

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 10th April, 1979

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

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Membership: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I wish to draw members' attention to a letter relating to my answer to question 117 of last Thursday. The letter is addressed to me by the member for Gosnells and is dated the 6th April, 1979. It reads as follows—

I write further to my Question Number 117, addressed to you on Thursday 5th April, 1979, as it appears you may have inadvertently given to the House misleading information conveyed to you by the Member for Karrinyup. In support of the contention contained in Part (1) of my Question, I enclose a photocopy of a letter sent by the Member for Murdoch to the Guild of Undergraduates, purporting to be sent on behalf of the Parliamentary Education, Health and Welfare Committee. I can assure you that officers of the Guild believed they were being approached by a Committee of this Parliament, in which I believe they were being seriously misled.

In the light of this, I would be grateful if you could take action to correct the impression that there was no factual base to my Question.

I took the trouble to discuss the matter with the three members named by the member for Gosnells in his question and have received a letter from the member for Karrinyup dated the 10th April, 1979. The letter reads as follows—

In regard to your reapproach to me concerning Question No. 117 of Thursday 5th April, 1979, concerning a government committee enquiring into "various matters relative to student affairs within tertiary institutions", I set out below the relevant facts that I am aware of in regard to the matter.

On 11th December, 1978, the Minister for Education wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, and all the heads of tertiary institutions in Western Australia, stating that a "Committee of Government Members" had been set up to

enquire into student affairs as described above.

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Street) advised the Minister by letter on 20th December, 1978, that he was "happy to assist" and further that he had mentioned "the formation of the Committee to Mr Ken Strahan, the President of our Guild and he has assured me that he would be very glad to co-operate with the Committee in its deliberations".

On 29th December, 1978, the Minister wrote to Mr Ken Strahan and stated "you will have the opportunity of discussing any points you wish to make with a Government Committee".

As convenor of the Government Committee, I telephoned Professor Street in early January, 1979, to fix a time for a meeting with him. I explicitly described the committee as a Government Committee and in a confirmatory letter of the 10th January, 1979, he specifically referred to "a Committee of Government members".

On the same day that I telephoned Professor Street, in the absence in the Eastern States of Mr Strahan, I spoke to Mr Tony Nutt, Vice President of the U.W.A. Guild and arranged a meeting with representatives of the Guild. Again I explicitly stated that it was a Government Committee.

It is interesting to note that Mr Tony Nutt subsequently wrote to Mr Barry MacKinnon, the Member for Murdoch and Secretary of the Government Committee, on the 18th January, 1979, stating his apologies for his absence from that meeting when "the Government members committee enquiring into student organizations visited the University of Western Australia".

Following my arranging the interviews for the 17th January, I requested the Member for Murdoch to write in confirmation only to Mr Nutt. Unfortunately, that letter inadvertently described me as Chairman of the Parliamentary Education, Health & Welfare Committee and the letter was signed by Mr Barry MacKinnon as Secretary of the Education, Health, and Welfare Committee. This was an error, although it is correct that we are the Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Parliamentary Liberal Party Committee on Education, Health and Welfare and that is the basis of the mistake.

I do wish to state most emphatically that at the beginning of the meeting with the U.W.A. student representatives, and at every subsequent meeting on this matter at the other tertiary institutions, I very deliberately explained the nature and purposes of the committee, carefully describing how it was set up by the Minister for Education and that it included representatives of both the coalition partners; viz. Liberal and National Country Party. In other words, that it was a Government Committee.

At no time did the committee represent itself as a committee of the Parliament of Western Australia.

It is noteworthy that the letter from the Guild of Undergraduates of the University of Western Australia, dated 9th February, 1979, that was forwarded to many members of this Parliament, began "recently a Government Committee convened by Mr Clarko visited the Guild". The letter was signed—K. W. Strahan, Guild President.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note that in the "Pelican" of February, 1979, the U.W.A. Student newspaper, states in an article "Once Bitten, Twice Shy" that the Government has set up "a Committee made up of backbenchers from the Liberal Party and the N.C.P".

I hope that explains the situation. I apologise to the member for Gosnells for having given him and the House information that was not 100 per cent correct. I certainly hope members understand the situation now and I table the letters which I have read.

The letters were tabled (see paper No. 110).

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR BATEMAN (Canning) [4.39 p.m.]: I have a petition along the same lines as petitions presented last Thursday in connection with the return of the school year to what it was prior to the amendments mentioned. The petition bears 89 signatures and I certify it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 23.

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR RUSHTON (Dale—Minister for Transport) [4.40 p.m.]: I present a petition from 15 residents of Western Australia praying for the discontinuance of the exploitation of children through pornography. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

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

See petition No. 24.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [4.41 p.m.]: I present petitions relevant to the question of the school year, requesting that the status quo be maintained. The petitions are from the following schools—

School	No. of Signatories
Guildford Primary	12
Swan View Primary	13
Midland District Guidance Office	5
Cyril Jackson Senior High	1
Bassendean Primary	13
Midland Technical College	19
Ashfield Primary	14
Casuarina Pre-School Centre, Maida Vale	2
Midvale Primary	14
Midvale Pre-School Centre	2
High Wycombe Primary	11
Maida Vale Primary	17
Middle Swan Pre-School	2

I certify that these petitions are in conformity with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

See petition No. 25.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR WILSON (Dianella) [4.42 p.m.]: I present a petition from 71 citizens of Western Australia calling upon the State Government to review proposed alterations to the school year as contained in amendments to regulations under the Education Act and published in the *Government Gazette* on the 29th September, 1978.

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

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

See petition No. 26.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR B. T. BURKE (Balcatta) [4.43 p.m.]: I have a petition signed by 161 teachers at different schools in the metropolitan area, and touching those matters, the subject of the petition presented by the member for Dianella. The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 27.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR GREWAR (Roe) [4.44 p.m.]: I have a petition containing 66 signatures. The petition is couched in the same manner as the previous petitions and I certify that it complies with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 28.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

DR TROY (Fremantle) [4.45 p.m.]: I have three similar petitions which conform with the Standing Orders of the Parliament. They are from the Winterfold Primary School, the North Lake Senior High School and the Fremantle Special School, care of the Fremantle Prison.

I hereby certify accordingly.

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

See petition No. 29.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR SPRIGGS (Darling Range) [4.46 p.m.]: I have two petitions which are worded similarly, one from the Walliston Primary School and one from the Glen Forrest Primary School.

I seek your guidance as to whether they comply with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. I checked at the schools and found that in the case of the Walliston School four teachers who had signed the petition were no longer at the school and, similarly, a number of teachers who had signed the petition from the Glen Forrest

Primary School are no longer at the school. I seek your guidance in this respect.

The **SPEAKER**: It appears to me that it is in order for the petitions to be received. Although the people who signed them may not be currently members of the staffs, they may well have been at the time the petitions were signed. Hence, with that background, I direct that the petitions be brought to the Table of the House.

See petition No. 30.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR WATT (Albany) [4.47 p.m.]: I have a petition couched in similar terms. It contains 79 signatures and I certify it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 31.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR HODGE (Melville) [4.48 p.m.]: I have similar petitions from the Willagee School, the Hilton School, the Palmyra School, and the Bicton School and I certify that they are in conformity with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 32.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR WILLIAMS (Clontarf) [4.49 p.m.]: I have six petitions couched in the same terms. They contain 54 signatures and I certify that they conform with the Standing Orders.

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

See petition No. 33.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth) [4.50 p.m.]: I have three petitions similar to those just presented. They contain 25 signatures and come from the Como Senior High School and the South Perth Primary School. I certify that they conform with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

See petition No. 34.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR SHALDERS (Murray) [4.51 p.m.]: I have similar petitions couched in the same vein. I certify that they conform with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

See petition No. 35.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.52 p.m.]: I have five petitions from various school teachers all of whom object to the proposed alterations to the school year as contained in the amendments to certain regulations under the Education Act, which were published in the *Government Gazette* on the 29th September, 1978.

I have certified that each of them conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. The petitions are from the Tuart Hill Primary School with 13 signatories; the Tuart Hill Evening Technical School, one; the Mt. Hawthorn Pre-School, two; the Tuart Hill Junior Primary School, 15; and the Osborne Park Primary School, eight.

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

See petition No. 36.

PRESS GALLERY

Presence of Premier's Department Officer: Point of Order

Mr TONKIN: I raise a point of order as to the credentials of journalists in the Press Gallery and as to whether people attached to the Premier's Department have a right to be in the Press Gallery. I know that increasingly this Parliament is becoming the creature of the Executive, but I do believe that we should consider the matter and I would like to know whether in fact officers attached to the Premier's Department are in a position to be in the Press Gallery. As I understand it such people should not be servants of the Crown but rather should be accredited because they are working in various news agencies.

The SPEAKER: It is the prerogative of the Speaker to issue passes to those journalists who are entitled to use the Press Gallery. I am unaware of the person to whom the member for Morley refers, but I will investigate the matter and give consideration to the point he has raised.

Mr Davies: Hear, hear!

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [4.53 p.m.]: I have two petitions couched in terms similar to those of the previous petitions. They are from the Amaroo School, Collie, with 14 signatures, and the Collie Senior High School, with 14 signatures.

I certify that they conform with the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 37.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR CARR (Geraldton) [4.54 p.m.]: I have three petitions from people protesting about the school year arrangement. They contain 31 signatures and are from the John Willcock High School, the Rangeway Primary School, and the Bluff Point Primary School. They conform with the Standing Orders of the House and I certify accordingly.

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

See petition No. 38.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR COYNE (Murchison-Eyre) [4.55 p.m.]: I have four petitions which conform with the Standing Orders of the House. They are from the Cue Primary School with four signatories; the Cundeelee Special Aboriginal School, one; the Warburton Range Primary School, three; and the Meekatharra District High School, seven. I certify that they conform with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

See petition No. 39.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [4.56 p.m.]: I have five petitions couched in terms similar to those of the other petitions we have received today. Mine are from the Bullsbrook District High School with 20 signatories; the Herne Hill Primary School, six; the Sawyers Valley Primary School, two; the Parkerville Primary School, five; and the Upper Swan Primary School, six.

I certify that each conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 40.

PETITIONS: CERTIFICATION

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): Before we proceed with the reception of petitions, I wish to state that the Clerk has drawn to my attention the fact that members are simply stating that the petitions conform. They then go on to say that they have certified accordingly. However, there must be written certification on the petition which is presented. If a petition does not have this, it does not satisfy the Standing Orders. Standing Orders are not satisfied simply as a result of a member saying that a petition conforms with the Standing Orders.

I draw this matter to the attention of members and I would ask that those members who have already presented petitions which have not been duly certified to kindly attend to this oversight.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.57 p.m.]: I, too, have some petitions in similar vein, containing 77 signatures, and all relating to the dissatisfaction of certain teachers with regard to the change in the school year. The petitions come from the teachers employed at the Bayswater Primary School, the Rivervale Primary School, the Belmont Senior High School, and the Belmont Primary School.

As I have said, they contain 77 signatures, and I believe they conform with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The **SPEAKER**: Have you certified accordingly on the petitions?

Mr BRYCE: That has not been done yet.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petitions be brought to the Table of the House, subject to their certification.

See petition No. 41.

STATE FINANCE: INCOME TAX

State: Petition

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [4.58 p.m.]: I wish to present a petition from 42 people in the State of Western Australia, which reads as follows—

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

WE, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia:

- (1) Recognise that a system of "Double Income Tax" provided for in (State Income Tax Enabling Legislation) will cause West Australians to be the highest taxed citizens in Australia.
- (2) Are aware that all other States of Australia have rejected the system of "Double Income Tax".
- (3) Call upon the State Government to abandon its plans to introduce a new and additional tax on people's incomes.

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

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

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

See petition No. 43.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR

Alteration: Petition

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [4.59 p.m.]: I have a petition similar to others which have been presented relating to schools. I certify that the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

See petition No. 42.

TRANSPORT: AIR FARES*Intrastate: Petition*

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.00 p.m.]: I present the following petition to the House—

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

WE, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia.

- (1) Believe that, in line with reductions in overseas and interstate air fares urgent moves should be made to reduce intrastate air fares in W.A., because residents who are situated long distances from Perth—

face heavy financial burdens as a result of costly air travel within W.A.

are forced to rely almost entirely on air travel as a means of communication because road travel is arduous and uncomfortable.

are unable to visit relatives and friends or conduct business in Perth or the Eastern States on a regular basis because air fares are too high.

are unable to take full advantage of cheaper overseas flights because air fare costs are too high to travel to overseas departure points.

- (2) We note that:

intrastate air fares in W.A. are generally more expensive than other States.

the growth of tourism in the northern parts of our State is being hampered because of costly air travel.

high air fares are a possible disincentive to people settling in remote areas.

the State Government has powers under the Transport Commission Act to influence the costs of air fares within W.A.

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

I believe the petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

See petition No. 44.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT REPEAL BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr McPharlin, and read a first time.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY:
SECOND DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 29th March, on the following motion by Mr Shalders—

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 DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [5.54 p.m.]: I am sure there are those amongst us who might have thought we would never get around to debating the Address-in-Reply and I would have been very sorry had this been the case, because I want to raise a number of matters. Indeed, bearing in mind that the parliamentary session was about to commence, I sat down at my desk recently and was able to list, off the top of my head, 24 items on which the Government required to be censured. I do not know whether we shall have time to deal with all of them, so I had to restrain myself and be selective in the matters I intend to introduce for debate in Parliament. I am sure some of the matters with which I will not be able to deal will be very competently, quickly, and ably dealt with by my colleagues.

I do not believe that the Court Government, or the Court-Old Government, is fit to remain in office.

Mr Pearce: The "Old Court Government."

Mr DAVIES: Indeed, that interjection might be correct. The "Old Court Government" is not fit to remain in office. I venture to say it will not be in office in 12 months' time and there are very sound reasons for this. The main reason, of course, is that it has failed as a Government. It has not done the job it said it would do when re-elected to office approximately two years ago.

It is a tired and incompetent Government. It is secretive in its attempt to keep itself out of trouble. It is an arrogant Government, and like all

arrogant Governments it is intolerant of criticism—and there has been ample evidence of that. It is an out-of-touch Government and I believe that was clearly demonstrated by the lack of initiative displayed in the Speech which was read to this Parliament by His Excellency the Governor when he declared the session open.

Above all, it is a Government which has failed by its own standards. We are not setting the standards upon which we say it has failed; it has failed by its own standards. To demonstrate what I mean by that I will quote part of a commitment from the Government's manifesto when it sought election in 1977.

There were three basic commitments and they appear at the commencement of page 2 of the policy document. Under the subheading, "The Task Ahead", there appears—

Our first commitment is to increase job security and career opportunity with a new wave of beneficial development.

I point out the words "our first commitment" are underlined. The second commitment reads—

Our second commitment is to give special attention to the rights of individuals under the law.

Again, the words "our second commitment" are underlined. The third commitment reads—

Our third commitment is to improve the ways in which Government and people work together in building and improving our many communities, and caring for the needy.

Once again, the words "our third commitment" are underlined.

Three basic commitments; what laudable objectives, Mr Speaker. What fine commitments; but what abject failures. The Court Government has failed completely to carry out those undertakings and it has failed to meet its own standards.

Now let us look at the record of providing job security. I will repeat the first commitment—

... to increase job security and career opportunity with a new wave of beneficial development.

Let us look at job security. At the time that commitment was made there were eight people out of work for every advertised job vacancy. Now there are 40 people out of work for every advertised job vacancy.

At the time the commitment was made there were, in round figures, 25 000 people out of work. Now there are 46 000 people out of work. At the

time of that commitment there were 526 500 jobs in this State. Now, there are 516 500.

What of the rights of the individuals? The only special attention given to them by this Government has been to reduce their rights, despite the commitment by the Government. The Government has refused to have anything to do with the establishment of a human rights commission and has failed to introduce human rights legislation. It has refused to give the people of Wittenoom the right to decide their own futures. It has refused the farmers in the water catchment areas of this State the right to develop their own land. It has refused to introduce legislation to give Aborigines the ability to own land of their own right. It has robbed the prospectors; the little men and the battlers in the mining industry. They have been robbed of their rights. They are just a few of the matters that come immediately to attention. What a marvellous record of supporting basic human rights; the basic human rights of individuals!

If members want a specific case—and goodness knows I have plenty of specific cases—I have one which shows how the Government has set about, I would say, almost ruining one individual who tried desperately to get some work from the Government. I have with me some correspondence from a group of people trading under the name Auto Trans Express Pty. Ltd. They are vehicle transport specialists and they are associated also with car storage. They are not common carriers; they are vehicle transport specialists. Because they have the special equipment necessary to do the work, they set about trying to break into work associated with Government departments. At the time there were a number of vehicles which needed to be transported both for the Government and for its employees.

First of all, the firm wrote to the Minister for Industrial Development and pointed out that it was in the market for work of such type. It was a completely local firm and it hoped to be able to get a share of the market. The firm wrote to the Education Department also and pointed out much the same thing. It advised the Education Department that the Minister for Industrial Development also had been contacted. In reply, the firm received soothing sounds from the Minister stating that he was glad the firm was in the market and that he was sure at the appropriate time it would be able to get some business.

The Education Department replied and said that the question of tenders for the transport of teachers' furniture and effects, including motor vehicles, was at that time under consideration and

that the firm would be advised if a decision to call tenders was made. That information was contained in a letter dated the 23rd June, 1978. The Minister for Industrial Development replied in a letter dated the 20th May, 1978.

Mr Watt: Who is the principal of that firm?

Mr DAVIES: His name is Barrie Payne. So, having seen a business opportunity, and having shown some initiative—and having the equipment—he thought he might get some work. He was to be advised if a decision to call tenders was made.

It is wholly untenable that if there is to be competition in the community that tenders are not called. Of course, they should be called. It was only by accident that Mr Payne found out, on the 1st November, 1978, that tenders had been called in the interim since he had been written to and he had not been advised by the Education Department—as the department had undertaken to do. I think it was almost a fluke that he found out that tenders had been invited. So, Mr Payne put in a tender dated the 1st November, 1978, and sat back waiting to see what might happen.

However, he received no reply. The tender dealt with transport of motorcars for the Education Department and, apparently, also for the transport of vehicles for the Police Department. Although tenders closed on the 2nd November, Mr Payne had received no reply well into January, and he contacted me. On the 18th January I wrote to the Premier and pointed out that the reason for the calling of the tenders would soon cease to exist as the movement of the Education Department's staff cars would soon be past. I received an acknowledgment from the under secretary dated the 23rd January. On the 13th February the Premier wrote and said—

One of the problems associated with this Schedule is that two Departments, Police and Education, are involved and tenders had to be referred to both before a decision could be reached. Each Department has submitted recommendations to the Tender Board and the matter is still under consideration.

It is hoped that a decision will be made shortly. In the meantime the work of moving both Police and Education staff must proceed and is being handled under existing contracts.

When I sent a copy of that letter to Auto Trans Express Pty. Ltd., the firm sent to me a copy of a letter it had received from the Minister for Industrial Development dated the 9th February stating that the tenders had been aborted and that fresh tenders would be called.

So, on the 13th February the Premier told me one thing and on the 9th February the Minister for Industrial Development told the tenderer something completely different. The Premier said that in the meantime the work of moving both Police and Education staff must proceed and was being handled under existing contracts, contracts for which no tenders had been called. Indeed TNT was handling the work. That firm had not put in a tender at any time. The tender submitted by that firm apparently was too late and the Government could not accept it. Yet, despite the fact there was only one tenderer able to do the work—the tender had closed on the 2nd November—no contract had been let but the existing arrangement had been allowed to run.

What kind of Government is that? As rough as they come; it could not have been any rougher!

On the 7th February Auto Trans Express Pty. Ltd. wrote to the Minister for Industrial Development and detailed some of the events which had occurred in the previous 12 months. One paragraph of that letter reads—

I then spoke to Mr Kingsley in the Department of Industrial Development and asked what further action I could take. Mr Kingsley was very pessimistic about the situation, and indicated that the Education Department was opposed to any change, believing that "TNT were good people to deal with" and that they were "getting a good deal" from them.

The words "TNT were good people to deal with" and "getting a good deal" are in inverted commas. What kind of an arrangement is that? Further in the letter Mr Payne draws the attention of the Minister to the fact that not having heard from the Education Department he made some inquiries and found that tenders had already been called, and were to close at 10.00 a.m. on the following day. He even went as far as talking to the officers who were doing the work.

The letter to the Minister also stated—

On November 3rd I spoke to Mr Graham Pekin, Assistant Manager of T.N.T. Car Carrying Division, to enquire how his Company had approached the tender in view of the inclusion of the Police furniture removals. Mr Pekin said that T.N.T. had not submitted a tender as the Education Department had informed T.N.T. that Education Department vehicle movements were not going to be let with the Police Department tender, as they would be calling their own tender in 1979.

The Police Department knew what it was doing, and the Education Department knew what it was doing. There had been only one tenderer but despite all the movements which were alleged to have taken place it was quite obvious that no action was to be taken even to consider the firm which was the only tenderer on that occasion. Further in the letter Mr Payne stated—

As the original tender included the Education Department's car movements during December 1978 and January, 1979, and this work has since been completed by T.N.T. outside the tender, it appears to me that the calling of the tender was a complete farce, and indeed a deception.

That is all I can say it is—a deception. Here was a Western Australian firm anxious to get some business—supposedly one of the firms that would be supported by a Government of the present political colour—and yet without its tender even being considered it was beaten by the firm which had the existing contract, and which had not even bothered to submit a tender.

What a disgraceful state of affairs; what an absolute scandal—that is what I would say it was. I cannot call it any less than that. There is not the slightest doubt some kind of rort is being worked in regard to the movement of these vehicles. I will expect an explanation from the Government with regard to what kind of rort is being worked.

I wrote to the Premier, and in his reply to me dated the 13th February he gave misleading information—or he was ignorant of the facts. I wrote again on the 21st February and said—

I find it quite strange that it should take so long to come to a decision on this matter. It is now getting on for five months since the tender closed. Surely it does not take the Police and Education Departments that long to resolve any problems.

I have already indicated that the problem was resolved early in November and the departments went about their merry way as though tenders had not been called. My letter continues—

It was first represented to me by an interested party who as I pointed out in my earlier letter, advised that it was only after representations had been made that the matter was even put to tender. The implication was that the arrangements then being made gave some firm an advantage and the fact that there is still no decision on the tender and also that the bulk of the transport for the year has already been done makes me wonder if the suspicions were not well grounded.

I can only pass your reply on to the party concerned and let him know that I think the way the matter as handled from start to finish is highly unsatisfactory.

I have not had a reply to that letter although I sent it to the Premier on the 21st February last.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr DAVIES: I spoke earlier about the three basic commitments of the Liberal Party to increase job security and career opportunity with a new wave of beneficial development as a first commitment.

Mr Bryce: What a yawn!

Mr DAVIES: I have given some details as to the way in which the Government has fallen down in this regard, and I will give some more shortly because the Government needs to be taken to task.

The second commitment of the Liberal Party was to give special attention to the rights of individuals under the law. I have detailed several occasions and referred to several incidents where the people could feel less than happy with the present Government. In fact, rather than being extended additional rights, some of their rights have been restricted or withdrawn altogether.

I was particularly anxious to draw to the attention of the House the instance of a Western Australian company in the business of transporting cars. The principal of this company tried desperately to break into the Government field. He has been humbugged around by Government departments, as well as by the Minister for Industrial Development and the Premier. I believe this is an absolute scandal. If I were the Premier I would really go after the man who drafted the reply; I would want to know why incorrect information was given. I do not blame the Premier for not knowing the ins and outs of every detail of his department, but if I were the Premier I would expect some degree of accuracy and honesty when replies are given.

On the 13th February I received a letter from the Premier telling me that the matter was still being sorted out, but on the 9th February the Minister for Industrial Development had written to the company saying that tenders had been withdrawn, after some four months of waiting for a decision. In the meantime, the company holding the existing contract continued to do the work, and it did not seem that any tender had been submitted under any circumstances; the arrangement was a local one.

One wonders what is going on in transport matters in this State. If we cast our minds back to last year, we will recall that two quotes were

submitted for the cartage of freight in the northern region following the abandonment of a railway service and that the dearest tender was accepted by the Government. On that occasion the excuse given was that the unsuccessful tenderer had not quoted an individual rate for each individual item, and therefore his tender was declared null and void. The tenderer who submitted the highest tender was successful.

Mr O'Connor: Not so in all cases; as you well know.

Mr DAVIES: That is precisely what the Minister told us in the House last year.

Mr O'Connor: That is so.

Mr DAVIES: In the present instance the unsuccessful tenderer was left lamenting for four months before he was given one story by the Minister and I was given another story by the Premier. Just what is going on in regard to transport matters in this State? Who is looking after whom, and who is taking the cream of the work? That is what I would like to know. This deal—if it is a deal—in regard to the transporting of school teachers' cars and, allegedly, the furniture of policemen, stinks to high heaven. As I say, it is an absolute scandal and the Government needs to explain its position.

Why is the Government favouring an Eastern States company against a local company which is trying to obtain some business? I have only spoken to the man concerned over the telephone; I have not even checked his equipment. However, he has been told that tenders will be called in the near future. On the last occasion he was told he would be advised when tenders would be called, but he found out about it only by accident. He is left in the position that it is hopeless for him to tender because the Government could make it too difficult for him to cart the cars. He could be told to pick up a car from the north one day, and then told to take a car down south the next.

In the past arrangements were made for multiple haulages at the convenience of the carrier as long as this fitted in generally with the convenience of the department employee concerned. However, this man could be put out of business if he dared to tender because the work could be made too difficult for him.

That is a scandal. If I were the Premier, the first thing I would want to know was who gave him the wrong information to pass on to the Leader of the Opposition. No matter what anyone says about the Premier, at least he tries to give us correct information. He may try to embellish it a little, and sometimes he may be embarrassed by the reply he has to give, but on an occasion like

this I do not think he would give the wrong information wilfully. If I were the Premier, I would want to know who gave me the wrong information.

The Liberal Party referred to the rights of the individual, but in this case we have seen the way in which one man who is trying to make a go of it is treated by this Government. I suppose he is effectively disposed of because he is not doing any of its work at the present time. Shame must fall upon the Government because of this.

The Government's third commitment was to improve the way in which the Government and people work together in building and improving our many communities and in caring for the needy. That sounds splendid, but it is all humbug, and I will tell members why. The Government is not even interested in working with those who ever question it. Never before in my experience has a Premier caused so much dissension in the community; never before has a Premier put Australian against Australian.

Sir Charles Court: Nonsense.

Mr DAVIES: Probably the most despised action in this country is to put Australian against Australian. Never before has there been a Premier who has worked so hard to promote unrest. Never before has there been a Premier who has been so arrogant and so intolerant of criticism.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr DAVIES: Dr Graham Chittleborough is one of our most distinguished scientists. I met him when I was a Minister in the Tonkin Government, although I have not seen him since. When Dr Chittleborough criticised the policies, not only of the Court Government but also of previous Governments, in regard to Cockburn Sound, the Premier went berserk. He made no comment whatsoever on the substance of Dr Chittleborough's claim, but he tried simply to pillory Dr Chittleborough for daring to comment and tried to call his motives into question. Indeed, the Premier may even have done worse than that. Three separate media organisations have now alleged that the Premier tried to influence the Victorian Government against Dr Chittleborough who has been appointed to an important position in that State. The allegation was that our Premier tried to contact Premier Hamer, and having failed to do that, he communicated with the Deputy Premier of Victoria (Mr Lindsay Thompson), and told him, allegedly, that Dr Chittleborough was a stirrer. The clear inference was that Dr Chittleborough's appointment should not go ahead.

Mr Tonkin: Disgraceful.

Mr DAVIES: It was further alleged that as a result of this action of our Premier, the Victorian Government launched an inquiry into the background of Dr Chittleborough. This inquiry was conducted by the head of the Victorian department responsible for environmental matters. Fortunately, the people who were asked about Dr Chittleborough—including some Western Australians; I know who they are and I am proud of them—bore testimony to the quality of his work and to his integrity which had allegedly been called into question by the Premier.

I understand that as a result of the inquiry the appointment of Dr Chittleborough to the position in Victoria is to go ahead. If these allegations are correct—and the Premier has displayed an uncharacteristic reticence about them—all I can say is that it is a scandal; an absolute scandal. Because a man expressed an opinion that the Premier did not like to hear expressed, that man's whole career was put in jeopardy. What a disgraceful thing to do.

Mr Tonkin: He has the cheek to call himself a Liberal.

Mr DAVIES: The funny thing is, it was not that the Premier necessarily disagreed with much of what Dr Chittleborough had to say; it was just that he did not like to hear it expressed. That is what it amounts to.

I should imagine that if the allegations were correct, this incident represents a disgraceful abuse of office by the Premier. We found out about this instance but how many times has he pulled the same trick and we have not found out about it? How many other people have had their appointments or their careers jeopardised because they have upset the Premier?

Sir Charles Court: Where did you hear this?

Mr DAVIES: Three separate media outlets have made the charges.

Sir Charles Court: Yes, all from the one source.

Mr DAVIES: Three separate ones, and also, I have made personal inquiries and I am quite satisfied. The Premier will have the chance to refute them.

Mr H. D. Evans: Are they correct or not?

Mr DAVIES: If the allegations are not correct, it would be most uncharacteristic of the Premier not to find some way to explain the disgraceful actions that he took. He is the Premier of this State. Certainly it should be far below any Premier to do anything like this. As I say, if it has happened to one man, how many times has it

happened to other people, and we have never found out about it? A disgraceful situation.

Sir Charles Court: Disgraceful!

Mr Bryce: Just look at his own back bench!

Mr DAVIES: It is typical that the Premier should start to make grunting sounds, that he should laugh, and that he should look at his pad. Let him deny the allegations.

Mr Sibson: You don't like the interjections.

Mr DAVIES: I enjoy the interjections. Speak up!

Mr Sibson: You go sour when you get interjections.

Mr DAVIES: Perhaps the honourable member could tell us about the League of Rights calling him a socialist. He should not let the Premier hear about that.

The situation I have described gets completely away from one of the Liberal Party's basic commitments of working with the community. The Premier has no idea whatsoever of working with the community. He cannot stand criticism. When he thought the people of Wittenoom were taking too long to make up their minds, he abused them. When a public relations consultant acting on their behalf expressed their point of view, he was abused. When some people in the entertainment industry questioned the Government's decision to hand over the management of Her Majesty's Theatre to TVW Enterprises, they were abused. We still have not heard about the committee that will be appointed; it is about time that we heard something.

When conservationists and environmentalists raise doubts about the wisdom of developments proposed by the Government, they are abused. They are abused wholly, roundly, and continually.

Mr Tonkin: Because they are patriotic and care about the State.

Mr DAVIES: Precisely; and yet the Premier tries to give the impression that he is the only real Western Australian; that he is the only one who cares about the State. What nonsense! These people have real feeling for the State. I can only say "Thank goodness they are there." I might not agree with them at times, but thank goodness they are there to remind us about some of the things that are going on and to which we should pay attention.

When the member for Dianella refused to accept his pay rise he was abused and called an opportunist, etc., by the Premier. He was not abused by the Premier's mates in the House, but by the Premier himself and in public. One could

not find a more moral man in this House than the member for Dianella.

Mr Sibson: What did you do about yours?

Mr DAVIES: If the member for Bunbury wants to discuss Dr Troy, we will do so.

Mr Sibson: I asked what you did about your pay increase.

Mr DAVIES: I am sorry, I cannot hear the member. He will have to put it in a letter through the League of Rights.

There is never any discussion of the points that critics make in regard to Government actions; there is never any rebuttal of their arguments. There is only abuse of the person involved for making criticism, and the questioning of his or her motives.

That is no way to run a Government; it is no way to work with people to improve the community. As I said, for the first time in my life I have seen Australian set against Australian; or, more precisely, Western Australian set against Western Australian.

Sir Charles Court: Don't talk rubbish. You give one real case instead of just mouthing words.

Mr DAVIES: The Premier will have his opportunity to speak.

Mr Tonkin: The Premier is the most disruptive influence in this State.

Mr Bryce: Disruptive and provocative, and aging very fast.

Sir Charles Court: Just keep this up till the election.

Mr DAVIES: There was an interjection about releasing something to the Press. I have not released anything to the Press; if anything is printed, it will be taken from what I have said in the House tonight. It is a shame that the Premier uses the tactic of leaking material to the Press. The only time he complains about material being leaked to the Press is when it criticises the Fraser Government; and on those occasions the material is leaked intentionally. Let us refer back to the occasions when the Premier has started a witch hunt in respect of security leaks and leaks to the Press; these follow in the light of his criticism of Canberra. However, the leakages are always in line with the picture he wants to create. Therefore, let us not talk about leakages to the Press; although if members opposite want to debate the matter I am happy to do so.

This is a Government of arrogance and intolerance and, I believe, of brutality at its worst. As I said a short time ago, when one measures the Court Government against the commitments it

has made, it has been an enormous failure. Just consider those three basic commitments I mentioned; do not let us talk about all the promised inquiries and investigations, and the reports which are shelved. Those are not election promises; they are merely nonsense and padding. The Court Government has failed to honour in any way its three basic commitments. I believe the way it has carried on is a symptom of its contempt for the people.

This afternoon a group gathered to present to the Parliament a petition containing more than 99 000 signatures. The people asked that their petition be considered. However, it has not even been presented in the Parliament; and all the Minister for Transport said was, "The railway will close on the 2nd September." He did not even say, "We will reconsider the matter in the light of this expression of opinion from the people"—all 99 000 of them, and I am told there are more to come.

However, this Government's attitude is, "Don't waste your time arguing with us, our mind is made up. Don't spoil a decision whether it is good or bad. We are not concerned for the public at large." I believe the Government has contempt for Parliament also. Just look at the Governor's Speech; it gives virtually no indication of the intentions of the Government. Either the Government is at a total loss to know what to do to cope with the problems and the opportunities facing Western Australia as we go into the 1980s, or it is not prepared to take the Parliament and the people into its confidence. Whichever the case, the Government is not fit to continue in office.

I believe there is something sinister in the Government's failure to outline its intentions, since Ministers have been giving us veiled threats and more obvious hints for some time about various pieces of legislation they were considering. For example, it is certain—if the Premier is a man of his word because he said so last session and he has repeated it this session—that legislation to provide for a State income tax will be introduced. But no mention of that was included in the Governor's Speech even though it was a major plank in the Premier's platform. It was part of the new federalism and he was going to be the first Premier in Australia to introduce such legislation. He promised it last session, but then said there were some difficulties in slotting the legislation into existing Statutes. He has already indicated the legislation will be introduced this session.

In the Governor's Speech there is no detail of the proposed industrial workers' compensation or

electoral legislation. We have been told all these matters will be dealt with in this session of Parliament. We have been told that through the media, but we were not told it by the Governor in his Speech. The only phrase used was that matters relating to workers' compensation and industrial arbitration are under investigation. There was not a word about pending legislation; yet the Government has been saying in the media, "We will introduce legislation." What an affront to Parliament! The Government goes outside and huffs and puffs to the media, but it will not tell Parliament what is going on. It will not even allow the Governor to tell us what is going on, because the Governor does not know.

In respect of electoral legislation we know what has been proposed and we know the circumstances in which it was proposed. I am suspicious of the Government's intentions in all of those areas and in other areas as well. I have said before that it is not what is contained in the Governor's Speech that is of interest to the Parliament; it is what is left out of that Speech which is of interest to the Parliament.

I believe the industrial arbitration legislation will be aimed at promoting unrest within the community in the hope of gaining electoral advantage. I believe the workers' compensation legislation will seek to reduce benefits paid to people who are injured or incapacitated at work through no fault of their own. I believe the electoral legislation will try to make it harder for Aborigines to vote, especially in the Kimberley electorate where the Minister for Housing is under challenge from the endorsed Australian Labor Party candidate, Mr Ernie Bridge. Whilst the legislation will make it more difficult for Aborigines to vote, other people will be affected also.

The keynotes of the Governor's Speech were self-satisfaction, self-congratulation, and an absence of information.

If the Government continues in this vein it will receive a nasty and well-deserved shock at the next election, and this will be due in no small way to the State's appalling unemployment position and the Government's failure to honour its wilfully misleading promises made at the last State election.

Let no-one be in doubt about the magnitude of the State's unemployment problem; equally so let no-one be in doubt as to who is responsible for it. Let no-one be in doubt that the guilty men and women are the members of the Court-Old and the Fraser Governments.

Let us look at the deterioration in the employment position since the Court Government took office. I mentioned the statistics briefly a little while ago. In March, 1974, when the Court Government first came into office, 1.62 per cent of the Western Australian work force was unemployed. By February, 1977, when the Government was re-elected that figure had risen to 4.85 per cent. By February, 1978, it had become even worse, with 8.17 per cent of the State's work force being unable to obtain a job. In February, 1979, 45 825 Western Australians were without work. In January the number was 46 344—the highest number of people out of work in the history of the State.

The Court Government was re-elected to office in February, 1977, with a promise of jobs for all. Since it made that promise there has been an increase of nearly 21 000 or 82 per cent in the number of people without jobs. Bad as those figures are, they do not give a true indication of just how hard it is to get a job in this State. The best measure of how hard and how much harder it is becoming to obtain a job is obtained by comparing the number of people out of work with the number of jobs available. This comparison shows it is harder to get a job in Western Australia than in any other State in Australia.

Mr Nanovich: That is totally incorrect.

Mr DAVIES: In February, 1979, there were 40 people out of work for every job vacancy registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service in Western Australia. The national average was only 19 people out of work for each vacancy, while in New South Wales the figure fell to 16 and in Victoria and Tasmania it fell to 13. Now let us hear the member for Whitford say my figures are incorrect. My figures are taken from official statistics, and if he wants to challenge them he must challenge the Government Statistician.

I repeat: Those figures demonstrate starkly that it is harder to get a job in Western Australia than in any other State in Australia; they also demonstrate how much worse the position has become since the Court Government was re-elected on a fraudulent and dishonest promise of jobs for all.

In February, 1977, during the last State election, there were already eight people out of work for every job vacancy. Now there are 40 people for each vacancy. Not only is it harder to get a job in Western Australia than in any other State, but it is also five times harder now to get a job in Western Australia than it was when the Court Government promised jobs for all in 1977.

A situation in which nearly 46 000 Western Australians were out of work in February is bad enough; but there is little doubt that figure underestimates the problem. In case someone else challenges me, I want to point out that I am using the figures of the Commonwealth Employment Service, because since the Fraser Government stopped issuing seasonally adjusted figures for fear of the political damage they were causing, the only way to measure trends in the labour market has been to compare the situation in any month with the situation in the same month a year or some years prior to that. It is possible to make such comparisons only with the CES figures, because the figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have been available on a monthly basis only for the past few months; previously they were available for only four months of the year.

Having made that point, let me repeat that the official unemployment figures underestimate the amount of unemployment. They are almost universally regarded as an underestimate.

In times of severe recession such as we have at present the number of people wanting full-time or part-time work is not properly reflected in the figures. This is so because in a time of recession many people are discouraged from putting their names down as people who want to be in the work force.

Who are these people? They consist of young people who stay in educational institutions longer than they would otherwise; married women who under normal circumstances would re-enter the work force after a period away from it; and older people, especially men, who might have retired earlier. These people are the hidden unemployed; they are the shadow battalion marching behind the army of registered unemployed. Most authorities put their number at more than 25 per cent of the registered unemployed. This means probably there are about 12 000 of them in Western Australia, pushing the number of unemployed people in this State to nearly 58 000, or about 10 per cent of the work force.

What a shocking indictment that figure is of those responsible for the economic management of this State and of the nation—58 000 or 10 per cent of the work force of Western Australia without a job! In the past when confronted with this sort of evidence of their manifest failure, spokesmen of the Government have hidden behind two specious explanations to try to get themselves off the hook, to avoid blame, and to avoid being found out.

They have always claimed that two factors which have operated in Western Australia mean the picture was not as black as it was painted. The first is that the number of people in employment in this State has risen, whereas it has fallen in Australia as a whole. The second is that people are flooding into this State from the Eastern States and from New Zealand because job prospects are so much better here and these people are artificially inflating the figures.

I believe the time has come to explode these propaganda myths and to knock away these convenient crutches of self-congratulation from under this most complacent Government. Let us consider the number of people in employment in Western Australia—the figures which the Court Government claims show it is doing such a wonderful job of creation.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics there were 526 500 people in employment in Western Australia in February, 1977. However, by January, 1979, the month for which the latest figures are available, the number of people in employment in this State had fallen to 516 500.

Mr O'Connor: Do you have the 1975 figures?

Mr DAVIES: Here we go; the Government is embarrassed.

Mr O'Connor: You are being bad-tempered.

Mr DAVIES: It is not bad temper. If it is, I apologise, but I find the Minister so dumb that I cannot get my points across.

Mr O'Connor: I asked a question.

Mr DAVIES: The Minister asked whether I had the 1975 figures and I said "No". I was about to explain that it is no good going back to 1975 because I am dealing with this Government when it made an election promise in January, 1977. I am dealing with the figures then and the figures that exist now. That is the comparison I am making. If the Minister has missed that rather subtle point I will make it again. I am dealing with the Government's broken election promise of jobs for all; of 100 000 jobs to be created. I wanted the Government to understand that between February, 1977, and January, 1979, there were 10 000 fewer jobs available in Western Australia rather than 100 000 new jobs.

Those figures have come from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and I suppose we are going to be told they are wrong. In his policy speech in 1977 the Premier promised us 100 000 jobs in seven years. I remind Government members that at the Carine High School during that election campaign the then Minister for Labour and

Industry—the member for South Perth—promised us 100 000 new jobs in 18 months.

Mr Grayden: That is out of context.

Mr DAVIES: That was heard not only by the then Leader of the Opposition but also by the students at the school. That was the approach made by the Government at the time. The Liberal Party campaign advertisements put no time limit on the number of jobs to be created; they simply promised 100 000 new jobs, leaving the impression the jobs would materialise the day after the election.

The Premier was wrong, the Minister for Labour and Industry was wrong, and the campaign advertisements were wrong. The promises were a lie and a fraud.

Mr Grayden: That is a viciously untrue statement.

Mr DAVIES: The Premier knew he could not provide the jobs; the Minister knew he could not provide the jobs; the whole Liberal Party knew it could not provide the jobs, but it did not stop them saying so. They promised them anyway. After all, who cares if promises cannot be kept? There was an election to be won and the important thing was that the election had to be won no matter what. So the guilty men and women of the Liberal Party made a promise which they knew they could not keep. The figures prove it. They played shamelessly and callously on the hopes of the unemployed—their hopes for a job and their fears of failure. They manipulated the emotions of the parents of this State; the parents who wanted to see their sons and daughters on the road to satisfying and life-time careers. They promised 100 000 new jobs but in fact they have taken away 10 000 jobs. And now people are starting to realise that they have been conned; that they have been victims of a fraud. They do not like it; and in less than 12 months they will be catching up with the perpetrators. The con men are not going to like their punishment.

The Liberal Party's promise of 100 000 new jobs is one of the greatest political frauds perpetrated in this nation's history. It was done wilfully and callously. It was a low, cheap, nasty confidence trick.

The people responsible for it deserve the same treatment reserved for ordinary confidence tricksters. They deserve more because their fraud was on a much grander scale.

Let us have no more untruthful nonsense about the rate of job creation in Australia. Since February, 1977, when the Court Government was

re-elected, we have been losing jobs at an average rate of 435 every month. These figures are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and I know you, Mr Deputy Speaker, have a high regard for them because I know you quote from them from time to time.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAVIES: I am happy to tell the member for Murray that when the Court Government took office there was one man registered as unemployed for every job vacancy. At the end of three years there were eight unemployed for every job vacancy. In January of this year there were 40 people out of work for every job vacancy. That is the sorry record since the Court Government took office.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much cross-Chamber conversation, making it most difficult to hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DAVIES: The figures go something like 1.62 per cent of the work force in 1974, three years later 4.85 per cent, and now 8.17 per cent. Does the member for Murray wish to know any more?

Mr Shalders: Is the work force up or down since 1974?

Mr DAVIES: It is down. Since this Government took office in 1975 there are 10 000 fewer jobs. That is the grand record of this Government. The jobs are lessening by 435 each month.

Let me turn now to the second myth perpetrated about Western Australia's unemployment by these charlatans; this is that our unemployment is being inflated artificially by the people coming here from other places in pursuit of the jobs the Court Government is not creating. There is no doubt that surveys taken in 1974 and in January, 1977 showed that this State had the largest net population gain per 10 000 people of any State. However, the estimates of interstate movements of people made since then show that this is no longer true. They show a marked fall in internal migration to this State.

In fact, if every person aged 15 and over who came to this State in 1978 was unemployed, they would add no more than about 3 000 to the unemployment figures. In other words, if we assume for the moment that every one of them is still unemployed and then exclude them from the figures, there would still be almost 43 000 people

out of work here. The rate of unemployment would still be about 8 per cent.

And what bad luck that is for the member for Murray. He believed his own Government's propaganda. What a pity he did not bother to check the facts before he made that absurd speech to this House, in front of that big audience, on Thursday night, the 29th March. What appeared to be his mean, narrow, nasty little scheme is now revealed as being nothing more than ludicrous and irrelevant.

When I tried to get later figures than this they were not available, but special surveys have been done and my figures are the result of those surveys. The work was done by Government agencies. Perhaps now we will have Government members criticising these figures and these agencies, saying that the agencies do not work hard enough and their hours should be extended.

The regrettable facts of the matter are that neither the Fraser nor the Court Government understands what unemployment really means to "people". From the plush bastions of privilege which they inhabit, comfortably insulated from the harsh realities of the real world, they are not even aware of the deprivation, hardship, suffering and disillusionment which prolonged unemployment causes.

If they really knew what it was all about, they would not continue to pursue their present economic policies. They would change their policies. They would do something to make more work, not just put the slogan on billboards. But since they patently do not understand the human tragedy of unemployment, perhaps they will understand the economic tragedy of unemployment.

Between February, 1978, and January, 1979, more than 112 million man-days were lost in this State through unemployment. This Government is often keen to bash the unions and to talk long and loud about strikes, bemoaning the disastrous impact it is claimed they have on the economy. So let us look at the time lost through unemployment and the time lost through strikes.

As I have just said, in the 12 months ended January this year, unemployment cost 112 million man-days. In the 36 months between March, 1974, and March, 1977—the first three years the Court Government had in office—the total time lost for the entire three years was only 615 000 man-days—in three years 615 000 man-days lost through strikes; in one year, 112 million man-days lost through unemployment. Nearly 200 times as many working days were lost in one year through

unemployment as were lost in three years through strikes.

If this State were losing 112 million man-days a year through strikes, the Court Government would be beside itself with rage. It would have Parliament in permanent emergency session; it would be passing draconian legislation; it would be goading unionists; it would have declared a state of emergency; it would give Assistance and Security a free rein.

But when we lose that amount of time through unemployment, what does it do? Nothing! The cost to the State's economy is incalculable.

However, one tiny part of the cost can be approximated; that is the cost to the unemployed in lost salaries and wages and the cost to the taxpayers in the payment of unemployment benefit. Taken together, these figures show a minimum loss to the economy of about \$350 million between February, 1978, and January, 1979, an amount equivalent to about one-third of the entire State Budget.

The figure can be calculated by taking average weekly minimum award wages for each month for males and females and multiplying it by the number of adult males and females unemployed.

A separate estimate is then made for juniors. This reveals a wage loss of between \$220 million and \$280 million. This is very much a minimum figure as many of the people out of work could normally be expected to earn more than the minimum average weekly award wage.

During the same period, the Department of Social Security paid out \$67 million to Western Australians in unemployment benefits, so there is a very small part of the economic cost of unemployment—something between \$300 million and \$350 million—and that takes no account of the huge cost of the loss of production caused by unemployment.

There is the waste of unemployment. This is the cost of the restrictive and ill-advised economic policies being followed by Liberal Governments; and make no mistake, it is the economic policies which are to blame.

Sir Charles Court: Could I come back to a figure? You said the number of people in employment in Western Australia is lower than it was two years ago.

Mr DAVIES: The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that between February,

1977, and January, 1979, there was a drop of 10 000 jobs—526 500 compared with—

Sir Charles Court: It is a strange thing—

Mr DAVIES: Wait a minute! Let me finish! The Premier asks me a question and then will not let me answer! He does this repeatedly to me, even in private conversation! He tries to shout me down. He thinks he is talking to one of his office boys! He is not talking to an office boy!

Sir Charles Court: You are going purple again.

Mr DAVIES: These are the really funny things he says. Even in private conversation he tries to shout me down as if he were talking to one of his office boys. Only the other night standing here I had to ask him to let me finish what I was saying.

Sir Charles Court: Don't talk nonsense!

Mr DAVIES: We hear him saying, "Ho, ho!", "Ha, ha!", "He, he!", and "Just a minute; listen to me!" I am not taking it from him. I am not one of his office boys or his driver.

Sir Charles Court: Thank God you are not!

Mr DAVIES: He might be able to argue with and talk down all those people or even his wife, but he certainly will not talk me down. He asked me what the figures were and I was telling him that the ABS figures indicate that in February, 1977, there were 526 500 in employment in Western Australia while in January, 1979—the latest month for which the figures were available—there were 516 500 in employment, which is a drop of 10 000. When the Premier speaks later on this evening, if he does not dodge the issue like he did when he would not receive a petition this evening—

Sir Charles Court: Don't talk nonsense!

Mr DAVIES: The Premier dodged going out to meet those fellows.

Sir Charles Court: Nonsense! We have a Minister to do these things.

Mr DAVIES: They invited the Premier and me, but the Premier sent out one of his lads—the Minister for Transport.

Sir Charles Court: He happens to be the Minister responsible.

Mr DAVIES: The Premier was in the House, but he dodged going out to meet the people who came here to present a petition.

Sir Charles Court: I will tell you if you will pause for one minute—

Mr DAVIES: No I will not! I am on my feet and I am not pausing for anyone because the Premier will have an opportunity later this evening. I am going to say a few words about

unemployment and he can then give us his version.

Sir Charles Court: It is a strange thing—

Mr DAVIES: The Premier is starting to go red. What is the matter?

Sir Charles Court: It is a strange thing that the Treasury report shows that employment over those two years you are talking about is up 3.3 per cent and is the highest increase in the whole of Australia.

Mr DAVIES: I am sorry the ABS figures are incorrect!

Sir Charles Court: I will back the Treasury's figures.

Mr Bryce: They are capable of producing anything under your direction—absolutely anything!

Sir Charles Court: That's a lovely thing to say!

Mr Bryce: We prefer to rely on the ABS figures.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAVIES: I knew that the figures I quoted would not be accepted because they do not suit the Government's purpose.

Sir Charles Court: The Treasury says it is up 3.3 per cent.

Mr DAVIES: There the Premier goes—shouting me down again!

I will shortly move an amendment, and that will not surprise members. That will give the Premier an opportunity to tell his side of the story and it will also give an opportunity to a few members on this side to rebut some of his figures because we will hear only the part of the argument which suits the Premier. I am trying to deal with all aspects right from the initial promises of the Liberal Party in Western Australia which it made in its policy speech in 1977. I am trying to cover all the loopholes although I am quite certain I will not be able to do so.

Mine is a genuine attempt to look at the great problem with which the Government has yet to come to grips. The Government will not be able to answer us because if it had the answers it would have instituted some action before this.

I come back to the point that it is the economic policies of the Government which are to blame.

It causes me great amusement to hear Liberal spokesmen trying to justify the continuing economic problems of this nation and this State on the grounds of unfavourable international factors.

How they roared; how they laughed; how they blustered when the Federal Government in 1974 pointed to the international economic problems—which were certainly much more worrying and powerful then than they are now—to give at least a partial explanation of Australia's economic problems.

The Liberals claimed this was a farce. They claimed that all our problems of unemployment and inflation were of our own making. They claimed it was a lie.

How amusing then to hear them now seeking to hide behind international factors to explain their own failures. It is now our turn to laugh!

How can they expect anyone to take them seriously? It is time that the Fraser Government and the Court Government gave unemployment the top priority.

I pledge here and now that getting Western Australians back to work will be the top priority of the next State Labor Government. I will not be so rash as to claim that we can wipe the problem out completely—only sensible economic management and policies on a national level can do that. However, I will say that we will make the problem our top priority and that we will make an impact on it.

Of course we must explain some of the measures we might use to do this. It is not unreasonable that we should be asked to do this.

Firstly, we will make special budgetary allocations for labour-intensive job-creation programmes. The spending will be concentrated in the parts of the State with the highest levels of unemployment. We will also try to arrange spending so that the work which is done will be suitable for people in those job categories in which unemployment is higher than the average.

This will be a real programme to alleviate unemployment, not the hollow sham which the Government parades under the false title of job creation. That programme is a fraud. It provides for work which would have been done anyway. It spends funds which would have been spent on the maintenance of public buildings anyway. The only thing which is different about it is that it has been given a separate heading in the Budget speech.

It does not concentrate on the areas of greatest need. It does not concentrate on the people in greatest need. In fact, it is a joke.

Our scheme will be operated in conjunction with local authorities so that projects which are socially and economically useful will be undertaken. The whole community will get the benefit of facilities and services it would not

otherwise get. As far as possible, the jobs will have a training element in them.

The amount to be allocated to the scheme will be decided upon when we come into office and will depend on the budgetary scope for re-ordering priorities and the magnitude of the unemployment problem at the time.

Secondly, we will negotiate with the business community and resource developers with the aim of achieving a more even and steady rate of development. We will be seeking steady, sustained development rather than the booms and busts which have caused severe distortions in the labour market in the past.

Thirdly, we will seek to introduce a range of incentives to attract manufacturing industry and small business. This will be done because it is these sectors of business which are the big employers.

The mining industry is tremendously important to Western Australia's economy—no-one denies this—but it employs only 3.5 per cent of the work force.

The manufacturing sector is comparatively small in Western Australia, but it still provides almost 44 per cent of jobs.

The wholesale and retail trades, which are dominated by small businesses, employ almost 21 per cent of the work force.

These figures demonstrate the necessity of assisting employment growth in these areas.

Fourthly, we will move urgently to identify the impact of rapidly advancing technological change on the employment market. We will seek to combat the tendency it has to throw people out of work and we will seek to take advantage of the new career opportunities it creates. We will ensure that this State is prepared for the impact of technological change on the employment market.

Fifthly, and above all, we will use the Premiers' Conference and the Loan Council as forums to promote and argue for more sane and sensible economic policies on the national level.

We will join with the like-minded Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania to impress upon the Fraser Government as forcefully as we know how that unemployment must be reduced and that its economic policies must be changed to do it.

The economy must be stimulated. I have said this consistently. The screws must be taken off. There must be more money for selected public works. Something must be done to give the nation as a whole and the business community a lead.

Only the national Government can give such a lead at national level. It has to be told to do so. Sensible economic policies have to be pushed forcefully. We will do it. The Court Government has failed to do so.

Sir Charles Court: We have done it.

Mr DAVIES: The principal difference between a Labor Government and the Court and Fraser Governments will be that we are determined to get people working. We are determined to come to grips with unemployment. They are not.

Mr Rushton: Are you quoting something or are these your own words?

Mr DAVIES: These are my words. Is the Minister happy about that?

Mr Rushton: I was wondering whether you were quoting someone.

Mr Sibson: I thought you were quoting from the Whitlam speech of 1972.

Mr DAVIES: Is there anything else the Minister wants to ask or may I continue?

I am saying that the economic policies being pursued by the Old-Court and Fraser Governments are tragically wrong. The employment situation in this State deteriorates at a faster level than in any other State.

Mr Sibson: We are the best in the country.

Mr DAVIES: It is a shame to hear people like the member for Bunbury who represents an electorate with a large pocket of unemployment saying that this is the best in the country. I am sure his electors would hope that he could offer something better than they are getting at present.

At the last election the Court Government wilfully misled the electorate about what it could do. The Liberals do not care about unemployment. They do not have the policies to combat it. They have failed to live up to their promises.

Amendment to Motion

Mr DAVIES: I know everyone on the other side will want to say a few words on this subject, so to give them the opportunity to do so, with all sincerity and with complete justice, in view of what I have just said, I move—

That the following words be added to the motion—

but we regret to inform Your Excellency that your Government wilfully misled the people of Western Australia at the last election with dishonest promises of 100 000 new jobs and security of employment through continued growth.

Further, this House expresses its concern that:

- * The number of people unemployed has risen from 25 506 in February, 1977 to 45 825 in February, 1979 and that there are more people out of work this year than at any previous time in the State's history.
- * Since the last election, the number of jobs in Western Australia has fallen by 10 000 from 526 500 to 516 500.
- * There are now 40 people out of work for every vacant job, compared with 8 people for every vacancy in February, 1977.
- * The continued growth and security of employment which was promised has not occurred, largely because of the economic policies being pursued by your Government and the Commonwealth Government.

I have given my reasons for my having moved the amendment. I believe it is justified and, in our reply to His Excellency's address, we should advise him that this Parliament is concerned with the position as I have detailed it.

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.30 p.m.]: I have pleasure in seconding the amendment, and I would like to emphasise that I believe at this stage we ought to inform His Excellency that the proof is all about us that His Excellency's Government wilfully misled the people at the last election—

Mr Sibson: Things are so grim; how can you have pleasure in seconding it?

Mr BRYCE: —and has in its fifth year in office demonstrated it is not capable of handling the task it was given in 1974.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Premier has proved to be indeed a mean accountant who is preoccupied with balance sheets and, with his profit-and-loss mentality, is determined to balance the Budget; but his capacity actually to handle the economy is now seriously questioned by everybody who observes and notices what is happening in Western Australia.

The Premier cannot now say the Whitlam Government is to be blamed. He cannot even blame, through his own eyes, the international situation, because he defies the influence of the international economic scene when he is condemning other Governments. So we do not expect he will rise in this debate and have the temerity to blame what is happening overseas, because there was a time in his career when he

professed to have at his disposal the answers to all of the ills of the western economic world. He has seriously proposed to various meetings of captains of industry, leaders of other Governments, and visitors to this State over the last five to 10 years that if only the western world would listen to his solutions he would show it the way out of the darkness.

I intend later on this evening to suggest to members of this House that we should seriously examine some of the Premier's solutions to the State's economic problems. The reality of our economic situation is that the Premier has now been at the helm for more than five years and in that time the economy of this State has been on a permanent downward trend. There is absolutely no question in the mind of any economist or political observer that this is the reality facing all Western Australians.

In that context, when the Premier had the hide—the unmitigated gall—to go to the people in 1977 and promise them 100 000 jobs, he knew he was deliberately deceiving the people of Western Australia, because he knew there was no way on God's earth that he could deliver that promise; no way whatsoever.

Might I say through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the Premier showed no interest whatsoever, in the full-page advertisements bearing his countenance which appeared in the Press day after day in that pre-election period in 1917—

Mr Davies: Not 1917.

Mr BRYCE: In the pre-election period in 1977. The year I mentioned in a slip of the tongue is precisely where the Premier's thinking finished—pre-Keynesian, as you, Mr Deputy Speaker, being a fine student of economics, would appreciate. That is about where the Premier's thinking on these macro-economic issues finished—in 1917.

But in 1977, when the Premier was making these extravagant promises to the people of Western Australia, he showed practically no concern for the reality of the situation. Full-page advertisements in *The West Australian* carried a photograph of the Premier taking up at least a third of the page, with the banner headline "Prospects for 100 000 jobs". There was no suggestion or qualification that these were to be provided in seven years.

We noticed that the Premier scurried into print, when the controversy burst around him, to qualify the promise by saying that was exactly the amount of time he wanted; and as my leader has indicated, the Minister of the day responsible for matters relating to the employment of the

Western Australian work force—the then Minister for Labour and Industry, who, as we in this Chamber well know, inclines to overstatement and exaggeration only from time to time—at a public meeting gave an undertaking that the Government of the day would provide those 100 000 jobs in two years; or was it 18 months?

Mr Grayden: Over a period of years; and it will.

Mr BRYCE: Hundreds of students heard him say it would be done in 18 months to two years, and the Leader of the Opposition also heard him.

Mr Young: What period was mentioned in the policy speech?

Mr BRYCE: It is very interesting to hear the Minister for Health ask what was in the policy speech. The Premier hastened to emphasise, as far as the policy speech was concerned, that it would be seven years.

Mr Young: That is right. That was the first announcement.

Mr BRYCE: But the Minister responsible then set about the task of upstaging his leader and promised the people of Western Australia it would be done not in seven years but two years or 18 months. Would the people of Western Australia be forgiven for believing that the Minister responsible for employment promised it would not take seven years but only two years?

Mr Grayden: The Government was going to create 100 000 jobs in seven years.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have no doubt you will recall that between 1974 and 1977 the Government's handling of the economy had been equally dismal. What a healthy economy the Premier inherited from the Tonkin Government! It was as prosperous as it had ever been, with a measly 1.6 per cent of the work force registered for work and only 7 500 Western Australians out of work. The Treasury had never been so prosperous; the number of people in work had rarely been exceeded. That was the condition of the economy when this Government came to office.

Since then we have had a permanent downward trend. The bottom has fallen out of the show, despite the fact that Western Australians were led to believe in 1974 and again in 1977 that we would return to the conditions of the 1960s. On so many occasions the Premier promised that all the people of Western Australia had to do was place their trust in him and he would bring back the golden days of the 1960s. He is now in his sixth year in office, and he has egg on his face.

Mr Grayden: How many jobs have been created, do you know?

Mr BRYCE: I will have pleasure in demonstrating to the former Minister for Labour and Industry and his front-bench and back-bench colleagues that whereas the Premier stood up on the hustings in 1977 and promised the people of Western Australia 100 000 jobs, the Government now owes the people 110 000 jobs; and at the rate at which the bottom is falling out of the economy, when it goes to the polls late this year or early next year the Government will owe the people of Western Australia 120 000 jobs. That is the true mark of the Government's performance.

I think the time is appropriate for me to remind members opposite of the full-page advertisements which appeared day after day in *The West Australian* during the course of the 1977 election campaign. In February, 1977, countless full-page advertisements appeared in print one and a half inches high. The advertisement leads off in this fashion—

100,000 new jobs . . . that's the real prospect for young people in the West.

"That's the real prospect", the Liberal Party had the hide to say.

Mr Stephens: What is the date of the newspaper?

Mr BRYCE: The 15th February, 1977. There were countless numbers of these advertisements. I do not have them all. If I had a complete set, I would be keen to table them. The advertisement goes on—

Maybe you're a school leaver, a parent or a friend. You're concerned about getting good jobs, wider opportunity. The Court Government will bring them about for you.

What a promise! To continue—

Not Labor's gloom and doom boys. Remember, they're the ones who created the biggest ever foul-up of the economy and your prospects, just a short time ago.

Those on the front bench on the Government side would love to be back in 1974. The Premier would love an unemployment rate of 1.6 per cent. How he would love to have the bright prospects for the Treasury that he had in 1974! So much for the trouble this Government inherited. It inherited a prosperous situation and it has gone bad on the Government.

Mr Crane: We inherited Gough.

Mr BRYCE: The advertisement goes on—

The Court Government will create 100 000 new jobs through beneficial development of our State. It's under way now.

That is the crunch. The Liberal Party had the temerity to tell the people "it's on the way now" in 1977. As the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out tonight, when these misleading and false statements were being made in the newspaper, 526 500 Western Australians had work, and today 516 500 have work. There has been a net reduction of 10 000, yet the Liberal Party advertisements of the time had the gall to say in February, 1977, "It's on the way now".

Mr Grayden: Of course it is under way.

Mr BRYCE: The concluding sentence is—

The way to ensure a great future for yourself, your family and your friends in the West is to return the Court Government.

What a pious hope that was! "Keep the West in firm hands"! How sloppily those firm hands have managed the economy! How the reputation of Ministers of the Government as great managers of this economic system has gone down the chute!

Mr Watt: How do you reckon it would be had you been in government?

Mr BRYCE: With the greatest respect, we would expect to be enjoying the same degree of prosperity—if not greater prosperity—that existed when the Tonkin Government left office in 1974. This Government inherited a first-class economy and has turned it sour. Opportunities have slipped through the Government's fingers and ghost towns have appeared all over the place. I look forward to giving a list of them shortly.

Underneath the large photograph of the Premier, in about .6 print on the bottom of the page this classic invitation appears—

If you have a question or a suggestion phone the Liberal Party Information Centre—

Then the telephone numbers are given. Might I suggest an appropriate question would be: How many times does the Liberal Party think it can make suckers of the people of Western Australia by promising to bring back the golden days of the 1960s with methods that were outdated in the 1940s?

I wonder whether I could make a suggestion to the Liberal Party that was appropriate when this advertisement was printed, and which is also appropriate today: that the stuff of which the advertisement was made was wilfully misleading then and the attempts of the Premier to justify it now are equally wilfully misleading.

Mr Grayden: Absolute rubbish!

Mr BRYCE: The Premier is banking a great deal on the North-West Shelf gas project.

Mr Sodeman: How many jobs will it produce?

Mr BRYCE: The Premier sincerely hopes that project will be a panacea. As to the number of jobs, there are various guesstimates because nobody is really sure how many jobs it will produce. Maybe it will produce 5 000 jobs in the construction stage, or maybe it will produce a few more; but the reality of the way the project is shaping at the present time is that the Premier is saying on one hand, and being supported by the Minister for Industrial Development on the other hand, that there is no fat on this project. He is saying that as an excuse for telling Western Australian manufacturers, fabrication works, building suppliers, etc., "You should not hold out too much hope that jobs will flow to Western Australia, because experience with this type of project in other countries has proven that a vast majority of the contract work goes to overseas countries." In the North Sea oil development, 68 per cent of the work bypassed British industry and went to American and European industry because the people who were developing that resource made decisions to suit themselves.

The bulk of this gas will go overseas; the majority of the consortium is owned by overseas shareholders; and Western Australia has been softened up to accept the reality that a large slice of the work to be done to bring the project to fruition will go to overseas countries.

As you resume the Chair, Mr Speaker, you will be most interested to recall that the Confederation of Western Australian Industry has expressed its concern about this. This is not just the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the shadow Minister for Industrial Development expressing concern; no less a body than the Confederation of Western Australian Industry has expressed public concern and fear at the way the Government is approaching this project.

Mr Mensaros: That is absolute rubbish!

Mr BRYCE: The statement has been made many times that the Confederation of Western Australian Industry is fearful, because of the Government's approach, that the majority of the construction and infrastructure work will go overseas.

Mr Mensaros: "Because of the Government's approach." All right.

Mr BRYCE: The Government is turning to Western Australian industry and saying, "Don't expect assistance from us. Stand on your own two feet. There is no fat on this project, so don't expect sympathy from us." The Government has

come to expect that what happened to British industry in relation to the North Sea development will happen in Western Australia. It is telling Western Australian industry to expect to be bypassed because the Government will not go out of its way to help. All these warnings have been issued by the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development, and I am not the only one in this State who is beginning to show concern about the situation. Therefore, we can expect that the North-West Shelf project will not be the great panacea the Government suggests to the people it will be.

The first economic indicator I suggested that the House ought to consider to measure objectively the performance of this Government is its rather appalling record in terms of actual employment. The second indicator I would suggest the House consider is the question of unemployment. It is the other side of the coin. The Government's record in terms of unemployment has been put to the House by the Leader of the Opposition.

Dearly would the Premier like to wake up in the morning and find the number of unemployed people in this State had shrunk to the level it was when he took over the helm in 1974, when a mere 7 500 people were out of work, the vast majority of whom would have been seasonal workers. Dearly would he love to get rid of this horror, this monkey on his back, this reality that 46 000 Western Australians are out of work. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, it is universally accepted that there is a hidden component in figures put out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. That hidden component amounts to as much as 25 per cent. The Australian Bureau of Statistics currently says Western Australia has a level of unemployment of 8 per cent, but the hidden component could amount to a further 25 per cent of that amount.

Mr MacKinnon: Are not the Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures less than the CES figures?

Mr BRYCE: It does not matter which of the figures one uses; if one wishes in all sincerity to apply the litmus test to this Government's handling of the economy, one is forced to concede that unemployment has skyrocketed to a point which exceeds anything since the great depression. In real terms—I am not talking about whichever statistical source one uses—nearly 60 000 Western Australians who want work are out of work at the present time.

Mr MacKinnon: How do you justify that?

Mr BRYCE: I have given the member the justification for it. The ABS figures explain that 8

per cent of the work force is out of work, and 8 per cent of Western Australia's work force equals between 46 000 and 47 000 people; and in addition to that there is a hidden component of as much as another 25 per cent. Therefore, the number of people out of work is between 58 000 and 60 000. How can members opposite sit back and have the cheek to say their Government is handling the economy well in the face of those figures? How can they hold up their heads as the party—

Mr Grayden: We are better than any other State, that is all.

Mr BRYCE:—that said to the people of Western Australia, "We will provide work for all"? That was the key to the situation at that time. It was said 100 000 jobs would be created, but there was no mention in those full-page advertisements that it would take more than seven years to create them. The people were led to believe a golden era was just around the corner.

Mr Grayden: It is now.

Mr BRYCE: Well! Almost two years ago a similar amendment was moved to the Address-in-Reply in this place because we on this side were most concerned that the number of unemployed people in Western Australia had reached a post-war all-time high of about 24 000 or 25 000 as a result of the economic policies of the Fraser Government and the way in which the State Government was showing its wholehearted support for those policies.

We indicated then we were fearful that by Christmas, 1977, 30 000 Western Australians would be out of work. We said if the economic lunacy continued through subsequent Budgets, our fear was that by Christmas, 1978, 40 000 Western Australians would be out of work.

At that time, of course, the then Minister for Labour and Industry could only exclaim to us across the Chamber, "Rubbish! Rubbish! Rubbish!" just as we are so accustomed to hear from him. He said "Rubbish!" 12 months ago; and he said "Rubbish" two years ago when we warned him that the policies of the Fraser Government, ably and totally supported by the Court Government, would produce the economic trauma that we have on our hands at this moment.

Mr Grayden: All you have succeeded in doing is frightening the former Labor Premier of South Australia out of Australia.

Mr Bateman: What are you talking about? Let us have some sensible debate.

Mr Grayden: He couldn't stand it any longer.

Mr BRYCE: That is about the most uncompassionate remark I can recall the member for South Perth ever making in this House. I sincerely believe that to be the case. Most Australians who are involved in politics, irrespective of their political complexion—and including the Premier of this State—respected the dedication of the former Premier of South Australia when he announced his retirement due to ill-health. All those people expressed their disappointment that a man of such capacity and dedication had to quit the scene. It ill behoves the member for South Perth to demean himself by making that sort of interjection.

Another very important economic indicator that can only be an objective measure of how the economy is performing, particularly for the so-called champions of free enterprise, is to apply the gauge to the number of businesses that have failed in Western Australia in the time the Court Government has been at the helm controlling the economic destiny of this State.

Most of the members of the Government back benches are probably completely unaware that 1 400 Western Australian companies have gone to the wall since the Government has been in office. That is a disastrous rate of company failure, and it is a slight on the Government. Because the Court Government has had an unhealthy preoccupation with multi-million dollar, multi-national projects in an attempt to return to the glorious days of the 1960s, it has atrociously neglected the needs of Western Australian business enterprise and, in particular, small business.

So the small businesses have gone to the wall. This Government—and the Department of Industrial Development in particular—has demonstrated that in this field it has been found wanting more seriously than in any other. A great amount of the annual budget available to the Department of Industrial Development is spent on convincing Western Australians how rosy their future is going to be and how the trips overseas by their Minister and their Premier are designed to bring back that wave of glory: while all the time small businesses in Western Australia have been going to the wall.

Mr Coyne: That was caused by the Whitlam Government.

Mr BRYCE: Might I remind the member for Murchison-Eyre that the Whitlam Government, for all its evils that have been paraded in this Chamber by members opposite, was the first Government in Australia at any level to set up a small business bureau and to demonstrate a real

concern for the small businessman—the small businessman who has been sent to the wall primarily by the disastrous economic policies of the Fraser Government. Fraser has put the screws onto small businesses by cutting back spending; and the spending of Governments is precisely where so many small businesses receive their lifeblood. They rely on supply contracts, transport contracts, etc. There are many thousands of contracts that small businesses depend upon that are stimulated by Government spending. Fraser knew it would be not only the employees and workers of this country who would pay the price, but also that thousands and thousands of small businessmen would go to the wall as a result of his single-minded preoccupation with inflation.

Mr Coyne: That happened right throughout Australia. You must make comparisons with other States.

Mr Grayden: How many went to the wall in South Australia?

Mr BRYCE: Perhaps it is appropriate for me to remind the member for South Perth and the member for Murchison-Eyre that they are members of a Government which has given its wholehearted support to Fraser's stupidity. The State Government has thrown its complete support behind Fraser's single-minded commitment to a war on inflation, irrespective of the cost. That is the essence of it.

Mr Wilson: It is an obsession.

Mr BRYCE: Precisely. It is an obsession, and it is an unhealthy obsession. Fraser is doing it to impress his friends in New York and London. He desperately seeks invitations to address investor organisations in those capitals. He likes to be able to stand up and say, "We have brought inflation down from 12 or 13 per cent to 9 per cent, and we have done it marvellously."

However, he does not mention the price he has extracted from Australian employees and small businessmen in doing so. The tragedy of it is that at this stage practically every economic observer in this country now expects that rate of inflation to return to double figures again. We have reached 9 per cent, and everybody expects it to go back into double figures. What a hell of a price we have paid: Two hundred thousand people have been virtually lined up against the wall in terms of their job opportunities because of the Prime Minister's complete commitment—his obsession—to reducing inflation.

In the foreseeable future, we can expect the Premier of Western Australia to attempt to distance himself from Fraser because he knows he has practically no hope of surviving at the polls in

Western Australia unless he begins to create the image of somebody who will stand up to Canberra, even if it is a Liberal Government.

Sir Charles Court: He always has done.

Mr BRYCE: He never has done in terms of basic economic philosophy.

Perhaps the area of Government activity that causes it more sleepless nights than any other is its dismal performance in the mining sector. So, as a fourth economic indicator, I believe we should examine precisely what has happened in Western Australia during the time this Government has been in office. We were told to expect marvellous, endless amounts of foreign investment in resource development when the Liberal Government returned to office. Those of us who were here at the time recall those priceless phrases used by the Premier when he was in a highly agitated and frustrated condition as a member of the Opposition in this place between 1971 and 1974. All we had to do was put a Liberal Government back onto the Treasury benches, and our problems would be solved.

The Premier has had more than five years now and he just has not produced the goods, as I intend to demonstrate quite objectively. Members should examine the rather tragic list of resource development projects which have been closed down, which have gone out of business and put up the sign, "Men not wanted. All activities ceased" since this Government came into office. For the sake of the record, I believe some of these ghost town situations should be committed to *Hansard*.

I refer firstly to the Windarra-Poseidon nickel project at Mt. Windarra, which closed in 1978, and to the South Windarra project which also closed in 1978.

Sir Charles Court: You are not up with the field.

Mr BRYCE: Even if these projects start up again, who can know how long it will be before the Premier adopts once again that expression of despair and announces it has shut down again?

The second project to close was the Anaconda Redross nickel mine, which ceased production in 1978. The Wyloo marble project folded in 1977, the Blue Speck goldmine venture at Nullagine ceased operations in 1978 and the Western Mining Corporation's mineral sands operation at Jurien Bay closed down in 1978.

Mr Mensaros: Closed down?

Mr BRYCE: Let the Minister for Mines visit Jurien Bay and see if it has not closed down.

Mr Mensaros: It never started.

Mr BRYCE: I happen to know fairly well the people who supplied the power to the project, and I suggest to the Minister that it did start.

Mr Mensaros: It never started.

Mr BRYCE: The Kalgoorlie Mining Associates' Fimiston gold project folded in 1976, the Hill 50 goldmine at Mt. Magnet in 1976, and the Koolanooka Western Mining iron ore project near Geraldton in late 1974.

Sir Charles Court: Koolanooka used up all its ore.

Mr BRYCE: I am just providing the Premier with a list of all those projects which have gone bust. We are not at all surprised at the Premier's reluctance to stand in this place or on the hustings and inform the people just what has occurred. In fact, the Premier has reached such an absurd position with some of his statements that it would not surprise us if he promised the people, after promising them 100 000 jobs, that he could create iron ore, because that is precisely the sort of statement he is prepared to make.

Mr Grill: A sort of reverse King Midas.

Mr BRYCE: The last project to which I wish to refer is the Texada operation at Lake McLeod. In fact, many people are of the view that Lake McLeod will never again get off the ground.

Mr Laurance: Are you of that view?

Mr BRYCE: I said "many people". I intend going up to Carnarvon to study the situation at first hand to ascertain whether some of the things I have heard are correct.

The very impressive list which the Premier of this State has never felt comfortable about acknowledging details the projects which got off the ground during the period of the Tonkin Labor Government, from 1971 to 1974. I intend to commit these to the record. They are as follows—

Pinjarra Alcoa alumina refinery.

I expect the Premier is going to try to take the credit for that one. In fact, however, it was begun by the Minister for Mines, who commenced negotiations on that project on behalf of the outgoing Hawke Government in 1959. It was not the white knight on his great charger who leads the Government today.

Sir Charles Court: You have a great imagination.

Mr BRYCE: That can be attested to very simply by establishing the facts. If the Premier wants to stand in this Parliament and lay claim to them, and if he wants to deny that Arthur Moir was the Minister for Mines in this State who began the negotiations and discussions for the

establishment of the bauxite industry in this State, let him do so.

The list of industrial development projects commenced under the Tonkin Government between 1971 and 1974 continues—

Telfer Gold Mine east of Mt. Newman, 1972.

Allied Eneabba mineral sands, 1972.

Shay Gap expansion, 1972—Goldsworthy Company Ltd.

Wapet Natural Gas at Dongara, 1973.

Windarra nickel mine—Western Mining & Poseidon, 1972.

Hampton smelter—Western Mining, 1972.

Anaconda—Redross Nickel mine, 1973.

Dampier salt, 1971.

Wyloo marble projects, 1972-73

Sir Charles Court: You are not going to take credit for the Hampton smelter, are you?

Mr BRYCE: The Premier will forgive me if I use his method of argument because in the short time I have been here I have learnt a great deal from him. Tonight, I have taken the opportunity to deliver back to him on a plate the evidence that in the five years he has been in office there has been a wholesale closing down of projects and creation of ghost towns. His leadership has been in marked contrast to the impact on the economy of the Tonkin Labor Government, as the list has just demonstrated.

Let us have a look at the projects which have commenced since the Court Government has been in office. Firstly there was a diatomaceous earth project. Next we have the Blue Speck goldmining operation which, as I said, has just gone out of business. Next we have the Jennings Industries heavy sands operation near Eneabba, which got off the ground in 1974. Western Titanium commenced a new operation in 1976; I understand that is somewhere in the south-west. Another project to have commenced since 1974 is the Western Mining Jurien Bay sand mine operation. However, the Minister for Mines informs me this never got off the ground. So, even if he does not accept responsibility for it blowing up in his face, and even though the project is listed as operational by his department, he cannot take credit for it.

Other projects to have commenced since 1974 were—

The benefaction plants established for Hamersley and Newman, 1977-78.

The Agnew nickel project at Leinster, 1978.

The Nepean project, 1974-78.

Selcast Exploration Ltd. nickel project, Kalgoorlie.

Mt. Seabrook talc—West Side Mines.

Agnew Clough's vanadium venture, Wundowie.

When one examines the respective lists, it demonstrates that this Government's record as a great developer in the field of resource developments has turned sour; it certainly cannot compare with the record of the Tonkin Labor Government.

It is also pertinent to consider what has happened to the work force which has been involved in the mining sector. Ever since this Government took over the helm of this State's economy, the rate of growth of the civilian work force involved in the mining sector has continued to grow at a declining rate. In June, 1974, some 18 700 civilians were involved in the mining sector; in June, 1975, this figure had increased by 9 per cent to 20 400. That was the prosperous situation this Government took over from the Tonkin Government. In June, 1976, the civilian work force employed in the mining sector had risen to 21 700, an increase of 6.4 per cent. In June, 1977, there were 22 700 civilians employed in the mining sector, an increase of only 4.6 per cent on the previous year. However, by June, 1978, only 20 900 civilians were involved in the Western Australian mining sector. Therefore, there has been a net drop in the number employed in that sector.

We face the reality that in 1978, we were back to the 1975 level of employment in the mining sector. Yet this is supposed to be the State Government's baby in relation to our prospects for creating and securing employment.

Mr Speaker, as I draw to a conclusion, I refer to the fifth and final economic indicator of how this State is going. It can be found in an examination of what has happened with building approvals because the figures relating to this area of industry alone demonstrate that the bottom has fallen out of the Western Australian economy. Traditionally, the building industry has been the barometer of economic activity. Yet this Government, which was going to provide 100 000 jobs and job security for all almost at the snap of its fingers, has presided over a very serious downturn in the building industry.

In January, 1977, there were \$732.5 million-worth of building approvals. In January, 1978, that figure had dropped to \$710.2 million. However, by January, 1979, the figure had dropped even further to \$686.4 million-worth of building approvals for new constructions. There has been a dramatic drop in real terms, and members opposite are fully aware of it.

As I said at the outset, many of us on this side of the House have desperately searched for the Premier's secret weapon, to see what he is going to use to get the economy back on its feet. What he is desperately looking for and trying to achieve is a rhetoric-led recovery. He has been trying to talk the economy up.

How often do we hear of the Premier addressing symposiums and seminars with the following lead-in statements, "Put your shoulders to the wheel boys and let us get things moving", "Put your nose to the grindstone" and, "Take off your coats and get the job done"? That is simply rhetoric. My worthy colleague, the member for Balcatta, has already referred to the Premier as the Minister who expounds the hovercraft theory of development, expecting the State to get off the ground on the basis of hot air alone. This is quite true.

The Premier has ridiculed the idea of a Government-led recovery and of a consumer-led recovery. He talks only of an investment-led recovery. In fact, the only iota of recovery this economy has seen since he has been at the helm of this State has been a weather-led recovery, because seasons have improved, and that led to a very significant increase in the value of agricultural production. It had absolutely nothing to do with the Government of the day.

So, this mean-minded accountant who presents himself as the person who is competent to bring back those glorious days of the 1960s in fact has been a dismal failure at the helm of the State's affairs since 1974.

I should like to conclude by saying to you, Sir, as I suggested at the outset, when the Government promised jobs for all and 100 000 jobs at the drop of a hat, it wilfully misled the people in 1977. It wilfully misled the people in 1974, and in precisely the same way as it makes these promises today, it appears that it is setting itself about the task of wilful deception as far as the future is concerned.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [9.16 p.m.]: We have had a very desperate attempt by the Opposition tonight to try to discredit the Government and to try to give the impression that the Government has not been able to live up to its policy promises made when it went to the electors in 1977. The Opposition has been prepared to spread gloom and despair in a hysterical way all over the Chamber.

I reject completely the motion moved to amend the Address-in-Reply. I do not believe what has been put forward does credit to the Opposition.

We expected something better than this in one of the several rehearsals—

Mr H. D. Evans: You say this every time.

Mr Bryce: Every time! How old you are getting.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —it is going to have between now and the next election. One does not deny the Opposition the opportunity to have a little practice, but we expect it to do better than it has done tonight.

I want to say at the outset that members of the Opposition seem to be ashamed of being Western Australians.

Mr Bryce: We are not. We are proud of it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: There is not a businessman or a citizen who comes to this State from other States of Australia who does not feel that there is an air of confidence, an air of—

Mr Bryce: Rhetoric!

Sir CHARLES COURT: —expectancy that is not present in any other State. If members go to any other State they will find when they visit the towns and the cities the air of recession and depression which exists there compared to the air of confidence in Western Australia. Why do not members opposite get behind their State and have some pride in it? The Labor Party over there—

Mr Grill: You have ruined this State.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —has an air of gloom and despair in the same manner as does its Federal leader. Members opposite pray that unemployment will increase. They pray that projects will be shut down or that they will not get off the ground. They pray that there will be another disaster which they hope will help them in their programme which will culminate at the end of the year.

I want to tell members opposite that the people of this State will not be fooled, because they know the situation.

Mr Wilson: That is all propaganda.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The people know the conditions in this State and they have a very good idea, not only of the conditions under which they live, but also of the conditions which exist in other States. I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition that when we go to the next election we will be very proud to parade our policy documents of 1974 and 1977.

Mr Barnett: They will be full of rubbish.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We will be proud to parade them, because I doubt whether any other Government in the history of this State has implemented such a major part of its programme.

After all, no Government can implement the whole programme.

Mr Bryce: All except the three big ones.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Not only have we implemented the major part of our programme, but we have also gone further. I want to remind members opposite—and this is what the public will judge—

Mr Tonkin: Get down to the facts. Forget all the rubbish!

Sir CHARLES COURT: —that this Government has been prepared to go forward in a balanced way in all departments of government.

Mr Bryce: Balanced!

Sir CHARLES COURT: Whether we look at education or health; whether we look at the moves we are making in respect of transport; whether we look at what we are doing in the industrial field and take account of the number of apprentices we have, these are the matters we want to talk about. The developments in the cultural field are further ahead and better than those of any other Government in the history of this State.

These are the sorts of matters by which a Government is judged. The Opposition wants to talk about unemployment. It wants to talk about employment also. I want to tell the House, and I hope the people in the gallery are listening—

Mr Bryce: Is there any sort of a threat if they are not?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members opposite may laugh; but we happen to have another gallery as well as that one, because we have been watching members opposite in action over the last couple of years.

I want to say quite categorically that the Treasury figures, which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition disparaged and when referring to them, made some shocking remarks about some of the very wonderful officers who have served Governments of all political colours, are perfectly accurate. No-one who served in the Tonkin Government would criticise the senior Treasury officers who were responsible for these figures. The civilian employment in this State has increased at a greater rate than it has in any other State of Australia.

Mr Bryce: That is not so.

Sir CHARLES COURT: There has been an increase of 3.3 per cent. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says that is not so, but I am staking my reputation on what the Treasury has advised me.

Mr Bryce: You staked your reputation on being able to solve unemployment within six months of getting into office. You said, "I stake my reputation on it." We are not interested in your reputation any longer in respect of these matters.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to revert to the six months' figure, I can tell him that I still stand by what I said at the time. At that time Australia was riding high and we had a Government in Canberra which was prepared to co-operate with the States. The member should not misquote remarks and take them out of context.

Mr Davies: We did not misquote you.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members opposite tried to misquote the member for South Perth tonight. They should stick to the facts and they should quote them in the right context.

Mr Davies: We did not misquote him.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I want to say categorically that the figures given to us by the Treasury people show that the employment figure in the civilian bracket is up by 3.3 per cent in the two years, and that is to January, 1979.

Mr Wilson: There are 10 000 fewer jobs.

Mr Grill: Where is all the unemployment coming from?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I cannot understand the member for Dianella. He must read different books from the ones which I read.

Mr Wilson: What about reading the ABS figures from time to time? You do not read the ABS figures.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have read all the figures. I am referring to the figures from which we work consistently. The State Treasury says that civilian employment in Western Australia is up by 3.3 per cent.

There is another employment figure which some people prefer to adopt. I do not care which one we take, but there is the total employment figure in which is included the self-employed and the farm employees. From looking at that figure I can say that we are miles above the national average in the two-year period. I should like to ask the Leader of the Opposition why he plucks a figure out of the air which suits his convenience when the figures on which we have been working indicate that we are better than any other State. Why should we not be proud of it?

Mr Davies: That is not so. I would dearly love to be proud of it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the prophets of gloom opposite that this State has the strongest economy of any State in Australia.

Mr Carr: If it had a different Government it would.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If members attended the Premiers' Conferences and the Loan Council meetings they would find that people from other States do not talk about this State being in a position of gloom and despair, as members opposite speak. The people who attend these meetings talk in reverse terms. The general comment is, "You are not doing too badly over there. What are you griping about when we seek more funds?"

I do not want to deal with the side issues introduced by the Leader of the Opposition, such as the Chittleborough case. We shall have plenty of opportunity for that later. The Leader of the Opposition referred to another gentleman, Mr Barrie Payne of Auto Trans Express Pty. Ltd. I will have that particular case examined. I shall ask the under secretary to obtain a copy of the member's speech as soon as possible.

Mr Davies: I wish you would, because I was given wrong information on it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I take these allegations seriously; but I would be surprised if this matter falls into the category of scandal about which the honourable member talked. The people who run the Government departments are men of honour and I would be amazed if there was any suggestion of something being wrong. We have to assess the practicalities of the matter, rather than take the word of one person who obviously feels aggrieved.

Mr Davies: After five months without an answer to his tender, he is entitled to be aggrieved.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I should like to return to the matter which is the subject of this amendment. I have referred to the increase in civilian employment and in the employed labour force which is the other denominator used and which includes the self-employed and the people engaged in agriculture. When we look at that, we cannot dispute the fact that in spite of an international scene which has been very depressed—

Mr Davies: It was not when we were in office.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —we have performed in a better manner than any other State. Why does the Opposition want to try to create the idea of gloom and despair in the minds of the people of this State? The Leader of the Opposition and the

Deputy Leader have both criticised me for adopting a confident stance when talking about the State. I make no apology for that. It is my job as Premier to adopt an air of confidence, because I believe in the future of the State. I know these things will happen and the promises we made in our policy speech will be fulfilled. In fact, we will easily beat the target we set ourselves in the programme we have mapped out, because we are talking about investment over seven years which will be greater than the investment in the previous 17 years. It is not an idle boast.

Why do members opposite want to distort the situation and create doubt and fear in the minds of people? I come back to the fact that as a Government—

Mr Grill: You are not saying very much. You are saying the same thing over and over again.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have to, to get the message across.

I come back to the fact that this Government has shown a balanced performance of which it is very proud and I repeat that if members look at any of the Government portfolios they will find a solid performance is there.

May I return to the question of projects which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was listing. He glossed over the investment in the projects during the life of this Government. The two concentrator plants alone, which were the products of this Government's policies and negotiations, involved approximately \$500 million. Just imagine what the economy would have been like under any Government had we not had the pressure of that on our fabricating shops, because the very nature of the plants is such that they call very heavily on the fabricating capacity of this State. It is the sort of work we are ideally suited to perform. It is as a result of the policies and programmes of this Government that we developed the Pilbara originally. We had sought to achieve a total resource development. It includes taking the low-grade ore from ore dumps and processing it into high-grade ore. It is because of the policies and programmes of this Government that we have the two magnificent concentrator plants. The sad fact is they are coming to completion at a time when we have a hiatus before the next projects get off the ground; this is part and parcel of the problems that any Government has when it is making an economy move and making it grow. We can never have a programme which completely harmonises all projects.

I want to refer to some of the comments which the Leader of the Opposition made as to how he

would overcome the present employment situation. He said that if the Labor Party became the Government, the top priority would be special budgetary allocations. He would go for labour-intensive projects and work in conjunction with local authorities. It makes members on this side of the House laugh. We have to have money to do these things for a start and I want to know from where the Leader of the Opposition will take the money. This is the sort of thing that Oppositions never talk about.

Mr Grill interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Twenty million dollars does not go very far in this type of work, especially with today's costs.

Members should look at what this Government has done. It has been through a consistent drought. It has been through two recent cyclones. We have managed to sustain the economy during that period with all the setbacks that drought brings, with the world down-turn in the price of agricultural products and demand for minerals, and we are still the best State in Australia.

Mr Davies: You are far behind.

Sir CHARLES COURT: May I remind the Leader of the Opposition to look at the money we have put into local authorities to retain work forces in the areas which have been affected by drought, and the money we have had to divert in an effort to relieve the problems caused by disasters such as cyclone "Alby". In spite of this, Western Australia is still by far the most desirable State in which to live and by far the most prosperous.

The Leader of the Opposition dismissed the mining industry as being important in its own right, but not as important in the total generation of employment as it might be. I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition that the mining industry is one of the most important industries that we have in generating consequential employment. If we are building a refinery in the south-west or a plant in the Pilbara, it is the engineering shops of the city which get the tremendous buildup from it. It is the professional services, the catering services, and all the many other services and material needs which produce the consequential growth, because somebody made a decision to develop a project, be it at Agnew, Kambalda, Pilbara, or Wagerup.

This is something the Opposition has yet to learn. Many environmentalists always say that not much labour is employed in mining, but they never see that by dropping a pebble into a pool one starts an eddying circle. The consequential growth is anything up to four or five times

greater. Earlier, before our population reached one million it was even greater because the smaller the base the greater the percentage of growth.

I remind the Leader of the Opposition that he talked about going to the Premiers' Conference and the Loan Council and using them as avenues to convince Fraser that he had to change course. However, he does not know what a Premiers' Conference or a Loan Council meeting is like. I ask him to consult his Labor colleagues from Tasmania, New South Wales and South Australia and to get their candid reactions on who has been pushing the Prime Minister with regard to changing course in respect of economic development and coming in more behind the kind of economic philosophy I believe is necessary at this time in Australia. The Leader of the Opposition might receive some rather pleasant surprises—from my point of view but not from his own point of view and not very comforting as far as he is concerned—from the Labor Premiers if they are quite frank about what goes on in those forums which he intends to walk into, if elected, and completely transform so that Fraser will shiver and shake!

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear! We want a young man with vitality and vigour to do just that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I do not think Fraser will say, "Ron Davies, you have convinced me." In fact I think the Leader of the Opposition would have less effect on Fraser than I had on Gough Whitlam.

Mr Davies: That is understandable as far as you and Gough are concerned.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Ascot again tried to cast gloom and despair. Let us have more unemployment; let us have more projects go broke; and let us have more bankruptcies! I want to tell the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that at no period in the history of this State has there been so much work done by a Government to ensure the maximum participation by local industry in major projects such as the North West Shelf. The Minister concerned has been working on this for a couple of years. We have had seminars, and we encourage local industry leaders to go overseas to see what is necessary. We encourage them to join with and speak to people who have the competence, the expertise, the background, and the capacity to do these things.

Mr Bryce: You have been talking like this for four or five years.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I point out to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that we tried to

get industry interested in the early 1960s because we believed the break-through would occur about 1964 or 1965. Industry was not very interested. The industry leaders were talking the same way as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is talking now. However, when the bubble did burst firms such as Vickers Hoskins were ready to go with local plants here. They were so far ahead it took the others a long time to catch up. Eventually, the others got the message. We are more satisfied now that local firms are capable of doing what should be done.

Mr Bryce: You are doing a bad job of defending a hopeless position.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I believe we in this State will be handling a much greater percentage of the project than the unions and others think will be the position. That will be because of what has been done by the Minister for Industrial Development with respect to industry here. He has convinced industry to accept the fact that if it wants to tender successfully using Western Australian products and labour, it must generate the confidence that it can perform, and this often can be done by joining with people who have proved their ability over the years in this sort of work.

We have to get people who have had experience in the North Sea, in Brunei, and the like, who can convince the consortium that when the timetable is eventually realised, and the whistle is blown for the project to start, they can deliver on time.

Mr Davies: I hope you are right.

Mr Bryce: Will you stop provoking the unions and try to achieve a unified basis?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not do justice when he talks about the unions. He knows there are some characters who consider that the happiest day of their lives will be when they read my death notice.

Mr Davies: That is not quite right.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Those people make it jolly clear. Only a minority of people cause the trouble, and members opposite know that. As far as the majority of unionists are concerned they have one ambition; that is, to get on and stay with the work force and stay working. If we could get those types of people into ascendancy this State would not look back.

I do not want to labour the matter because very little has been said to which I need to respond.

Mr Bryce: Are they your 1973 notes?

Mr Sodeman: It is 1973 criticism.

Mr Barnett: The only change is that the lenses in the Premier's glasses are getting stronger.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I hope members keep up that type of comment until the election. Members opposite talk about my being old and Victorian, but I know who will be still on his feet when the campaign is really tough.

I want to go back to the fact that the Opposition has pulled a boner when talking on this matter because it will not fool the public.

Mr Davies: Do you want to bet?

Sir CHARLES COURT: If this is the best the Opposition can do, it had better go away and have another try. The cold, hard facts are that the economy of this State is based in the country. We have maintained our thrust; we have maintained investment—contrary to what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said—in spite of a world recession and a national recession. It may surprise him to know we have maintained our rate of investment at over \$1 million a day while everyone else has been down the “drain”. Why? Because we have inspired confidence in the people who want to invest here. We are not talking about capital gains and resources taxation as is the Labor Party. The Opposition talks about gloom and despair in private enterprise in this State. It is scaring the daylight out of people who want to have some confidence in this State. I reject the amendment.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [9.37 p.m.]: I have already mentioned previously that the Premier, when in Opposition, believed he could solve the unemployment problem in six months, but when he became Premier and became responsible for the running of this State, and the problem of unemployment raised its head, he stopped talking about unemployment and talked about employment. That was a dishonest thing to do. He said we should talk about employment because that was positive.

If the population is growing, the very fact that there is greater employment does not necessarily mean anything if it is outstripped by the population growth. How is it considered to be an achievement to have 10 000 more jobs if the population has increased by 20 000 or 30 000? But we do not even have that—what we have now is a decrease of 10 000 jobs.

The Premier, instead of accepting the blame for an economy that has gone bad, told the youngsters of this State—who could not get a job—that if they had a haircut and cleaned themselves up they would have a chance. It is dishonest to suggest the reason the youngsters cannot get a job is that they do not have haircuts.

Sir Charles Court: It certainly helps if one looks tidy and respectable.

Mr TONKIN: It does not help at all because if every youngster who is unemployed had a haircut, that would not create one extra job. How will jobs be found if the fact of the matter is that for every 40 persons looking for a job there is only one vacancy? If those 40 persons all had a haircut, how would they find a job? It is dishonest to suggest that what has happened to this economy has been the result of the 16-year-olds—the so-called dole bludgers. It is dishonest and cowardly to blame unemployment in this State on the 16-year-olds. For the Premier, from his position of power and experience, to turn on the young people and suggest the reason there is unemployment is that people have long hair is dishonest in the extreme. It is cowardly to attack the youngsters who cannot fight back and who do not have many people to speak for them. It is despicable.

We know that this Premier is the darling of the media; he is having an easy ride from the media.

Sir Charles Court: Like fun!

Mr TONKIN: The Premier could not stand on his own feet if the media did what it did to the Labor Party Government. I wonder how proud the Premier must feel to think the reason he is able to carry on wrecking the economy is due to his easy ride from the media. What would have happened to John Tonkin if he had said that within six months he would solve unemployment? We recall that when the Tonkin Government was in power after a short period of time the *Daily News* ran a series of articles on election promises. It is now five years since the Premier made those false promises about solving unemployment, and not once has the *Daily News* run a series of articles on his election promises. So, the Premier cannot be proud of the fact that he has been successful, because of the soft ride given him by the media.

Why has not the media tackled the Premier on his haircut syndrome; his suggestion that if every unemployed youngster had a haircut there would be no unemployment? What a shocking and dishonest statement. In addition to that, members of the Liberal Party have picked on the education system and said that the system is not turning out people who can be employed. Suppose the Education Department turned out students, every one of whom was employable. Would that create more jobs? Of course, it would not; the same ratio of vacancies to the unemployed would still be there. So, that is another attempt to blame someone else for what has happened; to blame the teachers because they are not turning out people who can be employed.

We have observed this Liberal Party attack on the young; the Premier saying they should cut their hair, and the party members saying they are unemployable and dole bludgers. This kind of attitude is spreading right throughout society. We saw the example of a girl applying for a job at a car saleyard and being told, "If you drop your pants you can get the job." That is the same kind of attack on the young people; suggesting that they themselves are somehow at fault.

I believe that if people want to gain power—and we know there is no hungrier person for power than the Premier who has shown he will do anything, anything at all to get into power—they should accept the responsibility of that power when plans go wrong. They should stand up like men and say, "Yes, I have made a mistake." The young people should not be blamed. How dishonest can one be? Why cannot the Premier be a man and stand up and say, "I promised the young unemployed that I would solve the unemployment problem." The Premier should not stoop so low as to blame the young people and try to suggest that they are the ones at fault because they do not have haircuts or because they do not want work.

We notice that the Liberal Party has reviewed benefits payable to young people, suggesting that those people receiving unemployment benefits, or other benefits, are not genuine.

A review of unemployment benefits does not create one more job. All it does is attempt to cheat the unemployed of their rightful benefits. Let us consider the case of the school leavers who have been cheated of their unemployment benefits because intimidation stopped them registering with the Commonwealth Employment Service. I was speaking to a young unemployed lad today and I said, "Are you receiving unemployment benefits?" He told me he was not, he was intimidated so that he did not apply for unemployment benefits.

The other day I spoke on the telephone to an unemployed man who had done everything he could to try to get a job. I asked him whether he was receiving unemployment benefits and he said that he was not. When I asked the reason for this he replied that he did not believe in them. This person, who was unemployed through no fault of his own, had been brainwashed by the Liberal Party into thinking it would be dishonest to apply for unemployment benefits. What a disgraceful situation to apply in 1979.

Mr Young: Did he say that?

Mr TONKIN: The Minister knows very well what the Premier has said about this matter. He

told the young people that they would get jobs if they had their hair cut.

Mr Young: Did this man tell you this was the reason?

Mr TONKIN: The Minister knows that if every unemployed person had a haircut it would not provide any more jobs. Society has been led to believe by the Liberal Party that there is something shameful about receiving unemployment benefits; there is something wrong with it.

We know that in 1975 the Liberal Party clawed its way back into power in Canberra, and in 1977 in this State, by attacking the so-called dole bludgers. At the present time the Federal Minister is undertaking a review to attempt to take unemployment benefits away from unemployed people. The Federal Government, rather than blaming itself is blaming the victims. So the victims of unemployment are being blamed for the unemployment. What a sick twist that is to natural justice.

The Director General of Social Security delivered a paper recently in Canberra. This man wanted to say what he really felt, but a part of his report was cut by the Liberal Party. His comment was that in some respects it may be better not to persecute those people who do not want work because if we force the people who do not want work—and let us face it, there are some who do not want work—into employment, we will force out of employment those people who do want to work. What is the point of persecuting the people who do not want to work? There have always been some people who, for various reasons, are not keen on working. What is the point in forcing them into work when such action will force out of work those who do want to work?

There are just not enough jobs to go around. The facts are there, and we cannot argue with them. Forty people are looking for every job available.

The point that the Director General of Social Security wanted to make is that in a situation of unemployment, how are we to test whether or not a person really wants employment? The traditional way to test this is to offer an unemployed person a job but we cannot use this test now because no jobs are available unless we take some of the employed out of work. So how are we to test whether or not people want to work? The director general said it would be better not to use such tests because they are meaningless in the present situation. However, this part of his report to the symposium was cut out and the

director general was not allowed to give his professional opinion.

It is all part of the Liberal Party philosophy to blame the victims for what has happened in society. CES officers are no longer permitted to send telegrams to notify applicants of a job interview. So this is another example of discrimination. We know that a large number of the unemployed are unskilled; people who have been part of the lower socio-economic group. These people do not have a telephone, and because the CES is no longer able to send telegrams to inform people of job vacancies, it will become easier to take away unemployment benefits from those people who do not have a telephone. In fact, these people are unable to attend for job interviews because they have received no notification of them.

In the last Commonwealth Budget, unemployed people without dependants lost the cost-of-living adjustment. An unemployed person under 18 years of age was receiving \$36 a week in 1974, and today he is receiving the same amount. So in real terms the unemployment benefits have decreased. Once again the victims of unemployment are being punished for something they did not create. An unemployed couple with two children now receive \$20 a week below the poverty level. Not only has their self respect been taken away from them because they have lost employment, but in addition they are being punished. The Premier likes to see these people forced down below the poverty line.

If an inspector calls to see an unemployed person and it happens that that person is not at home, he will lose his unemployment benefits. It could happen that such a person was out looking for a job, but because the inspector has not had contact with him, he loses his benefits.

We know that over 80 per cent of the appeals for reinstatement made by unemployed people who have lost their benefits are allowed. So the situation is that by far the majority of the people who have lost their unemployment benefits have had them reinstated after appealing to the tribunal. Of course, these people are not paid anything while the appeals are pending. So the situation is clearly that, in the majority of cases, appeals to the tribunal have shown that there was no justification for the loss of unemployment benefits.

ILO Convention No. 29 states that work will not entail the removal of the workers from their habitual place of residence. However, we find the Liberal Party insists that people be removed from their normal place of residence in defiance of that

convention. People are being forced to leave their homes and families are being forced to break up in order to meet the new stringent tests being applied to unemployed people.

The average period of unemployment now is 27 weeks; that is, over half a year, and it is increasing. So the situation is that the period of unemployment is becoming longer and longer. As has already been pointed out, the participation rate has decreased from nearly 67 per cent to something like 60 per cent. People are not participating in the work force to the degree that they did previously. So these people represent the hidden unemployed—people who do not show up in the unemployment figures. These people have given up; perhaps married women who no longer bother to try to obtain work, and unemployed youths, such as the one to whom I spoke, who are not registering for unemployment benefits.

The actual unemployment is far greater than the figures would lead us to believe and this has been brought about by the intimidation of school leavers and the illegal action of the Government in preventing others from obtaining benefits.

On the 10th February, 1979, I saw an advertisement in *The West Australian* in which a company thanked the 120 applicants for the one job of a typist. We are told that if those 120 people had haircuts, somehow or other they would obtain jobs. What more proof do members need to realise that there are just not enough jobs to go around? As I said before, the people who have had the least opportunity to shape society, those who have had the least effect on the way in which society is going, are being blamed. They are called dole bludgers, and it is said that they are at fault.

Surely we should take responsibility for the present situation. We have done far more to shape society than these youngsters have done, and yet they have been cowardly attacked. At the present time 30 per cent of all unemployed people in Western Australia under the age of 21 have been out of work for six months or more. This means it is not just a temporary matter; these people are being scarred permanently. Another cause for concern is that 53 per cent of the unemployed aged 45 and over have been out of work for six months or more. So we have those two extremes of the work force—the teenagers and the over-45-year-olds—who are finding that once they become unemployed they are permanently unemployed; they are not able to obtain jobs. We have seen these problems with the young in particular, but it is becoming increasingly evident with the older people as well.

I want to suggest to members that employment security for the middle class will become a thing of the past. It is all very well for the Premier to say we talk about gloom, but the facts are that with the degree of technological change occurring now, the number of middle-class people losing jobs is increasing. In the last 12 months, just in the white-collar category, the number of unemployed has doubled. So in the years ahead it will not just be the teenagers, the school leavers, who cannot obtain jobs, and the people who are over 45 years old who cannot get back into the work force once they become unemployed unless they are very highly skilled, but also the middle-class people will be at risk because of technological changes.

Some very interesting studies have been undertaken about this matter in France. I had to look to other countries for this information, because very little is available here. The Premier would not allow this Parliament to look at the question of technological change; he would not agree to the establishment of a committee for such an inquiry. Because the Premier is frightened of such committees, we do not know a great deal about what is happening in Australia.

France is one of the OECD countries, and its development is very similar to that of Australia. The unemployment situation in France is very serious, and the prognostication there is causing great concern, particularly the fact that one of the new dimensions is that middle-class people will be at risk.

The Crawford report was tabled in the national Parliament only a week or two ago, and it indicates that we need manpower policies. The Opposition has impressed this fact upon the Government time and time again, and although the Government made cosmetic changes—a committee was appointed—nothing else happened. We do not have a manpower policy, and Australia is the only one of the OECD countries that does not have proper manpower or work force planning. The Crawford report had this to say—

The effects of technological change are potentially serious, particularly if high overall growth rates are not achieved.

Of course we know that high overall growth rates are not being achieved at the present time, and yet this Government has done nothing to concern itself with the problem of technological change. The report goes on to state—

The recession has reduced firms' and individuals' capacity to adapt to changed

circumstances as both find it harder to find new opportunity.

The economy is in no position to cope with the great structural changes occurring in the economy, not the least of which is technological change.

The Crawford report goes on—

Sectors which seem likely to be the main providers of additional jobs in the future are those which to some extent depend on direct public expenditure.

This is where we take issue with the Court and Fraser Governments. They do not believe in public expenditure. However, the Crawford report—a report commissioned by the Fraser Government—has said quite clearly that job creation depends at present and is going to depend increasingly in the future on direct public expenditure.

The Crawford report continues—

The public sector may increasingly be required to generate jobs other than in the public sector or through the private sector via public expenditure.

The report from France to which I referred earlier points out that by the early 1990s, 30 per cent of all staff in banks and insurance companies will become redundant. This is the pattern of the future. The white collar workers—the middle class—who have so far escaped this trend and who generally vote for the Liberal Party will be faced with redundancy. I wonder whether those people will still mouth the same "dole bludger" comments when they lose their jobs and are told by the Premier, "Get a haircut, and you will get a job." The Siemens company in France says that 40 per cent of all office jobs will become redundant within the next decade because of technological change.

So, redundancy is moving from the blue collar area to the white collar area. The victims of these structural adjustments are being blamed for the disaster. I come back time and time again to that tragic twisting of the facts—that vicious kind of sickness—that blames the victims for what has happened. Australia—and Western Australia is no exception—has failed to exploit its scientific discoveries.

In a special report on science and technology, the OECD said that Australia just was not attempting to improve in any way the work being done by its scientists and technologists.

We believe in economic planning. Economic planning means considering the various alternatives open for development. At the moment

we blunder through; we do not plan. We are stumbling through a period of great change, and there seems to be no concept of the tremendous structural changes that are occurring.

This Government supports the Fraser Government, which has presided over a great decrease in the proportion of public expenditure to the gross domestic product. A recent report of the OECD entitled "Report on public expenditure trends" points out that in Australia, the proportion of public expenditure to gross domestic product is only 32 per cent, compared with an OECD average of 41.4 per cent.

So, this is the policy of this State Government and of the Federal Government. It is a policy of refusing to admit—as the Crawford report and as several OECD reports suggest—that one of the keys to recovery and more employment is through public expenditure, not just in the public sector but also in providing a spin-off to the private sector.

I suppose that is the chief way in which we take issue with the Government. We believe it is up to Governments to interfere in the economy where that is shown to be necessary. The United States is hardly a centralist-planned economy, yet that Government is interfering in the economy and is increasing its public expenditure to a much greater extent than is Australia.

Mr MacKinnon: How is their inflation rate going?

Mr TONKIN: Inflation is only one of many components of the economy.

Mr MacKinnon: Well, how is their unemployment going?

Mr TONKIN: If the member for Murdoch wants to talk about unemployment, as the Premier always does, the United States has created six million jobs for civilians over the last five years.

We support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. We believe the Government has shown itself to be callous because it has tried to blame the victims of unemployment for that unemployment. We reject that totally. We believe the young people who are out of work are being blamed for a situation they did not create. They are being told to get haircuts, as though that will create more jobs. We reject that callous twisting of the situation, which attempts to take the blame away from the powerful—the people who have really created the problems in our economy—and place it on those who least deserve it, who are powerless and who are the victims. They really do not understand what is going on, but they know they are not

wanted by this society. I suppose that is the great difference between the Opposition and the Government.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Labour and Industry) [10.07 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I oppose the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and support the remarks made by the Premier that this Government has very little to answer for. It was strange to hear the personal attacks made on the Premier by the Leader of the Opposition and other members opposite. As far as I am concerned, the Premier is the most dedicated, energetic and competent member of Parliament I have seen in my 20 years in this place. It is very easy to understand why the Opposition is so worried about him; members opposite know his dedication, energy, competence and public popularity took us through one election and will take us through the next. That is what is worrying members opposite.

Mr Hodge interjected.

MR O'CONNOR: That will be for the people to decide, not members opposite.

In recent years, the world economy has not been good. Despite this, and despite the distorted views and untruths of the Leader of the Opposition, we in Western Australia have held our own.

I have been amazed over the last two sitting days to hear the Leader of the Opposition make statements which were quite untrue. I wonder why he is taking this action? Is it for publicity, or for some other purpose?

Mr Pearce: We hope you become the leader of your party. That will be the greatest possible boost for us.

MR O'CONNOR: I was told by two Premiers, "You are always going well if the Opposition is attacking you." So, I thank the member for Gosnells for that attack. Last Tuesday, the Leader of the Opposition claimed I was told by the Transport Workers' Union that the strike would be over by the next day. That was not true. I wonder how the Leader of the Opposition could make that statement knowing that the members were to vote on the matter the next day.

Mr Davies: It was conveyed to you outside; that is what I was told.

MR O'CONNOR: It was not, yet the Leader of the Opposition said it was, and was quoted in the newspaper as saying so.

In the last 15 years there has been a change in the work pattern in this State; however, we in Western Australia have more than held our own. In fact, we have done extremely well, and I intend

to quote the relevant figures to show just how well we have done. Over the last 15 years, the number of women—particularly in the age groups 20 to 24 and 40 to 45 years—in the work force has increased tremendously.

Mr Hodge: Do you approve of that?

Mr O'CONNOR: Of course I do. Despite the statements of the Opposition to the contrary, there has been an increase in employment in this State in recent times. The Leader of the Opposition claimed that Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showed there has been a decrease in jobs in Western Australia. Mr Speaker, I intend to seek leave to table a copy of ABS figures which show an increase in this area, quite contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition said. I will quote from that table shortly.

Mr Pearce: You are talking about employment now; let us have them now.

Mr O'CONNOR: I will read them when I am ready; I intend also to quote other figures. According to the ABS, in the last four years, from November, 1974, to December, 1978, there has been an increase of 63 000 jobs in Western Australia.

Mr Davies: Talk about the situation at the last election.

Mr O'CONNOR: I know that what I am saying is distasteful to the Leader of the Opposition because the House realises he quoted figures which were untrue.

Mr Davies: You are quoting different figures. Why don't you quote the same figures?

Mr O'CONNOR: In the last two years, the figures show an increase of 30 500.

Mr Davies: Wrong.

Mr O'CONNOR: I will table the ABS paper at the conclusion of my speech. But what has happened during the same period in the Labor State of New South Wales? There has been a decrease of 98 000 jobs. Yet the Leader of the Opposition said quite the reverse.

We do not consider only unemployment; we must also consider employment, because there are more people in the work force than four years ago, not only because of the increase in the number of married women who are working but also because of the attraction to Western Australia of people from the Eastern States and New Zealand. The Leader of the Opposition said there had been a decline in recent times in the number of people arriving in Western Australia. In fact, the average number of people coming to Western Australia from the Eastern States and

New Zealand in the last five years has been about 160 a week, or 8 000 a year, or 40 000 for the five-year period.

Mr Davies: From what are you quoting?

Mr O'CONNOR: The Leader of the Opposition should look at the Commonwealth Employment Service statistics for January of this year. Those are the latest figures at my disposal, and they reveal that in January alone, the number of people from the Eastern States and New Zealand who were registering for the first time was 761.

Mr Davies: It does not mean they all came in in the one month.

Mr O'CONNOR: No, but if they keep a record of the number of new registrations each month, it will soon be evident that large numbers are arriving in Western Australia.

Mr Davies: They have only just started to keep those figures, and you know it.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is not true. If the Leader of the Opposition examines the figures—

Mr Davies: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr O'CONNOR: Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is the one who does not know what he is talking about because these figures show quite clearly he has made misleading statements to the House.

Mr Davies: They have only just started to keep those figures.

Mr Barnett: Will you table the document now?

Mr O'CONNOR: No.

Mr Barnett: Will you pass it over?

Mr O'CONNOR: No, I intend to quote from the document.

The Government has been criticised for its inactivity in the area of apprenticeships, yet per head of population, Western Australia has more apprentices than any other State and our increase has been higher than any other State. At the moment, some 13 000 apprentices are learning trades in Western Australia. Look at what the Government did in the railways this year.

Mr Harman: Look at what it is trying to do to the railways this year!

Mr O'CONNOR: We took on an additional 84 apprentices; we employed 50 per cent more apprentices than we usually employ. That was a very good effort. These are the sorts of things the Government is doing to assist young people and the unemployed.

Let us consider school leavers. In February, the number of school leavers from last year who were still unemployed was less than the State average. The percentage was over 6 per cent, but it was still less than the State average. Everybody expected it would be much worse according to information previously to hand.

In its efforts to enable young people to obtain jobs, the Government placed 500 young people in Government departments last year. A number of these people obtained employment outside, and a number of others were retained. About 24 trainees proved unsatisfactory, and they were dismissed in due course. The Government took on the 500 trainees in an endeavour to enable them to become used to jobs, so they could go out and obtain work.

I quote the instance of mature age training. At Moora we organised a farm training scheme to assist farmers, and to resist the flow of people coming in from New Zealand for some of the farm work in this State. This scheme was carried out in the area of the member for Moore. This is the sort of thing the Government does.

About a month ago I went to Kalgoorlie where a mature age group was completing a trade training scheme. That scheme was designed to cater for the needs of projects which will arise in the future.

I inspected the scheme at Mt. Newman. The unions have accepted the training of these mature age people.

I quote the case of the Jervoise Bay operation. There was a person in my office yesterday who had obtained shipping contracts worth \$8.4 million for Western Australia. He has an operation at Cockburn Sound which is too small, and he wishes to expand it. He wants to employ another 400 people in this area, to attract extra work for the State.

Mr Barnett: His currency is no good, and you know it.

Mr O'CONNOR: That may be the opinion held by the member for Rockingham. That man has more ability than the member for Rockingham would have if he lived to be 500. The person to whom I referred is one of the biggest businessmen in Western Australia, and one of the most successful. The member for Rockingham is saying he cannot handle \$8.4 million-worth of contracts.

Sir Charles Court: The member for Rockingham is doing his best to stop it.

Mr O'CONNOR: He would rather encourage people to stay out of work so that it looks better when the elections come along.

There is a need to encourage industry, to promote employment. That is what this Government is trying to do. Look at wood chipping. The Opposition tried to obstruct that.

Mr Davies: Fair go!

Mr O'CONNOR: Bauxite mining. Just look at the record of the Opposition in connection with bauxite mining—an industry which we have helped. Thousands of people are employed there. What does the Opposition do? It resists it in every way.

Mr Davies: For goodness sake! You have been smoking pot.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'CONNOR: It has shown a disgraceful two-timing type tactic—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I mentioned wood chipping, and I mentioned bauxite mining. I now mention Yeelirrie and the uranium operation. The Opposition has tried to block all of these operations which create jobs. It has not worried about the unemployed. If it had, it would have helped to create jobs. I wonder what it will do about the North-West Shelf when the project is commenced.

Mr Bateman: If it commences.

Mr O'CONNOR: We have heard the Leader of the Opposition attacking the Premier. The recent actions of the Leader of the Opposition indicate that he should be the last person to attack anyone. Members should consider his bad-tempered display last Tuesday night. His lack of control—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: —and his lack of self-control have been appalling.

Mr Bateman: You came a gutser last Tuesday night. That is why you are upset.

Mr O'CONNOR: We won. We enabled commodities to be delivered to the public.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bateman: You came unstuck.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'CONNOR: The Opposition is worried because we were able to organise things in such a way that the milk and bread went out to the

public. That is the type of thing which worried them.

Mr Davies: I tell you what, the Leader of the Opposition had the stomach to get into the fray, and the Premier did not.

Mr O'CONNOR: The bad-tempered display—

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr O'CONNOR: The bad-tempered display of the Leader of the Opposition is becoming common. He cannot control his own members. Last night he threw a book in a display of temper and he hit one of the attendants.

Mr Davies: Oo-ah!

Mr T. H. Jones: You ought to be writing comics; you are so funny.

Mr O'CONNOR: If the Leader of the Opposition tries to control himself, we will try to help him.

Mr Davies: I did not talk nonsense, like you.

Mr O'CONNOR: If the Leader of the Opposition continues in that manner as the Leader of the Opposition, he will be permanently in that position.

Mr Davies: Do you want to make a bet? I showed more courage than the Premier showed, anyway.

Sir Charles Court: You would not know what courage was.

Mr Davies: You were not game to get up. You are the gutless wonder, and the record shows it.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Leader of the Opposition cannot put me down, anyway.

In relation to job training, the employers have been assisting us in training persons for some of the projects we expect will be commenced—the North-West Shelf project and that type of thing. The proposal we put to the employers was described by the Chairman of BHP as the best presented at the recent conference in Victoria.

This Government has created an apprenticeship record—the highest number on record in Western Australia.

Mr Davies: We still have record unemployment.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Government has created an employment record for the highest number of people ever employed in Western Australia. These are some of the records created by the Government. The Leader of the Opposition made proposals, and he said we ought to be doing this, that, and the other. Everything he said has been done by this Government.

Mr Davies: And we still have record unemployment.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Treasurer raised additional money in the last year through the Budget and after it to enable the works department to expand into work-intensive operations. Finance was obtained to enable the State Housing Commission to go into the work-intensive area of housing.

The Leader of the Opposition said that we ought to encourage co-operation between the Government and local authorities, and arrange some sort of building work. We have done it at Carnarvon and we have done it in Geraldton. The Geraldton operations will assist a very good organisation in that area, the Geraldton Building Company, to continue employing apprentices and tradesmen for a longer period of time. That involved \$1.7 million.

Mr Carr: Did you say \$1.7 million?

Mr O'CONNOR: What was the cost of the project there? It was a fairly high figure.

Mr Carr: Nothing like that.

Sir Charles Court: The Leonora Hospital. How much?

Mr O'CONNOR: It was something like \$2 million.

Mr Davies: Leonora? We are talking about Geraldton.

Sir Charles Court: The Geraldton Building Company is doing that job.

Mr Davies: Were you not going to build the hospital, apart from unemployment?

Sir Charles Court: It was one of the things that had to be done.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'CONNOR: Unemployment has been created by the knocking of the ALP and by the unreasonable demands of the unions for things such as the 17½ per cent holiday pay loading and the penalty rates. Would it not be better to put that money into the pockets of the unemployed people, rather than those who have employment and most of the facilities they want?

Mr T. H. Jones: You are denigrating the Industrial Commission.

Mr O'CONNOR: If one considers a person receiving a wage of about \$200 a week, it costs the employer about \$350 a week to support him fully taking into account holiday pay, workers' compensation, sick pay, the 17½ per cent holiday loading, penalty rates, and staff facilities.

Mr Wilson: You are against all of those things, are you?

Mr O'CONNOR: The Opposition never stops knocking.

When one considers workers' compensation, since the allowance of 100 per cent was introduced in 1974, the total has gone from \$12 million to \$84 million—an increase of 600 per cent.

Mr Davies: And you are against that?

Mr O'CONNOR: I did not say that. I am just saying a lot of people are bludging on it.

Mr Davies: What are you implying?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T. H. Jones: The insurance companies are still making profits. Tell us about the insurance companies.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes, I will tell the member for Collie. Last year, the amount of insurance premiums paid was \$78 million. The sum has risen to \$84 million this year. The amount of payments to persons was \$55 million.

Mr Pearce: That is an amazing profit.

Mr O'CONNOR: But the insurance companies have to employ a few people. This is not taking into account any of these sorts of things.

Mr Pearce: What is the profit?

Mr O'CONNOR: The member for Gosnells would like to see the insurance companies paying everything out and having no employees. He should be reasonable.

Mr Pearce: What is the profit level? You have not a clue.

Mr O'CONNOR: This Government has done everything it can to encourage the movement of industry into the State. We also wish to encourage wage restraints. A number of people are asking for a 35-hour week. This sort of demand will continue to the extent where we will price ourselves out of the market—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bateman interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I mentioned some of the industrial problems faced by Hamersley last year—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. I ask the member for Canning to cease interjecting. The Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr O'CONNOR: Last year, Hamersley experienced approximately 380 stoppages, most of which were irresponsible. Over 30 per cent of the strike time was caused by the actions of one union against another. The 380 stoppages in one year

resulted in a loss of \$35 million in export income. Is that responsible unionism? Of that loss of \$35 million, how much money should come to the country in profits? There would be 47½ per cent in company tax—

Mr T. H. Jones: Union bashing!

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not bashing the unions. People should be responsible in the interests of people who are unemployed and in the interests of the country so we can retain our royalties. I know this is not palatable to the Opposition, and I know it does not care about these things. I doubt whether the Opposition cares about unemployment, because it gives its members more mud to throw at the Government. I am concerned about unemployed people, and the Government is concerned.

Mr T. H. Jones: Tell us about the pensioners.

Mr O'CONNOR: As I said, 30 per cent of the strikes in the Pilbara related to the actions of one union against another. I wish those people would act responsibly. I wish they would realise what that action does to the economy of the country. The sum of \$35 million in export income was lost to the country because of lost contracts.

I said I would quote some figures from the ABS statistics. In November, 1974, the number of employed people in Western Australia was 470 500. In February, 1976—I do not have the 1975 figures—the number employed was 503 300, which represented an increase of about 33 000. In 1977, the figure was 526 500, a further increase of 23 000. In December, 1978—the latest figure I have—the number of people employed in Western Australia was 533 500.

Mr Skidmore: What about the February, 1978 figure? You missed it.

Mr O'CONNOR: I do not have that one.

Mr Skidmore: I can give it to you. It is 519 700—a reduction in jobs.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: What about February, 1979?

Mr Skidmore: I will come to that in a minute.

Mr O'CONNOR: The clerks were obtaining these figures for me tonight. These are the ones they were able to obtain for me. The clerks were asked to get them, and this is all they could provide.

For the four years from November, 1974, to December, 1978, there was an increase of 63 000 jobs in Western Australia. Does that indicate a Government which has fallen down on the job during a period when the economy has not been

good? I guarantee this irks the Opposition. This occurred during the last five years when we had 40 000 people from the Eastern States, from New Zealand, and Asia. We have probably had the greatest influx of people during that period than ever before. It makes me wonder why the Opposition evades the truth. Why does it not quote the figures in this book?

Mr Skidmore: Why did you avoid the truth on the February figures?

Mr O'CONNOR: I have already told the honourable member, and what I have said can be confirmed by the clerks.

Mr Clarko: Will they suit you?

Mr Skidmore: No they won't, but I will give them.

Mr O'CONNOR: This State has done well and, shortly, with the projects which will be undertaken, we will set the whole country going again if we have responsible unionism and no knocking from the Opposition. We will try to cope with them and provide for them, and continue to improve the situation by looking after the country, despite the knocking of the ALP.

Mr Bateman: Words, words, words!

Mr O'CONNOR: I request permission to lay the ABS figures on the Table of the House.

The papers were tabled.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [10.32 p.m.]: I must take issue with the Minister on a number of points not the least of which is the unfortunate action which I suppose anyone in a Government position could be expected to take when confronted with the unpalatable effects of unemployment. No matter which figures are read, tabled, or twisted, the sad fact is that there are more people without jobs in Australia and Western Australia at present than there have ever been.

Mr Shalders: There are more people in jobs in Western Australia.

Mr PEARCE: We come back to the old argument. The member for Murray is a great one for indicating how well things are going for people who are well off.

Mr Shalders: Not at all. I believe unemployment is too high.

Mr PEARCE: It is no good saying to the people without jobs, "What a great job we are doing for those with jobs." The member for Murray is a great one for taking a similar attitude on education. He is always drawing attention to the number of classes which have fewer than 30 children. The Government and Parliament must

direct attention to those who are less privileged. It is no good saying to the thousands of people who are unemployed that they are well off despite the fact that they are unemployed, because there are more jobs than ever before. That is not an answer. As the population increases so naturally does the number of jobs in the community.

Mr Shalders: Your leader said the number had dropped. Make up your mind.

Mr PEARCE: Even if the number of jobs had risen, the number of unemployed is higher and the Government is failing to that degree.

If we consider the time of full employment—the 1950s and 1960s—we realise that the number of jobs was rising then, too. However, the number of jobs available kept pace with the increased number of job seekers in the community. In other words, the number of jobs available was level with the number seeking jobs. The Government has fallen down because it has failed to keep that level between the number of job seekers and the number of jobs available.

The Government has said it is doing great things by creating more jobs but, by ignoring the fact that thousands of people are unemployed, it is denying the real situation.

I expected members opposite to ask loudly what we would do and what we thought was the answer. The member for Murray has perhaps come closest by saying that unemployment is too high and something should be done.

Mr Shalders: What would you do?

Mr PEARCE: I will explain my solution to the unemployment problem. A good deal of the difficulty in regard to unemployment is experienced because of the ideological restrictions of the Federal Liberal Government and, to a smaller degree, those of the State Liberal Government. Those Governments have come into power in a time of international difficulty, high inflation, and increasing unemployment in the world, but they have a particular dogma to push. It is unfortunate for the people of Western Australia that the dogma is not correct.

Essentially the Federal and State Liberal Governments believe that to create more employment they must first reduce inflation. That is to say, they are prepared to trade high unemployment in the short term to gain a decrease in the inflationary trend. Secondly they consider extra jobs must be created in the private sector because if they are provided in the public sector the creation of those jobs has an inflationary effect. Both those assumptions are wrong as has been proved by the economic situation today.

Recently I attended a seminar conducted by Professor Street from California. He argued that we cannot trade unemployment against a lowering of inflation because throughout recent history in every major western country at a time when there has been high inflation, there has been high unemployment, and at a time when there has been a low level of inflation, there has been a low level of unemployment. In other words, there is a direct relationship between inflation and employment. If one is low, they are both low, and vice versa.

It follows then that when the Federal Government adopts policies which will lead to high unemployment, then at the same time it is adopting policies which will lead to high inflation. It seems that Governments have a responsibility to try to bring about a greater level of employment in the community. Both State and Federal Governments have proclaimed that what is required in the public sector is a cutback on unemployment but this leads to ridiculous situations.

Employment levels are cut back in Government departments by what is referred to as natural wastage. This means that no-one is sacked, but when a person retires that person is not replaced. In other words, in any Government department or instrumentality no-one is replaced, no matter how vital to the department or instrumentality that person might be. The net result is that as people in significant positions are not replaced, the departments and instrumentalities become less efficient.

The most important point which must be made is that the Government is paying unemployed people almost as much as if they were employed. No member can be unaware of the billions of dollars spent per year on unemployment benefits.

I will quote some figures I have obtained from Commonwealth Government departments to demonstrate how little the Government would have to spend to take people off the dole and place them in employment.

Do members realise that the Government would have to find only \$2.55 extra a week to employ an unemployed married man with four children? I am referring to the minimum wage paid to a person in a Government department. The simple fact is that a married man with four children would be receiving unemployment benefits, less taxation, at a level of \$113.65 a week. If the same person were on the minimum wage in a Government job he would be paid a net amount of \$116.20 a week—a difference of \$2.55.

If the Government was prepared to take every married man with four children off

unemployment benefits and put him on a Government job somewhere on a minimum wage, it would have to pay a miserable \$2.55 per week to change that man from a Government-bashed dole bludger into a usefully employed citizen doing his 40 hours per week work for the community and being recompensed accordingly. The sum of \$2.55 per week would turn that man from an unemployed citizen into a Government worker. And yet the prevailing Liberal ideology is that the Government cannot afford for the sake of the Australian economy to pay people to work for it. They prefer to pay people to be unemployed.

If we run down the scale we find that for the vast percentage of people unemployed very small amounts are necessary to transform them into usefully employed members of the community. A married man with three children is presently being paid \$108.60 less tax for being unemployed. If he were paid a minimum wage less tax of \$116.20 per week the Government would have to find \$7.60 per week. A married man with two children would be receiving \$103.70 in unemployment benefits. If he were paid the minimum wage less tax of \$116.20, the difference would be \$12.50 per week.

Members can see how almost anybody who is married with a family could be put on the Government's pay-roll and it would cost the Government very little more than it is costing at the moment while he is unemployed. But what is the Government's ideology? The private sector has to create the jobs. The Government cannot afford it. Where does that type of ideology fit in? May I make this suggestion? If the Government gave private industry the money it pays a person to be unemployed as a subsidy towards employing that person, an employer would be able to employ, for example in private industry, a married man with four children for only \$2.55 per week. That man would be working for the employer's profit.

Mr Mensaros: Are you supporting a no-confidence motion against the Federal Government or the State Government?

Mr PEARCE: I am supporting it against both Governments.

Mr Tonkin: They are the same people.

Mr PEARCE: I accept the fact that the Minister is right in one sense. The prime responsibility for providing employment at this level and for providing employment subsidies rests with the Commonwealth Government. I do not dispute that. I point out, however, that this State Government has no record of protesting to the Federal Government against its employment policies or rather one should say its

unemployment policies. Why does not the State Government suggest to the Commonwealth Government that it might like to pay the amount of unemployment payments to the State Government, so that the State Government can include the small amount per week I have indicated would be required to put people on the State Government pay-roll, in order that the Government could make up the difference and employ these people? Why could the Government not do that?

Why does not the State Government ask the Commonwealth Government to pay the unemployment benefits to it so that the State Government can pass them on to private employers who, in turn, can employ people for \$2.55 per week in the case of a married man with four children? Which private employer would look askance at employing a man at a cost to himself of \$2.55 per week? Even if we come down to the most extreme case of a single adult with no dependants who would be in receipt of \$51.45 per week in unemployment benefits and who would be entitled to a minimum wage less tax of \$104.85 per week, a private employer or the Government would have to pay that person \$53.40 only per week over and above his unemployment payment.

What private employer would not take on even a person in that situation for \$53.40 per week? We hear a great deal from the other side about the high cost of employing labour both in private industry and in governmental areas, and yet \$53.40 per week is not a large amount to pay for a person working on a full-time basis. If we choose the right person—a married man with four children—we can get down to a figure of \$2.55 per week. And if a married man with five children is chosen, we can actually make a profit on the deal, and bearing in mind the fact that we have a profit-minded Government, I am surprised it has not looked at the possibilities of that before now.

So the whole business of saying that the Government is not in the business of creating jobs is a total fallacy, because the Government is putting up massive sums per year to pay people to be unemployed and at the same time it is creating disincentives as far as employing people in Government agencies, or indeed in private agencies, is concerned.

Somehow the Government fails to get it all together. When we look at the proposition that the Government is not getting it all together, we do not have to go very far past the unemployed teachers syndrome. At the present time we have approximately 1 000 teachers unemployed in Western Australia. Approximately \$7 million per year for the past two years has been allocated for

teachers' salaries in the State Budget which has not been expended. At the same time up to 1 000 teachers have been unemployed and at the same time also there has been a significant need for all of these 1 000 teachers to be in jobs in Western Australian schools.

The requirement for teachers is there; the unemployed and trained teachers are there; and the money is available in the Budget to employ them, but somehow the Minister for Education who is not with us at the moment has not had the wit to put these three matters together and he has not taken the money to employ the teachers to meet the need. Apparently that is beyond the capacity of the National Country Party Minister for Education. He cannot put it all together.

I should like to take the matter into a Commonwealth area of concern where we see that Telecom is raking in approximately \$100 million per year in profit at the same time as it takes six weeks to have a phone connected. Recently I had a tape recording answering device inserted in my telephone. The Telecom man came and took half an hour to screw an extra socket into the wall. It took six weeks for that man to turn up. Why is that? The reason is insufficient people are employed by Telecom to meet the demand, and yet Telecom is making millions of dollars per year in profit. So the demand for extra labour in Telecom is there; the money to pay the extra labour is available out of Telecom profit; but somehow the Minister who is in charge of post and telegraphs has not the wit to put the money against the men to create the jobs.

We understand also that the Telecom training school in Manning Road, Manning, which is designed to train people to do jobs such as installing tape recording answering services similar to the one inserted in my phone, is virtually closed down. It is taking virtually no trainees each year. The time required to have telephone services installed continues to grow in Western Australia at the same time as Telecom profits continue to grow, at the same time as queues of unemployed people continue to grow.

Surely someone ought to have the wit to put the profits, together with the unemployed people, together with the need for jobs to create these jobs. Why is that not being done? It is not being done because Mr Fraser and the Premier (Sir Charles Court) have a theory that the unemployment problem will be solved only if private enterprise creates the further jobs and Telecom is not private enterprise, so Telecom cannot create the jobs and people who want phones connected can wait for six weeks or two months until such time as the realities catch up

with the theories propounded by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Western Australia.

The Prime Minister and the Premier are living in the cloudy cuckoo land of the 19th century. Private employers have had three or four years with these gentlemen ruling in their respective domains to provide the jobs which these same two gentlemen say they are capable of providing, but which they are not providing.

At the same time the Federal Government is providing massive sums to cope with the fact that these people are unemployed. In fact, the Federal Government is paying \$5 000 million per year, a sum which is larger than the State Budget, so that people in Australia can be unemployed.

Mr Shalders: Are you making that speech for the member for Geraldton? It looks as if you are, because you are standing in his seat.

Mr PEARCE: I have drifted across in my enthusiasm. I am prepared to concede that—

Mr Sibson: You will have to delete all the words you have said in the last few minutes.

Mr PEARCE: There is the member for Bunbury speaking. I had intended to say a few words on a particular subject to the member for Bunbury. At least he and I share one matter in common. I was going to make a disparaging reference to him, but I will not. We are both chairmen of local committees for the Commonwealth youth support scheme.

I want to turn my attention to this matter in the closing section of my speech. The member for Bunbury is chairman of the local committee in Bunbury and I am chairman of the committee in Gosnells. I do not know how the Bunbury scheme stands up; but one does not expect too much of a scheme for which the member for Bunbury is responsible. I make no reference to you, Sir.

Mr Sibson: You are making disparaging remarks about the members of my committee.

Mr PEARCE: I have nothing against the member for Bunbury's committee, except so far as its members contribute to the election of the member for Bunbury as chairman of the Commonwealth youth support scheme committee. I make no reference to the member for Albany at all.

The point which needs to be made with regard to the Commonwealth youth support scheme, or any other Commonwealth support scheme set up to help unemployed people, is that Commonwealth money goes into the project. So, when I talk about the difference in cost between a person unemployed, and the cost of the Government's employing that person, it lessens

with every extra support programme we take in. I have not taken into account the Government projects which pay Commonwealth money to unemployed people, which could lessen the gap quite considerably.

The scheme is failing to meet its objectives and the reasons for its establishment when it was initially announced. Its idea was to buoy people over the period between becoming unemployed—usually when leaving school—and the time when the economy is buoyant enough to provide those people with jobs.

The present Commonwealth youth support scheme has been in operation for three years and some people have been in the scheme for the whole of those three years. The reason is that the economy has not picked up but has, in fact, become worse. We have a whole generation of unemployed and the scheme cannot keep up.

I do not want to score at the expense of the member for Bunbury—and there are many areas on which I could score in that regard—but I was pleased to note that the member for Bunbury managed to get an article and his photograph in *The Electors' Voice*. I have not been able to get an article or my photograph into that publication, and that is the case with most other members.

Almost as large as life was a photograph of the member for Bunbury, and his speech rated a number of paragraphs in the publication.

Mr Sibson: The speech was made in South Perth.

Mr PEARCE: I read the speech as though it were made in Bunbury.

Mr Sibson: You assumed; you did not read the article properly.

Mr PEARCE: I was so embarrassed I did not delve into the article too fully. I am prepared to write a letter to *The Electors' Voice* to the effect that the member for Bunbury is not a socialist member; indeed, in our terms he is quite a conservative member. People would have to be idiots of the first order not to believe me. So, if I can support the member for Bunbury I am only too pleased to do so. He does not put his electorate first, and that is a great shame.

The person I want to have a go at with regard to the Commonwealth youth support scheme is not present in the Chamber at the moment. I refer to the Minister for Education. His remarks make no sense. He said that something needs to be done to reorganise the scheme, and that more volunteers were required. The grand idea of the Minister for Education—if he thought of it himself, and I hope he did—is that instead of one

or two paid people being involved, there should be a paid person to deal with 40 or 50 volunteer workers who would, in turn, presumably deal with 40 or 50 unemployed youths. At a time of impossible unemployment, when large sections of the community are out of jobs, what does the Minister advocate as a solution? He is advocating more voluntary workers; more people working, but not being paid.

The whole point of unemployment is that instead of people doing a job and being paid, they are paid for not doing a job. The Minister has suggested that more people should be doing jobs for which they are not paid. I think that indicates how out of touch with the Commonwealth youth support scheme, or with the way in which it operates is the Minister for Education—as he is out of touch with everything else.

Mr Shalders: Do you think that Apex members should stop their voluntary community services?

Mr PEARCE: No, I do not. I do not know whether the member for Murray has any connection with such schemes.

Mr Shalders: I do, indeed.

Mr PEARCE: I am pleased to hear that. He will be aware—as I am—that, in fact, all committees draw on voluntary workers to some extent. However, to suggest that full-time workers should not deal with the problem directly—that is, the unemployed people—and that volunteers should deal with unemployed youth, is to show a complete failure to understand the way this scheme, and other schemes, operate.

One of the wisest sayings I have heard was at a meeting concerning unemployed people. The meeting was attended also by the member for Bunbury and the member for Albany. While the officers concerned with unemployment schemes were discussing the needs of the unemployed, a chap sitting next to me said, "All they need to solve the problem is a job." I could not agree more. If jobs are provided all the other social problems which accompany unemployment disappear and the need for the scheme—and other schemes—disappears.

I think I have demonstrated that very little effort and very little money is necessary from the Government to provide jobs for the people. Once the unemployment benefits which Government departments are paying to people who are unemployed are taken into account, very little extra money would be needed to provide people with employment. It would be possible to put people into private business on a subsidised basis. The unemployed could be turned into employed people with the use of Government money, and it

is only the rigid ideology which prevents the Liberal Government from employing people in Government service. It is the ideology of the Prime Minister that everything must be done by private enterprise, so he creates unemployment in the public sector which the private sector cannot pick up.

The ideology of this Premier is that one must have mass development otherwise jobs cannot be provided. It is up to large companies such as Western Mining and half a dozen others to provide employment for people.

Mr Clarko: Why did not the Whitlam Government solve the unemployment problem?

Mr PEARCE: I am quite happy to debate the problems of the Whitlam Government with regard to unemployment.

Mr Clarko: The unemployment went from 80 000 to 192 000 in just over a year.

Mr PEARCE: Which year?

Mr Clarko: The Whitlam Government went in late in 1972 and by 1974 the unemployed were approaching 200 000.

Mr PEARCE: I am quite prepared to accept that unemployment rose strongly during 1974, but there was a reason. In fact, it was along the very lines I am proposing. I will not accept any criticism of the Whitlam Government.

Mr Clarko: I am asking why Whitlam did not solve the problem.

Mr PEARCE: I will explain. I accept that the economy went very bad during the middle of 1974, and the reason was the power-hungry Federal friends of our comrades opposite who were so concerned with gaining power that they precipitated an election in the middle of that year which tied up the Australian economy.

Mr Clarko: Do you think that caused a rise in unemployment? You would be the only person in Australia who would not blame Whitlam. The Labor economists would not agree with you either.

Mr PEARCE: The member for Karrinyup is concerned about people agreeing with him. He had a few problems earlier tonight.

Mr Clarko: You asked a false question, you know that.

Mr PEARCE: It was not a false question. On that particular matter, the only statements the member for Karrinyup could get to support him on the matter of misinformation to the Speaker were letters written after I had been down to the Guild of Undergraduates. If he goes through that letter, I will point out to him—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Two things should happen. Firstly, the member for Gosnells should move back into his place, and secondly he should move back to debating the question before the Chair.

Mr Skidmore: And the member for Karrinyup should shut up.

Mr PEARCE: I made one simple point, which as far as I am aware has not been rebutted by any Liberal member in this State or in the Commonwealth; that is, that the \$500 million which is paid by the Federal Government per year in unemployment benefits could be put to job creation schemes, either directly through Government agencies or indirectly through subsidies to private enterprise, at very little cost either to the Government or to private enterprise.

Mr P. V. Jones: What \$500 million is that?

Mr PEARCE: That is the money paid out by the Federal Government in unemployment benefits. The cost per person in doing that would be \$2.55 a week in the case of a married man with four children, \$7.60 a week in the case of a married man with three children, \$12.50 a week in the case of a married man with two children, \$20 a week in the case of a married man with one child, \$27.50 a week in the case of a married man with no children, and \$53.40 a week in the case of a single man.

Mr Sibson: Have you sold that policy to the hard-heads in your party?

Mr PEARCE: I am not a salesman like the member for Bunbury.

Mr Sibson: Are they convinced that is a good philosophy? It is more important to sell it to them than to us.

Mr PEARCE: These economic policies need to be sold to this House in the case of the State Government, and to the Federal House in the case of the Federal Government.

Mr Clarko: Do you think we have \$500 million to spare?

Mr PEARCE: That amount is already spent on unemployment.

Mr P. V. Jones: You mean that instead of giving people money by way of handouts they should be given money by way of wages?

Mr PEARCE: Yes.

Mr P. V. Jones: You are suggesting that they work for their unemployment benefits.

Mr PEARCE: No, because they are not then unemployment benefits; they are wages.

Mr P. V. Jones: It is a different name but it is the same thing.

Mr PEARCE: It is close enough. We have never argued against people working for money. We say, make the unemployment benefits up to the level of the minimum wage and employ people. Perhaps the National Country Party is not in this ideological bind, but its majority partner is opposed to employing people. Its philosophy is that the Government should put people off and private enterprise should employ them. Private enterprise does not have the money to employ those people. The Government has the money but prefers to pay it to people in unemployment benefits than to pay a minimum wage for a job.

Mr MacKinnon: There is a difference between the minimum wage and the unemployment benefit.

Mr PEARCE: Where has the member for Murdoch been?

Mr B. T. Burke: Probably misrepresenting himself at the university.

Mr Watt: How long do you think these people would be happy to be employed at that level? Obviously they would be looking for something better than the minimum wage.

Mr PEARCE: I put it like this: I am sure almost all the unemployed people I deal with would prefer to be on the minimum wage than on the minimum dole and to be working and earning their living rather than suffering the social stigma of being unemployed.

Mr Watt: That is right, but you are selling the idea on the basis of an extra \$2.55. The people we are looking at would gain more than that.

Mr PEARCE: I take the point, but of course they will be married in a few years and the chances are they will be unemployed when they get married, so the difference would decrease. I am not pushing the idea of employing everybody in Government departments. I am saying if the Government were to promote job creation schemes positively through private enterprise by heavy subsidy, it could afford to subsidise private employers, at least to the extent of unemployment benefits, to take on extra labour. I am referring particularly to private industry and local government authorities.

Mr Watt: If a welder went into a job, would it be on the basis of the minimum wage or the welder's wage? And if he went in on the basis of the minimum wage, for how long would the union like that?

Mr PEARCE: Obviously the minimum wage would not apply for a person in that sort of job; I

accept that. But the person on unemployment benefits is totally unproductive; he is not producing anything. A person working as a welder is producing something, and even if he is not fully productive on a welder's wage his productivity is greater than the difference between the minimum wage and the unemployment benefit.

Mr Watt: Do you think people in private industry would be looking at cutting down on permanent staff so that they could take on some of the cheap labour?

Mr PEARCE: I am prepared to suggest their motive might be crassly commercial. I would agree they probably would.

Mr Watt: You would be back where you started.

Mr PEARCE: Not necessarily. If the Government were to subsidise private industry, it would be aware of the rapacious profit motive of private industry. The member for Albany is saying if they could get cheap labour they would grab it and not take on extra people.

Mr Clarko: He said some might.

Mr PEARCE: There would have to be safeguards against that. If a welding shop is employing 12 people and the Government subsidises it to take on an extra three people but it takes the subsidy and employs only 12 people, a Government inspector would be able to work it out that the company was fiddling the books. Safeguards would be necessary. I am pointing out what a massive investment the Australian community has in its unemployed, on which it is getting no return.

Mr Grewar: What do you think of the NEAT scheme?

Mr PEARCE: It was going very well before it was cut back. The problem with the RED scheme is that it is not providing permanent employment, as the scheme I am suggesting would.

Mr Sibson: You do not have to convince us.

Mr PEARCE: The member for Bunbury is more concerned about pandering to the electorate than getting jobs for people. The money can be used to provide jobs for people. If the State Government does not have the money, it can take a line on this with the Federal Government.

I will not take the word of the Premier or the member for Murray that the Government is doing the best it can for the unemployed in this State. It could be doing a lot more and I have indicated the areas in which it could be doing more. The one thing that stops it is that it is constrained by rigid ideology from which it is not prepared to depart,

and the Liberal Party's ideology is costing people jobs in Western Australia and in Australia.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [11.09 p.m.]: The Opposition would probably be failing in its duty if it did not raise this issue, but no matter how long the issue is debated tonight, it will not provide anybody with a job. It certainly might provide some people with overtime but it will not provide jobs.

In its amendment the Opposition has outlined the degree of unemployment that exists in Western Australia, and I think it may be said that the Government, within the confines of its policies, is doing the best it can with the unemployment situation, and despite that unemployment exists. Despite what the Government is doing and what the Opposition is saying, unemployment exists.

We hear grandstanding in this Chamber where unemployment figures are used as a political issue on which to gain electoral support. This grandstanding should end. Perhaps the Parliament should spend a little more time becoming involved in a review of Government policy with the idea of helping employment in this State.

I would like to mention some areas where I hope this Parliament will become involved in reviewing Government policies. Firstly, we must give the Premier and any other member of the Government full support in any effort taken to exhort from the Commonwealth Government funds which, in my opinion, quite rightfully belong to this State. We do not need to look far for an example of such funds, so let us consider road maintenance tax. Already, through various aspects of the transport industry, the Federal Government raises something like \$2 500 million from fuel tax, import tariffs, vehicle sales tax, etc., and yet the State Government is expected to raise even more funds for its own road programme. Every member of this House should give any member of the Government full support to ensure that some of the taxes and charges imposed by the Federal Government on the transport industry are returned to the States for that industry.

We have heard also some comments about the Government encouraging industry. I quite agree with those comments, but I believe the Government should note several points. In its encouragement of industry, the Government should ensure that it does not sell the farm, and I would like to give an example of this. I believe that tonight the Minister for Labour and Industry mentioned the opposition to the bauxite mining

industry when he spoke to this amendment. While the National Party does not oppose that industry, it does query some aspects of it, and one of those aspects is the value of royalties paid to the State.

Many arguments have been advanced about the amount of funds available to create jobs. I suggest that the Government should review the rate of royalties paid by the bauxite industry to the State. Any additional funds from such royalties would certainly help to provide jobs.

Currently in Western Australia 8c to 10c a tonne is paid by way of royalty on bauxite. In Jamaica, the royalty on a similar product is between \$8 and \$10 a tonne, or approximately 100 times the royalty paid in this State. I admit that the royalties paid in Jamaica are so high that the industry has been forced to look elsewhere for its bauxite, but surely if we employed a modicum of common sense we could work out a royalty to provide some extra funding to be used for the creation of jobs.

The Premier also mentioned funding for hospitals. I remind the Premier to look at the Budget figures for 1978 where he will see that about \$156 000 was spent on country hospitals. This Parliament should review such policies, and we should ensure that the Government is doing the best it can with the resources available to it to create more employment. The National Party opposes this amendment.

MR HODGE (Melville) [11.14 p.m.]: This evening we heard a very comprehensive report from the Leader of the Opposition about the crisis in unemployment facing this State. The Leader of the Opposition exploded the myth that the Government has been putting forward for a number of years that our unemployment is the fault of the people from New Zealand and the Eastern States, the militant left-wing trade unionists, Asians, and everyone else. Obviously, from the figures given to the House tonight, that is not true, and these statements do not stand up to scrutiny.

Tonight the Minister for Labour and Industry added some other scapegoats—he referred to the Australian Labor Party, penalty rates, and I think later on he mentioned married women, higher sick pay, and improved working conditions as causing unemployment.

Mr Skidmore: These workers will have to stop getting wages!

Mr HODGE: The question of penalty rates has caused me some concern. The campaign against penalty rates has been fairly well orchestrated over the last year amongst the ranks of the Liberal Party and employer groups.

We saw the first attacks on penalty rates launched about the middle of last year by the Federal President of the Liberal Party. This attack was quickly taken up by the various other State Ministers and employer spokesmen. Very quickly, penalty rates were identified as a component of wages and a factor in wage costs. However, the people making the attacks were very slow to identify the reason that penalty rates are paid.

Obviously not many members on the other side of the House have ever worked shift work and been paid penalty rates. I can speak from personal experience because for 10 years I worked shift work, and I appreciated being paid penalty rates. I realise fully the reason that these rates are paid. Just for the benefit of the Minister for Labour and Industry, and for any other member who might be awake and interested, I would like to point out that penalty rates are paid to people who work outside the normal hours; that is, they work when other people are enjoying leisure periods, and they deserve to be paid for providing a service during these hours.

The claim that penalty rates, particularly in the hotel industry, are causing tourists to stay away, is rubbish.

Mr Laurance: You are defending your position. I thought this was a censure motion.

Mr HODGE: The Minister for Labour and Industry tonight advanced the theory that penalty rates were one reason for unemployment.

Mr Laurance: You are going backwards.

Mr HODGE: I am rebutting that. If the honourable member does not like what he hears, he may go outside like many of his colleagues. I happen to think that this debate tonight is very important. I have undertaken a great deal of research on this question, and I would like to put the facts before the House.

Mr Clarko: There are only 10 of your colleagues here instead of 21.

Mr HODGE: The most effective rebuttal of the penalty rates argument put forward by the Minister comes from Mr Roger Kirby, Managing Director of Travelodge Australia Ltd., one of the largest hotel groups in Australia. In an article which appeared in the *Sydney Sunday Sun* on the 21st January, 1979, Mr Kirby had this to say—

"I am a capitalist but I don't think we will get anywhere by turning the screws on bartenders and other workers.

A \$20 cut in take-home penalties would only save customers about 50 cents a night, he said.

Penalty rates are being used as a smokescreen by Qantas and the Federal Government to hide the real problems in the new air fares policy . . .

I will not read the whole article, but it is in a similar vein. Mr Kirby believes that penalty rates should be paid, and he says that if they were cut out, hotel guests would be saved only 50c a night.

Mr B. T. Burke: But he would be a commo, wouldn't he?

Mr HODGE: He is a capitalist, and he says that in the article.

Mr B. T. Burke: He will be expelled from the Liberal Party.

Mr HODGE: That comment explodes the myth put forward tonight by the Minister that penalty rates cause unemployment. I suppose the next group to be blamed will be married women in the work force. We have already had one comment from the Minister to that effect in the Press. The Minister called for a report on the effect of married women in the work force. I got the very strong feeling that he did not approve of married women in the work force.

Mr O'Connor: Not at all, I was just explaining why unemployment is higher.

Mr HODGE: The Minister was just explaining in the *Daily News* that married women are taking the jobs of unmarried women.

Mr O'Connor: In many cases that is correct, but I am not saying they shouldn't.

Mr HODGE: The Minister has not called for a report of married men in the work force, so it seems that he is picking out married women as the scapegoats.

Mr O'Connor: You are defending yourself; you are the one with no argument.

Mr HODGE: The Minister has no arguments; all his myths have been exploded here tonight.

The State-wide unemployment situation has been covered very well tonight by the Leader of the Opposition and other speakers. I wish to inform the House about unemployment figures relating to the Fremantle district, and extending into my electorate of Melville.

In the Federal electorate of Fremantle, the latest figures I can obtain from the Fremantle office of the Department of Social Security, for the 7th March, show that 4 459 unemployed people are receiving unemployment benefits. That is a staggering number of people, as I am sure all members will agree. To provide jobs for all those people at the moment the Fremantle CES office

has 77 unfilled vacancies on record—to satisfy 4 459 unemployed people.

An even more serious aspect of the unemployment crisis in the Fremantle district is illustrated when one looks more closely at the figures and finds that 65 per cent of the unemployed people are under the age of 26 years. There are 2 913 young people aged between 16 and 25 years unemployed in that district. In my opinion that is a tragedy.

In my own electorate of Melville the position is just as grim. A total of 949 people are unemployed, and 672 of those are aged between 16 and 25 years. When I received those figures I could barely believe them. I checked them and double-checked them and asked for a detailed breakdown. I found that the number of unemployed people between the ages of 16 and 25 in various suburbs of my electorate, as at the 7th March was as follows—

Palmyra	114
Sampson	4
Hilton	176
Melville	130
Willagee	146
O'Connor	8
Bicton	94

Mr MacKinnon: What about Coolbellup?

Mr HODGE: I did not want to embarrass the member for Murdoch. In Coolbellup the number is well over 300.

I could not obtain a detailed breakdown of the 77 job vacancies, but I did manage to find out that there are 20 jobs available for adult males, 11 for adult females, 25 for junior males, and 21 for junior females; and that is for the whole of the Federal electorate of Fremantle. Therefore, I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that it is an unemployment crisis and a real tragedy to have so many people unemployed in such a small area.

Other figures supplied by the Fremantle office of the Department of Social Security indicate that the average period of unemployment is lengthening. In the Federal electorate of Fremantle 821 people have been unemployed for three to six months; 386 have been unemployed for six to 12 months; and 107 have been unemployed for 12 to 18 months.

Mr Davies: That is where the dole bludgers are.

Mr HODGE: These are all young people aged between 16 and 25 years.

A member: With long hair.

Mr HODGE: I suppose many of them have not had haircuts; they could not afford to. The

Department of Social Security advises that, in addition to those figures, at a conservative estimate there would probably be at least another 300 young people who will qualify for unemployment benefits but whose applications at that time—the 7th March—had not been processed but were in the pipeline.

It has been suggested also that there may even be thousands of others who have not bothered to go to the office and register. I am personally aware of probably a couple of dozen young people who are unemployed and have been for a long time, and who live at home with their parents and will not accept unemployment benefits. As the member for Morley said earlier, a stigma has been attached to unemployment benefits, so much so that young people are too embarrassed and humiliated to claim them. I cannot imagine any member of this House would be happy with that situation.

Mr Clarko: Do you think a person should accept unemployment benefits if he happens to have a few thousand dollars in the bank which he made from seasonal crayfishing?

Mr HODGE: I believe if people qualify under the guidelines laid down they are entitled to the unemployment benefits.

Mr Clarko: They are entitled to them, but some feel they should not accept them because of their position.

Mr HODGE: I am not opposed to those people who may feel that way.

Mr Clarko: They are not rich, they have just a few thousand dollars they have saved.

Mr HODGE: That is their business, and they are entitled not to seek unemployment benefits if they feel that way. I am talking about the people who have been so indoctrinated by anti-dole bludger comments in the Press that they are afraid to apply for unemployment benefits.

In his speech earlier this evening the Leader of the Opposition spoke of the staggering cost of unemployment to the community. He told us 112 million man-days were lost between February, 1978, and January, 1979, as a result of unemployment. We hear a lot about the loss of man-days and production as a result of strikes; but the figures presented by the Leader of the Opposition tonight show that unemployment is by far the greatest evil; it loses more man-days than strikes are ever likely to lose.

An even more serious consequence of unemployment is the effect on the human being, on the individual. What will be the long-term effect of unemployment on those thousands of

young people in the Fremantle area—the almost 3 000 young people who are currently unemployed and many of whom have been unemployed for six, 12, and 18 months? How will it affect their future? How will it scar them?

I am also active—seeing members are mentioning this—with the CYSS system in my area. I am afraid I cannot boast that I am the chairman, but I have met many people who have come from the CYSS system in my area. A lot of these people are bitter and resentful at the fact that they cannot find jobs. Many have lost their self-confidence and self-respect and are very bitter at the system which has caused them to be unemployed. Many young people in our community are turning to drugs and crime as a result of unemployment.

I believe the urban guerilla movement in Europe is being fed largely by the millions of young unemployed people there. I do not know whether we will face that prospect here. I certainly hope not. However, if something is not done quickly to alleviate unemployment amongst young people we will have a large social problem on our hands.

The CYSS system that is based in Fremantle works up into my electorate through O'Connor. Recently in the industrial area of O'Connor a workshop has been established in a large disused factory. The staff employed by the scheme are doing a sterling job but, unfortunately, there are only two of them and they are restricted by a shoestring budget. They seem to be really underfinanced and unable therefore to tackle the job seriously. It seems to me that the CYSS system is a band-aid approach to the problem.

The speeches earlier tonight of the Premier and the Minister for Labour and Industry were really appalling. I challenge the Premier or the Minister to go to the Fremantle CES office or the CYSS headquarters in O'Connor and repeat the arguments they put forward tonight. With all their rhetoric, their froth and bubble, and their rose-tinted spectacles which completely ignore the 50 000 people who are unemployed, they would go over like a lead balloon. Not once did it pass the lips of the Minister for Labour and Industry that nearly 50 000 people are unemployed. We heard about juggling of statistics and about how jobs have been created and how rosy the future looks. We heard the Premier waxing on about the grandiose schemes for the future; but not once did he or the Minister admit that nearly 50 000 people are unemployed. The 50 000 people who are unemployed do not give a damn about how many development schemes are in the pipeline or how many thousand extra jobs have been created.

If they are unemployed, all that is irrelevant to them.

Mr MacKinnon: Are you saying we should simply sit down and forget about development?

Mr HODGE: I am saying that tonight we should have heard some constructive ideas coming forward either from the Premier or from the Minister for Labour and Industry about ways to tackle the unemployment problem, particularly the unemployment of our young people.

Mr Herzfeld: You moved the amendment; it is up to you to put forward some ideas to justify your amendment.

Mr HODGE: In fact, some very sound ideas were advanced by the Leader of the Opposition on ways to overcome unemployment. I think the leader of the National Party hit the nail on the head when he talked about extra payments being made by some of these mining companies. I am sure they could afford to pay a little more out of their royalties to help the Premier provide jobs.

Mr Clarko: Why doesn't the Premier of New South Wales solve the problem of unemployment in his State? Unemployment in New South Wales is higher than in any other State.

Mr HODGE: No, unemployment is worse in Western Australia and it is getting worse every day.

Mr Clarko: That is incorrect; New South Wales has the highest unemployment rate.

Mr HODGE: I do not represent New South Wales; I represent Melville, and I am interested to hear something from this Government which I can pass on to the nearly 1 000 people who are unemployed in my electorate.

Mr Clarko: Is it not true that during the term of the Tonkin Government, unemployment in Western Australia was the highest or the second-highest in Australia? Was that not the case for almost its whole period in office?

Mr HODGE: I do not know the answer to that question. I know only that when the Tonkin Government left office there were about 7 000 people unemployed in Western Australia and I know that there are nearly 50 000 people unemployed today. This situation has been brought about by this Government, which said that it could solve the unemployment problem within six months of gaining office and could provide an additional 100 000 jobs.

I am certain that the majority of unemployed people in my electorate do not know who to blame for the situation in which they find themselves. Many are bewildered; they do not realise their situation is the result of a deliberate policy of the

Fraser Government, backed up by this Government. I am making it my business to make sure that everyone in my electorate knows who to blame. I am putting out newsletters and speaking to as many people in my electorate as I can. The blame is going to be laid fairly and squarely at the feet of the Court Government.

DR TROY (Fremantle) [11.32 p.m.]: I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It is a timely amendment because, despite the euphoria of some members opposite, our economy is in a parlous state. The member for Melville, who has just resumed his seat, gave ample demonstration of the effects this Government's policies are having on electorates like Fremantle and Melville.

The Governor commenced his remarks on the economy with the following statement—

1979 shows promise of recovery—even though the world economy is still not showing strong and uniform improvement.

It would seem to me that statement bears little contact with reality, and that is the reason the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition not only is timely but also is absolutely necessary.

The member for Murray moved the Address-in-Reply motion, and his remarks also showed some loss of contact with reality. He said—

... Western Australia is one of only two States in Australia to show a rise in the number of people employed in the work force in recent times,

That is a clear example of a false statement.

Mr Shalders: It was taken from ABS statistics. You check them out.

Dr TROY: I wish now to refer to the statistics the member for Murray and, indeed, the Premier are so fond of quoting in their speeches. They are clear examples of the aphorism, "Figures do not lie, but liars can certainly figure."

The document entitled "Western Australian Economy, 1977-78" reveals that the civilian work force in Western Australia increased by 1.5 per cent between June, 1977, and June, 1978. This compared with an increase of 3 per cent in the previous year. When we add the two increases together we have a total increase of 4.5 per cent.

However, the Premier refuses to look at the thrust contained in a detailed breakup of those figures. The Premier quoted from his own secret figures—I will take them to be correct—and claimed the updated figures to January of this year showed a total increase in civilian

employment of 3.3 per cent for the preceding two years.

The conclusion one can draw from that statement is that the impact of the State Budget for the financial year July, 1978, to June, 1979, has been so devastating as to put the civilian employment figures into reverse. This is a clear example of how that aphorism is true; figures do not lie, but liars can certainly figure. The Premier and the Minister for Labour and Industry have used figures to suit their arguments.

It was quite evident at the time the Budget documents were brought down in September, 1978, that this trend would result. For example, the number of people employed in the mining sector decreased in the previous 12 months by some 7.9 per cent. The employment figure for the manufacturing sector also had a minus figure, in this case about 2 per cent. So, it was evident, given the general nature of our economy, that we were headed for serious trouble.

Western Australia now has moved from a position of low unemployment to a situation where it has the highest unemployment rate of any State, and this trend has been worsened by the current Budget. It was evident at the time that this would be the result of the 1978 Budget, and I made a public statement to that effect. I estimated then that by the end of this financial year we would be looking down the barrel of at least 10 per cent unemployment in this State. That figure already has been passed; clearly, the unofficial figures reveal a higher rate of unemployment than the prediction I made in September, 1978. It has already been pointed out tonight how the official figures always seriously underestimate the real level of unemployment.

Any debate on the economy must go beyond a simple question of unemployment and include the erosion of the community's living standards. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that for the December quarter last year, average weekly earnings in Australia increased by only 0.2 per cent. The bureau pointed out that the rate of increase in wages had dropped dramatically.

There are a number of other figures relating to the same period which bear consideration. A whole series of articles has been written on the question of food prices. Perth rates as the capital city with the highest cost of living in Australia. So, not only do we have the highest rate of unemployment but we also have the highest cost of living. The trend of food prices is upwards. The January figures show a 2 per cent increase in food prices, with a further major increase not only in

food prices but also in building costs and in many other areas occurring in February.

Those are the immediate problems. Contained within figures in the 19th March edition of *The Australian Financial Review* there are indicators that prices in the manufacturing sector are already starting to surge. Of course, immediately behind the surge in manufacturing prices there will come another bout of increased costs and charges to ordinary folk which will be expressed finally in terms of food prices and the like.

In total terms, what we have seen, especially in the last nine economic months, has been the complete reversal of the whole economic trend for the post-war period. We have seen a very savage fall in our standard of living when one adds up the wages problems and the increase in the cost-of-living problem. It is worth reflecting on why this kind of process has occurred. Clearly, from the figures, wages are not the cause of the problem. We have to consider more fundamental questions in relation to our economy to discover why, in this particular period, we in this State have suffered this complete reversal.

Again I refer to the figures on the Western Australian economy which came out in the last Budget. From those figures, one learns that with the gross value of production, the vast bulk is in fact geared for export earnings. It is a truism that our economy is primarily agricultural and mineral. What manufacturing industry we have is secondary to our mining and farming industries. When one starts to look at the significance of these things, and one takes the exports section for a start, one discovers that the exports make up a huge percentage of our economic life.

These export earnings pay for a large import bill. It is worth ruminating for a while on what is happening in export markets. Some very serious and interesting events have occurred over a period of time.

If one considers our markets for agricultural products, many of the traditional markets have disappeared. This disappearance took place with the British entry into the European Economic Community. This created the need to discover other markets for our agricultural products. The access to many of our markets is being curbed because of the increased tariff barriers which our goods have to cross. The European Economic Community is only one of the cases in point. It is a fact that our markets have shrunk. One can specifically relate this to grain, meat, nickel, and iron ore. The circumstance in all of those markets is one of surplus capacity.

Let us consider grain for the moment. We had a bountiful harvest this year; but that bountiful harvest is creating a problem. When one goes to Cockburn Sound and Fremantle and speaks to people who load the ships, one learns that the shippage of grain out of those two places has been much less than normal. This will create storage problems as the year progresses.

In all of our markets, as far as location, access, and size are concerned, the picture is one of trade barriers and instability. In fact, it is a picture of profound chaos on a world scale.

There is another aspect we ought to consider. This is a critical point as far as the impact on our economy is concerned. That is what is happening to the prices of the goods we sell overseas? Let us deal with iron ore. Up till the last set of negotiations, the prices contracted for have fallen significantly in the 1978 year. This meant a very substantial reduction in income, in addition to the fact we were not exporting the same quantities. The price fell—and it varied from place to place and company to company—by between 10 and 19 per cent for different grades of iron ore. That situation existed up till the first half of the current financial year.

It is true that recently there has been an increase of approximately 8 per cent on the contracted price for the immediate period. However, the income that we have received from our mineral earnings and other earnings has fallen seriously. The fall in prices has been compounded by the fact that in 1978 there was a massive devaluation of the US dollar over other main currencies in the world. To give members some idea of the enormity of that problem, if one takes 1971 as the standard year one ounce of gold was selling on the official money market for \$US34 an ounce. In 1979 the price for gold is of the order of \$US250 an ounce. As I said, there has been a large devaluation of that dollar against other currencies.

The sum total of all this is that in the course of 1978 we have experienced a substantial loss of real income.

I turn now to the import side of our ledger. Members can see a number of serious problems emerging there. Let us consider energy requirements. This State is more dependent on imported energy requirements than any other State in Australia. If we consider energy requirements for transport, we are almost entirely dependent on imported fuel oil. Considering energy requirements for power, the same story can be seen. We all know what has happened to

the prices of those commodities in relation to the world market.

We import most of our consumer goods into the State. Prices of the goods have increased. During the boom that we have experienced, the trend has been that more and more consumer goods are not even assembled any longer in the State, but are imported in the assembled form.

The price of our oil has increased. Not only are we suffering from the point of view of oil imported internationally, but now, as a direct result of the Fraser Government's policy of giving local companies international parity prices, we are paying through the nose for the oil that we import from other parts of this country. We pick up a little on the roundabouts as far as Barrow Island is concerned; but the net effect is one of a massive increase in our costs, at the same time as we are seeing a massive destruction of our own income.

There are serious questions in relation to oil which need airing in this Parliament. To some extent they were raised in the statement by the Caltex Oil Company a few weeks ago to the Prices Justification Tribunal.

We are not only going to be caught out over the barrel for the increased cost of oil, but we are also going to be caught out because of the reduced access to oil from the Middle East. That was clearly brought out by the secret telex to the Caltex Company from the Federal Government. The Government wanted the company to play down the problems that were imminent in this area.

Then we move to another area; the area of invisible costs. If one starts to look at shipping costs, one sees they are enormously high. We cart out of this country and off this coast a very tiny percentage of our exports in Australian crewed vessels. This means the cost to this nation therefore is very high. Wages are not the main factor in the running of any ship, as anyone familiar with shipping knows. I refer to Captain Williams' report brought down in 1969.

The question of Australian exports and imports and the influence of foreign shipping companies have been manipulated in the first instance by foreign capital interests from Britain and subsequently other parts of the world, which have been prepared to keep Australian industry and economy under their thumb. Shipping owners can take a fair share of that which the farmers and others produce.

New things have developed since which started with the decline of the importance of the European Economic Community. As far as shipping was concerned the Government in this

State did not take advantage of these events. Certainly the Federal Government did not take advantage of them.

The new control is not vested in the European area, but rather in all those shipping combines which have gone in for container operations. We see this on the wharf. If one looks at the figures for 1974 to now one can see that the work force has been more than halved. Fremantle's story is not much different from the story in other parts of Australia. The total number of people on wharves has dropped from something like 26 000 in 1956 to less than 9 000 now. The wages bill to handle the cargo has accordingly dropped dramatically.

To bring all these things together is to show that our exports and imports are in a parlous state. This is reflected in what is happening to our balance of payments. I refer to material from *The Australian Financial Review* which indicates we are running into serious problems with our balance of payments. The articles indicate we are on a rapid downhill course.

The problem has been avoided temporarily by massive Government borrowings. Very serious changes are emerging as a result of this deterioration in these Government borrowings. This has been borne out by further information in *The Australian Financial Review*. It is said that the Government borrowings now are such that the repayments of today's bills will hang over into the 1980s. The peak years mentioned are 1981, 1982, and 1983.

It is unlike Government borrowings in an earlier period. The performance of this Government and the Federal Government that allows us to get into enormous problems in the short term is based on the prospect that there will be a world boom. I think that is important to note.

I turn now to what is happening to the capital flow. This is a straw in the wind. The fact is that the private capital flow is leaving this country. This is surprising in a period when corporate profits have never been better.

A survey by *The Australian Financial Review* of 200 listed public companies has shown that 78 per cent returned improved earnings for the six months to the 31st December. Possibly the most striking figure to emerge from the survey was that 76 of the 200 companies studied reported profit rises of 25 per cent or more. So with this picture one could imagine people would be happy to come in and invest in Australia.

One should consider the thrust of Fraser's policies since he has been in office. His policies

have been supposedly to make Australia a more attractive place for investors. The corollary was that as the world boom picked up there would be investment in Australia. What the figures demonstrate is that Fraser has carried out a massive transfer of wealth from the working class to the wealthy. This has been done in a number of ways.

Of course, we reach the position where corporate profits are today at an all-time high. This massive transfer of wealth this Federal Government has engineered under the pretext of fighting inflation has had a disastrous effect on Fremantle. This current Budget and, to some extent, the Address-in-Reply debate have seen that in very stark relief. Almost immediately following the Budget we saw sackings in the Harbour and Light Department, the State Engineering Works, Robb Jetty and the wharf. Now, of course, we see the prospect of very serious declines when the railway to Fremantle is to be shut down as a result of this State Government's policy. So here we have a picture of the capital flow not coming in despite the fact that massive profits are being made.

I think there are indicators in the wind as to what we can expect in the future. I refer to the Alwest project; one of the Court Government's babies. The closing date for the finance on that proposition was the 31st January of this year. It closed without a murmur. Premier Court made reference, in his contribution, to the investment that was made in the concentrator plants in two iron ore projects up north in direct response to a 40 per cent allowance given by the Federal Government.

It amounted to a rationalisation. We might say it was getting its house in order. But when we start to pierce the situation in relation to minerals and in most other areas of manufacturing we see that there has not been any major investment in this State since 1971. To some extent this is reflective of a very contradictory phenomena which is, that in this period, whilst we have seen massive amounts of money—capital available—both locally and on a world scale, and indeed we have now permission as a local Government to go ahead and obtain that capital, and corporate profits are booming, capital is not being invested. If we take up the question of why Alwest did not proceed, we can get a grasp of what is happening. We can grasp it in relation to alumina, iron ore, or almost anything one wishes to sell, by looking at the world market and the trends there.

In relation to alumina we see that demand and supply are roughly approximating, but there is a

tendency for surplus capacity even in the units under production already and hence the Ubec storage bin opened the other day. That suggests there is no capacity for alumina to increase substantially in price.

So the capital pundits on a world scale are not prepared to invest in alumina, because they cannot perceive any capacity of being able to realise a return on their capital. This has become a particularly acute problem, because the devaluation of currencies around the world has caused much chaos with interest rates charged now being high and increasing. Investors must be assured of the capacity to increase prices to very high levels. They are unable, therefore, in terms of the capital required and the capacity to service that capital, to guarantee sufficient production rates per unit of capital invested to get their money back. What one can say of alumina, one can say also of iron ore.

The Premier is fond of quoting from past history, although in the present situation he is a little uncomfortable; but if we go back three weeks we find one of the biggest conglomerates operating in this State—and I refer to Conzinc Rio Tinto—has taken away from this State 400 jobs; 200 of those jobs were in the pellet plant and about another 150 were in the Carnarvon salt works.

Mr Laurance: What do you mean "taken away"?

Dr TROY: It has taken away a few other jobs also which are directly related. If we refer to the figure quoted by the Premier, that a job in the mining industry by and large creates four or five other jobs, we can start to see the impact when 400 jobs in the mining industry disappear.

Mr Laurance: Rubbish!

Dr TROY: We can see the impact that the loss of those jobs has on the State. We can look at this in relation to the Hamersley Iron project. The main cost that cannot be met in the pellet plant is the increased cost of machinery; that is, despite the fact that there is no market for the pellets.

Mr Sodeman: What about the thousands of jobs created up there in the first instance?

Dr TROY: What can be said of iron ore can be said of other minerals. We can start to see the impact on the whole of our economy, because the world market is involved. It cannot take those kinds of increases. We can look at what is happening in the world market in the main manufacturing areas and that gives us the key to mineral development and the like. We can take main secondary industries and we can look at shipbuilding as an example. We will ignore for

the moment the alleged bonanza we will see in Jervoise Bay; but in the case of shipbuilding, by the end of 1979 the main shipbuilding yards of the world will be facing the problem of being without orders for ship building. In fact, another very serious downturn is reliably forecast. Members can go to the Lloyds register in relation to the shipbuilding industry and find what I have said will be borne out.

We can turn to another main area of concern and that is car production. The same situation can be seen there. On a world scale capacity to produce cars far exceeds the market demand for them.

We have heard euphoric comments from the Premier in relation to the steel industry. There was a very interesting article in *The Australian Financial Review* a few days ago. It is headed, "US Steel sold rich holding for 54c". The United States Steel Corporation announced it had sold its major interest in a 500 000 ton a year West German iron foundry to a West German lawyer. They did not say that the West German lawyer was its lawyer. In addition to that, it was interesting to note the price for which the foundry was sold. Twenty months ago the company bought its share for \$7 million US; but it sold its share for 54c. The basic reason is that the company did not want to be faced with huge redundancy payments to employees when the works are closed down.

We can look at what is occurring on the world market and relate it to what is happening here. There is a prospect of shrinkage in world markets regardless of which area of economic activity one looks at. Trade barriers are going up.

I should like to refer members once more to various reports in *The Australian Financial Review*. We are seeing the further collapse in chaos of the world monetary system.

The economic management of the Court Government is based on an upturn in the world market. The fact is no major upturn is anticipated. We must ask what the Premier is hanging his hat on and we see that specifically he is hanging his hat on the North-West Shelf gas project. It is very interesting to refer back to a statement by George Keller who is Vice President of the Standard Oil Corporation of California. He is no small figure when it comes to oil. His statement at a recent conference in Perth was that the North-West Shelf gas project is marginal at best. The North-West Shelf project will founder on the problems and financial constraints on which the Alwest project foundered.

The main markets of the world, in particular the markets of the USA and Japan, are facing further downturns. What can we expect in this State as a result of the policies pursued by this Government? We can expect a rather savage deterioration in our standard of living for the people who work here and produce the wealth. It will be reflected in a massive increase in the number of people unemployed.

We have seen cutbacks in the Public Service already and with the type of Government we have at the present time I predict that we will see further cutbacks yet. The Premier is fond of quoting the fact that 8 per cent of the population of Western Australia produce 22 per cent of Australia's export earnings. I have attempted to demonstrate, by mentioning some of the gymnastics of our economy, that in fact we have a very unbalanced economy. We made rapid expansion when the world was set on a course of fast credit expansion; but what appeared to be our strength will turn into the complete opposite in the period we are now facing. In a changing world with a collapsing monetary and credit system the absolute dependence of our economy on export earnings in a very direct way will turn into its opposite. It will become our Achilles heel.

Again, as seen in the figures of employment and the changes in the trends from Government to private employment as contained in the last Budget statements, private capital cannot solve any of our basic problems. It will attempt to take out of the present work force its pound of flesh, and a whole series of political preparations are undertaken in order that this might be done.

We have seen in the Crawford report a blueprint for the destruction of Australia's manufacturing industry. We see from Mr Viner, moves to reduce the dole payout under stiffer work tests. This is at a time when the numbers of people unemployed—particularly young people—are absolutely skyrocketing.

Also we are seeing the political preparations by this Government in the form of a whole series of anti-union legislation. Last Tuesday's effort was a case in point, not that it came as any surprise really because public statements had been made by the Premier along those lines well before the legislation was presented to us. Those statements were presented by one, David O'Reilly, in *The Australian* for the 24th and 25th March. Also the Government has taken on political preparations in the form of building and paying for strike-busting organisations. In that regard it is worth noting that the Minister for Labour and Industry has recently received what I take to be a payout from the Midland Brick Company in connection with a

property he owned. This Government has been prepared to use police in industrial disputes and it has extended police surveillance and harassments in respect of political organisation.

Several members interjected.

Dr TROY: Capitalism in this period can only offer in this State a return of military or police state dictatorship which was evident in the legislation hammered through Parliament, alongside the savage destruction of the living standards of the mass of our people. It would seem that this system stands in the way of any further development of the productive forces in our society.

In my view the future of the State depends on the people taking over command of the resources of the State, publicly owning them, and planning their use in terms of the needs of the people, thus bringing about public control.

I commend the amendment to the House.

MR BARNETT (Rockingham) [12.13 a.m.]: In view of the amendment and the fact that Rockingham has the highest unemployment level in the State, it would be remiss of me indeed not to make some comment on the amendment. However, in view of the hour my comments will be brief, but I assure members, they are absolutely necessary. Like the Premier, I would like to say I am very proud of this State, but I am even more proud of my electorate of Rockingham. What I am not proud of is the way this Government is practising an unbalanced development of the State. Later, in the few minutes I will allow myself, I will outline why I feel it is unbalanced.

For the moment I wish to state that in the 1960s quite rightly the Government practised a policy of industrial development unprecedented in the State's history. What it has endeavoured to do subsequently is to continue that development of capital-intensive industry without paying any regard whatever to labour-intensive manufacturing industries which would provide flow-on jobs to which the Premier and the Minister frequently refer.

I notice that the Minister for Labour and Industry is in the Chamber and before going on to outline Rockingham's problems I would like to refer to an ABS form which I have here and which I am quite willing to lay on the Table of the House at a later stage.

Members will recall that the Minister had some difficulty in relating the figures mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition to the figures he was handed, and that was not his fault because the clerks had handed him old information.

I would like to read three figures from the sheet which I will then make available for tabling. In February, 1977, there were 526 500 people employed. I think we all agree on that. In February, 1978, one year later, the number had reduced to 517 700 job opportunities—7 000 fewer in 12 months.

Mr Skidmore: That is the figure the Minister would not mention.

Mr BARNETT: In all honesty I must indicate that he did not have it.

The next figure relates to the figures given by members on this side and is the latest figure. It is for January of this year, some two years after the present Government had been elected. At that time there were 516 500 which is exactly 10 000 fewer jobs. These are not my figures, but are figures supplied by the ABS.

When the present Government came into office in 1977 it offered job opportunities over a period of time. The Minister referred to seven years. I am not disputing that. I am saying that in the first two years there was a reduction of 10 000 people in employment. There is no question of that, and I will leave the paper to be placed on the Table of the House.

The Rockingham region—that includes the Kwinana area—has 1 680 unemployed people according to the latest CES figures available. There are 26 job vacancies. When broken down into districts it is revealed that Rockingham itself—which I think members will appreciate is a fairly small town compared with many metropolitan seats—has 840 unemployed with 13 job vacancies.

Mr B. T. Burke: That is the reason the SHC apartments are empty.

Mr BARNETT: I am reliably informed that with 64 people in Rockingham for every job we are the worst area in this State for unemployment. A little later I will indicate why I believe there is no need for Rockingham to be the worst area. I do not say I have the panacea to overcome all the unemployment in my area, but I have what I believe to be a reasonable and reliable solution to the employment of a large number of people currently unemployed in Rockingham.

Mr T. J. Burke: This unemployment affects the businesses.

Mr BARNETT: Yes, particularly the small businesses, but I will come to that a little later in my speech.

I want to repeat what other members have outlined to ensure the Government is aware of the

situation. These CES figures are not totally reliable. They are not an exact indicator of the number of people unemployed. It is universally accepted that the figures of the CES are generally under-stated by 25 per cent. One can assume therefore that in actual fact, the Rockingham-Kwinana area has 2 000 people unemployed which means about 80 people are available for every job. That situation is absolutely untenable. I do not believe any member, particularly Government members would put up with such a situation when there is at least a partial solution.

Some two or three years ago I submitted to the Government what I believed to be an idea, conceived completely by myself, to resolve the problem.

I subsequently found the idea had been utilised in many other places throughout the world. It is difficult to put forward new ideas but I submitted my idea to the Government, which was to encourage in some way labour-intensive light industries in the Rockingham area. On the outskirts of Rockingham, between the urban area and the capital-intensive development area, there are 380 hectares owned by the Industrial Lands Development Authority. That land has not been used during the last 20 years I have lived in Rockingham. I think the Minister will agree that the land is not likely to be taken up by anybody for light industry during the next five to 10 years. Therefore, I submitted to the Government that it should offer the land to any manufacturing industry—from the Eastern States or anywhere else—which is prepared to set up and employ 25 or more people. The land should be offered free of charge for a 10-year period, because the Government knows full well that it will not receive any money if the land is not used.

Another incentive which could be offered is a concession with regard to pay-roll tax for people who establish industries in the Rockingham area. There is no reason that the pay-roll tax incentive which applies in Mandurah should not apply in Rockingham.

When I previously raised this matter I was told that I was talking poppycock and absolute rubbish and the scheme could not possibly work. I subsequently did a fair amount of research and I found the scheme was implemented in Ireland some years ago. It became very successful in that country and absorbed a considerable percentage of the unemployment at the time.

I again put my idea to the Govely to receive a reply in the next issue of the local paper, *The Sound Advertiser*, under the headline, "Barnett talks nonsense."

Mr Sibson: That is typical.

Mr BARNETT: I will not answer that interjection; the member has been asleep.

Two weeks later—and I am not claiming credit for the scheme—Australia's most prodigious financial paper, *The Australian Financial Review*—

Mr Clarko: That publication is not very biased.

Mr BARNETT: It is not very biased towards me. The publication dated the 20th February, 1979, carried an article under the heading, "The best Irish joke of them all." The article stated—

Who would have thought, only a few years ago, that the most economically dynamic country in Europe today would be Ireland.

A few years ago it would have been agreed that was the best Irish joke of all. The article goes on—

The volume of Irish manufacturing exports grew by 60 per cent in the three years 1976-1978.

I suggest that offers with no more incentive than that need be offered to manufacturing industries in an effort to get them to come to Rockingham. It is interesting to note that by offering these extra incentives Scandinavian countries alone, during the last three years, established 38 manufacturing industries in Ireland which created 3 500 new jobs. The scheme involved was very similar to the one I suggested to the Government.

The land at Rockingham is lying idle; it is not earning the Government a cent. We also have a work force lying idle in Rockingham. That work force wants job opportunities and I see no reason at all that this Government, at no expense to itself, cannot expand on my idea so that labour-intensive manufacturing industries are encouraged to come to Rockingham. An area of 380 hectares at Rockingham is owned by the Industrial Lands Development Authority, and it is not likely to earn any money during the next 10 years. There is no reason that land cannot be offered to manufacturing industries which agree to employ 25 or more persons. There is no reason that pay-roll tax incentives cannot be offered to encourage firms to go to the area.

I am sure that if the Government's think tank was able to offer other incentives, which I have not mentioned, industry could be attracted to the area.

I want to make one other point. At a public meeting called by the local branch of the Liberal Party in Rockingham recently, the Minister for Labour and Industry, Immigration, and three or

four other portfolios—and certainly the portfolio of Conservation and the Environment—spoke on environmental problems. It was a well-attended meeting of between 60 and 100 people. In the portion of the Minister's 10-minute speech which he devoted to unemployment, he said that there were 47 000 people unemployed in this State and that the Government had jobs in mind which would employ all of them.

Well, that sounded convincing. The Liberals at the meeting thought it was terrific and, of course, they believed the Minister. I was tempted to believe him because of the large unemployed population in Rockingham. I thought any bone would do. I would grab at anything, so I was tempted to believe the Minister.

In order to ensure in my own mind that what the Minister said was correct, I asked a question in this House whether what he had said was basically correct. I asked whether the Minister could list the jobs which would be available to the 47 000 people currently unemployed. The answer was 47 000 jobs were to be made available as a result of mineral development projects in a document he tabled.

I again raise the point that mineral development projects are capital-intensive industries and are not necessarily the solution to the unemployment problem.

Mr O'Connor: They create employment.

Mr BARNETT: They create temporary employment, but after the construction period is over they create very few jobs. There is no reason that the Government cannot tell these companies that if they want to mine our ore a percentage of the materials should be used to manufacture goods in our State.

Mr O'Connor: Of course it can be done. Take, for instance, the iron ore pellet plant.

Mr BARNETT: What is manufactured from that?

Mr O'Connor: The pellets are not manufactured without labour.

Mr BARNETT: On the back page of the document to which I referred earlier it is shown that the number of jobs that will be made available at the peak of construction—and they are listed under "already under construction", "approved already", and "under consideration"—totals close to 15 000.

I point out that the figure of 15 000 is only for peak construction periods. It means 15 000 people would be employed if peak construction occurred at the same time on all those projects; 15 000 people would be employed at one time. Reference

is made on the last page to operational employment opportunities; so when peak construction is finished we know the numbers the projects will employ, and the total is 7 000 job opportunities.

I point out two things. Firstly, over the next three years the population of this State, on the Minister's figures alone, will increase by something like 20 000 a year, or more. Secondly, the Minister has offered 15 000 jobs which will be available over three years. To prove that, I will point out the timing of some of the projects. The Goldsworthy sea project is dependent on sales contracts. Development could commence late in 1979, with first production late in 1982. The timing of the Marandoo project is very important. It will depend on contracts which at this stage appear to be unlikely in the near future, and construction will take three years.

It is really a little unfair of the Minister to quote these figures. He quoted a work force of 2 000 for this project, so the 15 000 is cut down straightaway by 2 000.

Mr O'Connor: Most of these are tradesmen.

Mr BARNETT: Of course. We want tradesmen working on our projects.

Mr O'Connor: But you have three to one over and above the tradesmen.

Mr BARNETT: But these are not certainties or opportunities which will be provided this year. If the Minister provides all these work opportunities over the next three years, he will provide 15 000 jobs; but the population will increase by 60 000. What about the 47 000 on top of that who are still unemployed?

I do not believe the Minister was fair when he made that statement at Rockingham. It is the sort of statement he should either withdraw or support properly. I do not blame the Minister. I blame the Premier for loading a man with five different portfolios which do not go together, thus creating a situation where this Minister cannot do his job properly in any one of his portfolios. The Minister for Labour and Industry is quoted in a newspaper as saying, "People want jobs but scream about conservation. We are providing jobs but people scream that we will lose a tree or Cockburn Sound will be messed up. Do people want jobs or environment?" How can those two portfolios go together? It is ridiculous to load a man in that way. He is not doing his job properly, but it is not his fault. I suggest the Minister for Labour and Industry should not hold any other portfolios.

We have 47 000 people unemployed. It has been shown that the Minister will provide 15 000 jobs over the next three years. That is all he has. I

asked him to say where the 47 000 jobs were. He tabled this document and I tallied up the jobs. They totalled 15 000.

Mr O'Connor: The figures were quoted in the Press last December.

Mr BARNETT: The Minister has not done his job properly.

Mr O'Connor: You have not done yours properly. That is why you have been moved back to where you are now.

Mr BARNETT: The Minister is sitting in his seat grinning like a Cheshire cat. It is obvious he is not concerned about the social problems we are experiencing in Rockingham. People in my electorate are losing homes for which they have saved for years; they are losing their cars, having furniture repossessed, and sending their kids to school without shoes and short on their lunch, because they are just scraping by on unemployment benefits. Is the Minister not concerned about that? Where are the jobs for Rockingham?

Sir Charles Court: Are you going to support the Jervoise Bay project?

Mr BARNETT: The Premier knows precisely what I am doing about Jervoise Bay. The Government decided in May last year that Jervoise Bay was the area where oil platforms would be constructed. It did not ask the Department of Conservation and the Environment to look for the best area. It will take 1 000 metres of the best beachfront land available anywhere in this State.

Sir Charles Court: You are opposed to it.

Mr BARNETT: Oil platform construction will be carried on there. The Government will take 200 hectares of land directly behind that beachfront land and turn it into an industrial estate. The Premier thinks that is good planning, is that not true?

Sir Charles Court: You have answered my question.

Mr B. T. Burke: It is not as straightforward as that. It is not black and white. There are other alternatives.

Mr BARNETT: Other options are available to the Government but it refuses to take them up. There is a 900-metre area of beachfront available between the SEC power station and Alcoa which is currently not being used. It is completely surrounded by aesthetically horrible industry, but it is already there. It would not be very much trouble to site the oil platform construction in that area. The exact acreage required is available at that site. Now the Premier says there would not

be a back-up area for an industrial estate, but there would be. There are 380 hectares of it at Rockingham and he is not even looking at it.

Sir Charles Court: Whatever we want to do down there you oppose.

Mr B. T. Burke: Why can't you use the alternative area? Tell us.

Sir Charles Court: There is a very good reason.

Mr B. T. Burke: What is it?

Sir Charles Court: We have the answer.

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

Mr BARNETT: I conclude by reiterating the interjection that has just been made. The Premier has not looked at the options. Alternative areas are available closer to that unemployed work force—the largest unemployed work force in this State—and those people are willing to take jobs in that area. The Government had better provide those jobs, otherwise it will not be the Government for very much longer.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

	Ayes 19
Mr Barnett	Mr Hodge
Mr Bryce	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr McIver
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr Carr	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Dr Troy
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Wilson
Mr Grill	Mr Bateman
Mr Harman	

(Teller)

	Noes 26
Mr Blaikie	Mr Nanovich
Mr Clarko	Mr O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Coyne	Mr O'Neil
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Mr Grayden	Mr Rushton
Mr Grewar	Mr Sibson
Mr Hassell	Mr Spriggs
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Tubby
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Watt
Mr Laurance	Mr Williams
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Young
Mr Mensaros	Mr Shalders

(Teller)

Ayes	Noes
Mr Jamieson	Dr Dadour
Mr Bertram	Mr Sodeman
Mr Tonkin	Mr Crane

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr MacKinnon.

ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS AND COMMODITIES BILL

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Sitting of the House: Easter Thursday

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [12.42 a.m.]: I would like to indicate to members that it is proposed to sit at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, and to adjourn at 3.45 p.m., for Easter. I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.43 a.m. (Wednesday)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Limit: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): Before I allow questions without notice, there are one or two comments I would like to make about the subject of questions without notice.

Members may recall that on Thursday last queries were raised concerning my ruling that questions without notice would terminate when I so decided. The current attitude in this matter dates from a direction given by Speaker Rodoreda in 1955. Members will find recorded in *Hansard* of the 11th August, 1955, at page 111, that Speaker Rodoreda barred questions without notice "except on matters of real urgency", in which case he required prior notice from the members concerned. The records will show that the effect of this ruling was virtually to eliminate questions without notice during Speaker Rodoreda's term of office.

Later Speakers, although permitting some questions without notice to be asked, have consistently maintained their right to exercise absolute discretion over such questions. The reasons provided by Speaker Rodoreda for his action still are valid and, briefly, they are: questions are being asked with an object other than the obtaining of information; questions are being raised which are not matters of urgency and

could well wait to be asked on notice; the questions-without-notice system does not allow for the proper scrutiny for orderliness which should apply to all questions, whether on notice or without; members and Ministers tend to use the system as an opportunity for speeches, and to offer opinions.

In addition to these handicaps, questions without notice do lead some members into the temptation to interject. Speaker Norton referred to this on the 10th October, 1973, when he said at page 3842 of *Hansard*—

I warn members that if they do not give Ministers a chance to answer questions without notice, I will give serious consideration to disallowing all questions without notice.

I now refer members to part (4) of Standing Order No. 83. This part was inserted in 1968 to make the Speaker's position in this matter absolutely clear. In setting out the routine of business which the House is to follow each day, the Standing Order reads as follows—

(4) Questions without notice at the discretion of the Speaker.

Shortly after this Standing Order came into effect, Speaker Guthrie, on the 1st August, 1968, *Hansard*, page 144, emphasised his discretion over these questions and reminded members of Speaker Rodoreda's action.

My own attitude is, I believe, strictly in line with the Standing Orders of this House and in accordance with the attitude adopted consistently by Speakers of this House over the last 25 years. I have made myself very clear on more than one occasion; but if members desire to refresh their memories, I would refer them to *Hansard* of the 22nd August, 1978, page 2472.

To summarise, questions without notice are at the Speaker's discretion; they must be matters of urgency; they must comply with all of the requirements pertaining to questions on notice; and they must not be taken as an opportunity for debate, argument, or interjection.

I had the opportunity a few years ago to visit the House of Commons. I have had opportunities on two or three occasions to attend conferences of Presiding Officers of Parliaments within the Australasian and Pacific region. I wish to say to members of this House that there is no Parliament of which I know which has a more generous facility for members to ask questions.

I have had regard for the fact that in this session there have been, in effect, four sitting days. In those four sitting days, there has been an

average of 80 questions on notice on each day. In addition, I have allowed a number of questions without notice. I do not think members can accuse me of curtailing questions in the House.

However, I do ask members to give those who are asking questions an opportunity to ask them without interjection. I ask also that Ministers answering the questions be given a fair go.

POLICE

Bomb Squad: Parliament House

1. Mr SHALDERS to the Speaker:

I seek your guidance as to whether there is any means open to me other than to address a question to you without notice, as to whether you are able to advise the members of the House why members of the police bomb squad were called to the precincts of the House today, and what action was taken by them while they were here?

The SPEAKER replied:

The member for Murray would know that it is normal for questions to the Speaker to be put on notice.

I am aware of the fact that a section of the Police Force visited the grounds of Parliament House today. I understand that a cardboard carton was placed on the ceremonial drive adjacent to Malcolm Street which someone thought the police should investigate. The police discovered it was a box of paper.

ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Abolition: Replacement

2. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that the Government has begun an urgent study into means of replacing the revenue collected through the road maintenance tax?
- (2) If so, who is conducting the study?
- (3) Do the possible replacements include a fuel tax and a system of vehicle licensing?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (3) I hope I have the question right. The Government is initiating steps towards the replacement of the road maintenance charges that will be abolished on the 1st July. Steps will be taken now to find a replacement for the reduced road funds.

It has been announced on previous occasions that considerable research has already been carried out; but obviously we now have to consider the details of the replacement charges. If the member requires more detailed information, that can be given to him if he places his question on notice. I indicate we are now taking steps to find the best way to replace the existing charge.

On the 27th April I hope to have discussions with my counterparts in the other States at the ATAC meeting in Sydney. After that, I hope to be able to indicate further the proposals we have for replacing the road maintenance tax. Obviously we have a considerable amount of work to do.

HOSPITAL

Wanneroo

3. Mr NANOVIK, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

I do regret that my question is at such short notice. Could the Minister advise the House—

- (1) What is the current situation concerning the plumbers and bricklayers working on the Wanneroo Hospital site who refused to join a union?
- (2) Are they still working on the hospital site?
- (3) Is it correct that a pop band and liquor were sent, at the expense of the TLC to entertain picketers at the hospital site yesterday?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The latest information I had today was that some men were working on the site. There were a few bricklayers and other men on the site, but most were not working. There were picketers on the site.

Regarding a keg and a pop band, I was advised today that this was so. I have not checked further on the matter.

ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Abolition: Government's Changed Attitude

4. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

I take note of the Speaker's statement in regard to questions. The question I ask

could be related to my taking part in the debate tonight.

I preface my question by recalling that in 1972 the Liberal Party, including the present Premier, voted against legislation introduced into this Parliament by the Tonkin Government to abolish the road maintenance tax.

I ask the Premier what has happened between 1972 and the present time to persuade him and his colleagues to change their minds and to move for the abolition of the tax?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Leader of the Opposition will know that at the time the Tonkin Government introduced the legislation in 1972 there was a very long debate, and long explanations were given by the then Opposition for opposing that particular legislation. It was not a simple "yes-no" type of situation. The Leader of the Opposition will realise that there were many reasons for the opposition, including a consideration of the alternatives.

ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Abolition: Revenue Lost, Replacement, and Approaches to Commonwealth Government

5. Mr SHALDERS, to the Treasurer:

Following the announcement by the Government of the abolition of road maintenance charges in this State from the 1st July of this year at the recommendation of the Commonwealth Government, will the Treasurer advise—

- (1) What amount of revenue will be lost directly to this State through the abolition of those charges?
- (2) Whether the State stands to lose any amount of matching road moneys from the Commonwealth as a result of abolishing road maintenance charges?
- (3) What approaches have been made by the State Government to the Commonwealth for—
 - (a) additional road moneys to counteract the loss of revenue which would have been received from road maintenance charges; and

- (b) agreement that no matching Commonwealth road moneys will be forfeited to those States which do not introduce an alternative to road maintenance charges?

Mr Pearce: How much notice did you give?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Approximately \$5.4 million.
- (2) Yes, if we cannot find revenue to comply with the matching requirements.
- (3) (a) Approaches have been made in this matter, both by the Minister for Transport and myself. We have pointed out that in view of the fact that the Federal Minister for Transport (Mr Nixon) had so categorically stated that the States should abolish this tax, the Commonwealth had an obligation to co-operate with the States in finding an alternative source of revenue.

This, of course, could come from two sources. It could come either from an additional allocation of the fuel tax which we do not believe is allocated fairly at the present time—in any case we do not feel we are receiving a fair share of road moneys at the present time—or it could come from Commonwealth co-operation through complementary legislation for other forms of taxes. This would overcome the constitutional problems which have plagued Governments in this State and in all other States for years. We would get rid of what we regard as a vexatious tax. All Governments of whatever colour throughout Australia have had to maintain the road maintenance charge in order to obtain what they need for their road maintenance programmes.

- (b) As far as this question is concerned—that is, what approaches have I made to the Commonwealth for it to agree that no matching Commonwealth moneys will be forfeited because of this new situation—I can only answer by saying that this is basic to our approach for an alternative source of revenue. One of the great fears held by all Governments is that if one cannot meet one's share of the matching money, one is doubly penalised.

ELECTORAL

Reform: Pamphlet

6. Mr SKIDMORE to the Premier:

- (1) Was a pamphlet concerning electoral reform which was handed out at a recent protest meeting at Parliament House discussed recently by Cabinet?
- (2) Did it appear that the authors or supporters of the pamphlet were associated with the WA Institute of Technology?
- (3) Did he communicate with the director of the WAIT and/or with any other member of the WAIT administration concerning the pamphlet?
- (4) If he did so communicate, what was the substance of his approach and why did he make it?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) I did not realise that the honourable member was addressing the question to me until after he had started. But, as I recall it, he was asking whether I had received a pamphlet which had been distributed with respect to electoral reform.

Mr Skidmore: And was it discussed by Cabinet?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I do not intend to tell the honourable member what is discussed at Cabinet.

Mr Bryce: So it was.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I should like to inform the honourable member that I have seen so many articles about electoral reform that I would not know to which pamphlet he is referring anyway.

I gather the other question asked by the honourable member related to whether I

had made any representations to WAIT about the pamphlet. I have not made any such representations.

FUEL

Petrol: Marketing

7. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

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

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Last Thursday the honourable member gave an indication he intended asking this question and he gave further notice subsequently. The answer is as follows—

- (1) My view has not changed. In the comments made by the Deputy Premier the Government was depicted as supporting the package of measures in principle. The logic behind that comment was to get the measures properly drafted and exposed for detailed critical examination.

In Mr Fife's own statement of the 30th October, 1978, he indicated that the Commonwealth Government had made no decision in the matter. Since then the world situation has changed radically.

We must consider what is best for the consumers of petrol, particularly with the cost of crude oil rising as it is through the recent actions of the OPEC countries and we do not know what the OPEC countries will do in the future.

- (2) The State Energy Commission and Bureau of Consumer Affairs examined the Commonwealth Government's proposals.
- (3) No.
- (4) No. This is internal information for departmental and Government use.

HEALTH

Women's Refuge Centre

8. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

I have given some notice of my question which is—

- (1) Was Emmaus incorporated and an approved body to run a women's refuge in North Perth?
- (2) Is it true it left its North Perth premises after a written request from the Public Health Department?
- (3) Is it true also that now it has moved to Bayswater it has been told its project was approved only for North Perth and as it is no longer there it is no longer an approved project and its funds have been withdrawn?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I thank the honourable member for advance notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The funding approval related to the North Perth premises. The organisation has been informed that the department is prepared to consider an application from Emmaus or any other organisation wanting to conduct a women's refuge.

The SPEAKER: The member for Stirling. I will take three more questions after this one and they shall be from the three members who are on their feet at the present time.

PRISON

Albany Regional

9. Mr STEPHENS, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Have tenders been called or are they to be called for the supply and installation of an 80 KVA lighting plant at the Albany regional prison?
- (2) What are the weaknesses of the existing 10 KVA plant that it has been found necessary to replace it?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of the new unit?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I should like to thank the honourable member for adequate notice of his intent to ask this question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Tenders have been called and close on the 24th April, 1979, for the supply of the new 80 KVA lighting plant.
- (2) The reason for the new plant is, of course, that the existing 10 KVA plant is inadequate and cannot meet the load required of it.
- (3) Unfortunately I have to advise the honourable member that it is not normal to advise the estimated cost of a service for which the Government has called tenders. If the Government made known the cost, it would be a clear indication to the tenderer of how much the Government was prepared to pay.

MINING: GOLD

Statement by Minister for Mines

10. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister correctly reported in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper of today's date when, in rejecting the idea of an optional scheme for the stabilisation of the gold price, he said, "The ALP could best assist the State's goldmining industry by mounting a campaign to stabilise labour costs"?

- (2) As the Minister is obviously suggesting that labour costs in the goldmining industry are higher, or out of proportion to, or more unstable than labour costs in comparable industries, is he aware that workers in the goldmining industry in Western Australia have for some decades, going back to the last World War, been prepared to accept lower than normal wages for the sake of the viability of the industry?
- (3) If the Minister maintains the truth of his assertion, could he indicate what evidence he has to support it?
- (4) If he does not maintain the truth of his assertion, is he prepared to withdraw it?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The words quoted from the newspaper are reasonably correct, but if the honourable member wants to check how correct they are, he should look at the Press release.
- (2) I believe I would be able to judge what I meant to say more accurately than the member and, for his education, I should like to tell him what I meant, which is that any goldmining project—or for that matter any other mining project—could get off the ground and could continue if the cost factor is not escalating higher than the price factor. This is precisely what I meant.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.

HOUSING: PURCHASE

Applicants: Rejection of Offer

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

I refer to the Minister's answer to my question without notice last Thursday when he told this House that one of the main reasons for the failure of people offered loans by the SHC to accept those loans was that they had bought on the private market. I refer the Minister to his answer to my question on notice on Tuesday, the 3rd April, which shows that the Minister cannot possibly be right. I ask the Minister to study his answer to that question and provide me in due course—perhaps in writing—with the correct answer to the question.

Mr RIDGE replied:

If the member recalls, shortly after I commenced answering the question he asked, he interjected. I made some

comments and there were interjections from various parts of the House. As a result, I was not permitted to complete answering the question.

I would be happy to provide the information requested by the honourable member and I will see it is conveyed to him in writing; but I should like to indicate that the reasons were many and varied.

HEALTH: CHEMICALS IN DRINKING WATER

World Health Organisation Study

12. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister make available or table a World Health Organisation report of a working party which investigated chemicals in drinking water? The report has been referred to in the media recently.

Mr YOUNG replied:

Yes. The report, of course, is a public document which has been readily available since the date of publication in June, 1978.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Defective Goods: Refund of Money

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

- (1) Was the Minister's anguished plea on Friday, for the Commonwealth to keep out of consumer affairs, the result of a Trade Practices Commission decision—which was quite proper—to act upon illegal notices referring to cash refunds which showed the Minister was incompetent and was clearly incapable of protecting the consumer from illegal activities?

- (2) Does the Minister want the Commonwealth to stay out of the consumer protection area so that he can continue to get away with his refusal to enforce the law against those who fleece and mislead the consumers?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The reason I made the plea at the Minister's Conference was so that we could retain our rights and be able to deal with these matters in this State, without the Commonwealth further interfering with our particular responsibilities. As far as competence is concerned, I believe some of the members of various unions have indicated their feelings in relation to the competence of the honourable member.

RAILWAYS: FREMANTLE-PERTH

Closure: Tabling of Petition

14. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

I know you indicated, Sir, there would be no more questions without notice today, but this is a matter of omission about which I should like to ask the Minister for Transport.

Does he intend to table the petition which was given to him on the steps of Parliament House tonight and which relates to the Fremantle-Perth railway line, in particular to the cessation of services provided by that line? Does the Minister intend to table the petition or, as it was given to the Minister and to myself jointly, would he like me to present it to Parliament?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

It was not clear to me to whom the petition was presented; but if it was presented to me, I could table it. However, I am not clear about the matter. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to table the petition, I am agreeable with that.

Mr Davies: We will give you the seniority. You can present it to Parliament tomorrow.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

ERMP: Time Limit

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

- (1) Why were the environmental consultants hired to do an Environmental Review and Management Programme on the Jervoise Bay proposals given only five months to conduct their studies?
- (2) Was this sufficient time?
- (3) Why did the consultants consider it to be an insufficient length of time to give a complete report?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) To enable the various statutory processes to be completed in time for a final decision on the proposals to be made by the end of June, 1979.
- (2) and (3) The time allowed was considered sufficient to enable assessment at a level adequate to determine the environmental feasibility of the proposal. It is recognised that more detailed investigation of some aspects may be necessary if a decision is made to proceed.

TOWN PLANNING

South Perth City Council

129. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Will she ask the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority to grant an extension of time for South Perth City Council to lodge a submission concerning the metropolitan regional scheme amendment, relating to the south-east corridor?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

No, there is no specific provision in the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act for an extension of time.

As the honourable member relates this question specifically to the South Perth City Council, I advise that provided the council gives a brief indication, in a submission, of matter about which it is concerned, the council will be given ample opportunity to expand on it at a later date when it is called upon to present its submission either orally or in writing.

BUILDERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Jurisdiction: Extension

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

When will the Builders Registration Board's jurisdiction be extended so that it will apply beyond the confines of its present limitations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

This particular matter is currently under consideration.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Cost to Employers

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

What is the cost to employers of workers compensation per \$100 of wages paid for each of the Australian States in 1976, 1977 and 1978?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Relevant statistics have been examined and the information cannot be calculated without considerable research. The WA Trades and Labor Council submitted figures on this matter to the recent judicial inquiry into workers' compensation. Although Australian Bureau of Statistics figures were used there were problems of reconciling with Workers' Compensation Board figures as well as problems with the statistics and methodology used. No proper conclusions can therefore be made from that material.

CONSERVATION

AND THE ENVIRONMENT: EPA

Reserves: National Parks Authority

177. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Will he table a detailed report re reasons for non-vesting in the control of the National Parks Authority and state of progress being made towards such vesting, of the following reserves listed in table 1.4, Red Book 2—

A13404; A8427; A8431; A8434; A8438; C26021; C9747; C23286; C20849; C20724; C19952; C20547; C20548; C20848; C30826; C1214; C14779?

- (2) If any of the reserves listed in (1) have been upgraded to class A and/or vested in the control of the National Parks Authority for the purpose of national park, will he provide dates of such vesting, gazetting and date of actual transfer of such reserves?
- (3) Will he make available a detailed progress report re negotiations between the Minister for Mines and the National Parks Authority or other Government instrumentalities re the release of class C reserve 26493 (Boranup) as indicated in the conclusion of 1.4 of Red Book 2, 1976?
- (4) Will he make available a detailed report re progress made towards management of State Forest 45 (Boranup) as a forest park, as indicated in 1.4 (6) of the Red Book 2, 1976?

- (5) Will he make available a detailed progress report re the preparation of management plans for the proposed national park as indicated under 1.4 (6) of the Red Book 2, 1976?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The information in the question is inaccurate in that nine of the 17 reserves mentioned have already been vested as follows—

Already vested in National Parks Authority as class "A" national parks:

C 23286, *Government Gazette*, 11/11/77.

C 20849, *Government Gazette*, 19/1/79.

C 20548, *Government Gazette*, 1/12/78.

C 30826, *Government Gazette*, 20/10/78.

C 14779, *Government Gazette*, 19/1/79.

Now class "A" following amalgamation with other reserves:

C 19952 C 20547, *Government Gazette* 19/1/79.

C 20848, *Government Gazette* 20/10/78.

C 1214, *Government Gazette*, 1/12/78.

Awaiting amalgamation with other reserves the subject of recent Reserves Bill action for amendment of purpose:

C 26021.

C 9747.

C 20724.

Alterations to boundaries are under consideration:

A 13404.

A 8431.

Portion subject to surrender of existing vesting orders:

A 8427.

A 8434.

A 8438.

- (3) I refer the member to *Government Gazette* of the 25th November, 1977,

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: EPA

Reserves: National Parks Authority

178. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

On 26th October, 1976, Cabinet endorsed all recommendations in the Environmental Protection Authority's Red Book 2, 1976. Recommendation 1.5 of this document states that the reserves listed in table 1.4 be declared a class A reserve for national parks, vested in the National Park Authority. In its conclusion 1.5 states that the above recommendation

for inclusion in the proposed national park applies to the portion or portions of reserves controlled by the National Parks Authority, or which are at present unvested.

- (1) Have the following unvested reserves listed in table 1.4 been declared class A reserves for national parks:

(a) the unvested portions of A 13404;

(b) the unvested portion of A 8431;

(c) the unvested portion of A 8434;

(d) unvested class C reserve C 14779?

- (2) If "Yes" to (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d), when was the power over these reserves vested in the National Parks Authority?

- (3) If "No" to (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d), what are the reasons for the delay and what progress has been made towards vesting of these reserves as recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority and as endorsed by Cabinet?

- (4) Is it fact that the reserves listed as under are in fact class A reserves and not class C reserves as indicated in table 1.4 of Red Book 2:

A 8427-8435; A 8438; A 8694; A 7406; A 10922; A 20455?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The information is contained in the answer to question 177 where the same information was sought.

I think the wrong question number has been given here. I will ascertain the correct number and advise the honourable member.

- (4) Reserve A 7406 is not in table 1.4 as claimed. Table 1.4 reserves listed are class "A".

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet

179. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Further to question 2548 of 1978 re Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet, in his answer 10 (a) of this question he states that the area of Crown land was inadvertently omitted from the text but is included in fig. 2.0 and will be added to the national park.

- (1) Will he table a map indicating which existing reserves and locations of vacant Crown land east of the eastern boundary of location c are now proposed to be included in the Scott National Park?

- (2) Will he table a progress report or preliminary report re negotiations concerning the inclusion of vacant Crown land and privately owned land in the Scott River area east of location e, especially with reference to the following locations:

4166, 4479, 4482, 4480, 4481 pt. 753?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The information with reference to location 4166 is available in the *Government Gazette* dated the 17th July, 1959.

The Department of Lands and Surveys has prepared a submission to Executive Council providing for the inclusion of locations 4479, 4480, 4481, and 4482, together with 2976, into class "A" Reserve 25373 "National park and recreation".

Part location 753 has been offered for sale but insufficient funds and a low priority to purchase have prevented its purchase.

The document was tabled (see paper No. 111).

COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

Government Departments: Policy

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

- (1) Is she aware that on page 2 of the Environmental Review and Management Programme prepared for the Jervoise Bay proposals, it states: "In addition some government departments appear to have been more concerned with their own interests than the overall impact of their proposals on operations."?
- (2) Which are the Government departments referred to?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The consultant's statement was not elaborated upon.

PORT

Rockingham

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

With reference to the proposal in the metropolitan region scheme to develop Rockingham as a port, will she advise the House the precise number of hectares in Mangles Bay that will be filled to complete all stages of development?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

There is no immediate need for the facility but the present concept for Mangles Bay envisages filling of the order of 24ha.

RAILWAYS AND ROAD

Rockingham

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

- (1) Has the Town Planning Department considered the effect on Rockingham of routing a major road and a railway line through Rockingham at different sites?
- (2) Does it have any objections to the proposal?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what are the objections?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) The road and rail proposals are already part of the statutory Metropolitan Region Scheme.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

Government's Policy

217. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the Government's policy with respect to discriminating against women in employment as outlined in the letter by M. Durnell in *The West Australian* of 3rd April?
- (2) What is the Government doing to lessen such discrimination?
- (3) Has it made representations to the Australian Government, asking for it to use its powers to lessen such discrimination?
- (4) If so, what are the details?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) It is Government policy that there should be no discrimination against women in employment by reason of their sex.

The Government supports the functions of the Commonwealth Government's committee on discrimination in employment operating in this State.

TAXATION

ALP Proposals

237. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Have Labor proposals for the introduction of a capital gains tax, a resource rents tax, and a petroleum revenue tax, made more difficult the task of the State Government in negotiating for a continuation of the development of the North-West Shelf?
- (2) Would any of the proposed new forms of taxation assist in the development of that project?
- (3) Would any of the proposed new forms of taxation encourage exploration for oil and gas in Western Australia on land or off shore?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The matter goes far beyond the North-West Shelf project.

The Labor proposals for the introduction of special taxes of the type referred to have caused a degree of consternation both within Australia, as well as overseas.

In other words, the Labor Party has served notice that if by any chance it is returned to office, investors in capital intensive and high risk projects, such as North-West Shelf, are in for a repetition of the experience they had under the Whitlam Labor Government.

An investor has to look at the total political scene and assume that one day there could be a change of Government and therefore their current judgment is influenced by this prospect and Opposition pronouncements.

The position is even worse than the taxes foreshadowed because the emphatic statements of the Labor Party that it will not honour certain contracts made by the present Commonwealth and State Governments, and would move to stop certain projects contemplated, is a very disturbing and unsettling prospect.

- (2) No—on the contrary, they would be a decided deterrent to all projects which involved high financial risk and were capital intensive. North-West Shelf cannot be considered in isolation.

The Labor Party never seems to want to take into account the risks involved and the number of projects which incur big losses or never get into production. They only seem to want to focus attention on those that prove profitable.

- (3) Definitely not.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Tenders: Ceiling Materials

238. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Adverting to question 40 of 1979, if "gyproc" is stipulated, how can this not be to the exclusion of others?
- (2) Will he see that gyproc in future is not stipulated, so that the manufacturers of other similar and not inferior ceiling materials are not excluded from consideration?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The clause which was in use was not exclusive. It stated "gyproc" or similar approved material.
- (2) As advised in my reply to part 3 of question 40, of 1979, steps have already been taken to ensure that no particular product is given an advantage over another. The relevant clause now in use reads as follows —

"To be gypsum paperboard, gypsum glassboard, or gypsum seical board."

COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

Ship Repair Industry

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

As on page 86 of the Environmental Review and Management Programme on Jervoise Bay it is suggested that in the longer term facilities will probably be needed for the repair of vessels of up to 200 000 tonnes, has any consideration been given to a possible site for this eventuality?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

No need is seen for such a facility in the foreseeable future.

COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

Botanical Area

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

What will be the annual cost of provision of the full-time staff referred to in the Jervoise Bay Environmental Review and Management Programme to look after the proposed botanical area?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The cost of operating the conservation reserve has not yet been assessed.

HOUSING

Aborigines: Eviction Orders

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

- (1) How many eviction orders were served on State Housing Commission Aboriginal tenants occupying homes in the Pingelly area in each of the past six months?
- (2) For what reasons were they issued?
- (3) How many orders were acted upon?
- (4) How many orders were withdrawn?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Defining an eviction order as an order issued by the Court:

(1) October	....	....	....	nil
November	....	....	....	nil
December	....	....	....	1
January ..	....	....	....	2
February	....	....	....	nil
March	....	....	....	nil
Total				3

- (2) Breach of conditions of tenancy.
- (3) 1 in December, 1978.
- (4) 1 withdrawn February, 1979, and 1 current, pending response from tenant.

HOUSING: PURCHASE AND RENTAL

Aborigines: Applicants

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

How many Aboriginal applicants were on the State Housing Commission list for:

- (a) rental;
- (b) purchase, accommodation on 1st January of each year since 1971 and including 1st January, 1979?

Mr RIDGE replied:

1st January	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973
Rental	1 047	1 082	993	854	909	893	1 002
Purchase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No figures available for January 1971 and 1972, as the Commission took over properties on July 1, 1972 from Native Welfare Department.

HOUSING

Transitional Houses

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

How many families are still living in ex-Department of Native Welfare transitional houses?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Metropolitan	....	....	....	nil
Country	....	....	....	96
North-west	....	....	....	53
Total				149

HOUSING

Aborigines: Aboriginal Housing Board

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

- (1) What is the composition of the State Housing Commission's Aboriginal Housing Board?
- (2) How was each member appointed/elected?
- (3) To whom is the board responsible?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The present composition of the Aboriginal Housing Board of WA comprises one member from each of the regions of East Kimberley, West Kimberley, Pilbara, Murchison, Eastern Goldfields, Central and Southern (2 regions) and six members from the metropolitan region, with a standing invitation to the NAC Chairman.
- (2) Members were nominated by the respective Aboriginal Consultative Committees.
- (3) Minister for Housing.

HOUSING

Aborigines: Deletion of Names From List

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

- (1) How many Aboriginal applicants had their names taken off the list for assistance by the State Housing Commission in the past year?
- (2) How many of these were taken off the list because:
 - (a) they no longer required assistance;
 - (b) they failed to respond to a letter sent by the commission;
 - (c) they failed to notify the commission of a change of address?
- (3) In how many cases did the commission determine the applicant was literate before taking him or her off the list?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 581.
- (2) (a) 109;
(b) 171;
(c) 283.
Others, 18.
- (3) The commission does not determine whether an applicant is literate. Where any applicant is not able to understand any written advice from the commission, they may approach the commission for clarification or seek the assistance of any service organisation who could help the applicant understand what is required.

HOUSING

Finance: Building Programme

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

- (1) What funds were available to the State Housing Commission for its own building programme at the commencement of the 1978-79 financial year?
- (2) Of this sum how much:
(a) has been spent;
(b) is committed in respect of current building;
(c) remains unexpended?
- (3) (a) What funds additional to those in (1) have been made available during the year; and
(b) for what specific purposes, if any?
- (4) If funds were made available for specific purposes:
(a) when were they made available;
(b) how much has been spent;
(c) how much has been committed;
(d) how much remains uncommitted?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1)	\$'000
Commonwealth State Housing Agreement Advance	21 937
Allocation of armed services housing	3
Aged persons grant	1 086
Treasurer's advance	7 500
General Loan Fund	7 132
Debenture issues	1 000
Run-down of cash balances	—
Generation of internal funds—	
Sale of land	7 500
Sale of houses	—
Operating A/c	Def. 1 826
	<hr/> 43 232

	\$'000
(2) (a) To 28th February, 1979	23 306
(b) Including unsigned contracts	25 046
(c) (Note excess of (b) over (c) is work in progress carried over into 1979/80)	19 926
(3) (a)	
Increase in amount for armed service housing	15
Sale of houses—not budgetted for	4 386
Increase in anticipated proceeds from sale of land	500
Anticipated internal operating a/c surplus derived from review of rents (Oct. 1978) and higher than expected level of discharges of purchasers' accounts	3 340
Run-down of cash balance	3 476
	<hr/> 11 717
Less reduction in General Loan Funds	3 000
	<hr/> \$8 717

(b) Not specific purposes, see above.

(4) Answered by (3) (a).

HOUSING: PURCHASE

Second Mortgages

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

- (1) How many turn-reached applicants for State Housing Commission purchase assistance required second mortgages to enable them to take up their loan?
- (2) At what rates of interest were these second mortgages obtained?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Loans approved have not yet been examined for this aspect. I will write to the member when the information is available.

HOUSING: PURCHASE

Applications: Refusal to Accept

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

- (1) Is the State Housing Commission now refusing to accept purchase applications?
- (2) Will those applicants now listed on the commission's purchase list retain their priority in the distribution of low interest Government funds?
- (3) Once existing applicants are satisfied, what policy will be followed to permit the orderly distribution of scarce low interest funds?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) The Federation of Building Societies of WA will maintain a central list of eligible persons from which allotments will be made when low interest funds become available.

HOUSING: PURCHASE

Applicants: Increase in Incomes

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

- (1) Is it fact that some applicants—who have waited on the State Housing Commission's purchase list for several years—have been ruled ineligible for assistance when turn-reached for finance because of an increase in their income?
- (2) Is it fact that an applicant whose income exceeds the limit by \$1.00 a week is ineligible for assistance despite having waited on the commission's list for assistance for several years with an income within the acceptable limits?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, because they did not satisfy the criteria relating to the home purchase assistance scheme. There have been only 8 such cases in 1978/79.

HOUSING

Balga and Nollamara

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

- (1) How many—
 - (a) single detached two bedroom homes;
 - (b) single detached three bedroom homes;
 - (c) single detached four bedroom homes;
 - (d) town houses;
 - (e) terrace houses;
 - (f) two bedroom flats;
 - (g) three bedroom flats;
 - (h) two bedroom duplexes;
 - (i) three bedroom duplexes,
 are rented by the State Housing Commission to residents in the suburbs of Balga and Nollamara?
- (2) How many, in each category, are at present vacant?
- (3) For how long has each been vacant?
- (4) What is the reason for the vacancy in each instance?
- (5) How many requests for transfer have been received from tenants in each category referred to in (1) as above?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) Rental accommodation at Balga and Nollamara as at 9/4/79.

Type	Balga	Nollamara	Total
(a) Single detached 2 Bedroom		41	41
(b) Single detached 3 bedroom	281	211	492
(c) Single detached 4 bedroom	55	2	57
(d) Town houses	206		206
(e) Terrace houses			
(f) Flats 2 bedroom	244		244
(g) Flats 3 bedroom	72		72
(h) Duplexes 2 bedroom	134	18	152
(i) Duplexes 3 bedroom	60	8	68
Total	1 072	280	1 352

(2) to (4) As at 9/2/79. Vacant properties Balga, Nollamara

Accommodation type	Balga			
	Total vacant	Average period vacant	Under mtee.	Under offer
SDH 2 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
SDH 3 bedroom	9	1-2 weeks	8	1
SDH 4 bedroom	1	1 week	1	Nil
Town houses (2 storey)	6	3-4 weeks	4	2
Town houses (1 storey)	4	1-2 weeks	4	Nil
Apartments 2 bedroom	11	2-3 weeks	7	4
Apartments 3 bedroom	10	4-5 weeks	7	3
Duplex 2 bedroom	4	1-2 weeks	3	1
Duplex 3 bedroom	2	*6 weeks	1	1
Total	47	Average 2 weeks	35	12

* Maintenance period 4 weeks, has been offered twice since.

Accommodation type	Nollamara			
	Total vacant	Average period vacant	Under mtee.	Under offer
SDH 2 bedroom	1	6 weeks	Nil	1
SDH 3 bedroom	1	1 day	1	Nil
SDH 4 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Town house (2 storey)	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Town house (1 storey)	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Apartments 2 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Apartments 3 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Duplex 2 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Duplex 3 bedroom	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
Total	2	Average 3 weeks	1	1

(5) Requests for transfer as at 9/3/79.

Received from	Balga		Nollamara	
(a) SDH 2 bedroom	...	1	Nil	
(b) SDH 3 bedroom	...	2	1	
(c) SDH 4 bedroom	...	Nil	Nil	
(d) Town houses (TH 2 storey)	...	3	Nil	
(e) Town houses (TH 1 storey)	...	3	Nil	
(f) Apartments 2 bedroom	...	106	Nil	
(g) Apartments 3 bedroom	...	16	Nil	
(h) Duplex 2 bedroom	...	2	Nil	
(i) Duplex 3 bedroom	...	1	Nil	
Total	...	134	1	

HOUSING: APPLICANTS

Appeal or Review Procedures

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

What appeal and/or review procedures are available to State Housing Commission applicants who consider their positions have not been fairly judged by the commission?

Mr RIDGE replied:

An applicant who has a grievance has a right of appeal to:

- (a) The commission;
- (b) the Minister for Housing.

TRANSPORT

*Southern Western Australia
Transport Study*

270. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the original estimate of the cost of the Southern Western Australian Transport Study and report?
- (2) What was the final total cost of this study and report?
- (3) How much was met by State funds?
- (4) How much was met by Federal funds?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) \$567 000.
- (2) \$602 720.
- (3) \$221 323.
- (4) \$381 397.

COCKBURN SOUND: OWEN ANCHORAGE

Industrial Waste

271. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) (a) In regard to the Owen Anchorage industrial waste treatment feasibility study by Dwyer-Consoer Townsend & Harris, how many of the recommendations have been implemented; and
(b) what are they?
- (2) (a) How many of the recommendations have not been implemented; and
(b) what are they?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The report is being considered currently and definitive action must await the outcome of the Jervoise Bay rationalisation plan and the Cockburn Sound study.

BRIDGE

Shelley

272. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department been experiencing any stress or other settling troubles with the Shelley bridge over the Canning River?
- (2) If so, what are the details of the problems?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) During the construction of the Shelley Bridge, tiny cracks appeared in the outer surfaces of the concrete pier cantilevers. The concept of reinforced concrete design allows for cracking, normally referred to as hairline cracking, of the concrete in areas where the reinforcing steel is under tension as is the case with the pier cantilevers.

The bridge is considered to be quite safe but as a precaution, trucks carrying certain heavy loads have not been allowed across.

However, following an investigation, it has now been decided that as a precautionary measure, steel plate reinforcing will be provided on the pier cantilevers. This work will commence shortly and when completed, will allow these heavily laden trucks to use the bridge.

WATER SUPPLIES: MWSS & D BOARD

New Building

273. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When were tenders called for the construction of the new MWSS&D Board building in Loftus Street, West Perth?
- (2) (a) Who was the successful tenderer; and
(b) at what price?

Mr O'CONNOR replied

- (1) Tenders for the approximately 20 building components were invited progressively from 6th November, 1978.

- (2) (a) Each component is being provided by the relevant successful tenderer, major items being:—

Construction preliminaries—Multiplex Constructions Pty. Ltd.

Concretor—Cooper & Oxley Pty. Ltd.

Structural steelmaker—Fremantle Steel Fabrication Pty. Ltd.

Metalworker—Bristle Ltd.

Plumber and drainer—Leist Plumbers Pty. Ltd.

Escalators and lifts—Otis Elevator Co. Pty. Ltd.

Mechanical services—Sandover O'Connor Pty. Ltd.

Excavation and site works—D.K. Contracting.

Construction management—Multiplex Constructions Pty. Ltd.

- (b) Total of tenders \$10.8 million.

GRAIN

Terminal: Bunbury

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

- (1) Is it intended to move the grain handling terminal at Bunbury?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" to what site will it be moved; and
(b) when is the implementation of any such decision expected to take place?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

MINING: MINERALS AND COAL

Leases: Fly Brook

275. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are any mineral or coal leases currently held in the Fly Brook area, south of Pemberton, and if so:
 - (a) by whom or what company;
 - (b) over what area do such leases extend;
 - (c) for what purpose are they held;
 - (d) precisely where are they located?
- (2) (a) Has any prospecting or exploratory work on the extent and nature of coal deposits in the Fly Brook area been carried out; and
(b) if so, will he table a copy of any reports on such work?
- (3) (a) Is there any investigation of these deposits being carried out at the present time;
(b) is any proposed in the future; and
(c) if so, when?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Yes.
(b) Report of Lord and De la Hunty (Mines department Annual Report 1948) is available.
- (3) (a) and (b) No.
(c) Not applicable.

LAND

Building Blocks: Broome

276. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands and Forests:

- (1) Is there a long delay in releasing conditional purchase blocks in the Broome area, and are there frustrations being experienced by people wishing to obtain residential land?

- (2) How many blocks is it proposed to release in this area?
- (3) How many applicants have informed the Department of Lands of their interest in purchasing land in and around Broome?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Installation of services to 82 lots in the Guy Street subdivision, to be auctioned in May, has taken time.
- (3) The department has received 183 inquiries for residential lots in Broome over the past three years.

WATER SUPPLIES

Purification Plants

277. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it fact that the Federal Government proposes to spend \$82.65 million to establish three experimental water purification plants in Western Australia?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) where will these plants be located;
 - (b) what will be the cost of plants established in the metropolitan area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No. The amount is \$2.65 million.
- (2) (a) 1. Mirrabooka
2. Leederville
3. Yet to be determined by Federal Government.
(b) Approximately \$2.65 million.

SEX AND MARITAL DISCRIMINATION

Legislation and Government Bodies

278. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government intend to introduce legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status during the remainder of the term of this Parliament?
- (2) (a) What Governments in Australia have established a body to advise on women's interests;
(b) does this Government propose to establish such a body?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) This subject has been studied by the Government. Its intentions will be announced shortly.
- (2) (a) The Commonwealth Government has established a committee which examines discrimination in employment and occupations with branches in each State.

It is also understood that some State Governments have appointed bodies to advise them on women's affairs.

- (b) This will be considered in due course.

POLICE AND RTA

Numerical Strength

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

What was the numerical strength of—

- (a) the Police Force;
(b) the Road Traffic Authority,
in each of the following years:

- (i) 1974;
(ii) 1975;
(iii) 1976;
(iv) 1977;
(v) 1978;
(vi) 1979?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) The numerical strength of the Police Force for each of the years 1974 to 1979 was—

1974—1 962;
1975—2 150;
1976—2 291;
1977—2 351;
1978—2 471;
1979—2 527.

- (b) The numerical strength of the Road Traffic Authority for each of the years 1974 to 1979 was—

1974—Nil. The Road Traffic Authority was established in June 1975.

1975—389;
1976—517;
1977—517;
1978—557;
1979—570.

POLICE AND RTA

Expenditure

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

What was the expenditure of—

- (a) the Police Force;
(b) the Road Traffic Authority,
in each of the past three years?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) Police Department:—

1975/76—\$27 049 657;
1976/77—\$31 681 817;
1977/78—\$36 926 592.

- (b) Road Traffic Authority:—

1975/76—\$12 523 619;
1976/77—\$14 952 625;
1977/78—\$17 255 993.

POLICE

Station: Boyup Brook

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

- (1) Is it intended to transfer one of the constables from the Boyup Brook police station?
(2) If "Yes" from what date will the transfer become effective?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The present strength will be maintained for at least six months, after which time the matter may be reviewed.

HOUSING

North-west

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

- (1) How many—

- (a) rental;
(b) purchase,
units of accommodation were built by the State Housing Commission in—

- (i) Dampier;
(ii) Goldsworthy;
(iii) Karratha;
(iv) Marble Bar and Nullagine;
(v) Newman;
(vi) Onslow;
(vii) Pannawonica;
(viii) Paraburdoo;
(ix) Port Hedland;
(x) Roebourne;
(xi) Shay Gap;
(xii) Tom Price;
(xiii) Wickham;
(xiv) Wittenoom;
(xv) Derby;
(xvi) Broome;
(xvii) Fitzroy Crossing;
(xviii) Halls Creek;
(xix) Kununurra;
(xx) Wyndham;
(xxi) Telfer,
in each year since and including 1971?

- (2) Which of these were financed through;

- (a) State;
(b) Commonwealth,
funds?

- (3) What were the types of accommodation constructed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) The information requested in relation to the years 1971/72 to 1976/77 is contained in the State Housing Commission annual reports, and the member is referred to those documents.

For 1977/78 the figures are:

(i) Dampier	—	—
(ii) Goldsworthy	—	—
(iii) Karratha	10	—
(iv) Marble Bar & Nullagine	2	—
(v) Newman	—	—
(vi) Onslow	—	—
(vii) Pannawonica	—	—
(viii) Paraburdoo	—	—
(ix) Port Hedland	38	3
(x) Roebourne	9	—
(xi) Shay Gap	—	—
(xii) Tom Price	—	—
(xiii) Wickham	7	—
(xiv) Wittenoom	—	—
(xv) Derby	3	—
(xvi) Broome	2	—
(xvii) Fitzroy Crossing	—	—
(xviii) Halls Creek	—	—
(xix) Kununurra	3	—
(xx) Wyndham	—	—
(xxi) Telfer	—	—

- (3) Metro.—Brick veneer; Country and North West—Timber frame.

HOUSING

Kimberley Region

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

- (1) Has he received representations from shires in the Kimberley region against the building of cluster housing by the State Housing Commission?
- (2) Which shires made the representations?
- (3) Upon what basis did they raise the objections?
- (4) (a) Has he replied to the shires; and
(b) if so, to which shires and when?
- (5) (a) In his reply did he specify any density rate for occupation of cluster housing or the anticipated number of persons occupying each house; and
(b) if so, what was that density or number?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (i) Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley made written representations through the Kimberley regional development committee in respect of Kununurra, and verbally direct to me.
(ii) Shire of Broome made representations in respect of Broome.
- (3) (i) Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley initially opposed the concept of "cluster housing" mainly on the basis of too many units and people within a small area, and that housing development on larger blocks of land was more suited to Kununurra.
(ii) Shire of Broome said that, in its opinion, lower building and population densities would be more environmentally and climatically suitable in the region, particularly in view of the fact that residents tend to spend more time outdoors.
- (4) (a) Yes.
(b) (i) Reply sent to Chairman, Kimberley Regional Development Committee on March 6, 1979, because Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley had raised the matter through that committee. A similar response was conveyed to council by officers of the commission.
(ii) Reply sent to Shire President, Broome, on 4th April, 1979.
- (5) (a) and (b) No. In negotiations with each council the original proposals were modified to reduce the number of units in accordance with council requests.

ANIMALS: KANGAROOS

Shooters

284. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Further to my letter to the Minister under date 19th March, 1979 would he now advise:

- (1) The names of the three shooters who have been issued with licences to shoot kangaroos at the Roy Hill, Ethel Creek and Sylvania stations?
- (2) Is there any bag catch limit on the amount of shooting that each licence holder can do?
- (3) (a) Are they permitted to shoot kangaroos only or do their licences include the right to shoot other animals;
(b) if so, what other animals are they permitted to shoot?

- (4) (a) Does the permit restrict each shooter to a particular area;
- (b) if so, what are the geographical limits for each of the shooters?
- (5) What is the rationale in allowing the shooters their permits, i.e., is it to reduce animal numbers so that they do not compete with stock, or simply to provide the shooters with an available source of income?
- (6) (a) In the particular case of Roy Hill, Ethel Creek and Sylvania stations, what assessment was made prior to the issuing of the permits; and
- (b) by whom were those assessments made?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Roy Hill—G. W. Mohlman;
Ethel Creek—L. Toomey;
Sylvania—B. Newland.
- (2) Yes, depending on kangaroo abundance.
- (3) (a) and (b) They are licensed to shoot kangaroos only.
- (4) (a) Yes.
- (b) G. W. Mohlman—Roy Hill station;
L. Toomey—Balfour Downes, Ethel Creek, Prairie Downs and Turrey Creek stations;
B. Newland—Weelarrana, Sylvania and Ethel Creek station.
- (5) To limit kangaroo populations to reasonable levels as part of maintaining the total grazing bio-mass at a level that the range lands can sustain.
- (6) (a) Assessments are based on biological advice and field reports.
- (b) The Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife on advice received from the kangaroo management advisory committee.

STATE FORESTS

Reforestation: Criteria

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

- (1) What were the criteria that was laid down for the reforestation of those areas of forest that were harvested for the purpose of providing logs for the wood chipping industry?
- (2) Have those criteria now changed in any material way, and if so, what procedures are now adopted?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) It is assumed that this question refers to reforestation areas from which sawlogs and chiplogs are provided. In WA forests are not harvested solely for the purpose of providing logs for the woodchipping industry.

Reforestation criteria for forests within the woodchip license area are contained on pages 6 and 7 of a submission entitled *Environmental Impact Statement on the Woodchipping Industry Agreement Proposals for Western Australia*, copy of which is held in the Parliamentary Library. This states *inter alia* as follows:—

For the purposes of regeneration operations three forest types are distinguished:—

1. Karri-marri (KM)—includes all association of the two species between the two extremes of pure karri and pure marri.
2. Jarrah-marri (JM)—includes all associations of the two species between the two extremes of pure jarrah and pure marri.
3. Pure marri (M).

The KM type—Clear felling with seed trees is the system intended for use in the KM type.

Flexibility in falling and burning in KM stands will be provided by annual plantings of karri seedlings, as necessary.

The JM type—The JM forest type will be cut under a heavy selection system, which involves the removal of all saleable marri and jarrah, except for vigorous sound and well formed jarrah stems in the smaller diameter classes (below 500 mm diameter at breast height).

The M type—M type can be treated in similar fashion to KM, but with a marri seed source retained. Pure marri would be the resultant regrowth crop.

- (2) Criteria for regeneration have not changed. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of karri seedlings planted relative to natural regeneration in view of the absence of adequate karri seed crops over the past three years.

POLICE

Radios

286. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Premier:

Further to my question 2162 of 1978 regarding police radios, is he in a position to be able to advise me as to who are the shareholders of the firm that was successful in securing the contract to supply the transceivers referred to in his answer to the above question, part (2)?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The information requested by the Member is available by normal inspection at the Corporate Affairs office.

TOWN PLANNING

Subdivisions: Augusta-Margaret River Shire

287. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Further to my question 2440 of 1978:

- (1) Will she table a copy of the appeal and following Ministerial approval, as indicated in her answer to (5) of the above-mentioned question?
- (2) Will she table copy of the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority with regard to the effect this subdivision may have on the environment, as indicated in (5) of this question?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) No. However, I am prepared to make the relevant information available at my office.

LAND

Reserves Nos. 8431, 26228 and 33793

288. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands and Forests: In respect of two recreation reserves 26228 and 33793 within the boundaries of the newly declared township of Prevelly Park:

- (1) Will the Minister table copies of documents indicating class of reserve, date of establishment and boundaries of these reserves and, if vested, copy of the vesting orders?
- (2) In view of the establishment of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge National Park, what is the future purpose of these reserves and by whom will they be controlled?
- (3) Has the possibility of including these reserves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge National Park been investigated or negotiated with the National Parks Authority, seeing that both reserves adjoin and make up part of the sand dune area of the southerly running strip of class A reserve 8431?
- (4) Is the rehabilitation of the sand drift conditions in both reserves included in the rehabilitation programme which seems to have been worked out for this portion of class A reserve A8431?

- (5) Will the Minister table copy of the rehabilitation programme for the adjoining portion of class A reserve 8431?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The descriptive details of reserves 26228 and 33793 are available in the *Government Gazettes* dated 2/3/62 and 31/12/75 respectively. The boundaries are shown on public plans which are available for examination at the department's public counter. The reserves are unvested.
- (2) The department is unaware of any proposed use other than for which the reserves were created following subdivisional requirements by the Town Planning Board. Decisions as to future control will be made as and when appropriate.
- (3) Not to the department's knowledge.
- (4) No.
- (5) Soil Conservation Commissioner has made certain proposals but no rehabilitation programme has been decided upon.

LAND

Reserves Nos. 8431 and 13404

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

Further to question 2167 of 1978 the Minister indicates in the answer to question (2) (a) and (b) that the National Parks Authority has initiated proposals to exchange portion of class A reserve 13404 (recreation and ocean frontage) for portion of class A reserve 8431 vested in the Shire of Augusta/Margaret River against the possibility of southward extension of the proposed townsite.

- (1) Which part of A 13404 is meant and which part of A 8431 is meant by the Minister?
- (2) Will the Minister table maps and documents indicating date of establishment, boundaries, purpose and vesting of all portions of class A reserve A 13404 along the south-west coast?
- (3) Will the Minister table copy of the proposals with regard to the southward extension of the proposed townsite?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (3) Alterations to boundaries of reserves 13404 and 8431 are under consideration.

- (2) The descriptive details of reserve 13404 are available in the following *Government Gazettes* 19/5/1911, 30/8/1912, 20/11/1914, 9/6/1922, 9/6/1939, 2/2/1940, 9/2/1962, 16/5/1969, 8/1/1971, 11/8/1972, 18/5/1973, 14/10/1977; together with Acts 76/1961 and 19/1976.

The boundaries are shown on public plans which are available for examination at the department's public counter.

LAND

Reserve No. 8431

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

By the Reserves Bill of May 1978, clause 9, authority was given to amend class A reserve 8431 to exclude the area surveyed as Sussex Location 4660, which was granted to the Greek Orthodox Church to be held in trust as a church site.

- (1) Is it a fact that the chapel that was intended to be built on this land has now been erected on privately owned land?
- (2) If "Yes" what future use will be given to location 4660?
- (3) What was the reason for building the chapel on private land?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) So the department has been informed.
- (2) Papers have already been prepared for submission to Executive Council providing for the re-inclusion of Sussex location 4660 into the boundaries of Class "A" reserve 8431.
- (3) Problems in authorisation of building.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet

291. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Further to question 2548 of 1978, what action has been taken to ensure that the following are fully aware of Government policy relating to the conservation and preservation of Blackwood River and Hardy Inlet:
 - (a) the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River;
 - (b) the Shire of Nannup;
 - (c) the Shire of Bridgetown?

- (2) With reference to (9) (a) and (b) of that question, will he make available the name of the persons/s or institution/s who (which) in mid-1977 sent proposals concerning the reservation of the Hardy Inlet and any other portion of the aquatic environment of the Blackwood estuary?

- (3) Will he table copy of the proposals mentioned in (2) above?

- (4) When will the Environmental Protection Authority consider these proposals?

- (5) With reference to 10 (b) of that question, concerning reserve 18644, Red Book 2, System 2, South Coast, 2.1 Scott National Park, has a decision been made as to the possibility of mining being allowed in this reserve (18644—timber, unvested) and when was this decision made?

- (6) If no mining is allowed in this reserve, what steps have been taken to realise the recommendation in Red Book 2 for this reserve to be cancelled and its area added to reserve A25373?

- (7) If no such steps have been taken, why not and when will they be taken?

- (8) Since the class A reserve 15185 for parklands and recreation known as "Thomas Island" has been omitted from the Red Book 2, 1976, what steps have been or will be taken and when to ensure that this reserve will be included in the Scott National Park?

- (9) Are the small islands indicated to the north east and upstream of Thomas Island included in the Thomas Island reserve 15185?

- (10) (a) If "No" to (9), will steps be taken to include these islands within the Scott National Park; and
(b) when will they be taken?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) The Government accepted in early 1977 the Environmental Protection Authority's recommendation that ilmenite dredging and other mineral claims in Hardy Inlet, at Augusta, be refused. Various technical reports supporting the EPA's view have been provided to the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

- (b) and (c) The environmental investigations pertained principally to Hardy Inlet, and no special action has been taken to notify the shires of Nannup and Bridgetown of the Government's decision. This was well documented in a press statement dated 16th February, 1977 (a copy is tabled).

- (2) The National Parks Authority.

- (3) No, as it is a formal submission to the chairman, EPA.

- (4) No further consideration of this matter is proposed at this time.
- (5) to (7) No decision has been made.
- (8) There are no proposals in this regard.
- (9) No.
- (10) There are no proposals to include these islands within the park at the present time.

The statement was tabled (see paper No. 112).

STATE FORESTS

Boranup and Ludlow

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

Further to my question 2397 of 1978, will the Minister table a copy of the special working plans for the Boranup State forest and the Ludlow tuart forest, as indicated in his answer to (5) of the abovementioned question?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Special internal working plan for the Boranup State forest is submitted for tabling. However, the Working Plan for the Ludlow tuart forest is currently being revised and is thus not available.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 113).

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Discussions and Review

293. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

At a meeting of the Australian Minerals and Energy Commission held on 9th March, 1979 in Sydney, discussions were held about the activities of the Australian Heritage Commission. Would he advise:

- (1) What prompted the discussions?
- (2) Would he table a report of the discussions?
- (3) When will the review of the Australian Heritage Commission, as proposed by the Prime Minister, be completed?
- (4) On its completion will he table the report?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (4) The deliberations of the Australian Minerals and Energy Council are confidential to the council.

CE HEATH INSURANCE BROKING (AUST.) PTY. LTD.

Security Agent: Harassment

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

Adverting to question 25 of 1979, can he now indicate to the House whether Denise Anne Walpole has been harassed and intimidated by a private investigator acting on behalf of C. E. Heath Insurance Broking (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., even though she was twice checked by a medical specialist chosen by C. E. Heath and her work-caused injury verified?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I am informed that as a result of information received surveillance of Denise Anne Walpole was instituted.

No information I received suggests harassment or reason for intimidation.

HEALTH: RADIOACTIVITY

Waste Materials: Premier's Statement

295. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

Was he factually quoted in the *Canberra Times* of 30th July, 1978 in which he is reported to have said that he would be prepared to have nuclear waste dumped in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have no recollection of a press release or statement in the form reported.

I can, however, recall discussions about that time on the question of nuclear waste when I referred to the potential value of such waste in the years ahead. I also referred to areas of the State which were very remote and geologically stable, and which had been suggested as areas that could possibly be used, with great advantage to Australia.

This had industrial and commercial advantages and also gave an even greater degree of control over end uses.

At the time I indicated that, given proper safeguards, I could see the day when Australia would be prepared to accept waste and I, if satisfied about safeguards, would not oppose it.

HEALTH: RADIOACTIVITY*Waste Materials: Studies and Storage*

296. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Advertising to his reported utterance in the *Canberra Times* of 30th July, 1978, what studies has the Government or any of its agents carried out to determine those parts of the State which are sufficiently stable for the storing of radioactive waste?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) Will he make a statement to the House on his Government's policy with respect to the storage of radio-active wastes in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Geological Survey branch of the Mines Department carries out studies on an ongoing basis of all geological rock formations in Western Australia. While they have not carried out any specific studies in relation to long term storage of radio-active wastes they have frequently reported on geological areas which are potentially suitable for such purposes and have reported specifically in the Mines Department's annual report on areas of seismic stability in Western Australia. I refer the member to the Mines Department's reports for further details.
- (3) The Government has just issued its energy policy statement for Western Australia on the occasion of the recent Institution of Engineers Conference held in Perth. While the policy statement does not address specifically the question of radio active waste management such aspects would form part of the processing of nuclear materials in Western Australia (policy statement No. 25) which the Government is resolved to encourage. When specific proposals come before the Government they will be considered on their merit and there will be full opportunity for all Western Australians to familiarise themselves with the issues involved.

HEALTH: RADIOACTIVITY*Waste Materials: Storage*

297. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

What radioactive waste is in temporary storage in Western Australia?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Approximately 1.75 curies of long half life radioactive substances including waste and items no longer required for medical, industrial or research use are held in secure storage at Royal Perth Hospital and the State X-Ray Laboratories.

Approximately 0.4 curies of radioactive waste consisting of short half life radioactive substances is being held by metropolitan hospitals pending decay of the radioactive substances to low levels which may be disposed of safely.

STATE FINANCE*Indirect Tax*

298. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) What is his Government's attitude, whether expressed to the Australian Government or not, on the introduction of some type of indirect tax such as a value-added tax or a retail sales tax?
- (2) Is his Government concerned at the inflationary effect such taxes would have upon the economy?
- (3) Has any submission been made to the Australian Government on this matter?
- (4) If so, what are the details?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The Government does not support the introduction of any new indirect taxes which would result in an increase in the overall burden of taxation or unfairly impact on particular sections of the community.

At the same time, there could be merit in utilising a new form of indirect taxation in order to replace some existing taxes or to reduce their severity.

- (2) Yes, although a tax paid at the end of the distribution chain may not have the same cumulative effect on costs as some existing taxes.
- (3) No formal submission has been made. However, I discussed the question personally with the Prime Minister prior to the 24th January decision of the Commonwealth Government not to proceed with the introduction of a broad-based indirect tax.

- (4) Answered by (1) to (3).

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Whistle Bottles

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

- (1) Has a toy containing confectionery known as "whistle bottles" been banned in Western Australia on the grounds of safety?
- (2) If so, what particular dangers are inherent in such articles?
- (3) Has the sale of these articles been widespread?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, by notice dated 5th April, 1979.
- (2) There have been several reported cases of near asphyxiation of young children caused by a detachable top or stopper which can be used as a whistle.
- (3) No, not in Western Australia.

FUEL: PETROL

*Golden Fleece Service Station:
Advertising Sign*

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

- (1) Is it fact that the Golden Fleece service station at Petra Street, Palmyra, is displaying a sign which states that they sell "standard" petrol at 19.9 cents per litre, whereas the current price is 22.8 cents per litre?
- (2) Will he take action to see that the sign is removed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

HEALTH

Polyethylene Coated Paperboard

301. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

Is there concern about the use of polyethylene coated paperboard in use in the manufacture of containers for the packaging of fruit juices, milk and milk products?

Mr YOUNG replied:

No.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Job Displacement

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

- (1) Is the Nora-Minc Report on job displacement available for the perusal of members?
- (2) If not, will he make it available?
- (3) Is the Department of Labour studying the implications of this report for Western Australia?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The report referred to in the question has not been brought to my attention.

HEALTH

Perchloroethylene

303. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What standards to protect the public are required for dry cleaning establishments which use perchloroethylene?
- (2) Is it fact that members of the public are being exposed to the hazards of perchloroethylene, especially at two hour, on the site, dry cleaning establishments where the machines are not separated in any way from the public or from employees?
- (3) Is he aware that the inhalation of perchloroethylene in sufficient quantity produces anaesthesia?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The National Health and Medical Research Council threshold limit value of 100 parts per million (670 mgm/m³).
- (2) Repeated inspections and tests by the division of occupational health have not shown that members of the public or employees are exposed to a hazardous situation.
- (3) Yes.

HEALTH

Perchloroethylene

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

- (1) Is it fact that an employee was recently dismissed by Ad Astra Dry Cleaning because he was ill and he was unable to work and that the illness was possibly caused by the toxicity associated with contact with perchloroethylene?
- (2) What provisions are there to protect employees from being adversely affected in their health by contact with perchloroethylene?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Under regulation 40 of the Factories (Health and Safety) Regulations, inspections and tests of atmospheric concentrations of perchloroethylene in the working environment are conducted by officers of the Public Health Department in conjunction with officers of the Department of Labour and Industry.

WATER SUPPLIES, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE

Rates

305. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government intend to amend the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act so that the present rates being paid to the board for water, sewerage and drainage by small businessmen may be abated?
- (2) Do small shopkeepers in the Morley area pay as much as \$2 000 for water, sewerage and drainage?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No. However, the matter is under consideration.
- (2) I am not aware of any at this level. However, if the member has any specific case in mind and will let me have the details, I shall answer him direct.

CITIZENS' INITIATIVES REFERENDUM

Government's Policy

306. Mr TONKIN, to the Premier:

What is the Government's policy with respect to the citizens' initiatives referendum as proposed by the Australian Democrats in the Australian Parliament?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Government has no specific policy on this matter, but is aware of a number of serious practical problems associated with such a proposal.

HEALTH: DENTAL THERAPY CENTRE

School: Morley

307. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

When will children attending the Morley primary school obtain access to a dental clinic and which dental clinic will it be?

Mr YOUNG replied:

It is proposed to include Morley primary school children in a school grouping comprising Camboon, North Morley, West Morley and Infant Jesus primary school. The children will attend Camboon clinic. This is effective for Morley from 1st June, 1979.

COCKBURN SOUND

Environmental Study

308. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

When is it anticipated that the Cockburn Sound study will be released?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The report is expected to be presented to the Government soon after the completion of the Study at the end of June this year. A decision on its release will be made after the Government has had an opportunity to study it and consider any recommendations contained in it.

PRISON: FREMANTLE

Inmates: Mental

309. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Minister received submissions from Peter Wilmshere of Fremantle Prison concerning the treatment of mental patients in prison?
- (2) What action has the Minister taken?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter is being considered.

HEALTH

Wittenoom Medical Facilities

310. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Government intend to downgrade the medical facilities at Wittenoom?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) What medical facilities will be available after downgrading?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No, a service will continue to be provided at a level appropriate to the needs in the area.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

HEALTH

Home Care Services

311. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he protested to the Australian Government concerning cuts in the subsidies for home care services and provision of welfare officers for the aged under the State Grants (Home Care) Act?
- (2) When were the protests made?
- (3) Will he table the replies from the Prime Minister or other Ministers?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) No.

SPASTIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Land

312. Mr BARNETT, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is the Spastic Welfare Association subject to the Charitable Collections Act?
- (2) If so, does he have information which would indicate:
 - (a) that the executive director of the Spastic Welfare Association, Mr Joseph Michell, has sold land in Quinns Rocks to the association which employs him; and
 - (b) that Mr Michell now owns a parcel of land adjoining the State land grant in Bradford Street, Coolbinia, and that this parcel was previously owned by the Spastic Welfare Association?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the Spastic Welfare Association purchased three adjoining blocks of land at Quinns Rocks for the purpose of building a holiday home for spastic children. The three blocks provided the minimum area required by the local authority for a holiday home.
One block was previously owned by the executive director of the association who sold it at the valuation figure of \$6 000. As part of the arrangement, the executive director purchased a lot adjoining the new complex planned for Coolbinia. The price was \$11 000 which was \$2 000 above valuation.

COCKBURN SOUND

Recreational Study

313. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Cockburn Sound Recreational Study—one section of the overall Cockburn Sound Study—is completed?
- (2) If "Yes" is the sectional report in departmental and/or Ministerial hands?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The former.

COCKBURN SOUND

Recreational Study

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

With respect to an allegedly recently completed Cockburn Sound Recreation Study, a report to be incorporated in the Government's Cockburn Sound Study, has—

- (a) she;
- (b) any officers of her department;
- (c) any members of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, either officially or unofficially, seen a copy of such report?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) and (c) Yes.

CEREBRAL PALSY RESEARCH,
INVESTIGATION AND EDUCATION FUND*Finance and Activities*

315. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Will he please provide full details of the nature, source, funding and activities of the Cerebral Palsy Research, Investigation and Education Fund?
- (2) Who was it established by?
- (3) When was it established?
- (4) Is it subject to the Charitable Collections Act?
- (5) Can money from this fund be used for investment purposes by private individuals?
- (6) Is it fact that this property was purchased with money from the fund referred to in (1) above?

- (7) Into whose name was the Mt. Lawley property transferred?
- (8) (a) Was it later transferred to another person of the association; and
(b) if so, to whom?
- (9) Is it fact that a property at 15 Glenroyd Street, Mt. Lawley was transferred into the private ownership of two members of the Board of the Spastic Welfare Association?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The Cerebral Palsy Research, Investigation and Education Fund is an account set up by the Board of the Spastic Welfare Association wholly funded from its own resources.
- (2) It was established by resolution of the board.
- (3) 23rd June, 1959.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No.
- (6) to (9). These questions are subject to a writ for libel issued by the Chairman of the association against *Westlone News Journal* and are therefore *sub judice*.

HEALTH: MENTAL

Greenplace Hostel

316. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to question 127 of 1979, was the amount of \$61 000 mentioned by him spent entirely on plumbing maintenance at Greenplace hostel?
- (2) When was the \$61 000 spent?
- (3) How much money has been spent in 1979, and in the years 1977 and 1978, on maintenance or upgrading the building or facilities at Greenplace hostel?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.

		\$
(2)	Expenditure 1977/78	4 000
	Expenditure to 31/3/79	18 365
	The project was completed in July, 1978.	
	Final accounts are not yet received from the Public Works Department.	

		\$
(3)	Expenditure 1976/77	25 703
	Expenditure 1977/78	24 426
	Expenditure to 31/3/79	3 024
	N.B. Cost of sewerage connection is not included.	

COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

Jervoise Bay/Woodman Point Steering Committee

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

With respect to the Jervoise Bay/Woodman Point Steering Committee meeting, will she advise:

- (a) the dates on which this committee has met;
- (b) the names and positions of those from Government departments and those from local authorities who attended such meetings?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (a) 20th October, 1978.
29th November, 1978.
17th January, 1979.
- (b) The steering committee comprises the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning; the Mayor of the Town of Cockburn, Mr A. M. Thomas; the Chairman of the Town of Cockburn's town planning committee, Mr D. de Young; and the Chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, Mr. N. C. Hawkins.

On 17th January, 1979 Cr. de Young was not present and Cr. Miguel attended as his deputy.

The Town Planning Commissioner, by agreement with members of the steering committee, attended the October and January meetings as an observer.

ABORIGINES

Accommodation

318. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

In how many cases has the Aboriginal accommodation services assisted Aboriginal applicants to obtain:

- (a) State Housing Commission accommodation;
- (b) other accommodation?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Since inception in May, 1976, the Aboriginal accommodation service has assisted the following families:

State Housing Commission ..	35
Conventional housing as tenants ..	98
Conventional housing Private and State Housing Commission as non-tenants ..	87
Non-private dwellings, e.g. Refuges Shelters Hostels, etc.	35

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Objective

319. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:
Is a prime objective of the WAY '79 celebrations the attraction of tourists to Western Australia?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:
No.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Fares: Intrastate

320. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:
What positive steps has the Government implemented to reduce intrastate air fares in an effort to encourage tourism during this, our 150th Anniversary year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Government has engaged in continuing discussions with intrastate operators with the aim of ensuring that they are aware of the relationship between air fares and tourism.

The Government is not, of course, in a position to instruct intrastate operators to reduce air fares but it can point out to them, and indeed has pointed out to them, just how vital it is that air fares are set at a level which attracts tourists. The Government has reason to hope that its representations to the companies operating intrastate will bear fruit in the future.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Cost and Tourism

321. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) How much are the WAY '79 celebrations costing the State of Western Australia?
- (2) Have statements been made by spokesmen for airline companies and leading hotel chains and the Department of Tourism which indicate that the WAY '79 celebrations are not attracting tourists?
- (3) Does his Government have any specific proposals to reverse this trend?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) \$1 million was allocated in the 1975/76 Budget
\$1 million was allocated in the 1976/77 Budget
\$1 million was allocated in the 1977/78 Budget and
\$150 000 was allocated in the 1978/79 Budget.

- (2) As I understand statements made, they are directed at demonstrating the adverse effect of the new overseas fares announced in relation to internal airfares so far as it affects travel to Western Australia.

The facts are that the WAY '79 celebrations have attracted large numbers of people who would not have come otherwise.

One only has to attend the continuing programme of 150th Anniversary functions such as the many national conferences and events being held, because of our celebrations, to realise how much the travel and accommodation industries are gaining from the celebrations.

- (3) Quite independent of the 150th Anniversary celebrations, continuous and positive steps are being taken to stimulate in-bound tourist movements, including an expanded Department of Tourism promotional programme, co-operative promotion with the private sector of the industry, and negotiations with the Federal Government to institute a domestic air fare system that will encourage Australians to travel within Australia rather than overseas.

EDUCATION

School: Melville

322. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many children have been enrolled at the Melville Junior primary school for each of the past five years?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to integrate the Melville Junior primary school with the Melville primary school?
- (3) Is it a fact that the concept of administering the first three years of a child's primary education separately from the latter grades is a much superior method to the one operating in most primary schools where all seven grades are integrated?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

	Years 1-3	Pre-primary	Total
1979	172	49	221
1978	222	42	264
1977	279	53	332
1976	309	53	362
1975	331	—	331

(2) No.

(3) While there are some associated benefits for children in the K-3 school, there is no definite research evidence which indicates that junior primary children in a K-3 school learn more effectively than students at the same level in a K-7 school.

POLICE

Street Marches: Permits

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

(1) Further to question 124 of Thursday, 5th April, 1979, which officer(s) interviewed

the applicant for the permit for the abortion rally last Saturday week?

(2) During these interviews, were the applicants asked to identify women in photographs provided by the interviewing officer(s)?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) Sergeant I/C Jackson.

(2) No.

