

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 4th April, 1978

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Wearing of Safari Jackets: Statement by the President*

**THE PRESIDENT** (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, I wish to make a statement in connection with a ruling I gave on Wednesday, the 9th November, 1977, concerning the wearing in this Chamber of safari jackets. You will recall on that occasion I mentioned that on reflection and as a result of having been approached several times, I considered the type of suit which was then worn by the Leader of the Opposition would be an acceptable apparel in the future. I went on to add another point. I said the requirement still remained that the President would retain the right to suggest to a member that his apparel ought to be altered, should the President think that to be the situation. I ask members to bear in mind also the resolution that was passed by this House in connection with the apparel worn by members.

I want now to make the comment that since the ruling I gave on that occasion, it has become obvious that some members have taken licence far in excess of the approval I granted. I give warning that I am giving serious consideration to withdrawing the approval I gave previously.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 22nd March, on the following motion by the Hon. W. M. Piesse—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

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

**THE HON. TOM McNEIL** (Upper West) [4.57 p.m.]: I should like to commence by congratulating my party colleague, the Hon. Win

Piesse, on her reply to the Governor's address. I believe she delivered her speech in an extremely able manner and lent an air of worthiness to that very important occasion.

I represent an electorate a major portion of which is a declared drought area. I believe the Government can be commended on the amount of money given by way of concessional loans which have been made available to farmers who have been affected by the drought. A total of \$15 million has now been made available to those farmers and the fact that the concessional loans have been extended to the pastoral industry constitutes, of course, a worth-while contribution, because that industry is in the same difficult dilemma.

I believe the most important achievement in the Geraldton region which is surrounded by drought declared shires has been the 20 per cent rail subsidy on all freight entering and leaving the area. Also the 100 per cent pay-roll tax rebate has been of great importance to the area.

In January of this year the Premier declared that there was to be a \$2 million harbour marina built in the Fremantle area. I have always advocated, and always will, that sport plays a very important part in our livelihood and in the well-being of community life. The concern shown by the Government at the congestion on the Swan River is a matter which cannot be ignored. The fact that the Government has made every effort to remove the small boats from Cockburn Sound and relieve the congestion in part of the Swan River is to be highly commended.

The payment of the interest subsidy of \$100 000 per year, which has enabled the Fremantle Sailing Club to carry out these alterations in the initial establishment of the project, is very worth-while. I read with interest that 900 residents of the Fremantle district had voiced concern at the impact this project would have on the environment, and also the possible impact it would have on the future recreational activities which presently go on in the Fremantle swimming areas.

Taking into account the \$300 000 that is to be directed to this project, my only regret is that Mr Dans is not in the Chamber to hear my remarks. Should the Fremantle City Council in its wisdom decide that the voice of the 900 ratepayers should be heard, in that they do not want to see the establishment of the marina, perhaps it could be instrumental in redirecting the \$300 000 to the country, so that the farmers in the country would be able to have the benefit of the contributory extension scheme, and thereby obviate the need to

pay the 100 per cent increase in the connection fee announced this year.

Recently in the Press it was advocated that members of Parliament should take the opportunity to make an inspection of the Alcohol and Drug Authority premises, the facilities available, and the type of work being done by that authority. I have made an inspection over the weekend. Such an inspection would bring home with a jolt the large number of people in our country who are very dependent on an authority such as the Alcohol and Drug Authority. From my inspection tour it became obvious that larger premises were a necessity. The authority does not have the facilities to care for these unfortunate people, although it does a very worth-while job.

One important aspect was brought home to me as a result of this visit. In the past people have suggested to me that marihuana should be legalised. In my approach to people who are connected with the Alcohol and Drug Authority, it was their unanimous opinion that marihuana should not be legalised.

Statements have been made by several authorities, and by a number of people who advocated the legalising of marihuana because they considered that the drug would not be addictive. They held the view that by permitting people to use marihuana whenever they liked, those people could discontinue its use when they pleased.

The experience of the Alcohol and Drug Authority in this matter is that people who have been used to taking marihuana as a stimulant, and who suddenly are withdrawn from its use, are only able to carry on in a grey zone. These people have access to others who can supply this drug. The next step up the line for these people is the use of heroin and other addictive drugs.

It would be a worth while experience to make an inspection tour of the premises where such people are given daily shots of methadone. Some of them are given three or four days' supply at a time. Often pitiful excuses are given by these people the morning after they have received their weekend supplies; many of them knock on the doors of the clinics and ask for further supplies because they say they have broken the bottle or the methadone has been stolen from them. Every possible excuse is given by those people to obtain additional supplies of the drug.

One of the most nauseating practices I have heard of is the manner in which these people try to store the drug. I can give two examples of how they try to beat the system so that they may be able to mainline the drug. They take the drug,

and after they leave they vomit it up again; then they place the contents in a glass jar, so that they can use it when they get home. The next example is that some of these people take the drug without swallowing it. When they go outside they put it in a bottle and sell the drug.

In speaking to the officers of the Alcohol and Drug Authority I was informed that there was one possible weakness in the present setup. The addicts have to be given access to these drugs over weekends. It is obvious that not 1 per cent of these people will be cured, and they will have to live on drugs for the rest of their lives.

I suggest to members that if they have the opportunity and the time they should make a tour of inspection of the setup. Such an inspection will be very worth while, and will ram home the truth that we have a major problem in our community not only in respect of the use of drugs, but also of alcohol which is a separate matter altogether. We find that between 85 per cent to 90 per cent of the beds at the Alcohol and Drug Centre are filled by alcoholics, but the constant lassitude and the sense of hopelessness of the drug addict impress on one's mind.

In this respect we should take into account our coastline which is so vast. We know that drugs are brought in along our coastline, and we realise the ineffectiveness of the methods used to halt this trade. One drawback which I have noticed in my experience with the airport is that aircraft coming in from overseas are not checked adequately. In the early hours of the morning it is claimed that the children on the aircraft are tired, and the passengers do not want to be hampered by the Customs officers. However, the fact is that the luggage of only 2 per cent of incoming passengers is checked. It has been claimed that we cannot expect to have an adequate number of Customs officers available to inspect the luggage of every passenger coming in on overseas flights, and that a 2 per cent inspection rate is all that can be expected.

I feel that steps should be taken and inquiries should be made to find ways of defeating the method of bringing drugs into the country on incoming aircraft through the major airport systems.

It would not be right for me to be on my feet without having something to say about the subject of football. I guess the WA National Football League would be disappointed if I did not make any reference to this subject on this occasion.

Early in the year it was brought home to some members of Parliament that the WANFL had decided to co-operate with the ABC in providing

a direct telecast of the 1978 football finals. I can assure members that the people in my electorate welcome this move, as they will be some of the fortunate recipients of this service. The fact that the ABC will also provide live coverage of one game each week, as it has done in the past, has also been applauded by the people in the country areas.

However, I feel some concern for the people in the metropolitan area who previously enjoyed a live telecast of the last quarter of a match; but this year such a service has been discontinued. The position will revert to what it was previously, when I stood up and maintained that television could do a lot for Australian rules football. I still maintain that. I do not believe that by withdrawing the coverage of the finals to the south-west and the eastern wheatbelt, the WANFL will achieve what it hopes to achieve. I cannot imagine an avid football fan sitting at home in the hope that he will be able to obtain a ghostly picture of the grand final. The people whom the WANFL are wooing are the people who will stay home. I suggest that a greater effort by the WANFL will enhance our Australian football game.

The WANFL is in the position of winning each way. If there is lack of attendance this year it can turn around and say there has been over-exposure through television, and it has to cut out country telecasts. However, if attendances improve the WANFL can say it has taken the right step in discontinuing the live coverage of the last quarter. The WANFL will win each way, and it has put forward a completely unsatisfactory solution to the problem.

In the last few weeks a great deal of coverage has appeared in the Press involving the Barry Cable-East Perth-Perth situation. I am sure that most of us have seen the newspaper reports last year indicating that an appeals board would be formed to deal with all football deadlocks. Having made an examination of the proposal I condemned the formation of such an appeals board, as I regarded it would merely be an ex-presidents club. The WANFL asked various ex-presidents of footballs clubs if they would be available to serve on such a board; however, the WANFL did not intend to approach any ex-footballers or ex-coaches, for inclusion on the board. I think this is a one-way situation.

Now we have the Barry Cable situation; and we have Barry Cable not desiring to go before the board, and neither did the East Perth Football Club, although it has had a voice in the formation of the appeals board. The only group that has come up with any real credit is the Perth Football

Club. This club had a viable asset; furthermore, the constitution and rules of the league say that Cable is a player belonging to that club.

In this instance another body stepped in at the insistence of the President of the WANFL to clear the air. He said he did that because of the contribution that Barry Cable had made to the game in Western Australia and Australia, and because he wanted to make sure that this wonderful player did not miss out on any games. I thought the appeals board was established to resolve football deadlocks, and would cover such a case.

Here the Perth Football Club asked for \$12 000 to release Cable, and it finished up accepting \$5 000. Cable has been cleared. The East Perth Football Club did not have to pay the \$12 000; it bucked the system; and it got Cable for \$5 000.

I view with some concern the decision of the Federal Government in asking the Industries Assistance Commission to look into the imports of light commercial vehicles and four-wheel-drive vehicles into this country. The Federal Government asked the IAC to ascertain the practicability of reserving 80 per cent for the Australian component. Naturally enough, the Australian manufacturers—GMH, Ford and Chrysler—were quite happy with this proposal, because they have managed to reduce the passenger vehicle market to the same ratio of 20 per cent to 80 per cent.

It would be completely impossible to expect the distribution network to accept and maintain a national output on 20 per cent, particularly when we take into account some of the well-produced vehicles we are importing currently. I do not think that GMH, Ford, or Chrysler has been able to bring out the types of vehicle I am speaking about—the wonderful cars which the Japanese and European makers produce, such as the Fiat and the BMC vehicles, particularly in the light commercial class and the four-wheel-drive class.

The car market in Australia approximates 500 000 per annum with five manufacturers. This compares with a market of 10 million per annum in the USA where there are only three manufacturers. The fact that the Prime Minister asked the Managing Director of Ford Australia, Sir Brian Inglis, who is also Chairman of the Australian Manufacturing Industry Council, to head this inquiry can be compared with the situation where a person who has a vested interest in an industry is asked to come up with a solution relating to the local content of that industry.

I do not think we are doing justice to ourselves, especially when recently the Premier went to

Japan and asked the Japanese to continue the import of iron ore from Western Australia. It seems that at the same time we are drawing up guidelines to curtail Japanese exports of vehicles into this country. I do not think that to the Japanese this situation is tolerable. I hope that the State Government will make every move to ensure that the Federal Government does not proceed with this inquiry.

Already over the last five years we have had six inquiries; and last year there was the inquiry headed by the Australian Manufacturing Industry Council. It asked for an inquiry in March, May, June, October and November last year, and also in January this year. So, we can see that this body is very persistent.

All my fears would not have been founded except for the fact that the Federal Minister (Mr Lynch) on the 24th February this year requested the IAC to submit views on the consequences of the local content plan. That local content plan was viewed solely in the light of the import of light commercial vehicles and four-wheel-drive vehicles, and the effect of such imports into this country.

In conclusion I would point out that Western Australia, being particularly vulnerable in respect of Japanese imports, needs every assistance it can get. I hope that the State Government will do everything in its power to induce the Federal Government to alter its decision. I support the motion.

**THE HON. R. G. PIKE** (North Metropolitan) [5.15 p.m.]: I would like to congratulate the Hon. W. M. Piesse for her speech in moving the Address-in-Reply, and I would like to refer particularly to the speeches made by the Hon. N. F. Moore and the Hon. W. R. Withers. These were excellent new-ground-breaking speeches, and I congratulate these members.

As a Liberal, I support the principle that one of the most important single functions of government is to secure the rights and freedoms of the individual citizens. In keeping with this concern for the individual, I wish to demonstrate a need for primary producers to be fairly treated in regard to their rate bills. To achieve this, the Local Government Act should be amended so that local authorities may be enabled to strike differential rates within wards. At present this is not possible in any practical way. The proposal is necessary for two reasons—

- (1) The difficulty of providing a fair and equitable rating system for primary producers with farms close to towns.

- (2) The difficulty of providing a fair and equitable rating system for primary producers within 60 to 90 kilometers of the metropolitan area.

The third subject I will deal with will be—

- (3) The need to arrest the population decline and encourage the re-population of Perth central area and other central town areas with a population decline.

And the fourth point will be—

- (4) Relevance of population increases in Western Australia.

Explanation of Headings (1) and (2): The massive development of hobby farms within these areas, and the high prices that hobby farmers pay for the land have created an inequitable base when the unimproved capital value of neighbouring farming properties has been determined—and this applies particularly to farming properties producing grain, fruit, wool, meat, etc.—when the valuation is established by the State Taxation Department.

A differential rate would enable the primary producer whose property is close to hobby farms to pay rates equivalent to those paid by farmers not penalised by punitive valuations. Because of the nature of this proposal, and to give local government in Western Australia the opportunity to consider it and then convey their opinions to the Government, I outline this suggested amendment to section 548 of the Local Government Act. It reads as follows—

#### RATES:

1. Subject to this section, the council may, at any time, declare:
  - a. A general rate on property within its area: or
  - b. Differential general rates on property within its area.
2. Where the council declares differential general rates in pursuance of this section, those rates shall be applicable in accordance with the terms of the declaration to rateable property within its area by reference to criteria specified in the declaration.
3. Where the council proposes to declare differential rates under this section, the rates may vary by reference to the criteria contained in one of the following paragraphs—
  - a. By reference to the use to which the rateable property is put;
  - b. By reference to the ward in which the rateable property is situated;

- c. By reference to the ward in which the rateable property is situated and the use to which the rateable property is put;
- d. By reference to the zone in which the rateable property is situated.
- e. By reference to whether the rateable property is situated within or outside a township and, where it is situated within a township and there are two or more townships within the area, by reference to the township within which the rateable property is situated.

- 4. No more than one general rate shall be declared for any financial year in respect of rateable property within the area of a council unless at least three-quarters of the total number of members of the council (excluding, in the case of a municipal council, the mayor) have voted in favour of declaring the differential rates.
- 5. The consent of ratepayers is not required for the declaration of a general rate or general rates under this section.
- 6. The revenue derived from differential rates may be expended for purposes authorised by this Act without any restriction as to the part of the area of the council in which it is to be expended.

(3) The need to arrest the population decline and encourage the repopulation of the Perth central area and other central town areas undergoing a population decline. Differential rating is again the solution. Differential rating at present applies in South Australia; for example, at present in Adelaide the owner/occupier living in the city area pays only 10c in \$1 on the annual rental valuation while all other property owners pay 18c in \$1. This is a 44 per cent rate reduction benefit given only to owner/occupiers of homes, home units, or villa units, and it is a positive method for encouraging the maintenance of, and indeed the increase in, the residential population in the central city area.

Since differential rating has applied in Adelaide, the voting population for the Legislative Assembly seat of Adelaide has increased by 397 voters—from 17 114 to 17 511 voters. If a similar incentive were provided for Perth, which has reasonable areas available for housing development, East Perth, for example, which has the river as a boundary, could again become a fine residential area.

The fact that action is needed in Western Australia is evidenced by the latest enrolment

figures for the Legislative Assembly seats which show that there is a need for the Government to encourage more residential development within walking distance of the city area.

The seat of Perth, which includes the central city area, shows an enrolment of only 14 880 at the 13th March, 1978, compared with 15 384 at the 19th February, 1977; that is, a reduction of 504 people within an approximate 12-month period. This reduction of people is the largest of any of the areas in the whole State. Significantly the next biggest reductions are in the following seats—

Victoria Park	358
Subiaco	299
South Perth	239

These figures indicate the serious population reduction occurring in the central metropolitan area.

It is interesting to note further that if one adds these figures together they show a total of 1 400 voters. Represented as a percentage of the total 2 118 voters—which is the total number of voters from those electorates which have lost voters—it means that 66 per cent of the total population loss has occurred in these areas.

The advantages and desirability of close-to-city living have been accepted by many sectors of the community, particularly by the retired and young people, both married and single.

The advantages of a living city and the wide range of services and facilities—such as, community centres, shops, cultural centres, hospitals, the ability to walk to destinations with a consequent reduction in traffic, parking problems, and travelling time, together with proximity to places of employment—are well known and widely accepted.

With the practical application of the new Liberal Party and Country Party federalism, with its direct grants to local authorities, these proposals could well be a very practical use to which Federal direct grants could be applied.

(4) The relevance of population increases in Western Australia. I point out to the House that in the country electorates of our State there has been an increase in voters in every area except Kalgoorlie—minus 21 voters—and Yilgarn-Dundas—minus 310 voters. The overall increase in voters in country electorates is 12 164 voters, out of the total State increase of 28 806; that is, an increase of 42.2 per cent for the country. What better indication is there of the positive action of the State Government in encouraging decentralisation and arresting the population drift to the metropolitan area?

The overall increase of voters in the whole State over this approximate 12-month period is shown by total gains of 30 924, less total reductions of 2 118, or a net gain of 28 806 being a 4.34 per cent increase in the State's voting population. That increase, on a percentage basis, is greater than that of any other State, and the Commonwealth has averaged only a 1.19 per cent increase.

Since voters are aged 18 years and over, and bearing in mind the latest figures show a population of 12 000 New Zealanders in Western Australia, together with the figures for the last 12 months from the Bureau of Census and Statistics which reveal that the total number of assisted settlers and other settlers in Western Australia during this period was 7 889—most of whom will not yet be on the rolls—we have an overall increase that confirms the statement of the Minister for Labour and Industry (Mr Grayden) concerning the better overall employment situation in Western Australia.

The fundamental purpose of this speech has been to demonstrate the need for fair treatment of rural ratepayers, and to encourage incentives for inner city living. These problems will not be solved until the alternatives they present are candidly recognised and examined.

In order that the enrolment figures may be incorporated in *Hansard* and in accordance with the traditions of the House, I will now read out the figures showing the differences in the number of enrolled voters for the Legislative Assembly seats over the period I referred to. These are as follows—

Legislative Assembly District	Enrolment at 19th February, 1977.	Enrolment at 13th March, 1978.	Difference (plus or minus)
Ascoli	15 458	15 512	+ 54
Balcatta	17 267	18 189	+ 922
Canning	16 634	18 264	+ 1 630
Clontarf	16 121	16 674	+ 553
Cockburn	15 477	16 278	+ 801
Cottesloe	15 607	15 711	+ 104
Dianella	16 646	17 542	+ 896
East Melville	16 552	16 738	+ 186
Floreat	15 536	16 057	+ 521
Fremantle	16 810	16 949	+ 139
Gosnells	15 942	18 766	+ 2 824
Karrinyup	16 459	17 572	+ 1 113
Maylands	17 173	17 149	- 24
Melville	16 286	16 507	+ 221
Morley	16 323	17 012	+ 689
Mount Hawthorn	16 709	16 589	+ 120
Mount Lawley	16 626	16 496	+ 130
Murdoch	18 206	20 843	+ 2 637
Nedlands	15 086	15 052	- 34
Perth	15 384	14 880	- 504
Scarborough	15 668	15 589	- 79
South Perth	15 164	14 925	- 239
Subiaco	15 820	15 521	- 299
Swan	16 095	16 755	+ 660
Victoria Park	15 943	15 585	- 358
Welshpool	16 055	16 235	+ 180
Whitford	18 839	23 138	+ 4 299
Albany	8 025	8 354	+ 329
Avon	7 689	7 906	+ 217
Bunbury	8 775	9 267	+ 492
Collic	8 176	8 607	+ 431
Dale	7 442	8 285	+ 843
Darling Range	7 411	8 185	+ 774
Geraldton	8 562	8 947	+ 385

Legislative Assembly District	Enrolment at 19th February, 1977.	Enrolment at 13th March, 1978.	Difference (plus or minus)
Greenough	8 511	8 999	+ 488
Kalamunda	8 899	9 379	+ 480
Kalgoorlie	7 875	7 854	- 21
Katanning	7 613	7 848	+ 235
Merredin	7 982	8 224	+ 242
Moore	8 594	9 820	+ 226
Mr. Marshall	8 015	8 047	+ 32
Mundaring	8 019	8 592	+ 473
Murray	8 721	9 885	+ 1 164
Narrogin	7 834	7 921	+ 87
Rockingham	9 866	11 325	+ 1 459
Roe	8 325	8 796	+ 471
Stirling	8 052	8 595	+ 543
Vasse	8 772	9 453	+ 681
Warren	8 745	8 896	+ 151
Wellington	8 392	8 830	+ 438
Yilgarn-Dundas	8 306	7 996	- 310
Gascoyne	3 633	3 767	+ 134
Kimberley	4 669	5 278	+ 609
Murchison-Eyre	2 110	2 132	+ 22
Pilbara	14 224	15 303	+ 1 079

For the period commencing 19th February, 1977, and ending on 13th March, 1978:

Total increase in enrolled voters for Western Australia— 30 924

Total reduction in enrolled voters for Western Australia— 2 118

Net gain in enrolled voters for Western Australia— 28 806

I support the motion.

**THE HON. R. HETHERINGTON** (East Metropolitan) [5.31 p.m.]: Mr President, it had been my intention today to talk about my electorate, but as I recently suffered the same kind of indisposition as the Leader of the House I have not had time to inquire into it as much as I had hoped. I will be speaking rather more fully when the Supply Bill is before this Chamber on the problems of Maniana in the electorate of East Metropolitan.

I have not looked at the proposals to upgrade Maniana, but I am a little perturbed by them, because of the kind of reports I had of Maniana and some of its houses before the proposals were made. The reports I received then indicated that at least some people in the suburb thought the houses should be pulled down and rebuilt. I know this raises great problems in regard to finance; indeed, it may be that the solution of the State Housing Commission is the best one, but I am not satisfied of this yet. I certainly intend to go out there and have a look, and talk to people and consider all the proposals, because Maniana is a suburb which has long needed something done to it. I remain unconvinced that the standard of the

houses there is such that they warrant upgrading, and I believe this matter needs very careful consideration.

I ask the Minister for Transport to take very carefully the remarks made by my colleague, the Hon. Fred McKenzie, in his question today to the Minister. I am one of those who drives across the Causeway every now and again in the morning, and faces the fearsome traffic situation.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: I am sure the Hon. Fred McKenzie would suggest you should take a train. In fact, I am surprised he asked a question like that.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am sure the Hon. Robert Pike would like to know that I now live in Wilson, which is in my province, and to travel to Parliament House I have a choice between trying the Causeway, or whipping down Manning Road and across the Freeway. Either choice is horrible and if one makes the wrong choice at the wrong time it is possible to be waiting in a line of traffic for up to half an hour. I presume the situation is likely to get much worse. I know there is a great deal of building going on at one end of the Freeway which will improve the situation; certainly I hope it will, although I wonder whether there will be enough lanes.

However, as far as the Causeway is concerned, especially on the city side where it ends in a roundabout, I quail whenever I am confronted with the prospect of negotiating it in peak hours. I am not as young and nippy as some of the young drivers who whip around the roundabouts in heavy traffic conditions, and I am surprised the accident rate is not higher than it is.

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: You have been used to Nedlands and Claremont.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Perhaps I have and, now that I have crossed the river and am very happy to have done so, perhaps that is why I am more aware of the problems than some of those people who have been putting up with them for years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think members of Parliament could ease the situation by avoiding the peak hour rushes.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: No doubt the Leader of the House is correct, but he should bear in mind that some people cannot avoid the peak hour rushes, and I am more interested in what can be done for them than for me.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: That puts a different context to your argument.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We thought you were talking on your own behalf.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Not at all; I am telling the Minister of something about which I have become aware only since I moved into my electorate. When I lived in Claremont, I did not cross the Causeway or the Freeway during morning or afternoon peak hours. As some people have pointed out, the problem has improved since the roundabout was removed from the Victoria Park side of the Causeway, and I am hoping something can be done with the roundabout on the city side. In fact, the situation is so bad that if a person happens to be on the river side of the city, sometimes it is worth-while going up to Wellington Street so that he can move onto the Causeway in the left-hand lane, without facing this frightening array of traffic during peak hours.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Perhaps your suggestion would not meet with the approval of the environmentalists, who do not want to make Riverside Drive a main traffic artery.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I realise the problems which exist, but if I had to make a choice between the environment and human lives, I know which I would choose. I am not here harassing or haranguing the Minister; I am just saying there is a very grave problem. When I read the other day that the approach from Albany Highway was going to be restricted to buses, I thought of all those people who, like me, might forget this restriction and find themselves being diverted through Shepperton Road and all the chaos which occurs there and I wondered whether, indeed, this will be a solution.

The Minister for Transport might suggest to his department there may be better ways of tackling the problem. I know the solutions will not be easy but, after all, Mr President, we are told that life was not meant to be easy. I am sure the Minister will look at this difficult problem.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: George Shea has a service which he calls "kiss and travel". I suggest your wife drop you off at a railway station, and return to your house with the car.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: That will not make a difference to the other people who are forced to use the Causeway in peak hours.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: We are trying to do something about improving public transport.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Certainly if we can improve public transport, it has much to be said for it. If the day ever comes—probably, it will not happen while I, or the Minister for Transport are still members of Parliament, but the Minister might be able to do something about it—when we have monorails running across the

river, and an adequate railway system, instead of destroying the one we have, we may indeed solve the problem.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Just be careful; you are picking up bad habits from the member behind you.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: It is impossible to pick up bad habits from my colleague because he has none.

What I want to speak about now, mainly, is the institution of Parliament. I was accused last year—and I do not forget this accusation—of trying to destroy the institution since I came in here. The accusation hurled across the Chamber was that I was trying to destroy this House. I said then, as I say now and will continue to say in the future, that this House is part of a wider institution of Parliament.

This Parliament is opened each session by a Speech from His Excellency the Governor. Even if we do not like his Speech, His Excellency the Governor is above and beyond criticism. Like the Monarch, His Excellency can do no wrong because he acts only on the advice of his Ministers. Therefore, his Speech is written by his Ministers and it outlines the Government's legislative proposals—or, it is supposed to.

The speech from the throne in the United Kingdom and the Governor's Speech here had their origins when the Monarch summoned Parliament; he would tell them why he had summoned them and what he wanted them to do. It meant very much that what the Monarch wanted them to do was in fact done. The idea that the King may do no wrong meant that the King, for all practical purposes, was above the law.

However, the idea that the King can do no wrong because he can be ill-advised by his Ministers came in when Charles II sent Lord Danby to negotiate with Louis XIV to get some more tribes across the channel. Because Danby did not approve of what the King wanted him to do, he got the King to write a letter of authorisation. Subsequently, Danby was impeached by the House of Commons for what he had done. When, in his defence, he showed them the King's letter they said, "No, the King can do no wrong; it must be because of bad advice". They went on with the impeachment. So, Charles II dissolved Parliament.

That is how the notion came of responsible Government, where the executive in fact became the Ministers of the Government, and the Monarch acted only on their advice. Because of this, the speech from the throne or the Governor's Speech in this Parliament is supposed to be an

outline of what the Government has done and proposes to do—not of how nice things are or of how good the Federal Government is or how bad it is, as one Governor's Speech mentioned. It is supposed to be an outline of the legislative programme of the Government. I do not believe the Government had such a paucity of legislation in mind that it could not outline more legislation than it did.

What I am complaining of is that more and more the Executive here and in other Parliaments is tending to treat Parliament with scant respect; I believe His Excellency's Speech, for which he was not responsible, treated this Parliament with scant respect. For this reason, I think that in future the Government should do better in the advice it gives His Excellency and with the Speech it writes for His Excellency so that the Parliament may have a real, lengthy outline of the legislative proposals of the Government.

If the Government has no legislative proposals, then I suppose it has to pad the Speech out; but I think it would be better, perhaps, and more honest to make a short Speech saying, "Really, we have nothing new proposed for you to talk about."

As a matter of fact, I was delighted today to receive from the Minister for Education, via the Minister for Transport, a full and informative answer to a question I asked, instead of a dismissive answer I received in the past from some Ministers. I hope we get more of this.

In view of the reported statement of the Leader of the House—I do not know whether he was truly reported, but no doubt he will tell us later—and bearing in mind the question asked by the Hon. Alexander Lewis, I was a little perturbed that there may be a move to get rid of our very excellent system of question asking and answering.

I have had some argument with people in this Parliament over this procedure; they accused me of being conservative because I said I rather liked the system we have in Western Australia. I replied that, really, I was a radical because I had been converted from the system I grew up with in South Australia, which I used to watch. I think the Western Australian system is better. The problems occur only when we do not receive full replies.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: We have a better electoral system, too.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I would not say that.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: In the past, when the system of questioning has been changed it has



been due to misuse by questioners, rather than the Executive.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: If that indicates the Minister is hoping to change it—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am not.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I was just wondering.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think that only recently there have been one or two examples—not here—of what I would class as a misuse of question time. That is where the danger lies.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I do hope that in reply the Leader of the House will be more specific.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do not think I need to be more specific; you are way ahead of me.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I think that dialogue is useful sometimes. Certainly, I would not like to see an attack on our method of asking questions, by which we can obtain valuable information. I asked a question today because a friend of mine who is interested in educational matters said, "Look, I just want this information. Could you ask the question? I am sure you will be able to get it." So I have asked a question hoping for information. It is not a question designed to embarrass the Government but merely one seeking information. Of course, some questions are designed to embarrass the Government, but why not? This is perhaps what Parliament is here for.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: We are referring to ones where a lot of information has to be gathered and it takes people days and days to get it.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Don't tell me you didn't do it when you were in Opposition.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I place on record the tingle of fear that went down my spine bearing in mind the remarks of the Leader of the House which appeared in the Press and the questions asked by the Hon. Alexander Lewis. I hope these do not presage a change in our system, because I think it would be highly undesirable.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What was the statement I was reported to have made?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I read a statement—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Recently?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: A few weeks ago. I am sorry I do not have the news cutting

with me. The Minister is reported to have said that too much time of, I think, the top members of departments was being spent on preparing answers to questions that had to be answered the next day. The statement contained words to that effect.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I said that some years ago.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The Minister said we should think about introducing a system of answering questions by letter. That is what he was reported as having said; I do not know whether in fact he did say so.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It sounds like a reasonable thing. It is in line with what I have said. Some of these long questions take up time.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I read the Press report and I thought it could well be the sort of statement the Minister would make.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Ask a reasonable question and you get a reasonable answer. It is the unreasonable questions that are the cause of such comments.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I am not too sure that I would agree with the suggestion that some of my questions have been unreasonable, but of course reasonableness tends to be in the eyes of the beholder. It is a little bit like beauty. As the Leader of the House knows it is also true that what is reasonable in the eyes of the Opposition is not always reasonable in the eyes of the Government, whoever may be in office.

The main thrust of what I wanted to say about what was happening to Parliament was the nature of His Excellency's Speech which I think could have been better written.

Speaking on my own personal experience I suppose I was a little bit cheeky during the last session. As a new member of this House perhaps I was a little brash and hopeful in having the temerity to bring in four Bills. One was debated, the debate on one was adjourned to the 24th December, and on two of them there was a motion that the House do now divide and they were, in the vernacular, killed.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Had the Governor known you were going to introduce them he might have mentioned them in his Speech!

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: Perhaps a subsidiary speech could be introduced in which the Opposition could present its legislation. Sometimes we do have useful and valuable legislation in mind which perhaps members opposite might like to know about.

I was disappointed at the treatment given to my four Bills and I was reminded of the remark made by the Conservative Leader in Britain, "Our arguments are not good on this one; we will have to use our majority." As a new member I was hoping I might hear debate on some of the things I put up and I was not aware of what the Hon. Ruby Hutchison once did. I do not know what she did as I have not read the *Hansards* of the time she was in Parliament. Of course, I was not here in those days.

I am interested to learn what I can from honourable members opposite. The legislation we put forward last year will be put forward again, either here or in another place, during this session, the next session, or the session after that as long as I am in this Parliament. But it may not be necessary to go as long as that, as I hope common sense will prevail.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I wondered when you would wake up to that.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: As long as the composition of this House is as it is it could be difficult for common sense to prevail.

I was interested in some of the arguments made last year, particularly in the Address-in-Reply debate, which suggested that this matter was caused by country representation. As it is not in my party's policy I thought perhaps today I would put a solution to Government members so people like Mr Pike might think about it and perhaps bring in a Bill of his own.

Perhaps we could follow the West German system and I hope no-one reminds me that West Germany is a social democracy under Herr Schmidt, because the system was brought in before Germany was a social democracy. The system was brought in when the Christian Democrats under Dr Adenauer were in power. I am not discussing representation in this House but in the lower House. The West German system allows people in the country to be represented by people who live in the country. The electors vote twice; once for a member and once for a party and there is a surplus of members. It could be worked out quite easily just how many members were wanted. They would then be added proportionately to the members already elected to give the party representation in the State Parliament as a whole. This would combine representation in a single member's seat with proportionate representation in an overall democratic vote.

I am sure the Hon. Bob Pike has heard of the West German system. If not, I am sure he would be interested in having a look at it and perhaps he might even like it. I will not bandy words with the

honourable member about the South Australian system, because in the recess I intend to go to South Australia, get some figures, have a look at the system and perhaps bring Mr Pike up to date when I return.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I will be listening with a great deal of interest, having already done the research myself. Yours will be a different slant; such as having 45 per cent of the votes and six out of 11 Legislative Council seats.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The honourable member has changed his figures; last time it was 47 per cent.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I am delighted you acknowledge it is 47 per cent.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I said that the last time the honourable member quoted the figure it was 47 per cent. I have not looked at the figures and the honourable member may, in fact, be right. If it is the case there are probably other factors that need to be taken into account. I am not unduly concerned with what the honourable member has to say. I will merely have a look for myself and then come back and see what I have to say to him.

An Opposition member: You had better go by boat; they are picketing the wharves.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: As a matter of fact I am going by train. I am taking the advice of the Minister and my colleague behind me and I intend to enjoy the delights of train travel. I will be able to take a pile of books and documents with me and come back refreshed and with better information. The trip should do me good even if other members in this House do not think so.

I intend to say something generally today on the subject of education. I want to do two things: I want to make a little attack sideways on the Education Department, and I also want to defend it as I am not going to suggest that it is all good or all bad. There are some problems and tendencies which seem to me to be appearing in the Education Department and I put it as cautiously as that, because I have not looked as deeply into the matter as I intend to; therefore I will not make very strong or firm allegations at present.

I said last year and I say now that it does seem to me that we have got to a stage in the Education Department where, under very able people, we are tending to develop centralising tendencies. I said that last year and the first thing that happened at the beginning of this school year was that we saw in *The Advertiser*—that was a Freudian slip, as I meant *The West Australian*—a letter from the teachers at the Claremont Primary School

complaining about interference in the running of their school.

I have not gone into this very deeply; I have just talked quietly to the husband of a teacher and therefore what I say is very much hearsay.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think you would be very wise not to use hearsay. You should talk to Dr Mossenson.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I will do that. All I know is that there was a worry at the school along these lines. The school was all set up ready to go and running well. However, it was then directed to use teachers differently and to change its classes. I have heard these complaints from teachers at other schools. I am not going to dot the "i"s and cross the "t"s, because I am not in a position to do so. There seems to be a little bit of smoke and I am interested to find out if there is any fire.

On the other hand, I am aware that there are some very useful things going on in the Education Department. I am perturbed that certain procedures do not seem to be followed and the technical education section seems to be going under the control of the central bureaucracy. I have already expressed worry about the abolition of the pre-school board last year, particularly in the way and the speed with which it was abolished. It seems to me there are a great number of problems that need to be looked at in the department.

There are things happening in the department which some members in this House might not approve of. I am only judging this by the tenor of some of their remarks. There are exciting things happening in the department which have been started by teachers in the department and taken up by some members of the departmental bureaucracy—if I may use that perjorative term—to develop alternative courses for children with all kinds of problems, who do not find academic courses presently available suitable for their needs.

I am going to have a look at some schools in South Australia because I think they are worth looking at. If what they are doing is worth while and worth fostering, I will bring those ideas back with me.

I was a little unhappy about the level of criticism recently made by a member of Parliament who sits in another place and who seems to think that now is the time, when teachers are in oversupply, to discipline those who are teaching. He seems to think that the product of our present schools does not match his idea of what is desirable. He seems to think that teachers

who do not agree with his ideas should be got rid of and repressed.

He seems to think that in a community considered to be a liberal democracy we should repress nonconformists in schools. I am reminded that we are not a liberal democracy in this State although we have pretensions in this area. The member felt this way about teachers because he thought they may give children the wrong attitudes and they may get rid of discipline and not have them kicking the people in authority; in other words, they may grow up as human beings with ideas of their own.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: That is not what he said, and you know it.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I gather the impression that there is a great deal of criticism of young people in this community at this time of economic crisis and unemployment; and there is a desire to whip these people into line and to change the system, not only the education system but the economic system which Mr Lewis has talked about when he made reference to getting back to the good old days. These are the two matters I want to deal with next.

Sometimes I am worried about the statements that appear in the Press and other media regarding the presentation of young people who turn up for job interviews, and about the implied criticism from some quarters that the young people dress in such a manner because of the school system. Of course, quite often the reason the young people turn up in jeans and shirts for job interviews is that such clothing is all they can afford. It has nothing to do with the education system at all.

I am also perturbed about the criticism that some teachers in the schools inculcate into the students their own ideas. In my experience as a school boy, which I was once; as a teacher, which I was once; and as an observer, a parent, and a member of a school council I found there had always been people in the schools who tried to indoctrinate students with their own ideas. However, the critics are quite happy when the students are indoctrinated with conservative ideas, but are not happy when the students are indoctrinated with radical ideas.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Or vice versa.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I agree. What we need in our schools are teachers who will not indoctrinate the students at all, but the Minister knows this is impossible.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Not impossible. Your political views are known, but yet your

reputation as a political lecturer is one of scrupulous fairness.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: The fact remains that the Minister knows as well as I do that we cannot have everybody behaving with scrupulous fairness. As far as I am concerned I know that quite often although there was a particular point of view put forward I was biased in my attitude and outlook. However, in my university situation I would warn my students. In fact, I used to play a game with them, before I was well known. I used to spend half a year in keeping them guessing as to which political party I belonged. I managed to do that quite often; then afterwards I would tell them.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: We are still guessing!

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: In that case the Minister has not been listening to me very intently. I have been a committed member of the Labor Party since 1959; a supporter of the party since I was 17 years of age; and I have been a Labor voter since the first time I voted when I was 20 years of age.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: And your father and grandfather voted Labor?

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: My father was not a Labor man. In regard to politics I made up my own mind when I was 17 years of age.

The Minister might point out that I am easily distracted when I am on my feet; no doubt, he is quite right. What I am concerned about is that we need teachers who do not try to indoctrinate children, but of course we will find some teachers who will try to indoctrinate them. Many of these people do not know they are indoctrinating the students, because their fathers or grandfathers were prejudiced to certain things, and they grew up with such prejudice. Therefore we will not get rid of the people in authority whom we do not like.

I do not suggest that the Education Department is attempting to do this, because it is far too sensible and it will not get rid of people whom we do not like. We have to make sure that we have an open school system where the people can see any prejudice and what is going on with the teachers, and where they can argue freely.

One of the practices I have been happy to see creeping into the school system since I have been in Western Australia is the practice of inviting the various political parties to the schools to talk about their party philosophies. I have gone along as an academic to talk about the political system where party politics did not come into the matter, but I did inculcate tolerance of the Westminster

system and the social democrat system. That is one of the things that comes out of such discourse.

There are certain people who cannot read, write, talk, or present themselves as best they can. When we see such people we sometimes say, "The schools are not what they used to be." One of the features of present-day society is that there are fewer jobs available that can be filled by people who are functionally illiterate, but before the last World War there were more jobs available. In other words, the structure of our society is changing, and the day has gone when a child, who cannot pass his examinations, can get a job and work his way up on the management ladder, as was the case in 1939. These days such opportunities occur very rarely. What the critics of our education system are saying is that there are not enough jobs available for the people with the sorts of skills required, but that is not necessarily a condemnation of the education system.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would not like to interrupt your speech, except to point out that because of the oppressive weather conditions, if you are able to finish your speech before 6.15 I shall move for the adjournment of the House.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: In deference to the Leader of the House, and because what he has said is sensible, I shall reserve my other comments until the Supply Bill is debated.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: What the Leader of the House has said is not more sensible than what you are saying.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I shall have another opportunity to put forward the matters I wish to mention. I give the House due warning that I shall speak at some length in the debate on the Supply Bill, because I want to discuss the question of unemployment and the so-called dole bludgers, and some of the attitudes that have been expressed in this House over the last couple of weeks and that have distressed me.

The other day I read a report in which it is alleged that some people are saying we have invested a great deal of money in education, and we want value for that money; that is, to turn out what seems to be a well disciplined group of people who will go into the work force and do what they are told.

One important result in the education system in Western Australia, through the funding by the Whitlam Government and since that time—this is one of the greatest benefits which the Whitlam Government has brought to Australia, and to Western Australia in particular—is that we are now finding children who are functionally

illiterate and who would have been thrown out of the system. We are discovering them and we are doing something about them. However, we need more funds and more teachers.

Certainly, no problem should be experienced in engaging the teachers. We recognise that the teacher-student ratio at present is one to 23 in our schools, although some classes contain four to 10 students and other classes contain 40 students. In other words, the overall average does not give us a real picture of what is going on at the schools.

If we are able to engage more teachers to do the remedial work that will be the means of picking up the students who in the past were often tossed out into the work force to become misfits, and who could not cope with anything but the simplest of jobs.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: The point you make is not correct.

The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON: I deplore the attitude that has been adopted by some people. Sometimes I have criticised the experiments carried out in schools, and I have been guilty of the fault as a university lecturer in saying that students were not as good as they used to be, and what were the schools doing about the matter. However, in my last year there I got the distinct subjective impression that that was the best year ever. I have often wondered whether I should not have remained at the university so as to get the benefit of better students being turned out of the school system. We are now coming out of the birth pangs of these experiments, but again this is just a subjective impression.

I think we should be very careful that we do not say too easily, "Mistakes have been made, therefore let us revert to what we had before." Mistakes have been made, and I have seen them made. This kind of conservative reaction will not help the education system or the State.

On that note I support the motion and I resume my seat.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. G. E. Masters.

*House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

#### *Statistics*

41. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

(1) How many policemen are presently employed in the RTA?

- (2) How many were employed in each of the years 1975, 1976 and 1977?
- (3) How many policemen have made applications for transfer from the RTA to other sections of the Police Force in each of the past three years and in the past three months?
- (4) Does the RTA send out one-man patrols at night time?
- (5) Is it correct that a reduction in overtime has been enforced since the beginning of this year?
- (6) Will the Minister outline how much the RTA has spent to date of the wages and salaries component of its consolidated revenue allocation for the current financial year?
- (7) How much of its allocation for administration has it also spent in the same period?
- (8) Will the Minister make available to me records on a weekly basis from the 1st July, 1977, which detail the number of motorists stopped by patrolmen, and the reasons?
- (9) Would he also supply me with figures on a weekly basis from the 1st July, 1977, which detail whether the motorists were charged or cautioned?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) 519.
- (2) 1975—389.  
1976—506  
1977—494.
- (3) 1975—43.  
1976—41.  
1977—44.  
1978 to 23rd March—14.
- (4) Prior to midnight there are both one man and two men patrols. After midnight all patrols in the metropolitan area consist of two men and this applies also in the country where practical.
- (5) Yes, following the Christmas-New Year holiday period and commensurate with additional staff.
- (6) Budget 1977-78—\$12 942 000.  
Expenditure to 28 February—\$8 064 732.

	Administration \$	Total Contingencies (Including Administration) \$
(7) Budget 1977-78	681 000	4 325 000
Expenditure to 28 February	488 433	2 620 680

- (8) and (9) These figures have never been collated on a weekly basis and I am advised that a very considerable period of time would be required to provide answers in the form required. The Hon. Minister is not prepared to have officers engaged in such a task which would seriously interfere with their normal duties.

## HEALTH

### *Handicapped Children*

43. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister advise—

- (1) What is the estimated number of—
  - (a) physically; and
  - (b) mentally
 handicapped children in the State classified under the following degrees of handicap—
  - (i) mildly;
  - (ii) moderately;
  - (iii) severely; and
  - (iv) profoundly?
- (2) What accommodation is available for these children in the form of—
  - (a) short term care; and
  - (b) long term care?
- (3) How many applications from parents of these children for such accommodation are outstanding at the moment?
- (4) What plans, if any, does the Government have for increasing the number of beds available, particularly for severely and profoundly handicapped children?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) The true prevalence of physically and mentally handicapped children is not known. A question on handicap was included in the 1976 census but the data is not yet available. There are some 400 physically handicapped children receiving treatment at various centres and there are 2 483 intellectually handicapped children registered. The degree of handicap, as defined by the honourable member, is not used but all the physically handicapped children

would be severely handicapped. The classification of the registered intellectually handicapped is as follows:

Borderline Handicap—568.  
 Mild Handicap—822.  
 Moderate Handicap—648.  
 Severe Handicap—261.  
 Profound Handicap—148.  
 Not yet classified—36.  
 Total—2 483.

- (2) (a) and (b) Accommodation for the physically handicapped children is available at the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Sir James Mitchell Spastic Centre, the Lucy Creeth Hospital and the Lady Lawley Cottage. Accommodation available for the intellectually handicapped children is as follows:

Location; Name and Address.

Extended and Short Stay  
 Residential Hostels:

Metropolitan—Children—

Brighton Hostel—Dundas Road,  
 Inglewood.

Cromane Hostel—end Halliday  
 Street, Bayswater.

Fairholme—Market Street,  
 Guildford.

Pyrton Training Centre—Lord  
 Street, Eden Hill:

Hospital Unit Eden Hill.

Primary Unit Eden Hill.

Secondary Unit Eden Hill.

Tertiary Unit Eden Hill.

Country—Children—

Esperance Hostel (Lorraine  
 Thomas) Brazier Street,  
 Esperance.

Geraldton—Shenton Street,  
 Geraldton.

Iris Litis Hostel—Cnr. George  
 and Moore Streets,  
 Kellerberrin.

Koonawarra Hostel—Serpentine  
 Road, Albany.

Special Care Hostels—

Boston Hostel—Lewis Road,  
 Forrestfield.

Bristol Hostel—Spencer Avenue,  
 Yokine.

Dorset Hostel—Church Avenue,  
Armadales.

Nulsen Haven—Great Eastern  
Highway, Redcliffe.

Scarboro Hostel—Duke Street,  
Scarborough.

Sussex Hostel—Lilacdale Road,  
Innaloo.

**Short Stay Residence—**

Pelican Home—Garratt Road,  
Bayswater.

Clem Booth Hostel—Porter  
Street, Beaconsfield.

Some of these beds are available for  
short or long term care.

- (3) There does not appear to be any waiting list for physically handicapped children. There is a waiting list of 125 intellectually handicapped children awaiting hostel or hospital accommodation.
- (4) It is proposed to build a hospital at Bull Creek for the intellectually handicapped, the Willetton Special School has recently been opened and a number of voluntary organisations, with State and Commonwealth assistance, plan to build residential facilities for physically handicapped children.

**LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**

*Effect*

45. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the article headed "Wipeout Fears Grip Many Shopkeepers" appearing in *The Sunday Times* of the 19th March, 1978?
- (2) Will he advise whether—
  - (a) in Victoria late trading one night a week caused the closure of 1 000 food shops in two years;
  - (b) in South Australia only one in five people use the facility, and food prices have jumped six per cent;
  - (c) on the last late night shopping before Christmas in Perth the MTT had a loss of \$15 000?

- (3) (a) Has account been taken of the likely losses by the MTT when regular late night shopping is introduced;
- (b) if so, does the Government intend to provide extra funds to the Trust to cover the losses; and
- (c) what is the expected level of these losses?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Enquiries are currently being made in Victoria however the closure of small shops is a continuing process and cannot be attributed to any one factor.
- (b) Enquires will be made in South Australia. However, night shopping has only recently been introduced in that State and it is too early to judge public reaction and far too early for any true picture as to price increases to be apparent. Experience in States who have had late shopping for a longer period than South Australia does not bear out the allegations.
- (c) No. The loss on this night was \$1 500.
- (3) (a) Yes, however provision of transport will be in relation to demand and continuing losses may not necessarily occur.
- (b) Yes, if necessary.
- (c) Loss, if any, will depend on the patronage developing.

**TRAFFIC**

*Causeway Approaches*

50. The Hon. F. E. MCKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the most unsatisfactory situation which occurs with regular monotony each morning during peak hours on the eastern approaches to the Causeway in Shepperton Road, Great Eastern Highway and Albany Highway?
- (2) Does he agree that the fact that six lines of traffic being required to converge into two lanes on the final approach to the Causeway appears to be the cause of the congestion?

- (3) (a) Would it be a feasible proposition to construct another deck on the bridge to permit separate flows of traffic to and from the City;
- (b) if not, what action is intended to overcome this serious problem, and thereby assist people who reside south of the Swan River travelling to the City?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) While congestion does occur, it is typical of peak period conditions experienced on major road approaches to central city areas as it is impractical to provide for free flowing traffic under all conditions.
- (2) No, as the existing traffic signals allocate right-of-way alternately between Great Eastern Highway and Shepperton Road and accordingly convergence on the final approach to the Causeway is only from three lanes to two lanes. However, the bridge width does control the capacity.
- (3) (a) No. Such a proposal would not be structurally feasible.
- (b) In the long term, another bridge will be constructed upstream.

## POLICE

### *Inspector Markham*

51. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Further to my question No. 28 of the 21st March, 1978, and the Minister's reply outlining the duties of Inspector Markham relating to investigating and recording matters concerning security in relation to organisations and individuals who may be considered to have unlawful or subversive potential—
- (a) what other criteria are used to assess whether an organisation or an individual may be considered to have unlawful or subversive potential; and
- (b) who assesses whether organisations or individuals may be considered to have unlawful or subversive potential?

- (2) In relation to the Inspector's duties of liaising with other States and Commonwealth Security organisations, will the Minister outline the State and Commonwealth Security organisations with which Inspector Markham has liaison?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) (a) From information received from a reliable source, or in the case of an individual from his association with known offenders, or by his own activities or actions.
- (b) The administrative officers of the Police Force.
- (2) No. This information is confidential.

## TEACHERS

### *Personal Files*

52. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that teachers are not allowed to view personal files kept on them by the Education Department during their period of employment and after they have retired?
- (2) Will the Minister alter this situation so that teachers may view their personal files to amend incorrect statements which may be on their file?
- (3) If not, will he state his reasons for not doing so?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Teachers may authorise the General Secretary of the Teachers' Union to examine personal files on their behalf.

## EDUCATION

### *Transport Subsidy for Swimming Lessons*

53. The Hon. W. M. PIESSE, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister give consideration, before next summer, to a specific allowance—apart from the current recreational transport subsidy—to pupils outside a 15 km radius from a swimming pool to cover costs of their travel to compulsory weekly swimming lessons?



- (2) In view of the fact that many parents have more than one child attending weekly swimming classes, will he examine the possibility that this allowance be granted on a student per capita basis?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) and (2) Swimming lessons are not compulsory and, at this stage, it is not proposed to pay the allowance requested.

## TRAFFIC

### *Riverside Drive*

54. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) As it appears from reports in the newspapers that there seems to be difficulties involved in widening Riverside Drive between Barrack Street and the Causeway, has consideration been given to the construction of an upper deck to this most important route to ease the congestion which occurs during peak periods both to and from the City and the Mitchell and Kwinana Freeways?
- (2) If this proposal is not considered feasible, what action does the Government intend to take to overcome this serious problem?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) No serious consideration has been given to constructing an upper deck to this route. Apart from the enormous cost that would be involved, the environmental aspects would no doubt create considerable opposition.
- (2) Some congestion must be accepted at peak periods at city approaches. However, in the long term, a ring road will be provided which will allow some traffic to by-pass the city via Newcastle Street.

## TEACHERS

### *Surplus*

55. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister release the report compiled by the working party for the Australian Education Council which

was released by Senator Carrick which states that Australia faces a surplus of between 50 000 and 74 000 teachers by 1985?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

A copy of the Report is tabled herewith (see paper No. 121). Copies are available to the public by purchase from the Commonwealth Government Publication Bookshop, Newman House, St. George's Terrace.

*The report was tabled (see paper No. 121.)*

## POLICE

### *Special Branch*

56. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Has the Minister for Police ever given Ministerial sanction to liaison between the W.A. Special Branch and security organisations in other States?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

No. The Commissioner of Police is in charge of and responsible for the administration of the Police Force.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: The Minister does not know. It is a police State.

## EDUCATION AND ARTS

### *Report*

57. The Hon. R. HETHERINGTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister table the report on education and the arts in Western Australia, which was sponsored by the Australia Council and the Australian Schools Commission?
- (2) Has the Government given consideration to implementation of any of the recommendations in the report?
- (3) If "Yes", which recommendations?
- (4) If "No" to (2), when is it expected that the Government will agree to the recommendations?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes—(see paper No. 122).
- (2) and (4) Yes.

- (3) (a) The Director-General of Education has formed a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Superintendent of Art/Crafts to advise him on the Arts and make recommendations regarding the Report.
- (b) Community use of schools is actively encouraged by Adult Education classes in many schools at night and uses the school facilities and, in many cases, staff.
- (c) A pilot project in Integration of the Arts involving a high school and its six contributory schools was set up by the Director-General of Education in 1978 and features a school based curriculum approach to integration.
- (d) Media Studies forms a part of the elective programme of an expanding number of government high schools. The scheme was extended to selected Primary Schools in 1978.
- (e) The Education Department, in co-operation with the Craft Association of Western Australia, conducts a "Craftsman in Schools" programme and acts as a pilot study to make use of the talents of the Arts Community in schools.
- (f) The Education Department maintains a force of Advisory Teachers in the Arts, in the main regionally based.
- In 1977 it commenced a three year plan to put Art Specialists in primary schools and at present 160 full-time teachers are involved.

*The report was tabled (see paper No. 122).*

## POLICE

### *Special Branch*

58. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:
- (1) Has the Minister for Police ever seen files which have come specifically from the Special Branch?
  - (2) Are Special Branch files kept on current or previous members of this State Parliament?
- The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:
- (1) No.
- (2) In some instances files are or have been kept in police records.

## HEALTH

### *Sun Screening Lotions*

59. The Hon. W. M. PIESSE, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister advise if he has received any reply from the Federal Minister for Health regarding the removal of sales tax from effective sun screen lotions?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

Yes. The Federal Health Minister replied and advised that he would raise the matter with the Treasurer and let me know the outcome of the discussions. He has not done so and I have written again to remind him. Since the member asked the question there has been an article in the newspaper; therefore, I suggest she ask her question again.

## RAILWAYS

### *Kewdale Terminal*

60. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister for Transport:

Would the Minister ascertain from the Commissioner of Railways whether Westrail has any intention of handing over all or any portion of its Kewdale Freight Terminal operations to a private entrepreneur, and provide the House with an answer?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

The Commissioner of Railways is not intending to hand over all or any portion of the Kewdale Freight Terminal operations to a private entrepreneur.

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

#### *State Participation*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Has the State Government appointed a committee for International Year of the Child?
- (2) (a) If not, is the State Government involved with a Federal committee?
- (b) Who are the State members of this committee?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Obviously the honourable member has given me some notice of the question, because I am able to give the answer which is as follows—

- (1) Cabinet has recently given approval to the setting up of a State committee to oversee the Government's participation in the International Year of the Child. An announcement to this effect will be made shortly.

- (2) (a) The Minister for Community Welfare has been appointed to liaise with the Federal Government committee. Meetings have already taken place on this matter.
- (b) At this stage the final composition of the State committee has not been determined, but I anticipate the membership will include senior officers of those departments which have a direct involvement with children. The non-Government organisations have formed their own committee to co-ordinate their activities in respect of IYC. Formal and close liaison has been established between the non-Government committee and the State committee.

