4) and (5) of section 20 and the addition of proposed new section 20A in lieu thereof will overcome these internal problems.

The provisions of the proposed section 20A are similar in many respects to the provisions in the University of Western Australia Act and will, for example, authorise the removal of vehicles abandoned on the site and provide for a system for the imposition of modified penalties for offences in a similar manner to the provisions of the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act.

The sixth proposed amendment relates to section 28 of the principal Act which currently requires the council of the institute to prepare and furnish to the Minister a report of the operations of the institute, as soon as practicable after each 31st December, covering the 12 months immediately preceding that date.

The amendment is sought to authorise the practice of reporting financial results of the institute bookshop on the basis of the financial period ending on the 30th June each year.

The main reason put forward by the institute in requesting this change is that at the 30th June, selling activity reaches its lowest level and the quantity and value of stock on hand is minimal. In contrast, the stock quantity, value, and sales are near their peak in December of each year.

By the addition of subsection (4) to section 22, the proposed amendment allows the Minister, with the approval of the Treasurer, to vary the date mentioned in subsection (1) of section 22 to suit the particular requirements of any operation of the institute.

The final amendment proposed relates to section 34 of the principal Act and is considered necessary in order to remove any doubt which may have previously existed concerning the power of the council of the institute to make and enforce statutes. There is presently no provision in section 34 of the principal Act for penalties or the enforcement of sanctions and

according to legal opinion from the Crown Law Department, the institute's present disciplinary statute, although lawful, might not lawfully be applied.

It is usual in tertiary education institutions for discipline to be maintained and enforced internally within the institution, rather than to regard breaches as an offence for which a complaint may be brought before a court.

In this regard, it may be pertinent to note that the institute established a disciplinary statute committee under the chairmanship of the honourable Mr Justice Wallace to consider recent changes to disciplinary regulations in Australian universities and to redraft the disciplinary statutes of the institute.

The amendments proposed will remove any doubt which may have previously existed that the council may make statutes for the determination of the manner in which disciplinary power may be exercised, penalties, and the manner of enforcement.

In particular, they establish that a statute in relation to discipline may prescribe offences and the power of staff to deal with them; provide for the imposition of penalties including fines up to a maximum of \$50 and restitution up to \$100 for damage to property; allow the establishment of a disciplinary board to hear and determine a complaint; and, amongst other things, establish an appeal tribunal and enforce penalties.

While it is arguable that the present powers are adequate and that the provisions made under them are completely valid, the institute has adopted the responsible attitude that it is better to put the matter beyond all doubt by the provisions that now appear in the Bill before the House.

Consequently, the Government acceded to its request for amendment to the Act in this way. The measures contained in this Bill are comparatively simple and are commended for the approval of the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr McIver.

DISTRESSED PERSONS RELIEF TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [6.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I know that it is usually fatal to say that it is a simple Bill, but I cannot imagine one which is more simple than the one before us.

The purpose of the Bill is to increase the number of trustees from four to five. The trust consists of Mr A. E. Marshall, the Public Trustee, who is chairman *ex officio*, and the following three members—

Sir Thomas Wardle, a company director;

Mr J. W. R. Coleman, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council;

Miss Ethel Scott, a retired superintendent of police.

Sir Thomas Wardle is well known to all of us. Mr Coleman is well known to us because he is the Secretary of the TLC; and Miss Scott is also well known as a retired superintendent of police.

At any meeting of the trust, a quorum is constituted by the chairman and two of the three remaining trustees. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a quorum for meetings, because of other consistent demands on the time of the trustees. Of 11 meetings called, four lapsed for want of a quorum.

Financial relief provided by the trust is available to persons in genuine but temporary financial distress, who are unable to obtain appropriate relief from any other source.

The incidence of cases falling outside the scope of existing welfare agencies appears to be no more frequent than would be expected, but the trust's expenditure has shown that some do exist. The trust received its first applications in January, 1974, and the 101 applications received up to September were spread over the period as follows—

	Applications
January	5
February	3
March	8
April	18
May	19
June	14
July	11
August	16
September	7

These modest figures indicate that the trust is achieving the purpose for which it was created by covering some of the inevitable blank spots in the general governmental and voluntary welfare coverage.

The Government agrees with the trust's recommendation that its membership be increased by one additional trustee. I think it is appropriate for me to refer to the type of disbursements that have been made, and I detail the following cases—

	Cases
Ill-health	37
Housing	10
Marriage breakdown	6
Deaths	6
Unemployment	6
Accidents	3
Business failure	2
Stranded people	5
Education	2
Afflictions (blind, death, etc.)	5
Miscellaneous	7
Total	89

In other words, 89 cases were granted financial relief, seven cases were refused, and 12 cases lapsed; that was for the period between the 4th December, 1973, and the 27th September, 1974.

Those figures do not quite reconcile with the number of cases I gave starting from January, because I notice these claims go back to the 4th December. However, the numbers are very small so far as the difference is concerned. I quote those figures only to give some indication of the operations of the trust.

It is also significant to see the way the trust is working. Its operations have been consistent with what was intended, and that was inspired by the present Leader of the Opposition when he was Premier.

In most cases the amounts are not great. They vary in the items from \$13 up to \$200, except in one or two very special cases where the amount was more. In each case the amount is quite modest. Quite obviously the trustees are looking at these matters in the way that was intended; that is, to provide some form of relief where relief is not forthcoming from Government or welfare organisations.

It is desirable that the trustees should meet promptly and regularly to make decisions. It is necessary that people in this category who qualify for assistance should receive it quickly, so no useful purpose is served by losing time in arriving at decisions. In view of the fact that responsible people have been appointed as trustees, we should make it possible for them to obtain a quorum easier than has been experienced in the past. This difficulty has not arisen because of delinquency on the part of the trustees; it was simply that we could not get them together quickly enough. My experience with this voluntary type of welfare work is that "he who gives quickly, gives twice".

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (3): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill.
2. Western Australian Institute of Technology Act Amendment Bill.
3. Distressed Persons Relief Trust Act Amendment Bill.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.