# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 4th April, 1978

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

# **QUESTIONS**

Questions were taken at this stage.

#### ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley-Minister for Works) [5.11 p.m.]: I move-

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before members is to amend the Architects Act which establishes the principles under which architects may practise architecture in Western Australia.

The amendments set out in the Bill were put forward to the Government by the Architects' Board of Western Australia, which is responsible for the registration and conduct of members of the profession. Briefly they provide for—

The practise of architecture by corporate bodies.

The extension of the qualifications or experience required as a prerequisite to registration.

Appeals against the board's decisions to the District Court in lieu of the Local Court.

Removal from the Act of the maximum sum which the annual subscription may not exceed.

Tightening of the provisions regarding the practise of architecture by unqualified persons, including an increase of the present penalty of \$100 to \$1000.

I will now comment on these matters in more detail.

The practise of architecture by corporate bodies has been accepted in a number of other States of the Commonwealth. Corporate practice is also a privilege which is enjoyed by some of the other professions, and the Government accepted the proposal put forward by the Architects' Board as being reasonable, subject to safeguards to ensure that the public were protected.

Accordingly the Bill provides, in respect of practise in corporations, that the principal executive officer must be a practising architect. In addition, no less than three-fifths of the directors, who between them must hold not less than three-fifths of the total voting rights, must be

practising architects. Further, directors of corporations will be jointly and severally liable for acts or omissions of their corporation in a professional respect to the same extent as if they were practising on their own account.

The Bill also provides that foreign corporations practising architecture in this State are liable to take out a policy of professional indemnity insurance.

Referring to the amendment regarding the necessary experience of qualified architects before they can become registered under the Act, at present the Act provides for four years' experience for certain applicants and six years for others. The Bill provides that six years' experience is required for all applicants who have passed the necessary examinations.

Still on the subject of registration, the Bill also provides that the Architects' Board may have regard for advice from the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia or other body when determining the fitness of persons to be registered. This amendment will facilitate the registration of architects who have obtained in foreign countries qualifications which are regarded as being equivalent to Australian qualifications.

The amendment to provide for appeals to be heard by the District Court in lieu of the Local Court is to enable the board to be awarded a reasonable amount of costs. At the present time every case taken by the board, whether successful or otherwise, costs money as the scale of charges under the Local Court are inadequate.

At present the Act provides that annual subscriptions by registered architects may not exceed \$20. It has been accepted by the Government that there is no point in imposing a statutory limit on annual subscriptions. The board has to pay its way and to do so has to impose on members a fee which will produce sufficient revenue to balance its commitments. Under the amendment the board will be at liberty to set a fee it sees as being necessary.

Referring now to the practise of architecture by unqualified persons, over the years the board has not had a great deal of success in prosecuting unqualified persons who have held themselves out to be architects.

The proposed new subsections (1), (3) and (4) of section 29 lessen the possibility of unqualified persons representing themselves to the public as architects. Members will note that subsection (2) of section 29 remains unaltered, thereby ensuring that builders, draftsmen and others may continue to design and superintend the erection of buildings.

Mr Jamieson: Has this Bill the blessing of the architects?

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes, I mentioned that in the early part of my speech. I have had discussions with the architects regarding certain matters in the last week. I think the member for Welshpool also would have had discussions with them during his term as Minister, because discussions regarding this Bill have been held for some five or six years.

The new subsection (5) also reinforces the principle that architectural draftsmen may still provide a service to the public.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamjeson.

# ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 22nd March, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon-

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

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

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [5.17 p.m.l: I rise to support the motion very ably moved by my colleague, the member for Murdoch. The Addressin-Reply and the Estimates permit members to roam far and wide in respect of their participation in debate, and it is always interesting to hear the wide diversification of experience of various members and, in particular, of members on my side of the House.

Mr Davies: You are being biased now.

Mr TUBBY: This wide diversification of experience in the contributions made by members is certainly valuable so far as efficient government is concerned. On this side of the House we have accountants and tradesmen, even going right down to the worker—the farmer. The contributions we are able to make cover all aspects of activities within our electorates.

I would like to comment initially on a remark concerning rural areas made by the Governor in his Speech. I refer to his comment about the drought situation which has been seriously affecting my electorate over the last two years. The weather we have experienced today is typical of the weather experienced by farmers in inland areas over the last two years. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that it is very disheartening for those farmers who are able to go away for holidays to return home to their farms and be forced to take shovels and wheelbarrows and virtually to shovel sand out of their homes. This has happened over the last two years, and it is most disheartening.

So far as drought is concerned, I feel the strain is felt probably more by the womenfolk and children than by the menfolk.

For many years now Geraldton has been considered to be sufficiently diversified to be not reliant on the rise and fall of the rural industries. However, the two years of drought in the region have been felt heavily in the town of Geraldton. Business people are commenting daily that they did not realise the effect would be felt so drastically. Added to this is the number of unemployed people from the area who are collecting in the town of Geraldton.

The effects of the 1976 drought were compounded in 1977 by farmers greatly increasing their cropping areas to replace income lost because of the movement of stock out of the region. Unfortunately this severely compounded the problem owing to the great cost of putting in crops. In addition, farmers are now facing a period of no back wheat payments. Last year most of the payments from back pools were paid up, so now farmers are facing quite a long period without this flow-on of payments from back pools.

I was speaking to a bank manager in a town in my electorate only recently, and we were talking about the finances of the area. He indicated that so far as his bank was concerned the overdraft accommodation alone was eight times greater than it was prior to the beginning of the drought in 1976. I am sure all members would agree that is a very serious situation.

However, the Government is to be congratulated on the way it has assisted shire councils to retain their staff and also to employ displaced persons throughout the drought-affected areas. In many cases farmers have been able to qualify to accept this work with the shires. The towns are definitely showing the benefits of the work that has been carried out in them. When I speak to the shire councils I find they are most complimentary in respect of the work output of the men they have employed. These are men from farms who are not afraid to do a good day's work for a good day's pay. The shires comment that the money they have spent has been well invested

in projects which are of long-term benefit to their areas. They say this scheme is totally different from the old RED Scheme under the Whitlam Government, which was just a colossal waste of money.

Mr Bryce: Rubbish.

Mr Carr: It is the same principle.

Mr TUBBY: The principle is similar, but the difference is in respect of those who are being employed. The decision by the Government to assist shires in respect of one-third of the materials required to create employment for unemployed persons has been gratefully accepted and is considered to be a very good move indeed because without this type of assistance many shires would be unable to take advantage of the opportunity to create employment.

Generally speaking, people in drought-affected areas, both in the towns and on the farms, are very complimentary in respect of the sympathy displayed to them by the Government. Whenever any assistance is called for, no matter what aspect is involved, they have always received sympathetic consideration by the Minister for Agriculture and, in particular, by the Premier.

The farm loan scheme has been a great boost, and when moving throughout my electorate in the last few weeks I have found business people in towns commenting how this money has already started a flow-on; and they have commented on the boost it has given to businesses in small towns.

However, we all realise this boost will be short-lived, and we will face a most difficult period in the latter half of this year.

Farmers in drought areas are greatly concerned, although not greatly affected at this stage, about the ban on export wethers. They realise the export of wethers is an avenue which enables them to create a quick income and to raise money to stock up their properties with sheep once more. Members will realise that at the beginning of the drought farmers virtually had to give away their sheep, and they are looking to markets such as this one to create income and to enable them to restock their flocks. They are most concerned about the irresponsible action of unions in respect of the bans. This move can only backfire so far as the meat workers are concerned because when wethers are bred for this particularly attractive market, other sheep also are bred which naturally are not acceptable for the export market and flow on to the local market. Without the incentive to breed wethers for this attractive overseas market, the whole sheep industry will be affected.

I note the Opposition has been sheepishly quiet and has been sitting on the fence in respect of this ban. I challenge members opposite to speak out loudly and clearly and to indicate whom they support.

Mr H. D. Evans: Have you asked the Minister why he has not called the committee together as we requested him to do? It is the sensible, proper, and responsible thing to do.

Mr Old: If they had shown some responsibility they would have been called together.

Sir Charles Court: If they had honoured their part of the commitment there would have been a meeting.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr TUBBY: 1 challenge members opposite to indicate whom they support in this respect.

Mr Carr: You are trying to promote confrontation.

Mr TUBBY: It is all very well for the Labor Party and members of the Opposition to criticise the Government—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McIver: Rubbish! What do you care?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Avon: I called the House to order. I ask that the interjections cease. The member for Greenough.

Mr TUBBY: It is all very well for the Opposition to criticise the Government for not stimulating employment—

Mr H. D. Evans: You are the Government: you do something.

Mr TUBBY: —but I think there is no greater way to stimulate employment than by having viable industries, and this is the type of employment we must stimulate. Any other Government-sponsored job creation scheme is only temporary and is virtually money-wasting. We should be supporting the industries—I am referring particularly to the export of sheep—to help make viable farming enterprises. Believe you me, Sir, whenever farmers have money they are great spenders, and that spending flows on to the benefit of all industries.

Mr McIver: Who got the markets in the Middle East? Was it your Government?

Mr Old: The markets have been there for years. Mr McIver: I suppose the Opposition did noth-

ing about it?

Mr Old: They were there long before you came along.

Mr TUBBY: I would like to point out that some people are prepared to endeavour to overcome the difficulties they face. I am referring now to rain makers. In my speech last year I indicated that a rain inducement group calling themselves the Northern Rainseekers' Association had been formed.

Mr Tonkin: What is your policy on rain?

Mr TUBBY: I wish we could do something about it. A second group has been formed which is based at Northampton and is known as ERIC, or the Elsewhere Rain Inducement Committee. This committee is very appropriately named, because its members consider their area is always classified in weather forecasts as "elsewhere fine". The committee is endeavouring to upset the forecasters and hoping to get a forecast of, "elsewhere rain".

I must compliment both committees. They are to be congratulated on the work they have done since they were formed in July last year when it was realised that the area was possibly facing another drought.

As the Northern Rainseekers' Association was the first group to be formed, it was able to negotiate with the CSIRO for the use of equipment that had been used in experiments in the Eastern States, and the group actually carried out some rain making. Both committees are very enthusiastic and have compiled a lot of information from within Australia and overseas.

An approach has been made to the Government for the establishment of a cloud physics research centre in Western Australia and it is considered that Geraldton is the logical place. Dr King, a scientist with CSIRO, maintains that clouds and weather on this coastline would need at least five years intensive study to determine the best method of treatment. They are quite different from those being studied in Victoria.

At the moment the only method being used for rain making is seeding clouds with silver iodide. There appears to be available only one aircraft equipped with a silver iodide burner and it was used by the Northern Rainseekers' Association last season; and an approach has been made to have this aircraft returned to Western Australia to allow this group to carry on again this year because the results achieved last year were sufficient to encourage it to continue.

An approach has been made to obtain blueprints with a view to having a burner made in Western Australia. The Tasmanian Hydroelectric Commission is satisfied that this method increases rainfall each year and it does its own cloud seeding to supplement the natural rainfall. This is said to be one of the best documented and statistically supported programmes in the world.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Colorado has supplied a list of names and addresses of no fewer than 80 rain promotion contractors operating in America. They have to be screened and licensed by the American Government before they are permitted to operate. We all realise the seriousness of the great loss to the State over the last two years as a result of drought, and I hope the Government will give every consideration to a request to establish a research centre in Western Australia.

I am very pleased to note the formation and the activities of the Water Advisory Committee, particularly its activities in water deficient areas in my electorate which I am very keen to see serviced with a reasonable water supply. I refer to the Mendel Wongoondy area which is a very sich wheat-growing area south-west of Mullewa where there are tremendous problems because of the unsuitability of clay, a high salt water table, and the lack of suitable underground water. The farmers in this area have great problems every year and suffer great hardship because they have to cart water for many miles to provide for their families, gardens, and stock. Another such area is south-west of Morawa and extends into the Perenjori Shire. Although it is smaller than the Mullewa area, it has similar problems. It is interesting to note that both these areas are not a great distance away from reliable water sources which are providing water to the towns of Mullewa, Morawa, and Perenjori.

Last year in a speech in this House I stressed the need for agricultural education in the northern agricultural areas and I have been pressing for a number of years for the establishment of an agricultural wing attached to a high school. For a considerable number of years endeavours have been made at Morawa to establish an agricultural wing and quite a lot of progress has been made. For example, a few years ago an extensive shearing shed, a well-appointed workshop, and a general storage shed were built and at present a new intensive piggery is being built.

At the beginning of this year it was interesting to note that 60 students who applied for entrance to an agricultural school were unable to gain entrance to any of the schools which have been operating in the past. So, the Agriculture Advisory Committee at the Morawa High School contacted all these students and, although it was late in January and very close to the beginning of the school year, the parents of many of the

students showed interest and seven definitely indicated they were prepared to attend Morawa High School and undertake that agricultural course if accommodation could be found.

Arrangements were made with Western Mining Corporation, which had maintained its single men's quarters and mess in the town of Morawa. for these buildings to be leased to the Agriculture Advisory Committee to accommodate the students who were to attend the Morawa High School. Staff were found, including a cook, a general home manageress, and two teachers who are living in as supervisors. The laundry and cleaning are being done locally and a schoolteacher has been appointed to deal with agricultural studies.

We feel this is quite a breakthrough for the Agriculture Advisory Committee because we have established that there is a need for a residential agricultural education facility within the northern agricultural areas. I appeal for urgent consideration to be given to the establishment of transportable hostel facilities on the agricultural school land at Morawa. They would cater for the enrolment of students who are obviously going to take advantage of this facility. Because the arrangement with Western Mining Corporation is only on a short-term basis of 12 months. I should like to see an indication given in the very near future; and an approach is to be made by the committee to the Minister for some accommodation to be sited at the school, if possible, before the end of the year.

Because a large part of my area is badly affected by drought, most people would think that the further east one goes the more severe the drought would be. But this is not the case. I refer to the comparatively recently opened up area of Pindar just east of Mullewa, I have received indications of a great deal of interest for some land to be released in that area. Farmers in the Pindar area have done particularly well. The soil in the area is of a lighter type and the land is easily cleared and lends itself to large open scale farming. The farmers in the area have done so amazingly well that farmers in many of the heavier land areas in that locality have called on them to provide seed during the last two years. That gives some indication of the reliability of the area.

It has been indicated by those who are farming in that locality that possibly as many as 100 000 acres could be suitable for agriculture; and there would be no better judges of the potential of this country than those who have been farmers in the area since the release of the land in the 1960s. I have the names of nine farmers who are prepared to apply for land in this area if

it is ever thrown open. They are vitally concerned in extending their farms, mainly because their families have grown and in some cases to retain the viability of their farm units. Unfortunately the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Lands are not present in the Chamber, but I should like to see some attention given to the release of more land.

Mr Mclver: They would like to see the railway retained in this area with all this wheat and sheep?

Mr TUBBY: The railway is being maintained to Pindar. Many speakers have referred to unemployment problems and some very interesting points have been brought forward. In most of the agricultural areas—and this is not because of the drought situation-most farm workers have virtually been priced out. A few years ago nearly every farm employed at least one farm worker. In many cases they were employed on wages, which was usually the minimum wage, and at the end of the year they had some interest in the crop. Many of the very successful farmers in that area today started off by this method; and it is sad to see that because of the present situation this avenue of opportunity for young people has virtually been cut off. Farmers are now investing in big machinery to deal with their farming operations and are relying on members of their own family units or what they can do themselves and are not employing labour.

Another problem in my electorate which is of great concern to me is Aboriginal housing. The present policy in regard to Aboriginal housing is to disperse them throughout country areas and the effect this is having on the general population is of great concern. In recent years most country towns have provided excellent facilities for their residents; and with good water supplies, TV reception, and other amenities, many of the older residents of the area were retiring in these towns.

Such people are able to continue to make a valuable contribution to their communities by running various organisations and by generally remaining identities within those communities. In most cases they built very nice homes and were encouraged to retire within the communities. However, a great deal of distress is being caused by the present policy of dispersing Aboriginal families throughout towns and people feel that their investments have not been protected. There now seems to be a movement away from the trend of people retiring in their home towns. A better policy could be for Aboriginal housing to be sited in an area of its own.

Mr Pearce: That is apartheid.

Mr TUBBY: It is all right for the member to sit back there because he has not had any experience.

Mr Pearce: I probably have more Aboriginal constituents than you have because I have three times more constituents than you have anyway.

Mr TUBBY: Has the member lived amongst them?

Mr Pearce: I spent three years on the goldfields and I have quite a number of Aboriginal constituents in my outer suburban area.

Mr TUBBY: I do not believe the Aborigines are happy living amongst the white population. I believe they would be much happier if they could choose a home where they will be housed reasonably close together. I am not saying that the Aborigines should be housed in inferior homes. They should be given the same amenities as white people are given; but I believe they would be happier if they were living away from the critical eyes of the other residents of the town. This would help to stimulate the pride of Aborigines in their own area, because they will not be criticised continually and watched over by other residents.

There is no doubt that in a number of these country towns the general behaviour of the Aborigines reaches very disturbing proportions. I do not believe it is right that the rest of the population should have to put up with this type of behaviour. In the town of Morawa the residents come home from a hard day's work—they are shearers and the like—and the Aboriginal population of the town sleeps all day, but they drink and fight all night. In a number of parts of the town the rest of the population rarely manages to get a decent night's sleep. I do not think this is a fair situation as far as the general community is concerned.

As I mentioned previously, I believe the Aboriginal population would be a great deal happier if it were able to be sited on its own. No doubt this would be of considerable advantage to the better type of Aboriginal who wants to live up to certain standards and live within the town, because in the situation I have mentioned he would not be invaded by a multitude of relatives as happens at the present time. For every Aboriginal who tries to make good there are a dozen who try to drag the better type of Aboriginal down.

Mr Carr: That is rubbish! What a disgraceful thing to say.

Mr TUBBY: The other Aborigines move in and overcrowd the houses.

Mr Carr: That is because your Government will not build houses for them.

Mr TUBBY: The Government has built plenty of houses.

Mr Carr: Rubbish! In your electorate and in my electorate your Government is not building houses for them. That is why they are crowded. Do you not understand that?

Mr TUBBY: This is the general trend. One Aboriginal moves into a house and all his relatives move in with him.

Mr Pearce: Because they do not have houses of their own.

Mr TUBBY: These relatives come from outside the town.

Mr Pearce: They do not have houses where they come from. Why would people choose to live 20 to a house?

Mr TUBBY: The present policy is no doubt killing a number of good country towns.

Mr McIver; Change the Government!

Mr TUBBY: It is a very complex problem; but the present system does not seem to be improving the situation. I know Aborigines must be housed, but the present trend certainly is not improving the outlook as far as the attitude of the white people to the Aboriginal people, and the Aboriginal people to the white people, is concerned. I feel very concerned about the general attitude which, in some cases, has built up within these communities.

Mr Mclver: I thought Mr Viner had it all solved.

Mr TUBBY: The member for Swan mentioned a case in his area, and I know this type of situation is quite general in country regions. It is a matter which is causing a great deal of concern.

I am very interested to know that the new Geraldton zone development committee is to be launched next week. I expect great things to come from this committee. It will replace the old regional liaison group which has been operating for a considerable number of years.

I was one of the original members of the group when it was formed. On looking back over the years one can see that it has in fact achieved very little. The main reason for this is that the group had no teeth. It was a group which was made up of members nominated by the shires. One of the aims was to try to create a better liaison between the region and the town of Geraldton. I can remember distinctly the then mayor of Geraldton saying there appeared

to be a definite division between the town of Geraldton and the region generally. As I said earlier, that situation still pertains. There does not seem to be a great deal of liaison between the town of Geraldton and the region in general. This is a cause of great concern. I hope that the Geraldton zone development committee, or the mid-west zone committee as it is to be known, will help to overcome this problem.

There are a number of small industries and mining ventures in the region which are waiting for assistance to enable them to operate. This is the sort of stimulation which is needed in the area. I should like to refer to a lead mining venture in the Northampton Shire. Some people from Victoria have come to the area. They have dewatered an old lead mine and it has been inspected by the Mines Department. These people are very keen to begin operating. Unfortunately they have used up most of their ready cash developing the mine. They are looking for about \$40 000 to \$50 000 to enable them to get the venture off the ground.

This group feels it can raise this money; but in addition it needs a small smelter sited in the area so that the venture may become viable more quickly. At this stage it appears that in order to obtain a cash flow when the mine becomes operational the lead ore would need to be railed to Port Pirie in South Australia to be smelted. In view of the relatively small amount of money required to install a smelter in the region, and bearing in mind the effect it would have on the possible viability of other small lead mines, I believe such a project should be one to which the development committee should direct its attention.

Mr McIver: Do you think the closure of the Mullewa-Meekatharra line will make a difference to your region?

Mr TUBBY: That is a matter which remains to be seen. If we obtain a guarantee from the Government that a decent bitumen road will be extended through the area, there should be little difference. But I am concerned at the effect that the closure of the railway line will have. I am greatly concerned also as to the effect upon the region of the siting of the junction for transport at North Wubin, as a result of which the line between Wubin and Mullewa will become a secondary line terminating at the town of Geraldton. Unless great stimulation is given to encourage the use of the railway in the region. it will not be long before that line is operated on a seasonal basis similar to a number of other lines in the wheat belt. It would be very sad indeed if that occurred.

I am a little critical of the type of facilties the railways is offering for bulk handling of grain and fertilisers within the area. Old trucks, covered in tarps which were used back in the 1930s, are still being used. The farmers are being encouraged to go away—

Mr McIver: How can they use anything else? You are not spending any money on these things.

Mr TUBBY: —from the railways and use their own private transport. It is not a practical proposition as far as the farmers are concerned, because, as I have already mentioned, the farmers of today are working with a minimal labour force and they do not want to be away from their farms. They prefer to use the railways if decent bulk handling facilities are available.

Frequently we see valuable nitrate fertilisers, covered with tarps, arriving wet and having to be returned. Although such a situation is covered by insurance, it is definitely somebody's loss. It could lead also to a great deal of inconvenience as far as the farming community is concerned. It is most inconvenient if the farmers are all geared up to cart a given amount of fertiliser at a given time and they cannot handle it because it is wet.

I believe I have covered most of the problems in my electorate. My speech has been rather diversified as far as the electorate is concerned. In terminating, I should like to indicate that, within the electorate, the spirits of the people are high and I hope that very soon the area will return to a viable situation.

MR CARR (Geraldton) [5.55 p.m.]: For a number of reasons I am very pleased to follow the member for Greenough in this particular debate. Firstly, the fact that his electorate surrounds my electorate for approximately 100 miles in all directions gives me the opportunity to complement his remarks and to bring the matters concerning the two parts of that region into perspective. Secondly, it gives me an opportunity to reply to some of the very elitist remarks which were made by the member for Greenough with regard to certain people who reside in the region which we both represent.

In this speech I wanted to refer to two important local issues and now that the member for Greenough has raised the subject of Aborigines, the number of local issues to which I should like to refer becomes three. Following that, I want to deal with a couple of recent Federal Government actions, and I hope I shall have time to conclude with a brief reference to one aspect of conduct in this chamber.

The most important problem in the Geraldton region is the problem of unemployment. I will quote the Commonwealth Employment Service figures which show that for the district administered from the Geraldton office of the service, at the end of February there were 1566 people unemployed. The record figures that were achieved in February—if the Government can take any credit for achieving that sort of record—was the ninth consecutive monthly record in respect of high figures for unemployment.

The situation in regard to unemployment will be very clearly seen if we trace the increase back over the last two years. In February, 1976, 490 people were unemployed in the district I have just mentioned. A year later, in February, 1977, 1027 people were unemployed, and the figure I have just given for February, 1978, is 1566 people unemployed. That represents an increase of 220 per cent in unemployment in two years.

In the town of Geraldton itself the position is probably worse. In Geraldton there are 1 003 people unemployed out of an estimated work force of 6 554, which represents a figure of 15.3 per cent of the work force unemployed.

Mr Tubby: Who do you blame for that?

Mr CARR: I am coming to the causes of that situation right now. Geraldton was in a very good economic position three years ago. There has been a steady deterioration during the last three years and there has been a number of causes for it. The first cause—and this is not necessarily in order of importance-is that the national problems have caught up with Geraldton. Approximately three years ago a number of building projects were initiated by the then Whitlam Federal Government which brought the building industry to a high pitch. The contractional policies of the Fraser Government have reduced the amount of building activity in Geraldton and the general downturn in the Australian economy has certainly reached the town at the present time.

Secondly, there has been a slump in the mineral sands industry and this has resulted in retrenchments in that industry.

The third, and undoubtedly the most important, cause has been the drought which the member for Greenough spent some time discussing. The second successive drought has created the worst unemployment situation Geraldton has experienced.

It is very important to make the point that the effects of the drought have flowed from the rural sector into the towns. Farm labourers have been retrenched; the abattoir has closed down; stock company salesmen have been retrenched, as have

machinery salesmen. The effects go down to the shop assistants and all other employees in the town and have caused a serious situation.

The member for Greenough commented that the Court Government had given a great deal of assistance to drought-affected shires. That has not been the case in Geraldton, and I intend to spend some time on that point.

Many Aborigines have lost their jobs on farms and so on, and many more probably will lose theirs when the Meekatharra-Mullewa railway line closes down. Many Aborigines are moving to Mullewa and Geraldton because they have nowhere else to live. I will deal with that aspect in more detail later.

As well as the items to which I have referred, two more Government actions will compound the unemployment problem. The Government is closing the Meekatharra-Mullewa railway line and that action will have a substantial effect on unemployment. The employees at present utilised on that line will have nowhere to go except to a major town.

The second Government action which will exacerbate the unemployment is the shortening of the rock lobster season. This industry has been successful in recent years and has been the means of saving the Geraldton economy. However, because of the shortening of the season. unemployment will be increased. Deckhands, factory workers, and the like already must find other work for three months of the year when the normal season is closed. Of course in recent years there has not been much seasonal work for them and they have had to rely on unemployment benefits. Now the Government is closing the season six weeks earlier and those people who normally must find another job-or rely on unemployment benefits-when the rock lobster season concludes, will find themselves in that position six weeks earlier than usual. In other words, they will be out of work for 41 months instead of only three months.

I now wish to refer to some of the types of people who are unemployed. Some are transients. Some Government members would like us to believe that so much of the unemployment is created by people who move to places like Geraldton. That may well be true, but it does not make us any less concerned about the need to provide jobs for them.

Many of the unemployed are young people—school leavers, and the like. These youngsters already face a traumatic experience when moving from school into the work force and it is made more so when they cannot find a job.

Mr Laurance: Would it be true that the population in your area has increased in the last few months?

Mr CARR: Quite true. I am not denying that there is a transitory element.

Mr Laurance: I thought it may not have applied in Geraldton.

Mr CARR: I am not saying that at all. In the present situation many long-term residents of Geraldton are unemployed. Some of them find themselves unemployed for the first time in their lives. I am referring to people who have been in the town for 40 or 50 years, and have raised their families there. Perhaps they have had a job at the abattoir or somewhere like that, and now, for the first time in their lives, they are facing the trauma of unemployment and are somewhat stranded. These people will obtain work again in better times, but the problem is that they need some sort of emergency assistance to help to keep them in the town. They must be given a job so they can receive an income as well as some degree of personal satisfaction and then, when better times are experienced, they will be in the town to take up the jobs as they become available.

I have in mind something like the RED Scheme, which I know has been pooh-poohed. I know that one criticism of the scheme was that funds were spent on projects which were not valuable. However, I know of many schemes which were useful and valuable to the community. The member for Greenough said that the RED Scheme provided jobs for the wrong type of unemployed people whereas the State Government is providing funds to enable different types of unemployed to obtain jobs. It seems to me—

Mr Tubby: I did not say that.

Mr CARR: The member for Greenough said that the State Government was providing funds for a different type of unemployed person which means that those on farms were worthy of help while those in the towns were not.

Mr Tubby: I did not say that. Several members interjected.

Mr Bryce: He should be ashamed of it.

Mr CARR: The important aspect is that funds should be made available to provide labour-intensive jobs in order that useful projects of benefit to towns can be undertaken. Certainly we need short-term emergency jobs, but we should be looking also at the long-term situation.

An example, perhaps, would be related to the introduction of a 200-mile fishing zone. A much larger slipway for utilisation by bigger foreign fishing vessels could be established, thus providing employment in the town.

I want to make it clear that I am not blaming this Government for all the causes of unemployment. I am not blaming it for the drought or for the mineral downturn. I am not even blaming the Premier for the contractional policies of the Federal Government, although I understand he has some influence in that direction.

I do blame the Government for two of the causes; namely, the closure of the Meekatharra-Mullewa railway line, and the shortening of the rock lobster season. I also blame the Government for not taking any action to overcome the unemployment problem in Geraldton, and I will deal with the details of the approaches which have been made to the Government for assistance.

Back in September last year the Government provided assistance to shires in Kalgoorlie when there was a serious unemployment problem there. I approached the Premier on the 16th September, making a similar request, and indicating that there was a great deal of unemployment in Geraldton. Certainly the problem was not as dramatic as it was in the goldfields where 600 people were retrenched in one day. However, there was and is a great deal of unemployment in Geraldton. On the 30th September the Premier replied indicating that the Government was conscious of the problem. I was very pleased to read that. He also said that the Government was aware of the drought, and I was pleased to read that. He then indicated that the Government was giving assistance to the shires.

I repeat that that was no answer to the problem in Geraldton. The Premier also said there was an accelerated programme of minor works. There was some truth in that, but in some cases the reverse has been the position. For instance, last year the two hostels in Geraldton—the John Frewer and the Della Hale—were to have been involved in R and R projects. In this instance, far from having the programme accelerated, these projects have been put back and will now be dealt with in the next financial year. This is not creating many jobs in that direction.

On the 4th November, following my letter to the Premier, the Geraldton Town Council and the Greenough Shire Council combined to present a comprehensive submission to the Premier. This included suggestions for labour-intensive assistance. Both those organisations are still waiting for a reply.

In the months which have elapsed since then, I have written to the Premier again. Both the Mayor of Geraldton and the President of the Greenough Shire have also approached the Premier. Three weeks ago I asked a question on the subject in this House. Yet now, 6½ months after my initial

letter, we have still had no assistance in the way of employment-creating jobs which are so desperately needed to solve the unemployment problem in that area.

In the couple of minutes left to me before I understand we are to close proceedings for the day, I wish to refer to the comments made by the member for Greenough on the subject of Aborigines. Aborigines are experiencing serious and real problems because many of them are having to move to Geraldton as they have lost their jobs on the farms and also on the railway line.

Mr Tubby: How many are employed on farms?

Mr CARR: Quite a few. Mr Tubby: How many?

Mr CARR: There were quite a few. There are not now because they have been put off.

The problem is that this Government is not providing housing for Aboriginal people. I frequently hear the type of complaint referred to by the member for Greenough. I have also heard of 16 or 17 people living in one house, thus creating noise and other problems associated with such Aboriginal accommodation. However, the simple truth is that the State Housing Commission is not providing enough accommodation for Aborigines. There are two separate lists, one for Aborigines, and another for Europeans, and the list for Aborigines is miles longer than that for Europeans.

Consistently I am approached by people associated with welfare matters, including the local doctors, who are concerned with the poor health of the Aboriginal people who have nowhere to go when they are discharged from hospital except to return to the shocking conditions under which they were living prior to their admittance to hospital.

The member for Greenough said that the Aborigines should not be assimilated into the community, but should be allowed to go back to their own way of life. I say that the important point to be stressed is that the Aborigines should be given a choice. If some Aborigines choose to go back to country areas, that should be their choice.

Mr Tubby: Many would.

Mr CARR: On the other hand, if some of them wish to live in the towns, they should be able to do so. The Government must provide accommodation for them. They need houses, and the Government which the member for Greenough supports must build the houses. I am sick of trying

to explain to the Aborigines that the present Government sent back \$4 million provided by the Federal Government in 1976. I do not know how members opposite can justify that action when Aborigines are without houses in Geraldton and many other places.

Mr O'Connor: Are you sure that is a fact?

Mr CARR: The member for Greenough said that for every Aboriginal person who is trying to uplift the Aboriginal community, there are 12 trying to pull it down. I contradict that statement. I have had a great deal to do with the Aborigines. I am the patron of a football club which has a large Aboriginal membership, and they are outstanding people, and their characters are of a high standard. Many do not drink and they play good, clean sport, and the whole community should be proud of them. For anyone to suggest that for every one good Aboriginal there are 12 or 13 who are not, is disgraceful.

I reject the elitist views of the member for Greenough and appeal for more assistance for the Aboriginal people.

Leave to Continue Speech

I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [6.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

I wish to explain why it has been decided to adjourn the House at this stage. In view of the report received by the Deputy Premier, the Minister in charge of the State Emergency Services, it is felt desirable to adjourn the House until the normal meeting time tomorrow, particularly in view of the possible dangers on the road and the fact that there has been a great deal of damage in some of the suburbs. It is also expected that after dark it might be a little more difficult to handle some of the emergency situations than it will be in the daylight.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### TEACHING HOSPITALS

#### Costs

### 178. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What was the cost per bed per day at each of the teaching hospitals as at 30th June, 1977?
- (2) What was the cost per outpatient attendance at each of the teaching hospitals as at 30th June, 1977?
- (3) What was the cost per day of intensive care beds of each of the teaching hospitals as at 30th June, 1977?
- (4) How many intensive care beds are there at each of the teaching hospitals?

# Mr RIDGE replied:

 The gross costs per occupied bed per day (including outpatient costs) at the teaching hospitals in 1976-77 were—

	\$
Royal Perth Hospital	179.39
Sir Charles Gairdner Hos-	
pital	186.36
Fremantle Hospital	188.48
Princess Margaret Hospital	215.55
King Edward Memorial Hos-	
pital	141.16

(Note: Royal Perth Hospital figures include the costs associated with the Western Australian School of Nursing not charged to participating hospitals. Excluding Western Australian School of Nursing costs, the Royal Perth Hospital gross cost was \$172.21.)

The estimated inpatient costs per occupied bed per day (excluding estimated outpatient costs) in 1976-77 were—

	D.
Royal Perth Hospital	136.49
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospi-	
tal	151.83
Fremantle Hospital	156.64
Princess Margaret Hospital	149.63
King Edward Memorial Hos-	
pital	119.89

(Note: The Royal Perth Hospital figure excludes Western Australian School of Nursing costs.)

(2) Estimated costs per outpatient attendance in 1976-77 were—

	•
Royal Perth Hospital	29.79
Sir Charles Gairdner Hos-	
pital	25.98
Fremantle Hospital	18.17
Princess Margaret Hospital	26.45
King Edward Memorial Hos-	
pital	7.12

- (3) Intensive care beds are not costed separately. Therefore, these figures are not available.
- (4) The following are the intensive care beds, including coronary care, at each of the teaching hospitals—

Royal Perth Hospital	25
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	32
Fremantle Hospital	11
Princess Margaret Hospital	6
King Edward Memorial Hospital	
(including 12 cots)	15

### INSECTICIDE RESIDUAL

Fruit and Vegetables

- 244. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Health:
  - (1) On how many occasions in 1977 and 1978 have tests to determine the level of insecticide residue on fruit and vegetables offered for sale at the Metropolitan Markets been carried out?
  - (2) What is the total number of items which have been tested?
  - (3) How many tests indicate the presence of residues harmful to human beings, and what insecticides are these?
  - (4) Has the level of residue in any of these tests exceeded the safety levels accepted by the Department of Health, and on how many occasions has this occurred?

#### Mr RIDGE replied:

- None. Monitoring for insecticide residuals is normally conducted at retail outlets and not wholesale distribution points.
- (2) In 1977, 103 samples were taken; in 1978, 31 to end of March.
- (3) The majority of the samples revealed traces of the insecticides DDT and Dieldrin.
- (4) No.

#### **IRRIGATION**

#### Farmers

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

How many farmers in each of the irrigation areas were supplied with water for irrigation in the 1977 and 1978 summer seasons?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Farmers supplied with irrigation water during the 1976-77 and 1977-78 irrigation seasons are as follows—

	1976-77	1977-78
Wагоопа	 91	66*
Нагчеу	 293	312†
Collie River	 213	225
Preston River	 53	51

\*Twenty-six farms in the Waroona irrigation district were acquired by Alcoa of Australia prior to the 1977-78 irrigation season.

†The increase in the number of farmers supplied in Harvey is due to the fragmentation of properties into smaller holdings of the previously existing small lots in the Cookernup area. There was no additional area irrigated.

# **FARMERS**

#### Drought Relief

- 246. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:
  - (1) What amount of finance has been made available by the Commonwealth Government for use as drought relief funding to Western Australia in—
    - (a) 1977; and
    - (b) 1978?
  - (2) What rate of interest does the Commonwealth Government charge this State for such money?
  - (3) At what rate of interest did the Western Australian Government charge individual farmers for drought relief loans?
  - (4) What interest rate is charged by other State Governments for drought relief loans?
  - Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:
  - (1) For the financial year 1976-77 the Commonwealth Government provided \$4 832 060 towards meeting the total expenditure of \$6 357 179 on all forms

of natural disaster relief and restoration payments. This total included \$3 018 223 on drought relief.

In 1977-78 total expenditure on natural disaster relief is estimated as \$14 140 000 of which the Commonwealth is expected to contribute \$12 564 000. The total expenditure estimated includes \$12 720 000 in respect of drought relief.

- (2) The Commonwealth funds are provided free of interest but the States are expected to meet administrative costs and any losses arising from non-recovery of loans. The practice is for the States to charge a nominal rate of interest to offset administrative costs and bad debts.
- (3) 4 per cent per annum.
- (4) Details for all States are not available but I understand that the following apply—

	Per cent			
Western Australia	 	4		
South Australia	 	4		
New South Wales	 	4		
Queensland	 	3		

#### **APPLES**

# Concentrate Industry

- 247. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:
  - (1) Has the study by Bulmer Ltd. to establish an apple concentrate industry in the south-west been completed and, if so, what is the result?
  - (2) How many bushels of apples would Bulmers anticipate using if the proposal goes ahead?

# Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The study is still proceeding.
- (2) Up to 210 000 bushels has been suggested.

#### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

#### Applicants

- 248. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Housing:
  - (1) How many applications have been received for assistance under the Rural Housing (Assistance) Act since its inception?
  - (2) Of these applications how many have-
    - (a) been granted; and
    - (b) been rejected?
  - (3) How much finance has been granted to successful applicants?

(4) What has been the average loan granted to successful applicants?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 183.
- (2) (a) 31.
  - (b) 23.
- (3) Funds committed by direct authority advances \$718 000.
- (4) \$26 600.

#### LAND

War Service Land Settlement Farms

- 249. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Lands:
  - (1) How many farmers took up perpetual lease farms under the War Service Lands Settlement Scheme Act, 1954-1974?
  - (2) How many of these original war service land settlers or their families are still on their farms?
  - (3) How many of these war service land settlement farms were transferred on a leasehold basis to individuals who would not have qualified for such a block originally because of lack of war service entitlement?
  - (4) Of the existing farms held in perpetual lease under the war service settlement scheme, how many are held by individuals who qualify to hold them because of war service entitlement?

# Mrs CRAIG replied:

- 1 227 perpetual leases have been approved since the inception of the scheme. 211 were subsequently cancelled.
- (2) Of the leases that have not been freeholded 331 remain in the names of the original holders.
- (3) In respect of leases held for 10 years or more, it is not necessary for transferees to be qualified by war service and therefore the information requested has not been kept.
- (4) This is not known.

#### BIRDS

#### Galahs

- 250. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wild-life:
  - (1) Are there any reasons why a person wishing to keep a galah as a pet cannot collect one from a farm and transport it to the metropolitan area?

(2) If so, what are they?

Mr P. V. JONES replied;

- (1) and (2) Although galahs are not protected---
  - (a) Wildlife Conservation Regulation 52 reads—

Marking, Sale and Transport of Live Fauna.

- 52. A person shall not sell or take or offer to buy or sell or consign for the purposes of aviculture any young fauna not fully fledged or not able to stand or not able to feed unaided.
- (b) If the person has other birds he may need to be licensed under regulation 12.
- (c) The transporting and keeping of any fauna are subject to satisfactory standards.
- (d) Galahs have been declared pursuant to the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act and are subject to some of its provisions.

# MONKEYS

Licences to Purchase from Interstate

251. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife: Adverting to question 121 of 1978 and in view of the Western Australian Wildlife Authority's annual report for 1977, where on page 45 it records the importation of four monkeys, could be indicate why the information sought was not supplied and is the Minister in a posi-

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The record in the 1977 annual report of four monkeys having been imported appears to be an error. The licences have been rechecked and the information given in reply to question 121 of 1978 is correct.

tion now to supply the information?

# **EDUCATION**

West Swan School

- 252. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) How many children are currently enrolled at West Swan Primary School?
  - (2) How does this figure compare with enrolments over the past ten years?

- (3) Is he aware of any children living in the logical catchment area for West Swan Primary School being enrolled at either Upper Swan Primary School or Caversham Primary School?
- (4) If so, how many and is he aware of any reasons for the parents involved exercising this choice?
- (5) Is he considering instituting boundary lines to enforce enrolment at West Swan Primary School for those children living within these boundaries?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) 37 primary and 6 pre-primary.
- (2) August 1969-37.

August 1970-38.

August 1971-44.

August 1972-44.

August 1973-38.

August 1974-40.

August 1975-36.

August 1976-48.

August 1977-39 + 9 pre-primary.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) Caversham primary—Nil. Upper Swan primary—6.

It is possible that the choice is exercised due to the Upper Swan primary school—

- (i) having recent accommodation additions;
- (ii) having a larger enrolment than the West Swan primary school.
- (5) No.

# DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES

Schools in Mundaring Electorate

- 253. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Health:
  - (1) Has consideration been given to including the following schools in the school dental service programme:
    - (a) Bullsbrook District High School;
    - (b) Toodyay District High School;
    - (c) Upper Swan Primary School;
    - (d) Wooroloo Primary School; and
    - (e) Herne Hill Primary School?
  - (2) If "Yes", could he advise when it is envisaged the service will be provided?
  - (3) Is it intended that the schools listed will be serviced by a static unit(s)?
  - (4) If "Yes", where will these be located?

## Mr RIDGE replied:

All the schools mentioned have been given consideration. Upper Swan Primary School will be served by the mobile dental therapy centre later this year,

Detailed planning, that is location and types of units, has not yet been decided for the other schools.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Mt. Helena

- 254. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Water Supplies:
  - (1) Has his department received applications for water services in the general area of Anketell, Williams, Prosperity, Bedford and Alice Roads, Mt. Helena?
  - (2) How many applications remain unsatisfied?
  - (3) If so, why?
  - (4) Are investigations being carried out into ways of servicing the area?
  - (5) If (4) is "Yes", when does he anticipate these investigations will be completed?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Approximately 20.
- (3) This area is the high part of Mt, Helena, which cannot be served from the existing reticulation due to pressure problems.
- (4) and (5) Investigations into improvements to Mt. Helena water supply including this area were completed to the stage of preliminary estimates in February. The preliminary estimates indicated that the cost of the necessary works would exceed \$1 million. Consequently the improvements cannot be given priority and investigations have not been taken to the final detailed stage.

# EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth Training Programme

- 255. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:
  - (1) Can he detail the sections of the Public Service to which the young people recruited under the special youth employment and training programme are being assigned?
  - (2) Can he also detail the kinds of work experience in which these young people are being given training?

(3) What follow-up is planned to measure the effectiveness of the scheme once these young people lose their temporary jobs?

# Mr GRAYDEN replied:

 The departments and authorities which have taken young people under the special youth employment training programme are detailed in the attached list.

Departments and Authorities-

Agriculture Corrections Chief Secretary's Community Recreation Council Community Welfare Conservation and Environment Crown Law Industrial Development Education Egg Marketing Board Electoral Fisheries and Wildlife Forests Hospitals Labour and Industry Lands and Surveys Local Government Mental Health Services Metropolitan Water Board Mines Police Potato Marketing Board Public Health Public Service Board Public Works Road Traffic Authority State Housing Commission State Taxation Town Planning Treasury State Shipping Service.

- (2) Two-thirds of those recruited have been placed on clerical, typing, and other office duties. Of the remainder, 44 have been employed on manual work such as gardening, stores work, etc., 17 in laboratories, 8 as field assistants and 11 in hospitals, example—as ward aides and nursing assistants.
- (3) Whilst these young people are employed the Public Service Board will monitor their work performance.

White there is no obligation to retain these people after six months, where permanent positions become available and the young people are suitable, they will be offered permanent employment. Following completion of their training the employing department and each of the young people will be asked to comment on the effectiveness of the training provided.

Close liaison will also be maintained with the Commonwealth Employment Service to assess the value of the assistance provided by the State Government.

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Morley Drive-Flinders Street

256. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

In view of the increasingly heavy volume of traffic using Morley Drive and the long delays and congestion caused by west bound traffic turning right, particularly at the intersection with Flinders Street in Nollamara, will the Minister investigate the need to introduce a third phase in the traffic lights at this intersection to facilitate the traffic flow through to the northern suburbs?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Yes. Requisite investigation will be undertaken.

#### **EDUCATION**

Balcatta High School

- 257. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) Is a sensory perception unit in operation at the Balcatta Senior High School?
  - (2) How long has it been in operation?
  - (3) How many children have been assisted by the unit during the period of its operation?
  - (4) What have been the results of the techniques on the progress of the children who have been assisted?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- An education officer has been seconded to Balcatta High School on a part-time basis to do some experimental work involving sensory integration.
- (2) The pilot project began in 1977.
- (3) 72 children were tested during 1977 and 55 of these received treatment.
- (4) No centralised, objective assessment was undertaken, but the subjective view of school staffs was that in many cases there was noticeable improvement in academic work. Such improvement often results from students working in small group

situations. Thus, while there does appear to have been some academic gains, these cannot be attributed with certainty to the particular effect of this programme.

#### RECREATION

## Cultural Organisations

258. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Recreation:

Will he ask the Community Recreation Council to conduct a survey on the availability of existing accommodation for cultural organisations and methods by which it may be improved and increased?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The need for additional data will be considered; however, a performing arts facilities survey is currently being conducted by the Arts Council of Western Australia. Officers of the Community Recreation Council and the Arts Council are available to advise on problems in local areas.

#### RECREATION

# Pre-retired and Retired Persons

259. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Recreation:

Will he indicate what action has been taken as a result of the survey of leisure activities, interests, opinions and concerns of pre-retired or retired persons which was carried out by R. J. Donovan and Associates for the Community Recreation Council of Western Australia?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The Government has given approval for a grant of \$20 000 in the 1978-79 financial year to enable the Council on the Ageing to begin implementation of the programme on retirement education based on recommendations of the survey.

#### LAND

# Crown Reserve 11073

- 260. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Lands:
  - (1) With reference to Crown reserve 11073 on the corner of Sawyers Road and Cromwell Road, Sawyers Valley, would she indicate the purpose for which this land has been set aside?
  - (2) Is she aware of any changes of purpose which are contemplated?

#### Mrs CRAIG replied:

- Reserve No. 11073, comprising Sawyers Valley Lots 73 and 176, is set aside for the purpose of "Government Requirements".
- (2) No.

#### **EDUCATION**

### Eastern Hills High School

- 261. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) Does forward planning provide for additional science laboratories to be built at Eastern Hills High School?
  - (2) If "Yes", is it proposed to construct one or more of these with the next financial year's funds?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The project is listed on the schedule for attention in the 1978-79 Budget, but the final decision will be dependent upon the amount of funding available from both State and Commonwealth sources.

# FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY ACT

#### Amendment

- 262. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:
  - (1) Was an inquiry conducted by Commissioner Cort of the Industrial Commission into the guarantee of earnings fund administered by the Fremantle Port Authority and other related matters during 1977?
  - (2) If "Yes", were there any recommendations put forward and, in particular, was one of the recommendations that there should be a tonnage levy on all shipping (with an exception) introduced which requires an amendment of the Fremantle Port Authority Act?
  - (3) What steps has the Government taken to secure an amendment of the Act?

# Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes, but the Government is not bound by the recommendations made.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Minister for Transport is presently negotiating with the shipping lines, the members of which will have to pay this levy.

# **BOATS**

### Maximum Size

263. Dr TROY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What are the measurements given to individuals or companies in regard to maximum boat size for the purpose of safe river and harbour navigation?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There are no specific measurements laid down for vessels to be navigated on the Swan River and harbour.

#### **ELECTORAL**

Single Enrolment System

# 264. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the present position in the negotiations with the Commonwealth Government regarding a single electoral enrolment?
- (2) What has been the annual cost of maintaining the State Electoral Department for each of the last five financial years?

# Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) A committee comprising the State Chief Electoral Officer, the Australian Electoral Officer for Western Australia and a representative of the Under Treasurer has been formed to prepare a report and recommendations regarding a proposal for joint Commonwealth-State electoral rolls. A meeting scheduled for the 7th June, 1977, could not be held due to the involvement of the Australian Electoral Officer on a redistribution of Commonwealth electoral boundaries and Commonwealth elections and by the involvement of the State Chief Electoral Officer in the Kimberley by-election.

Due to the Australian Electoral Officer's continued involvement in elections and anticipated absences from this State during the early part of 1978, it appears that the earliest appropriate time for this meeting to take place will be mid-May, 1978.

\$

(2) 1972-73 .... 212 928, 1973-74 .... 573 934, 1974-75 .... 298 246, 1975-76 .... 346 809, 1976-77 .... 957 116.

#### **CYCLEWAYS**

Causeway and Future Bridges

- 265. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Has any thought been given to the provision of a cycle path over the Causeway?
  - (2) Would it be possible to convert the southern pathway into a cycle pad?
  - (3) How many reported accidents have occurred on the Causeway in each of the last five years involving cycles and motor vehicles?
  - (4) Will the Main Roads Department give consideration to providing cycle pads on the side of any future bridges built in urban locations?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not without denying the availability and safety of the footway to pedestrians.
- (3) Reported accidents involving cycles on the Causeway between interchanges:—

1973-0.

1974-0.

1975—0.

1976-1.

1977—0.

(4) Yes.

#### TOWN PLANNING

Eastern Corridor Study

- 266. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:
  - (1) When was the report of the consultants to the eastern corridor study made public?
  - (2) What procedural and consultative processes are to take place prior to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority putting forward firm recommendations for changes to the metropolitan region plan now that the study has been completed?
  - (3) Is he yet able to indicate when these recommendations will be made?
  - (4) Is he yet able to indicate when modifications to the metropolitan region plan as related to the eastern corridor will reach this House?
  - (5) What constraints, if any, were placed on local authorities in the eastern corridor study area to withhold modifications to their own local planning schemes pending the completion of the study?

(6) Now that the corridor study has been completed is there any constraint to local authorities proceeding with modifications to their town planning schemes?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Sunday, the 19th March, 1978.
- (2) The closing date for submissions on the report by the public is the 31st May, 1978. The MRPA will consider all submissions as soon after that date as possible. Any proposed amendments to the Metropolitan Region Scheme would be referred to affected local authorities and Group "D" District Planning Committee for consideration and comment. Any amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme would be the subject of normal statutory procedures.
- (3) and (4) No.
- (5) None.
- (6) There are no constraints on local authorities initiating amendments to their town planning schemes but each proposal would be thoroughly considered at ministerial level in the context of the eastern corridor study.

## LAND COMMISSION

Annual Programmes

267. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Will he table details of the annual programmes approved by the Australian Government with respect to Land Commission activities?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Programmes in respect of 1974-75, 1975-76, and 1976-77 are tabled. The programme for 1977-78, the current year, contains certain information on possible acquisition localities. Because of this, at this stage it is considered confidential, in the public interest.

The paper was tabled. (See paper No. 125.)

# LAND COMMISSION

Annual Programmes

268. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Will he table the financial agreements with the Australian Government relating to the Land Commission programme for the years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

No. I refer the member to question 927 which was answered on the 12th October, 1977.

#### LAND COMMISSION

Parcels Purchased

- 269. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:
  - (1) Would he provide a list of those parcels of land which have been purchased by the Government with funds made available to it under the Land Commission programme of the Australian Government?
  - (2) Which parcels of land were acquired for each of the financial years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?
  - (3) How much did each parcel of land cost?
  - Mr RUSHTON replied:
  - to (3) I refer the member to question 927 which was answered on the 12th October, 1977.

## **EDUCATION**

Funding: Allocation to Schools

- 270. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Educa-
  - (1) Is he aware that the delay in the allocation of funds to schools under the minor works programme, until June each year, is regarded by many school principals as a major disadvantage in planning to the most effective use of such funds?
  - (2) If "Yes", will he investigate the possibility of such funds being made available earlier in the year?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

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

#### **LAND**

Crown Reserve 29753

- 271. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Lands:
  - (1) Can she confirm that she has rejected an application from the City of Stirling to rezone reserve 29753, Crown Land location 8380 from a reserve for recreation purposes to a reserve for recreation and other purposes?
  - (2) If "Yes", is she aware that the area concerned is at present undeveloped, unsightly and unused?

- (3) Is she also aware that "the other purposes" for which it was required was for the development of a local autumn centre and that such a development would mean the opening up of associated recreation facilities for others in the community?
- (4) Does she realise that the only alternative site for such a centre is adjacent to a major intersection, and lacks the advantage of associated shopping, postal and library services?
- (5) Would she be prepared to meet a deputation of representatives from the local community prior to reconsidering her earlier rejection?

# Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Following initial verbal approaches to the department, I interviewed Councillor G. A. Carter, of the City of Stirling, on November the 24th, 1977, at which time he discussed the desirability of locating an autumn centre on portion of Reserve No. 29753 "public recreation". As this land was originally vested in the Crown as a condition of subdivision under section 20A of the Town Planning and Development Act, 1928-1965, to be retained for the benefit of the public at large as well as the holders of land in the subdivision, I indicated that any decision would await the views of the Town Planning Board. The department wrote to the City of Stirling on the 6th December, 1977, reiterating my undertaking and requesting confirmation of council's requirements in the matter together with a fully documented case which could be referred to the Town Planning Board. This was received in the department on the 21st February, 1978, and referred to the Town Planning Board on the 2nd March on the basis of considering the excision of an appropriate area to be separately reserved and vested in council for an autumn centre. Urgent comments were requested but as at the present date, a reply has not yet been received. Accordingly, a final decision has not been made on council's application dated the 17th February, 1978, and no rejection has therefore been given.
- (3) I am well aware of the proposal to develop an autumn centre on the reserve. However, under the present reserve purpose of "public recreation" such develop-

- ment is inappropriate. There is long standing policy that reserves created for the recreational use of landholders in the subdivision and the general public at large, pursuant to subdivisional requirements, should not be developed for use by a restricted section of the community.
- (4) In its application dated the 17th February, 1978, council discussed alternative sites and problems associated with their development.
- (5) There would be no point at this time as there has been no decision made which requires reconsideration. As indicated I have already interviewed Councillor Carter, presumably representing the local community, and the City of Stirling's application is not finalised.

#### DIVIDING FENCES ACT

Amending Legislation

- 272. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Local Government:
  - (1) Is 'he aware of the serious inadequacies of the Dividing Fences Act, No. 44 of 1961, and of the problems confronting local government authorities and property owners due to lack of appropriate legislation?
  - (2) In view of the concern this is causing local government authorities and in view of the fact that the Law Commission Report on dividing fences with recommended legislative changes has been available since November 1975, can he—
    - (a) give the reason for the delay in bringing in the new legislation; and
    - (b) say when he expects to introduce such legislation?

#### Mr RUSHTON replied:

- No. Specific complaints have not been drawn to my attention in recent times.
- (2) (a) and (b) The Law Reform Commission's report is receiving the attention of my officers. This has involved seeking comment from other interested parties. Any legislative proposals will be made when all relevant views have been assessed.

#### ROAD

# Light Street

273. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

When may the City of Stirling expect to have a reply from the Town Planning Department indicating its attitude to objections lodged by that authority in January against the proposal to extend Light Street in Dianella westwards to join Yirrigan Drive now being developed?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

The Town Planning Board informed the City of Stirling on the 29th March, 1978, that it had accepted the council's advice not to extend Light Street to join Yirrigan Drive.

#### **EDUCATION**

High School at Koondoola

- 274. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) What area of land has been set aside for a high school in Koondoola?
  - (2) What is proposed in relation to-
    - (a) the size of the school building:
    - (b) the building commencement date;
    - (c) the area to be served by the school?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied;

- (1) There is a combined site for a secondary school, primary school and special school, bounded on the north and west by Burbridge Avenue and on the southeast by Meldrum Way, and having a total area of 12.140 55 hectares (30 acres). On this site there is existing the Koondoola primary school which opened in February, 1975.
- (2) (a) As the member is no doubt aware, high schools are built in stages. the first stage of the proposed high school will accommodate about 240 students. Additional stages will be added as the enrolments grow.
  - (b) Until the capital works programme is finalised in September, it is impossible to indicate when building will commence.
  - (c) The proposed Koondoola High School will serve pupils from the Koondoola, Montrose, and the proposed Waddington primary schools.

# NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Teachers' Salaries and State Grants

- 275. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) Is he aware that teachers in non-Government schools will in the near future be granted salary increases parallel to increases already received by their counterparts in Government schools?
  - (2) Is he also aware of the serious repercussions of such increases on the poorer parish schools, particularly newly established schools in low income areas?
  - (3) Is the Government considering any further increases to per capita State grants which will help non-Government schools, particularly those in low income areas to cope with rising costs?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Teachers in Government schools have had no salary increase, apart from the quarterly adjustments, since October, 1974. No serious repercussions in non-Government schools can be attributable to any movement of salaries of Government teachers.
- (3) No.

#### URBAN ROAD FUNDS

Allocation for District Traffic Schemes

- 276. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) On what basis does the Main Roads Department consider the allocation of urban roads funds to district traffic schemes?
  - (2) Has any application been received for an allocation of such funds towards the south Dianella traffic scheme?

#### Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- Subject to a submission by the local authority and on the recommendation of the Urban Road Funds Advisory Committee.
- (2) No.

#### RAILWAYS

"Indian Pacific"

- 277. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Is the Minister aware that it is impossible to get urgent messages to passengers travelling on the *Indian Pacific* leaving Perth during the weekend?

(3)

(2) Will the Minister have the situation investigated with a view to the possibility of more satisfactory arrangements being made?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) and (2) No. I am informed such is not the case. Delivery of specially urgent messages to passengers travelling on the Indian Pacific during weekends may be arranged by contacting the Station Master or Assistant Station Master at Perth Terminal.

The message is relayed to the passenger at the next stopping place after receipt of the message. This procedure has been arranged on many occasions.

#### **EDUCATION**

Girrawheen High School

## 278. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Works:

Can he give the reason for the slow progress being made in the construction of the stage 5 science block at the Girrawheen Senior High School, particularly in view of his comments in answer to a question I put last session, to the effect that the contractors had given an undertaking to attempt to complete the work ahead of schedule to minimise inconvenience to the school?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The contract completion date for stage 5 of the Girrawheen Senior High School is the 28th April, 1978 and it is anticipated this will be achieved.

Since the undertaking by the contractor to complete this project ahead of schedule, he has successfully tendered on other Government projects. This has created a drain on his manpower.

#### HEALTH

Geraldton Community Centre

# 279. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What organisations or persons are presently tenants of the Geraldton Community Health Centre?
- (2) What area is occupied by each such tenant?
- (3) What rent is paid by each such tenant?

# Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) There are three private practice medical groups and one private practice dental group accommodated full time and paying rental at Geraldton and Region Community Health Centre. Additionally, there is a range of Government and nonprofit services who are not required to pay rent. Private practices visiting services are:—

Gynaecologist Skin specialist Eye specialist ENT Arthritis Diabetic Urologist.

(2) Private practice visiting services utilise all or part of a visiting services area of 70.52 square metres. Areas occupied by full-time private practitioners are:—

Geraldton Medical Group ....

Drs McDonald	87.52
Dr Saunders	20.20
RC and PA Cockerill	
(dentists)	158.53
Rent paid is:	
•	\$ mth
Geraldton Medical Group	1 277

sau m

296.48

#### **ENERGY**

Gas: North-West Shelf Pipeline

- 280. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:
  - (1) What stage has been reached with planning of the proposed gas pipeline from the North-West Shelf to Perth?
  - (2) Will it link up with the present pipeline from Dongara?
  - (3) Will gas be available to consumers in Geraldton?

#### Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) Extensive studies have already been conducted to examine the economic feasibility of the pipeline project. In general the planning of the project must match the joint venture planning timetable which calls for a final review towards the end of 1979. The overall timetable for the development of the project will be determined by the offshore developments and not the onshore pipeline,

bearing in mind that the pipeline's construction period is only about two years as opposed to the overall leadtime of four to five years.

(2) and (3) These matters will not be given detailed consideration until much later in the planning phase of the pipeline project.

## PORT

#### Geraldton Harbour

281. Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With reference to oil slicks caused in Geraldton harbour by the discharge of oil products from Westrail premises:

- Have proposals been advanced to eliminate the discharge by installing—.
  - (a) settling tanks; and
  - (b) a flocuration plant?
- (2) What is the present position regarding implementation of these and any other proposals?

## Mr O'CONNOR replied:

 and (2) It is acknowledged that there is some discharge of oil from Westrail's locomotive depot at Geraldton, but the problem is not serious.

> Nevertheless, Westrail is examining and is about to test a package type waste treatment plant, which, if proved operationally and financially viable, will be installed at Geraldton.

> It is planned to provide the plant in the 1978-79 financial year, provided funds are available.

> In the meantime, the existing collection sumps in the depot are being monitored and oil residue cleared regularly.

# HOUSING LAND

#### Geraldton

282. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

What plans does the State Housing Commission have to develop land it owns in the vicinity of Highbury Street, Geraldton?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The land west of the spine road, immediately south of the Tarcoola primary school and in the vicinity of High Street, requires the provision of sewerage before it can be developed for residential purposes.

The Public Works Department has no immediate plans for the provision of sewerage mains to the area and, until this facility is provided, the commission is not in a position to proceed.

# LAND TAX REGULATIONS

#### Amendment

# 283. Mr CARR, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Will the Government consider amending land tax regulations so that a person who owns one residence in the city and who rents this out while he pays rent during country service, should be exempt from land tax, similar to a person residing in his principal private residence?
- (2) Has he had any reports to suggest that such an action would help reduce the reluctance of some people to accept country appointments?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) No. The Land Tax Assessment Act provides that a dwelling house is exempt from tax only when the owner uses it as his ordinary place of residence.

To vary this procedure would create administrative difficulties and produce anomalous situations.

(2) No.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

# Voting Reforms

- 284. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:
  - (1) Has the Government given consideration to giving a vote to all residents over 18 in a council district at local government elections and precluding anyone from having more than one vote?
  - (2) Does the Government intend proceeding with such a reform?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

 and (2) No. However a review of part IV of the Local Government Act is currently being made.

#### NURSING AIDES

Course at Geraldton Regional Hospital

285. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it a fact that no course exists in Geraldton for a person to train as a nursing aide? (2) If "Yes", will be consider introducing such a course at the Geraldton Regional Hospital?

# Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I regret that it will not be possible to consider introducing such a course. At the moment there is an over-supply of trained nursing aides and placement of graduates poses problems.

# GERALDTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

#### Resident Doctors

286. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Health:

What is the latest position with regard to the appointment of resident doctors at Geraldton Regional Hospital?

# Mr RIDGE replied:

At present it is unlikely that residents will be appointed to the Geraldton Regional Hospital.

#### **FISHERIES**

Rock Lobster Advisory Committee

287. Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

How many fishermen attended meetings with the Rock Lobster Advisory Committee at the Abrolhos Islands last April, as indicated in his answer to question 97 of this year?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

A record was not kept as the meetings were informal but would have been about 100.

#### **EDUCATION**

#### Geraldton Schools

288. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:
What are the enrolment figures for each grade of each school in Geraldton?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

		Year									
School		Pre- Pr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Sp.	Total
Allendale primary school Beachlands primary school Bluff Point primary school Geraldton primary school Mount Tarcoola primary school Rangeway primary school		38*	62 31 119 36 43 121	75 27 102 52 35 125	93 19 116 42 28 98	90 20 91 39 32 114	79 25 106 53 22 94	61 23 94 51 23 88	77 31 87 54 	 12 	537 176 715 339 183 757
						Year					
School		8	9	10	II ord	linary	ll teri	minal	12	Sp.	Total
John Willcock High School Geraldton School		161 225	175 258	159 247	ï	 64		17	103	 16	495 1 060
* Excluded from total. Enrolments at the 1st March,	1978.										

#### ART GALLERY

# Geraldton Branch

289. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

What stage has been reached by the Western Australian Art Gallery in its considerations of establishing a branch in the old post office building in Geraldton?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

A subcommittee of the Art Gallery Board is examining the possible establishment of regional galleries throughout Western Australia.

The Art Gallery Board has advised the State Manager of Telecom Australia that the old post office building in Geraldton is not really suitable for regional gallery purposes.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

#### Voting Rights of Tenants

# 290. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In the case where two persons jointly occupy a ratable premise but only one is signatory to a rental agreement, is he aware that some local authorities interpret an occupier's right to be enrolled as applying only where the occupier is a participant in a tenancy agreement, while other local authorities interpret occupier to mean a person physically having residence but not necessarily being a participant in a tenancy agreement?
- (2) If this is so, what can be done to remedy the situation?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) If the member would indicate the councils which he believes are acting incorrectly, endeavours will be made to rectify the errors.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Finance

- 291. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:
  - (1) With reference to the Daily News article of the 19th December, 1977, indicating that Western Australian local authorities will have a turnover of about \$230 million for the current financial year, will he please advise the amount of funds provided from each of the following sources—
    - (a) Federal Government grants;
    - (b) State Government grants;
    - (c) loan funds;
    - (d) rates; and
    - (e) any other sources?
  - (2) Will he please provide the comparable figures for each of the previous five years?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

 and (2) No. Dissection of receipts in the detail contained in the question is not made by my department.

#### **FISHERIES**

# Hunts Canning Company and West Coast Canneries

- 292. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:
  - (1) Following approaches from Hunts Canning Company, and before making the Cabinet decision relating to salmon and herring taken on the south coast, was any action taken to arrange tripartite discussions with Hunts Canning Company, West Coast Canneries and the Minister, with a view to rationalising the supplies?
  - (2) If "Yes" what prevented any agreement?
  - (3) If (1) is "No" why not?
  - (4) Will the Minister confirm that Hunts Canning Company had offered, is or was negotiating for the sale of all or part of the company?
  - (5) Before agreeing to the preferential treatment granted Hunts Canning Company, did the Minister seek and receive any assurance regarding the sale of the company?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- No, but discussions were held between the Minister and the parties concerned.
- (2) and (3) The companies did not hold similar views on the utilisation of the catch.
- (4) and (5) No.

# **FISHERIES**

Hunts Canning Company

- 293. Mr STEPHENS, to the Premier:
  - (1) Since May, 1974, has the Government, through Treasury or any department, given—
    - (a) loans; and
    - (b) guarantees,
    - to Hunts Canning Company?
  - (2) If "Yes", what were the respective terms and conditions of such assistance?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) On the 2nd April, 1975 the Government agreed to the company's request for a short-term loan to finance the processing of 1 000 tonnes of tuna which was to be supplied to the company from Esperance and the north-west. However, in the event, the company did not draw on the facility and the arrangement lapsed. No other loans or guarantees have been provided.

(2) Not applicable.

#### RAILWAYS

Rolling Stock and Road Passenger Buses

- 294. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) With regard to the passenger rolling stock currently used on the Perth-Albany line:
    - (a) when was it first acquired;
    - (b) has any record of maintenance costs been maintained; and
    - (c) if "Yes" to (b), what are the figures?
  - (2) With regard to road passenger buses used by Westrail excluding any vehicles acquired in 1977-78, what has been—
    - (a) the average capital cost of such unit:
    - (b) the average life of each unit; and
    - (c) the average cost of maintenance during the working life of each vehicle?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) Coaches used on Perth-Albany services vary in age. The oldest were placed into service in 1908 and the four latest in 1949.
  - (b) and (c) There is no record maintained of the total maintenance costs of individual coaches.
- (2) (a) The capital costs have varied between \$10 000 and \$39 000 depending on the year purchased and the type of bus.
  - (b) Experience has shown that the average life varies between 10 and 16 years depending on the type and make.
  - (c) Records of total maintenance costs for individual vehicles are not maintained.

# PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETIES

State Finance and Interest Rate

#### 295. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

(1) From which division of Consolidated Revenue will funds be forthcoming to provide back-up finance to permanent building societies?

- (2) At what rate of interest will the funds be loaned to permanent building societies by the Rural and Industries Bank?
- (3) Will the \$15 million expenditure incurred by the Government which was not provided for in the 1977-78 Estimates cause the State Government to finish with a deficit at the end of this financial year?
- (4) If not, why not?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) In view of the short-term nature of the advances and the special circumstances, the funds have been provided from cash balances in the Public Account and not from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Treasury cash balances are normally invested at call or for short terms on the short-term money market and the arrangement simply involves diverting some of those funds to an alternative short term placement.
- (2) Interest is to be charged at 1 per cent less than the rates at which the funds are advanced to home buyers by building societies which vary marginally from society to society. The 1 per cent margin is to cover the societies' administrative costs.
- (3) and (4) Answered by (1).

#### **ABORIGINES**

# Housing

# 296. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the statement in the Governor's speech (page 4, Hansard No. 1) that "An undertaking to help homeless Aborigines in and around Perth is proving successful", has he read the annual report of The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority which—
  - (a) forecasts an increase in the number of Aborigines forced to live in fringe camps;
  - (b) states: "It is inevitable that the number of Aboriginal people forced into camping situations will continue to grow till a realistic housing programme is undertaken";
  - (c) states: "The overall effect on the lifestyle of these unfortunate people, on their health, on the education of their children and on their general attitude to the community, warrants immediate remedial action": and

- (d) indicates that funding at present levels cannot hope to meet the needs of homeless Aborigines throughout the State because the backlog exceeds 1 800 houses, the annual demand exceeds 225 homes and total funds available will not even cater for annual demands?
- (2) Will he explain the apparent inconsistency between the Government's assessment of the situation in the Governor's speech and The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority's views?

#### Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

 and (2) There is no inconsistency between the statement in the Governor's Speech and the annual report of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

The Governor's Speech refers specifically to the Perth metropolitan area, whereas the views of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority refer to the broader situation throughout the State.

There has been a fair amount of success in a number of programmes in Perth.

An accommodation service run by the Department for Community Welfare has assisted over 100 Aboriginal families with housing problems, and has been able to house a number of families in the private as well as the public housing sectors.

A loan scheme operated jointly with the Aboriginal Advancement Council has also been able to assist Aboriginal families with basic housing establishment costs, and emergency relief has been provided for those familes who have had to live in fringe camps until suitable accommodation could be arranged.

A special task force has been working with campers in the Swan Valley and has been able, with the co-operation of the State Housing Commission, to rehouse some of these familes in conventional housing.

A temporary campsite at Lockridge has provided better facilities for those homeless people who formerly lived in the open in this area, and plans to establish a permanent camping area with more adequate dwellings are now nearing completion and implementation.

Within these areas there has been some success, as the Governor's speech indicated However, the Government does not claim that there has been a total solution to these problems, nor that the limited successes of the Perth programme could be applied to the total problems outlined by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

#### **FARMERS**

#### Drought Relief

# 297. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

Adverting to the answer to part (2) of my question 237 of 1978, how much of the \$500 000 has been spent for drought relief in circumstances which do not qualify for Commonwealth assistance?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The provision is required to meet various natural disaster expenditures that are not claimable from the Commonwealth Government. These include:

- (a) Grants to local authorities in declared drought areas for the wages cost and part of the material cost on employment creating projects. Grants approved this year amount to \$588 548 of which \$150 000 can be met from the General Loan Fund provision under Item 23 and the balance is chargeable to the Miscellaneous Services Item.
- (b) The cost of water (as distinct from the cost of carting) supplied to declared drought areas.
- (c) The cost of water carting to water deficient areas that are not within declared drought areas accepted by the Commonwealth.

Expenditure incurred to date on the supply and carting of water has been met by the Country Areas Water Supply and the Rural and Industries Bank. Part of this expenditure will be claimable from the Commonwealth in due course and the balance as outlined in (b) and (c) above will be charged to the Miscellancous Services Division Item 106. Until full details of the expenditure incurred are supplied to the Treasury, no accurate estimate can be made of the expenditure which will fall in each category.

#### LAND TAX AND PROBATE DUTY

#### Estimate

# 298. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

In view of the changes in total taxation receipts estimated by him in his reply to my question 238 of 1978, will he now give a revised estimate for total receipts and payments on the Consolidated Revenue Fund?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied;

Although receipts from taxation are now expected to be higher than budget, reduced revenue is expected from mining royalties, railway earnings and receipts from the Commonwealth under the Hospitals Cost Sharing Agreement. As a result, the revised estimate of total receipts to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in 1977-78 is \$1319 million, Expenditure is also expected to be below the original estimate because of a reduction in the rate of inflation. Total expenditure in 1977-78 is now expected to be of the same magnitude as the revised estimate of revenue, hence my earlier statement that the Government still hopes to end the year with the Consolidated Revenue Fund broadly in balance.

#### **ELECTION PROMISES**

Liberal and National Country Parties

# 99. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Will he list the 506 promises made by the coalition parties before the last State election and will he indicate those which have been implemented, those which have been initiated and those which have not had action taken on them?

# Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I will seek leave to table the policy documents of the Liberal and National Country Parties which are the documents containing the coalition policy undertakings at the February, 1977, State general election.

I am sure the member will readily be able to identify the 83 per cent of the items implemented in the first 12 months, the additional nearly 10 per cent initiated, with only about 7 per cent yet to be acted upon.

The documents were tabled (see paper No. 126).

#### BIRDS

# White Swans

- 300. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife: With reference to a report in The West Australian on 27th March, 1978, on the subject of white swans—
  - (1) Was the Minister correctly quoted in the article?
  - (2) Is it a fact that the Government is to take steps to ensure that white swans do not spread throughout Western Australia?
  - (3) Is there any evidence that white swans have established at places other than Northam?
  - (4) If so, where and in what numbers?
  - (5) At how many of these are white swans competing against black swan colonies?
  - (6) Can the Minister indicate where in the State and when white swans were released with a view to establishing colonies in the wild?
  - (7) Would the Minister define an "approved wildlife park"?
  - (8) As the Minister has advised the public to capture and send any white swans found outside the Northam colony to the Perth Zoo or an "approved wildlife park" would he give an assurance that the "approved wildlife park" will not be prosecuted under regulations 35(1) of the Wildlife Conservation Act if they received the swans?
  - (9) Does the Minister give any credence to the claim by a Mr Tom Lawrence that the white swan colony at Northam far from growing was in fact declining?
  - (10) Are white swans considered to be "waterfowl" within the meaning of part 4 of the Wildlife Conservation Act regulations?
  - (11) What section, if any, of the regulations apply to white swans?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Reasonably so-refer to (8),
- (2) Yes.
- Not as a permanent breeding colony.
- (4) and (5) Not applicable.
- (6) No.

- (7) An establishment licensed in accordance with Wildlife Conservation Regulation 14 or 16 and approved as appropriate.
- (8) The Minister has directed the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (not the public) to capture any white swans found outside the Northam colony and to take them to the Perth Zoo where they may be rendered flightless, It will then be decided whether they are to stay there or go to an approved Wildlife park which would be specifically licensed to hold them.
- (9) It is understood that the number of white swans in the Northam colony has fluctuated over the years. The department accepts that it could well be less now than a few years ago.
- (10) Yes.
- (11) Unless a court of law otherwise decides, presumably all those which deal with the taking, keeping, caging, marking, sale, import, export, and so on, of protected fauna.

#### BIRDS

#### White Swans

- 301. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:
  - (1) Has the Minister's department received a letter from Messrs R. J. and J. L. Clifton dated 25th January, 1978 seeking endorsement of their wildlife park licence to keep white swans?
  - (2) Has the necessary approval been given?
  - (3) In the light of his indication recently of a surplus of white swans and the likelihood of these birds living in competition with native black swans, would the Minister grant approval to Messrs R. J. and J. L. Clifton to take such surplus from the wild for the expressed purpose of keeping them, subject to appropriate conditions, on their commercial wildlife park?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- Yes; it was acknowledged on the 9th February, 1978.
- (2) and (3) No.

#### WILDLIFE

#### Northam Officer

- Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:
  - (1) Is it proposed to appoint a wildlife officer to Northam?
  - (2) If "Yes", when and why?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

 and (2) No such proposal has been received.

#### **, EDUCATION**

West Swan School

- 303. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:
  - (1) Is he aware that the completion of conversion of a portion of the headmaster's house at West Swan school into a resource centre has been delayed by nearly two months awaiting painting?
  - (2) Will he take urgent action to have the painting completed without further delay?

# Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- The delay was occasioned by changes of supervision and difficulty in finding a contractor willing to undertake a small job.
- (2) Yes.

# ROAD

#### Stock Road

- 304. Mr HODGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Does the Government have plans to widen Stock Road, Melville between Leach Highway and Canning Highway?
  - (2) Is it the Government's intention to encourage more traffic to use that section of Stock Road?
  - (3) If the road is to be widened, when will the work commence and will residents of Stock Road be notified?
  - (4) Is the Government aware that the current volume of traffic on Stock Road is already causing considerable distress, discomfort and inconvenience to residents?

# Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- No. This section of Stock Road is the responsibility of the local authority.
- (2) No.
- (3) Answered by (1).

(4) Recent Press reports indicate that some vehicles are causing inconvenience to residents. However, as stated in (1), this section is the responsibility of the local authority.

#### TRAFFIC NOISE

Suburban Roads: Control

305. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

What laws or regulations currently exist to enable him to effectively control and regulate the level of noise made by cars and trucks using suburban roads?

#### Mr O'NEIL replied:

Road Traffic Code—Regulations 1614 and 1619.

Vehicle Standards Regulations—Regulations 106, 107, 1008, 1009 and 1203. Road Traffic (Infringements) Regula-

tions—First Schedule Item 71.

Road Traffic (Drivers Licences) Regulations—Second Schedule Item 22.

## TRAFFIC NOISE

Suburban Roads: Control

306. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

What laws or regulations currently exist to enable him to effectively control and regulate the level of noise made by cars and trucks using suburban roads?

#### Mr RIDGE replied;

- (a) Road Traffic Act.
  - (i) Vehicle Standards Regulations, 1975.
    - 1008 An efficient silencing device, so constructed that all exhaust from the engine is projected through the device, in such a manner as to effectively prevent the creation of undue noise, shall be securely fitted to the engine.
    - 1009 (1) Every passenger car
      and derivative
      thereof manufactured prior to the
      1st January, 1974,
      must be fitted with
      an efficient exhaust
      system, the noise
      level of which shall

not exceed that of the vehicle manufacturer's original system.

- (2) Every-
  - (a) passenger car derivative thereof manufactured on and after the lst January, 1974:
  - (b) multi purpose passenger car manufactured on and after 1st January, 1974;
  - (c) petrol engined vehicle other than a motor cycle and a specially constructed vehicle, manufactured on and after the 1st July, 1974;
  - (d) motor vehicle, other than a specially constructed vehicle, manufactured on and after the 1st July, 1975,

shall at the time of first registration, conform to Australian Design No. 28 Motor Vehicle Noise.

- (ii) "Road Traffic Code, 1975.
  - 1619 A person shall not drive a vehicle in a control area, residential area, or past a hospital, in such a manner as to create or cause any undue or excessive noise."

In December, 1975, the Act was amended to provide for new penalties consisting of a fine of \$30 and four demerit points for the emission of undue noise.

(b) The Noise Abatement Act, but there is no established administrative machinery to control road traffic noise.

#### **OUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Voting Reforms

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the answer to question 284 on today's notice paper, in which the Minister said the Government had not given consideration to giving a vote in council elections to all residents over 18.

(1) Is he aware of an article written by the Victorian Liberal Minister for Local Government (Mr Hunt), appearing in The Australian Municipal Journal of October, 1977, in which Mr Hunt puts forward a proposal that the following proposition be included in that State's Constitution: "A person who has attained the age of 18 years and (a) is a resident in the district or subdivision for which representatives are being chosen... shall be entitled to be enrolled as an elector at elections of members of the

- municipal council but no person shall be entitled to exercise more than one vote at any such election"?
- (2) Is the Minister further aware that the Victorian Liberal Minister for Local Government went on to say—
- The SPEAKER: It appears to me that, rather than being a question, this is becoming a statement. I ask the honourable member to arrive very quickly at the point of his question.
- Mr CARR: Certainly, Mr Speaker. The Victorian Minister then said, "This proposal was circulated at the recent Local Government Ministers' Conference and is being considered by the individual Governments"?
  - (3) In view of the apparent conflict between Mr Hunt's statement that he referred the matter to the Minister for consideration, and the Minister's answer that he has not considered it, would he like to reconsider the answer to question 284?

# Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) to (3) No. All I can add is that I have an understanding of the matter raised, but I have indicated that we are reviewing part IV, which will provide an opportunity to give consideration to the issue.