

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 4th October, 1978

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

WATER SUPPLIES

Rates and Allowance: Petition

MR WILSON (Dianella) [4.31 p.m.]: I present a petition from 1 108 electors in the electorate of Dianella praying that the Government, as a matter of urgency, review its policy on water charges and, in particular, requesting as follows—

- (1) That the basic allowance be extended from 150 kilolitres to an amount more adequate for the average family's domestic needs:
and
- (2) That the unjust practice of making the new charges retrospective to dates prior to 1st. July 1978, be abandoned.

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. 21).

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch) [4.33 p.m.]: I present a petition from 15 residents of Western Australia. It reads as follows—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of State Parliament assembled:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, Western Australia respectfully sheweth:

That we the undersigned, having great concern at the way in which children are now being used in the production of pornography **CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT** to introduce immediate legislation:

1. To prevent the sexual exploitation of children by way of photography for commercial purposes;
2. To penalise parents/guardians who knowingly allow their children to be used in the production of such pornographic or obscene material depicting children;

3. To make specifically illegal the publication and distribution and sale of such pornographic child-abuse material in any form whatsoever such as magazines, novels, papers, or films;
4. To take immediate police action to confiscate and destroy all child pornography in Australia and urgent appropriate legal action against all those involved or profiting from this sordid exploitation of children.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will protect all children and immediately prohibit pornographic child-abuse materials, publications or films. And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

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

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

(See petition No. 22).

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [4.36 p.m.]: I present a petition addressed to the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the State Parliament assembled. It is signed by 16 citizens of Western Australia and reads as follows—

That we the undersigned, having great concern at the way in which children are now being used in the production of pornography **CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT** to introduce immediate legislation:

1. To prevent the sexual exploitation of children by way of photography for commercial purposes;
2. To penalise parents/guardians who knowingly allow their children to be used in the production of such pornographic or obscene material depicting children;
3. To make specifically illegal the publication and distribution and sale of such pornographic child-abuse material in any form whatsoever such as magazines, novels, papers, or films;

4. To take immediate police action to confiscate and destroy all child pornography in Australia and urgent appropriate legal action against all those involved or profiting from this sordid exploitation of children.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will protect all children and immediately prohibit pornographic child-abuse materials, publications or films. And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

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

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

(See petition No. 23).

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.38 p.m.]: I have a petition to present to the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of State Parliament assembled. It is in the same terms as the two petitions presented previously. This petition bears the signatures of 266 persons. It conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House. I thank the member for Mt. Hawthorn for his co-operation.

(See petition No. 24).

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Consumer Affairs Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Consumer Affairs), and read a first time.

2. Liquor Act Amendment Bill (No. 2.).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

3. Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

4. Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Second Reading: Budget Debate

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [5.15 p.m.]: I have been a member of this House for a fair while now. When I first came here, I was full of the will to correct what I felt was wrong. It was good being in Opposition for the first three years—

Mr Pearce: And the next four!

Dr DADOUR: I was horrified to discover how poor the Government was at that time. I say "poor", because the Government is dealing with the people's money. It is not our own money. We are dealing with the money of the public. Every penny should be made to count. There should be no wastage, and no unnecessary spending. It does not matter about ourselves and what we spend on ourselves. What we spend as the Government belongs to the people, and we must be extremely careful about that. We must be careful to see that we obtain the best possible value for the money that we spend.

Mr Davies: Hear, hear!

Dr DADOUR: My prime concern in looking at costs and how we might be able to curtail some spending and still achieve efficiency is in the field of health. When we became the Government, I thought we were going to do something to prevent unnecessary spending in the field of health—to prevent the spiralling costs when there was no need for them to spiral. However, costs were spiralling at that time, and they still are.

Since 1965 the cost of health, without having regard for inflation, has escalated at the rate of 100 per cent in any three consecutive years. This escalation may be abating a little at the moment, because some brakes have been applied. Perhaps in the future we will see less money being wasted.

When we became the Government, I noticed that a lot of people on this side of the House changed their attitudes. I wondered why they might have changed. I have never accepted Cabinet Government. I cannot accept Cabinet Government, because I believe that, as a member on the back bench, I am a part of the Government. I will not be considered as providing a blind vote, where I meekly and mildly go along with whatever the Cabinet puts forward. I believe I should have the opportunity, whether it is

offered or not, to do what I believe is right for the people.

I find myself in a terrible dilemma in relation to the Budget. Contained in this Budget is a matter that I cannot stomach, and I refuse to stomach it. I refuse to have anything to do with it. It is not only the one item which is the tragedy; the tragedy goes even further, and embraces the whole Budget.

If one looks at the area of public utilities and sees the costs of certain items and fixed charges that are now being introduced or have been introduced in the last few years, one sees that the cost of those utilities is much higher than the actual cost to the Government, so the Government is making money in certain areas. The money it is making in those areas goes into Consolidated Revenue, and some of the money goes through Consolidated Revenue into the loans programme or into the capital building costs. This diverts the total capital building costs as against the other part of Consolidated Revenue—expenditure and income.

I find myself in a terrible position because the item I am referring to is the quite unnecessary development of the north wing of the Royal Perth Hospital.

It has been proved only recently that people are taking more and more notice. They are speaking out more and more often in relation to the cost of health. Rightly so! In my opinion, they are late in coming forward, but they are coming forward now because matters are getting beyond a joke.

Of course, we in Western Australia must have the most luxurious; we must have the most. It grieves me to see costs are still spiralling. I would have thought by this stage we would come to terms with the bureaucracy, and we would have brought things to a halt, at least until we had time to breathe and have a good look at what could be done. Unfortunately for the good of the State, this has not yet been done. I do not think this is in the best interests of Western Australia.

The whole concept of health is that there is too much emphasis on established disease. I think we should be looking—and I have said this so many times it is getting beyond a joke—at prophylactic health. More money is being spent in this area, but it is not enough. It is far from enough. Until we do more in that field, I will not be happy.

I am not impetuous about this matter. It has taken me some time—in fact, it has been 7½ years exactly since you and I, Mr Speaker, came into this House. It is like bashing one's head against a brick wall. I objected to this matter when we were in Opposition; I objected when we

became the Government. I have objected in the party room; and I have objected to the Premier by letter. I have objected again and again in the party room, and I have not been heard. The only forum open to me now is the forum of Parliament. I bring the matter forward to Parliament.

In respect of this particular item, I will advise the House of the price of beds in the respective States. This is an area where I believe there has been blatant empire-building. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any way of stemming it.

There is one thing I have never been, and that is expedient. To me, expediency equals dishonesty. I cannot be expedient. I am very sorry about this point. I am not a rigid type. I will change; I will turn; but I will not be expedient. I will not cover up or ignore anything that I find drastically wrong, particularly in relation to the State's money.

I believe certain things have happened. I have noted since I have been in Parliament—and I have noticed what has happened in other Parliaments—that for too long have leaders lacked courage, lacked insight, and possibly that little bit more of honesty that I would like to see. I would like to see more honesty. I think the fact that the leaders have been expedient is dishonest. I say that because the problems of today must be dealt with today. They must be dealt with at this moment, and not put off until tomorrow, or into the future. This putting-off has occurred throughout the world. There has been no dealing with today's problems today.

Problems have been projected into the future, and we have reached the very sorry position in this State and in other States, and in other parts of the world, where by putting off today's problems we find ourselves in a terrible dilemma. That dilemma has worsened day by day.

I believe the type of government that we have must eventually go and another type of government must be introduced. What other type it will be, I do not know; and I do not wish to try to guess what it might be.

This putting off until tomorrow what should have been done today is catching up with us. We have reached a sorry point. We need only look at the area of industrial relations. We find a confrontation between the employee and the employer. We find that the State is the employer. This is drastically wrong.

We see this problem with the Education Department at the moment. The Minister was dealing with the teachers, and he was negotiating. All of a sudden, negotiations stopped. It was almost as though somebody said to the Minister,

"This is a public utility. You are dealing with the Education Department. We, the State, pay the total salaries. We pay all wages. Therefore you don't negotiate. You don't do anything along those lines. You confront. They will do as they are told." Of course, this has led to the confrontation that is occurring at the moment. This is my opinion, and I could be wrong; but that is what I believe went wrong.

I believe that the Teachers' Union also has erred. It has picked the wrong argument as the basis for the strike. It has lost a lot of public support. We find ourselves in a situation that could have been avoided, and should have been avoided. That is the tragedy.

The tragedy is that we find ourselves faced with a confrontation which was totally avoidable. Surely it should have been avoided, because it will gain nothing for us on this side of the House, and it will gain nothing for anybody. The only effect of it is that it has alienated a large number of people, unfortunately.

I wish to quote something which tickled my fancy when I saw it the other day. It is a quote from the World Freedom League, and the quote is, "All that is necessary for evil men to succeed is for good men to do nothing." I think that is self-explanatory.

As I say, people are now speaking out and saying that health is costing too much. I am sure the Minister is aware of this. He should be doing something about it.

I would like to see more money spent on the promotion of health and less spent on established disease. Let us take a very emotive issue. Some people have massive coronary occlusions and have to be hospitalised. The lives of people have been saved because they were in hospital. They have stopped breathing; they have had total collapse; the heart has stopped beating. They have been immediately intubated and placed on heart-lung machines; and their lives have been saved. This has happened in very many cases, but it is only the luck of the game, whether the patient arrives in hospital before he "conks out". A small percentage of patients are saved; 10 per cent of people admitted to hospital with coronary occlusions are saved.

The provision of hospital beds, equipment, and staff is very expensive. Even if we could save 10 per cent of the 15 per cent who die, we have to ask ourselves whether we spend all this money to save these people. If we look a little further we find that nearly all of them die within six to 12 months. As I say, this is a very emotive issue.

Should we spend money on the provision of these facilities to save somebody for six to 12 months at the most? This is what the figures show. In our desire to save money, do we decide to eliminate completely the coronary care beds? Of course we do not. These beds cost up to \$500 per bed per day.

We are not talking about small amounts of money; they are large amounts. So I believe we should get the good people who are in charge of these units to cut down on expenditure. Health is a very emotive area, so how do we get my message across to the people concerned? The main trouble with health is the emotive issues involved with it.

We must consider how we can use the money we will save; how much promotion of health there will be; how many lives can be saved in the long term. Surely we should be looking at this aspect of health; at the promotion of health, rather than treatment of an established disease. We should not go ahead with research along the same lines as are used at present.

I was interested to read in the paper recently the comment that in 10 years' time our knowledge of today's diseases will become obsolete. This illustrates that we are spending a great deal of money in the wrong area.

The real tragedy of using emotive arguments is that the empire builders become bigger and bigger, and the State becomes poorer and poorer. The difficulty is that these empires compete with one another; they compete for size, number of beds, and with doctor against doctor, etc.

We should consider this matter in respect of the tied grants coming from Canberra where money is given to the States to be spent in certain areas. The expenditure on education and health takes up more than 50 per cent of the State's total expenditure. We have 50 per cent of the State's total expenditure tied up in knots, so how can we complain too bitterly about Federal tied grants? It seems to be a fiasco. That 50 per cent is used for running costs and not capital building costs.

In 1974-75 the cost of health was 21 per cent of total expenditure and the cost of education was 25 per cent of total expenditure, a total for the two of 46 per cent. In 1975-76 the figure for health was 22 per cent and for education 26 per cent, a total of 48 per cent. In 1976-77 the figure for health was 25 per cent and for education 25 per cent, a total of 50 per cent. In 1977-78 the figure for health was 24 per cent and for education 25 per cent, a total of 49 per cent. The projected figures for 1978-79 are for health 24 per cent and for education 26 per cent, a total of 50 per cent. So,

for the last five years 50 per cent of the State's total expenditure has been tied to health and education. That is without considering the Federal Budget on health and education.

The Federal Budget allocates a great deal of money towards education and health. Public hospitals receive half their finance from the Commonwealth and half from the State. I wonder how much good the Budget really does. There is not much room for swinging. Already 50 per cent of the State's money is tied up in these two highly expensive areas.

We also use money from Consolidated Revenue and loan moneys for building purposes. I believe the SEC charges and water and sewerage and other fixed charges are in fact State taxes because they earn for the State more than they cost the State. For that reason those charges are a tax. The State is charging a tax on those items because it is making a profit.

Let us consider what this State has spent on the building of hospitals. In 1974-75 we spent a total of \$30.4 million; in 1975-76 we spent a total of \$35.4 million; in 1976-77 we spent a total of \$41 million; in 1977-78 we spent a total of \$34.2 million; and the projected figure for 1978-79 is \$38.8 million. I wonder just what we are getting for all the money we are spending.

When the Court Government came to power in 1974 I had good reason to believe the then Minister for Health was attempting to aid and abet the proposed extension of the Royal Perth Hospital. I tried very hard—harder than anyone else has tried on any other matter—to have this highly unnecessary development cancelled. At that time I went to see the Premier on this matter because I seemed to be getting nowhere in a great hurry. It was the only time I went to the Superannuation Building, and in October of that year I saw the Premier—it was just after the Queen's Birthday holiday.

I well remember the argument, or discussion, that ensued and the Premier telling me that the Royal Perth Hospital extension would not proceed whilst he was the Premier. I well remember his words, "My word is my bond; whilst I am the Premier this will not occur."

I was on holidays at Rottnest in June this year when I heard a rumour that a great deal of money was to be expended on the north block of the Royal Perth Hospital. My knees shook and I could not believe it, but I came back to the mainland and wrote a letter. It was dated the 21st June, 1978, and it read as follows—

Dear Sir Charles,

I have heard a rumour. This is the only way I have of finding out what is happening. This is not to be considered a facetious remark but the truth. The rumour is that your Cabinet has approved of a great deal of money this coming financial year for the development of the North wing of Royal Perth Hospital.

Now, if this be the truth, then I wish to remind you that the very last time I was in your office, in 1974, you gave me your word that this development would not occur as it was not in the best interests of Western Australia. I now ask you if this rumour is correct and, if it is correct I give you notice that it should be corrected—

I know that is not good English but I got my message across. To continue—

—or else I, myself find it impossible to agree in any shape or form to this unnecessary development.

I desire your reply as urgently as possible so that I can give notice in the Party room that I will not be able to vote for any such proposal. As a Liberal and a concerned member of the community I could not and would not vote for any budget which contained this expansion. So I ask you, would you kindly look into this?

It is not my intention to cause trouble but this development I find totally unpalatable. Would you kindly give me your reply as soon as possible?

Mr Davies: Who was the author of that letter?

Dr DADOUR: I was.

Mr Davies: Well done!

Dr DADOUR: On the 3rd July this year I received this answer—

Dear Dr Dadour,

I refer to your letter of 21st June, 1978, concerning the construction of a building known as the North Block of the Royal Perth Hospital.

It is correct that work is proceeding on this project. The decision to proceed with it was taken by Cabinet in November, 1977. This decision was made only after a great deal of investigation and in the light of recommendations contained in the "Perth Teaching Hospitals Review Study" prepared by the Hospital Consultant firm of Llewelyn-Davies Kinhill Pty. Ltd.

The purpose of the North Block is to relocate many of the diagnostic services and

some of the specialist areas of the hospital. The outcome will provide facilities with adequate space for them to function properly. It will enable the remodelling of the area within the main building which at present houses the services to be relocated, so as to provide approximately 200 beds in good standard ward accommodation. This, in turn, will enable the demolition of Blocks 'B' and 'C' which are no longer regarded as being of an acceptable standard, and which have been condemned by health authorities.

The programme of construction is planned to be carried out in a series of individual contracts over a number of years so that work can be tailored to match available funds.

I emphasise that the decision to proceed with this project was taken only after intensive investigation.

I sought and received permission in the party room to speak against this project and I have permission not to vote for this item. The problem has been that perhaps I am a little funny, yet I still believe and maintain that my arguments are correct. I shall explain why I feel this way in a moment.

If we analyse the Premier's answer, and if we look at the terms of reference of the Llewelyn-Davies Kinhill report we will see it has nothing to do with the extension of the Royal Perth Hospital. The problems I refer to are within the scope of what the Minister told me and they are available for anyone to read. The report commented on unnecessary duplication of super-specialities.

Another comment in the report should be inquired into as it reveals a lot of what is wrong with the health system we have. The following can be found on page 5 of the report—

Numbers of hospital admissions are in excess of 200 per annum per 1 000 population, which is one of the highest admission rates in the world.

Surely that should be investigated!

Mr Davies: We have sicker people.

Dr DADOUR: I do not know.

Mr Davies: As a medico, do you have any trouble getting patients into hospital?

Dr DADOUR: I have no trouble; I have always been able to get beds.

Mr Davies: Is that not an indictment of the hospitals?

Dr DADOUR: I am afraid the Leader of the Opposition is running off at a tangent. It is not an

indictment of the hospitals, but of the entire system. The doctors can be blamed to a certain degree, but blame must also be laid at the feet of every other person working in the establishment, especially those at the top.

Mr Davies interjected.

Dr DADOUR: The Leader of the Opposition made a balls of the position of Minister for Health when he held that post. The Leader of the Opposition can continue to think what he likes, but I believe his thinking on health is warped; he does not understand the subject.

It seems rather peculiar that in November last year a project was approved, to cost something like \$50 million to \$100 million by the time it is completed, including the necessary equipment, but no news release was made. I wonder why that is so. This situation bugs me as I would have been shouting loudly about the matter at the time. However, for such an extensive project there was no news release.

Mr Davies: A bit out of character isn't it?

Dr DADOUR: The B and C blocks have been condemned, but they will never be pulled down. Which health authorities condemned them? I do not think they will be pulled down. The building on the north block will contain 10 operating theatres. A world health authority figure for the number of in-patients required for each operating theatre is 100. If we are to have only 600 beds there, as the Premier has said, we will need only six operating theatres. Each one costs in excess of \$1 million to run, but why do we need 10 operating theatres for only 600 beds?

Luxurious suites are to be built for the university staff, the administrative staff, and the doctors. Why do we have to tolerate this? In reality we have spent all this money for no extra beds. All we have are better facilities for those working there. Would it not have been more convenient to dispense with 200 beds, thus leaving 400? We do not need the extra 200. The area involved should have been used to expand services which at the moment are so crowded. Surely this would have been the answer.

Let us consider the number of beds available in each State. As at the 30th June, 1978, the number in New South Wales was 34 100 which represents 6.4 beds per 1 000 people. In Victoria the number was 20 938; in Queensland, 15 690; in South Australia, 8 720; in Western Australia, 8 650; in Tasmania, 2 966; and in the Northern Territory the number was 644. These are the official figures from Canberra.

As at the 14th September, 1978, the number of teaching hospital beds in New South Wales was

9 966, representing 3.3 beds per student; in Victoria the number was 7 762, representing 3.5 beds per student; in Queensland the figure was 3 749, representing 2.6 beds per student; in South Australia the figure was 3 084, representing 3.2 beds per student; while in Western Australia the figure was 3 130, representing 4.8 beds per student. We have more teaching beds than are necessary when we compare the number we have with those which are available in the other States.

The numbers of "A"-class hospital beds under construction are 859 public and 30 private. Therefore shortly another 900 beds will be available in addition to the existing 8 650. Consequently we will have more than 9 000 beds available. This number is in excess of the number we require, especially if we compare the number available in the other States. We have a much smaller population, but in the new year we will have more beds than South Australia will have. We are establishing too many "A"-class hospital beds.

Perhaps because of the size of our State we would require a few more per thousand people. On the other hand, most of the beds are in the metropolitan area and this will always be the case because of the policy adopted recently with regard to the extensions to Royal Perth Hospital. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will have more beds than the number projected in the Llewelyn-Davies Kinhill report. When the decision was made to expand the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital sited on the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre—formerly the Perth Medical Centre—the idea was to downgrade RPH because it is in such an impossible position in Wellington Street.

Those who take patients to RPH for emergency care cannot find anywhere to park so they take a risk and utilise the doctors' car park. When friends and relatives are visiting patients already in hospital they must park half a mile away. The hospital is not in a good position. Already the Town Planning Department has spoken against the expansion of RPH as has the Perth City Council. However, all of a sudden the Premier has changed his mind and has decided to proceed with the expansion.

I know that decisions are hard to make and I know that it can be very difficult for the correct decision to be made, but I believe the Premier has erred on this occasion and he has gone back on his word. I do not mind that so much. I suppose it has to be accepted in the political arena, but I did not think it would occur.

The Government is to blame for the present situation. I believe that all work at present in

progress should be stopped in order that consideration might be given again to the total picture.

It is intended that 771 beds be established on the lake site for the Murdoch University medical centre when it commences. Where are we going with all this expansion? We have far too many beds now and yet we are considering another 1 000 altogether. A fantastic amount of money is involved when we realise it cost \$25 million for the extensions to Princess Margaret Hospital and \$50 million to \$100 million for RPH, but no additional beds will be available from that expenditure.

The upgrading of the RPH area is a wrong move. We should consider what we already have and try to live with it and even downgrade some of the establishments. We should not continue in our present way.

Everyone is to blame but the bureaucracy must shoulder most of the blame. Certain gentlemen within the Medical and Public Health Departments can think of nothing but more and more hospital beds and bigger and bigger hospitals. This is just not on. We are all aware of the iniquitous position in New South Wales where nearly 1 000 beds are to be provided at Westmead. The authorities there will not know what to do or how to fund the project. I almost feel like getting in touch with the Federal Minister (Mr Hunt) to tell him not to give us any more for extra beds here because we do not need them. We can get by well and truly with what we have. We could even dispense with some beds and we would still have more than we require.

We should stop to consider the situation. We must not waste money. If extra beds are to be provided, they should be in an area where people can utilise them while still remaining near their loved ones. For instance, hospital beds should be provided in the northern suburbs and south of Rockingham because those areas are expanding rapidly. Surely this is where the beds should be placed. We establish the schools where the people are living so why do we not establish the hospitals in the same area? We seem to centralise our hospital services. I know that we want to make improvements and to save more lives, but in reality are we keeping alive people who should have died?

Mr Bertram: Yes.

Dr DADOUR: I know we cannot play God, but some people are kept alive unnecessarily.

I have been placed in an invidious position. I have to live with myself and living with myself is not always an easy task.

Mr Davies: Hear, hear!

Dr DADOUR: My wife and family tell me I can be difficult.

Mr Davies: How do you find yourself?

Dr DADOUR: I find I cannot agree with what is in the Budget. I cannot agree to the expenditure of \$2 million on the north block of RPH. The idea is unpalatable to me because it is so wrong.

Mr Bertram: It is ridiculous.

Dr DADOUR: I cannot believe that it is intended, and I will be voting against that item. If I find that moneys are set aside for RPH expansion under any other item I will vote against that too.

I find myself in a quandary. I am being consistent and no-one can say I am not. I have been more consistent than most people and I believe that what I am doing is right. Even if it were not—

Mr Davies: Are you going to the annual general meeting tonight?

Dr DADOUR: I cannot. I will be here.

Mr Davies: We will get you a pair. I would love to see you there.

Dr DADOUR: The Leader of the Opposition is responsible for this position—

Mr Davies: Of course.

Dr DADOUR:—as much as anyone else is.

Mr Davies: More than the doctors.

Dr DADOUR: I agree. The situation was in the hands of the bureaucracy and the Leader of the Opposition made a poor job of it.

Mr Davies: You are being consistent in your criticism—

Several members interjected.

Dr DADOUR: It is no good the Leader of the Opposition carrying on like this. He cannot correct his mistake. He and a pair of scoundrels came up here and with his sarcastic and slimy green tongue he deceived them. I tell him that he will never be Premier.

Mr Davies: Thank you.

Dr DADOUR: I say that without any qualification.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will resume his seat. Those members on the Opposition benches who are sitting much closer to the *Hansard* reporter than is the member for Subiaco are making it hard for the *Hansard* reporter to hear the member for Subiaco.

Dr DADOUR: I was just about to conclude anyway. I hope the new Minister will find his way clear to do something constructive because we have been in the deadwood long enough.

Mr Davies: Splendid!

MR TONKIN (Morley) [5.59 p.m.]: I want to deal briefly with a question which arises when we live in a constitutional monarchy. When people consider the veneration in which the monarchy is held in this country and in Britain they may find it hard to realise that it was not so long ago that the monarchy was on very shaky ground and it was predicted there would be a republic in Britain.

During the reign of the fourth King George who had been regent for 10 years but who was king between 1820 and 1830, it was not safe for him to go into the streets of London because stones were thrown at him. The same situation existed when William IV was on the throne from 1830 to 1837.

Both were uncles of Queen Victoria. They were at times unpopular and people were talking openly, even in aristocratic circles, about the imminent establishment of a republic.

A remarkable job was done by Queen Victoria, who ascended the throne in 1837 at the tender age of 18, in rescuing the monarchy from what looked like its certain demise. Indeed, she later put it in jeopardy herself. When her Consort, Prince Albert, died she went into mourning and lost her balance—she was known as “the widow of Windsor”—and people once again began to mutter about republicanism. But she regained her composure and her reign ended with the monarchy held in high esteem. When we come to her successors there is no such checkered history. With Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, and the present Queen, Elizabeth II, the monarchy has been elevated to higher and higher esteem.

It is a remarkable story and one which a fiction writer would not be game to deal with unless it had happened in history because nothing would appear to be less likely than that an essentially undemocratic institution like a monarchy—based on the hereditary principle—could be reconciled with democracy. The kings and queens of old were autocratic and dictatorial. Sometimes power was in the hands of people about them but it was a dictatorial system. It is difficult to reconcile such an undemocratic institution with democracy, but it has happened. The way it has been done is a remarkable story but it sounds too improbable for fiction. It has been the British genius to give to the world constitutional monarchy.

I am often criticised for being an unabashed Anglophile. I happen to admire many qualities of the British, and particularly their political genius, which is no better exemplified than in the way the British have taken an archaic tribal kind of system and made it compatible with democracy. So we have a constitutional monarchy.

How has it been done? It has been done only through the sovereign being scrupulously above politics and ensuring he or she does not descend into the political arena. The British constitutional monarchy has done that. Those monarchs have been scrupulous in the way they have followed the new pattern. They have been very flexible in adjusting to the changing world. Had they not adjusted to the changes, I have no doubt Britain would today be a republic. Britain would have become a republic had the monarchs not been careful to stay above party politics. I do not think the monarch today would follow the pattern of Charles I, who lost his head; but I believe there would have been no monarchy in Britain and we would have seen a republic.

Any alternative Government must be certain that the sovereign and the sovereign's representatives are scrupulously impartial. Any alternative Government—in other words any political party—really must be sure that the sovereign or the sovereign's representative—the Governor General or the Governor—will be scrupulously impartial. Indeed, this has been the great contribution of the monarchy. The monarchy has done more than manage to survive; it has managed to be a unifying influence, because in British terms the Tories, the Labour people, and the Liberals have been able to look at someone who is above politics. Some months ago the Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber referred to the unifying influence of the monarchy in our society. Of course, in that way the British monarchs have a far more unifying influence than, say, the President of the United States can have because he is a representative of a political party.

The Opposition affirms and reaffirms the right of the people to choose any Government they wish.

Mr Pearce: Provided they do it fairly.

Mr TONKIN: I am saying the Opposition affirms the right of the people to choose any type of Government.

Mr Pearce: I was making the interjection that that is so, provided it is not like Western Australia, where the people's choice is not reflected in the result.

Mr TONKIN: The honourable member is making a point about the way things are arranged. I say the people have the right to choose any Government they wish, and the Opposition will not agree that any person, whether that person be a sovereign, a monarch, or a Governor, has the right of veto over the decision of the people to choose a Government of any political colour, even a Liberal Government. We will not agree that any person or any Government has the right of veto over that choice, however, the veto may be disguised. If the sovereign's representative takes sides in a political dispute, that action will bring the Crown into disrepute. I believe that is axiomatic.

If a Governor of a State says he believes it would be better if a certain political party won an election, he will be putting the monarch in jeopardy, and of course he would be putting the whole system of constitutional monarchy in jeopardy.

If a Governor sides with one political party in a political dispute by declaring himself to be in favour of, for example, the erection of a uranium treatment plant, he is doing something Her Majesty the Queen would not dream of doing and has been scrupulously able to avoid. If we look at the way the British system has operated, where there have been socialist Governments, Her Majesty the Queen has been scrupulous in staying above political disputes and not taking sides or in any way attempting to indicate that the choice of the people is the wrong choice.

If a Governor forgets himself, the interests of the Queen he represents, and the interests of the constitutional monarchy so as to invite controversy by publicly contradicting the views of a member of Parliament—for example, his views on bauxite mining—he is doing the monarch a grave disservice. A political party which is affected and discriminated against by a Governor showing himself not to be impartial is entitled to ask the question: What is the chance of that party getting a fair deal if it becomes the Government and the Governor has to exercise the Royal prerogative at some time and indicate clearly where his political sympathies lie?

Governors come from all walks of life and some may not understand the constitutional implications of what they are doing. If a Governor does not understand the system he should go to school before taking up his position and be instructed in the nature of our Constitution. I believe it can be shown the Governors sometimes do not understand the nature of our Constitution. In going to school and receiving instruction, I suggest they could do far worse than observe

closely and copy the decorum and finesse of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in these matters.

If a Government were to employ a fire brigade whose job it was to watch fires and not put them out, the people would have every reason to be upset. I suggest the Western Australian Government has done such a thing. Time and time again we see in the newspapers reports that the Consumer Affairs Bureau is watching prices; sometimes the expression used is "monitoring prices". That is a waste of the taxpayers' money. We are paying officers to watch prices. It is as bad as having a fire brigade to watch a fire rather than to put water on it and put it out. That is what the Consumer Affairs Bureau does. The Government will not give it the power to do anything about prices. So we are paying salaries to people to watch fires. It is a confidence trick because quite clearly those officers are not being usefully employed. They are merely watching fires and the Government will not give them any water with which to put them out.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr TONKIN: I would like to deal with something I think is of great importance for the future of Australia and, indeed, of the world. I refer to the question of industrial democracy. I believe democracy will have to be introduced into the work place, just as we have attempted to introduce it into other aspects of living. It is a remarkable thing that a person may be allowed to choose his own breakfast, he may have a vote as to who shall sit in this place, and he may decide whether to go to the football on Saturday afternoons or to stay home and tend his garden; but as soon as he goes to his work place he is deemed to be somehow subhuman and is there merely to carry out orders like an ox.

I believe that anachronism will disappear in the fullness of time—to use a hackneyed expression—and that some degree of democracy will be introduced into the work place.

Last year I was privileged to discuss the matter of industrial democracy with Ministers of the British and West German Governments, and I was very impressed with their attitude. In fact, I had discussions with the heads of the West German Employers' Federation, and their comments were so progressive as to inspire me to say to them that if I were to go back to Western Australia and put forward some of the views that they as representatives of employers had put to me, I would be regarded as some kind of a communist. I think that indicates just how backward we are in this State and how

progressive are the employers in Europe in respect of industrial democracy.

The Australian Labor Party at its recent State Conference adopted some proposals in respect of industrial democracy, and I would like to deal with some of them.

The first point I wish to make is that we believe—and I have already made this point—that just as all persons have the right to participate in decision making in other aspects of their daily lives, so they should have the same right extended into the work place. Indeed, this is one of the ways in which industrial unrest will be assuaged, even though it will not be removed.

Mr Hassell: What are the employees to vote on—whether they will do the job for which they are paid?

Mr TONKIN: We have the point of view of the 19th century very eloquently expressed through the member for Cottesloe. The very way in which he framed his interjection indicates his attitude. He is asking whether they will have a vote as to whether they are to do the job for which they are paid—suggesting that they are hired cattle. We happen to have a situation in our society in which certain parts of the productive process have to come together. I think even the member for Cottesloe will agree that there are certain essential components of the productive process. These include capital, land, raw materials, and labour. The member for Cottesloe assumes that because in our society we have decreed that the owners of capital employ the owners of labour, therefore that is their God-given right; whereas in actual fact that is quite an arbitrary decision.

I could imagine a situation in which the owners of labour employed the capital. This is quite arbitrary, and there is no God-given wisdom in the system we employ at the present time. Therefore, I reject the implied comment of the member for Cottesloe that the owners of labour—the people who sell their labour—are somehow put in a subservient position by being employed.

Mr Hassell: There was no implication of that. There are many cases in our community where the owners of labour employ the owners of capital. They are free to do that in our society. That is the system you want to change.

Mr TONKIN: All right, but to answer the member's interjection as to whether I said they would have a vote in respect of doing the job for which they are paid, I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that certain decisions are made in the productive process which are decisions that can be made by people who have a

great deal of experience in a particular productive process. It is ridiculous to think that employees—and that includes over 90 per cent of the Australian work force—are somehow in a subservient position simply because they are employees, and that their expertise, their training, and their intelligence should be of no account in the work place, and that someone else should instruct them what to do.

Mr Hassell: Who said it should be of no account? Any reasonable employer sets up a system which takes cognisance of what his employees say.

Mr TONKIN: If the member for Cottesloe believes that—and I do not know by whom he has been employed or what experience he has had in the work place—then I suggest there are not many reasonable employers. I believe he is right. The only thing that concerns me is that in this country we do not have a large number of reasonable employers—by his definition—because that is not what happens in most cases.

Mr Hassell: I think you are mistaken.

Mr TONKIN: All right, that is a matter of opinion. However, if the member is saying he is in agreement with a system in which cognisance is taken of employees' expertise, experience, education, intelligence, and training, then I agree with him.

Mr Hassell: I am not in agreement with compulsion in respect of formalised representation on boards, and so on.

Mr TONKIN: That may mean, of course, that the member is not in favour of a system which is real. The word "consultation" is one of those words in the English language which has been perverted from its original meaning.

The Premier uses the word "consultation" in such a manner as to suggest that if someone goes to someone else and says, "This is what we are going to do" that is consultation. However, it is not consultation. The proper consultation I am talking about is where an employee has a chance to affect a decision before it is made. Whether it is formalised consultation or whether it is not formalised consultation will depend, of course, on the degree of goodwill and the degree of education, not only on the part of the employee but on the part of all involved. It will depend upon giving employees the opportunity to decide what is in the best interests of the whole society.

I believe some of the spin-offs that can occur from a system of industrial democracy include increased job satisfaction and increased productivity. I really cannot understand how employers who are concerned with productivity

and with avoiding industrial unrest have not taken the opportunity to see to it that employees are consulted and are permitted to have a share in the decision making in the work place; because I believe that is one of the ways in which productivity can be increased and industrial strife decreased.

Another spin-off from industrial democracy can be greater job security. We have a situation in our community where there is very little job security. A person can be a faithful employee of a firm for 20 years and then be dismissed by what is euphemistically called a rentrenchment. Although the firm has made millions of dollars of profit during the period of that person's employment, and he has contributed to that profit, he may be put off with notice of a week, a fortnight, or a month. That, of course, is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that people should be treated like worn-out, rusted machinery and thrown away at the convenience of employers.

What is acceptable is that employees should have some kind of job security. I believe we should enact legislation to see to it that people are not treated like beasts of burden that are turned out to graze when their time has expired. Employers have property rights over their capital, and I believe employees should have property rights over their labour. It is as simple as that. The contract of service should be a two-way process with good faith on both sides so that just as we expect the employer to have some rights as the owner of capital, so should the employee have some rights as the seller of labour. That is a part of our industrial democracy platform.

We would like to state that a future Labor Government will be flexible in its approach to an industrial democracy programme. It would be a contradiction in terms for a Government of any political colour to impose upon industry the type of industrial democracy it must observe. What is far more in line with the concept of industrial democracy is that the form of industrial democracy should be worked out by employees, employers, and government in a tripartite consultation. We indicate that we would not impose some form of industrial democracy upon anyone but, rather, would encourage the development of a programme of industrial democracy to suit the various industries and the various types of corporations involved.

We would need to establish an inquiry to discover ways in which the Companies Act, the Industrial Arbitration Act, and the Masters and Servants Act should be altered. What a condemnation of our society is the fact that we still have on our Statute book a law entitled the

"Masters and Servants Act". I do not know whether any members opposite feel like servants; perhaps most of them feel like masters. However, it is a ludicrous commentary upon our society that we should have a Statute called the Masters and Servants Act. It is like something out of Charles Dickens!

That Act and other relevant Acts certainly need to be looked at. We would inquire into those Statutes to establish the number of changes necessary to be made to accommodate industrial democracy.

In conclusion on the subject of industrial democracy, I would like once again to stress how backward I felt as a member of this Parliament when I was in Europe discussing these matters with representatives of a European Parliament. As I said to the heads of the Employers' Federation of West Germany, "You have put forward very progressive ideas, which I accept; but if I were to go back to Western Australia I would be regarded as a rabid left-winger if I were to put forward such views." That shows just how backward Western Australia is politically and in respect of this particular aspect of industrial democracy. We should not be proud of the fact we have not yet woken up that we are in the 20th century.

Finally, I wish to refer to the question of apprentices. I believe our apprenticeship system should be scrapped. It is quite inadequate to meet with modern conditions. The training of an apprentice is an educational function. Under our system, however, a young person may be midway through his educational career, perhaps in the second or third year of learning his trade as an apprentice and suddenly he can be stood down, with his chance of ever becoming a tradesman gone. It is true such apprentices can be re-employed elsewhere, but there is a good possibility they will not be employed elsewhere.

I think it is absurd that we should be training young people and, in the middle of that training, say, "Because this employer no longer can carry on his business and cannot afford to employ you, that is the end of your training. We realise that for the next 50 years or so you are not going to be a trained person, but that cannot be helped."

We do not run the rest of our educational system along those lines. We do not say to high school students, half way through their course, "You are sacked, go home; we have nothing for you to do." That would be an absurd way in which to run an educational system.

Yet that is how we carry on our education in respect of tradesmen. We gear the training of our

future tradesmen to the viability of an industry or, worse still, to the whim of a particular employer. If an employer does not want to employ a tradesman, that is the end of it. We could have 1 000 tradesmen and if not one of those tradesmen wants to train an apprentice, no new tradesmen are trained; it is as simple as that.

The whole of our society is geared in that way to the whims of individual employers. This emphasises once again the lack of manpower planning in this country. We do not have manpower planning. We do not have a way of saying, "In five years time we are going to need so many trades persons in this particular category, so we will plan for it and train our young people to carry out that task." We do not do that; in a 19th century *laissez-faire* fashion which once again puts us back in the 19th century we do not worry about it until we have a shortage of trades persons and then we import them from overseas. What a slovenly way of filling our labour shortages.

Because we are too lazy, uncommitted and sloppy to plan for the future, we allow Europe to train new trades persons and then we steal them from Europe, while our unemployed youth kick their heels and are not given the opportunity. I know of literally hundreds of young people who want to be apprentices but who cannot be, yet in three years' time we will need the expertise with which we could have equipped those very same young people. However, they will not be trained so we will turn our backs on our own young people whom we have callously, deliberately and stupidly not trained and we will say, "England has a better policy; West Germany knows how to train people. We will take them from those places."

So, we are bludging on the rest of the world by allowing other countries to train young people for trades and then, at an opportune moment, when we are in a mess because of our incompetence we turn to them and say, "Join the land of opportunity", and we bring them out here. That is an incompetent way of trying to run a country; it is callous and short-sighted.

For those reasons, I believe the apprenticeship system should be overhauled to take cognisance of those problems. We should have a manpower planning system to ensure that our supply is commensurate with our needs.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [7.50 p.m.]: In taking part in this debate I wish firstly to comment on the publication tabled by the Treasurer titled, "The Western Australian Economy, 1977-78" at the conclusion of the Budget speech.

One matter which always interests me a great deal is the export incomes attracted by various industries in Western Australia and, indeed, the whole of Australia. The paper tabled by the Treasurer gives the total income attracted by the mining industry and the total attracted by the rural industries. In Western Australia, the mineral and mining industries generated more overseas income than the rural industries. However, when it comes to the whole of Australia, it was revealed in the *National Farmer* of the 7th September this year that farm exports lead in the amount of income attracted from overseas. This is quite revealing; I confess to being a little surprised when I saw the figures.

The farming sector of our economy still is the major export earner and this clearly again indicates that the Australian economy is very closely tied to the agricultural industries. Because of that, it is very important for the Governments of all States of Australia to do their best to keep those industries viable and to offer them the sort of encouragement they need.

The wheat industry is one of the major primary industries in Australia and is one which has enjoyed some stability over the last 25 years inasmuch as there has been an organised system of marketing the grain throughout the world in which Australian wheatgrowers have participated, assisted by the Federal Government.

Mr H. D. Evans: Good old Labor Party.

Mr McPHARLIN: Whichever party was responsible for bringing it in deserves credit because, without it, the economy of this country would have suffered badly, and many producers would not be on their farms today.

Mr H. D. Evans: That goes for wool, too.

Mr McPHARLIN: At present, a re-examination of the wheat stabilisation scheme is taking place and it will come into being next year. Again, it is up to the producers and the various State Governments to ensure the new scheme is kept going in a way which provides stability to the industry which in turn will reflect on the stability of the economy.

In this context, we could consider the other schemes which provide stability to the various industries. In Western Australia, I refer particularly to the Lamb Marketing Board. That proposal had a very stormy passage during its early days but it has settled down now and provides a marketing outlet which gives some stability to an important rural industry earning export income. These are the measures which I believe we must consider to provide the necessary stability to our economy.

In the last week or two we have noted some conflict between our Premier and the Minister for National Resources in Canberra. The Federal Minister hinted at establishing one outlet to be responsible for the marketing of iron ore. When iron ore companies enter into negotiations with Governments, they have their own marketing systems whereby they know the quantities the purchaser will buy, the price he will pay and the market availability. If that is not organised marketing, I stand corrected.

I see no reason that there should not be a continuation and an expansion of organised marketing to cater for all farm produce to provide stability to the industry so that our economy can function at an efficient level. We have seen chaos in other industries and we have seen attempts made to introduce some form of improved marketing, particularly in the beef and sheep meat industry.

Mr Bryce: And the iron ore industry.

Mr McPHARLIN: A referendum held recently did not result in the way favoured by many people.

One matter to which the Treasurer referred in the Budget speech was that of probate, where he indicated that the revenue from probate duty for the last financial year was \$5 million higher than the estimate because of the assessment last year of a number of abnormally large estates and because concessions granted were not reflected in revenue as quickly as was expected.

I think this bears out the argument of those who were in favour of abolishing probate duty altogether, despite the opposition from some quarters and despite some difference of opinion which existed at the time between the National Country Party and the Premier. I believe it has been borne out now that most people think the Government was justified in going ahead with the abolition of death duties in Western Australia. It was announced in the Budget speech that the abolition of death duties will proceed as forecast last year. The rate of duty on estates passing to a surviving spouse will reduce by 50 per cent from the 1st January next year. I believe this provision has been generally accepted; in fact, it is a very popular move endorsed by most people in Western Australia.

In addition, the Federal Government is working on the abolition of estate duties which again will be very acceptable to all people likely to be affected. I know some members of this House do not completely agree with the principle of abolishing death duties, but when one analyses the situation and finds some people were very

severely penalised due to death duties one can see it is a very sensible measure.

Mr Clarko: It is double taxation.

Mr McPHARLIN: Yes, it is quite true that it is double taxation.

I turn now to the matter of country water supplies, an issue I have mentioned on numerous occasions in this House. The Treasurer made the following statement in his Budget speech—

A sum of \$44.3 million has been allocated for operating expenses of Country Water Supplies, Sewerage, Drainage, and Irrigation Schemes—an increase of \$4 million on last year

I wish to make reference not only to country water supplies but also to water supplies generally and I wish also to comment on the salinity of water supplies.

Last year I had the opportunity to carry out investigations into the salinity of the water supplies in other places. One of those places was Israel and the other was California on the west coast of America. Both these areas have problems because of saline water. In Israel they use trickle irrigation to a great degree in agricultural production and other methods to control the level of salt in their water supplies and to keep the salinity content at acceptable levels.

Not only is it a problem in Western Australia, but it is a problem also in many other parts of the world. Water salinity is causing a great deal of trouble in the wheatbelt areas. I want to refer to this matter, because a large amount of work has been performed and many people are not aware of this.

In March of this year I made reference to a meeting of farmers which I attended at Quairading. Approximately 200 farmers attended the meeting and they formed what they then called a WISALTS Committee. I explained the meaning of the committee in March. A number of farmers have joined the committee and many are still joining it. Approximately 400 to 500 farmers have joined this group. There are now 11 confirmed branches and another eight or nine branches are in the pipeline. They are getting together to take action to try to prevent the erosion of their land as a result of salt encroachment.

It has been estimated that something like two million acres of land which was productive at one time has gone out of production now because of the spreading of salt. In some cases, the farmers will tell one that approximately 15 per cent of their property is now unproductive and they are

losing approximately 3 per cent to 4 per cent of their land per year. In one particular shire I have been advised that 27 per cent of the land is salt affected. When this land goes out of production, it becomes useless. It must be replaced then by purchasing other property. That costs farmers up to \$100 per acre. It can be seen one has to lose only a few hundred acres in that manner and one is losing one's income, one's living, and one's very heritage is becoming wasteland because of the spread of saline water or salt encroachment.

I have spent a great deal of time with this group which is operating now in the Shackleton-Bruce Rock area. I spent last Wednesday with these people and I asked some questions of the members of the group who are spending money on placing interceptor banks on their properties. These banks have been recommended after surveying, drilling, and testing as a result of methods which have been worked on and approved by the farmers themselves after very careful investigation. The banks are known as the Whittington interceptor bank system. I asked several of these farmers questions about the methods they were applying. I asked them to put on tape their replies and this is what I have before me now.

The president of the WISALTS Committee is Mr Lloyd Richards of Quairading. I asked him to explain why he thought the interceptor bank system was so effective. He told me that he has tried every other method recommended and he has not found another effective system for keeping the salt back. He had taken the advice of all the people who claim they are qualified to advise on these matters, but he was still losing land. He got to the point where he could find no other way to obtain effective results. Therefore, he engaged Mr Whittington and a group of approximately 50 farmers in that area are having this work done now.

I spoke further to Mr Richards and asked him how many members had joined his group and he told me there were approximately 400 known members; but they expected to have about 1 000 or 1 500 members within a few months.

This is a very important aspect. It is much more important than is realised by a number of people. The farmers' assets and income are being eroded by the spread of salt and salt encroachment is far more prevalent than most people are prepared to admit. It is a serious matter.

The farmers who are using the Whittington interceptor bank system claim it is worth the money expended. They believe that by

constructing the banks, they achieve results. The method has been proved in other areas and the farmers are satisfied it is worth the cost of installing the banks. They claim it can cost approximately \$700 a mile, depending on the type of soil. The farmers say on a cost per acre basis, it works out at approximately \$10 per acre. If a farmer loses several hundred acres of land it will cost him \$100 per acre to replace it. It can be seen that \$10 per acre is not a great deal to pay to make the land productive once more. The farmers have given me these figures.

I spoke to Mr Whittington and he answered my questions on tape. He said approximately 48 farmers have adopted his scheme in the area. Some of these farmers have been trying to control the spread of salt for 25 years and they have come to Mr Whittington for his advice in an endeavour to halt the salt encroachment on their property.

Further to the comment made by Mr Whittington, I spoke to the man on whose property we landed. One of the farmers was good enough to fly me all over the area. We landed on the area where they were working. Mr Don Langdon is the man to whom I spoke. I asked him why he considered it necessary to have these banks installed on his property. He said he was losing approximately 25 to 30 acres per year through salt encroachment and he had not found a method to stop it up to that time. He considered the project to be worth while. He felt it was worth spending money on a system which has been adopted by other farmers in an endeavour to stop the spread of salt and to reclaim the land which has been rendered unproductive as a result of salt encroachment.

On the same occasion I spoke to another man who, as I mentioned previously, has been endeavouring for approximately 25 years to stop salt encroachment taking away some of his better land. Salt always seems to attack the better land. He had been trying to control the salt spread in order that he could return to the level of production which he enjoyed previously. He was the man responsible for forming the group with the aim of working towards the installation of the banks in that area. After 25 years of examination, trial and error, and a great deal of cost he is satisfied this method is effective. He is quite happy to go ahead with the work which is being done.

A number of other areas have had the same sort of treatment and many others intend to have the work carried out.

I spoke to Mr Lyndon Henning, who has a farming property with his father at Koorda. He

and his father have installed these banks. I heard the same story. They could not obtain the results they required from other methods and they invited Mr Whittington to go to their property and give advice on the type of bank he thought would be suitable. They have installed a few miles of these banks. They are working on a system of costing of approximately \$10 per acre also and they are very satisfied with it and feel they will achieve the results they desire.

So many farmers are interested in the group and it has received encouragement to the extent that they are now engaged in training several of the younger farmers in order that they may be qualified to give advice to other farmers who are suffering similar problems on their properties in this State.

Mr Henning has worked alongside Mr Whittington for a few years and he has spent a great deal of time with him. He has studied the matter very closely and he will have the confidence soon to instruct, advise, or help farmers with the problems caused by salt encroachment.

I asked Mr Henning why he believed the banks were performing the job he wanted of them. He told me that on his property he has increased production and stopped the salt problem which, without going into details, is a by-product of waterlogging. He and at least one other farmer have studied the matter very closely and they will be moving out to work with farmers who would like the banks installed on their properties.

This is a very serious matter particularly if one owns the land involved. A large amount of capital is invested and with ever-increasing costs, and profit margins which are being cut the farmers need to bring all their land into production to keep their heads above water. When they see some of their best soil going out of production as a result of salt encroachment it is heartbreaking to say the least.

However, there are further problems which need the application of these types of controls. I am referring to the control of salinity in water supplies. The former Minister for Water Supplies, as members are aware, gave Mr Whittington an opportunity to put down some trial banks in the Wellington catchment area. These banks are still being monitored and tested to see the effect they will have on the water salinity. From my discussions with Mr Whittington I can say he is of the firm opinion that a method can be applied and the salinity of our catchment areas can be improved greatly as a result of a system of banking whereby the water can be directed in

certain ways to avoid it flowing through the heavily salted areas which increases water salinity. The water can be directed in certain ways so that the level of salinity is improved. This is deserving of encouragement in order that we may have a method of improving the salinity and water supply problems in Western Australia.

I make those points, because I believe it is necessary for more encouragement to be given to any system which shows results and to any system which can improve the position regarding the loss of very productive agricultural land in Western Australia. We should encourage any system which produces results.

I know there are conflicting opinions, but if results are being obtained through the use of a particular system, surely that is the one which ought to be encouraged. I am not knocking the other people who have offered advice in the belief that they are taking the correct action. But if they are not obtaining the type of results for which farmers hope, surely it is logical that encouragement should be given to a system which gives the sort of results required by the farmers.

Farmers do have problems in America. I spent some time at the Riverside Salinity Laboratories in California, some 60 miles from Los Angeles. I studied the testing and the methods of using saline water to grow various types of grasses and fruit trees, and so on. There are salinity problems in various parts of America where the salt seeps are affecting farming land. I did not get an opportunity to go as far afield as I would have liked.

There is a problem and we in this State at least are getting results from the trials which have been carried out. I believe it is necessary for us to encourage those trials in every way.

Another aspect of this matter is that because it costs money to control the encroachment of salt, because it costs money to bring back the land into production, I think it is a fair claim by these farmers that they ought to be allowed a full deduction of the cost of carrying out the work in the year of their expense. There seems to be some difference of opinion about this which is borne out in an article published in the *Farmers' Weekly* of the 10th August. The Taxation Department advised the Farmers' Union that certain criteria would apply. The advice was the result of inquiries as to whether or not farmers could claim a total deduction during the year of expense. The article, in part, reads—

Where land has been used for a period of years for primary production and expense incurred in preventing or combating salt

encroachment, the expense will be regarded as being of a revenue nature.

It would therefore qualify for total deduction in the year it was incurred.

Similar expenditure by a person who recently acquired land would be regarded as a capital expenditure and would qualify as a deduction over 10 years.

So it appears there is some difference of opinion, but it is something which has to be investigated further to see whether all of this cost cannot be agreed to as a deduction in the one year.

I want to make some reference to a matter which is of public interest, and in particular one announcement by the Premier some time ago. The announcement was in relation to the planning in Western Australia for the establishment, at some future time, of a nuclear power plant. The Premier made the statement that planning was to be undertaken and that it would take some years before a plant could be established. He made the comment, at that time, that it could be up to 15 or 16 years before a plant became commercially operable. That is about the time which has been allowed by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission to prepare the criteria, standards and codes, identity of sites, the collection of data, power surveys, feasibility studies, policies, and so on which are necessary some years before a plant can be put into operation.

A great deal of information has to be obtained for the selection of sites, water supplies, and the provision of engineering. I believe the upgrading of our engineering services and our equipment, and all that goes with it for us to have a nuclear power unit established anywhere near the metropolitan area, will involve a great deal of research and work. A period of 15 years has been estimated from the beginning of the planning stage to the unit actually providing power for the system. A great deal of work is required before the actual building of the nuclear power plant can take place.

Some criticism has been levelled at the costs involved in the building of nuclear power plants, and it has been said that it would cost something in the vicinity of \$800 million to build a 500 megawatt nuclear power station.

Mr T. H. Jones: That is not the figure given in this House, you know.

Mr McPHARLIN: Well, that is probably fairly close to it. It would not cost that much to build a coal-fired power station; probably half that.

Mr T. H. Jones: Probably! That is what we do not know—the probabilities.

Mr McPHARLIN: Well, of course there are many variables in this sort of operation: the capital cost of the plants, overheads, maintenance, the type of plant to be built, the location, the finance, and so many other variables. It could not be worked out to the last dollar.

Mr T. H. Jones: Then there is the decommissioning of the plant, which must be considered surely.

Mr McPHARLIN: The cost of decommissioning now has been made considerably cheaper by the United Kingdom. Further research has been carried out and it has been established that decommissioning could cost considerably less than previously estimated.

Mr T. H. Jones: America has not moved in that direction yet.

Mr McPHARLIN: Recent research has established what I have said only in the last few months.

Mr T. H. Jones: America has not moved. Is America behind Britain?

Mr McPHARLIN: The cost of plant decommissioning is not included in present nuclear power costs. The cost of decommissioning a large nuclear plant is estimated to be between \$15 million and \$40 million. Amortised over the plant lifetime, that amounts to less than 1 per cent of the total power cost.

The cost of producing power in a nuclear plant is considerably less than producing power by oil or coal.

Mr T. H. Jones: Everyone does not agree with you, of course.

Mr McPHARLIN: I have a book with me which shows the figures I have used. It is an American publication, and it sets out a 1975 national survey of power costs.

Mr Pearce: Who carried out the survey?

Mr McPHARLIN: The results of the survey show the national average power costs in cents per kilowatt hour. The cost for an oil-type power plant is 3.36c; the cost for a coal-type power plant is 1.75c; and the cost for a nuclear-type power plant is 1.23c. That was the cost at the time of the publication and, of course, variables come into it depending on where the plant is established.

Mr H. D. Evans: Does the report cover the relative amortisation of the plants?

Mr McPHARLIN: I have quoted the cost of electricity from each fuel source.

Mr H. D. Evans: Taking into account the life of the plants?

Mr McPHARLIN: I have quoted the cost of electricity from each fuel source. If members opposite want more details, they are certainly contained in this publication. It provides answers to many of the question which have been raised, and I could find those answers if I had the time.

Mr T. H. Jones: You should have the answers.

Mr Pearce: What is the name of the publication?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is titled, *Nuclear Power and the Environment*. It is issued by the American Nuclear Society.

Mr Skidmore: Does the publication comment on the relative cost of the raw product in Australia as distinct from the cost in America? In other words, is there a comparison between coal costs in America and Australia?

Mr T. H. Jones: I could answer that question.

Mr McPHARLIN: I do not know the relevant costs. I am giving the figures relating to the actual operating costs. They are the relevant figures. In every country I referred to the story was the same: The cost of production of electricity by nuclear power was cheaper by far than the production of electricity by coal or oil.

Mr T. H. Jones: Then why are not all the other States of Australia going over to nuclear power? South Australia has no coal, so why does it not go to nuclear?

Mr McPHARLIN: In areas where it is difficult to extract coal the cost would be higher. The difference could be quite considerable. However, there are other areas where the cost of coal is cheaper, so cheaper electricity will be supplied. It depends on the area.

Mr T. H. Jones: If you had done your homework you would be able to tell us the cost of coal in America compared with the cost of coal in Australia. There would then be some validity to your argument.

Mr McPHARLIN: If the member would like me to provide the figures, I will be able to do so.

Mr T. H. Jones: Of course we would like you to provide the figures. You do not know. How can you make a comparison if you do not know?

Mr McPHARLIN: I cannot make a comparison with the costs in Western Australia. I am reporting cost figures which have been gained from experience.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member will refrain from interjecting while not sitting in his place.

Mr McPHARLIN: The Australian Atomic Energy Commission has been kind enough to lend me some films on nuclear power development. I have shown them on a number of occasions and at each showing there has been made available to those people interested enough a question period. Only last week I received an invitation from the member for Moore to show some films in the Two Rocks area.

Mr T. H. Jones: Do you believe all the films you see? I hope not.

Mr McPHARLIN: No, I do not believe all the films I see.

Mr T. H. Jones: Then why quote them, if you do not believe them?

Mr McPHARLIN: When I arrived at Two Rocks a projector had already been set up with a film in it. A group of people were ready to show a film, so I asked them to go ahead. The group of people, of course, were anti-nuclear.

Mr Clarko: The Two Rocks branch of the Labor Party.

Mr Pearce: There is not a branch at Two Rocks.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have been anti-coal for years—before you ever came here.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McPHARLIN: If the member for Collie will listen for a minute, I will explain that the films were anti-nuclear. The film which was shown on that occasion was a film I did not believe because it was anti-nuclear. Of course, the film was put on for my benefit and I was then invited to make a few comments, and show my films. The films were loaned to me by British Nuclear Ltd. and after the showing I was subjected to about an hours' questioning.

Mr T. H. Jones: You were obviously convinced. You are now an authority on nuclear energy.

Mr McPHARLIN: The question period is always very interesting. I was asked all sorts of questions relevant to the development of the industry, but one thing that concerned me was that the young people—and most of them are young—are being provided with information which is not factual. They are being misled.

Mr Bryce: Do you mean, in Australia?

Mr McPHARLIN: I am concerned that the young people are being issued with a lot of misleading material.

It was a coincidence that in the audience there was a man and his wife who had worked on the uranium mine at Mary Kathleen in Queensland,

and they were all in favour of the development of nuclear power.

Mr T. H. Jones: We are talking about the economics of it.

Mr McPHARLIN: These people were scathing in their comments about some of the criticism made by those who were anti-uranium. So people who had practical experience with the mining of uranium were very much in favour of it. Opposition members should talk to these people.

Mr Bryce: I did, and I gained a different impression.

Mr McPHARLIN: One thing that concerns me is the lack of facilities both in Western Australia and in Australia at the present time for the provision of services which can convey to the public generally the answers to all these questions which are raised.

Mr T. H. Jones: America does not have an answer and you know it. They are in trouble in America at this very moment.

Mr Bryce: What do they do with their waste in America?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is obvious the member for Collie is being misled.

Mr T. H. Jones: I am not. Anyone would think that you are the only person who has been around the world. I had a look at nuclear power when I was overseas.

Mr H. D. Evans: What do they do with the waste?

Mr McPHARLIN: I have only four minutes left. Plenty of action is being taken in regard to the waste, as the member for Warren would know if he were prepared to accept it.

Mr H. D. Evans: Successful?

Mr McPHARLIN: Of course it is successful.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is not.

Mr Bryce: New York State has banned its nuclear power programme because of this problem.

Mr McPHARLIN: While I was in Japan one of the things that struck me was the organised way the people of that country are being educated about the use of nuclear power. Schools are visited, and anybody who is interested enough to ask questions may inspect the developments. An organisation has been set up for that purpose.

Mr T. H. Jones: Are there any coal reserves in Japan?

Mr McPHARLIN: Classes are conducted with highly qualified teachers. This is a tremendous

organisation, and we lack anything of its kind in Australia, and certainly in Western Australia.

Mr T. H. Jones: You do not know your subject.

Mr McPHARLIN: Of course Japan does not have coal reserves, and it does not have oil reserves either. The member for Collie did not know that there are 14 nuclear power stations in operation in Japan.

Mr T. H. Jones: Didn't I?

Mr Clarko: No.

Mr McPHARLIN: A string of ships about 100 miles apart—

Mr Bryce: Are dumping the waste!

Mr McPHARLIN: —are coming and going continually from the Middle East. Japan has to import something like 98 per cent of its power in the form of coal and oil. It is dependent entirely on imports, and that is why it is looking towards Australia for the provision of uranium to keep its nuclear power stations in operation.

Mr Pearce: You really should stick to salt!

Mr McPHARLIN: It is common sense that if we do not find some alternative source of energy we will run out of our fossil fuels.

Mr Bryce: The sun.

Mr T. H. Jones: You would be better to stick to agriculture—something you know something about.

Mr McPHARLIN: There is not one large solar energy generating plant in the world, and members opposite know it.

Mr Bryce: They are on the way. If you and your friends were prepared to put as much money into it as you have into other things we would have them.

Mr McPHARLIN: Members opposite know that many countries in the world are working on the development of power from a solar source. However, there is no major power station of that sort yet in the world.

Mr Bryce: The Arabs are building one.

Mr McPHARLIN: It is common sense that we must look for an alternative if we are to preserve our fossil fuel. Look at the situation in South Africa where there are tremendous reserves of coal and cheap labour, and yet a nuclear power station is being built.

Mr Bryce: Cheap black labour!

Mr McPHARLIN: The South Africans are building this power station because they have no oil supplies. It is planned to extract the oil from the coal to keep industry going.

Mr T. H. Jones: Before you sit down, can you tell me whether we can get oil from our coal?

Mr McPHARLIN: I asked the member that question the other night.

Mr T. H. Jones: And what did I tell you?

Mr McPHARLIN: I think the honourable member said that we could.

Mr T. H. Jones: I am glad you are learning from me. However, with the knowledge you have, why did you ask me?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member's time has expired.

Mr McPHARLIN: The debate was just getting exciting. However, as my time has expired, I must sit down.

Mr Bryce: I will move for an extension of time for you.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [8.35 p.m.]: Last evening, when the member for Cottesloe spoke, he endeavoured to defend some of the policies enunciated by the Treasurer in delivering the Budget speech. In particular he referred to the development that was going to take place in Western Australia, and I stress the words "going to". This development certainly has not commenced to manifest itself at the present time.

The member for Cottesloe referred to bauxite mining, and in doing so he implied that the Opposition was in some way being unjust because we referred to those questions which have as yet not been answered successfully. He was critical of the Opposition's attitude which can best be described as development with caution, in strict contradistinction to the Government's attitude of development at any cost; to press ahead, irrespective of what the future might be just so there is development. That indicates the state of desperation to which the economy of our State has sunk.

Unfortunately the member for Cottesloe is not in the Chamber at present, but I will ensure that he receives the invitation I now present to the Treasurer. If the Government wishes to allay the fears that have caused the comments of the Opposition, the matter can be resolved very simply. All the Government has to do is to table or to make public the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority.

Members will recall, following the issue of the ERMP, an invitation was extended to any person or any organisation to put forward recommendations about it. We were told that the EPA would examine the recommendations. These recommendations are with the Government, but they are still under lock and key. If the

Government wishes to stop the criticism, all it need do is to put those recommendations on the table, let the public see them, and if the recommendations are favourable there will be no more comment from the Opposition. It is as simple as that, but no, the Treasurer has chosen to hold discussions with his Federal counterpart—the Prime Minister—and the Minister for Industrial Development likewise has chosen to hold discussions with his Federal counterpart.

Sir Charles Court: In other words, we are going to do it the right way.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Government did the right thing when it brought the agreement in and had it signed before even looking at the environmental implications! I suppose the Treasurer will tell me that was the right way to do it.

Sir Charles Court: Yes it was.

Mr H. D. EVANS: So the agreement is now signed, and that is supposed to be the right way to do it. Never was anything done in such an underhand way.

Sir Charles Court: Why don't you come out and say you are opposed to it, and be honest about it.

Mr H. D. EVANS: What rubbish! Why will the Government not table the recommendations, and for that matter, the Stanford report?

Sir Charles Court: You know it will be made public.

Mr H. D. EVANS: If the report of the EPA were favourable to the Government's point of view, it would have been tabled.

Sir Charles Court: You know it will be issued at the right time.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Why not let us look at the Stanford report. The Treasurer is embarrassed; that is the problem.

Sir Charles Court: We told you it would be made public at the right time.

Mr Bryce: What constitutes the right time?

Sir Charles Court: When it has been studied properly.

Mr Bryce: When you have edited it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr H. D. EVANS: We are now seeing a further procrastination on the part of the Treasurer. He wants to get out of this place as quickly as he can. The Government has the most miserable and thin legislative programme that I can recall. The sooner the Treasurer can get out of this Chamber the better, because it is only here

that we can put forward the fears raised by the public on this issue.

Sir Charles Court: You will have plenty of time.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Treasurer says we will have plenty of time but we are nearly at the end of the session now.

Sir Charles Court: We have news for you!

Mr H. D. EVANS: When the report is published we will need to study it extensively for at least a few weeks.

Sir Charles Court: You will have plenty of time.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Not if the Treasurer can help it! He will have us out of the Assembly Chamber as fast as he can while he is talking to the Prime Minister across the width of Australia. That is the tactic being used. The member for Cottesloe, with some temerity, said—

Mr Blaikie: Just like you to attack a man who is not here.

Mr Skidmore: We did not ask him to leave.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I said I was sorry that he is not in his seat, but I am sure he will learn of my comments.

We would like to hear something about the comments of the CSIRO. That august body said that there are some unexplained and unanswered questions. The EPA is in a similar situation to the CSIRO, and I am sure it will have expressed some disquiet about the situation. That is what Government members are concerned about and fearful of.

Sir Charles Court: How you long for this project not to proceed. You say your prayers about it every night. You say, "Please God, get the project cancelled."

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Treasurer knows that if he lays the report on the table he will either terminate the criticism once and for all, or at least the public will have this knowledge.

Sir Charles Court: It is going to be made public.

Mr H. D. EVANS: When?

Sir Charles Court: At the proper time. When it has been dealt with by the elected Government.

Mr H. D. EVANS: When is the proper time? When Parliament has adjourned?

Mr Bryce: After the next election—that is the proper time.

Sir Charles Court: Parliament will be well and truly in session when it is made public.

Mr H. D. EVANS: While we are on this subject, what about the Stanford report? We were given the very lame excuse that the Stanford report was a departmental document and so it could not be made public. This report was partly paid for by a private company. What did a private company have to do with something like this? The Stanford Institute is a revered institution, and it would be interesting to see the attitude it expressed.

In passing I would like to comment on one further remark made about the rights of Alcoa of Australia Ltd. in regard to the protection of the mining leases. In its submission to System 6, the company made it perfectly clear that the agreement of 1961 gave it specific, complete, and total powers, and the Pittsburgh lawyers will not surrender one of those powers. I challenge the Government to put this statement to the test. Does the company have complete control over bauxite leases? To try to hoodwink the public, to tell them that there are adequate controls, and that the Government has the situation in hand, is nothing less than a subterfuge.

The member for Cottesloe having returned to the Chamber, I would like to repeat the suggestion I made to him. If he wishes to allay the criticism about the Alcoa project, he can ensure this is done very simply by tabling the EPA recommendations to Cabinet. The public will then know just where they stand. This is the course that the Government should follow.

Mr Bryce: A little bit of honest, open government.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Members opposite do not know what that is.

Mr Bryce: That is all we want.

Mr H. D. EVANS: An article appeared in the Press on the 4th October, 1978, indicating that all honey importations from South Australia have been banned. This follows on from the outbreak of European foul brood which has been experienced in the Eastern States. To his credit, the member for Vasse raised this matter during the grievance debate, discussing in some detail the problems associated with European foul brood. The disease can cause the total eradication of the honey industry in any State, be it Western Australia or any other State.

At present, honey can still be imported to Western Australia from Queensland, and northern New South Wales and, until last week, from most of South Australia. This week, however, a total ban has been imposed on honey coming across the border from South Australia.

Mr Blaikie: Is it not a tragedy that it took the Department of Agriculture so long to wake up to the fact that the situation was critical? Do you not condemn the department for not waking up to the situation earlier? I hope that is what you are going to say.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I was working around to the point where I would make a statement similar to the one the member for Vasse just made.

I wish to follow through the full ramifications of the shortcomings of the policy adopted to this point. Not only honey is a source of concern to the beekeeper; the importation of queen bees and of second-hand equipment also is causing great concern, and it is a problem which has not been recognised. I do not know whether it is the fault of the Department of Agriculture or whether a political motive has been responsible for the policy adopted over the last 12 months; the member for Vasse may know a little more about that than do I.

Mr Blaikie: What about the beekeepers' executive?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The member for Vasse has had one go on this subject and he will have another opportunity later; if he does not mind, I should like to lay the facts of the matter before the House so that the House can decide whether some change in the policy is required in the interests of this valuable little Western Australian industry. At present, action is needed because of the infestation which has suddenly occurred in South Australia.

Mr Blaikie: It has not suddenly occurred; it has been there for some time.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Yes, it has most certainly been in existence in the south-east corner of the State. The chief apiculturist in Western Australia made the following point in his report last year—

Hives treated in the south-east have shown a dramatic drop in the incidence of disease but not complete eradication. It is expected that signs of the disease will be evident again this spring.

That was a very accurate forecast, because it is precisely what has occurred.

The comments of the Minister, to say the least, were a little disquieting and very accurate when replying to the grievance raised by the member for Vasse and also during the debate on the Honey Pool Bill only the week before last. The actual transmission of the disease as yet is unknown; it is a disease in relation to which the full causal effects are not realised.

The comment of Roger Baile in a special report to a beekeepers' meeting is worthy of quotation. He stated as follows—

The most frightening aspect of the outbreak is the limited knowledge as to the ability of the disease to spread so rapidly.

Yet when the beekeepers went to the Minister for Agriculture asking for a total ban on the importation of honey, queen bees and various items of used equipment, he replied in the following terms—

Mr Blaikie: When was that?

Mr H. D. EVANS: This was earlier this year, about May.

Mr Blaikie: The timing is very important.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It was certainly before the convention in Toodyay, which was held in June. The Minister replied as follows—

I am advised that Queensland has never isolated the causal organism of European Foul Brood. For this reason there should be no risk in introducing honey from that State with the proviso that all imports are accompanied by the required health certificate certifying that the honey was the product of disease free hives in the State of Queensland.

Yet much of the honey has been imported from South Australia and some from the northern part of New South Wales.

One beekeeper who visited the State told us that they were not very concerned about the problem in their area because the nearest outbreak was 100 miles away. All of a sudden, an outbreak occurred 100 miles in the other direction. He was not quite so sanguine after learning of that sudden outbreak.

In Western Australia we do not know sufficient about the cause of these outbreaks. The Minister seems to think that bulk honey which has been treated presents no risk at all. When that is considered on a cold, clinical basis, perhaps he is right. However, when we are dealing with human beings the certification and transportation of properly prepared honey is not always possible; there is always somebody who will beat the system.

Regrettably, the Minister is not present in the Chamber because it was only during the last few days that one of his officers had to go out to the premises of a processor in this very city. Behind the building he found several four-gallon tins which had contained candied honey; the honey had been used for processing and the tins had been split open and simply thrown out. Almost

every bee in the district was feeding on those tins, and the officer of the department had to resolve the problem. That was a processor of many years' experience.

There is no excuse for ignorance. To say that honey coming into this State comes from disease-free areas and therefore certainly does not harbour the disease is ludicrous to say the least; in fact, it has been proven not to be the case.

A certain amount of confusion has arisen in the industry itself, in part because the processor side of the industry has not been playing its part of the game. I have already indicated the dangers involved by quoting the case of one experienced processor. The mere fact that honey is certified as coming from a disease-free area need not necessarily mean the honey was, firstly, produced in the locality and, secondly, given the treatment required to gain certification. Those are the failings of the measures the Minister considers adequate. I refer members to *Hansard*, Vol. 16, of Tuesday, the 19th September, at page 3207, where the Minister gave his explanation in the course of the debate on the Honey Pool Bill.

The second aspect of the problem which perhaps is of even greater concern is the importation of queen bees from the Eastern States. The normal number imported in any one year is of the order of 4 000 to 7 000 bees. This year, because hives are at an all-time low due to the effect of cyclone "Alby" and the drought, a greater number will be imported. The hives generally are in a very weakened condition and most beekeepers are expressing a great deal of concern. It is anticipated, once again by the chief officer of the Department of Agriculture that the number of queen bees imported during 1978-79 will rise to something like 13 000.

Introducing a queen bee to a hive is putting an alien element straight into the middle of a hive and it has a far greater potential to introduce disease than the importation of honey which possibly goes through several processes and steps before it finally arrives at the hive. Bearing in mind that the precise causative agents transmitting the disease are not fully understood, it can be seen that Western Australia is in a rather defenceless position.

It is said that queen bees should be permitted to be introduced from Queensland and northern New South Wales. New South Wales is experiencing an unprecedented spread of the disease, to a much greater degree than was expected. However, if queen bees are taken from only one area, we will finish up with undesirable genetic restraints on breeding, so the department

has allowed importation from a second area, which is understandable. It is also understandable that Queensland and northern New South Wales were nominated.

I believe Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania are the only States which are free from European foul brood, yet we still have the position where it is possible to import queen bees and—on an unrestricted basis—second-hand equipment in addition to honey from various identified centres. The danger is that, as we have seen over the last week, one day we can import honey from any part of South Australia, excluding the south-east pocket, and after the weekend a total ban is imposed. However, in the meantime a considerable amount of honey is in transshipment.

Mr Blaikie: The tragedy is that the Farmers' Union supports the importation of honey and queen bees.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The history of the dealings of the beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union with the department, and the pressure that has been brought to bear by processors is rather interesting.

Mr Blaikie: That is completely untrue.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I have a rather simple understanding of the problem; possibly it is not a complete understanding of the matter. Basically, the shortage of honey in this State has been created by seasonal conditions—namely, cyclone "Alby" and the drought—and this is causing problems to beekeepers and processors alike. However, at this stage it is important that the Department of Agriculture, through its Minister, take action as a matter of urgency to ban the importation not only of honey but also of queen bees and second-hand equipment.

Mr Blaikie: You still have not come back to the point that the Farmers' Union still supports the importation of honey and queen bees. What is the Minister supposed to do?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister had better get down in short order and look at the problem while he still has an industry to worry about!

Mr Blaikie: What if the industry takes a different attitude?

Mr H. D. EVANS: That was one of the reasons there was a breakaway group which held a meeting last Sunday.

Mr Blaikie: I was at that meeting; where were you?

Mr H. D. EVANS: All power to the member for Vasse.

Mr Blaikie: Where were you?

Mr H. D. EVANS: It was not the first time and it will not be the last time I have been unable to attend a meeting due to other commitments. However, the member for "Gas" was able to attend; no doubt he understands the problem a little more than he is letting on at this stage.

Mr Blaikie: What I would still like to know is why the Farmers' Union is in favour of the importation of honey.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Mr Speaker, if the member for "Gas" examines the whole issue and studies some of the problems relating to this disease and the fact that full research has not been carried out, he might be able to make a reasonable contribution to the debate a little later.

I refer now to what can only be described as the scandal of the Good Neighbour Council. That organisation was established in every State of Australia on the 12th December, 1949. Members will recall that at that time there was a tremendous influx of migrants into Australia of such an order that one would need to go back to the great treks, or the exodus from Egypt to see a parallel. Certainly, it was quite unique in modern history.

Now, the Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra has decreed that the Good Neighbour Council will be disbanded over a two-year period. Its grant was cut by 30 per cent as from the 1st September, 1978, and in 1979-80 the Good Neighbour Council, to all intents and purposes, will be disbanded.

Some rather unfortunate consequences will stem from that action. The Good Neighbour Council will pass out of existence a year before the resource centre which is supposed to replace it comes into existence. There will be an hiatus year, which means that the threads of the Good Neighbour Council will be lost to the resource centre which replaces it, if it is possible to replace it. When one looks at the figures, its replacement is a physical impossibility.

The Good Neighbour Council will be replaced by two organisations in Western Australia. One is an orientation centre at Graylands, the purpose of which is to give preliminary direction and training to migrants. Obviously this is most important. It will be a centre purely for that purpose.

The resource centre will be set up on a budget of \$50 000. A sum of \$50 000 in this day and age will not establish much of a centre at all in terms of staffing and in terms of operating expenditure. There will be a staff of two persons at the orientation centre, and at the resource centre there will be a similar staff. Both centres will have a budget of \$50 000.

At the same time as those centres are established, there will be an increase in the grants to community groups. In the main, these will provide the salaries for social workers who will move among the particular ethnic groups within the State. At present, there are five grants made to organisations which deal with the problems of ethnic groups. Four of these organisations are church groups, and one is the Good Neighbour Council. The Good Neighbour Council will be replaced by another council which will be responsible for the operation of the resource centre and its staff of two. The council will make recommendations and give advice. It will act purely in an advisory capacity.

With a budget of \$50 000, the resource centre will have a restricted operation. That will be necessary. There will be no chance of its moving into country areas, even on a minor scale. The demands made on it in the metropolitan area will certainly see to that.

If we contrast the proposed arrangement with the Good Neighbour Council as it exists, we find that the Good Neighbour Council has a staff of 12 in Perth, and one at Port Hedland. It has 600 registered voluntary workers who operate in 83 country centres.

In terminating the operations of the Good Neighbour Council and in leaving a gap of a year before the resource centre and the orientation centre come into existence, the Government is allowing the existing operations and structure to be finished. Those people who are voluntary workers in the 83 country centres will drift into other avenues of interest, such as service clubs. These people will be impossible to replace.

The Good Neighbour Council operates a 24-hour service. The officers of the Good Neighbour Council receive a considerable number of calls in the course of a weekend and after hours at night. The very fact of the receipt of these calls is indicative of the service that is needed. This service will be disbanded. It will be abolished.

What will happen to the 600-odd voluntary workers currently registered with the Good Neighbour Council? Once they have been dispersed, it will be very difficult to re-establish them in the field of assisting those who could be classed as migrants.

I had some contact with the Good Neighbour Council on a voluntary basis when it was being established in my own district. The movement of migrants into the Manjimup-Pemberton areas, and indeed right throughout the timber mill areas of the State, was much higher than it was in most other places.

As an indication of the sorts of services that the Good Neighbour Council provides, I instance the meeting of a Polish woman who arrived on an aircraft in the early hours of the morning. The person who met her could speak Polish.

It is difficult to find a Government department which can provide a service of this kind. This is the sort of thing that the Good Neighbour Council was doing.

I instance the case of a widowed woman in a country area. The Good Neighbour Council spent a considerable time trying to resolve her problems. Once again, with the language barrier which existed and the nature of the social work involved, it was a specialised job. The only specialisation available was through the Good Neighbour Council. I could cite a considerable number of instances where this has been the situation.

The consequences of the Government's new policy, Mr Speaker, are of concern, to say the least. The integration of migrants into the community must be retarded. There is no way that this will not be the effect of the policy.

Grants will be made to specific ethnic groups. The ethnic community groups will operate as separate entities. Instead of there being an overall, integrated programme, there will be various identifiable ethnic groups providing their own social workers and operating within their own autonomies.

Most recent studies show that 94 per cent of migrants do not want to be confined to the ethnic group to which they belong. They want to be integrated into the cosmopolitan pattern of Australian life. They seek community participation, in the interests of integration. This is what they are seeking, and this is what is going to be denied to them with the removal of the Good Neighbour Council.

There are 170 ethnic groups in Perth. Some of these will receive support; as a matter of fact, nine groups will. What will happen to the other 161? They will not receive support.

It is not very difficult to find the motives behind this new policy of the Government. The motives emanate from the Federal Government, which realises that there are large ethnic groups—Italian, Greek, Yugoslav, Polish, Macedonian, and many others—and these groups contain a large potential voting public. The Fraser Government is taking a \$50 million gamble. It is expending \$50 million on wooing ethnic groups in an endeavour to influence their voting patterns the way the Fraser Government would desire. It is as cold-blooded—

Mr Grayden: You are absolutely right, for a change.

Mr H. D. EVANS: With the approbation of the member for South Perth, I feel I might be spot on. It is as cold-blooded and as cynical as that. The Fraser Government is embarking on a \$50 million gamble, buying votes and nothing else. The Western Australian Government has not raised its voice one iota against it.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr H. D. EVANS: I notice that the Budget allocation to the Good Neighbour Council remains at \$2 000. That will be the contribution of the Government. It will be at the same level as last year.

Obviously the State Government is prepared to see the Good Neighbour Council quietly fading from the scene, bringing with it the unfortunate consequences that I have mentioned.

I sincerely hope the Fraser Government will find that it receives a reaction; that it receives a backlash from those ethnic groups that it does not support. I hope that the groups will see through the entire scheme. Probably the scheme has been sold to them on the basis that each group will receive funds. When only nine groups out of 170 receive funds, I hope the reaction will be devastatingly strong.

I turn to a more parochial matter, dealing with my own electorate. This is in connection with the Donnelly River mill, which ceased operations in June of this year. Some 12 months ago the company indicated that a number of mills were to close. The company stated that it would find employment for those employees who were made redundant by the closures. To the credit of the company, it has done this. It has ensured that all employees at Donnelly River and Tone River were found employment.

I would have been among the strongest critics of the company if it had not lived up to its promise. As it has lived up to its promise, by the same reasoning I am among the first to accord the recognition that the company has merited.

The Donnelly River mill ceased operations in June. Presently the company is maintaining a work force which is travelling to the Dean mill each day. This probably will not be maintained, and the accommodation venture will be phased out. This will not happen immediately, but will happen in the course of 12 months.

Of the houses there, 28 were built by the State Housing Commission. The State Housing Commission embarked on guaranteed rental agreements with Bunnings and a number of other

companies. Upon the redundancy of those people, the houses will revert to the ownership of the State Housing Commission. This means that there is an unequalled opportunity for tourist-type accommodation of various standards to be made available in what is probably the most desirable area in Western Australia.

Donnelly River is about 14 miles to the west of Manjimup. It is virtually an oasis in the forest. The nearest farm is about five kilometres away. The area contains a number of very interesting forest tracts, and it has quite a number of walking trails. There is an abundance of water, due to the existence of two weirs. It is situated about 70 kilometres from Busselton, and it has access to the south coast area. Day trips for the purpose of picnicking or fishing are easily undertaken.

A person living in accommodation in a place like Donnelly River would find that he was in the centre of one of the most interesting areas of the State, and also one of the most beautiful.

The operations of the mill are being wound down. The mill is one of the very few examples of steam-driven locomotion in Western Australia. If the machinery can be retained on its present site, it represents a significant museum item.

Approaches have been made to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Tourism drawing attention to the fact that this potential facility has become available. A suggestion has been made to the Minister for Tourism that he should take the initiative and call a meeting of those departments which would be involved in a tourism venture in the area. I envisage the departments involved would be the Forests Department and the Public Works Department immediately, possibly the planning authorities, and most certainly the Department of Tourism. There are three shire councils in the area, and these councils should most certainly be represented at any meeting called to discuss the future of this area.

What is required at this stage is an urgent examination of the basic planning needed to ensure that this site is available, with its potential tourist accommodation, for all time. This is one of those moments that happens from time to time—a golden opportunity which, if it is not taken when it becomes available, is lost for ever. Members should remember what happened with the Shannon River mill. The houses were simply let out to tender, and they were pulled down and carted away. If that happened in this instance it would be tragic.

I have written to the Minister explaining the overall position to him. I draw the attention of the House to this matter. I draw it to the attention of

the Treasurer. I hope the Treasurer will examine the prospect of funds being made available for ventures of this kind.

Tourism represents one of the few industries which can assist in true decentralisation. It is one of those industries which is labour-intensive, and because of its very nature it is outside the metropolitan area. It is one of the few industries which can be attracted away from the metropolitan area. Many countries have recognised this fact, Sweden, of course, being the classic example. When New Zealand, Tasmania, and various other parts of Australia are indicated as being illustrations of what can be done in this field, Western Australia has a great deal of leeway to make up and the sooner we start on this the better.

Mr P. V. Jones: You do know that a bit of preliminary work has been done about the housing following my visit and discussions about the survey?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I was not aware of it.

Mr P. V. Jones: I do not know what has been done with tourism and so on, but the Community Recreation Council has had a fellow looking at it. Some preliminary work has been done. We agree with you on the matter.

Mrs Craig: The Forests Department and the company have had discussions, too.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I was not aware of that, but I am pleased to hear that the Government has moved on the matter. It is certainly a very desirable proposition.

While talking about the Donnelly River mill, I wish to draw attention to one of the unique aspects associated with it. It uses sawdust to generate the steam which provides power not only for the mill itself, but also for the townsite. At the present time the forest waste is being reduced dramatically with the advent of the wood chip industry, but there is still a tremendous amount of sawdust, bark, and up till now, small useless type of waste in the timber industry.

There is one possible use to which this waste could be put; that is, the generation of electricity. The Pemberton mill used a boiler which depended upon sawdust for its fuel. As I said, the boilers at the mill at Donnelly River generated power not only for the town, but also for the mill. Apparently there is still a fire burning the waste.

One of the big problems confronting the Western Australian chip and pulp industry is the disposal of the bark from the marri logs. There is just a small mountain of it at the moment. If the SEC could examine the use of this renewable fuel

I am sure it would find that it is a resource which is replenishable. At present it is simply being burned and not put to any useful purpose at all, yet we will face steep increases in the prices of fuel which will generate power into the 1980s. Previously the burning of this timber waste may not have been economic, but a power unit in the lower south-west using waste timber, bark, and sawdust could at least assist in providing some of that power which will become crucial during the next decade.

For the interest of the Minister in charge of the SEC I would like to record that at least a study should be made of the viability of the production of electricity from waste timber. Even if it provided electricity for only two towns in the area, it would mean that there would be that much less of a drain on the overall demands of the SEC in Western Australia. Having drawn the attention of the House and the Minister to that possibility, I can only hope that it will be followed up and I would be very interested to learn subsequently that this has been done.

MR SHALDERS (Murray) [9.24 p.m.]: I welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate and to support the Bill. It is customary for members when speaking to the Budget debate to talk on issues pertinent to their electorate. I do not intend to do that tonight except to indicate how grateful I am that an allocation of finance has been made to enable the completion of the South Dandalup to Mandurah water pipeline link. The quality of the water provided from the bores to the residents in Mandurah has been poor for a number of years and I am pleased that the completion of this link will enable the quality to be upgraded, thus benefiting the residents of Mandurah.

Equally I am disappointed that it has not been possible for an allocation of funds to be made for the extension of the reticulation to the area south of Mandurah and to Miami because the people there unfortunately suffer as a result of not having a reticulated water supply. In addition, the bore water which is of a reasonable quality for individual residents in Mandurah is of a singularly poor quality in the South Mandurah area and the residents there suffer because they must cart water to augment their rainwater supplies during summer months. I am hopeful the Government will see fit to make an allocation of funds to enable this work to be commenced in the next financial year. I make that plea.

Naturally I am pleased about any allocation of funds which assist rural areas and so I was particularly happy that funds were allocated to assist the small country businesses which, in the

past, have been affected by drought. These funds will enable the people in those businesses to keep them in operation and, indeed, in some instances, to maintain the employment of those who work for them. Consequently I congratulate the Government on its interest and the action it took in that field.

I believe there is a great need for the Government to take some action to control the water and sewerage charges country people must pay and particularly the charges the country business people must pay. Unfortunately, when a revaluation takes place—and the revaluation affects one of the components which is used in computing water and sewerage rates—it results in those charges escalating dramatically.

Recently there was a revaluation in Mandurah and some businesses there are faced with an increase of between 200 and 300 per cent in their water and sewerage rates. The actual rate itself has not increased, but the other multiplying component—the annual rental value—has been increased as a result of the revaluation and this has caused those charges to escalate. So I ask the Government to consider this aspect and to decide whether, in fact, there ought to be another system devised.

Small businesses cannot predict when these revaluations will occur. Sometimes they are made every three or four years while in other cases the time between revaluations is much longer. The greater the lapse of time between the revaluations the greater will be the increase and the greater will be the problem they face. Equally it is impossible for the businessmen to estimate what the increase might be and so they are unable to budget for it.

This escalation creates real hardships to many small businesses in the country and reduces their capacity to employ and this is unfortunate at a time when employment is scarce. Consequently this is a factor which must be taken into account by the Government.

There is a need, firstly, for the means of assessment for commercial water rates to be reviewed and, secondly, for consideration to be given to either a fixed maximum or a maximum according to the type of business, turnover, or profit involved. I do not know the solution. The subject requires study because a means must be devised by which the impact on these businesses can be cushioned.

I was pleased—and I am sure the member for Warren was also—about the \$200 000 allocated to the apple growers who were victims of cyclone "Alby". We all agree that the cyclone was one of

the greatest natural disasters we have experienced in this State. I would like to ask the Government to study the guidelines by which aid is allocated and in this respect I will instance one case in my electorate which highlights the anomalies involved, although I know there are instances which other members could relate. I will not be overly critical of the Government as was the member for Warren, but I do know there are anomalies.

One farmer bought into a property and naturally had a heavy overdraft. He intended to breed stud horses, but as yet there has been no income from the property. He and his son were working away from the property and, because there had been no income, it was found they were not eligible for aid, because they had not lost any income as a result of the cyclone. That was quite true. The property was being built up. The mares had not bred and there was no record of sales of their progeny. So the father and son could not be assisted. Unfortunately the money which went into the Lord Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund was handed out on guidelines which also precluded these people from being given aid. This was a genuine person who really suffered, but because of the inflexibility of the guidelines established he was not able to be allocated aid. A real need exists for some additional flexibility in the aid programmes.

Briefly I want to touch on the employment situation in the State. I believe that to a certain extent the Opposition has been hypocritical in the matter.

Mr H. D. Evans: I do not know. In the days of the Tonkin Government it was only a quarter of what it is now.

Mr SHALDERS: I will come to that. Members of the Opposition talk about the negative side and refer to the people who are unemployed; and I suppose it is politic for an Opposition to do that. However, it conveniently overlooks the positive side of the question.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is a fact of life.

Mr SHALDERS: Members of the Opposition continually overlook the positive side of the problem. They do not refer to the additional jobs provided. I wish to refer to some information I have which was disseminated by the Minister for Labour and Industry. It contains the official statistics to June, 1978. I want to remind the Opposition—there is no need to remind members on this side because they are well aware of the fact—that it never talks about the other side of the question or refers to those who are employed. Members opposite always refer to the people who

are unemployed. I will even up the situation tonight by reminding them that according to the latest official statistics, in the last four years to June, 1978, a total of 27 300 new jobs were created in this State.

Mr Pearce: That is a long way short of 100 000.

Mr SHALDERS: I do not disagree. However, members opposite should keep in mind that that promise of 100 000 jobs was not made four years ago and the Premier said that those 100 000 jobs would be created in seven years.

Mr Pearce: That was not said at all.

Mr SHALDERS: I happened to be at the function at which the Premier made that policy statement.

Mr H. D. Evans: The promise was 18 months.

Mr SHALDERS: I was there, and the Premier stated that 100 000 jobs would be created in seven years.

Mr Pearce: There was no reference to seven years.

Mr SHALDERS: If members opposite want to take that point in isolation, naturally they will do so. However, if they do they are totally ignoring the truth.

Mr Pearce: Rubbish! Only 27 000 jobs have been created, not 100 000.

Mr SHALDERS: Those jobs represent an increase of 7.2 per cent in the work force.

Mr Bryce: By how much has the population increased?

Mr SHALDERS: In those four years there is only one other State in Australia which has had an increase in the number of people employed; and that is Tasmania and the increase is 2.6 per cent.

Mr Skidmore: Does this make the position good for those who are not employed? Has this been good for the State? Is it something which is really great?

Mr SHALDERS: It has certainly been of benefit to Western Australia and no-one could argue to the contrary. Members opposite have told the story of gloom and doom and it is politic for an Opposition to do this. However, let us also tell the positive side of the story. There are only two States in four years which have had an increase in the work force—those who physically go to work and receive a pay packet. Western Australia is one of them with 27 300 more jobs representing an increase of 7.2 per cent; and Tasmania is the other one. Let us consider the situation in the model States which members opposite always laud. South Australia, with a

Labor Government, has had a decrease in its work force; New South Wales, with a Labor Government, has had a reduction—

Mr Davies: And what about Tasmania?

Mr SHALDERS: I have to admit that the work force in Queensland and Victoria has also been reduced.

The point I make is that the State which has shown the greatest improvement is Western Australia under the present Government and the present Premier.

Mr Skidmore: What about jobs for the unemployed? There are fewer jobs now but more unemployed people have been trying to get them since the Court Government has been in power.

Mr SHALDERS: Between June, 1976, and June, 1978—two years—the Australian labour force was reduced by 24 600, while at the same time—

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

Mr SHALDERS: I will tell the honourable member. It is a jolly good question and I thank him for the interjection. This is what we have done about it: at the same time as Australia's labour force contracted by 24 600, Western Australia's labour force expanded by 27 300. As I said, I thank the member for Warren for the interjection.

Mr Bryce: Rubbish!

Mr SHALDERS: They are official statistics. If the honourable member doubts them, he can take them up with the Minister.

Mr Bryce: By how much did the Western Australian population increase in that same period? I am talking about the young people in the work force. You can talk all night about creating 27 000 jobs, but how many thousands of extra people have gone into the work force?

Mr SHALDERS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not like it. The population in the other States has increased, and at the same time as this State's population has increased their work forces have decreased. There is an official estimate that 9.4 per cent of the unemployed in Western Australia have come from either interstate or New Zealand.

Mr Bryce: It has ever been thus.

Mr SHALDERS: No it has not.

Mr Bryce: In 1972 when your Premier was ranting and raving about a 0.2 per cent rate of unemployment in Perth, a great percentage of those unemployed were from New South Wales.

Mr SHALDERS: The number has escalated rapidly because people in the other States know

this is the one State in Australia with a positive Government, and a positive Premier who has plans to get industry off the ground and provide jobs.

Mr Bryce: He has no plans, just hot air and optimism.

Mr SHALDERS: The Opposition does not like the other side of the coin—the positive action this Government has taken to create employment. We have acknowledged that unemployment is too high in this State. We have said it is not satisfactory and we want to do something about it. The Opposition will not acknowledge that we have been successful in our efforts in the past.

Mr Bryce: Do you acknowledge that your promises were dishonest and unreal in 1974 and 1977?

Mr SHALDERS: The Opposition has attacked the Government time after time over increased charges—State Housing Commission rent increases, and increases in water, sewerage, and electricity charges—and the amounts and percentages by which those charges have escalated. I would not argue with the Opposition about any of its figures or percentages because I have no doubt they are correct; but let us see how dinkum the Opposition is.

Mr Bryce interjected

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to cease interjecting. He will have noticed that the *Hansard* reporter was obliged to move from one side of the table to the other, such was the barrage in her left ear.

Mr SHALDERS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When something comes out which members of the Opposition do not like to hear they close their ears. I do not believe the Opposition is dinkum. If, for instance, it is criticising us over the escalation of those charges, we have not yet heard what the Opposition's strategy would be. Presumably it would say it would not have increased those charges to the extent the present Government has done.

Mr Bryce: We just criticise you for being a hypocrite.

Mr SHALDERS: If the charges were lower, the revenue derived from the business undertakings of the Government would be lower, and if the revenue were lower the operating deficit would be greater, as evidenced by country water supplies. In reply to a question today the Minister said the loss after increasing the charges would be \$25 million in this financial year.

The Opposition says it would not have increased the charges to such an extent. That

would result only in a deficit which was greater by that amount. If the deficit were greater, the subsidy which would have to be provided for those services from the Consolidated Revenue Fund would be greater, and if a greater amount of revenue were used to subsidise the increased losses there would be less money available to the Opposition, had it been the alternative Government, for positive spending to create employment. In other words, the Opposition would have subsidised the people who are at present in jobs at the expense of the unemployed. That is why I said it is not really dinkum.

Mr Bryce: That is not true, and if you take time for a breath I will tell you why.

Mr SHALDERS: The new ALP plan to nationalise industry should be compulsory reading for all members on both sides of the House. The Government has struck a balance, in increasing charges, between what it believes is responsible and what people can be expected to pay. I know it is very difficult to have to face people and say, "Water charges and SEC charges are up", but when we explain to them that there already has been a loss of \$25 million—

Mr Bryce: Do you explain that you promised to curb those charges?

Mr SHALDERS: The cause is wage escalation, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows it. Every time he supports a call for increased wages he also supports a call for higher costs to the people.

Mr Bryce: No promise was too extravagant for you in 1974 and 1977.

Mr SHALDERS: It is quite hypocritical of the Opposition to attack the Government over increased charges and unemployment when obviously they are counterposed. But as an Opposition it is convenient to do the Nelson trick.

I want to deal with an example of employment-creating Government expenditure which I believe is very worth while, and I am sure it will have the support of the member for Gosnells. I refer to the field of education and the record funds allocated in the Budget, which are acknowledged by the member for Gosnells to be \$332.2 million, and which is approximately 23 per cent of the total funds available to the Government. This is an increase of 14.6 per cent at a time when general revenue will increase by less than 10 per cent. So it can be truthfully said that education really gets more than its fair share. However, that is one argument which can be used. Education did get more than the share it might have been allocated, and I am all in favour of it.

Mr Pearce: I accept it is at record levels, but I made the point last night that because the Government consistently underspent its allocation from year to year the increase based on last year's expenditure and allocation as against this year's allocation is unrealistically large.

Mr SHALDERS: We will have to wait until the end of the financial year to see whether the actual expenditure is 14.6 per cent over and above the expenditure last year, but I think it is quite unfair to criticise on a hypothetical argument that the money might be underspent. I take the point. Unfortunately I do not think it can be made validly until we see what the actual expenditure is at the 30th June, 1979.

One of the arguments which can be used against the diversion of this extra money into jobs for teachers is the fact that it might have created a greater amount of employment had it been diverted into capital works. These have a multiplying effect because not only are there those actually employed on the capital works but employment is also created for those manufacturing materials, providing the transport and so on.

Mr Pearce: So you acknowledge that the State Government commitment to capital expenditure on education has decreased this year as against last year by \$3 million or \$4 million?

Mr SHALDERS: The honourable member has the Budget papers; he does not need me to acknowledge what he is saying. There will still be a very strong programme of capital works in education, and the honourable member should acknowledge that.

Mr Pearce: But less than last year.

Mr SHALDERS: Most of this increased expenditure in education will go on salaries. Therefore it is related to job opportunities. Over and above the number of teachers required to replace those who retire or resign, there will be positions for an additional 338 teachers in this State in primary and secondary schools, and of those 120 will directly help to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio. I do not disagree with the member for Gosnells; in fact I think it has been acknowledged by the Minister that the method of computing the teacher-pupil ratio is totally unsatisfactory. I would like to see a more realistic approach to it, but if it were agreed to do that, the new means would probably show that the class size would actually increase.

I wonder whether, if a change were made, the Opposition would get out on the hustings and say, "Back in 1972 it was this; look at it today", and use the old type of computed figure as against the

new computed figure. It could do that, and I wonder whether the Teachers' Union would do it. It would need good faith on the part of all parties to come to agreement to arrive at a new basis for determining it, but I agree it is necessary and should be done.

The fact that 120 of these teachers will be available to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio falls into line with one of the aims of the teachers' charter. The last edition of *The Western Teacher*, dated the 29th September, says—

Teachers' Charter

Before 1975 the union had a written undertaking from the department that maximum class sizes would be progressively reduced to Teachers' Charter limits. Last year and this year class sizes were not reduced and little progress has been made to realise the charter's goals.

I am extremely disappointed that in a paper which was published following the introduction of the Budget the Teachers' Union chose to devote the whole issue to the strike, without making any mention at all of the Government's increased contribution and the fact that there is a move—perhaps not as much as the union would like—towards the goals of the teachers' charter in relation to teacher-pupil ratios.

Mr Pearce: You will accept that there was no such move last year, which is the point made in the journal?

Mr SHALDERS: If we turn to the back page, the heading "A day to remember" might equally have referred to the fact that the Budget was brought down on that day and it increased the vote to education by more than could be expected and therefore will result in greater employment of teachers.

Let us look at the teachers who will be employed. They will be the graduates of the teachers' training colleges. I believe the Premier, the Government, and the Minister for Education have kept faith with an increased number of those young people who started their training in the expectation of getting a job. Certainly the Government is not able to provide the finance to enable all of them to get jobs, and I am sure the Government is as disappointed about it as every other member in this Chamber. But at least the Government has kept faith and a greater number than could have been expected will be employed when one looks at the amount of money devoted to education and the increase in general revenue which was available to the State.

I am extremely disappointed that the Teachers' Union chose to devote the whole of its publication to the strike issue.

Mr Bryce: You should take that up with the vast majority of the members of the executive of the Teachers' Union, who are Liberals.

Mr SHALDERS: I do not know that is true.

Mr Bryce: Of course it is true.

Mr SHALDERS: I do not know what their affiliations are. However, there is something I will say, and I have refrained from doing so to date. Approximately 1½ weeks ago I sent a telegram to the Acting President of the Teachers' Union with a plea to use her influence to persuade the executive of the union to hold a referendum of teachers. I did not publicise that telegram; I did not tell the Press, the radio, or the television services about it because I wanted to make that plea privately to the acting president of the union. To this day I have not had any acknowledgment or reply in respect of my telegram.

In my telegram I pointed out that the reason for my plea was that in my opinion—and I know this is happening because I have phoned teachers and spoken to them—the strike issue is dividing teachers as never before. Teachers are being divided into “wills” and “won’ts”—those who will and those who will not strike. School staffs which have previously got on well together for many years now find themselves divided. I believe it is an indictment of the union that it did not—and certainly it is not bound to—conduct a referendum to ascertain whether it had the support of a majority of teachers in this State in respect of that question.

Mr Watt: Less than half of the teachers went out on strike on Tuesday.

Mr SHALDERS: Of course, that is right, and I think it is an indication of why the executive did not want to hold a referendum; because according to the figures yesterday less than half of the teachers of the State went on strike. The union has given some reasons for that, and I guess it is using them as an excuse. The union has to look for reasons. Nevertheless, it certainly seems that less than 50 per cent of the teachers are prepared to support the strike.

So, Mr Speaker, it is on this note that I wish to conclude my comments: I am extremely pleased that the Government has kept faith with the increased number of young people who commenced training with the expectation of receiving an appointment. Despite the criticism that the money devoted to those trainees will not create as much employment as it might if devoted to capital works, the Government has kept faith

with these young people. I believe they support the Government in its stand and will gratefully acknowledge its action, even though the Teachers' Union has not.

DR TROY (Fremantle) [9.48 p.m.]: Before I begin what I have prepared I would like to make one observation. Had it not been for the initiative of this Government there would not have been a strike of teachers in the last couple of days.

Mr Speaker, the people who occupy the Treasury bench are presented with the task of carrying out policies that are in the interests of the vast mass of people who live in this State. I think in that regard it is pertinent to look at the Budget documents presented by the Government and try to determine what are its economic strategy and tactics. Very clearly the tactics of this Government set the pace of economic activity in this State in a very important way. I think it is worth underlining some of the remarks made by the Premier in his speech in order to determine the tactics pursued. I refer to that part where the Premier said, “We have imposed, regardless, restraints on departmental expenditure, contained staff increases to a minimum . . .” He said those words whilst referring to recurrent expenditures of the Government when introducing the revenue Estimates.

Further on he said when speaking of the loan allocation programme that general capital grants from the Commonwealth to the State would cause a cut-back of approximately 10 per cent in the volume of work initiated by the Government. So those two initiatives together are determining that in the course of this current financial year we will see in this State a decrease in the total number of job opportunities.

But that is not the only aspect of the tactics this Government has indicated in its Budget. The other matter that is worth looking at is in the area of revenue. In this respect the Premier said that we have the smallest percentage increase in estimated revenue for a decade. He said he would not go ahead and raise taxation. Of course we all know, and everybody in the State knows, what has happened in the recent period in respect of charges. Almost every conceivable charge the Government could lay its hands on has been increased.

So what has been presented is a very sophisticated argument. So far as the average person in this State is concerned he will suffer a fairly serious reduction in his standard of living. The emphasis of the increased charges is very much directed at the vast mass of people and not at big private companies.

In summary the Budget strategy and tactics will end up in a very savage economic deterioration here, and this deterioration will be borne by the working class of this State who actually produce the wealth.

Subjective intentions of the Government may be one thing. The objective circumstance of the world recovery will dictate the outcome of the Government's tactics. We have seen in the recent period a fall in world trade. Specifically we have seen a fall in the volumes of mineral and agricultural exports. Again I refer to the speech of the Treasurer when he introduced the Budget, and I quote as follows—

I was disturbed by the prevailing air of pessimism I found in Europe and the United States when discussing development prospects with business leaders in those areas recently. Investment decisions and a revival of world trade on which the future growth of this State depends so vitally, are being deterred by fears of continued inflation, by excessive trade protectionism in Europe and by pressures and delaying tactics from some over-zealous environmental lobbies.

Coming from a man like the Premier, that is a rather unusual statement to say the least. No longer does he talk of Western Australia being the exception. In fact, if we compare that with the speech he made at approximately the same time last year we find there has been a real volte-face in respect of the dominant factors in relation to our economy. For the first time there has been recognition that our economy does relate to the economy of the whole world. What he does not say, and this is where his reference to environmental lobbyists is bringing in the nigger in the woodpile which does not relate to developments on a world scale, is what are the main questions which are dominating world trade.

I think if we start to look at what the prospects are for the 1978-79 period we can get some idea of where the overall economy might be headed. The prospects are fairly grim and they come about because the main prop, or the financial base of world trade since 1945 or thereabouts, the US dollar—and the relationship of other currencies to that dollar—has undergone, for example vis-a-vis the yen, a very substantial devaluation in the last 12 months.

Mr MacKinnon: Why?

Dr TROY: In essence the reason is that the US over a long period of time from 1944 to 1971, when it went off the gold standard, allowed a very large body of debt to build up against its own dollar and that forced the US to go off the gold

standard in 1971. That country was in effect saying it could not pay the bills it printed over that period of time. That is the underlying reason for the decline in world trade since that period, and the upheaval that has arisen out of that.

Mr MacKinnon interjected.

Dr TROY: I am not saying that at all. I do not see what relationship that bears to what I am talking about at the moment. In the recent past 80 per cent of world trade was conducted in US dollars, and now with a completely unstable currency circumstance the basis of world trade is in a very parlous condition. This is what is affecting what is happening in Australia.

Fraser prides himself on having solved inflation, but the real cause of inflation in the first place was this underlying unstable currency on a world scale. If we look at what happened—and I have referred to this in the past—when the US went off the gold standard in 1971, we find the immediate outcome was a fairly rapid deterioration in the US dollar and, with it, in the Australian dollar.

Then there was speculation on the part of people who controlled what in essence was money that had no real value on the world scale. These people speculated in such currencies as the Australian dollar. This did not affect Australia only, but it meant that in the 1971-72 year when we revalued there was a huge amount of money coming into the country without a commensurate increase in goods and services produced.

Fraser's policies affect inflation in an indirect way. He has followed the bidding of overseas bankers. In the course of the last two years he has taken the Australian economy further into debt to the tune of \$250 000 million in order to bolster up a failing Australian dollar. What he is attempting to do in this regard is to give back to the bankers, who are dictating this as far as Australia is concerned, a greater return out of this country. If Fraser did not follow the dictates of the bankers, of course, he would find himself out of office fairly rapidly.

I think it is worth while to do a little stocktaking in relation to our economy and some of its trends. If we look at the figures of the gross value of production as outlined in the book accompanying the Budget and entitled, "The Western Australian Economy for the year 1977-78", we can see several trends. One of them is from a financial component point of view a rather static position in terms of primary production; and, of course, minerals are excluded from the figures given. The figures given are for the period 1973 to 1978.

The second observation which I think is worth making is that over the same period of time, again from a financial component point of view, manufacturing and mining industries have increased more or less in tandem. This suggests they are tied intimately together. I think that is a fairly valid observation arising out of those figures.

There is a third point arising from the figures on page 23. Those figures indicate that our export trade, compared with the overall gross value of production, has been increasing as a proportion. There are some other figures worth looking at. I refer to page 8. This is the area of civilian employment. We will look at this in terms of trying to identify what is occurring in our country.

In these figures, we see a decrease in employment in the mining sector over the last financial year. We see also a decrease in employment in the manufacturing area. As I understand it, the figures for July and August indicate that that trend has continued.

When one looks at the total figures for last year, one finds that the private sector of the economy is by far the minor sector when compared with the Government. Government initiatives in the last financial year played a far greater role in our economy than did the private sector in its own right.

These are some of the matters that arise out of the figures laid down in the paper. I think there are several conclusions to be drawn. One conclusion is that the figures reflect a lopsided character in our economy—something which has developed over a long period. I refer to the percentage of our economy contributed by export earnings. We have prided ourselves in the past that we have made a greater contribution to Australian export earnings than the rest of Australia. In the circumstances now prevailing, with rapidly declining markets in minerals, we are seeing this aspect as a disadvantage as far as jobs are concerned.

If one looks at the figures for jobs available here as compared to jobs available in Australia as a whole, this kind of thing is borne out. In Western Australia, for every job advertised there are 27 people available. The Australian figure is 23 for one job. This points out the fairly lopsided character of our economy.

With the failure of the minerals market, this aspect is turning into a very decided disadvantage. This is a reflection on the stewardship of the Government as far as this economy is concerned,

not only in the last financial year but also in the preceding period.

Another point arising out of the circumstances we find ourselves in is that the real significance of the primary industries has been unmasked. I refer to farming, fishing, forestry, and so on, rather than to mining. The huge increase in minerals has meant that the decline in the markets for our primary goods has to some extent been masked over that period.

We now find that we are suffering from the tragic economic mishandling of a whole series of State Governments in terms of their policies in relation to these questions. Markets for primary products have all but disappeared. Those changes have effected fairly major shifts in the income of our total economy.

The next point is in relation to the overall Government strategy. The strategy of the Budget is for a decrease in Government initiative. This will mean a decrease in civilian employment. In the last financial year the Government sector created more jobs. What we will find with this current Budget will be a massive increase in the numbers of unemployed in this State if it is allowed to proceed. What this Budget is doing, in effect, is speeding this State into recession.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Sibson.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Valuation of Land Bill.
2. Land Valuation Tribunals Bill.
3. Acts Amendment and Repeal (Valuation of Land) Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Photographer: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I announce to the House that in response to a request from West Australian Newspapers Ltd. I have agreed to a photographer entering the Chamber to take a photograph just after the House sits tomorrow. The purpose of this is for the photograph to be inserted in an internal newsletter—I think it is called "House News"—which is distributed among the employees of West Australian Newspapers Ltd.

House adjourned at 10.06 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mayors

1757. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Are there any provisions made in the Local Government Act for a Town or City council which has exercised its option to retain the mode of election of its mayor by the councillors to alter the mode of election of its mayor to election by the people?
- (2) If "Yes" what section of the Act applies?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The sections of the Local Government Act relating to the mode of election of a mayor or president are 10 and 22A.

POLICE

Guns and Ammunition: Outlets

1790. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many authorised outlets for guns and ammunition were there in Western Australia in—
 - (a) 1960;
 - (b) 1965; and
 - (c) 1970?
- (2) How many authorised/licensed outlets for guns and ammunition are there currently in Western Australia?
- (3) (a) Has approval been granted for supermarket/chain stores to sell guns and ammunition in Western Australia;

(b) if so, will he please provide details?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) 643 as at 30th June, 1960;
- (b) 555 as at 30th June, 1965;
- (c) 553 as at 30th June, 1970.
- (2) As at 4th October, 1978—440.
- (3) (a) Yes;
- (b) the following applications met with the general and accepted safety requirements and provisions of the Firearms Act, 1973-1976, and Firearms Regulations, 1974—

Boans Limited 1,

Big W stores 2,
Elders GM 8,
Farmers Stores of WA 12,
Western Livestock Ltd. 5,
Westralian Farmers Co-op Ltd. 6.

POLICE

Guns: Licences

1791. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many current gun licences have been issued in Western Australia?
- (2) How many licences have been issued for each separate category of guns?
- (3) How many gun licences were issued in Western Australia in—
 - (a) 1965;
 - (b) 1970;
 - (c) 1974;
 - (d) 1975;
 - (e) 1976;
 - (f) 1977?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 116 909 firearms licences.
- (2) and (3) The figures are being collated and the member will be advised as soon as possible.

WATER SUPPLIES

Market Gardens: Kalgoorlie

1792. Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Where a market gardener in the Kalgoorlie area has a water quota, what is the cost per kilolitre?
- (2) Are water quotas transferable on the sale of a market garden property?
- (3) If not, why?
- (4) Is it a fact that the Town of Kalgoorlie is concerned that if quotas are not so transferable there would appear to be no real future for the market garden industry in Kalgoorlie?
- (5) If the answer to (2) is "No" would the Minister please review the situation in regard to *bona fide* sales of market garden properties?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 9 cents per kilolitre up to the quota, and 36 cents per kilolitre above the quota.
- (2) to (5) Yes. The quota relates to a particular block and is transferable only to the new owner and only for market garden use.

(5) Do these referrals indicate that the Government has doubts about the validity of the practice of retrospective charging?

(6) If "No" to (5), why are the objections being referred to the Crown Law Department?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (6) Not applicable.

MINING BILL

Cost

1793. Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

Would he advise the total cost to the taxpayer of bringing the proposed new Mining Bill to its present stage of development including—

- (a) cost of committee of enquiry of 1970-1971;
- (b) cost of Crown Law Department personnel in the preparations of the 1972, 1975 and 1978 Bill;
- (c) any other associated costs between the periods 1970-1978?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (a) \$18 797.80;
- (b) and (c) not costed.

WATER SUPPLIES: RATES

New System: Retrospectivity

1794. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it a fact that objections from consumers to the practice of charging for water used prior to 1st July at the new rates applying from that date are being referred to the Crown Law Department?
- (2) If "Yes", how many objections have been referred to date?
- (3) What opinion has the Crown Law Department offered on these objections and, if no such opinion has yet been received, when is it expected to be available?
- (4) Who was responsible for the decision to refer the objections to the Crown Law Department?

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Mirrabooka Avenue-Ravenswood Drive-Yirrigan Drive Intersection

1795. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated that traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Mirrabooka Avenue, Ravenswood Drive and Yirrigan Drive?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Because of limited funds available annually for traffic signals, sites for installation must necessarily be assessed on the basis of priority related to traffic volume and potential hazard. As yet there are many other sites which have higher priority than the intersection in question.

TRAFFIC

Mirrabooka Avenue-Beach Road Intersection

1796. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department aware of the increasing difficulties being encountered by motorists in negotiating right hand turns at the intersection of Beach Road and Mirrabooka Avenue, in view of the problem of dual carriageways converging into single carriageways and with the greater volume of traffic now using the intersection owing to the completion of Mirrabooka Avenue and Yirrigan Avenue?
- (2) What action, if any, is proposed to try to alleviate this possibly dangerous situation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The City of Stirling, which was responsible for design and construction of the intersection, has been supplied with a drawing showing suggested reconstruction and channelisation to alleviate the present problem and to provide a layout suitable for future incorporation of signal control as and when this becomes necessary on the basis of priority.

HOUSING

Collie

1797. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he please advise the number of houses and flats that will be built by the State Housing Commission at Collie in this financial year?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Four units for single pensioners are expected to go to tender in early December, 1978.

MINING: COAL

Collie: Loading Plant

1798. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the location of the new coal loading plant which is being constructed at Collie?
- (2) What is the capital cost of the coal loading facilities?
- (3) Who is responsible for the payment of the capital cost?
- (4) What are the reasons why the loading plant is being erected?
- (5) What unions will the operators of the plant be members of when the plant is brought into commission?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The State Energy Commission is currently constructing a coal handling facility in the Collie area located approximately mid way between the Muja power station and the Western No. 5 open cut operation. The facility will include provision for coal stock piling, crushing and rail loading.
- (2) Approximately \$5 million including all associated works.
- (3) The plant is being constructed by the State Energy Commission.
- (4) The purpose of the plant is to improve the current facilities available to the energy commission and the coal companies for crushing and rail loading of coal and also to allow the commission much greater flexibility in its handling of present and future coal supplies.
- (5) The construction and operation of the plant will be handled by the State Energy Commission in accordance with its normal practices.

1799. *This question was postponed.*

SEWERAGE

Bunbury and Collie

1800. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will the Minister advise the amounts spent on sewerage at Bunbury and Collie for the years 1968-1978 inclusive?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The capital expenditure for sewerage at Bunbury and Collie for the years 1968-1978 inclusive was as follows—

Year Ended June 30	Bunbury \$	Collie \$
1968	100 375	4 328
1969	96 629	—
1970	122 730	48 203
1971	143 102	22 927
1972	215 318	48 891
1973	374 182	58 002
1974	278 552	21 789
1975	851 726	40 297
1976	1 063 871	89 789
1977	1 513 492	48 296
1978	1 324 432	6
	<hr/> \$6 084 409	<hr/> \$382 528

EDUCATION

Schools and High Schools: Collie Electorate

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

Under the Budget provisions, will he advise the improvements that will be carried out at the undermentioned schools:

- (a) Eaton primary school;
- (b) Donnybrook District High School;
- (c) Collie District Senior High School;
- (d) Fairview primary school, Collie;
- (e) Amaroo primary school, Collie;
- (f) Wilson Park primary school, Collie;
- (g) Allanson primary school, Collie?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (a) Eaton primary school — library/resource centre — already under construction;
- (b) Donnybrook District High—Nil;
- (c) Collie District Senior High School—Pre-vocational centre;
- (d) Fairview primary school—3 classrooms—already under construction;
- (e) Amaroo primary school—6 classrooms—already under construction;
- (f) Wilson Park primary school—Nil;
- (g) Allanson primary school—Nil.

ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Price to Consumers

1802. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Could he advise the anticipated price at which north-west gas will be made available when the scheme is introduced?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The price paid for gas to the joint venturers by the State Energy Commission is a commercial matter and details cannot be made available. The delivered price of gas to Perth customers

will not be established for some time but is confidently expected to be favourable in relation to oil prices.

WATER SUPPLIES

Salinity: Quairading

1803. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Department of Agriculture used the Dorakin well as an exhibit at a field day on Mr Dan Keast's property, Quairading, in November, 1976, to further substantiate the theory that the salinity encroachment problem was caused by saline water rising under pressure in subterranean aquifers?
- (2) If "Yes" why did they not proceed with the salinity trial on the selected site?
- (3) What scientific reasons are given for not continuing with the trial on the selected site?
- (4) Can a site be selected on Mr Dan Keast's property which has not a seepage problem?
- (5) Will he have an all-party Parliamentary committee inspect the area on Mr Dan Keast's property, Quairading?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The trial is being proceeded with and some monitoring has been in progress since May, 1978.
- (3) The two sites originally selected were found by detailed surveying to be parts of the same sub-catchment and were not separated by a divide. Treatments on either site could therefore influence the outcome on the other.
- (4) All of the salt problems on Mr Keast's property are caused by water and salt moving from the catchment through the subsoils into the salt affected areas. Where the resulting salt problems occur on slopes, along creek lines or at the base of a slope they are commonly called seepages. Salt affected areas in valley floors are referred to as valley waterlogging or watertable saltland. Both types occur on Mr Keast's property.

- (5) I see no advantage in having a parliamentary committee inspect the site at this stage, but would welcome the opportunity to show any interested parliamentary member the progress after the trial has proceeded for a reasonable period.

TRANSPORT: BUS

MTT: Salaries

1804. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the total salary cost of salaried officers employed by the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust for the last three years?
- (2) How many salaried officers does the MTT employ?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) 1975-76 \$2 840 538;
1976-77 \$3 246 699;
1977-78 \$3 508 041.
- (2) 299.

ROAD

Cundinup-Kirup

1805. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With what body will the maintenance of the Cundinup-Kirup Road rest when pine logging operations from the Nannup area to meet the requirements of the proposed new pine mill in the Donnybrook area approach maximum quantity?
- (2) Will the Nannup Shire Council receive any additional funding to meet increased road maintenance costs which will follow from increased pine log haulage?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The maintenance of this road is the responsibility of the Donnybrook-Balingup and Nannup Shire Councils. However, the log haulier has been undertaking maintenance work and when last inspected, the road was in good condition.

- (2) The situation is similar to others in the south-west and the councils can expect some assistance if subsequent experience shows that the cost of road maintenance has created an unreasonable burden.

HEALTH

Women's Refuge Centres

1806. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What was the total amount of funding made available by the Government for women's refuge centres in the 1977-78 financial year?
- (2) (a) What centres received funding;
(b) in what amounts; and
(c) in what form?
- (3) (a) How many refuge centres operate in Western Australia; and
(b) where are they located?
- (4) What amount will be made available by the Government for women's refuge centres in 1978-79?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) \$322 000.
- (2) (a) and (b)—

	\$
ACRAH.....	34 389
Ave Maria.....	3 290
Byanda.....	1 125
Emmaus.....	6 240
Mary Smith.....	6 653
Stirling.....	1 478
Nardine.....	87 110
Warrawee.....	35 984
Total.....	\$176 269

- (c) Claims for recoup of capital and operating expenses incurred each month are submitted monthly by each organisation and are recouped promptly by cash order, where the expenditure is in accordance with the conditions of the grant as laid down by the Commonwealth Government.

- (3) (a) There are eight women's refuges operating in Western Australia to the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

(b) ACRAH,	Highgate,
Byanda,	Highgate,
Mary Smith,	Bentley,
Stirling,	Nollamarra,
Ave Maria,	Highgate,
Emmaus,	North Perth,
Nardine,	North Perth,
Warrawee,	Fremantle.

(4) \$382 000.

- (2) Has finality been reached regarding any leasehold arrangement, and if so, what are the details?
- (3) What is the daily cost of operating the Midland pig floor?
- (4) What would be the total cost of operating Midland Abattoir if only the pig floor was operating?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Costs are dependent on the level of throughput. The commission has indicated that for the period 1st July, 1978, to 1st September, 1978, the average daily cost related to working days was \$4 594.
- (4) No accurate cost can be provided in view of the many variable factors involved in determining such a total cost.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION

Saleyards: Effluent Disposal

1807. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In the event of the closure of the pig and beef floors at Midland Abattoir, how will effluent from the saleyards be disposed of?
- (2) What would be the estimated weekly cost of disposal of saleyard effluent at Midland under these circumstances?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) By utilising the present waste disposal system.
- (2) The commission is unable to provide an estimated weekly cost in view of the variability of throughput and livestock yardings throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Offices

1809. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that the site for a proposed new "E" block at the Department's offices has been changed?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) What are the costs of construction based on—
 - (a) the original site;
 - (b) the proposed site?
- (4) What is the purpose of the new block?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) \$1 720 000;
(b) not applicable.
- (4) To relieve present overcrowding and to provide more laboratory space by relocating administrative and clerical staff.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION

Pig Floor: Leasing and Cost

1808. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is consideration being given to the leasing of the pig floor at Midland Junction Abattoir?

AGRICULTURE PROTECTION BOARD

Cost

1810. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What has been the total cost to the State of the Agriculture Protection Board in each of the last two financial years?
- (2) Of this total figure, what has been the break-up between administration and operating costs in each of these years?
- (3) What has been the total cost of operations in the pastoral areas of the State for each of these years?
- (4) Of the total cost of operations in the pastoral areas in each of the last two years, how much has been contributed by way of the rate levied on pastoral properties?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) 1976-77: \$5 229 000
1977-78: \$6 062 000
- (2) Administration (including research, training of personnel, and servicing of zone control authorities)—
1976-77: \$1 480 000
1977-78: \$1 618 000
Supervision and Inspection—
1976-77: \$1 759 000
1977-78: \$2 315 000
Operations—
1976-77: \$1 990 000
1977-78: \$2 129 000
- (3) 1976-77: \$1 486 400
1977-78: \$2 005 100
- (4) 1976-77: \$181 000
1977-78: \$133 000.

AGRICULTURE PROTECTION BOARD

Dingo Scalps

1811. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the current bounty paid for dingo scalps?
- (2) What amount was paid out by the Agriculture Protection Board in the last financial year for dingo scalps?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Current bounty paid by the APB is—
\$
Kimberley zone..... 2.00
Pilbara and Gascoyne zones. 20.00
Eastern Goldfields..... 5.00
Additional bounties are paid by some shires from their own funds.
- (2) \$75 489.

HEALTH: CHIROPRACTIC

Chiropractors: Act

1812. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he recently received a submission from the United Chiropractors Association suggesting amendments to the Chiropractors Act 1964?
- (2) If "Yes" is he considering the submission?
- (3) When is it likely that he will advise the United Chiropractors Association of the result of their submission?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The submission has been considered.
- (3) The United Chiropractors' Association was advised of the result of the submission by a letter dated 3rd October, 1978.

HEALTH: DRUGS

Detector Dogs

1813. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Has the Commonwealth Government made a formal offer for State police officers to be supplied with and trained in the use of drug detector dogs?
- (2) If so, has the offer been accepted?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Advertisements: Television

1814. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he seen the latest television advertisement concerning the 150th Year celebrations which depicts certain Western Australian citizens?
- (2) Why was no reference made to the descendants of the original inhabitants of Western Australia?
- (3) Will he ensure that future advertisements include a reference to Aborigines?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I have seen a recent TV advertisement about the 150th anniversary celebrations but I could not be sure it is the latest.
- (2) and (3) The promotion programme is an on-going thing and I have no doubt that those responsible will ensure a balanced and effective approach both to promotion and presentation of the important events to be commemorated next year.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Advertisement: Television

1815. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

With reference to the latest television advertisement currently being shown concerning the 150th Year celebrations which depicts certain prominent citizens, can the Minister advise—

- (a) the name of the firm responsible for production;
- (b) the name and place where the advertisement film was processed;
- (c) the total cost?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Marketforce Pty. Ltd.;
- (b) Cinivex Pty. Ltd. Victoria;
- (c) Three commercials were produced for a total of \$52 170.
This total includes the processing of films.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Television Advertising

1816. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

Adverting to question 1455 of 1978 dated 6th September, relevant to television advertising by Government departments and instrumentalities, can he now provide the information sought?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have the information sought by the member and I ask permission to hand it to you, Mr Speaker, so that you can decide whether it should be tabled or handed in.

The SPEAKER: The reply will be tabled.

The reply was tabled (see paper No. 395).

HEALTH: HERBICIDES

2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T: Deformities

1817. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

Has he received copies of enquiries made in Victoria and Queensland concerning the use of 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T and relationship to birth deformities among humans?

Mr YOUNG replied:

No.

HEALTH

Oysters

1818. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did a Mr Phillips, President of the Oyster Farmers Association of New South Wales fly oysters to Perth on 14th July, 1978?
- (2) Is this the same man who was banned and fined in New South Wales prior to this date?
- (3) Has the Western Australian Health Department taken any action?
- (4) Have any stocks of oysters been confiscated from the total stocks which caused a recent outbreak of food poisoning?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) This department does not have positive evidence that Mr Phillips flew oysters to Perth on 14th July, 1978.
- (2) This is a matter for the New South Wales health authorities.
- (3) The meaning of this question is not clear.

In relation to the importing of rock oysters generally, this department has always monitored consignments and appropriate action is taken where necessary.

- (4) Yes.

WATER SUPPLIES

Pemberton and Walpole

1819. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it intended to upgrade the—
 - (a) Pemberton town water supply;
 - (b) Walpole town water supply;
 in the 1978-79 financial year?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the nature and cost of any such upgrading?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when is it intended that these town water supplies will be upgraded?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is planned to upgrade the Pemberton town water supply in the 1979-80 financial year, and the Walpole town water supply in 1980-81, subject to finance being available.

POLICE AND RTA

Personnel: Merredin Electorate

1820. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What are the numbers of—
 - (a) police officers; and
 - (b) Road Traffic Authority officers, stationed in the following towns:
 - (i) Merredin;
 - (ii) Kellerberrin;
 - (iii) Bruce Rock;
 - (iv) Narembreen;
 - (v) Corrigin;
 - (vi) Kondinin?
- (2) Which, if any, of these stations have a priority for extra personnel when police and Road Traffic Authority officers become available?
- (3) What is their priority rating and when is it anticipated the stations will be allocated more staff?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- | (1) | (a)
General
police | (b)
Road
Traffic
patrol |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) Merredin | 10 | 5 |
| (ii) Kellerberrin | 2 | 2 |
| (ii) Bruce Rock | 2 | 1 |
| (iv) Narembreen | 1 | 1 |
| (v) Corrigin | 2 | 1 |
| (vi) Kondinin | 2 | 1 |
- (2) A low priority currently exists for additional personnel at all of these stations.
 - (3) It is anticipated that no additional personnel will be transferred to any of these stations this financial year and no indication can be given relative to future staff allocations.

RAILWAYS

Station: Kellerberrin

1821. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the total numbers and positions of staff employed by Westrail at the Kellerberrin railway station?
- (2) Have there been any changes in the numbers of staff employed there in the last three years?
- (3) If so—
 - (a) what were they; and
 - (b) are there any further plans for changes in staff numbers?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) There are four staff members employed at Kellerberrin railway station and these are—
 - one station master;
 - one receiving and delivery porter;
 - two clerical assistants.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) Answered by (2);
(b) no.

RAILWAYS

Parcels Depot

1822. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Since the closure of the Perth parcels office, has there been any change in—
 - (a) the volume of parcels traffic handled by Westrail;
 - (b) the cost of sending parcel goods by rail?

- (2) If changes have occurred, can details be given in terms of percentage increase or decrease?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) and (2)—

- (a) The Perth parcels office has only recently closed for the general acceptance of parcels—4th July, 1978—and insufficient time has passed to evaluate a trend. However, no perceptible change is evident at this stage.
- (b) Yes. All such rail charges were increased by roundly 10 per cent as from 17th July, 1978.

TRANSPORT: AIRPORTS

Perth: Noise Level

1823. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Would he have the Department of Conservation and Environment investigate the present noise levels that are created by the landing and take off of aircraft at the Perth airport with a view to having the date for the implementation of curfews at the Perth airport brought forward from the proposed 1st January, 1981?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Department of Conservation and the Environment will initiate discussions with the Department of Public Health and the Commonwealth Department of Transport with a view to preparing a report on this subject. However, it should be pointed out that only seven complaints have been received by the Commonwealth Department of Transport this year.

HOSPITAL

Royal Perth: Medibank Patients

1824. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Health:

Further to my question 1702 of 1978 I now ask him whether he will table circular No. A4202, as requested?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Yes. Circular No. A.4202 is tabled.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 396).

SEWERAGE

Swan Electorate

1825. Mr SKIDMORE to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Would the Minister indicate those areas within the electorate of Swan that are to be provided with deep sewerage in the forthcoming financial year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The member for Swan will be very pleased to hear this reply, which is as follows—

Midland reticulation area 10A. This is a small area in the vicinity of De La Salle College.

Mr Skidmore: Good heavens!

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sand Removal at Margaret River

1826. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it a fact that sand is being removed from an area north of the road that leads to the mouth of the Margaret River, situated on Lot 8431 Pt.?
- (2) Would he have an officer immediately evaluate the area to see what damage the removal of the sand will have on the environment?
- (3) If the environment is being affected, will he take steps to have the removal of the sand from this area stopped immediately and those responsible for its removal making good the area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) I understand that some sand may have been removed from an unvegetated area. The question of stabilising and other sand erosion areas in the shire will be the subject of a site inspection and discussions to be held towards the end of this month between officers of the shire, the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture.

LAND

Sand Removal at Margaret River

1827. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it a fact that sand has been taken away from land situated to the north of the road which leads to the mouth of the Margaret River and such land being on Reserve 8431 Pt.?
- (2) What reasons exist for the removal of such sand and who issued the authority for its removal?
- (3) Who controls the reserve in question?
- (4) Where is the sand being deposited, and why?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (2) and (4) I was unaware that sand was being removed but as a result of subsequent inquiries it is understood that some sand may have been removed from a vegetated area. I have also been informed that a joint inspection had been arranged toward the end of October by the Department of Conservation and Environment in relation to sand stabilisation in this area. The shire council, Soil Conservation Service, and the Department of Conservation and Environment will participate and appropriate action can be taken when the results are known.
- (3) Although portion of the reserve is vested in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, the portion in question is not vested and is therefore under the control of the Minister for Lands.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sand Dune at Prevelly Park

1828. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it a fact that sand has been blown on to Mitchell Drive, Prevelly Park, from the sand dune blow out area on reserve Nos. 101 and 8431 Pt.?
- (2) Will he take the necessary steps to instruct the controlling authority of the reserves involved to replace the sand and consolidate the blow out area and thus prevent further erosion and possible depsoilation of the environment?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Department of Conservation and Environment is aware of several sand erosion problems in the Margaret River area and has arranged with the local authority and the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture for a joint inspection towards the end of this month. As a result of this inspection strategies will be developed for control and rehabilitation of this and other areas.

LAND

Sand Dune at Prevelly Park

1829. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Who authorised the removal of dune sand from the roadside and/or reserve No. 101 that is adjacent to Mitchell Drive, Prevelly Park?
- (2) What were the reasons for the removal of the sand and how is it being disposed of?
- (3) Does the Minister consider that the sand should be replaced in the dune blow out and the area consolidated to prevent further erosion?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) I was unaware that sand had been removed in this area but I understand as a result of subsequent inquiries that some sand may have been removed from a vegetated area.

- (3) The area will be inspected towards the end of October during joint inspections in this area arranged by the Department of Conservation and Environment. The shire council, Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Conservation and Environment will participate and appropriate action can be taken when the results are known.

- (1) Has the area in the Augusta-Margaret River Shire known as Prevelly Park been gazetted as a townsite?
 (2) If "Yes" for what reasons was the action taken?
 (3) If "No" is the area being considered for gazettal as a townsite?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

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

TOWN PLANNING

Subdivisions: Augusta-Margaret River Shire

1830. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Did the Town Planning Board advise the Augusta-Margaret River Shire that it would not approve of any further subdivisions or town planning schemes until the shire submitted an overall town planning scheme?
 (2) If such a direction was issued, on what date did it take effect?
 (3) (a) Has the shire submitted an overall town planning scheme;
 (b) If so, what action has been taken by the Town Planning Board for its approval or rejection?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) In respect of three or four proposed special rural type schemes and scheme amendments affecting the area between Margaret River Townsite and the mouth of the Margaret River, the Town Planning Board informed the shire council that it is unable to consider them or related subdivisions until such time as council has submitted an overall town planning scheme for the shire district.
 (2) Such advice was given on several occasions and most recently on 17th January, 1978.
 (3) (a) and (b) No—though it resolved to prepare one in 1976.

TOWN PLANNING

Prevelly Park

1831. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

1832 and 1833. *These questions were postponed.*

ROAD

Yirrigan Drive

1834. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that Yirrigan Drive, which was opened to traffic only one month ago, has now been closed to through traffic?
 (2) Is it a fact that the closure is to allow major changes in the route of the road?
 (3) If "Yes" to (2), can he detail the changes which have now been found necessary and explain why the need for these alterations was not discovered at the time of construction?
 (4) Do the proposed changes incorporate any proposals to link Yirrigan Drive with Light Street?
 (5) How long is it anticipated that the road will be closed to through traffic?
 (6) What is the anticipated cost of the proposed changes?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (6) The matters raised by the member lie within the jurisdiction of the local authority and I suggest he seek information from the City of Stirling.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Specific Purpose Grants

1835. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

In relation to the Financial Statement 1978-1979 (page 29 of the State Budget

papers), Commonwealth specific purpose grants—

- (1) What are basic details of the family support scheme (\$375 000) which appears to be a new specific purpose grant?
- (2) Does the amount shown for the agreement cover all the obligations of the Commonwealth under the agreement?
- (3) What are the areas of hospital financing covered by the item "hospitals agreement"?
- (4) What percentage of total hospital financing does the amount paid by the Commonwealth under the hospitals agreement cover?
- (5) Why is there to be no Commonwealth contribution in 1978-79 under the national estate programme and the nature conservation programme?
- (6) What respective percentages of total State revenues were Commonwealth specific purpose grants—
 - (a) in 1955-56;
 - (b) in 1965-1967;
 - (c) in 1972-1973?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) It is a new three-year pilot scheme financed by the Commonwealth and administered by the State under which funds will be made available to private and voluntary welfare agencies and local authorities. It is designed to encourage the development of co-ordinated community based services to families in need including single parent families.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) In broad terms, the agreement provides for the Commonwealth Government to meet 50 per cent of the net operating costs of recognised hospitals and that portion of costs of central services such as laboratories and administration directly related to hospitals. The agreement excludes the cost of nursing homes, debt charges on capital expenditure, interest subsidies, and major repairs and equipment costing in excess of \$50 000.

(4) 44.6 per cent.

(5) An amount of \$415 000 has been provided by the Commonwealth to Western Australia for the 1978-79 National Estate Programme. As the programme applies to local authorities and other bodies not operating on the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the funds are not included in the Budget.

The Commonwealth has not allocated any funds in its budget for new nature conservation programmes in 1978-79.

(6) The current practice of including Commonwealth Specific Purpose Grants in the Consolidated Revenue Fund is a recent development following the proliferation of these grants in the last few years. Based on information contained in Commonwealth budget papers and assuming the current accounting procedures had been used in those years the percentages are as follows:—

	per cent
(a) 1955-56	0.46
(b) 1965-66	0.82
1966-67	0.70
(c) 1972-73	2.94

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Specific Purpose Grants, Salary Increases, and Education

1836. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

Reference the State Estimates 1978-79 page 19:

- (1) Broadly stated, what projects are covered by the education and public health grants of the Aboriginal advancement programme?
- (2) (a) Why were the receipts in 1977-1978 for apprenticeship training so much more than the estimates; and
(b) why is the 1978-79 estimate down on both?

pages 23 and 24:

- (3) Why is the percentage increase allowed for certain salaries different from case to case?

page 95:

- (4) (a) What does "assistance to private schools" cover?
- (b) what is the reason for the increase of 11.86% in this item?
- (5) What do the items "scholarships and allowances" and "subsidies and grants" cover?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) In broad terms funds are provided for the following—

- (a) Education: Special Aboriginal education services at pre-primary, primary, and secondary level and costs of operating Pundulmurra Vocational Training Centre.
- (b) Public Health: operations of the itinerant health service.

- (2) (a) The 1977-78 revenue estimate of \$184 000 for the Apprenticeship Training Programme made provision for Commonwealth-funded training schemes conducted by the Education and Public Works Departments. In the main, the programmes were initiated by the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations under the National Employment Assistance Training (NEAT) Programme. During the course of the financial year additional funds were made available to extend some existing NEAT scheme programmes such as pre-apprenticeship courses and the adult retraining—Mt Charlotte scheme for redundant mining workers. Extra Commonwealth funds were also made available for the introduction of new short and intensive course under the NEAT scheme such as the fibrous plaster (Gyprock) fixers course, accelerated English course for refugees (Vietnam), plastic laminate course, and blast cleaning and protection coating course.

- (b) The major variation between the 1978-79 revenue estimate and the 1977-78 actual revenue for the apprenticeship training programme is in respect of the Education Department's component. The revenue estimate of \$30 000 for the department represents the balance required in 1978-79 to complete the NEAT-funded pre-apprenticeship training course. However, the 1978-79 revenue estimate will vary in the event that additional Commonwealth funds are again made available for new, short-term courses.

- (3) The estimate of salaries is in accordance with the determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal in March, 1978, and includes provision for further increases during the year. The same percentage increase has been made in each case for basic salary. However, differences in allowances and distortions through rounding result in varying overall percentage increases.

- (4) (a) *Per capita* grants for pre-primary, primary, and secondary students, interest subsidies on loans for residential and classroom accommodation, site acquisition and staff housing north of the 26 degree parallel of latitude, subsidies for swimming pools, and grants to needy parents for fees of children attending private pre-schools.

- (b) The main increase occurs on *per capita* subsidies which are based on the cost of educating children in the Government system. The increase reflects the additional cost of operating Government schools and projected increases in enrolments.

- (5) The item scholarships and allowances includes—

(a) Text book allowances for students attending Government and independent schools and technical colleges.

(b) Boarding allowances.

(c) Scholarships and bursaries.

The item subsidies and grants includes—

(a) Subsidies to parent associations for buildings and related projects, swimming pools, computer, and other equipment.

(b) Teaching aid allocations to Government schools.

(c) Travel subsidies for country high schools to enable students to attend sporting and other events.

(d) Hostel subsidies.

(e) Grants to needy kindergartens and needy parents for children attending community based pre-schools.

(f) Grants to teachers for school-based curriculum development.

(g) Camps for gifted children.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

MTT Loss

1838. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

Reference the Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1979 of the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust, which shows a contribution from consolidated revenue for the metropolitan rail system of \$10 696 000:

(1) What part of that loss is attributable to the Perth to Fremantle rail system?

(2) What percentage of the total estimated loss of the trust does the loss incurred on the Perth to Fremantle rail system represent?

(3) What percentage of the total passengers carried by the trust in the last year were carried on the Perth to Fremantle rail system?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) The information requested will take some time to compile and I will supply the member with details when it is available.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Statistical Section

1837. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

(1) In relation to the Financial Statement 1978-1979, pages 56 and 57, what control does the State exercise over "receipts from Commonwealth taken to various funds other than Consolidated Revenue Fund 1977-78"?

(2) Are these items equivalent to specific purpose grants?

(3) Are all these items in respect of areas of State constitutional responsibility?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) The funds are administered in accordance with the particular arrangements agreed to by the Commonwealth and State for the respective programmes.

(2) and (3) Yes.

STATE FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tax Sharing Entitlement: Permanent Increase

1839. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

In relation to the revenue of the State for 1978-79:

(1) Was the percentage increase of the State's tax sharing entitlement greater or less than the percentage increase of the tax sharing entitlement of local government?

(2) If there is a variation between the two, what is the reason for that variation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) The State's tax sharing entitlement is estimated to increase by 11.1 per cent compared to an increase of 8.5 per cent in the entitlement of local Government.

- (2) Under the current arrangements the States are entitled to receive 39.87 per cent of net personal income tax collections in the preceding year. Local authorities are entitled to 1.52 per cent of such collections in the previous year.

The States, however, have a guarantee that their entitlements will not be less in a year than the amount which would have been yielded in that year by the old financial assistance grants formula. The formula takes into account population growth, increases in average wages and a betterment factor. Provided this guarantee does not apply the percentage increase in the State's and local government's share will be the same.

The figure of \$581.4 million shown in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates for 1978-79 is an estimate based on the application of the guarantee formula which results in the higher increase shown in (1) above.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TRAFFIC

Tow Truck Operators

1. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

My question refers to a question asked yesterday by the member for Gosnells concerning the RTA and certain tow truck operators. As further evidence which has come forward today as a result of investigations has shown the need for concern and, indeed, alarm at what could be going on, would the Minister reconsider his decision in respect of tabling the report which has been prepared by the RTA so that at least we may lay to rest some of these rumours?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I must again decline to table what is essentially a departmental report. Such reports are always regarded as confidential. The matter raised by the member for Gosnells yesterday concerned an incident that occurred, I think, some time earlier this year. Apparently some time prior to May a member of his constituency complained

concerning the allocation of tasks for tow truck operators. It was discovered that the instructions that had been issued in regard to calling the nearest available tow truck operator had not been fulfilled on that occasion.

Mr Davies: Was only one incident investigated?

Mr O'NEIL: That is the only complaint of which I am aware. The situation was that the person concerned was advised, and the instructions to officers attending accidents were reiterated: that it is their responsibility, unless the owner of the damaged vehicle directs otherwise, to call the nearest available tow truck operator.

Mr Davies: That was the only one investigated? It was not a general investigation?

Mr O'NEIL: No, one complaint.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE

Country: Loss and Revenue

2. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the estimated loss in the current financial year on—

- (a) country water supplies;
- (b) country sewerage operations?

- (2) What is the total estimated revenue in the current financial year from—

- (a) country water supply consumers;
- (b) domestic country sewerage rates;
- (c) commercial country sewerage rates?

- (3) Of the total estimated revenue from country water supply consumers what amount of this is expected to be received from—

- (a) commercial rates;
- (b) commercial consumption?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the member for ample notice of the question, the reply to which is as follows—

- (1) (a) \$25 700 000.
- (b) \$1 900 000.

- (2) (a) The estimated revenue from water rates and water sales from all country water supply consumers for the 1978-79 year is \$14 621 800. In addition to this an estimated \$1 962 200 will be received by way of contributions by industry, reimbursements, plumbers' licences, and miscellaneous revenue.

- (b) and (c) In the country towns no separate classifications exist for premises rated for sewerage. All premises capable of being rated are rated on the basis of their estimated net annual value.

The estimated revenue from all sewerage rates for the 1978-79 year for all country towns is \$3 122 700. In addition to this, an estimated \$473 300 will be received via contributions by industry, reimbursements, plumbers' licences, and miscellaneous revenue.

- (3) (a) The estimated revenue for the 1978-79 year for commercial rates is \$1 375 000.
(b) The estimated revenue for the 1978-79 year for commercial water sales is \$1 386 000.

RIGHTS IN WATER AND IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Amendment

3. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:
- (1) Did he receive representations from shire councils and the Farmers' Union in the south-west to have the section on referable dams in the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act Amendment Bill, which is currently before this House, amended substantially?
 - (2) In view of these representations, does he intend to amend this Bill and, if so, with what precise amendments?
 - (3) If he does not intend to amend the Bill, will he accept amendments to cover the requirements of the local governments and the Farmers' Union from the Opposition?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the member for ample notice of the question. The reply is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Notice of amendments proposed will be given.
- (3) No.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sand Removal in Margaret River

4. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

My question arises out of the answer he gave to a question regarding the removal of sand in the Margaret River area. If sand is being removed from the area, would the Minister have the practice stopped immediately until such time as an evaluation is made to see whether or not the environment is being endangered by its removal?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I will confer with the department first thing in the morning to see if that is necessary.

HEALTH: CHIROPRACTIC

Chiropractors: Act

5. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Further to question 1812 today, would the Minister be prepared to give me some idea of his attitude to the submission made to him by the United Chiropractors Association?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I will have a look at the matter and I will confer with the member for Melville after I have checked it.

BEEKEEPING

European Foul Brood

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

- (1) Have there been any outbreaks of European foul brood in areas of South Australia previously considered disease-free, in the past week?
- (2) How many outbreaks have occurred?
- (3) From what areas in South Australia has the Western Australian Department of Agriculture banned the importation of honey?
- (4) Is the importation of queen bees from South Australia permitted?

- (5) How is European foul brood transmitted?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Nine.
- (3) Bulk honey has been banned from the entire State. Only pasteurised honey certified as such may still be imported.
- (4) No.
- (5) Principally from infected colonies of bees. Infected combs are also a major source of disease as is infected beekeeping equipment. Honey is not considered to present a high risk in disease transmission.

I would advise the member for Warren that, as he is aware, I have not had very much time in which to prepare the answer. The answer to part (2) is information I received yesterday morning.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Advertisements: "The Bulletin"

7. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I refer to today's edition of *The Bulletin*, and what appears to be the latest facet of the Premier's ego trip at the expense of the State's 150th Anniversary Celebrations. I ask the Premier whether he can give an estimate of the cost of the nine full pages of coloured advertising for which the State Government has obviously paid in that edition, and which is quite obviously the price of the story which, as I have said, appears to be the basis of the latest facet of his ego trip.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the rather impertinent question of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, which does him no credit—

Mr Davies: He is allowed to ask a question if he likes.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —first of all, I have not had an opportunity to study the publication to which he has referred although I have been informed it is now being circulated. Secondly, this has nothing to do with any ego trip or any other trip by the Premier. The honourable member should know that in the course of the promotion of the State some Government departments have a responsibility to embark upon publicity and promotion work through various

media, and they use their judgment as to the form that promotion will take. It is well known that the Department of Tourism and the Department of Industrial Development as part of their overall programme have been working on a number of projects, some of them have a joint promotion nature, and some leading up to the 150th Anniversary Celebrations—which seem to ring rather a sour note with the Opposition—and the two publications involved are *The Bulletin* and a simulated version of *Time* magazine.

These matters are being negotiated by those two departments as part of their budgets, part of their general promotion work, and part of their budgets for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations; and the fact that the Premier happens to be involved is not extraordinary at all. It so happens that when one is promoting a State it is rather difficult to do so without mentioning the Premier, regardless of whether one likes him or not. It just happens that at the time he is the Premier; and whether it is me or anybody else, this State or any other State, or the Commonwealth and a State, I should imagine the most logical person to be used as part of the promotion is the Premier of the State concerned.

If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would prefer to see a blank space with a query on it, I am afraid he will be severely disillusioned.

I could not give the amount involved in this promotion off the cuff, but I believe after mature consideration the two departments concerned were very wise to settle on an Australian publication on one hand, and on the other hand a publication which will have a very wide distribution. I believe both are commendable avenues of promotion for the State's 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

**"THE SECRET STATE: AUSTRALIA'S
SPY INDUSTRY"**

Dr Skertchly's Report

8. Sir CHARLES COURT (Premier): Yesterday I gave an answer off the cuff to two outstanding questions without notice, one from the Leader of the Opposition and the other from the member for Fremantle, because I did not bring the official answer with me. I have in my hand the answer I had prepared yesterday and it is similar to that which I gave. However, for the sake of regularity I would like to read it. It is as follows—

I refer to the questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition, and the member for Fremantle on Wednesday, the 20th September, about a document prepared by a Dr Skertchly.

As promised, I have made some inquiries about the distribution of the document.

Firstly, I should make it clear that the Government does not acknowledge the document as in any way an official document.

This has been emphasised in a number of Press statements on the matter.

Secondly, we have not been able to determine accurately and officially what distribution was made of the document by Dr Skertchly.

We understand that Dr Skertchly used a copy of the document in support of an application for employment he made in at least two other States.

In view of his attitude and the action he took in respect of the media, one cannot be precise or in any way certain as to what distribution has been made, or what copies are in existence.

I can find no record of any authorised distribution having been made by the WA Government.
