

Legislative Council

Thursday, 4 July 1985

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (16): ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Acts Amendment and Repeal (Water Authorities) Bill.
2. Health Amendment Bill.
3. Rural Reconstruction and Rural Adjustment Schemes Amendment Bill.
4. Land Tax Assessment Amendment Bill.
5. Bunbury Railway Lands Bill.
6. Strata Titles Bill.
7. Local Government Amendment Bill.
8. Reserves and Land Revestment Bill.
9. Perpetual Trustees W.A. Ltd., Amendment Bill.
10. Supply Bill.
11. Acts Amendment (Strata Titles) Bill.
12. Acts Amendment (Environmental Legislation) Bill.
13. Industrial Relations Amendment Bill.
14. Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreements Bill.
15. Dampier Port Authority Bill.
16. Workers' Compensation and Assistance Amendment Bill.

CRIME: MICKELBERG CASE

Fingerprint: Ministerial Statement

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [2.35 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a ministerial statement in respect of an allegation of fingerprint forgery in the Perth Mint swindle trial.

Leave granted.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON: In October 1984 a legal representative acting on behalf of Raymond and Peter Mickelberg presented to the Premier copies of affidavits of four overseas fingerprint consultants. The affidavits were subsequently made public by the Mickelbergs or persons acting on their behalf.

The affidavits suggested that the fingerprint on the back of one of the cheques used in the Perth Mint swindle trial—a fingerprint then identified as that of the right index finger of Raymond

Mickelberg—was a forgery in that it was made by a silicone replica of Mickelberg's finger and not by his actual finger.

The affidavits had been sworn by four fingerprint consultants with good reputations, and they appeared to substantiate an allegation that the fingerprint on the cheque had been forged.

This was cause for grave concern. It was a most serious allegation which went to the integrity of the Western Australian Police Force.

At the request of the Premier, the Solicitor General was appointed to investigate the matter and report to me. His report has now been received.

In other circumstances, the Government would have preferred to provide full details of the Solicitor General's investigation and findings. There are, however, severe constraints on what can properly be said at this time because there are two civil actions presently before the Supreme Court which relate to this matter and, in addition, there is the possibility of further proceedings before the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Despite these constraints, the nature and implications of the allegations are so serious that the basis of the Government's decision must be made public.

In the course of investigation, which required that an officer of the Solicitor General's office twice travel overseas, opinions were obtained from six independent fingerprint experts.

These experts were provided with much better quality and more extensive materials than the material originally presented to the consultants who had been approached on behalf of the Mickelbergs. The officer also provided the Mickelberg consultants with that better quality material.

One of the four consultants retained by the Mickelbergs originally said that the fingerprint on the cheque was a "forgery of epic proportions". The other three appeared to say that the fingerprint was consistent with being forged by a silicone rubber replica and not consistent with being made by Raymond Mickelberg's finger.

Each one of the four now expresses himself very differently.

Not one of the four Mickelberg consultants now expresses the scientific opinion that the fingerprint is a forgery. At its highest, one says it cannot be determined. Two say that the fingerprint is consistent with being either genuine or a forgery. These also say their original views were misinterpreted. The fourth Mickelberg consultant now says the fingerprint is genuine.

It will be clear that this is a remarkably different position from that originally presented to the Premier and the public.

In the Solicitor General's opinion, had the four experts had proper materials at the beginning, and had their views been accurately and fully communicated in their affidavits, there would not have been justification for the inquiries which followed.

In the event, however, inquiries were made of the leading fingerprint experts of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the United States Secret Service, New Scotland Yard, the British Home Office, and the Victoria Police.

None of these authorities finds any reason to conclude that the fingerprint was forged. They find nothing to suggest that the fingerprint is other than a genuine fingerprint. None agrees with the conclusions in the original four affidavits. Each of the six experts reached his opinion independently and without reference to any of the others.

In addition, we now find that Dr Hilton Kobus, a research scientist who was a Crown witness at the trial and who had been reported in the media as suggesting that the fingerprint was a forgery, was asked to do further work on behalf of the Mickelbergs. He has reported to the Mickelbergs that in his opinion the print is not a forgery.

The Solicitor General reports that the Government may now properly accept the authoritative reassurances it has received that the fingerprint is genuine and indicate that for its purposes it does not accept the allegation that the fingerprint is forged.

On the basis of the Solicitor General's advice, the Government has determined that it should take no further action in this matter. It does not propose to interfere in the legal process to pardon or release either brother or to conduct a public inquiry.

This does not preclude Raymond and Peter Mickelberg from pursuing normal legal remedies available to them. Raymond Mickelberg could, for example, seek leave to appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal if he wished to contend that his fingerprint on the cheque was forged.

Whether the Mickelbergs pursue available legal action is, of course, a matter for their own discretion.

AGRICULTURE: RURAL SECTOR HARDSHIP

Statement by Hon. G. E. Masters

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Leader of the Opposition) [2.40 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to make a statement to the House on rural matters.

Leave granted.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The Government has recalled Parliament for a specific reason today and in doing so has brought back members from all parts of the country and in my own case from the other side of the world. It is a rare occasion to have the Parliament recalled, but it also comes at a time when the most important industry in Western Australia is in a state of absolute crisis and shock. Over recent times farmers, even in good seasons, have been under severe stress with massive cost increases and falling returns. Indeed, many farmers are trying to get out of the farming business and many more are in grave financial difficulties. I now find, on my return from overseas, that there has been little or no rain in some of the major sheep and wheat producing areas this season. I am sure I speak for all members in this House when I say we are deeply worried and greatly concerned at what is likely to be a disaster in Western Australia, with the failure of some of our most important farming areas to produce this season.

In this grave situation not only farmers themselves but also everything they have worked for is put at risk and every man, woman, and child in Western Australia is likely to be affected with job losses and a severely affected economy. In some areas such as the central and the south-east wheat lands which produce about 60 per cent of our harvest return, compared with last year, that return will be down by some 90 per cent. Even if it rained tomorrow many farmers will not now be prepared to turn a wheel or put a crop in, so great is the cost of seeding and so small the return.

We can only hope that those who have gambled by planting a crop will be rewarded by their efforts.

The Opposition makes this statement knowing that we cannot make it rain but at this very special sitting of Parliament we must let the farmers know that our thoughts are with them in their times of great trial.

TRAFFIC: SPEED LIMIT

Mundaring: Petition

The following petition bearing the signatures of 1 005 persons was presented by Hon. G. E. Masters—

To: The Honourable the President and members of the Legislative Council in Parliament Assembled:

We, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia respectfully sheweth that the speed limit on the Great Eastern Highway through the township of Mundaring, which is currently set at 70kph is dangerous and your Petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled, should act to reduce this limit to 60kph as applies in the metropolitan area of Perth, and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(See paper No. 592.)

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES: STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Urban Lands Council: Extension of Time

HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South-East Metropolitan) [2.45 p.m.]: I am directed to report that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies requests that the date fixed for the presentation of its report on the Urban Lands Council be extended from 1 May 1985 to 27 August 1985. I move—

That the report do lie upon the Table and be adopted and agreed to.

Question put and passed.

(See paper No. 593.)

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES: STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Reports

HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South-East Metropolitan) [2.46 p.m.]: I am directed to present the following reports from the Standing Committee on Government Agencies—

The second edition of the committee's second report, which is a revised guide to Government agencies in Western Australia; and

the committee's sixth report, which provides a framework of accountability for Government agencies in Western Australia.

I move—

That the reports do lie upon the Table of the House and be adopted and agreed to.

Question put and passed.

(See paper No. 594.)

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: POVERTY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Select Committee: Extension of Time

HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) [2.47 p.m.]: I am directed to report that the Select Committee inquiring into Aboriginal poverty in Western Australia requests the date fixed for the presentation of its report be extended from 26 June 1985 to 31 October 1985, and I move—

That the report do lie upon the Table and be adopted and agreed to.

Question put and passed.

(See paper No. 595.)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: STANDING COMMITTEES

Select Committee: Extension of Time

HON. J. M. BROWN (South-East) [2.48 p.m.]: I am directed to report that the Select Committee inquiring into the establishment of a Committee system in the Legislative Council requests that the date fixed for presentation of its report be extended from 30 May 1985 to 31 August 1985. I move—

That the report do lie upon the Table of the House and be adopted and agreed to.

Question put and passed.

(See paper No. 596.)

NORTH WEST GAS DEVELOPMENT (WOODSIDE) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.49 p.m.]: I move—

That Standing Orders be suspended so far as to enable the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Amendment Bill to be introduced and passed through all stages during this sitting.

Question put.

The **DEPUTY PRESIDENT** (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth): This motion will require the concurrence of an absolute majority. I have counted the House, and there being no dissentient voice, the motion is agreed to.

Question thus passed.

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Employment and Training), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Employment and Training) [2.51 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to ratify a variation agreement between the State and the joint venturers to the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement to provide for a division of the project into two ventures, the Domgas venture relating to domestic gas sold to SECWA and the LNG venture relating to LNG for export to Japan, and to recognise two separate Domgas and LNG joint venture groups for the subsequent introduction of Mitsui and Mitsubishi (MIMI) into the LNG venture.

Members will note that Mitsui and Mitsubishi are not parties to the variation agreement and that both the Domgas and LNG joint ventures are made up of identical participation. As I will describe later, however, Mitsui and Mitsubishi will enter the project by way of assignment after the Act the subject of this Bill is proclaimed.

It is now appropriate for me to describe the events leading to the proposed restructuring of the project and the Bill before the House.

A memorandum of intent was signed by Japanese buyers to purchase LNG in July 1981. Since that time negotiations have been proceeding to finalise a sales and purchase agreement for liquefied natural gas. In December 1983, Woodside announced a proposed ownership restructuring to provide for six equal partners in the LNG venture which would include ownership of the resource, offshore facilities, and the LNG plant. The ownership of the domestic gas venture would remain unchanged. Mitsui and Mitsubishi were approached to participate in the project as the additional sixth participant to have a one-sixth interest in the LNG venture.

In June 1984, Mitsui and Mitsubishi announced that they had decided to participate in a one-sixth interest in the LNG venture on a 50-50 basis subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with Woodside.

During 1984, extensive negotiations took place with the joint venturers, not only on the splitting of the project into two but also on a plethora of other matters including, most importantly, the change of the plant design from the previously approved water-cooled, steam turbine plant—the so called WLNG scheme—to the air-cooled, gas turbine plant—the YLNG scheme—and the agreement to the non-extraction of liquefied petroleum gas at Karratha. This latter conversion resulted in LPG being available in the Domgas

stream, providing the opportunity for a major new industry, currently being pursued at Kwinana.

In January 1985, State Government approval was given, subject to the acceptance of certain broad principles, to the negotiation of an amendment agreement to the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement to recognise two separate joint venture groups, each with separate responsibility for the Domgas and LNG ventures.

On 10 May this year, the eight Japanese utility companies initialled a contract with the LNG joint venture participants for the sale of LNG to Japan over a 19-year period commencing October 1989 with provision for a further one-year extension subject to availability of reserves. Production of LNG is scheduled to commence at a rate of about two million tonnes per year increasing to the full production level of about six million tonnes by 1995.

The eight Japanese electricity and gas utility companies involved in the LNG contract are as follows—

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, Incorporated

Chubu Electric Power Company, Incorporated

The Kansai Electric Power Company, Incorporated

The Chugoku Electric Power Company, Incorporated

The Kyushu Electric Power Company, Incorporated

Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co. Ltd.

Toho Gas Co. Ltd.

Previous to this, in March 1985, after discussions between the joint venture participants, State and Commonwealth Government representatives and SECWA, certain modifications to the SECWA contract arrangements between SECWA and the joint venturers were agreed in principle and royalty understandings with the Commonwealth were agreed. These understandings were based on binding sales agreements for the export of LNG to the Japanese buyers being signed by mid-1985, such agreements to provide for delivery of LNG by October 1989.

The Western Australian Government also agreed to an extension of the term set out in the schedule to the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Act 1979 to the year 2025.

It is anticipated that all the necessary final documentation, and this is extensive, will soon be

concluded and the LNG venture will then be given the formal go ahead.

The Domgas and LNG venturers will be the responsibility of a different grouping of ownership interests with, as I have mentioned, Mitsui and Mitsubishi to only be a participant in the LNG venture and some of the existing joint venturers to have different percentage interests in the two ventures.

The Domgas venture is made up of the following participation—

Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd.	} Woodside Group	%
Woodside Oil Ltd.		
Mid-Eastern Oil Ltd.		
California Asiatic Oil Company		
BP Developments Australia Ltd.		16.66
Shell Development (Australia) Proprietary Limited		8.33
BHP Petroleum Pty. Ltd.		8.33

Following assignments under the State agreement as amended by the Bill before the House it is proposed that the LNG venture will be owned in six equal shares by the companies involved in the Domgas venture plus Mitsui and Mitsubishi. This LNG venture will therefore comprise the following participation—

Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd	} Woodside Group	%
Woodside Oil Ltd.		
Mid-Eastern Oil Ltd.		
California Asiatic Oil Company		
BP Developments Australia Ltd.		16.66
Shell Development (Australia) Proprietary Limited		16.66
BHP Petroleum Pty. Ltd.		16.66
Japan Australia LNG—MIMI—Pty. Ltd.		16.66

Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty. Ltd. will be the operator for both the Domgas and LNG Ventures.

Members of the House will also recall that during 1985 BHP and Shell Australia made a successful takeover bid for Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd. and as a result increased their combined share holding from 42.7 per cent to over 79 per cent, thereby gaining a controlling interest in that company's interest in the North-West Shelf project.

I turn now to the specific provisions of the variation agreement scheduled to the Bill before the House which are mostly contained in clause 4 of the document.

In the existing agreement, the term "joint venturers" is defined in the last few lines of the first paragraph of the schedule. Clause 4(1) of the vari-

ation agreement deletes these words to allow a wider definition of "joint venturers" to be included in the definitions clause of the variation agreement.

The variation agreement provides in clause 4(2) for additions and variations to the definitions contained in clause 1 of the principal agreement to accommodate the creation of a Domgas venture and an LNG venture and two separate joint venture groups to operate these ventures.

A requirement for information on proposed marketing arrangements for liquefied petroleum gas is added to clause 7(4) of the principal agreement by clause 4(3) of the variation agreement.

Under clause 4(4) of the variation agreement, a new clause 10A is added which specifies the need for additional proposals to define how proposals already approved and new proposals relate to common property, Domgas property and LNG property in terms of the ownership structure and rights and obligations of the Domgas joint venturers and LNG joint venturers for the purposes of the Domgas and LNG ventures.

In respect of port matters, clause 13(12) of the principal agreement is replaced through clause 4(5) of the variation agreement. The new clause specifies that the joint venturers, in connection with their use of the port, shall pay charges pursuant to legislation applicable to the port authority which is currently proposed to be the Dampier Port Authority. Members will be aware that the Dampier Port Authority Bill was passed earlier this year.

Clause 19 of the principal agreement is amended by clause 4(6) of the variation agreement to allow leases to be granted to the Domgas and LNG joint venturers or both of them as the case may require.

Clause 4(7) of the variation agreement relates to assignment and provides a new clause 26. The clause follows the usual form for ratified agreements but it is divided into two parts to recognise the separate Domgas and LNG joint venturers.

The clause permits Domgas joint venturers to assign to each other as of right or to third parties subject to the consent of the Minister responsible for the Act and to the assumption by the other party of the relevant obligations. Similar assignment provisions also apply to the LNG joint venturers.

For each assignment a deed of covenant is required to comply with provisions and obligations, etc., of the joint venture group and speci-

fying proportionate percentages of each—Domgas or LNG— joint venturer in the appropriate venture immediately prior to and on completion of the assignment.

In the case of the Domgas joint venture any assignment shall not take effect—except as otherwise provided—until there is an assignment of a corresponding right in the relevant gas sale agreement with SECWA and the assignee has executed the deed of covenant required by the gas sale agreement to comply with, observe, and perform that agreement.

Provision is made in clause 4(8) of the variation agreement to replace the existing determination clause 30 with a new clause 30 to recognise the two ventures.

The significant point to note is that the new subclause 30(6) states that a determination to the extent that it relates to the Domgas venture shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of the State and the LNG joint venturers in relation to the LNG venture and vice versa in case of a determination of the LNG venture.

The effect of cessation or determination of the agreement is dealt with in clause 4(9) of the variation. Clause 31 of the principal agreement is split to recognise the Domgas venture and the LNG venture and the basic provisions of the existing clause 31 are maintained.

The new clauses 31(1)(a) and 31(1A)(a) amend the existing clause to recognise the Domgas venture and the LNG venture. Clauses 31(2) and 31(3) have been made to apply only to the cessation of the agreement in its entirety in relation to property rights reverting to the State and the removal of fixed and movable equipment with the State's option to purchase such items.

The new clauses 31(4), (4A), (5), and (5A) deal with determination of only one venture and specify except as otherwise determined that all specific joint venture property shall become and remain the absolute property of the State with the State's option to purchase fixed or movable equipment. This maintains the philosophy of the existing clauses 31(2) and (3) for each venture.

New clause 31(6) specifies that upon determination to the extent that it relates to the Domgas venture, the Domgas joint venturers' interest in common property vests in the LNG joint venture together with all obligations and liabilities. This is subject however to the State or its nominee being granted by the LNG joint venturers the right to use common property as would enable the State to receive and process sufficient natural gas required to meet the quantities and rates of withdrawal priorities expressed in articles V and VII of the

SECWA gas sale agreements with the State or its nominee being obligated to pay a reasonable share of operating costs.

Clause 31(6A) expresses a similar philosophy to clause 31(6) with respect to a determination in the LNG joint venture, but with common property being vested in the Domgas joint venturers and with the State's right to use.

Under clause 4(10) of the variation the current indemnity clause 34 of the principal agreement is amended by a new clause 34 to recognise the two separate Domgas and LNG joint venturers.

The existing clause 37(f) which exempts from stamp duty any agreement relating to the sale of natural gas to which SECWA is a party has been broadened by clause 4(11) of the variation to include—

- (i) Each of the heads of agreement dated 3 July 1985 between the respective Domgas joint venturers and the State Energy Commission;
- (ii) the deed of amendment, incremental gas pricing agreement, and Pilbara purchase agreement, to be executed pursuant to each such heads of agreement; and
- (iii) any purchase notice given pursuant to any such Pilbara purchase agreement.

These are documents flowing from the new arrangements between SECWA and the Domgas joint venturers negotiated between the joint venturers and the Minister for Minerals and Energy in February and March this year.

With regard to liability of the joint venturers under the agreement, clause 4(12) of the variation includes a new clause 40 to recognise separate liability of the Domgas joint venturers and the LNG joint venturers.

The marketing authorisation clause 42 of the principal agreement is amended by clause 4(13) of the variation agreement to specify that only Domgas joint venturers are authorised to sell gas to SECWA and subject to gas agreements with SECWA to market gas in the Pilbara to major industrial customers whose annual average consumption exceeds 1.1 million megajoules per day in circumstances where the total demand for gas in the Pilbara exceeds the quantities available to SECWA under such gas agreements for use in the Pilbara. This amendment is consistent with SECWA arrangements with the Domgas joint venturers.

Clause 4(14) of the variation agreement relates gas sales agreements to the Domgas joint venturers only.

A new clause 44A is included by clause 4(15) of the variation agreement which specifies that all joint venturers shall at all times use the onshore facilities to ensure that the priorities and rates of withdrawal provided for or to be agreed or determined pursuant to articles V and VII of the SECWA gas sales agreements are observed.

The term of the agreement has been amended in clause 4(16) of the variation agreement which replaces the current term clause 46 with a new clause which extends the term of the agreement from 2010 to 2025 and recognises the two separate Domgas and LNG joint venture groups.

An additional clause 46(1)(a) provides that the joint venturers shall keep the Minister responsible for the Act informed of their intended arrangements for the utilisation of natural gas processed through the onshore facilities during the years 2010 through 2025 and before entering into any arrangements for the sale, use, supply, or export of such natural gas during those years shall consult and reach agreement with the Minister on the requirements in the State and the manner in which they will be met during those years having regard to requirements for natural gas which the joint venturers could make available on arms' length commercial terms.

Clause 5 of the variation agreement provides a standard clause to the effect that the State will refund any stamp duty paid before ratification of the variation agreement that is eligible for exemption under clause 37 as amended by the variation agreement. To this date I understand no stamp duty has been paid.

The Bill before the House provides that the Act is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. This is required to ensure that all documents relating to the restructuring of joint venturer interests and obligations with SECWA and between themselves together with the variation agreement are brought into existence at the same time.

Members will, I believe, see the matters addressed herein as a major move towards realisation of a project of considerable benefit to the State.

Over the 15 years construction period, some \$8.5 billion will be expended of which sum, on the figures achieved in the Domgas construction period, over 60 per cent could be expected to be spent in Western Australia on contracts won by local firms and industries. At the peak of construction activity, in 1987 and 1988 a work force of some 5 000 will be employed and this will require construction of more than 300 houses and units in Karratha.

The major components of the LNG phase will be the YLNG plant, LNG storage tanks, and the LNG product loading jetty, two additional offshore production facilities, Goodwyn and Rankin B, interconnecting pipelines and supporting infrastructure and a fleet of seven LNG carriers.

The plant will be the eleventh base-load LNG plant built in the world, and the first in Australia. It will also be the only baseload LNG plant in the world to date to utilise the combination of air cooling instead of water cooling and gas turbines instead of steam turbines.

The variation agreement deserves the support of Parliament and I commend the Bill to the House.

HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) [3.08 p.m.]: From the outset I indicate that the Opposition agrees with the legislation. We understand and accept the reasons that it was necessary for Parliament to be recalled for a one-day sitting to discuss and deliberate upon this legislation.

We thank the Minister, Mr Parker, for providing us with a copy of the agreement and briefing notes and also for arranging a briefing session for members of the Opposition during the week to enable us to have a better understanding of the consequences and impact of this legislation.

The Bill before the House seeks to ratify a variation to the agreement between the State and the joint venturers in the North-West Shelf gas project, a variation to the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Act. The agreement was first ratified by this Parliament in 1979 and it set in place the beginning of the development of the North-West Shelf gas field. Since that time we have come to marvel at the magnitude and extent of the project. It has been an enormous project involving many hundreds of millions of dollars and the employment of many thousands of people.

It has been a massive project, one of which the people of WA can be very proud. It has in its time provided an enormous boost to the economy of this State and this ratification of a variation to the agreement is part of the continuation of that project, one which will continue to provide a tremendous contribution to the economy of WA.

The Bill seeks basically to alter the agreement so that the project can be divided into two ventures: Firstly the Domgas venture, which relates essentially to the provision of gas to the SEC, and secondly the LNG venture, which relates to the export of LNG to Japan. The first venture is in place and the second venture is in the process of being put in place.

The division into two venture groups will also allow for a rearrangement and restructuring of the

equity of the various partners in the joint ventures and will allow for the entry of Mitsui and Mitsubishi, to be known as MIMI, into the LNG venture.

The rest of the variation included in the Bill contains a number of other amendments to the agreement, including an extension of the term of the agreement until the year 2025, an extension of 15 years. A variety of other amendments are included relating to a host of what could be seen in a sense as minor amendments but which of course are very important in the overall context of the agreement.

The Opposition has studied these amendments and can find no argument concerning their merits or necessity in the context of these rearrangements. We believe that the participants in what will be in a sense the two joint ventures are to be commended, not just on their activities to date, but also on their future activities which relate to this Bill.

This is a magnificent resource development and the companies concerned deserve to be commended for taking the risks they have and spending the enormous amounts of capital that have been required.

This Bill is part of the documentation which, hopefully, will lead to the project achieving its full potential, so we commend the Government for carrying on the good work of the previous Government. I remember listening to the debate in 1979 and I have re-read the speeches recently. It is a project on which there was consensus between both sides of the House, and again today both sides agree with the amendment before the House. Projects of this magnitude particularly deserve bipartisan support. Companies spending the sort of money these companies are spending deserve to know that political changes in the future will not adversely affect their investments. When Mr Dans spoke in 1979 he referred to that aspect of the Bill presented at the time. In that context it is worth mentioning that this second phase of the project would not be going ahead had not the first phase been put into place, and I refer to the domestic gas aspect of the project.

In recent times we have seen quite a deal of argument in the Press about the merits or otherwise of the agreement related to the selling of gas to the SEC. It should be noted that without that aspect of the project getting off the ground, without the sale of gas to the SEC and without the building of the gas pipeline to the south-west, we would not be here today and there would be no need to ratify this variation to the agreement because there would not be any activity in the future.

In other words, what we are hoping to achieve with this legislation is able to go ahead only because of what has been done in the past. It would be a good thing if we could see an end to the political point scoring associated with the question of the supply of gas to the SEC, because the whole project needs to be seen in the one context, as a project which has provided enormous benefit to the State.

Naturally the project has had its hiccups just as there will be difficulties with this new agreement down the track as the energy requirements of the world change. We must accept that there will be changes and that changes could well be necessary to the agreement in the future. So it would be worthwhile if both sides of the political spectrum approached these projects with a broader view rather than attacking certain aspects of them.

We commend the Government for continuing the work of the previous Government and we commend the joint venturers for their foresight and willingness to invest huge sums of money in the Western Australian economy. For those reasons we support the legislation.

HON. TOM KNIGHT (South) [3.16 p.m.]: I support the statements just made by my colleague Hon. Norman Moore, and I also wish to congratulate the participants in this magnificent project, which is certainly going to mean a lot to Western Australia.

I was one of the four Opposition members who attended the briefing arranged by the Minister to explain what was involved and to have a look at the Bill to be presented to the House. I fully support what is being done, but I do have some questions to raise.

Listening to the Minister's second reading speech and noting what was in the agreement to be signed I observed a difference in the percentages of shareholdings of the Domgas joint venturers and the percentages of shareholdings of the LNG joint venturers, compared with the percentages in the agreement I was handed by the Minister at the briefing last week. The information given to us by the Minister today indicates that for the Domgas phase, Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd., Woodside Oil Ltd. and Mid-Eastern Oil Ltd. have 50 per cent of the shareholding. California Asiatic Oil Company has 16-2/3 per cent, BP Developments Australia Ltd. has 16-2/3, Shell Development (Australia) has 8-1/3, and BHP has 8-1/3. However, on looking at the agreement I was handed last week—

Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you talking about the document attached to the Bill?

Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I am talking about the document the Minister gave us last week which gave the percentage holdings of the shares related to the agreement to be signed. While the Minister was reading his speech I picked up the fact that there was a big difference between what he was saying and information contained in the document I was given in the Minister's office. I want to know why there has been a change in the percentages of the shareholdings in four or five days leading up to today. I am raising the matter because I do not know why there is this variation. The agreement has been brought to this House to be scrutinised to ensure that what the Government is doing is in the best interests of the State. It is important that this document be ratified and also that we fully understand what it means. I have noted these differences in shareholdings.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you looking at page 9 or 10 of the second reading speech?

Hon. TOM KNIGHT: At page 9 for Domgas and then page 5 of the agreement. The agreement indicates the official percentage of each interest in the Domgas venture. But the information given is at variance with the information on page 9 of the Minister's speech.

I can then turn to page 10 of the Minister's address and page 6 of the agreement and find a further variation. In fact, in the agreement to be signed I find an additional name of Japan (Australia) LNG Ltd. which is to have a holding of 16-2/3 per cent. That company is not mentioned in the document I was given last week.

I refer now to the percentages involved in the LNG joint venture. In the Minister's speech he said that Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd., Woodside Oil Ltd., (Woodoil), and Mid-Eastern Oil are shown as holding 16-2/3 per cent whereas in the Bill, Woodside Petroleum Development holds 16-2/3 per cent, Woodoil holds 25 per cent, and Mid-Eastern holds 8-1/3 per cent. When one adds them up one sees that that comes to more than 16-2/3 per cent. Calasiatic is shown as holding 16-2/3 per cent in both the Bill and the Minister's speech. BPDAL holds 16-2/3 per cent, but BHP Petroleum has 8-1/3 per cent in the agreement and 16-2/3 per cent in the other document. Shell Development (Australia) Pty. Ltd. is shown in the speech as holding 16-2/3 per cent and in the agreement as 8-1/3 per cent.

There are vast differences in the figures contained in the agreement, which the Government will be signing, and those in the Minister's second reading speech. That is why I am querying them. This document was handed to me by the Minister and there are vast differences in the fig-

ures contained here and those in the speech the Minister read. I could go on but I am sure the Minister will check the matter out before the Committee stage.

I want to know the answer because I asked a lot of questions during discussions in the Minister's office and I was given satisfactory answers. I am here today to fully support the Bill, but when I see differences between the agreement given to me by the Minister who will be handling this matter and those referred to by the Minister handling the Bill, I believe we should have an explanation before we go further. I fully support the Bill if those matters can be explained satisfactorily.

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Employment and Training) [3.22 p.m.]: I thank members for their support of the legislation. I do not intend to take up Hon. Norman Moore's invitation to comment about any aspects of the evaluation one might wish to make about decisions at earlier times.

In answer to Hon. Tom Knight I point out that the Japan-Australia group is in fact the MIM group which will come in as a party holding 16-2/3 per cent by an assignment to take effect after proclamation of the Act. The percentages of the LNG joint venturers will change by assignment following passage of the Bill and proclamation of the Act.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Hon. Robert Hetherington) in the Chair; Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Employment and Training) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: Schedule 2 added—

Hon. TOM KNIGHT: As I pointed out before, I have before me the agreement which will be signed and it carries the name of the signatories on the back. This is the document which will finalise the deal and yet the figures vary from those in the Minister's second reading speech. I have only just noticed that the figures in the agreement also differ from those in the Bill before the Chamber. It is really not good enough to say that the percentages will be changed by the signing of the agreement. I want to know why the Minister gave us figures which are contrary to those in the agreement being signed by the Government on behalf of all Western Australians.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I ask Hon. Tom Knight to compare the page in the document

which he says was given to him at a briefing with page 6 of the Bill and confirm that the definition of Domgas joint venturers on that page is the same as in the document to which he is referring.

Hon. TOM KNIGHT: There is no difference between the contents of page 6 of the Bill and those of page 5 of the agreement handed to me by the Minister in control of the project. I ask why the Minister changed the figures in the second reading speech. They are totally different, and the Minister must admit that because the documents are before the Chamber. He will see that page 6 of the Bill and page 9 of his speech show vastly different figures.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: The contents of page 6 of the Bill are the same as the contents of page 5 of the agreement, and they are the same as those on page 9 of the second reading speech. If the member looks at page 6 of the Bill he will see that Calasiatic, which is the same as California Asiatic Oil Company, holds 16-2/3 per cent.

The initial percentage interest of British Petroleum Developments Australia Ltd., BPDAL, is 16-2/3 per cent. That figure is the same as the figure appearing in the second reading speech. BHP Petroleum's initial percentage interest totals 8-1/3 per cent. That figure is the same as the figure which appears in the Bill and in the second reading speech. SDA, which is Shell Development Australia Pty. Ltd., has an 8-1/3 initial percentage interest, which is the same as the figure appearing in the Bill and the second reading speech. The initial percentage interest of Mid-Eastern Oil Ltd. is 8-1/3 per cent; and Woodoil, which is Woodside Oil Ltd., and WPD, which is Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd., together with the initial percentage interest of Mid-Eastern, hold a 50 per cent interest, which is the same as the figure appearing in the Bill and the second reading speech.

Hon. Tom Knight: I was referring to page 7 of the Bill, page 10 of the second reading speech, and page 6 of the agreement.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: The figures appearing on those pages are the same. It is the second reading speech that is different and that seems to be the matter for concern. Page 9 of the second reading speech states—

Following assignments under the State agreement as amended by the Bill before the House it is proposed that the LNG venture will be owned in six equal shares by the companies involved in the Domgas venture plus Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

In other words, once the agreement is ratified by this Chamber, the entitlements that are set out on

page 7 of the agreement which are also contained in page 7 of the Bill, will alter and end up in the ownership proportions set out in page 10 of the second reading speech. However, that will not occur and cannot occur until the agreement is ratified. The agreement is in terms of the structure set out in page 7 and, as members will note, the percentages specified are initial percentage interests. If members look at page 7 of the agreement they will see that "LNG Joint Venturers" means those holding the initial percentage interest in the LNG venture set out in the figures opposite the names of the joint venturers. For the purpose of ratification, each will hold the initial interest.

After the agreement is ratified a new structure will come into force which is set out on page 10 of the second reading speech and which involves MIMI.

Hon. TOM KNIGHT: I did not understand those figures in the beginning. It is the Minister's job to explain such things to us. Sometimes it is misleading having a second reading speech which does not line up with the Bill and which does not line up with the agreement being signed. It is our job to question those discrepancies. The matters have now been clarified.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Employment and Training), and passed.

Sitting suspended from 3.38 to 4.00 p.m.

[Questions taken.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date to be fixed by the President.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: ORDINARY

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mitchell Freeway: Industrial Estate Signs

HON. P. H. WELLS (North Metropolitan) [4.32 p.m.]: The House should not adjourn until I raise a couple of points which are of concern to my electorate.

The Government appears to have become pre-occupied with millions of dollars while it rides roughshod over small businessmen. In August 1984 on behalf of the Osborne Park Businessmen's Association I raised a question in this House concerning the establishment of a sign on the Mitchell Freeway to identify the Osborne Park and Balcatta industrial centres. Despite two years' negotiation in respect of this request and the fact that the sign would cost \$850, and after two questions to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport, I was told that the Main Roads Department would accede to the request to have the sign erected on the freeway. The sign was important to those industrial centres.

One of the reasons the request was raised was that an Eastern States firm was interested in establishing its business on a site at Osborne Park and had agreed to meet with a Western Australian person who was willing to represent that company at that site. However, the representative from the Eastern States firm did not arrive at the site and following a telephone call to him at the hotel in which he was staying it was found that he had lost his way and was unable to find the site. As a result the Eastern States company said that it was not prepared to establish a branch of its business on a site and in an area which is so poorly marked.

This incident incensed the Osborne Park businessmen because they could see that they were losing business. As a result of a question which I asked in this House in August 1984 the Minister for Planning indicated that the Main Roads Department would be happy to erect and pay for the signs.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: What date was that?

Hon. P. H. WELLS: I first raised the matter in question 100 on 16 August 1984 and again on 22 August 1984 in question 135. I asked the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Transport the following question—

Further to my question 100 of Thursday, 16 August 1984, will the Minister review the decision made by the Main Roads Department in that a charge be made for signs erected on the Mitchell Freeway to identify the exits to Osborne Park and Balcatta industrial areas?

The Minister replied as follows—

Yes, I have reviewed the decision and as the signs are acceptable and general in their

message, the Main Roads Department will meet the full cost.

It is disgusting to find nine months later that the erection of a small sign which will cost only \$850 has not been carried out. Apparently the Main Roads Department wants the sign erected at an intersection and the City of Stirling does not agree with this. The Australian standards state that such a sign should be erected well before the turn-off from the freeway. What horrifies me is that an article which appeared in the *West Advertiser* was headed, "Sign still in doubt" and stated that Mr Grill said that he could not recall making such a promise. The Minister for Transport gave an undertaking in this Parliament to have the sign erected.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: It means nothing to those people.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: The Government is quibbling about the erection of a small sign costing \$850 for a group of small businessmen, yet it states that it is supporting the small businessmen. It would have been a simple matter for the Main Roads Department to erect the sign. I suggest that the Government is not interested in the people of Osborne Park—

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: The Government has ignored the need for a \$850 sign for which the Minister gave an undertaking in this Parliament.

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: **Hon. Graham Edwards** has raised an issue concerning the City of Stirling. I have spoken to the City of Stirling and the position is that the Main Roads Department wants to erect a sign on an intersection of the freeway. The council has some objections to the proposal, as it considers the placement of the sign to be unsafe.

The Australian standards for roads indicate that signs on freeways should be placed in a position which will enable people travelling on the freeway to act with safety.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Especially if they are travelling fast!

Hon. P. H. WELLS: If the sign were erected at the intersection it would not be safe for people to drive their cars across two lanes of traffic in order to make an exit from the freeway. It would constitute a traffic hazard. It appears that the Government has not been able to resolve a small matter involving a \$850 sign. I call for some action on behalf of those people who have been screaming for two to three years about a problem which exists in their area.

Crime: Scarborough Area

The second area of concern I have relates to a letter I received from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services following an acknowledgment in this House of the increase in crime in the area under the control of the Scarborough Police Station. The Minister also said that there was an increase in crime throughout the metropolitan area. I take this statement as an admission that we have problems in terms of law and order and that the Government is unable to handle the rising crime rate.

I call upon the Government to bring forward the establishment of the Joondalup complex especially because of the rapid growth in population in that area. I understand that there has been a 300 per cent increase in the growth of the Wanneroo Shire and it has stretched the resources in terms of the availability of police in the northern suburbs.

The recent experiment of introducing 35 extra policemen to the Warwick Police Station to carry out only foot patrols has been successful and there has been a 300 per cent increase in the number of crimes that have been reported. This is an indication that such an increase in manpower has had results. The northern suburbs have had the greatest growth rate in the metropolitan area.

Hon. Graham Edwards: And you had to get into Opposition to find that out.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: I have argued that since I have been a backbench member of this House. I represent the area and I wish to ensure that it obtains the proper resources regardless of the Government of the day.

I draw the attention of members to the fact that the Government has identified that the increase of manpower by 35 in one police station has paid dividends. The northern areas are urgently in need of the establishment of the planned complex which is to be based at Joondalup.

Hon. Graham Edwards: It is in the metropolitan area, not in the north.

Hon. P. H. WELLS: It happens to be in the North Metropolitan Province which I represent.

Both this Government and the previous Government planned a police complex and courthouse in Joondalup. There is an urgent need for the Government to establish a police presence in that area which would provide people with access to such services in order to obviate the necessity for them to travel great distances to Warwick. The Government should give consideration to the temporary establishment of a police station at the Whitford shopping centre or somewhere close to that area so that people do not have to travel great

distances in order to have direct access to a police station.

A police station has been established at Wanneroo, but it and the Scarborough police station are police stations of the old type, whereas Warwick is a station with a new approach of providing a 24-hour service. I believe it has been a tremendous success and the next planned facility happens to be a station for Joondalup. The report on the Warwick Police Station in terms of the Government's present experiment of having 35 policemen stationed there indicates that there is a great need for the establishment of a police presence in the northern areas of the metropolitan area.

Industrial Disputes: Perth Airport

The third area I raise will be of particular interest to the Minister for Industrial Relations. I am concerned about reports of industrial strife at the airport. I am told that there have been disputes on 150 days of a 300-day contract and that it is unlikely that at the present rate the work will be completed in time for the America's Cup. That would bring shame on this State. Members of both sides have pointed to the need for that work at the airport, but it has been hampered by strikes. If we do not find some way to overcome such problems we will advertise to the world how badly we handle industrial relations in this State.

Taxes and Charges: Government Promises

HON. NEIL OLIVER (West) [4.42 p.m.]: I bring two matters to the attention of the House. They are of an urgent nature. They concern in the first instance a very serious breach of promises made by this Government prior to its election and after its election, and, further to that, its misleading and false misrepresentations in advertisements placed in the Press and radio. The first matter that prompted me to rise in this adjournment debate was the fact that there was a previous event of a similar nature. This House was brought together on that occasion to sit on one day. In actual fact, we sat on two days because the Burke Government had just assumed office and it was therefore necessary for His Excellency, the Governor, to attend the House officially to open the Parliament. On that occasion we received the Governor's Address and Mr Bob Hetherington's No. 1 speech on electoral reform.

I note that we will adjourn again today leaving on the Notice Paper item No. 9, the Fair Representation in the Legislative Council Bill which was introduced but which will lie on the Notice Paper and will drop off it when the Parliament is prorogued.

I bring to the attention of the House the promises regarding petrol prices, because on 23 March, following the opening of Parliament on 22 March, this House sat for the purpose of debating a Bill called the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill. We all know that the particular Bill was directed basically at fuel prices in Western Australia and we were told so in the second reading speeches of the Ministers in both Houses. The Bill was brought forward as a result of the promises made by the Premier of Western Australia, Mr Brian Burke, who was quoted in the *Geraldton Guardian* of 28 September 1982 as saying—

A further rise in State Fuel Tax would be just about a financial last resort as far as a Labor Government is concerned . . .

He was then quoted in an election advertisement in *The West Australian* of 3 January 1983 as saying—

Help us uncover unfair price rises . . .

These are some of the areas which need particular attention . . . State Petrol Tax.

The ALP State platform of 1982 had Labor promising to—

. . . investigate the most equitable system of road funding with a view to the possible abolition of the State Fuel Tax levy.

There is not much to be said for all those promises, because nothing has happened except that excises have gone up and the price of petrol has gone up. Before the last State election Mr Burke also said—

Labor will stop the petrol price spiral . . .

He said also that Labor would—

. . . implement a comprehensive fuel policy to reduce country fuel costs.

I bring this rhetoric to the attention of the House and point out exactly what has happened. We have had a rise of 31 per cent in fuel prices in the metropolitan area as of today and a rise of 29 per cent in country centres. In Canberra this week Mr Burke issued a paper on fuel prices, which was circulated at the tax summit or "tax fraud", as Mr John Stone called it. He circulated the paper as a last ditch attempt to curry favour with the rural community. The rural community on Monday showed us in Perth and in Canberra just what it thinks of the broken pre-election promises and the performance of the Burke Labor Government.

Hon. Mark Nevill: By how much has the State levy gone up in the last three years? Tell us that.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: In answer, I will just cover the State fuel franchise. I will give only the proportional increase. Between 1982-83 and 1984-

85 the State petrol franchise increased by 17.3 per cent. The diesel franchise increased by 16.2 per cent. Incidentally, I point out for the benefit of members, so that they can gauge the extent of those increases, that the Consumer Price Index in Perth moved up 8.6 per cent.

Hon. Peter Dowding: How many cents?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: It is interesting that we get these interjections, because we now have a Government running scared. The Government is frightened. One would almost think that we had an election campaign on our hands. I will be only too happy at any time to quote facts in this House. A heading in *The West Australian* of Tuesday, 21 July 1983 reads, "Everyone benefits from lower State Government charges". The 30 June edition of the *Sunday Times* ran the same advertisement heading. At the bottom of that advertisement is a photograph of Brian Burke. The advertisement also refers to Brian Burke's team "Working for the West". I do not know where they are working because they seem to be working against the West. If that is to be the slogan it should be changed to "Working against the West". Advertisements of that nature have appeared *ad infinitum*. In the *Wanneroo Times* of 2 July the same advertisement heading appears, namely, "Everyone benefits from lower State Government charges". Members may believe it or not, but that advertisement has Jackie Watkins and Brian Burke "working together" for Joondalup. They are working together for Joondalup; they are not working against it and they are not working for it; they are working together. That is a good sign!

In my opinion all this is false advertising and misrepresentation being placed before the people of Western Australia. If this is the way the Government intends to carry on I point out to the Government that the public are not fools. The Government seems to think that Western Australians are a mob of idiots.

Obviously the Government has not managed to get the results of its polls in order, or perhaps it has and that is the reason for its trying to mislead the people by way of false and misleading advertising. We have a Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act, and in part III dealing with false advertisements, section 8(1g) . . . reads as follows—

a statement shall be taken to be a false representation if it is false, or deceives, or if it or any information thereby provided is materially inaccurate . . .

I put it to members that this material to which I have referred is inaccurate and the information contained in it is false. I will explain all this to the House.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Why not prove it to the House?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Subparagraph (b) reads as follows—

(b) "materially inaccurate", in relation to any information, means—

(i) inaccurate; or

(ii) misleading or likely to mislead,

in a material respect and to a material degree by reason of anything contained therein or omitted therefrom.

Let us have a look at these advertisements.

Hon. D. K. Dans: They seem to worry you.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Not at all. If the Labor Party wants to keep on with them I am very happy for it to do so. However, the person organising these advertisements has not done his research properly. Members opposite should establish who is responsible for them and get onto his back straightaway. At first I thought perhaps I should not alert the Government to the falseness of these advertisements and to the fact that it obviously does not know what is happening in WA. However, it is a responsibility of a member of Parliament that if he is aware of false and misleading advertising—and we have also had all this consistently over the radio—he should bring this to the attention of the Parliament.

The next thing is this.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: You have not proved the last thing yet.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: As an example of this Government's charges, I indicate that were this matter to have been brought before the Small Claims Tribunal, perhaps because the advertisements were lodged by a small business retailer, the fee charged for doing so would have been found to have risen by 109 per cent under the actions of this Government.

Hon. Peter Dowding: How much is that in dollar terms?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Obviously I have touched on a very sore nerve. A moment ago Government members were wandering out of the Chamber because they were uninterested in proceedings. That has now stopped.

I remind members that these increases have occurred over a period when the CPI increase was 8.6 per cent. Of course, we are told that there have been no increases in Government charges.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Talk about being misleading!

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: On 24 April, this Parliament passed a Supply Bill for an amount of \$1 700

million, which represented an increase of over \$300 million on the Supply Bill for the financial year 1983-84. It was greater than the entire Supply Bill for the Government in 1974.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: What does that show?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: It was an increase of over 20 per cent on the previous Supply Bill and it shows that another \$300 million-plus has to come from somewhere, although we have read in the Press that there will be no substantial increases in charges. Nevertheless the Government is to have a further \$300 million to spend. The figures do not add up.

The only conclusion I can draw is that Government members must be holding a competition at colouring in false \$50 bills copied on their Canon photocopiers. I say this because on the one hand we are told charges are to be kept low while on the other hand we are told there is to be an increase of \$300 million in revenue to the Government.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: But you are not comparing comparable matters.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: The Minister for Budget Management is trying to confuse charges with taxes. What he is saying is that over the last three years there have been few increases in charges. However, the tobacco tax brought in \$50 million to the Government. Heaven knows what FID provided. Perhaps the Minister will interject to tell me how much the Government picked up from its stamp duty on increased charges relating to the transfer of vehicles. Could he tell me anything the Government has not increased?

Let me provide him with this information about increases that occurred between July 1983 and July 1985, just two years: In July 1983 water charges went up by 16 per cent, SEC charges went up by 15 per cent, country sewerage charges increased by 20 per cent, country drainage charges increased by 18 per cent, hospital charges rose by 19 per cent, gas charges rose in some cases by 100 per cent and various motor vehicle registration fees increased by 63 per cent. Various business fees for starting businesses also went up, as did departmental charges of all sorts, by as much as 40 per cent.

So what is it all about? I have also taken out figures for increased charges which were announced last year and which averaged four per cent. I found indications of further charges in the Press advertisements and in a detailed statement by the Premier covering perhaps 20 pages. It appears that this year charges are to increase by about 3.5 per cent.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Half the rate of inflation.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: I remind members that the first increase by this Government in water charges was 16 per cent, to which can be added the charges for the period ending July 1984, which came to four per cent. Added to that is the 3.5 per cent for this year, giving a total 23.5 per cent increase.

I have adjusted these figures to January 1983 because the Burke Government came to office in February of that year. The CPI increase for that period is 8.6 per cent for all groups. Compared with that there has been a total increase of 23.5 per cent in water charges; 23 per cent in SEC charges; 28 per cent in country sewerage charges; country drainage, 25.5 per cent; and hospital charges have increased by 28 per cent. So it goes on. Therefore this advertising is false and misleading; it is designed to mislead the people of Western Australia. It is an attempt to buy their votes with false information in a way that no business in Western Australia could possibly do. That business would lose its credibility and would have to close its doors.

It takes a Government like this with no ethics to be prepared to make false and misleading statements. The people of Western Australia know that Labor Governments—past and present—have a record of spending more than they earn. They also have a record of telling us about growth. The people of Western Australia know that that growth is unreal and merely pie in the sky.

The people of this State know that Australia is being kept afloat by a balloon of borrowings. The Government should not try to kid them about it. The people of Western Australia are basic and understand the position. The plunging dollar mirrors what the world thinks of this country today. We have never before seen the Australia dollar as low as it is today, and the blame rests with the Labor Government. The cause is industrial disruption and unreal costs which have undermined our export markets and worsened our balance of payments.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publication No. 5301-0, May 1985, contains table 1 on page 5 showing the balance of payments for the 11 months ended May 1984 and 1985. The deficit on the current account is shown as \$6.6 billion. We are running into difficult times. By May 1985 that figure had exceeded \$10 billion. These figures speak for themselves.

This Government with its false and misleading advertisements has continued to spend and tax and attempted to use the newspapers to get its false message across. It has to advertise in the news-

papers because I am sure it would not hookwink reputable journalists.

This is the state of the country: Taxes in this country have increased more than four-fold and the Government's outlays have increased nine-fold. Every tax dollar is boosted by an extra 30c taken from the taxpayer's pocket in real terms. Personal tax on average incomes is 25c in the dollar and if one does any extra work—if one wants to work a little harder—the rate is 47c in the dollar. That certainly does not give anyone an incentive to make an effort. Real interest rates in Australia are at a 100-year high. They are currently amongst the highest in the world. In addition, our secondary industry is fading; its output is no higher than 10 years ago. On Monday we saw farmers marching on Parliament Houses in Perth and Canberra because they are sandwiched between low returns and mounting costs.

We are running in very dangerous times, but the Government will not face up to the fact and give leadership. The Government will not accept its responsibility. It has resorted to false and misleading statements to justify its actions.

Parliamentary Sitting

HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [5.07 p.m.]: I find it quite remarkable that Parliament should be called together for a brief session today. I do not deny the right of the Government to call Parliament together; I applaud it for that, but I object to the brevity of the sitting. We were called to deal with one small though important piece of legislation which had to be ratified by Parliament. It seems that when this Parliament comes together the Government is only too happy to get out as quickly as it enters.

Parliament will not reassemble until the official opening of the next session on 15 August, approximately two weeks later than the normal opening time for the spring session. It seems to me the Government is running scared of the Parliament and of Opposition scrutiny of its actions. Therefore, it needs to be censured severely today for not proceeding with the Notice Paper. We might as well not have had a Notice Paper; not one item on it has been dealt with. It is not the fault of the Opposition. The Government is in charge of the business of the House and the Notice Paper. What sort of charade is this Government? What sort of Parliament is it which cannot deal with items on the Notice Paper?

Some items are extremely important, and some have been here for many months. I refer to the Community Justice Centres (Pilot Project) Bill introduced by Hon. P. H. Wells, and the Contracts of Employment Bill, introduced by Hon. G.

E. Masters. The latter is a very important piece of legislation which the community is crying out to have debated and perhaps implemented. Yet this Parliament has not had the opportunity to thoroughly debate the measure. It is criminal that Parliament can meet briefly for a few hours and not deal with issues such as this.

I refer now to a social issue—the Tobacco (Promotion and Sale to Young Persons) Bill which was also introduced by Hon. P. H. Wells. It has been on the Notice Paper for months, but the Government has not had the courage to deal with the issue. About 18 months or two years ago the Government brought in a Bill to deal with smoking and tobacco. Ministers thumped the table and held the House to ransom and said that they would deal with the Opposition if it did certain things.

This House dealt with that Bill; yet when another Bill is introduced on the same subject, the Government runs scared and will not debate it. What sort of stomach have Government members for governing our State? This is scandalous. The Government will not shape up to its responsibilities.

Rural Sector Hardship

Another matter which is more important than anything else on the Notice Paper is the motion dealing with rural hardship. If ever there was an issue that concerned people right across Australia it is this issue. It concerns the plight of people associated with rural industries, be they farmers, pastoralists, businessmen, local communities, schoolteachers, hospital employees, storekeepers, or school-bus drivers. All rural people are affected by this matter.

This Parliament has come together for a few hours today and will not even discuss the problems facing rural people. It is a scandalous situation. It has had ample warning about the feelings of country people because, only a few weeks ago, there occurred outside this Parliament one of the biggest gatherings of people ever to assemble before Parliament. The same sorts of people have gathered in every State of Australia for the same reasons, yet this Government has called this Parliament together today and is not willing to say one word about the plight of the rural industries. I believe that the Government knows it is on the skids and has not got the stomach to face the people on these issues. I hope this House will support my protest about the way the Government has mishandled the business of this House and insulted the people of Western Australia through its lack of responsibility in facing these issues.

Taxes and Charges: Advertisements

HON. FRED McKENZIE (North-East Metropolitan) [5.14 p.m.]: I refute the statements made by Hon. Neil Oliver. I do not know where he got his figures from. How can he produce up-to-date figures in relation to the advertisement when the Government announced the increase in Government charges only last week? I do not know why the member continues to lead with his chin. He has said that the advertisements are false and misleading. That staggers me because no-one else has claimed that the advertisements are false and misleading.

As a result of the increase in Government charges, consumers will receive special assistance worth more than \$110 million under the package of State Government charges. The assistance comprises benefits worth more than \$60 million on State Energy Commission charges and more than \$50 million on water, sewerage, drainage, and irrigation charges. That surely indicates that we have concern for country people and are doing something to help them.

Let us consider the current position in relation to charges.

Hon. Neil Oliver: You mean now, in your period of Government?

HON. FRED McKENZIE: This year. I can give those figures, too. I have pages and pages of figures to present to the House. There was no increase in the State fuel tax on petrol. State fuel taxes on diesel did not increase, nor did the cost of motor vehicle licences. There was no increase in the cost of compulsory third party insurance, as there was no increase in Westrail bus and train fares. There was an increase of 3.8 per cent for electricity and an increase of 2.9 per cent for domestic water users. There was a 2.9 per cent increase for sewerage charges, a 2.9 per cent increase for drainage charges, a 2.9 per cent increase for irrigation charges, and a 3.9 per cent increase in State Housing Commission charges; but no increase for age pensioners.

Let us compare those figures with the figures for a similar period in the time of the Court-O'Connor Governments. Between the financial years 1980-81 and 1982-83 domestic electricity charges rose by 50 per cent.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Did you say 50 per cent?

HON. FRED McKENZIE: I said 50 per cent. Do members want to know what was the increase under the Burke Government for a similar period? Domestic electricity charges rose by 23.8 per cent. How can Mr Oliver say that the advertisement was false and misleading? Under the Court and O'Connor Governments for that same period, 1980-81 to 1982-83, gas charges increased by 58.2

per cent and, for a similar period under the Burke Government, those charges increased by 24.7 per cent.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Make sure that the comparisons are over a three-year period.

Hon. FRED McKENZIE: The comparisons are made over a similar period. I am referring to the last three years of the Court-O'Connor Government and the first three years of the Burke Government. Metropolitan domestic water charges rose by 90 per cent under the Court and O'Connor Government and by 10.5 per cent under the Burke Government. Here I refer to the fixed charge.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: Over how many years of the Court-O'Connor Governments are you making the comparison?

Hon. FRED McKENZIE: I am referring to the period 1980-81 to 1982-83. In comparison I am referring to the period of the Burke Government from 1983-84 to 1985-86, so the figures are being compared over a similar three-year period. Under the Court-O'Connor Governments the charges for domestic sewerage increased by 90 per cent and by 16.6 per cent under the Burke Government. Metropolitan drainage charges increased by 21 per cent under the Court-O'Connor Governments and by 10.3 per cent under the Burke Government. Country domestic water charges increased by 110 per cent under the Court-O'Connor Governments and by 24 per cent under the Burke Government. State Housing Commission rents rose by 41.4 per cent as against 18.6 per cent.

Let us now consider the State fuel tax. Much play was made about those figures. I think the total increase amounted to 0.17c a litre. That is the great increase referred to by members opposite. Let us consider the increase in State fuel tax under the Court-O'Connor Governments: They increased the tax by 105 per cent.

The increase under the Burke Government was 17.3 per cent.

I refer now to diesel tax. The State Fuel tax for diesel increased by 13.3 per cent under the Court-O'Connor Governments. I have to concede that this is the one area where the Government's increase has been greater than that under the previous Government.

Hon. Neil Oliver interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth): Order! Hon. Neil Oliver has had a long time to put his case and I ask him not to interject.

Hon. Peter Dowding: He did not do it very well.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is beside the point. The question is whether he should interject.

Hon. FRED McKENZIE: I hope, Mr Deputy President, that you also noted that Hon. Sandy Lewis might need some direction from the Chair later.

I was referring to the diesel tax and I wanted to be very charitable by pointing out that the increase under the Court-O'Connor Governments was 13.3 per cent but the Burke Government has done very badly and increased the price by 16.1 per cent. That is one area where we have dropped behind the previous Government.

The charges for car licences increased by 16.1 per cent under the Court-O'Connor Governments and by 10.7 per cent under the Burke Government.

I refer now to that very heavy component, the vehicle third party insurance charges; under the Court-O'Connor Governments the increase was 176 per cent and the Burke Government has not increased it by one single cent. I could go on for hours.

Several members interjected.

Hon. FRED McKENZIE: If members wish to hear more, let us consider the economic environment. The major economic indicators show what the Government has done. When we came to Government in March 1983 the inflation rate was 10.1 per cent. Are members aware that the inflation rate is now 5.8 per cent? The employment figure is up by 42 800. Industrial disputation has decreased and working days lost under this Government have been reduced by 55.9 per cent. In 1984, 119 300 working days were lost through industrial disputes. In 1983 the figure was substantially higher.

Payroll tax is another example; Western Australia is the only State where the rate of payroll tax has been reduced from five per cent to 4.75 per cent.

Hon. P. G. Pendar: But the Government's income has gone up by 10 per cent. It is a phoney Government with phoney figures.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. FRED McKENZIE: A member who gets up in this House and accuses the Government of false and misleading advertising is leading by the chin. I have demonstrated this by the matters I have drawn to the attention of this House. The member's comments should be completely discounted. I do not know where he got his figures from, they are completely inaccurate.

HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [5.24 p.m.]: It is fascinating to hear Hon. Fred McKenzie mouthing—

Hon. Peter Dowding: You are embarrassing.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not as embarrassing as Hon. Peter Dowding who cannot go back to his electorate and has to take on another electorate because he has conned the people up there and he is not game to stand for that seat again. We know where Hon. Peter Dowding's allegiances lie. They must be to Maylands now because he has not the internal fortitude to go back up north. He is not prepared to run for that seat again. The people have woken up to him. It took the Collie coalminers four months to get him moved from his previous portfolio.

Mr Deputy President, I ask the boy in the front row to quietly sit there and let me deal with Hon. Fred McKenzie, if I can.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You cannot.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. D. K. Dans: This is one of the most intellectual debates I have ever listened to in the upper House!

A member: I didn't know you were listening.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It may have appeared that way to the Leader of the House and I am glad he thinks that because he will learn something in the next half hour or so.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I may surprise you. I may have plans extending beyond that time.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is perfectly all right with me if the Leader of the House wants to extend the sitting time. It worries me not one iota. I am prepared to be here until four o'clock in the morning.

If we go back to my dear friend Fred McKenzie, he admitted to this House the figures were inaccurate. The *Hansard* record will show that he admitted one set of his figures was inaccurate.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He admitted the figures on fuel were inaccurate and the *Hansard* record will show that he admitted it.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi: Where is your hearing aid?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not need a hearing aid, especially with Mr Piantadosi talking.

Hon. Fred McKenzie admitted that his facts on fuel were wrong.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I did not.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Please do not alter the "greens" before we see them and we shall see what was said. Mr McKenzie said that he had to admit that this figure was wrong.

Government members: He did not.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I said I had to admit that that was the only area where our increase was greater.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr McKenzie should wait until he receives his "greens" from *Hansard* to check what he did say. I know he was confused, the whole of his speech was confused.

As an honest man Mr McKenzie picked up the complete propaganda of his front bench and Premier.

Several members interjected.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: If it is true propaganda, what is wrong with it?

Hon. Kay Hallahan: The Opposition does not like it.

Several members interjected.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us consider how good the Government is. It has told us it is a money management Government. Let us consider the short-term money market for the two years from which Mr McKenzie was allegedly quoting. With the increases in interest rates, this Government still could not make as much on the short-term market as the previous Government did. If members do not believe me they should look at the answer the Attorney General gave me.

These are the great financial wizards and they should look at their answers.

I refer now to the WADC about which the Attorney General gave this House all sorts of assurances. With four days' warning it cannot tell us what the present capital is, who the shareholders are, how many people have been guaranteed, what the borrowings are, what companies it has invested in, or what the lendings are.

Hon. C. J. Bell: I bet we will not know until we are in Government ourselves.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: These are the people who manage so well.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Brilliantly.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: So well that they are kicking Mr Dowding out of the north, so well that he has to disappear. The poor little boy cannot front up to his electorate.

Hon. Peter Dowding: What drove you out of the lower House?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The seat of Blackwood was abolished in a redistribution.

Hon. Peter Dowding: It sure was and the voters were very grateful for that, too.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I gave them a substantially increased majority in that electorate.

We know that Mr Dowding is gutless and will not stand for re-election up there because the electors have had him and we know that most of his colleagues in this House have had him too. They are only too willing to see him go to another place.

They are only too willing to get rid of him. If he gets the endorsement they will not even give him the first run. He will go exactly the same way as the bloke who sat in that seat before him: Out. He will not have a seat, he can go back to the divorce courts.

Let us talk about this financial wrangling.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Are you talking about Bunbury Foods?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Would the Minister like to make some statement about that?

Hon. Peter Dowding: No, I wondered if you wanted to make a statement about it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: At least Bunbury Foods employed—

Hon. Peter Dowding: Not since you dropped it, they have got it going again.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Dowding does not know when I was involved. Mr Dowding has never followed the record. Like everything else Mr Dowding does, he makes slurs and insinuations. If he wants to talk about my involvement with Bunbury Foods and say that I cost anybody any money, then let him say so.

Hon. Peter Dowding: I said while you were involved the State Government lost a lot of money with this gentleman.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is that right?

Hon. Peter Dowding: That is right.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister is prepared to say that?

Hon. Peter Dowding: I did say it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think we could have a smart little court case on that. Hon. Peter Dowding knows the laws of this House; interjections are not covered by parliamentary privilege. Mr Dowding may find himself with a writ which will take him a long time to get out of. As I have explained to this House many times, the moment the State Government became involved with Bunbury Foods, I got out.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Did you help them get in?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Did you encourage them to get in?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Did you warn them—

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Dowding wants to make more statements he should remember he is not under privilege.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Did you warn them what a lemon it was?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No. Was that my job?

Hon. Peter Dowding: I would think so.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What about the canals at Mandurah? Did the Premier warn the Government? Let us talk about a few things which have been talked about during the years in all good faith. If Mr Dowding wants to get into the nasty stuff, we will play him off the cushion. We know his performance. He now has himself deeply hooked. See if he can wriggle out. "Cabinet Minister in Court". He probably should have been in court for his tax evasion.

Hon. Peter Dowding: There you are, you all conceded it was not evasion, and now you raise it. You have one standard for yourself and another for everyone else.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am speaking under privilege.

Hon. Peter Dowding: That is right. Your skin is a bit thin.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister has not the guts to get up and make a statement.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Would you like me to?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, any time the Minister likes.

Hon. Graham Edwards: Sit down.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: But I do not want to sit down, I have not started on Mr McKenzie yet.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I thought you were making a ministerial statement.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not making a ministerial statement and I am not likely to.

Coming to Mr McKenzie's figures, Mr McKenzie said we had \$60 million in the SEC which would be given to country areas.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I said it was \$60 million short of revenue.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: An extra \$60 million. Or was it \$60 million as suggested by Mr Parker's committee? Which was it? Answer me.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: It was \$60 million—

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Was it \$60 million extra, or \$60 million more suggested by Mr Parker's committee?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Let me answer.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Right.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: The cost of electricity to consumers in the country areas is \$60 million more than we obtain in revenue.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What is the difference?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: We are subsidising—

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is the member suggesting now that this Government has skimmed the bush every other way?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: It was a Labor Government which introduced it.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Was it?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Yes.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is Mr McKenzie sure?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Yes.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think the member is wrong.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I am sure he is right.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The member must make up his mind if it was a Labor Government; because I would hate him of all people to mislead this House.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You tell me where I am wrong.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The member says it was a Labor Government which introduced it?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Yes.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I can see the grin on the Minister for Budget Management's face. Mr McKenzie is wrong.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Who was it?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Sir Charles Court.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: When?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: In 1974.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: That is news to me.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth): Will the member address his remarks to the Chair?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would like to, but I am trying to help Mr McKenzie.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: He does not need any help.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He does. He claims this Government has lowered prices, something which has been continuing since 1974.

Hon. Graham Edwards: Tell us what will happen when you sell off the SEC?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Would Mr McKenzie like me to go on to a discussion about that later? I want to deal with Mr McKenzie's statement first. I will deal with those sorts of things at length later this evening.

Take stamp duties.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: They do not exist any more.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have just been slugged \$610 for a new car. Would the Minister for Budget Management verify this? It is claimed stamp duties do not exist any more. I am having a certain amount of trouble with some of my constituents about land tax.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I should qualify that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not think the member has enough time to make a big enough speech to qualify it. It is double.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: I have just told you what stamp duty applies to. It does not apply to instalment purchases.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is like pawnbrokers licences. This is what this Government is—a pawnbroker. It has doubled every licence one can think of, and even under the Poisons Act. I know the member is an honourable and honest man, but he has been fed a heap of garbage by his front bench.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Who is feeding whom?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us have a look at cigarettes. Hon. Joe Berinson has a grin like the white rabbit from ear to ear. Smoking is not affecting anybody, but the tax is bringing in so much it does not matter. The Labor Party would not want to hit the worker who smokes or drinks. I would hate to hit the worker and his cigarettes or his drinks. I will not go on to drinks because that is a boring subject and Mr Wells would tick me off.

Let us talk about FID.

Hon. P. H. Wells: They don't like FID.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What is the Government bringing in—another tax! Are we taxed in this community? Oh, no! The Government says, "Our taxes are small ones". The taxes which the Labor Party wants to talk about are small ones.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: The biggest State tax is payroll tax. That has come down. This is the first time in Australia that it has been reduced.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: A bit of short-term money market strategy?

Hon. J. M. Berinson: You were wrong on that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What was the difference?

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Your assumption was that the earlier interest rates were lower. In fact, dur-

ing the last period of your Government they were at an all-time high.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: In 1982-83?

Hon. J. M. Berinson: During the term of the last Liberal Government they were at an all-time high.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I ask Mr Berinson to please not kid himself. He is reasonably honest; he is not as honest as Mr McKenzie, except when it comes to providing answers. Look at FID. We talk about percentages on fuel, but we are really talking about percentages on percentages, are we not, because the Government's colleagues in Canberra have increased the tax so much.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: You cannot blame the State Government for that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Can't I?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: How can you?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The present State Government used to always blame us if the Fraser Government did anything.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not recall doing that.

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is the Leader of the House prepared to behave, or not? At the moment he is behaving like Ernie Toshack with a wet ball, because he is not bowling very accurately.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Who introduced petrol pricing?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is a totally different thing. It is absolutely different. It must be modified, but the Federal Government is fleecing the motorist as hard as it can. Consider the percentage that the State Government is adding onto that. I read in this evening's newspaper that we are to have a moratorium, as we have had a moratorium, it seems, on nearly everything else in this State. One only has to go through the answers so far as the country is concerned in regard to resource centres in high schools. Bridgetown would be about the only high school in Western Australia that does not have a special resource centre.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Do you know that for a fact?

Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No, I do not; but I am pretty sure. Can the member think of one school in her electorate that does not have a special resource centre? The Government says it has no money for resource centres. The Government has money to pay its advisers. The Government has money for all sorts of things that are non-productive. If the Government is managing so well why cannot we get a few things like repairs and renovations? Why cannot we get a few roads widened if they need to be widened? The Government is inefficient. It is

not a good financial manager. It is conning the public day by day. It will not answer their questions. It cannot answer the questions about people or about the WADC. The Government is not telling the truth to the public in its advertisement in the newspaper. I was very disappointed to see Mr Fred McKenzie set up by his own party on this matter, because he is an honourable man.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: Business Involvement

HON. PETER DOWDING (North—Minister for Employment and Training) [5.45 p.m.]: I do not want to detain the House but I want to make it quite clear in answer to Hon. Sandy Lewis that I am not afraid to make comments on my feet in this House. I accept the extent to which he is prepared to provoke members by many insults and misleading and wrong assertions and statements such as he no doubt deliberately made tonight.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: You poor little thing.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. I want to make it clear that my interjection in relation to the honourable member's business involvement was only that he was involved with a company and that company did go down the tube in due course owing the State Government a very great amount of money, to the financial detriment of the people of WA. There have been plenty of assertions and evidence to say that Dr Oskar has done similar things not only in WA but to people in other countries and other States. If when the honourable member was a participant in that company he was not aware that that company was going to go down the tube, then at least he had access to information which, as soon as the company got into financial difficulties, he should no doubt have drawn to the attention of the Government of the day. Yet the Government of the day continued to prop up this company; it continued to sink money into it. I do not know whether the honourable member was still a shareholder in the company at that stage. I do not have the names of shareholders with me but I can assure him that there has been very careful consideration of this matter. Would the honourable member like to indicate whether he was a shareholder at the time?

Hon. A. A. Lewis: Certainly, and I lost my money.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: Was the honourable member a shareholder at the time that this company was going down the tube and taking with it a great deal of the taxpayers' money? Does he feel that he did everything in his power as a shareholder—

Hon. A. A. Lewis: I was the original shareholder and I never got my money back.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: Did the member of this Parliament, who was, I think, the parliamentary secretary for a period of time, do everything within his power to ensure that the Government was alerted to the real reasons involved with this company? That is the point I am making. The member challenged me to make that statement on my feet.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: You are backing off again.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: Not at all. The member has challenged me to make a statement on my feet and I have done so. I will not detain the House further.

Farmers: Increased Charges

HON. C. J. BELL (Lower West) [5.48 p.m.]: It was not my intention to rise to my feet, but I felt the matter was so important that I should risk injury to my throat. One aspect of this matter has been overlooked and it needs to be addressed. Members have focused totally on the costs proposed to be increased by the Government. I agree that those costs are savage, but one other aspect of this matter must be considered, and that is the area of control which the Government exercises, particularly over farmers' incomes. I will draw a classic illustration of that in regard to both the State and Federal Governments because the theme is constant.

There has been a constant endeavour by both Governments to make sure that farmers' incomes remain absolutely constant in today's dollar terms. Since this Government came to power the Government has allowed producers in this State an increase of just over three per cent on the market milk contract before production. That sounds at least something; but the reality of that situation is that with the last price rise the Government took

with one hand and gave with the other because half the milk of WA comes onto the domestic consumption market and the other half becomes manufacturing milk. The Government said, "There is the price rise. We will take it out of the dairy assistance fund and transfer it over". There was no real price rise at all.

On one hand the Government has given the producers money and on the other hand it has taken it away by telling them about the price rise. It is a ludicrous situation. As far as farmers are concerned the cost of inflation is running at 16 per cent per annum and they have received an increase of less than three per cent in returns—the Government is in charge of that!

As far as the Federal scene is concerned there have been no price rises in dairy industry products since November 1982. That was the last time the price of butter and cheese was permitted to be increased by the Labor Government. It is an obvious and clear illustration of the Labor Government's intention to make sure that farmers bear the cost of its attempt to keep a low CPI figure.

The situation climaxed with a massive march by farmers in Perth in April of this year with a further demonstration on Monday as well as a demonstration in Canberra which involved 30 000 people. Those people did not attend the demonstrations for fun. It is clear that they were not prepared to be sold out any further. The demonstrations did not involve only farmers; they included also truckies and rural workers and their message was loud and clear—the Government has milked the country for too long. The clear illustrations that I have given are obvious signs of the intention of this State Government and the Federal Government to milk the rural communities.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

COURTS: PROCESS SERVERS

Bailiffs: Fees

809. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

I refer to question 758 answered by him in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 16 April 1985, wherein he stated, in answers (2)-(5), that examination of the idea of an external body to review bailiffs' fees was not applicable, and ask—

- (1) Is it not the case that he has advised at least one bailiff that such a proposal is being examined?
- (2) If so, which piece of information is correct and will such an external body be considered?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Not to my recollection.
- (2) Not applicable.

COURTS: PROCESS SERVERS

Bailiffs: Fees

810. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

I refer to his answer to question 757 answered in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 16 April 1985, and ask him to re-check the figure in part (3) of the answer to see whether—

- (a) the figure \$219.20 should read \$241.55; and
- (b) the figure \$311.30 should read \$321.70?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (a) and (b) The figures are base rates as published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*. Assistant bailiffs are, however, paid a 10 per cent loading to compensate for spread of hours worked.

SPORT AND RECREATION: FOOTBALL

National Competition

816. Hon. TOM McNEIL to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In view of the article headed "National Competition No Distant Dream" on page 44 of the *Daily News* of Thursday, 18 April 1985, does the Minister's

answer to my question 641 of 19 March in which he states "my information is that it is beyond the realms of possibility that a national competition will be in place by 1986" still apply?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

A written response was forwarded to the member on 2 May 1985. I shall arrange for a copy of that reply to be forwarded to the member.

SPORT AND RECREATION: CRICKET

South African Tour

817. Hon. TOM McNEIL to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

The Federal Minister for Sport and Tourism, Mr Brown, was reported in the *Daily News* on Monday, 15 April 1985, as having said that "he was confident the Australian Cricket Board would follow Government policy and impose a 10 year ban on any player accepting an offer to take part in a rebel tour".

Would the Minister advise—

- (1) What is the State Government's policy on the proposed cricket tour of South Africa?
- (2) What penalty does a 10 year ban impose on a player in relation to—
 - (a) Test Cricket;
 - (b) Shield Cricket;
 - (c) W.A. Club Cricket; and
 - (d) Social Cricket?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) A written response was forwarded to the member on 2 May 1985. I shall arrange for a copy of that reply to be forwarded to the member.

TRANSPORT: SCHOOL BUSES

Contracts: Renegotiation

818. Hon. MARGARET McALEER, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

With regard to the re-negotiating of school bus contracts—

- (1) Have final arrangements been made with all school bus operators regarding their new arrangements?

- (2) Has agreement been reached with all operators regarding the new arrangements?
- (3) If "No" to (2), what number of operators have still to enter into final arrangements with the Education Department?
- (4) When is it expected that all contractual arrangements will be finalised to the satisfaction of all parties concerned?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.

"THE MICKELBERG STITCH"

Allegations

819. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that copies of the book *The Mickelberg Stitch* have been sent by the author to Members of Parliament?
- (2) Has the Attorney General read the book?
- (3) Has he arranged for it to be examined and reported on by a senior Crown Law officer?
- (4) Is he aware that the book contains damaging allegations and inferences against members of the Police Force, the Prisons Department and the Crown Law Department, unrelated to the fingerprint evidence?
- (5) Does he propose to take any action in relation to those allegations and inferences and, if so, what?
- (6) In regard to his inquiries concerning the fingerprint allegations, what is the present state of those inquiries?
- (7) Have the overseas consultants, whose advice was said to be contrary to police evidence, been interviewed and, if so, what is the result?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (7) The member will be advised in writing as soon as possible.

COURTS: LISTS

Backlog

820. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

- (1) What is the current backlog of cases in the civil list in—
 - (i) the Supreme Court; and
 - (ii) the District Court?
- (2) What is the estimate of time required to clear the list in the respective Courts?
- (3) Is there any current delay between committals and criminal trials in the respective Courts? If so, what?
- (4) What is the period of current delay in the metropolitan Courts of Petty Sessions?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (4) The member will be advised in writing as soon as possible.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Bridgetown

821. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

With regard to Bridgetown High School—

- (1) Have the plans for the canteen been completed?
- (2) If so, when will the P & C be allowed to look at them?
- (3) When were the last repairs and renovations carried out?
- (4) When is it intended the next repairs and renovations will be carried out?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No, but they are approaching completion.
- (2) As soon as a copy is available, the P & C will be provided with one.
- (3) A partial internal and external repair and renovation was carried out in 1977.
- (4) This school is listed for attention during 1985-86, pending the availability of funds.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Abolition

822. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to wind up the Agricultural Machinery Liaison Committee?
- (2) If so, when will it be wound up?
- (3) When was the committee set up and what expenses did it incur in the time it was functioning?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) The Agricultural Machinery Liaison Committee was abolished by executive action in April 1984, following the extension of powers of the Department of Consumer Affairs to cover agricultural matters, including machinery.
- (3) The committee first met in October 1981 and met on three subsequent occasions, with the last meeting in August 1983. Estimated total expenditure on the committee's activities is \$2 000.

AGRICULTURE: FARMERS

Complaints Committee: Establishment

823. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is it his intention to set up a Farmers' Complaints Committee?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) How many farmers' complaints has the Consumer Affairs Department had in the last year and of those—
 - (a) how many were warranty claims on new agricultural machinery;
 - (b) how many were warranty claims on old machinery;
 - (c) how many were to do with labour prices;
 - (d) how many were to do with parts prices;
 - (e) how many were to do with chemicals;
 - (f) how many were to do with small tools, pumps etc.?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Some time ago nominations were invited from various organisations

to participate in a proposed Farmers' Complaints Committee.

Rather surprisingly, the Farm Machinery Dealers Association, with which the member is associated, declined to nominate a representative on the committee.

It is to be hoped however that the Farm Machinery Dealers Association reconsiders its decision not to participate on this committee. Obviously a diversification of expertise is desirable in dealing with the broad spectrum of farmers' complaints.

(3) 62;

(a) 12;

(b) 2;

(c) nil;

(d) 5;

(e) 1;

(f) 8.

It may be of interest to the member to learn that the value of redress achieved by the Investigations Officer of the Department of Consumer Affairs in attending to the 62 farmers' complaints over the past year totals \$54 644.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING: EMPLOYMENT

Conference: Orchard Hotel

824. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) How many people attended the Employment Conference at the Orchard Hotel from 16 to 18 April 1985?
- (2) Of these how many were—
 - (a) Federal Government funded;
 - (b) State Government funded;
 - (c) Private Industry funded?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) A total of 187 people attended the Employment Conference including 10 speakers.
- (2) All moneys for the Employment Conference were collected by convention makers and it is not possible to identify the exact sources of these funds from the Federal Government, other States, private industry and private individuals.

However, 32 were from State Government departments and 21 from post-secondary education institutions.

TOURISM: BUNGLE BUNGLE

Management

825. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Has any decision yet been made about the management of Bungle Bungle range?
- (2) If not when is it expected some decision will be made?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) No; however, it is anticipated that management decisions will be made in accordance with the Premier's statement of 17 June in relation to Aboriginal involvement in management of National Parks in the Pilbara.
- (2) It is anticipated that Cabinet will consider the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority within one month.

PLANNING: SUBDIVISIONS

Collie

826. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Planning:

Is it the Minister's intention to lift the moratorium on subdivisions in Collie now the announcement has been made that the Harris River dam will proceed?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The commissioning of the Harris Dam is subject to Commonwealth funds being made available, and the necessary environmental clearances. Thereafter it is anticipated that the Town Planning Board will review the subdivision policy for the catchment area.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harris River: Site

827. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

With regard to the Harris River dam—

- (1) (a) Has a site been chosen;
- (b) if so which is the site?

(2) (a) Has the departmental planning been completed;

(b) if so when?

(3) (a) Has an application for funds been made to the Federal Government;

(b) if so when?

(4) Has the Federal Government agreed to finance the dam?

(5) Is it the Department's number one priority for dams or water schemes in Western Australia?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

(1) The site for the Harris dam is still to be resolved.

(2) Most planning issues, other than the finalisation of the site and a clearance from the Environmental Protection Authority, have been finalised.

(3) (a) Yes;

(b) 20 June 1985.

(4) No.

(5) The construction of the Harris dam has been given high priority by the Government and will proceed, as previously announced, as soon as Commonwealth financial assistance and environmental issues have been satisfactorily resolved.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Wellington: Use

828. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

With regard to the statement by the Minister for Water Resources that the Harris River dam will be constructed—

(1) Has it been decided that the Wellington Dam will be surplus to all water requirements except irrigation?

(2) (a) Have the neighbouring Shires been offered the area for water sports; and

(b) if so what sports will be allowed?

(3) Has some move been made to resume land around the Wellington Dam for club houses, etc. to do with those sports?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Once the Harris dam is completed, the water from Wellington Dam will almost entirely be used for irrigation purposes.
- (2) No, but recreational use of the Wellington reservoir will be possible, subject to the completion of a satisfactory management plan.
- (3) No such moves have been made by the Water Authority of Western Australia.

ENVIRONMENT

Road works

829. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) To what degree does the Department of Conservation and Environment wish to involve itself with the decisions of country local authorities' road works?
- (2) What plans will local authorities have to submit to the Department of Conservation and Environment before—
 - (a) planning new roads;
 - (b) widening roads;
 - (c) commencing construction on new roads or widening?
- (3) Who will be the final environmental arbiter as to which roads will be built?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Generally advisory, however under the Environmental Protection Act some proposals would require formal environmental assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (2) If the proposal is considered by the local authority to be environmentally sensitive then it should be discussed with the Department of Conservation and Environment. As a result of the discussion, a formal report might need to be prepared for assessment.
- (3) For the vast majority of works this would be decided at the local authority level with assistance where appropriate from the Main Roads Department and the Department of Conservation and Environment. The projects with significant environmental impacts thus would be resolved between Government and the local authority.

ROADS

Environmental Impact Studies

830. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department going to carry out the Environmental Impact Study on future roads constructed by country local authorities?
- (2) If not, who is?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

EDUCATION: PRINCIPALS

Accommodation: Kukerin

831. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Housing:

When is the school principal's house at Kukerin going to be renewed?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The house is programmed to be replaced during the next three financial years. The priorities for 1985-86 will be decided within the next three months and every consideration will be given to including this property on this programme.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kukerin

832. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

When will the next repairs and replacement programme be carried out on the Kukerin School?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

No repair and renovation works are listed for this school in the immediate future.

TECHNOLOGY: COMPUTERS

Schools

833. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What schools are provided with computers by the department?

- (2) What schools can obtain computers on a dollar-for-dollar basis?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Since 1977 computing equipment has been provided as part of the initial supply of furniture in new secondary schools.

Computer equipment may also be provided when a major upgrading of the resources centre in a school is undertaken.

- (2) All Government primary and secondary schools may apply for a dollar-for-dollar subsidy to assist with the purchase of approved computer equipment.

Subsidy funds are allocated according to the total amount of subsidy that is made available and on the basis of the amount of subsidy a school has received in previous years.

Within the limits of available funds a maximum of \$3 000 subsidy is available per financial year for any one secondary school. A limit of \$2 000 per school per financial year applies to primary schools.

As a result of the above over 35 per cent of all primary schools have installed approved computing equipment. All secondary schools have computer equipment installed with the average number of workstations per school being:

District High Schools	2.3
High and Senior High Schools	9.5
<hr/>	
All secondary schools	6.5

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Bridgetown

834. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to provide Bridgetown High School with a modern adequate resource centre in the next year?
(2) If not, why not?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The school has been listed for a new library and an upgrading of existing accommodation in a future capital works

programme. Funding is not available to initiate the work at present.

LAND RELEASES

North Collie

835. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

When will the next blocks of land be released in the North Collie area?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The Department of Lands and Surveys has made arrangements to offer for sale by public auction 21 Collie residential lots in Park, Mary and Harnett Streets and Coverley Drive, on Friday, 19 July 1985, at 11.00 a.m. in the Shire Council Offices, Collie.

SETTLEMENT AGENTS BOARD

Chairman

836. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Government changed the Chairman of the Settlement Agents Board?
(2) If so, who has been given the job?
(3) Who has this person replaced?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes—from 2 July 1985.
(2) Ms Penelope Jane Keeley.
(3) Mr G. O. Leitch.

"EDWIN FOX"

Purchase

837. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to his answer to question 761 of 16 April 1985 and ask:

- (1) Has the Premier written to the Prime Minister of Australia or New Zealand in connection with my call for the *Edwin Fox* to be brought back to Australia?
(2) If so, with what result?
(3) Has the WA Tourism Commission examined my proposal as promised in answer to question 761?
(4) If so, with what result?
(5) Will the Premier use all possible speed and influence to finalise the matter in view of the fact that the

British Maritime Historical Society is now trying to have the wreck taken to London?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (5) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Research Facilities

838. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Premier:

I refer to question 762 of 16 April 1985 and ask—

Can he say whether any progress has been made on the idea of providing research facilities to MPs either in the form of an extra staff member or in the form of an imprest account?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

As indicated in the Government's earlier reply to this question, the cost implications and justification for providing research facilities to MPs will be examined and considered during the framing of the 1985-86 Budget.

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Commonwealth Controls

839. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that, in a recent speech in Sydney, Dr Don Watts, Director of the WA Institute of Technology—
 - (a) Advocated the elimination of Commonwealth controls in the tertiary education sector;
 - (b) called for a resumption of a State funding contribution to this sector;
 - (c) suggested that the States re-establish the autonomy of Senates and Councils in relation to fees, scholarships and loans?

- (2) Is he prepared to look at these suggestions?
- (3) Would he be prepared to allow Opposition input in order to achieve bi-partisan support?
- (4) Has he discussed the ideas with his Federal counterpart?

- (5) If not, will he do so?

- (6) Has he discussed the ideas with his counterparts in other States?

- (7) If not, will he do so?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) I am aware from Press reports of the general tenor of Dr Watts' remarks.
- (2) to (7) Our colleges and universities are subject to State legislation through their Acts of Parliament and are funded by the Commonwealth. State involvement in funding a higher education, except in very special circumstances, would necessitate a re-negotiation of Commonwealth/State tax sharing agreements. Such a development is beyond the responsibility of the Education portfolio alone or of one State alone. I will continue to monitor developments and to discuss, as appropriate, with my colleagues in other States issues such as these, or others relating to the State/Commonwealth partnership in education.

HEALTH: DRUG

Marijuana: Decriminalisation

840. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) What action is he taking to respond to the call by the Federal Minister for Health at the recent South Australian ALP Conference for the decriminalisation of marijuana?
- (2) Is any action planned by the WA Government?
- (3) What is the WA Government's attitude on this matter?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the alleged call by the Federal Minister for Health.
- (2) No.
- (3) See answer to (2).

TRAFFIC

Reynolds Road, Mt. Pleasant

841. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any traffic counts been conducted on Reynolds Road, Mount Pleasant in

the past three years since the opening of the Mt. Henry Bridge?

- (2) If so, what numbers were recorded in—
 - (a) 1981;
 - (b) 1982;
 - (c) 1983;
 - (d) 1984.
- (3) What steps, if any, are open to the State to rectify what local residents claim to be a dangerous hazard?
- (4) What steps, if any, are open to the Melville City Council to do the same?
- (5) If no recent counts or observations have been undertaken, will he arrange them?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (5) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

WORKS: BUILDING MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

BLF Dispute

842. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

I refer to the BLF industrial action which followed the jury decision in the Norm Gallagher case and ask—

- (1) Is it correct that the Public Works Department paid the wages of day-labour tradesmen for the time they did not work on the Thursday and Friday following the jury decision?
- (2) Why was the provision of a stand-down not used in this case?
- (3) How many tradesmen were sent home and subsequently paid for not working?
- (4) How much did this cost the Government?
- (5) Was this decision referred at any time to the Premier or the Minister for Industrial Relations?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) If it was referred to one or both of these people, what response came from them?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Day labour tradesmen were stood down following the work stoppage by builders' labourers as a consequence of the jury's decision in the Gallagher case. However, it was subsequently

discovered that there was useful work to be performed by tradesmen and in accordance with the award most resumed work on the Friday. Not to pay the employees for the Thursday would have been contrary to the award as it prescribes that employees cannot be stood down for part of a day.

- (3) Thursday—not applicable. See answer to (1) and (2). Friday—103 tradesmen.
- (4) \$10 707.63.
- (5) to (7) The decisions taken were in accordance with normal industrial relations procedure.

AGRICULTURE: FERTILISER

Plant: Establishment

843. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is the Government aware that a Western Australian consortium is considering three sites in Western Australia and Queensland for the construction of a \$30 million fertiliser plant?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes", is the Government prepared to make a statement on progress to date?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As advised in response to question 3492 answered today in the lower House, the Government is involved in discussions with a number of potential proponents in regard to the establishment of a world-scale ammonia/urea project in Western Australia. Discussions are continuing and it would therefore be premature to predict the outcome.

LIQUOR LICENCES

Transfers

844. Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Leader of the House:

Since the passing of the Liquor Licensing (Moratorium) Act in 1983—

- (1) How many hotel tavern and bottle shop liquor licences have been transferred from their original sites in each year since 1980 in both metropolitan and country areas?
- (2) How many licences have been removed from country areas and are

now operated in the metropolitan area?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) 1/7/1980-30/6/1981 : 1
- 1/7/1981-30/6/1982 : 2
- 1/7/1982-30/6/1983 : 2
- 1/7/1983-30/6/1984 : 1
- 1/7/1984-30/6/1985 : 5
- (2) Since 1/7/1980 five licences have been removed from country areas and are now operating in the metropolitan area.

COMMUNICATIONS: AUSSAT SATELLITE

Education Department

845. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

What steps are being taken to ensure that funds are available to purchase equipment and transponder time which will enable the Education Department to begin using the AUSSAT satellite at the start of the 1986 school year?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The forthcoming Australian satellite has been studied by educationists both at a national and a local level, and here in Western Australia the satellite is recognised as having significant potential to alleviate many of the disadvantages of remoteness experienced by a large number of our schools and isolated students.

Of the various communications options provided by the satellite, the Government believes that television broadcasting has the potential to provide educational benefits to the greatest number of students in the immediate future. Accordingly, the Government is planning the establishment of an educational television broadcasting service, which will be part of the remote commercial television service available to remote communities throughout WA via satellite.

The television service will include programmes for classroom use, teaching programmes for School of the Air and other distance education students, and information programmes for parents and teachers.

The need for such a service has also been underlined by the cutbacks in the ABC's educational broadcasts. Although the

ABC will continue to provide an educational broadcasting service, it will be restricted to those areas of the school curriculum which are common throughout Australia, and there will be no broadcasts designed to meet the specific needs of individual States. It is therefore important that the Education Department of WA provides a service which supplements the ABC broadcasts, and which can respond to the particular needs of Western Australians, particularly those in rural and remote areas.

The Education Department will provide satellite reception equipment to all schools which are outside existing television reception areas, to enable them to receive both the ABC service and the local commercial service.

The department is also negotiating with other regional commercial television licence holders to have its educational programmes made available to schools in the more populated areas of the State.

ROAD

Vasse Highway

846. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

In the Manjimup Shire road widening project on the Vasse Highway mentioned by the Minister in the *Daily News* of 28 June 1985—

- (1) (a) Is the road as wide as the Main Roads portion adjacent;
- (b) if not, why not?
- (2) (a) Has the Main Roads Department altered its standards for safety on these roads;
- (b) if so, why?
- (3) (a) Has the Main Roads Department altered its own environmental standards;
- (b) if so, when?
- (4) Does the Minister intend to withhold any moneys for roads from the Manjimup Shire?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (4) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

ROADS

Collie-Roelands Road

847. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

When will the next widening of the Roelands-Collie road be undertaken?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Allanson

848. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Education:

(1) Is it intended to add extra classrooms to the Allanson school?

(2) If so, when?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) and (2) The immediate to long-term needs of the Allanson Primary School are currently receiving close consideration. Once this review has been completed, appropriate decisions about the accommodation requirements of the school will be made.

849. *Postponed.*

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Capitalisation

850. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

(1) What is the present capitalisation of WADC?

(2) Who are the shareholders of WADC?

(3) How many companies or individuals have been guaranteed by WADC, and to what total amount?

(4) What are the present borrowings of WADC?

(5) In what companies has WADC invested, and what is WADC's share in each of those companies?

(6) What are the present lendings of WADC?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

(1) to (6) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

STATE FINANCE: SHORT-TERM MONEY MARKET

Profit

851. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

What has been the profit gained by the Treasury in investing money on the short-term money market each financial year from 1974-75 to 1984-85?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Interest earnings on Treasury's short-term money market investments since 1974-75 were as follows—

	Earnings \$
1974-75	9 021 295
1975-76	7 193 430
1976-77	18 269 670
1977-78	23 601 042
1978-79	21 685 522
1979-80	24 325 324
1980-81	27 528 547
1981-82	51 442 918
1982-83	57 339 744
1983-84	41 094 706
1984-85	65 760 977

HEALTH

Hay Fever

852. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

(1) What figures are available on the number of hay fever sufferers in Western Australia?

(2) Is the Minister's department aware that the United States has approved the first hay fever treatment that does not cause drowsiness as a side effect?

(3) Is the new medication, Seldane, which will be available in the United States only by prescription, to be made available to Western Australian sufferers?

(4) If so, when?

(5) If no information is available, will the Minister make urgent inquiries, either directly to the United States or via his Federal counterpart, to bring this breakthrough to Western Australian sufferers?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No accurate figures are available.
- (2) to (5) Seldane is not a drug on any lists known to the Health Department of Western Australia. The drug to which the member refers is almost certainly Teldane (Terfenadine is its generic name). If this is the drug referred to, its release in Australia is under active consideration by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee. A decision is not expected until early 1986.

COURT: SUPREME COURT

Library Building

853. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Would the Premier consider intervening in the matter of the proposed Supreme Court library to examine the possibility of sinking the new building below ground level—thus protecting the position of the historic Arbitration Court building?
- (2) Would he agree that this appears to be the only way of achieving the much-needed library while giving lasting protection to this important piece of national estate?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

TRAFFIC: SOUTH CENTRAL METROPOLITAN PROVINCE

Royal Commission

854. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Has he yet considered the suggestion for a Royal Commission into the impact over the next 25 years of south-east corridor traffic on suburbs such as Victoria Park, Kensington, South Perth, Manning and Como?
- (2) If so, with what result?
- (3) If not, when is the Government's response likely to be made?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

ROADS

Centenary Avenue, Wilson

855. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Does the Government yet have a view of the City of Canning's proposals for Centenary Avenue, Wilson, to be extended southwards from Leach Highway to link up with Riverton Bridge?
- (2) If so, what is that view?
- (3) What is the Minister's attitude towards river reclamation that would be involved in this extension?
- (4) If "No" to (1), when is a Government review on this matter to be finalised?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has not approved of the city council's proposal for Centenary Avenue, Wilson and it is now understood the council has resolved that no further action be taken with respect to the proposal.
- (2) to (4) Answered by (1).

PORTS AND HARBOURS: DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND HARBOURS

Freedom Yacht Charters

856. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that by letter dated 10 June I asked him to receive a deputation led by me on behalf of Freedom Yacht Charters relating to disputes then existing between Freedom Yacht Charters and the Department of Marine and Harbours?
- (2) If so, why has no response been forthcoming?
- (3) Is he aware that, since then, the department has launched prosecutions against Freedom Yacht Charters?
- (4) Is there any connection between my approach to him and the subsequent decision to prosecute?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (4) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Premiums

857. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Is he aware of the dramatic increase in Workers' Compensation premiums from 0.39 cents per \$100 payroll for clerical workers to 0.75 cents per \$100 because of the effects of RSI?
- (2) What has this doubling in premiums meant in terms of the commission's income?
- (3) What has it meant in terms of outgoings?
- (4) Will he institute urgent studies with appropriate employer and health authorities to see if some better solution is available other than massive numbers of man-hours being lost in the workplace?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) No effect if the member is referring to the Workers' Assistance Commission; if not the question is ambiguous.
- (4) I would refer the member to my recent Press statement on the initiatives the Government has taken in both public and private sectors.

TRAFFIC HAZARD

Victoria Park

858. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that buses stopping at the bus stop opposite St Joachim's School in Victoria Park are contributing to a traffic hazard in that the bus stop is positioned very close to the entry and exit point of the car park servicing the adjoining shopping centre?
- (2) If so, would he have the matter investigated with a view to repositioning the bus stop?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

City Clippers

859. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has any consideration been given to the idea of extending the city clipper service to the Victoria Park area?
- (2) If so, can he give details?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister will advise the member of the answer in writing in due course.

PLANNING: VICTORIA PARK

Shepperton Road

860. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the Perth City Council's proposed Town Planning for Victoria Park and the associated difficulties relating to the widening of Shepperton Road, and ask—

- (1) Is it possible to proceed with the approval of the Town Planning Scheme minus the Shepperton Road issue in order that this issue can be finalised at a later date?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), will the Minister consider this because of the adverse impact that delays in relation to Shepperton Road are currently causing in other parts of Victoria Park?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) I am advised that the Minister for Planning is currently discussing with the council ways and means of expediting the final approval of the city council's Town Planning Scheme.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Relief Officers

861. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Government aware that because of recent Government expenditure cutbacks there are no "relief" Department of Agriculture officers for the inspection of

lice and other diseases of sheep and stock generally when sales are being held when the permanently appointed officer is away on leave or for some other purpose?

- (2) As this lack of inspectors has lead to the spread of a lice infested mob of sheep from a clearing sale at Brookton and is causing consternation and quarantine problems to unsuspecting purchasers will the Government employ a relief officer or officers to cover the situation of leave or other causes of an inspector's non-attendance at future stock sales?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) and (2) It has never been the policy of the Department of Agriculture that stock inspectors would attend all sheep sales. It is estimated that 85 per cent of advertised sales are attended. In order to provide relief inspectors to cover annual and long service leave, at least two inspectors at a cost of \$50 000 per year would be required. Such additional expenditure is not considered warranted.

Purchasers of sheep need to be aware that it is their final responsibility to see that sheep are healthy before purchase.

- (b) Report No. 1 of 1984 concerning a City of Perth Parking Facilities By-law, which the committee considered discriminatory; and

- (c) Report No. 4 of 1984 concerning the Shire of Esperance By-laws on Food Vending Machines and the committee's statement that the requirements of a by-law were unduly restrictive and constituted a trespass of rights—

and would the Minister advise—

- (i) what action, if any, has the Minister taken in respect of these Reports;
- (ii) what follow up action has been taken;
- (iii) has the committee yet been advised of the position in each case; and
- (iv) does the Minister consider the situation satisfactory so far as executive action based on the committee's Reports is concerned?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The member will be advised in writing as soon as possible.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report: 1984

862. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Minister read the annual report dated 3 December 1984 of the Legislative Review and Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 1984?
- (2) Is he aware that the report observes that in several cases the committee has received no indication of any action having been taken in relation to a number of matters raised in individual reports submitted during 1983 and 1984?
- (3) Attention is drawn particularly to—
 - (a) Report No. 3 of 1983 on the Rules of Trotting tabled in the Legislative Council on 16 August 1983, wherein the committee calls for elucidation of a rule in which persons may be "deemed guilty" of offences and fined;

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

"THE MICKELBERG STITCH"

Allegations

701. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

I refer to question 819 concerning the Mickelbergs which I asked three days ago. In view of the statement he issued today which in effect answers the last two parts of my question, why is it that he has answered my question by saying that I will be advised in writing as soon as possible?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I should explain I was interstate in the early part of this week so that I did not have the opportunity until late today to see the member's question. While my statement earlier this afternoon does cover parts (6) and (7) of his question, that still leaves parts (1) to (5) and it is in respect of those parts I will be responding to him subsequently.

"THE MICKELBERG STITCH"

Consultations

702. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Does he find it difficult to answer the question as to whether he has read the book *The Mickelberg Stitch*?
- (2) Does he have to consult Crown Law officers in regard to these matters?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) No, I have no difficulty in that respect.
- (2) No.

AMERICA'S CUP

Co-operative Societies: World Conference

703. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a world conference of co-operative societies is to be held in Perth during the America's Cup?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the organising body of that conference?
- (3) Can the Minister indicate to the House the projected number of people who may attend collectively as a general round figure?

Hon. D. K. DUNS replied:

- (1) to (3) A company has been formed with a \$2 share each. I cannot recall the other gentlemen concerned, but one gentleman's name is Mr Tom Drinkwater. He is responsible for the endeavours to have a world conference of co-operatives in this city during the period of the America's Cup.

This is second-hand, but I have heard various figures mentioned from 250 000 people down to 126 000.

If the member wants any further advice I would direct him to Mr Drinkwater himself. I have had a number of meetings with him and I am now in the process of trying to solicit some concrete information from him about his organisation.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Freight: Charges

704. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Budget Management:

Is it true that earlier this week some rail freights went up by six per cent? Those I refer to concern handling super-phosphates and some other commodities for the agricultural areas.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Rail freights do not come within the scope of my authority as Minister for Budget Management. This question should be put to the Minister for Transport.

HEALTH: RADIATION

Mineral Sands Industry: Inquiry

705. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

I preface my remarks by saying that this question was presented to his office yesterday and I hope he will be in a position to respond to my question without notice today.

- (1) What was the cost of the inquiry into radiation protection in the mineral sands industry chaired by Professor Murray Winn?
- (2) Will the setting up of the proposed Mines Radiation Safety Board, secretariat, audit division and other procedures, require special legislation or will it be established under regulations flowing from an existing Act?
- (3) Under what Act will the regulations be promulgated?
- (4) When will the Mines Radiation Safety Board be formally established?
- (5) What are the names, occupations, and qualifications of each of the members appointed to the newly created board?
- (6) What are the names, occupations, and qualifications of other staff members appointed to the proposed secretariat, audit division, or any other sections under the board's jurisdiction?

- (7) What remuneration will be paid to the chairman, board members, or any other employees associated with the new format?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The Minister received notice of this question, and I reply with the following information—

- (1) \$13 134.
- (2) Establishment of the Mines Radiation Safety Board will require legislation to amend the Mines Regulation Act 1946.
- (3) The Mines Regulation Act 1946-74.
- (4) After proclamation of the appropriate legislation—possibly October-November 1985.
- (5) The qualifications of board members will be subject to the requirements of the establishment legislation, which is yet to be drafted.

The board will consist of a chairman and seven members as follows—

two representatives nominated by employers;

two representatives nominated by the Trades and Labor Council;

one nominee from each of the—

Radiological Council
Department of Mines
Occupational Health,
Safety and Welfare Commission.

- (6) No persons have yet been appointed.

Cabinet has approved the establishment of a five-person secretariat comprising the following—

Executive officer (physicist);
mining engineer;
technical officer (field);
administrative assistant;
clerk-typist.

- (7) The chairman will receive a remuneration of \$6 000 per annum plus an expense account of \$600 per annum.

Salaries for employees will be in accordance with Public Service rates under the appropriate classification.

It is expected that these classifications will be:

		\$
Executive officer	Level 3/4	35 193-44 498
Mining engineer	Level 3	35 183-39 237
Technical officer	G-II-5/6	24 119-26 520
Administrative assistant	C-II-5	24 320-25 080
Clerk-typist	C-III-1	16 353

AMERICA'S CUP

Co-operative Societies: World Conference

706. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Leader of the House:

I have received inquiries from Western Europe, and particularly our Asian neighbours, regarding the State Government having a major involvement in this world conference of co-operatives.

I received from a group of companies in Bremen in West Germany the other day a copy of a telex from the Premier, Brian Burke, which was apparently addressed to the world congress in Hamburg on 9 October last year. It reads—

Would you pass on to those at your congress the best wishes of the Government of Western Australia and assure them of the Government's full support for ACCECC '87. We look forward to welcoming them all to our State in 1986-87.

I congratulate you and the co-operative movement for the breadth of vision shown in the plans for the World Co-operative Conference and the associated series of events. My Government will do all it can to ensure their success and to give our visitors an enjoyable time in Western Australia.

Could the Minister elaborate a little further, because that came from Bremen in response to the previous inquiry I was interested in and the further involvement? Could the Minister elaborate better than the Premier?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

That telex has been a long time coming from Bremen. It must have been brought by someone walking, because the conference was held a long time ago. The extent to which the Government has supported this organisation is by way of my attending a luncheon some time ago when it was launched, and later saying a few words at a function held to launch it further.

Apart from that the Government had no financial commitment whatsoever and is not privy to any of the activities taking place within that organisation. I received the information the other day from London that only one booking had been received; however, that may not be correct. My advice to Hon. Neil Oliver is to go and see Mr Tom Drinkwater who, I would hope, is in possession of all the relevant details. If the organisation is successful in getting the numbers here certainly the Government will do the kinds of things that the Premier said he would do in that telex to the conference in Hamburg last year or the year before. We had no involvement in that whatsoever. When the visitors turn up we will make sure that from a Government point of view they are looked after. A private company is organising the matter and we are not involved in it.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Permits

707. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he aware of a statement in the Press last weekend from the Department of Consumer Affairs that in the future police permits would be required to purchase crossbows?
- (2) Was that a departmental or a Government decision?
- (3) If it was a departmental decision, under what authority was that statement made?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has certain powers and it was in the exercise of those powers that that decision was made. It has since been discussed with me and I am aware of the reasons for the decision. Crossbows are now so sophisticated—they probably were a few hundred years ago also—that they can operate without a very substantial split loading device. The break action that I am familiar with only in terms of the old air gun is so effective that such a crossbow can fire an arrow some considerable distance with very great force, certainly enough to kill somebody. The shape and the action of the crossbow without a bow is indis-

tinguishable from that of a rifle. My second point is that the commissioner has taken the view, I think with some very good reason, that crossbows with the traditional bow are now so sophisticated as to be readily available; they are lightweight, potentially lethal, and certainly, to all intents and purposes, over a moderately short range, have the lethal and dangerous qualities of a firearm. In those circumstances and on legal advice that he sought from within his department the commissioner took the view that that action should be taken.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Regulation

708. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

I take it that the Minister is telling us that crossbows are now classified as firearms. If that is the case, does the matter require regulation or does it need to be brought to the Parliament?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

No legislative change has been made. The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs was advised that a crossbow falls within the existing definition in the legislation. If the member had given me some notice of his question I could have given him the detail. We looked at the statutory regulations or at the Act—I do not recall which—which defined “firearm” and the advice that the commissioner received was that the crossbow fell within that definition, so in his view no legislative or regulatory change was needed to require the matters he has referred to.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Regulation

709. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

The Minister said that had I given him more notice he would have given me the details of the reasons and I now ask him if he will give me those details.

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Yes, I am happy to give the member the information he requires.

GAMBLING: CASINO

Licence: Application

710. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the applications for the Burswood Island Casino licence and in particular to the application which was lodged by the Weiringa group of companies and ask: Was that application received within the time at which applications would close?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

That matter was determined outside the court by the Weiringa group withdrawing its affidavit. I assure all members of this House that all of the requirements pertaining to applications for a casino licence were met by the Casino Control Committee. Apart from that, there is nothing else I can tell the member. I think the member is referring perhaps to Cord Holdings. All of the other applications received the same consideration on an equal footing and the final decision, of course, was made by the Casino Control Committee and it made the right decision.

AMERICA'S CUP

Harbour Facility: Application

711. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer further to my previous question and thank the Minister for his answer. However, I seek clarification. I understood that the Weiringa or Cord group issued an injunction in the Supreme Court and later withdrew that injunction. Could the Minister advise me if the Cord or Weiringa group is now the successful applicant for a major harbour facility in relation to the America's Cup event?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

That matter does not fall within my portfolio and responsibility. I cannot answer that question. I also have heard the rumour and it is false. However, if the member wants an answer the correct way to go about it is to address the question to the Minister for Transport. As the Parliament will not be sitting, the member should simply ring him and ask him.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Receipt: Minister's Office

712. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

In view of the fact that three questions asked by me on the Notice Paper were lodged here at Parliament House as required by midday on Monday, could the Attorney advise me, or does he know, firstly, when his office received those questions and, secondly, when he first saw them?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I cannot be sure when the member's questions were received by my office, but I only saw them shortly before lunchtime today.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Permits

713. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Following his department's decision to classify crossbows as firearms, is it now necessary for owners of crossbows to apply to the police for permission to retain those weapons, or does the requirement to register ownership of crossbows lie with the police?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

I have made it clear firstly to the member that there has been no change in any piece of legislation regarding crossbows and my understanding is that any action taken by the commissioner is as a result of interpretation of existing legislation. I also make it clear to the member that at the earliest possible date I will give him a letter which sets out in detail the commissioner's reasons for the comments he has made and any circumstances that might exist in relation to crossbows at this time. I will endeavour to obtain that information for him as soon as possible.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Permits

714. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

I have a further question for the Minister and obviously he will not be able to answer it at this stage. I would like to know whether it is now necessary to have

police permission for the private sale of crossbows which are advertised freely in the for sale columns of the newspapers?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

That is a question which calls for a legal opinion and should be referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I will endeavour to obtain answers to the questions asked. I cannot give any assurances other than that.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRES

Government Response

715. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General had time to examine the proposal put forward in my private member's Bill concerning community justice centres and from the thorough lack of reaction from the Attorney could I take it that he and the Government do not think the community justice systems are a worthy proposal?
- (2) When can I expect some reaction from the Attorney General on the community justice centres?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The question has certainly not been neglected and I have taken the opportunity during the recess to obtain comments and further details from other States. The Government has made no decision on this matter; nor have I reached the point of putting a submission to it. I am unable to suggest a timetable.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Discussions

716. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

As the matter concerning the private sale of crossbows arises out of the decision made in regard to the sale or the purchase of crossbows, would the Minister undertake to discuss that particular situation with colleagues, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Attorney General, and advise me and the Press of the situation; otherwise we will find that people are selling crossbows and are unwittingly breaking the law and are subject to a penalty?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Firstly, would the member put any other questions on crossbows on notice? Secondly, there have been discussions between the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and the Police and the letter that I intend that the member will receive in the very near future will be as full a piece of information as we can manage.

STRATA TITLES

Explanatory Booklet

717. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Is the Minister responsible for the Strata Titles Act and is the Minister aware in terms of the Strata Titles Act that a booklet was to be produced during debate in this House, and if it has not when will it be produced? Could he tell me if his department has acted or will act in providing that booklet?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The answer to the first part of the question is "No".

STRATA TITLES

Explanatory Booklet

718. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

I direct the same question to the Attorney General who handled the matter and ask whether his department is responsible for the Strata Titles Act and whether the booklet he undertook to produce during the debate has been produced; and, if it has not, who will it be produced by and to what department should people direct their questions?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I am not the Minister responsible for the Strata Titles Act and to save the member the trouble of asking Mr Dans the same question I will indicate that the responsible Minister is in fact the Minister for Lands and Surveys. I am not aware of what arrangements have been made in respect to explanatory publications but I will convey that question to the Minister.

AGRICULTURE: FARMERS

Complaints Committee: Membership

719. Hon. A. A. LEWIS to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Following on from question 823 regarding the farmers complaints committee could the Minister tell me what other providers have been asked to go on the farmers complaints committee?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

No. Would the member put the question on notice?

AGRICULTURE: FARMERS

Complaints Committee: Membership

720. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Then why does the Minister mention the Farm Machinery Dealers Association if he does not know whether the other providers have refused as well?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The lobbying and advocacy for that organisation by the member is well known to me and my department and I think there has been correspondence or at least comment in this House in relation to this matter in an endeavour to provide a totally full, frank, and informative answer. For the assistance of the member that paragraph was inserted.

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE

Abolition

721. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Does the Minister realise that his Premier made a statement in 1983 that the Agricultural Equipment Monitoring

Committee would not be abandoned before reference to the Farm Machinery Dealers Association? We heard in a previous answer today that it was abolished and it would not be turned over to the Department of Consumer Affairs without discussions with the Farm Machinery Dealers Association.

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

I do not believe I can comment on that question.

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE

Abolition

722. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Will the Minister undertake to give me an answer in writing on that matter as well?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

It is not a matter within my responsibility except to the extent that nominations have been invited as set out in the answer to the question on notice for a farmers complaints committee; and in view of that fact the Department of Consumer Affairs has a very bright officer dealing with farmers' complaints. That is the extent of my response.

AGRICULTURE: FARMERS

Complaints Committee: Membership

723. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Would the Minister list in his reply the groups that have been approached for nominations to the farmers complaints committee?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

I will give the request consideration.