

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 19 December 1989

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

ACTS AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION) BILL

Assent

Message from the Lieutenant Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

PETITION - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OPERA CO INC

Dissolution - Opposition

Hon P.G. Pental presented a petition bearing the signatures of 157 citizens of Western Australia rejecting any Government action that will lead to the dissolution of the Western Australian Opera Company as a pioneering and successful performing arts group. They are concerned to see that -

- (1) The Western Australian Opera Company remains financially and artistically strong and independent.
- (2) Cooperation with the Australian Opera Company continues without threat to the existence and growth of the WA Opera Company.

[See paper No 846.]

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon P.G. Pental, and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON P.G. PENDAL (South Metropolitan) [3.43 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

We are often told in politics that perceptions are more important than reality; that how something appears or seems is of more consequence than how it actually is. There is no doubt that in its very short life the Official Corruption Commission Act of 1988 has been perceived by many people in an incorrect light. It is now just one year and nine days since the Bill to create the commission received the Royal Assent. The Bill was introduced into the Parliament by the Parliamentary Liberal Party to give added impetus to the fight against official corruption. The commission was given certain powers under section 7 of the Act. In the parlance adopted since it came into being, the commission was given the role essentially of a post-box. It was given the power to assess information and to decide if, and to whom, the information should be referred for further, detailed investigation. The commission was not given powers of investigation in its own right. Notwithstanding this, the commission was widely perceived as a body that was indeed able to undertake its own investigations.

As people began to realise its limitations - limitations which, I stress, were imposed by Parliament itself - very early in the piece the commission was written off by some as a so-called toothless tiger. In my opinion, as one of those principally responsible for its policy creation in early January 1988, that label of toothless tiger was not altogether justified. My original belief was that if police officers, Corporate Affairs and other investigators simply knew of its existence as an overseer, that in itself would be an influence for the better. But, perceptions of its reputed impotence were becoming so embedded in people's thinking that Parliament itself ultimately made claims about the commission's powers that were patently inaccurate. My authority for saying this is the resolution passed recently in the Legislative Assembly relating to the Bull-Peters bugging controversy. This resolution gave the clearest indication that the lower House of Parliament mistakenly believed the Official Corruption Commission had investigatory powers. Given that a House of Parliament had this perception, it is little wonder that others in society incorrectly assumed the Official

Corruption Commission had powers that it did not have. Thus, the point is reached at which there is a more widespread demand for a clearer articulation of what the commission should do. Add to this the experience elsewhere in these matters.

I doubt that anyone would suggest that the Fitzgerald inquiry in Queensland would have achieved what it did with the limited powers with which the Official Corruption Commission in this State has been equipped. Indeed, on at least one occasion the Fitzgerald inquiry found it necessary to go back to the Government and then to the Queensland Parliament to acquire additional powers.

This Bill, therefore, is designed to give the commission in Western Australia some very specific new powers. In the ordinary course of events this may not have been the preferred option of the Opposition. However, the parliamentary Opposition is itself limited by the constitutional requirements whereby Bills making an appropriation must be introduced via the lower House and they require a message. Thus, the only serious option open to the Opposition is the method we now employ; that is, an amendment to the Official Corruption Commission Act. Simply stated, the proposed amendments to section 7 of the Act seek to achieve two major objectives -

To equip the Official Corruption Commission with the power to conduct its own inquiries where allegations of corruption are levelled against a Minister of the Crown; and

to equip the Official Corruption Commission with the powers of a Royal Commissioner in carrying out all or any of its duties.

It will be clear to members that this will mean the Official Corruption Commission becoming a permanent Royal Commission on corruption. In summary, the Opposition seeks to ensure that all the powers of a Royal Commissioner granted under the Royal Commissions Act of 1968 will now be conferred on the Official Corruption Commission. These include -

- (1) The power to summons any person to appear before it to give evidence and to produce documents.
- (2) The power to examine witnesses under oath with penalties for non-compliance.
- (3) The power to take evidence in public or private, as the Official Corruption Commission so determines.
- (4) Extending to witnesses the same protection and responsibilities as those provided for in the Royal Commissions Act.

The scourge of corruption, or even allegations of it, eat into the very fabric of our society. If people believe that it goes unabated and unchecked, public respect for the system is reduced accordingly. Western Australia is in the fortunate position that the three commissioners appointed under the 1988 Act are individuals whose standing and reputation have helped to give the Official Corruption Commission the status it needs; but now more is required. Parliament itself must retract any suggestion that the commission is a toothless tiger by giving it wider powers than that of a mere post-box. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Fred McKenzie.

STATE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Minister for Local Government) [3.50 pm]:
I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of this Bill is of great significance to all Western Australians; it provides, for the first time, statutory recognition of the fundamental importance of skills development to this State's future economic prosperity.

While skills development has assumed a new status and profile in Australia in recent years, successful overseas countries have created industrial cultures in which a direct relationship is recognised between training, productivity and economic growth. These countries understand

that a highly skilled and adaptable work force is a fundamental requirement for developing high value-adding industries that are competitive in the world marketplace. For example, in West Germany in 1986 private industry played a major role in reducing the parallel problems of youth unemployment and emerging skill shortages by providing additional training places for Germany's youth. This was not a social gesture, but a result of major concern that a large segment of the future work force could be lost to German industry and not be available when the inevitable upturn in the economy occurred. In Singapore the entire work force has been subjected to training and retraining over the past seven years. Over the next two years all retail employees in that country will be required to undertake 192 hours of training to improve their product knowledge and quality of service. This is seen not as a cost, but as a strategic investment which will enable Singapore to maintain its reputation as the shopping centre of South East Asia.

As Western Australia develops increasingly competitive industries, it is absolutely crucial that we understand the important relationship between a highly skilled work force and industry productivity. Through increasing skills levels and productivity we can successfully create an economy based on value-added production and import replacement with expanded opportunities for all Western Australians. This State faces perhaps the greatest challenge in its industrial history. Industry restructuring, combined with national and State wage case decisions focusing on structural efficiency, have placed a spotlight on the State's training system. In Western Australia more than 700 State and Federal awards will be affected by restructuring. As a result of this process, it is estimated that up to 10 per cent of the State's work force - or 70 000 additional workers - will require some form of skills upgrading or retraining over the next three or four years. However, this will not occur unless we have a forum where multiskilling, skills upgrading and accreditation issues can be debated by the industrial partners; where policies are developed to address not only current but also future needs; and where firm action is taken to ensure the development of a training culture within industry. At present no such forum exists and, indeed, the current system is highly fragmented. The priority must be to rationalise our existing training advisory system, creating a structure that gives industry ownership of the policies developed to meet current and future skills needs of this State.

This legislation provides a strategic framework for planning, negotiating and upgrading this State's skills base within a tripartite process involving employers, unions and Government. The alternative to the establishment of SESDA is for skills formation in Western Australia to be determined at the Commonwealth level by the national training board, and for training to be inscribed into industrial awards. Tripartite ownership is essential, as the industrial history of this State demonstrates conclusively that no significant initiative in either workplace reorganisation or skills development can be successfully implemented without consensus between these parties. The Bill establishes the State Employment and Skills Development Authority as the State's peak training body and a Skills Standards and Accreditation Board which, subject to the authority, will act as the quality control on training standards. This Bill also provides for a network of industry employment and training councils. These mechanisms represent a logical process of reform -

Firstly, a State training forum is created with the primary role of coordinating industry training, accrediting skills formation and setting priorities for the allocation of the State's resources; and

secondly, through an ongoing process of consultation between industry groups and the authority an industry employment and training council network will be established as the cornerstone of industry's involvement in skills development.

The tripartite drafting group has correctly identified that the scope of these industry structures is best determined by the authority and industry itself.

This legislation is the culmination of more than three years' work by employers, unions and the Government. In 1985 the Premier, then Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment, led the debate in this country on the need for an urgent review of our skills deficits. While deeply concerned about the growing evidence of skills shortages and its coexistence with unemployment, the Premier was also concerned with statements being made in the community about barriers to increasing the productivity of Western Australian industry. It was clear that there was a lack of recognition within industry and the wider

community of the urgency of skills development reform. In order to raise this awareness at the highest levels the Premier dispatched a tripartite overseas mission on productivity and training to western Europe. Members of that mission observed in countries such as West Germany, Sweden and Norway the high levels of cooperation that existed between unions and employers in their determination of industry requirements for skills formation and the labour market. The European experience is characterised by industry's investment in, and commitment to, training and retraining programs.

Members noted, for example, that in West Germany 72 per cent of the work force possessed formal training qualifications; in Sweden, over 90 per cent of young people enter the labour market with vocational skills; while in Western Australia, the percentage of the work force holding post secondary school qualifications is 47 per cent. These figures demonstrate the reasons such countries have gained a competitive edge in international trade. This picture is mirrored in Norway, Austria, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. Members of the mission were convinced of the need for a tripartite forum to establish close and long-term working relationships on productivity and skills development issues. As a result a tripartite interim council on productivity and training was formed to -

Develop a framework to enhance existing employment forecasting, skills training and retraining systems;

develop a tripartite approach to labour market policy and planning; and

examine the possibilities for a tripartite organisation capable of implementing these policies.

The interim council was required to report to the Government on appropriate strategies and administrative arrangements for the achievement of these aims. The council produced a discussion paper which was widely circulated and which attracted responses from individuals, enterprises, unions and employer groups, commenting on the need for reform of the State's training system. The interim council's major recommendation was for the establishment of a State Employment and Skills Development Authority - now known by its acronym SESDA. The Government endorsed this recommendation and in April 1989 approved a tripartite drafting group involving the Trades and Labour Council, the Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Inc) and State and Commonwealth Government officers to prepare legislation for the establishment of the authority and its network.

I turn now to the specific structure of the authority. The peak body, the State Employment and Skills Development Authority, creates for the first time a single forum for the development of training policy, accreditation and a strategic view of the allocation of resources to skills formation and labour market programs. A principle purpose of the authority will be to increase the skills base of the Western Australian work force. This will have a dual effect: Firstly, decisions that the authority makes towards improving the State's skills base will lead to increased industry productivity; and secondly, these decisions will provide the basis for recognised career paths for the work force through skills enhancement. The authority's members will be appointed by the Minister and will include representatives from employers, unions, and State and Commonwealth Governments. In accordance with the Government's commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, the Minister's nominations to the authority, the Skills Standards and Accreditation Board and the industry councils will be consistent with these principles.

Voting arrangements will be tripartite, requiring each of the three elements of members to be in agreement. This establishes a consensus form of decision making and provides an enormous incentive for the industrial partners to actively work towards a shared view of the issues to be addressed. The Minister has indicated to the industry partners that in making their nominations to the authority they must ensure also that these are representative of industry and the community. The Minister will in due course appoint a chairperson whose independence and integrity is acknowledged throughout industry and the community.

An important feature of the Bill is the obligation placed on the authority to submit triennial strategic plans to the Minister for approval. Strategic plans will require employers, unions and Governments to think beyond immediate needs and plan for the future.

In addition, the authority will be required to identify priorities for skills development and

labour market programs by submitting annual operational plans to the Minister. These will identify the authority's activities for that year.

Priorities for the allocation of the State's resources to programs and services will also be established through these operational plans. Programs subject to funding beyond 12 months and sourced from State revenues are to be examined by SESDA - a demonstration of the philosophy that industry and the community will have a voice in the allocation of resources. While the responsibilities of the Minister of the day are preserved, the Government's commitment to the aims of SESDA is demonstrated by the high degree of operational independence afforded the authority and its agencies. This mechanism of decision making affirms our view of the community's ability to achieve cooperation and constructive reform.

In the first two years of the authority's operation, the Minister will require a bi-monthly report on the activities of the authority, the skills standards and accreditation board and the industry employment and training councils. This will be stipulated in the requirements for strategic and operational plans and will culminate in a comprehensive review of the operation of the Act on or before the second anniversary of the establishment of the authority. The operations of the authority will be subject to review every three years subsequent to the first review.

Close links will be established with major delivery agencies and advisory bodies such as the Department of Employment and Training, the Office of Technical and Further Education, the Secondary Education Authority, higher education authorities and the National Training Board. These links will provide an integrated approach to skills formation and labour market policies and services throughout the State and at the national level.

The State's training and labour market agencies will be required to meet the needs and priorities identified by the authority and its industry network. The Minister has advised that the Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education and Training has agreed to transfer program funding to the authority and recurrent funding of its existing industry councils to the SESDA industry network.

Education sector: The authority must establish effective communication with the Secondary Education Authority, skills formation agencies and higher education in order to improve the transition of young people from school to employment. To reinforce this interrelationship between the education sector and the authority's network, the Minister will consult with his colleague, the Minister for Education, Dr Lawrence, to establish common representation across those sectors.

Accountability: In compliance with the recommendations of the Burt Commission on Accountability the Minister is empowered to issue instructions to the authority in relation to the performance of any of its functions other than -

Accreditation of skills formation; registration of skills formation agencies; and establishment of the industry employment and training council network.

These exclusions ensure that tripartite decision making principles, fundamental to the authority's operation, are preserved. The Government expects a number of positive outcomes from the authority's operational structure. These include -

The smoother introduction of change to facilitate greater productivity in the workplace; equitable access to skills formation for the whole community, including recognised disadvantaged groups; more effective co-ordination between schools, the workplace, and continuing education and training; a co-ordinated approach to skills formation and labour market policy development; and a stronger commitment to skills upgrading and the establishment of a training culture within industry generally.

The operations of the authority will be funded through Consolidated Revenue Fund appropriations of Parliament. The authority will have the power to receive grants and donations from any legal source, such as the Commonwealth Government or industry itself. For example, a particular industry, through a board, such as the proposed building and construction industry fund, may for a variety of reasons wish to provide the authority, or one of the industry employment and training councils, with a grant, with such conditions as are thought necessary or desirable. However, it must be very clear to all that this Act cannot be used to impose a levy or tax on industry.

Should the Commonwealth Government proceed with its proposed national training guarantee, the Minister will seek an undertaking from his Commonwealth counterpart that appropriate exemption provisions must apply. In the event that moneys are sourced from Western Australia, these must be returned to the State. It is important in this regard that members note that Cabinet has decided that this State Government will not impose on industry a skills development fund or a State training levy.

Industry employment and training councils: There is an urgent need in this State for industry based forums to address skills formation, labour market and productivity issues, and the impact of technological change. The large number of existing Commonwealth and State Government agencies, councils and boards, with overlapping responsibilities, has created unnecessary complexity. The State Employment and Skills Development Authority will replace the present system with a network of industry employment and training councils. These councils will give industry a coherent and integrated voice in policy and program decisions. Industry and award restructuring provide cogent reasons for the councils to be organised on a broader industry basis rather than on their present narrow trade or occupational basis. The creation of approximately 20 industry employment and training councils will provide a workable framework for the development in this State of employment skills formation policy.

Industry employment and training councils will be established as tripartite, separately incorporated bodies, limited by guarantee, and registered by the authority. These councils will be the means by which industry will have direct impact on the authority's decision making processes. The authority and industry will decide, through consultation, the scope of each industry employment and training council. The consultative process has been under way for some months through the Department of Employment and Training in readiness for the authority to assume this responsibility.

The Bill before the House provides for the authority to register any group as an industry employment and training council when satisfied that the objects of the IETC are consistent with this Act; that the rules of the council provide for tripartite membership and voting arrangements; and that the chair of the council is to be an employer or union nominee. Each industry employment and training council will identify, in practice, the current and future skills formation and labour market requirements for its industry. Councils will be charged with coordinating programs and services within the industry and advising the authority and the Minister of the industry's needs. Industry employment and training councils will formulate and submit skills formation to the Skills Standards and Accreditation Board for accreditation. Short courses endorsed by industry employment and training councils will be regarded as having received interim accreditation from the skills standards accreditation board until such time as the council or the authority requests that a particular course be subject to the formal accreditation process. Councils will promote equality of opportunity in all these activities.

Operational plans: The authority may establish criteria for the registration of an industry employment and training council, which include the submission of an operational plan to the authority and an annual report on the achievement of the objectives of that plan. These mechanisms will provide councils with a high degree of autonomy in administering their industry's skills formation and labour market activities. In summary, these councils will, as the cornerstones of the authority -

Develop and promote skills formation and labour market policies, programs and services; develop and promote equal access to skills formation and labour market programs for all persons in the community, including migrants, Aborigines, the long term unemployed, people with disabilities, and women; and provide advice to the State and Commonwealth Governments, and the authority, on the skills formation and labour market needs of that industry.

Skills Standards and Accreditation Board: Western Australia is a State rich in natural resources. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that people are our most valuable resource. This Bill should be seen as part of a continuing effort to increase the potential of that resource. The present system of skills accreditation has grown to more than 130 official training advisory boards, and no longer provides the people of Western Australia with an efficient accreditation service. Our challenge now is to create more entry points and career

paths for all of the State's work force. Investment by employers and workers in a more effective training system will bring mutually beneficial returns through increased productivity, and improved job satisfaction and job security. A tripartite Skills Standards and Accreditation Board is to be appointed to provide coordinated quality control of skills standards within and across industry. This Act requires that members of the skills standards and accreditation board have knowledge of skills formation. The board's major tasks are to -

Accredit skills formation programs; determine and monitor the standards of competence required under such programs; accredit and certify the skills and qualifications of individuals, whether obtained interstate, overseas, in the work place, or by practical experience; and register private training providers to offer particular skills formation programs and courses accredited under this Act.

The board will bring together the previously separate State accreditation roles of the Industrial Training Advisory Council and its boards, the Western Australian Council on Tertiary Awards and the TAFE course advisory committees.

With these three roles being consolidated, the board, as the single accrediting agency, must act to coordinate accreditation across industry. In carrying out this role, the board will be required to maintain close links with the industry employment and training councils, and would need to establish specialist subgroups involving IETC nominations for the actual accreditation process. It is essential to the development of a more highly skilled workforce that the board be able to set the standards of skills required within an apprenticeship, traineeship or other award course. In this way, when industry councils submit an industry specific course or program for accreditation, the essential core requirements will be known. The provisions will also enable the board to provide, through the authority, determinations on this State's requirements for national minimum training standards established through the Commonwealth's National Training Board.

One of the consistent features of the Western Australian labour market has been the mobility of workers between enterprises and across industry sectors. The mobility of skills is vital to industry when matching available skills to skills need. Enterprise or technology specific skills with no reference to essential core requirements will in the long term assist neither workers nor industry.

The board will at all times be an agency of the authority. Its members will be appointed by the Minister, on advice from the authority, employer organisations and unions. In making the Government's nominations, representation from the education, trade and skills training sectors will be included. The board will evaluate skills formation programs submitted for accreditation, using criteria which ensure portability of skills across industries; recognise career paths within occupations; and increase the opportunity for participation in skills development. This is of major importance in Western Australia, where the occupational segmentation of our labour market has contributed to existing skill shortages. With a participation rate for women of 52.8 per cent, there are clear productivity gains to industry and the community by enabling women and, indeed, all groups within our community to have access to a broader range of occupations.

The combination of award and industry restructuring and reduced segmentation of work force skills will significantly raise the demand for accredited training and retraining. At present, very little accredited training occurs outside the TAFE system. Forecasts of up to 10 per cent of the State's work force being involved in training at any one time provide considerable scope for the private sector to increase its role in the provision of training. This Bill provides for accredited training to be provided by workplace or industry based skills formation agencies in addition to the traditional providers such as TAFE and the independent colleges. These agencies will be registered by the authority to provide a training course or module of an accredited skills formation program. The Bill will also bind the Crown in this regard. TAFE and all other providers of accredited skills formation will be required to register as a skills formation agency prior to delivering accredited training. There is no obligation on any organisation to register or accredit its own in-house training.

The system of registered skills formation agencies increases the opportunity for the private sector to be involved in the provision of accredited training. With labour market forecasts indicating that 80 per cent of our current work force will still be working in the year 2000, we must set in place now the necessary mechanisms to ensure that we can meet the training

and retraining requirements of our community. The formal recognition of industry's role in the provision of accredited training furthers this Government's objective of ensuring industry's increased investment and participation in the State's training system.

The Bill establishing the State Employment and Skills Development Authority heralds very significant and positive changes for this State's industrial and economic climate. The authority and its agencies will forge the vital link between employment creation initiatives and effective skills formation programs, creating the catalyst for improved workplace productivity and expanded employment opportunities. The innovative tripartite structure that I have described will create, for the first time, a single State forum to address skills development and employment simultaneously. This mechanism for collaborative decision making will effect positive changes in labour relations generally. By utilising the formal communication links established between SESDA, the education sector and industry, we will be in a powerful position to address the time lag that is evident between industry skill needs and investment in education and training.

This emphasis on the link between employment creation and skills formation has already created a positive climate for growth in Western Australia, with impressive results since 1983, including -

the most consistent employment growth in Australia - 32.5 per cent as at August 1989;

a dramatic fall in youth unemployment from 31.6 per cent to 12.5 per cent; and

a high overall participation rate - recorded at 65.5 per cent in August of this year - consistently the highest percentage of all States.

Notwithstanding these achievements, we cannot afford to be complacent. Reform within the State's industrial training system has also been to the fore. The development of competency-based trade training testing under the new apprenticeship training assessment system - NATAS - and the introduction of the traineeship system in this State result from the significant contribution made by the Industrial Training Advisory Council and its boards.

In continuing this record of reform, credit must go to the members of the overseas mission on productivity and training for their consensus approach to issues of common concern. The recommendations made by the mission paved the way for the establishment of the authority. I pay particular tribute to the late Michael Cross. His belief in the process of tripartite decision making and his vision and energy contributed enormously to this legislation. Members from both sides of this Parliament participated in the overseas mission and its success was largely based on the ability of its members to transcend industrial and political barriers. This has set the tone for the working relationships that underpin the tripartite system of SESDA. Equal praise must be bestowed on the tripartite drafting party which prepared this legislation and for its commitment to the complex and time-consuming work involved.

I commend the Bill to this House in the firm belief that it is a major step forward in advancing the economic and social wellbeing of all Western Australians.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Committee

Resumed from 14 December. The Chairman of Committees (Hon J.M. Brown) in the Chair; Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management) in charge of the Bill.

Schedule 1 -

Progress was reported after vote 10 had been put and passed.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Works and Services -

Division 53: Consumer Affairs -

Hon GEORGE CASH: I refer first to the program known as Price Check, which is handled by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. Item 1 indicates that the salaries of those employed in the Prices Monitoring Unit are to decrease from \$98 000 last year to \$86 000 this year. In

item 6, the funds allocated to the Prices Monitoring Unit are to increase from \$108 000 to \$135 000, an increase of about \$30 000. Item 3, Assistance and Investigation Services, is to increase by about \$100 000. How is the Price Check program going? Is it effective? Is it achieving what the Government intended? If it is, can the Minister explain what the Government intended when it set up the unit?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am not in a position to give a progress report on the Prices Monitoring Unit, but I think it is a matter of general knowledge that it was set up in an attempt to draw attention to the variation in prices, sometimes quite marked, which applied in various locations, with a view to assisting customers to make decisions about shopping choices.

Beyond that, I am unable to provide any useful comment. If the member has a particular aspect of the Prices Monitoring Unit's work in mind on which he would like some elaboration, I would be happy to refer it to the responsible Minister.

The Assistance and Investigations Services item does indicate a marked increase this year. This mainly reflects additional contingency expenditure associated with the residential tenancies unit. That has come into operation only this year and is a new unit within the department. The increased allocation also represents in part a reallocation of workers' compensation premiums and communications costs formerly in item 2.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I would be obliged if the Minister for Budget Management could ask the relevant Minister to provide the information I seek in respect of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Prices Monitoring Unit. From my own point of view, and I think it is a view shared by many in the community, Price Check - as it was often referred to in the newspapers - was very much a cynical political exercise and I doubt whether it resulted in any real savings to the consumer out in the community. I certainly recognise that at times it did point up the differences in prices across the metropolitan area and, indeed, in some country areas. However, if ice-cream was 10¢ or 15¢ a litre cheaper in Kwinana it would hardly be in my interests, living as I do in Mt Lawley, to travel all the way to Kwinana to purchase a tub of ice-cream.

Hon J.M. Berinson: One of the centres most consistently rating well was the Dog Swamp Shopping Centre, which is right next to your place.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am pleased to advise the Chamber that both Hon Joe Berinson and I shop at that place because we recognise it is the cheapest place.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is the value of the Prices Monitoring Unit!

Hon MAX EVANS: Is the Chattels Security Register operating at full effect now? I know there were some problems with it last year. Does the allocation include the computer itself, or just the operating costs of it?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The costs are all-inclusive and the reason for the substantial reduction from last year's \$175 000 expenditure to this year's \$91 000 estimate represents the staffing one-off costs.

Hon MAX EVANS: Do the Minister's notes indicate the revenue that has been raised from the Chattels Security Register? At one stage it was said that \$5 would be charged for each inquiry, which would mean that a lot of revenue would be raised. I wonder whether the cost justification has measured up to expectations.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The aim is to cost justify these services but I do not have the breakdown here. Again, I can only say that that is something I can list for further inquiry.

Hon MAX EVANS: Could the Minister advise the revenue received by the Chattels Security Register to June last year, and what it received this year?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I will obtain what information is available. I do not think last year would be relevant, because of the start-up costs and the fact that it operated only for a part year. So far we have not had a full year's operation; nonetheless, it should be possible to provide an estimate.

Hon MAX EVANS: The item for Assistance and Investigation Services has received a very big increase in allocation. What are the major investigations carried out by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs? I am interested in the mounting demand.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: This actually relates to the answer I gave a few moments ago to Hon George Cash. The main items accounting for the increase are the costs of servicing the new residential tenancies unit and a reallocation of workers' compensation premiums and communications costs from item 2.

Hon MAX EVANS: What investigation is being carried out? Are workers' compensation premiums being looked into?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: No, that is a reference to the department's own costs.

Hon MAX EVANS: Do all departments pay their workers' compensation premiums on the basis of normal premium rates?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes, and the premiums are as determined by the State Government Insurance Commission.

Hon MAX EVANS: Are the workers' compensation premiums paid to the State Government Insurance Commission?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes.

Division 54: Building Management Authority -

Hon MAX EVANS: I refer to the final, unnumbered item in this Division, headed Insurance on Public Buildings and Fixed Plant and Equipment - Contribution to Trust Fund. The allocation is \$1 million, which has risen from an amount of \$500 000. Could the Minister explain the latest position with regard to insurance of Government buildings?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The public building insurance trust fund, better and more affectionately known as PBTF, which is maintained and controlled by the Building Management Authority, was established in 1909 and provides insurance cover for publicly owned buildings throughout the State, including fixed plant and equipment but excluding contents. Hospitals, the Government Printing Office and some statutory bodies are currently excluded from the scheme. The annual contribution to the trust fund is made through the BMA and payments made from the account are as follows - reinsurance premiums for buildings with an indemnity value of \$4 million, and major damages to buildings which are not reinsured.

Hon MAX EVANS: Are Ministry of Education buildings exempted?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am advised that they are.

Hon MAX EVANS: I understand that if a school building is burnt down the Building Management Authority is responsible for rebuilding it. Is that a cost against the BMA or the Ministry of Education?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The Building Management Authority certainly deals with repairs to damage at schools. I think I am right in saying that the first call for that work is on the maintenance fund - that is, the maintenance fund in the annual allocation to the BMA. If school buildings are totally destroyed, they are covered by the scheme and the replacement costs are met by the fund.

Hon MAX EVANS: If damage to a school is severe - and I pity any Government placed in such a situation - I would have thought that the trust fund, which was only \$500 000 and is only \$1 million this year, would suffer a great loss. Does the Minister for Budget Management have any information in that respect?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Failing a very major cost, the repairs would come out of the maintenance vote of the BMA. I think that is what I said before, although I may not have conveyed it clearly.

Hon Max Evans: You said the Ministry of Education in the first instance.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I meant the BMA.

Hon MAX EVANS: If one or two classrooms are burnt down, is the cost picked up by the BMA, and not the Ministry of Education?

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right.

Hon MAX EVANS: That is not what the Minister for Budget Management said before.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is what I meant to say.

Hon MAX EVANS: In respect of insurance, I understood that \$1 million is paid out of the contribution fund. However, nothing is paid to the State Government Insurance Commission; the buildings are self-insured against damage.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I would be taking too much of a risk if I were to attempt to specify the precise source of funds for particular repairs. I recall having extensive debate on this issue a few years ago, but on that occasion I had some advance notice of it and was able to be briefed. I do not have adequate information and I would ask Hon Max Evans to provide me with a detailed indication of the matters he wishes to have pursued. If he does so, I will ensure the matters are pursued.

Hon PETER FOSS: This Division has some pleasing aspects. For a start, the ratio of staff who are actually doing things to administrative staff is 6.1:1, which is one of the highest I have seen in any of the departments. It is proposed to have a \$3 million drop in corporate services this year, a \$4 million drop in maintenance, a \$400 000 drop in electricity and gas and a \$2 million increase in professional services. Perhaps some of that is explained by the fact that last year the department exceeded its vote by \$6 million. Could the Minister for Budget Management provide an explanation for the department's exceeding its vote by \$6 million last year? Does the drop in maintenance indicate a real saving or is it merely that maintenance is being cut back?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The 1988-89 outturn for expenditure on maintenance services was \$2.5 million in excess of the Budget figure. That was due to an increase in recoupable work carried out on behalf of BMA client departments. The decrease in the 1989-90 Budget figure is due to the exclusion of the additional recoupable work encountered in 1988-89. Non-recurring asset purchases were \$350 000; there was an adjustment downward of the workers' compensation premium of \$325 000 and devolution of expenditure on the Department of Marine and Harbours to that department.

Hon MAX EVANS: Does the major maintenance of schools and other damaged buildings come under maintenance services, which was around \$41 million for 1988-89?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I will give a general answer as to the range of work covered by maintenance services. As best I can recall, maintenance services are dealt with under two items. The first is the fairly immediate call for repairs or maintenance; for example, plumbing works gone bad or the replacement of an electric wire. Things like that have to be dealt with separately and sometimes urgently. The second major category covers what might be called cyclical maintenance. The BMA inspects Government building stock each year firstly with a view to maintaining it at a standard which will both meet the requirements of the occupants and also ensure that the standard of the building does not decline to the point where later repairs will be excessively costly. Those are the two main items. In addition to being able to call on BMA assistance and funds, a number of departments - I believe the Ministry of Education is one; I am aware from my own portfolio that the Department of Corrective Services is another - also have a certain vote under the maintenance heading. I am told that normal maintenance in the Ministry of Education is met through that ministry's direct allocation.

Hon MAX EVANS: The \$37 million for maintenance this financial year could be spread over practically every department. Could every department make a call upon the BMA to do repairs, maintenance and major renovations?

Hon J.M. Berinson: Yes.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Minister for Budget Management gave a very interesting answer the other day in respect of splitting the rentals back to the departments. Is the Minister considering - and if not, why not - allocating a lot of these costs back to the departments? There is a budget of \$37 million and, from memory, rental is only about \$26 million this year, when it was \$22 million last year.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: There is a gradual move in that direction. The Ministry of Education was one of the first departments to have a separate allocation. However, the aim of the exercise generally would be with a view to ensuring that maintenance costs were incurred only where absolutely necessary. To the extent that the cost of Government services applies this is now the object of the Building Management Authority itself, which has moved from a

virtually automatic cycle of simply doing certain work every so many years to its current system of annual review and the setting of priorities; to the extent that that is effective it achieves very much the same thing. Nonetheless there is a gradual move at least in respect of major departments to the sort of individual allocation and exercise of responsibility.

Hon MAX EVANS: All departments should be charged for these costs, which must run to \$10 million of the \$37 million. If departments' allocations were cut they would become more aware of the need to protect their buildings. In other words, if a Minister's Budget allocation were cut by, say, \$10 million, greater accountability would occur and the need to look after assets recognised.

What does the allocation of \$8.9 million for the item Electricity and Gas Supplies cover? The amount is so large that it must cover every department.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: This is a centralised function and would cover a great many departments and authorities. I am unable to say whether it covers all departments. Much the same considerations applying to the distribution of rent would apply in this case.

Hon MAX EVANS: Under Furniture and Equipment, is it the case that furniture and equipment may be supplied to, say, three or four floors in the Capita building and the BMA absorbs the cost within this allocation?

Hon J.M. Berinson: Yes.

Hon MAX EVANS: I thought the Minister would say that this would be allocated later.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is a one-off cost.

Hon MAX EVANS: I refer to the time when that wonderful review of BMA occurred; Bill Mitchell cleaned up everything and made the BMA accountable. How can the Government say it is accountable when it is still picking up rent a couple of years later, not to mention electricity charges and furniture and equipment? A person would have to be a whiz-kid accountant to work out whether any savings were made. The Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee went to the trouble of carrying out a special investigation of the lawn-mowing services of BMA, which ran to \$1.5 million. No investigation was made in relation to rent, furniture and equipment. It is Parkinson's law in practice.

Is a degree of capital expenditure absorbed in the amount of \$39.9 million under the item Construction Operations?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That figure relates to expenditure on works constructed by the day labour force.

Hon Max Evans: Can the Minister explain a little more? Does this represent the construction of new buildings or work on old buildings?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: This is separate from the maintenance-type work. Although I am not too certain I think there is a clear division of duties between workers on maintenance and workers on construction. Each year we would build a minimum of four schools and such work is nearly always allocated to the day labour force. They have been engaged on other works and this would represent a total cost - that is, of the staff, the day labour work force, and the other costs associated with the building.

Hon MAX EVANS: The estimate for Construction Operations under Salaries and Wages and under Salaries and Contingencies amounts to around \$60 million. A moment ago the Minister stated that minor capital expenditure of \$4.8 million would be written off for furniture and equipment. Is the Minister now saying that major capital expenditure of some \$60 million will be a one-off write-off against BMA?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I was mistaken previously when I indicated that \$44 million represents both the costs of the labour and other costs associated with the works. The labour is shown as \$16 million under Salaries and Wages, Construction Operations, and \$44.4 million represents other costs of the building program.

Hon MAX EVANS: I accept that answer. Why has this amount of new capital expenditure not gone to the General Loan and Capital Works Fund?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The separate items are provided for in capital works and that comes back to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Hon MAX EVANS: In 1987-88 the Government recouped \$14.385 million from capital works; I cannot see a similar amount this year.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The difference that Mr Evans is referring to reflects a change in the accounting arrangements, in respect of both the Construction Operations and the Professional Services items. Recoups are now shown as revenue in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. So, they are shown separately rather than department by department and are recouped from the capital works project allocation.

Hon MAX EVANS: Therefore, is the CRF revenue indicated up front?

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is on page 15.

Hon MAX EVANS: Yes, I understand it now.

I require an explanation regarding Construction Operations, which is part of the Capital Works Program. In 1988 the allocation was \$1 million, which rose to \$39 million the following year and has risen to \$44 million in 1989-90. This is for the cost of materials and other such things. The Building Management Authority had its operations scaled down, and now it appears to be scaled up again - why is that?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The BMA certainly is not building 39 times as much this year as it did in the previous year, and this change reflects a change in the accounting arrangements.

Hon MAX EVANS: Referring to the Professional Services item, what are they?

Hon J.M. Berinson: They are architects and engineers.

Hon MAX EVANS: Also, Corporate Services has a large Budget allocation.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The Corporate Services vote for this department is the same as for other departments in that it represents the cost of running the department. In this case the major items would be hardware and software for the department's information technology; but it also includes vehicles.

Hon MAX EVANS: Referring to the Office Cleaning and Security item, over how many departments would this allocation extend? Obviously it is not just for the BMA.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not have the numbers, but there is a mix of services here. For example, in the building in which my own offices are located the cleaning is not done by the BMA although we occupy more than half of the building; it is a leased building and this aspect goes with the general operations. The two major cleaning services for the Education Department and hospitals do not come under this item.

Hon MAX EVANS: I presume that Office Cleaning and Security is really the direct cost of the department's staff to do the office cleaning and security and not the use of outside contracting, or are some outside contractors used?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Some contractors would be used, especially in the security area.

Hon MAX EVANS: Has the Government considered allocating this item over other departments in the same way as the Office of Government Accommodation is splitting its costs? Also, has the Government considered the allocation of \$5 million for electricity and gas?

Hon J.M. Berinson: The BMA is pushing for the devolution of all costs of different agencies, but that has not yet been implemented.

Hon MAX EVANS: It is amazing that BMA went through a major upheaval some years ago regarding its accounting and accountability, yet the accounts do not seem much clearer. It must have been a mess before the upheaval to require the changes. I understand that day labour is doing a lot of work now. What changes were made to clear up other costs in the Division?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: We are now going back five or six years and I cannot attempt any useful summary of changes that were made.

Hon MAX EVANS: I was looking for the Minister to say that after five or six years he would have thought all those matters would have been cleaned up and the BMA would be operating as a management construction business.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Regarding Maintenance Services, \$41 million was spent in this area last year. This year the estimate is for only \$37.2 million. In view of the fact that it has been clearly indicated by the Government that its policy is for significant restructuring with less new building than was previously indicated, and given that the Capital Works Program is not as great as many members would have expected, I would have thought that the BMA Maintenance Service work would have a larger allocation than last year. Can the Minister indicate the reasons for the reductions in the Maintenance Service item for this year?

Hon J.M. Berinson: I have answered that question previously.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am sorry; I must have been out of the Chamber.

Hon MAX EVANS: Could the Minister explain the nature of the Insurance on Public Buildings and Fixed Plant and Equipment - Contribution to Trust Fund item? It is not as I would expect it to be as its accounting structure is wrong. Does it involve any construction or is the Fire Brigade levy to be paid out of the trust fund? Where do I find the trust fund?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: It is under the trust accounts under the Building Management Authority.

Division 55: Services -

Hon P.G. PENDAL: It has baffled me for years why Astronomical Services is part of this Division because the Bickley Observatory is not listed in Division 55 by name. I assume it is allowed for under item 1 Astronomical Services; I understand that that item relates to the Bickley Observatory. Will the Minister advise what is happening with that Observatory?

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon P.G. PENDAL: By any standard the astronomical services are getting less astronomical every year.

Hon Garry Kelly: This is a Federal power.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: That is not actually true.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It might gradually be becoming astrological.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: If it means it is becoming more mystifying as a result of the Minister's answers in this debate, I will agree with him. Given the grin on the Minister's face, I think he agrees with me.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I am a Capricorn; what are you?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I have more problems to worry about than that.

It is interesting that, at time when the rest of the world is spending an increasing amount of time, energy and resources on matters to do with outer space and how it affects mortals on earth over a period of years, the State Government has allowed for a very significant run down in the services that are provided by the Bickley Observatory. I am interested in knowing a number of things about the Bickley Observatory in order to make an assessment as to whether this is leading to an inevitable dissolution of everything that takes place at Bickley. I do not pretend to know a lot about astronomical services. I do know that for more than a century the Western Australian Observatory has played an important role internationally in that mosaic of activity that emanates from Bickley. In other words, what goes on there is not something that happens in isolation in Western Australia. It is part of a very important international community, and people who have raised this matter with me in the past have strongly defended this institution and been highly critical of the Government for allowing it to run down. It does not take much research to establish that when the present Government came to office 23 staff members, under the direction of the Government Astronomer, were allotted to Astronomical Services. Does the position of Government Astronomer still exist and is it occupied, or has the service been allowed to run down to the point at which a person of that seniority is no longer required? Do the Minister's notes indicate that the Government is heading down a path of totally abolishing Astronomical Services? If that service is being downgraded to the point of extinction, who will pick up the type of data that for generations has been handled by the Perth Observatory? It may be that internationally, as a ground based observatory, it is regarded as less significant, given the growth of such technology as satellite pictures and so on. Is there any connection or

relationship between those two? If it is intended to allow Astronomical Services to continue, and if the Government acknowledges that Western Australia has an international role to play in this area, has the time come to reposition that item in a more appropriate place in the Government sector? The Services Division generally appears to be precisely what its name indicates; that is, fairly straightforward services such as records management and printing.

I interpolate to say that perhaps State Records Management Services should be repositioned under the State Archives Division.

With regard to the reduction in services at Bickley, I bring to the attention of the Committee that the equipment which has been on loan to Western Australia from Hamburg has been returned. That again is an indication that the Government no longer sees a role for what is considered by many people to be a very important function. Depending on the answers I receive, I may pursue this matter further. I am seriously concerned that the Government has reduced the number of staff under the direction of the Government Astronomer from 23 when it came to office to nine in this year's Budget. No indication has been given that the Government intends to permanently chop this department, although item 6 meets the same fate and its allocation is reduced yet again.

Hon MAX EVANS: I ask the Minister to define the role of State Records Management Services, which has a staff of 23. What does this department do?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: It is true that the activities and resources of the Observatory have been scaled down over a number of years. However, I am not aware of any proposal to discontinue the service altogether. I am sure it is generally known that the State does not regard the Observatory as fitting comfortably within State services. As Hon Garry Kelly said by interjection earlier, the services are within Commonwealth power and the major work and investment in this area in Australia have been provided by the Commonwealth. In recent years the State approached the Commonwealth with a view to its taking over the Observatory, but the Commonwealth did not take up that offer. Other approaches were made to one or more of our tertiary institutions to ascertain whether the work of the Observatory fitted into their field of interest, but the response was negative. The most recent effort has been to encourage the Commonwealth to enter into an arrangement by which each would contribute on a dollar for dollar basis to a foundation that would establish the Observatory on a better basis than it is at the moment. I am told that the Commonwealth has not so far given any indication of enthusiasm, but the Government's efforts are continuing.

With regard to the more detailed questions on whether there is still a position entitled Government Astronomer, I do not know the answer and the material I have gives no indication of that.

Hon Max Evans asked about the State Records Management Services and I am told that the greater part of those costs are accounted for by the item formerly listed as Microfilm Services.

Hon PETER FOSS: I notice that the staff ratio in this Division, non-corporate to corporate is 2.4:1. This is high and it may not signify anything but may just be indicative of the way it operates. I am concerned about the increase of more than \$1 million in the amount allocated to Corporate Services salaries - a 23 per cent increase - even though the general vote remains the same. That increase amounts to five per cent of the total departmental vote. This is quite extraordinary when the vote has remained the same. This may be linked to the large amount of overtime worked last year, but it is not fully accounted for by that. Under Corporate Services there is another substantial increase in the estimated expenditure of \$900 000 over the actual expenditure for last year. There is a total increase of \$2 million merely in Corporate Services out of a total vote of \$19 million. Why is there such a high increase in what might be seen as the non-productive part of the estimate and is that in any way linked to the fact that there is a high ratio of corporate people to non-corporate people?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The largest single item in the increase in Corporate Services is \$645 000 for computer bureau charges to the Department of Computing and Information Technology.

Hon Peter Foss: Under item 2?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes.

Hon Peter Foss: There is also an increase in salaries.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes, and I will come to that separately. Other factors contributing to the increase in Corporate Services under Total Central Administration include the continued development of the common use purchasing system, which accounts for an additional \$422 000, and the contracts administration and management system, which accounts for \$118 000. There was also the development of phase 1 of an automation system costing \$57 000 and a financial system costing \$130 000. The salary increase under Corporate Services in item 1 incorporates an increase of approximately 40 full time equivalent staff. As best I can tell from the material I have, that was due mainly to the implementation of the new services.

Hon MAX EVANS: There is a figure of 251 Supply Services staff costing \$4.3 million. I would have thought that would be for warehousing to supply departments. How are goods allocated to departments and how are the costs handled?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: We had a discussion on this matter a few days ago in relation to the Treasurer's Advance Account. Supplies are purchased and advances are recouped into the same account.

Hon Max Evans: So they are recouped from the various departments through a debit charge?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I thank the Minister for the information about the Observatory although it does not throw much light on the subject I raised; that is, what is the Government's ultimate intention in this matter? There does not seem to be any clear admission on the part of the Government relating to this matter.

Hon Garry Kelly: That is a Commonwealth power.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Whether it is a Commonwealth power is irrelevant to the debate. The fact is that for over 100 years Governments have seen fit to keep the Observatory going and that included transferring it from across the road and re-establishing it at Bickley. Given that over the years State Governments have done their best to use wisely the limited resources available to them, there must be a reason that this service has been kept alive. I will read from the Government's own publication, the *Western Australian Year Book 1989*, which is hot off the press and which at page 143 under the heading "Science" lists a whole range of organisations. The State Government Observatory heads the list, so it cannot be said that the Government does not attempt to display the value of its services or it would not get a mention. In particular, when referring to one of the telescopes at the Observatory, the Year Book states -

The Lowell telescope is equipped with a photoelectric photometer to measure the brightness of celestial objects and a plate camera for direct photographs. It is used principally for photometry of solar system objects.

Has that been found to be irrelevant to the international scientific community? I am advised that it is not and that the work carried on at Bickley is an important part of the work of the international community. The Year Book continues -

The Astrographic telescope is able to be used for investigating photographically the motion of stars over long periods of time; observations of minor planets; observation of comets (including recovery of periodic comets) enabling orbits to be computed; and for securing photographs of the southern skies.

If that work is of value to the international scientific community, as seems to be indicated by the Government's publication - given that it heads the science section of the Year Book - I am at a loss to understand why the Observatory is being progressively downgraded. If the Minister's note shows that the Government wishes to get rid of the Observatory, we are entitled to know that. We are also entitled to know whether the staff complement at the Observatory will be put off and whether their work is of no value. I stress that the two items relating to other services and the staffing component show a marked decline in their allocation this year.

I accept what the Minister has told us - that the Government has been shopping around for

someone to whom to sell the services. What makes me angry is that of all the amounts that have been wasted by the Government in the past couple of years in its dubious business deals we now see a small - and I admit not very sexy - Budget item that appears to be headed for extinction because the Government simply cannot afford to keep it going. The argument can always be mounted about Government services that if they cannot be afforded they should be put on the scrap heap. However, that could be said about a whole range of other Government services that might not have the significance internationally that Bickley Astronomical Services is said to have. I was interested that in the Minister for Budget Management's response - and it may have been an oversight - there was no effort to suggest that the Government actually saw the work of Bickley Observatory as being an important part of the work of the international community. Is the Government closing this well over 100-year-old institution because it cannot afford to keep it going as it has lost so much money elsewhere, or is it making a deliberate decision that this part of the scientific establishment of the State Government is no longer relevant? I am interested to hear what the Minister's notes say.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not know that Mr Pendal has added anything to his earlier comments, and I doubt very much if I can add anything substantial to my previous response. I have tried to indicate that the Government does not see this service as fitting comfortably into the general range of State services, and that it is looking to the Commonwealth, or other bodies, to take over the service, either in whole or on some sort of shared basis. I indicated also that, as far as I am aware, there is no proposal before the Government that would have the effect of phasing out altogether the work of the observatory; neither am I aware of any proposal to substantially increase the work which it does. In the absence of greater interest by the Commonwealth, I would think - subject to correction by the responsible Minister - that we would continue to see the Observatory functioning on its current basis.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I thank the Minister for that response. I am bound to observe that I would not have thought the bailing out of Rothwells, and so on, was part of State services either, so I am not sure the Minister has an argument when he suggests that the Bickley service is not a suitable one for a State Government. Last year there were 13 staff at Bickley; this year there are nine. There is also a corresponding reduction from the actual expenditure last year to the estimated expenditure this year. I ask the Minister - and this may help us determine where the reduction in the services of Bickley is occurring - what type of staff have been eliminated from Bickley to bring down the number from 13 to nine?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not have the detail about any of the departments. That applies equally in this case.

Hon PETER FOSS: The answer given by the Minister in relation to administration seemed to break into two parts. The part under Other Services sounded like one-off items; perhaps they may not be repeated. The Minister's answer in relation to Corporate Services, under salaries, was that it was for new services. I notice that in last year's estimate, under Central Administration - which appears to be the equivalent of Corporate Services - there was an increase of over \$1 million in salaries. The Budget remained steady, so it was still around \$19.5 million in total. In relation to Contingencies, item 2, there was an increase of \$800 000. So in that year there was a \$2 million increase in what I see as being the administration of the department, which is a 10 per cent increase, compared with the total vote. If there are increases in some services, one would expect there to be decreases in others. What are these new services that have led to the increase in central administration and Corporate Services? What is it that is being lost as a result of that, because for two years in a row - and it may be for longer than that - what appears to be merely the running of the department has increased by 20 per cent in the total amount, without the vote having been changed?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Questions of this kind would be almost impossible for me to answer in respect of my own departments. It is even more difficult - if it is possible to be more difficult than impossible - to deal in this sort of detail with other departments. I do not think it is possible to take out separate items in this way. For example, if one looks at the overall staff levels of this department, there has been a substantial decrease from last year, namely from 810 to 764; that is in spite of the increase in some subsections of it. I am also able to say - not because I have here the notes on it, but because of other matters that have come to my attention - that we are also going through a period where there has been a substantial

increase in the work of Supply Services, which has absorbed the former supply operations of the Ministry of Education. That was a very substantial supply service. I am aware also of a substantial effort this year to weed out of the Supply Services system old and under used items of stock to develop methods whereby client departments can obtain those supplies in more satisfactory ways than by warehousing them with Supply Services. A range of factors is involved, and I am not able to field questions which seek subdivisions of the various sections. If Mr Foss wants to pursue a particular interest in some subitem, I would have to ask him to provide his question and the detail sought in a way which would allow for a detailed response by the responsible Minister.

Hon PETER FOSS: I understand the Minister's point, and I will formulate some questions directed to that point, but I would like to take up the point of the increase in Supply Services. In looking at these matters I had regarded Supply Services as being part of the work that is done by the department, compared with the Corporate Services in central administration, which, as I understand these accounts, and if these accounts are appropriately prepared, is the running of the department as compared with doing the work of the department. On the face of that, as the accounts have been prepared, in two successive years there have been increases of \$2 million in running the department, while the total vote of the department has remained constant; so it seems the work they are doing has decreased, but the effort in administering that work has increased. That may be a wrong supposition, but on the face of the figures as they are presented, that seems to be a reasonable supposition. However, I will direct questions on notice to the appropriate Minister to see whether there is an alternative explanation.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Minister answered a question about the Department of Computing and Information Technology a while ago and gave the figure of \$50 000. I understand a major computer system is being developed to control supply and make ordering quicker. I see Supply Services staff numbers dropped from 278 to 251. I would have expected a greater saving. Can the Minister say when this will be brought to account?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Not only have Supply Services staff numbers dropped from 278 to 251, but also this is happening at the same time as a substantial increase in the amount of goods being handled. The major single item was the takeover of education supply services, which was really a very large operation. The total decrease in staff, combining the reduction shown here and the reduction in the education staff total, would be quite substantial. Part of that is accounted for by additional staff in the management and technology areas. I am only guessing at this stage, but I think this may partly answer Mr Foss' question as well. That, however, will need to wait for a more detailed breakdown which will be provided in answer to his question on notice.

Hon MAX EVANS: Has the new computerised supply management system come into operation yet, will it come into operation during this year, or is it still a way off?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am advised it is partly but not completely in operation.

Hon MAX EVANS: These services consist of a conglomeration of what used to be printing and other services. I think they came under the old Premier's Department. Do Corporate Services include all the different Divisions? If so, why are they not detailed under the different services such as Printing Services or Supply Services? Corporate Services has 222 persons. It would appear the Department of Services has its own separate Division. Why is it not split into these different Divisions? It has a very big workload.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am sorry, I do not have that detail.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Minister has no comment there, but he might agree with me. All the wages for the staff, such as the administrative staff for printing services, should come under Printing Services, not Corporate Services. I hope the Minister will make a note of this and provide an allocation in those other Divisions next year rather than put everything into one figure. Then we would know the real cost of these Divisions.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Mr Chairman, is it possible to postpone the vote on the Division for this purpose: I could talk without too much trouble for the six or seven minutes until the dinner suspension, if that were the only way I could buy time to quote some information I was hoping to have by now, but I would prefer to deal with other items and get them out of the way. I am not trying to delay the Committee, but I am trying to find a way to get on to

other matters pending the receipt of information that I want to form part of the record of this debate.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Committee wants to postpone this Division, it is up to the Committee to seek leave to have it postponed; otherwise I shall put the question.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I hope that the Minister will agree to postpone the Division while Mr Pental seeks the information that we understand is on its way.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Would it help if I indicated to Mr Pental - if his only object is to make an additional comment on Division 55 - that I would be happy to move for leave for that to be done after the dinner break? We could then carry on.

Hon P.G. Pental: Even while we are discussing part 12?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Yes.

Hon P.G. Pental: I appreciate the Minister's doing that; I shall follow that course.

Vote put and passed.

**Minister for Regional Development, Fisheries, and Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs -
Division 56: Regional Development and the North West -**

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In relation to the Regional Development portfolio, I ask the Minister how many regional advisory committees there are under item 5, Regional Advisory Committees Services, and for what the members of these committees are reimbursed.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: As far as I can tell from the material available to me, there are seven committees: The Kimberley Regional Advisory Committee, the Pilbara Regional Advisory Committee, the Gascoyne Regional Advisory Committee, the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Advisory Committee, the Central South Regional Advisory Committee, the Central West Regional Advisory Committee, and the Central East Regional Advisory Committee.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: As these regional advisory committees are usually the forerunners of development authorities in that area, could the Minister advise how many of these committees it is intended to change into development authorities in the future?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am not in a position to indicate future development policy. I am not aware of any provision in this Budget for that purposes.

Hon MAX EVANS: The expenditure on the Argyle Social Impact Study Group last year was \$1.1 million. This year it is \$357 000. We are looking at about \$1.5 million for salaries. Does this refer to Lake Argyle or the Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Ltd township? If it refers to the township, why is the cost not against the company? Why is the Government picking it up?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The allocation of \$357 000 is the last instalment of the Government's original commitment of up front money to the Argyle Social Impact Study Group from the State development fund. It is used for the funding of East Kimberley Aboriginal community development projects and is administered by the group executive officer located in the Kimberley regional office.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: Could the Minister explain the allocation of \$450 000 under item 7, Local Economic Development Unit, and what that is to be used for?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The local development division transferred on 1 July from the Department of Employment and Training, where it was known as the Local Economic Development Unit. It is not a new item, but it appears in a different Division.

Hon MAX EVANS: The note at the foot of the page indicates that the 1988-89 Votes and Expenditures adjusted for the Argyle Social Impact Study Group was previously provided for under Division 44 - Mines. The impact study was into the effect of Aborigines on the north west. The study must have some relationship to the Argyle diamond mines. Is the money going to this study on the impact of Aborigines?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: This item was transferred from mines, where it appeared under Division 44. Although it is called a study group, I do not think the expenditure is on studies; the expenditure has been quite substantial over the years, and it goes into actual projects.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I refer to the Local Economic Development Unit under item 1. I understand this unit followed the present Minister from his previous portfolio, and that local economic development units have been set up in Manjimup and Margaret River. Would the Minister for Racing and Gaming tell me which other areas have been earmarked for this type of initiative?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Four sub-programs have been established. They are local development strategies, regional and local studies and strategies, service delivery, and information services.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Could the Minister be a little more specific as to the towns and localities in which these local economic development units are being set up?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am sorry, I misunderstood the member's question. The community employment development program projects funded in 1989-90 include Albany, Bunbury, Margaret River, Warren-Blackwood, Esperance, Narrogin, Broome, Port Hedland and Geraldton. A further amount has been allocated to Margaret River for operations until the end of December 1989.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I believe the Argyle Social Impact Study Group was transferred from the Mines portfolio. Other issues are crying out for social impact studies to be done, one of which is the mineral sands industry in the south west. Is it the intention of this portfolio to take on further social impact studies?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am not in a position to advise on that, though I could ascertain the situation and advise the member.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Before the dinner suspension Hon Max Evans was pursuing the question of the Argyle Social Impact Study Group. If I understand Hon Joe Berinson's answers correctly, this impact study group was directed towards providing funds for particular projects. The Argyle Social Impact Study Group is also the name given to a group based at the Australian National University and headed by H.C. Coombs which is looking in particular at the impact of the Argyle diamond mine upon the social infrastructure of Aboriginal groups in that part of the Kimberley. Is the Argyle Social Impact Study Group, which has an allocation of \$357 000 in item 6 under Contingencies as well as one equivalent staff member or \$39 400, associated with the same group as that at the Australian National University headed by H.C. Coombs?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister for Racing and Gaming may have the answer to the question in front of him, but just to help the member I advise that, as I understand it, the group chaired by Nugget Coombs has a different title from that of the group referred to in the Budget papers. Nugget Coombs' group is referred to as the East Kimberley Social Impact Study Group. The Argyle diamond mine project was set up amid much controversy associated with the good neighbour policy, and in the shakedown of those issues new arrangements were entered into after the election of the Burke Labor Government which led to the creation of the group that is referred to in the Budget papers, which in turn led to the allocation of funds to meet the needs of Aboriginal communities in the north east Kimberley, with allocations for items of a capital nature. It has nothing to do with Nugget Coombs' project.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Nugget Coombs would have to be 80 now, wouldn't he?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: No - I saw him on television last night in "The True Believers". Mind you, that was a sequence from the 1940s. However, that study group does not draw on the Western Australian State Budget in the line under discussion.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Thank you.

Division 57: Great Southern Development Authority -

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Could the Minister explain what Services and Contracts, the third item listed under Contingencies, really entails?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The Services and Contracts figure of \$378 000 is divided into a number of areas such as foreshore redevelopment, regional townscape program, arts and crafts promotion, Western Australian Masters Games Yachting Classic, a Working Together project, other services and contracts, and costs such as tourism promotion. They were the nature of the services provided in 1988-89.

Hon MAX EVANS: I note under Income and Other Revenue that the estimated revenue for 1989-90 is \$14 000, whereas the actual revenue in 1988-89 was \$19 000. What sort of activities would the Great Southern Development Authority carry out to raise revenue?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The sale of vehicles.

Hon MAX EVANS: But surely the amount of \$7 000 listed against Commonwealth Recoups for last year would not be the result of the sale of vehicles?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It would be in connection with a Commonwealth program that was carried out during this year.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: What sort of plant and equipment would the Great Southern Development Authority hold and maintain?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It has a vehicle and some computing equipment.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: The Minister said that land was made available for townscaping in shires and towns within the control of the Great Southern Development Authority. What funds are available for townscaping in shires and towns that are outside the control of the Great Southern Development Authority?

Hon Graham Edwards: I cannot identify any such funds.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Hon Margaret McAleer has prompted my memory. Controversy surrounds townscaping because the funds seem to have been inequitably distributed throughout the State. Many regions outside the Great Southern Development Authority's area of control have been badly done by because of the lack of funds for townscaping schemes. The South West Development Authority has \$1 million available for townscaping schemes and only one shire in the south west has taken advantage of these funds. The Great Southern Development Authority does not cover as large an area. However, there is a feeling that these funds are being channelled inequitably to rural areas at the expense of other regions throughout Western Australia.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The Administration item under this Division has increased by \$20 000 this year. Has there been an appointment to the administration staff of the Great Southern Development Authority? What was the purpose for appointing another community development officer? Albany and other country areas have development officers. Why is there a need for an additional development officer?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am not aware of a staff appointment. In one of my other portfolio areas a position was established to assist with the development of the masters yachting event.

Hon W.N. Stretch: And the community development officer?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: An amount of approximately \$19 000 was provided for a long service leave replacement.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Where are the payments for the advisory council of the Great Southern Development Authority mentioned?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: That amount shows up under Contingencies.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Would it be in the Other Staffing Costs item which totals \$87 000?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It would more likely be under Services and Contracts.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I was at a conference of local government during September and an address was given by the Director of the Great Southern Development Authority.

Hon Bob Thomas: It was 9 October.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I thank the member. It seems that little by little we are seeing these development authorities ease themselves into the situation of dictating to local authorities the direction in which they should be heading. I quote from a Press release put out by the Great Southern Development Authority as follows -

Proposing the Annual Development Conference, Mr Grounds said the aim of the Conference would be to develop a regional plan for the year and allocate resources to joint Shire projects in the region.

"Ideally the Conference should occur in February/March, prior to the formation of Council budgets.

"This would ensure appropriate planning and resource allocation for the year", he said.

That is the thin edge of the wedge because this type of development authority is starting to tell local authorities how, why and where they should budget, and they will soon be telling the authorities where they will be able to spend their money too. It is time this that sort of thing was nipped in the bud. The thin edge of the wedge will become a very large wedge and we will end up with unelected regional governments. These development authorities are not elected, and this tendency is something we should seriously examine. Mr Grounds' comments should be examined, particularly by the Parliament. How would such a conference be funded if it were held, remembering that it would be part of the Great Southern Development Authority's budget?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is worthwhile noting Hon Murray Montgomery's point that regional development authorities are not elected. They are, to a large extent, staffed by people who fail to get elected. The Great Southern Development Authority has two such members; Ric Grounds, the director, is a failed Labor candidate for Cottesloe -

Hon Kay Hallahan: He is a lot of other things as well!

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes. And the other person to whom I refer, Mr Bradley, failed to get elected for the Labor Party in Albany last year.

The regional development authorities attract different sorts of people. I would like to issue an accolade to a group who have come to my notice known as the Avon Community Development Authority, which is a locally-based community-driven group in the State. These people have come together under the guidance of Jim Lee and Geoff Hammond who have promoted the area with the aim of establishing four industrial bases throughout the wheatbelt area they represent. Their aim is to provide industrial and export bases using the existing infrastructure in the area. They have developed a very interesting and workable concept with grass roots organisations. The group has had no noticeable Government support - and has not sought any - however, it deserves Government support more than a lot of other groups of which I am aware.

I contrast this approach with that of the State Government in establishing the tannery in the south west. This has been a disaster from go to woe with a lack of communication between Government ministries and various areas of those ministries. It has been an ad hoc scatter gun approach which has concentrated the problem on that site. The local people have objected to the way the tannery at Boyanup has been approached and feel that it could have been handled much better.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: In response to Mr Montgomery's question regarding where such a conference would draw its funds, my advice is that it may be drawn from different areas, such as the Communications item or the Services and Contracts item. For instance, if it were for tea and coffee, it would come from Consumable Supplies. I note the member's concerns about local authorities, but I remind him that a review of the Act is continuing. Once the review is completed a report will come before the Parliament.

Hon M.S. Montgomery: When will that be?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The review will take place as soon as is practicable within five years of the Act's commencement.

Division 58: Fisheries -

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Fisheries Department is an area within my shadow portfolios. I congratulate Bernie Bowen, the longtime Director of Fisheries in Western Australia, and his staff for the magnificent professional contribution that they have made to the fishing industry in Western Australia. The Fisheries Department is one of the most efficient and effective of all Government departments with which I have ever been in contact. Mr Bernie Bowen deserves credit for that situation.

Hon P.G. Pandal: He will probably send you a crate of crays now.

Hon GEORGE CASH: An amount of \$160 000 was allocated to Assistance to the WA Fishing Industry in 1988-89, but only \$132 700 was spent. I would expect that amount includes provision for the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, a professional body under the directorship of Brett McCallum. He is ably assisted by his colleague, Mr Guy Leyland. The council liaises with the Cabinet and Government, which works well in assisting the fishing industry in Western Australia. I also mention the chairman of WAFIC, John Cole. He has been a longtime leader of that organisation.

Concern has been expressed in recent times by some members of the Western Australian fishing industry about the alleged dumping of snapper in the north west of our State. Criticism has been levelled at the Chinese fleet that has been operating out of Broome. The Federal Government entered into an agreement with the Chinese Government to allow the Chinese fishing fleet to work in WA. The Chinese fishing fleet has had a significant effect on the economic viability of our fishermen. It is alleged that it is selling frozen fillets on the Western Australian domestic market. That is in direct contravention of the guidelines set down by the Commonwealth Government some time ago. I quote from a document that was put out by the Australian Fisheries Service in August 1989. Under the heading "Guidelines for landing of catch from foreign fishing vessels" and the subheading "Landing of Product for sale in Australia", the document states -

Catch from foreign fishing vessels, whether it is fresh or frozen, may be landed for sale in Australia when it is sold directly for processing, ie drying, smoking, canning, cooking or similar treatment.

An asterisk indicates at the bottom of the page -

For the purposes of these guidelines, the term processing does not include activities which do no more than dismember, fillet, clean or freeze.

The Chinese fishing fleet is in breach of the guidelines and this matter should be taken up by the State Government so the Western Australian fishing fleet is not disadvantaged.

Only last week I had the opportunity of meeting with one of the directors of Sea North, a company which is domiciled in Darwin and which operates off the north west coast. That company is hopeful of operating out of the Arafura Sea and it has expressed extreme disappointment and anger at the Chinese fishing fleet for dumping snapper onto the Western Australian domestic market. The representative of the company told me that Sea North will take these matters up with the State Minister for Fisheries and no doubt the State Fisheries Department. I think it is important that I support that company. It has something to be very concerned about in that area. I believe the Western Australian fishing industry is being used by the Federal Government, because it seems that certain fishing agreements are entered into with foreign Governments as a result of Federal Government offset deals. It might be fine for the Federal Government to enter into contracts with China dealing with wheat, beef or other meats; however, it seems that as part of an offset agreement the Chinese fishing fleet is allowed to enter the Australian fishing zone waters. While it is reasonable for the Federal Government to look at such matters in a global context, Western Australians should not stand idly by and allow the Federal Government to destroy an industry which is very important to this State, not only for the domestic market but also for the export market.

I compliment the State Government for the work it has done - alongside the Opposition, I might say - in trying to fend off the use of Albany as a port for the Russian fishing fleet. During the past 12 months I have been critical of the State Government for dragging its feet in this matter but clearly representations made by both the State Government and the Opposition - I include members of the National Party in that because members of the National Party representing the south west were active in preventing Albany being used for port access purposes by the Russian fleet - have been successful. I was pleased to receive a copy of a letter addressed to the Shire Clerk of Albany which was signed by Kim Beazley, the Federal Minister for Defence. The letter was dated 28 July 1989 and reads in part as follows -

The issue of port access for the Soviet fishing fleet has been the subject of detailed consideration -

No doubt consideration of the representations made by all parties. The letter continues -

- by defence, security and other agencies within the Australian Government.

While the Government has identified a number of ports which it believes could be nominated to the Soviets as being available for port access, in the case of some other ports the judgement of the competent authorities is that defence and security concerns cannot be adequately accommodated. Because of current and prospective RAN interest in Albany and the adjacent offshore areas, Albany is one of the ports which the Government considers cannot be nominated under any fisheries agreement that might be concluded.

I think that was very good news for the fishermen of the south west. As I have said in the other place in debate on the fishing industry, the Soviet fishing fleet works very much on the vacuum cleaner principle. The fleet comes into a particular area, sucks everything up from the bottom and leaves the area a barren wasteland which often takes many years to regenerate. I remind members of the work of the Soviet fishing fleet in some of the Baltic areas where the Soviet fishing fleet caught such a volume of fish, using the vacuum cleaner-type method, that it had to dump fish at sea because it could not adequately process the number of fish caught. In one of the Baltic fjords where the Soviet fishing fleet worked for many years, the environmental interest group monitoring the fleet's activities was very concerned that the dumping of the excess fish which the Soviet fleet could not process was poisoning the waters the fleet was working in. Consequently the Soviet fishing fleet had to move out of that area. If anyone ever suggests to me that the Soviet fishing fleet is environmentally conscious, I would argue to the contrary. The Baltic experience would have been repeated in our southern ocean had the Soviet fishing fleet been granted port access to the Albany area.

Another area of concern to the Western Australian fishing industry is the labelling of fish. Members would be aware that at the moment it is lawful to import fish from another country - someone once said that if it is imported it generally comes from another country -

Hon Garry Kelly: Tautology.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Correct. It is possible to import rock lobster and other fish produce from other countries, bring them into this State and process them in a very minor way - that is, unpack them from a bulk container and repack them into lesser quantity containers - and then be able to stamp them with the "Product of Australia" tag. Western Australians enjoy a very high quality of rock lobster which is caught and processed in Western Australian waters; rock lobsters imported from other countries are usually of a lesser standard. When those rock lobsters are processed here and tagged with the stamp "Product of Australia" they go back onto the export market, which can disadvantage the Western Australian rock lobster industry. The same situation applies for fish. A substantial quantity of fish is imported from South East Asia and in particular Vietnam; again that is processed in Western Australia and then exported overseas. For example, Vietnamese fish are used on the domestic market and there is no requirement at the moment for a retailer of that fish or a restaurateur to distinguish between the white fishes from Vietnam and Western Australian fish. That has a marked effect on the Western Australian fishing industry. In fact I have been told by fishermen that Western Australian barramundi, which is a very delicious fish much sought after in restaurants, sells for a fairly high price. It is a very good fish, but the barramundi imported from Asian countries is of a lesser quality; because retailers and restaurateurs can market the barramundi without distinguishing between the imported and the domestic fish, some Western Australian consumers are put off eating barramundi because they end up eating the imported Asian barramundi and are not prepared to purchase that sort of fish again.

The Western Australian fishing industry is a substantial export earner for this State. I am pleased Hon Philip Lockyer and other members are now able, through a Select Committee, to investigate the impact of foreign products on our domestic aquiculture and mariculture markets. I hope that the Select Committee is making progress with its work.

This year's rock lobster season, which started a few weeks ago, has been fairly slow, although the overall catch will be probably 10 per cent up on last year. I will be able to report further on this in the new year. Some weeks ago I attended a crayfishing feast on the opening day of the season with the Minister for Fisheries, Hon Gordon Hill. One of the leading rock lobster fishermen operating out of Fremantle, Mr Claude Basile, has already taken the Minister out on his boat to show him what rock lobster fishing is all about. I am to have the same enjoyable experience some time in the new year and I will not hesitate to advise this place about that visit.

Hon Graham Edwards: We will give you a pair.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am looking forward to that trip very much.

Under Minister's Office last year the actual expenditure was \$82 305. This year that amount has been increased to a phenomenal \$465 000. Can the Minister explain? I recognise that during the year a change of Ministers has taken place. As much as Gordon Hill is a well respected Minister for Fisheries I am surprised that he needs 14 people in his office to tender advice. I would have thought that advice would be available through consultation with the industry.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The increased allocation represents a full year. During the year we saw a ministerial reshuffle. It is difficult to compare the figures with the previous year with any accuracy.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I appreciate the answer, but will the Minister give an undertaking to expand on that answer by referring the matter to the Minister for Fisheries? The increase is a substantial one, something like \$380 000. I was hoping that the Minister at the Table would say that Mr Hill had brought some advisers across with him from another area but it appears those people are all attached to the Fisheries portfolio. I would be pleased to receive more information because that appears to be an extraordinary number of advisers for one portfolio.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: That number of officers reflects the total ministerial budget and includes multicultural and ethnic affairs and so on. Fisheries is the host department for that allocation.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I thank Hon George Cash for his comments about the Albany area and the fishing industry and for his concerns about the Russian fishing fleet. I note with interest that the Navy is undertaking survey work in respect of a submarine training project in the Albany area.

The Minister would be aware of the conflict in Albany between beach fishing for salmon and herring and mulie fishing, particularly around Bremer Bay. With salmon fishing increasing during January-February when the season kicks off, a public statement should be made regarding which fishermen take precedence over the others. Obviously with people salmon fishing off the beaches and with mulie fishermen working from boats which come in close to shore at times and scare the salmon away just as they are about to be netted, conflict can occur. The schools of salmon involved are huge and can reach 500 to 600 tonne. If fishermen are lucky enough to catch even one-third of that weight they are doing very well and catches of that size are of great economic benefit. If the mulie fishermen get stuck in and break up the schools of salmon the situation has the potential to become fairly heated. An incident reported recently in South Australia between tuna fishermen became very heated and I would not like that situation to develop in Western Australian waters.

Hon Graham Edwards: Particularly with someone as big as the person involved in South Australia.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: He has slimmed down since then.

I ask the Minister to ensure that the situation is resolved quickly and that the fishermen around the south coast are notified promptly because the industry is gearing up for next year's salmon season. The salmon season lasts for only about six to eight weeks and it is not something that the mulie fishermen have to bear with for a long time.

What special projects does the Fisheries Department have in mind?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Special Projects include the southern bluefin management, a breeding stock study of rock lobster, the development of a skipjack tuna fishery, temperature recording equipment, the Pilbara trapline fishery, the Broome oyster hatchery, and pearl disease prevention.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: It is interesting to note that the tuna industry will receive further research because our tuna catches appear to be decreasing due to agreed worldwide cutbacks. Apparently plenty of tuna run along the South African coast around Kerguelen Island. I believe that the South Africans catch tuna fish whenever they wish but we are not permitted to fish in those waters. The Press and various magazines often report that tuna is plentiful in that area but nobody seems to be able to get close enough to benefit. What will the research involve?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am not in a position to answer that. I can say only that the research is included in this allocation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Returning to the 14 persons employed in the Minister's office, the allocation last year was \$82 000 and the allocation this year is \$465 000. The Minister has stated that the ministerial advisers are debited against the Fisheries Department. It is a very strange way of doing business inasmuch as it unfairly directs all the expense to the Fisheries Department alone. I cannot understand why the cost of a number of ministerial advisers cannot be directed to the regional development and the multicultural and ethnic affairs areas rather than having a solid hit directed solely to the Fisheries Department. The Minister might respond by giving the Chamber some indication of what he does in his area. In view of my earlier statement about the Fisheries Department being one of the most efficient and effective in Australia, it is unfair that it solely should be burdened by that expense. Last year the expenditure for Administrative Services was \$1.4 million, and this year the allocation is \$2.19 million. Why is there such a significant rise?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The member asked what I did regarding advisers. I follow the tradition of having one host department relating to Ministers' items such as that relating to Central Administration. The increase from \$465 000 for the Minister's Office item also reflects that Central Administration. The other major costs involved were \$447 000 provided to fund the department's replacement vehicle program, and an amount of \$308 000 to fund existing commitments to computer operations.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I see that in 1987-88 the estimate for the item Less Recoups - Other Funds was \$215 000 and in 1988-89 the estimate increased to \$192 000 with \$322 000 actually being spent. This year there is no estimate for that item. Where does that recoup come from?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I need the opportunity to take advice on this matter. Is the member agreeable to my providing that advice at a later stage?

Hon W.N. Stretch: I am.

Vote put and passed.

Minister for Education, and Aboriginal Affairs -

Division 60: Education -

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government needs to be commended to the extent that it has increased its expenditure on education by \$100 million; that is, from \$796 million to \$902 million. That is a reasonable increase.

Hon Tom Stephens: I thought you would have choked on any words which started by commending the Government.

Hon B.L. Jones: He commended the Government the other day!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I did; that was twice in the week.

It is important that there be monetary increases within education, and this \$100 million will be welcomed. Item 8 on page 112, Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds, Furniture and Equipment, has increased by \$17 million. Expenditure rose from \$10.794 million in 1988-89 to \$27.995 million in 1989-90. That is almost a threefold increase and the Government deserves a bouquet bearing in mind that for the last half a dozen years the Government has been bleeding that part of the education budget dry. Members who have visited schools in their electorates will know that maintenance is one of their most serious problems. Even though there has been a significant increase in expenditure this year, when one goes from school to school one sees that it has not made a lot of difference. Many schools still have serious maintenance problems. A Government which neglects maintenance of public assets imposes a very serious burden on future generations. If a Government allows its public buildings to decline and deteriorate, future generations are burdened with a serious expense. I have argued all along, particularly when this Government started slashing maintenance for public buildings, that the Government should put maintenance ahead of new buildings in order to maintain the stock of public buildings - particularly schools. I cannot see where the \$27.9 million has gone, because there is no evidence of its being spent on schools. Other members who take an interest in these matters will share my concerns.

Another area of significant increase is in item 4, Subsidies and Grants. The expenditure for 1988-89 was \$4.7 million and the estimated expenditure for 1989-90 is \$20.4 million, an increase of \$16 million. I will be interested in the Minister's response to my comments - and the only way the Minister can respond to my comments is by listening to what I am saying.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You are quite right. Do you want to repeat your last comment.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I understand the Minister knows what I am going to say in advance - she probably has the answers already. Is that increase under Subsidies and Grants from \$4.7 million to \$20.4 million the money that was going to be paid to the parents of primary and secondary students - the \$50 for primary students and the \$100 for secondary students - that was promised by the Government at the 4 February election? The impression in the minds of the people of Western Australia was that that money would be paid at the beginning of the 1989 school year. When school opened and parents started to ask the principals where the money was, they were told it had not come. When the Minister was asked where it was, she said that the Government had intended it to be paid in the 1990 school year. I am surprised it will be paid this year; that is the sort of benefit the Government might provide the year before the next election.

Hon B.L. Jones: That is cynical.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I share the cynicism of a lot of people who expected that money this year.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Parents who made a decision on 4 February about whom they would vote for had it clearly ensconced in their minds that when school started and the Labor Party was returned to office they would receive \$50 for each primary school child and \$100 for each secondary school child. I would hazard a guess that a considerable number of parents took that promise into account when they voted. School opened about 4 February. That is a time when parents are under severe financial stress after the holiday period and after buying the equipment their children need to go to school. The Government's promise of financial assistance was aimed at influencing parents in the way in which they voted. When parents realised that the Government had no intention of paying it that year, they realised it was a very cynical exercise indeed.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is rubbish.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It was a totally cynical exercise and the Minister knows it. That was the Government's intention, as was the promise it made during the previous election that all four year olds would have a place in a preschool - the Government did not provide those places.

Hon Kay Hallahan: The Government is doing that now. What are you talking about?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government is totally cynical when it comes to vote-catching exercises in the field of education. The Government takes advantage of parents who want the best for their children; it makes promises and it does not deliver.

Hon Kay Hallahan: We deliver.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government delivers a considerable time down the track. If that \$20.4 million under item 4 is not for that promised subsidy, where is the allocation in the education vote? In item 2, Central Administration and Operations, under Contingencies, Policy Resources Division, it is pleasing to see a decrease from \$5.6 million to \$4.6 million, as the whole Better Schools proposal was designed to reduce the amount of money spent in head office and to increase the amount of money provided to schools to make their own decisions.

On the other hand, I notice there has been a significant increase in the allocation for the item, Staff Minister's Office. Last year the actual expenditure was \$227 000 and the estimated expenditure this year is \$456 000. The allocation has almost doubled and the number of staff has increased from 9 to 16. I wonder whether the Minister's office actually caters for Aboriginal affairs, for which it did not cater last year. The Minister may be able to advise the reason for the increase. If it does not relate to Aboriginal affairs I will be interested to know the reason the Minister has had to double the expenditure for her staff. Members must

bear in mind that teachers have gone through a tumultuous year in regard to their salaries, staffing of schools and the other issues which resulted in thousands of teachers marching on Parliament House demanding a better deal. At the same time, the number of staff in the Minister's office has increased. The trouble caused by teachers may be the reason she has doubled the expenditure for her office.

The item, Provision for Salary and Wage Adjustments, on page 111 of the Budget shows an estimated expenditure this year of \$14.295 million. It appears to be about two per cent of the total amount to be expended on salaries and wages. I wonder how that figure is calculated and whether it relates to the outstanding claims of teachers. I would appreciate an explanation for the figure of \$14.295 million for salary and wage adjustments if it does not take into account the claims being put forward by the Teachers Union for increased salaries. I ask the Minister to explain how it is intended to cover the projected increase, assuming the teachers will receive what they expect.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I will do my best to answer the questions raised by the member. It is a pity he paid a compliment to the Government because what I am about to advise him may cause him to withdraw it.

Hon N.F. Moore: I would not be unhappy about that.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: There was a change in the accounting arrangement which resulted in a significant shift of funds which had been sitting in the Building Management Authority's budget to the education budget.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is why nothing is getting fixed up.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That is the reason for the increase in expenditure which the member very astutely picked up.

Hon N.F. Moore: So you are skimping on maintenance?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: An additional \$2 million was put into maintenance. There is not a skimping on maintenance.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is a joke.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I reiterate that an additional \$2 million was put into maintenance.

The second point the member raised related to the figure of \$20 million. He was correct to suggest that within that figure is included the subsidy and grants that are paid to various organisations and schools and the \$50 and the \$100 grant to be paid to parents.

Hon N.F. Moore: Can you tell me what the sum total of the grant to parents is?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is estimated at \$14.6 million. I believe we should get through this Budget debate in a responsible way, but when a member throws in political rhetoric which is offensive to this Government it is incumbent on me to put the matter straight.

Hon N.F. Moore: It is nothing but a disgraceful, cynical exercise.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The grant to parents will be of enormous help to them at the beginning of the 1990 school year. Any member in this Chamber who suggests it is a cynical exercise should know that there is no way in which the Government can expend \$14.6 million without a Budget allocation. If Hon Norman Moore wants to wax lyrical about cynicism, I can do the same about the stupidity of experienced members opposite.

Several members interjected.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon Norman Moore said that if we were a cynical Government we would pay a grant to parents in the year prior to an election. The Government will pay that grant next year, three years from the next election. I have been advised the figure of the subsidy is spread over four items, and for the record and for the information of members the figure should read \$19.6 million.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Is that the total grant to parents?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Yes.

Hon N.F. Moore: Over which items is it spread?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is spread over items 1, 3, 4 and 5. I have given members the

accurate information they would need in order to take part in accurate and informed discussions in the community which I look forward to hearing, rather than to their cynicism.

The member raised a question about the expenditure increase in the item, Staff Minister's Office. I do not have the information with me, but it possibly reflects part year funding resulting from a change in ministerial portfolios.

Hon N.F. Moore: Will the Minister find out?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: If the member would like that, I will. It will be recorded in the debate and the Minister's office will no doubt provide the member with the information.

The allocation of \$14.295 million for Provision for Salary and Wage Adjustments is calculated on the basis of Treasury estimates on the likely timing and extent of the national wage decisions during 1989-90 and of the figure that will be required to meet those determinations.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I draw the Minister's attention to item 2, Central Administration and Operations, under the Policy and Resources Division. Hon Norman Moore directed the Minister's attention to an apparent reduction - I say an apparent reduction because it may be another of the accounting changes - from \$5.6 million to \$4.6 million, which is a reduction of 23 per cent on the previous year's allocation.

When the Better Schools program was introduced in 1987 we were promised it would lead to a leaner and more efficient Ministry of Education. I had an academic interest in the subject at the time and I observed that in 1986-87 the allocation to Central Administration and Operations under the Policy and Resources Division was \$2.5 million. In the first year of the operation of the Better Schools program the allocation to Central Administration and Operations was \$4.47 million, an increase of 77 per cent. When I queried this with the then Minister for Education, Hon Bob Pearce, he said it was a one-off cost associated with the establishment of new offices for the district superintendents of education which had been established in the reorganisation of the education management system. I accepted that, but in 1988-89 the allocation under this item was increased by a further 27 per cent to \$5.7 million. The one-off increase in costs in 1987-88 became a built-in increase in costs for 1988-89. In 1988 the allocation was \$5.7 million and this year it is reduced by 23 per cent to \$4.6 million. However, that amount is still more than the \$4.4 million allocation in 1987-88 which contained a one-off cost for establishing the superintendents' offices. I am also aware that at the end of 1988, 114 teachers who had been seconded to the Policy and Resources Division of the Ministry of Education were returned to the schools as part of the 500 additional teachers in schools promised for 1989. I assume the secondment costs from schools to the Policy and Resources Division represent a saving in administration costs.

I refer to the reports of the Public Service Commission for both 1988 and 1989: The statistical procedures may have changed because the 1988 report refers to approved staffing level and the 1989 report refers to the average staffing level. Bearing in mind those changes in terminology which may represent a change in statistical procedure, the staffing level for the Ministry of Education this year is 24 186, and for last year it was 22 958, an increase of 1 128 personnel. In spite of the promises in the Better Schools program that the education system would be leaner and more efficient, with a devolution of resources from the central administration to a schools based decision-making process, that does not appear to have occurred. In fact, the central administration costs and the central administration staffing complement appear to be growing.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is very difficult to comment tonight on the level of funding in this area since 1986-87. The officers do not have the relevant financial material with them.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Perhaps they could borrow mine.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Perhaps the member will supply them! With regard to the terminology used for staffing positions, a move was made towards full time equivalents which includes a huge number of part time people, and the figures referred to apparently represent different things and are not comparable. The member commented on the reduction in the central administration operations; in fact, the main reason for the decrease is a reduction in computing equipment purchases and upgrading. These costs were partially incurred in 1988-89.

Hon N.F. Moore: It does not refer to people?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: No, it does not.

Hon N.F. Moore: You are not reducing the number of people?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I do not want to give a definitive answer to that question, but I am trying to convey the information I have on the finances which, no doubt, will lead to other considered assumptions.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I refer to the allocation for grants of \$50 to parents of primary school children and \$100 to parents of secondary school children. Although it seems a small sum when it is averaged over a 40-week school year - \$2.40 a week for secondary school children and \$1.24 a week for primary school children - at the time of year it is allocated parents have considerable costs imposed upon them and for low income families it can be a very real financial support. School costs for a secondary school child are approximately \$300 at the beginning of the year and considerably less for a primary school child.

It has been suggested that had the Government paid this subsidy directly to schools rather than to parents, the benefits to the schools would have been direct and real and could have been passed to parents in the form of a reduction in schools fees or amenity charges. As it now stands, the benefits payable to parents are not means tested and they do not directly benefit the school. Therefore, the school may or may not receive a benefit from that subsidy, but the parents certainly will. The argument has been put rather forcibly by P & C associations and schools that the allocation should be made directly to schools. I understand that this would run counter to WACSSO policy which is opposed to benefits being paid to non-Government school students. It is probably also contrary to ALP policy. I assume this amount is paid to parents whether their children attend Government or non-Government schools. Given the strong argument that this is not truly an educational benefit, but rather a community or welfare benefit, will the Government reconsider its policy and direct the \$100 per capita subsidy to secondary schools and \$50 per capita subsidy to primary schools, direct to schools rather than through the parents?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The Government's position at present is that the subsidy is a family support measure, and not a welfare measure. When it was first introduced it was for disadvantaged families and was distributed through the Family Foundation. I agree with the member that if it is divided by the number of school weeks in the year it is a small amount, but to people who are struggling financially it is of great assistance at a time when they incur a lot of expenditure. The Government received a lot of appreciative feedback and it considered extending the scheme right across the board because of its commitment to supporting all families in their child rearing activities. That has been done. I am aware of the argument put by P & C associations and some school staffs. Now that the grant has been shifted to direct payment through the education system I do not think it will be reviewed. It is considered a parental support measure to provide assistance and there is some reluctance to remove the determination on how it should be spent from parents. It is an impasse.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Would it be better to allocate it through the Minister for The Family rather than the Minister for Education?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It started in that way but the Government's policy with regard to areas such as the family, young people, the aged and women is to mainstream as much as possible. The bureaus look at needs and then transfer them to mainstream departments, and that department seemed the logical administrative arm to do it. This has been a successful way of responding to community needs. I am firmly of the view that the Government should continue to do this.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: In an answer to Hon Norman Moore's query on item 8 the Minister said that the increase from \$10.8 million to \$28 million in round figures largely represents a change in accounting procedures.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Yes, from the BMA to the Ministry of Education.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: In the past three years there have been two substantial changes in policy regarding the maintenance of schools. The first was to abandon the regular five to seven year cyclical repair and renovation program and move to repair and renovation

on demand. Schools now cannot anticipate that they will be repaired and renovated on a regular basis.

The second change was to shift responsibility for repair and renovation away from the central office to district offices and to schools themselves. We have observed in the past couple of years that by the end of the second or third term district offices have run out of maintenance funds and schools with urgent maintenance requirements have sometimes had to make do.

Given those policy shifts, the exigencies that schools face with urgent maintenance demands, and this change in accounting procedures, can the Minister assure the schools and the education system that maintenance needs will be more adequately catered for under new accounting arrangements than they were previously?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: This is a difficult question to answer because the Minister who has responsibility for this portfolio is not in this Chamber. I am advised that the Ministry of Education requested that transfer of funding from the BMA so that it could be more reactive to the needs of schools. Obviously, there has been a real effort to try to respond to needs as they arise. I want it reported that I do not wish to comment on the policy shifts to which the honourable member has referred and any further queries he has relating to policy matters should be directed to the responsible Minister because I am not adding anything to his understanding by giving answers relating to these matters.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: One of the problems with education and school budgeting in Australia is that the academic year is the calendar year whereas Governments budget for financial years. Because of that incongruence the Commonwealth Government some 10 years ago adopted a policy which involved a program of budgeting in the financial year for the academic year. Therefore, the allocation in the 1987-88 Budget contained a projection of the need for the whole of the 1988 calendar year.

I refer to the item 1 allocation for salaries for full time equivalent staffing levels. Does that represent the staffing complement for the 1990 academic year or the staffing complement for the second half of the 1989 academic year and the first half of the 1990 academic year? Correspondingly, does the financial estimate for 1989-90 represent the financial year or the academic year?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: In this State the allocation is for the financial year, so it is pretty simple. My information is that the staff number of 21 963 represents part cost of the 1989 calendar year and of the 1990 calendar year. Is that clear?

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Yes. That means that the number of teachers to be employed represents both the 1989 and the 1990 academic years.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Yes.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Minister has mentioned expenditure for maintenance of buildings, which is to rise from \$10 million to \$27 million in round figures. If one looks at the Building Management Authority figures one sees that there is no corresponding reduction in costs for anything near that amount. Therefore, I query the Minister's answer.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: There is no reduction in the BMA's allocation but there will be an equivalent increase in its revenue.

Hon MAX EVANS: Is maintenance carried out by the BMA on behalf of the Ministry of Education?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Yes. The BMA will be recouping that expenditure from the Ministry of Education, which will pay for its services.

Hon Max Evans: I am glad the answer is now correct, because it was not quite correct before.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: What I said before was accurate, but the answer was not quite as full.

Hon MAX EVANS: In an answer to Hon Derrick Tomlinson the Minister made some comments about getting the work done. However, when dealing with the BMA the ministry really does not deal with different subcontractors. I sometimes wonder whether the Ministry of Education would not be better off setting up its own repair and renovation section, which

might do a better job than the BMA; in other words, instead of fighting the BMA to get the work done it should be looking at establishing its own maintenance department.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The Better Schools program allows for that sort of development of decision making and for schools to employ other than the BMA to undertake work. I hesitate to venture into areas with which I am not familiar, but it would seem to me to be an accurate reflection to allow the process to develop where the revenue is allocated to education as the cost centre that is incurring it. That is a more accurate picture of what is actually happening between departments.

Hon MAX EVANS: I commend them for doing that. I refer to item 11 on page 112, School Operating Grant - Payments to Schools' Bank Accounts. What is that?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The 1989-90 allocation is based on maintaining existing resource levels, and ensures that the purchasing power of schools is not decreased. Assistance to schools will be provided in the form of a cash grant to allow for resource provision and purchase of school stocks, library and curriculum requirements, as well as their entitlement to general purpose grants funding.

Hon N.F. Moore: What about maintenance?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That will be devolved later. This is a process that is beginning. It will have far reaching effects. Next year the member will see more of this occurring.

Hon MAX EVANS: If maintenance is not included, and money is going to the schools under the Better Schools program to pay for their own maintenance, where is that shown?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That is in item 8. We have already referred to that. That is where the significant increase occurred, about which there was some discussion.

Hon MAX EVANS: Where is the money for repairs and maintenance that is given out to schools under the Better Schools program shown as expenditure?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That process has still to take place. At present that money is still being allocated.

Hon MAX EVANS: So item 8 is for maintenance under the previous system, a part is to be paid to the Building Management Authority for work done, and a part is for the Better School program?

Hon Kay Hallahan: No. That is a confusion in terms.

Hon MAX EVANS: As far as I know, the accounts for the money that has been given to schools under the Better Schools program are still unaudited. I do not know what is being done about that.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I am sure the Minister will take note of that.

Hon MAX EVANS: Years ago I made that recommendation. Nothing has been done.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You could not have done it years ago. The process has just begun.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: My eye was attracted to item 11; I then heard the Minister's explanation.

Hon Max Evans: You did not believe her either.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That was an explanation of variation.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: Is the money in item 11 the money to which the Auditor General has drawn attention as being unsatisfactorily accounted for by schools, which is what Mr Evans has been referring to? The Auditor General said that schools had very poor accounting methods in relation to their own bank accounts. A sum of about \$20 million is involved, which is a considerable sum of money. What steps have been taken to improve the situation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: What the member is saying is correct. Currently amendments to the education regulations are being drafted which will ensure compliance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The process is now in hand to overcome that sloppiness.

Hon N.F. Moore: There is a lack of expertise on the part of headmasters and principals.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That may be so, but what we need to know is that it is to be

rectified. That process is under way. No doubt the regulations will come before us for consideration.

Hon MAX EVANS: I put on record that two years ago - having read the Better Schools program, and noted that the report said primary school funds would be looked after by honorary auditors, and the same system would probably be used for high schools - I wrote to the Auditor General, and to Warren Loudon, and said, "That is crazy. You only get what you pay for in this world, and some of these funds are handling in the order of \$2 million or \$3 million." It is a sad indictment of that system that we now have an auditor's report which points out these anomalies. The Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee said in one of its reports - I think it was report No 21 - that there had been very inadequate handling of these funds in relation to high schools; and as Hon Norman Moore said, it is a very difficult task for headmasters. There is no proper system laid down for the handling of funds. I recommended that a simple but proper accounting system be laid down. It looks as though that has not been done, and there have been problems. I warned them.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is good that the member warned them, but he also heard the point I made that it is to be rectified.

Hon N.F. MOORE: When the Better Schools program was first promulgated, the argument was put forward by members on this side of the Chamber that unless one gave principals and school administrators the expertise they would need, there was no point in devolving on them rafts of money. We can pass in this Parliament an amendment to the Financial Administration and Audit Act to say they have to do certain things, but if the principal does not have the capacity or expertise to do it, we will not achieve anything. If we are to continue this devolution of money to schools, we will have to ensure that principals are given in-service training in the maintenance of accounts so they can abide by the Auditor General's requirements.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: During the last couple of weeks I have attended a lot of school functions, and I think that teachers throughout Western Australia have breathed a huge sigh of relief that this year is over, because it has been a very difficult year for them. The salary issue was the catalyst that led to the industrial unrest. However, the real causes were the changes in education that have occurred during the past few years, which have had a cumulative effect, so that teachers have reached a point of total frustration. The end result has been a very disruptive year in education. What concerns me most is the very low morale in the education system, particularly in Government schools, in Western Australia. That has manifested itself in a number of ways: First, the graduates being attracted to teaching are now of a lesser ability than is desirable. That will have serious consequences in future years. Second, and even worse than that, there is a huge drain on the system due to the high number of teachers leaving the service. In my area alone, four deputies in high schools have resigned for one reason or another. One lady gave as her reason for resignation that she wanted to live as a human being. That was pretty descriptive.

One teacher I know left to become a grano worker, and another left to run a camping business. They were good teachers and they enjoyed teaching until a few years ago when the frustration got to them. Throughout the industrial unrest this year, one thing which got under the skins of many teachers was that, when they went on strike, salary deductions occurred within about seven days. However, when they are owed money for various reasons they can sometimes wait for two or three months before it arrives. Those strikes have actually saved the ministry money. In view of the current as well as future salary claims which teachers have with the ministry, has there been a reassessment of that Budget item for this financial year?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I think I answered that question a little earlier. The ministry is undertaking training schemes and seminars, and computer systems are being developed.

Hon N.F. Moore: They are going slowly.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: We can all say this while schemes are being drawn up, but while they are in the process of coming into being it is wrong to make judgments as the honourable member is doing. These developments are being undertaken so that there will be a smooth transition.

The Auditor General was making the point about the existing allocations, not money

reallocated, or allocated to schools under the Better Schools program. The criticism was about the money which has traditionally gone to schools to be administered by them. If members want to make constructive criticisms - and I believe they do - they should be aware that an effort is being made to overcome the difficulties which schools will encounter administering more funds than they have had to in the past. These systems are being developed in order to make it possible to undertake the transition in an effective and efficient manner. I have presided over transitions in a number of areas, and it is easy to be critical, but let members give it time and see whether they still feel so critical this time next year.

Division 65: Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission -

Hon PETER FOSS: I think a Bill is presently on the Notice Paper to abolish the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission. I was wondering how, in that case, this vote could increase by \$100 000.

Hon George Cash: They cost even more when they are abolished.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Perhaps we can get the money from there to air-condition Parliament House.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am pleased to be able to advise the member that when the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission is abolished the Western Australian Higher Education Council will be established, and all the staff from WAPSEC will be transferred to WAHEC. That explains why a little pool of \$1.323 million will not be sitting there.

Hon MAX EVANS: It might be part of the changeover. The entry Accreditation Recoup and Other Income shows a reduction from \$233 000 to \$27 000. Is that a result of a new charging system?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I do not have a lot of detail on this item. My advice suggests that it is non-recurring revenue, but if it is of interest to members they should indicate that now and I can have the staff of the Ministry of Education provide that information.

Hon Max Evans: It is such a big change.

Division 66: Secondary Education Authority -

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: The Secondary Education Authority has had two major responsibilities - the examination for matriculation, or the TEE examination, and the assessment and moderation of school based assessments. The allocation for Test Processing and Certification has been increased from \$1 309 196 to \$1 572 000. I can understand that increase because of the changes occurring in our upper secondary schools. A richer area of subjects is being examined, an increasing number of students stay on to complete year 12 and present themselves for tertiary entrance examination, and higher fees are paid to examiners.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is right.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I am very surprised that \$270 000 will be sufficient to meet the demand, but I respect those estimates as having been thoroughly calculated. The Assessment and Moderation allocation has been reduced from \$381 500 to \$329 000. Given the importance of assessment and moderation when the education system moves away from a centralised assessment procedure to a school based assessment procedure, can the Minister explain whether that reduction is a real reduction or an apparent reduction as a result of different accounting procedures? If it is a real reduction, where is it proposed the savings will be made in the Secondary Education Authority?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Perhaps because it was not a big amount compared with some of the others we are dealing with, I do not have an explanation for that reduction of \$50 000 so I am afraid I cannot enlighten the member about that.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I support the comments of Hon Derrick Tomlinson in this matter. There is a serious concern in secondary schools - especially in lower secondary schools in years 8, 9 and 10 - about the lack of moderation that presently exists. Some schools are teaching certain subjects at a particular level, assuming that is the level at which they should be taught, while other schools are teaching them at a quite different level. There is no moderation; that is, nobody is checking that all the schools are doing the same thing. I believe considerably more money should be spent on this than is allocated in this Budget.

Division 67: Academy of Performing Arts -

Hon P.G. PENDAL: This part of the performing arts scene is one of the great innovations of the previous Liberal Government, to the extent that now - and I hope members are aware of this - the Academy of Performing Arts has developed a very enviable national reputation whereby people across Australia now focus their attention on what goes on at the Mt Lawley campus.

The only query I have is in trying to understand why, in this year's Budget, we have a fairly substantial reduction in the amount set aside for Consumable Supplies and Purchase of Plant, Equipment, etc. Each of the other items has increased in a fairly modest way but those two items taken together actually represent a drop of some 33 per cent, which is no mean decrease. Do the Minister's notes indicate why there has been what appears to be a very savage decrease, particularly given the nature of that institution? I ask that question because it is often in the field of consumable supplies that an organisation like this feels the pinch the most. For example, if that is the item that takes care of such things as the production of sets and so on, that decrease could well represent a very serious detriment to the academy. It may well not be that; it might be that previous years' figures in those items have been larger for some particular reason and therefore this year's figures look miniature by comparison. However, as we are discussing an organisation which has won for itself national acclaim I want the Minister to tell us why we see a very dramatic 33 per cent drop in these two areas.

Hon Mark Nevill: It has a great Conservatorium of Music too.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The notes indicate that there have been non-recurring computing purchases along with other plant and equipment, which explains the majority of the previous expenditure. I must say that in every Division enormous expenditure has been outlaid on computing equipment at some stage. We could have created a new world with the money that has been spent on computing equipment - it is horrendous.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I thank the Minister for that information, which does explain the purchase of plant and equipment. Do the Minister's notes indicate the reason for the not so sharp but nonetheless significant reduction in consumable supplies? I am anxious to determine whether that decrease might impinge upon production costs.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: As the member has foreshadowed, the notes are not very full. However, I am advised that items under the heading Consumable Supplies - which has suffered a reduction of about \$34 000 or \$35 000 -

Hon P.G. Pendal: It is about 10 per cent.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I understand that it is very likely to be taken up by things of an administrative nature rather than production cost consumables. That is the best explanation I can offer the member tonight.

Hon PETER FOSS: The Academy of Performing Arts is something of which Western Australians should be extremely proud. It was founded by a Liberal Government but has been ably supported by Labor Governments and I commend the continued funding of the academy. Having seen such a tremendous product coming from it, I hope the Government sees its way clear to increasing its funding.

As Hon Mark Nevill mentioned a moment ago, there is also a conservatorium which was founded on 1 January 1985 and which has also had excellent results. I believe the standard of performing qualifications at the conservatorium make it the leading institution of this kind in Western Australia. In large measure the success of these two institutions has been based on the very high quality of people who have been attracted to them. I have never been disappointed in the quality of the performances or the work carried out there. I live in the same street as the conservatorium and the Academy of Performing Arts and I tend to go to their performances. Their quality is absolutely first class and this State is very well served by these institutions.

I understand a recommendation has been before the Government for some 10 years to establish a conservatorium high school in Western Australia and that the Government is planning for such a school. That is a logical thing to do. Children need to be taught music at an early age if they are to develop into very high quality performers and we must not stint the quality of the teaching. The idea of a conservatorium high school, which has been adopted

overseas and has various models in Australia - though there have been changes and it has been more successful in some schools than in others - has been mooted for some years. Since the conservatorium was started in 1985 the obvious and clear thing to do has been to try to mould Mt Lawley High School into a conservatorium high school.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Perth Modern School.

Hon PETER FOSS: That is probably the reason it has not happened for the last four or five years - Perth Modern School and Churchlands High School also had prior interests as musical specialist schools and the move has been resisted up to now. However, I understand there are very strongly supported moves, supported in the Ministry of Education and in both the academy and Mt Lawley High School, and I believe they are measures which will not impinge on Churchlands High School and Perth Modern School but will at last give the possibility of a conservatorium high school in Western Australia and perhaps even a junior conservatorium. I believe the proposal is that all the teaching be done through the conservatorium and that there be half a day spent in learning and practising, with an hour of supervised practice per day, and that the remaining teaching would be done through the high school. By about year 10 these students would be able to pass in music at TEE standard. I believe that will give an even greater fillip to the quality of music preparation and performance in Western Australia.

I congratulate the Government and in particular the current Minister for Education, who has displayed a more flexible attitude towards these things than the previous Minister. I am pleased to see this because it seems to be a logical and obvious step to take. It is extremely gratifying to find that the idea has at long last taken root. I sincerely hope that the conservatorium high school will flourish. I urge the Government, with the greatest encouragement, to push forward with this conservatorium high school because I think we have an excellent institution in the Academy of Performing Arts with the Conservatorium of Music. The proposition relating to the conservatorium can only make what is already excellent even better. I congratulate the Government for its actions in this area.

Division 68: Country High School Hostels Authority -

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am pleased to see Division 68 in the Budget. There was some doubt about whether the Country High School Hostels Authority would continue to operate even though a committee of the Legislative Council found it should remain as a statutory authority. It is pleasing that the Minister has agreed that is the way to go and that the authority will not be subsumed by the ministry. However I notice that, in the Minister's statement about this, further consideration will be given to whether it should remain as a statutory authority. I hope the Minister will do the Standing Committee on Government Agencies the courtesy of referring any suggestions she might have for changes to the authority back to that committee for its consideration. She may find that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies might even agree with her suggestions if she treats the matter in that way. Some of the problems in the past came about because the Standing Committee on Government Agencies made one recommendation and the Minister decided to do something quite different. In that case the Minister decided to do the exact opposite to what the committee recommended. It is pleasing to see the Country High School Hostels Authority in the Budget, but if the Minister wants to make any changes in the future it would be worthwhile if she brought her suggestions back to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I endorse Hon Norman Moore's remarks. I think I can speak on behalf of Hon Eric Charlton, who was on the committee which looked into the Country High School Hostels Authority. The Minister should think very carefully before she decides again to disband this authority. I am sure she would have a great fight on her hands if she decided to take that course. I congratulate the Minister for going to the country and visiting these hostels, because it was there that she got right down to the nitty-gritty and saw how the hostels operate. The hostels operate extremely well and I am sure that is the way members want them to continue to operate.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Country high school hostels provide an essential service to isolated students. Without the country high school hostels, many country students would be denied the opportunity of secondary education, particularly in years 11 and 12. They would not otherwise have reasonable daily access to such schooling. Although the hostels provide

an essential service for country students, one of the persistent problems of the hostels is maintaining a sufficient number of students to make them economically viable. Over a period we have seen the closure of hostels at Bunbury, Carnarvon and Port Hedland simply because demand reached the point where they were no longer cost efficient.

I commend the decision to increase the subsidies to hostels from \$326 000 to \$456 000, which is an average increase of \$10 000 for each hostel. However, one of the reasons for the variable demand for places in those hostels is the capacity of parents to pay. That capacity varies according to the seasons in country areas. In a good season parents can afford to send their children off to school, but in a bad season they cannot afford to do so, nor can they forego the cost savings in labour their sons and daughters represent on their farms. The persistent problem of access to hostels is a financial one and hence my reason for commending the Government on the decision to increase the subsidies to hostels. I sincerely hope the Minister will not stand up and disappoint me by saying, "No, this is just another change in accounting procedures." I would be genuinely disappointed. Has the Government considered extending the per capita subsidy now paid to country high school hostels to non-Government boarding schools? Has the Government considered complementary measures to increase the living away from home allowance to improve the capacity of parents to pay for their children's living away from home costs so they have equitable access to secondary education?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: My understanding is that consideration has not been given to those matters.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: If one looks at the bottom line under this Division, it appears the Budget is down by \$250 000. The total expenditure is up by \$65 000 and the total salary is up by \$4 000; the trust has been changed by \$75 000. Could the Minister explain how those sums add up? Even with the trust fund I cannot work out the figures.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: They were paid in accordance with the Budget appropriation, but it was an overpayment so this is virtually a recoup of \$124 577 showing up.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I see that -

Hon Kay Hallahan: What does not add up?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I cannot see whether, when the Minister projects the figures down, she takes them away or adds them on. It does not seem to add up to the difference of \$250 000. From the total net expenditure and the total gross expenditure, I cannot see how the figures add up.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am advised it will add up. If the member takes \$1 942 200 and subtracts from that figure the sum of \$1 831 138, it will give him a figure of \$111 062; if the member adds to that the sum of \$13 515, he will get a figure of \$124 577.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I appreciate the Minister's assistance. A lot has been said tonight about changing the accounting procedures; the oldest rule in the accounting book is that if one's company is in trouble, one should change one's accounting procedures. That is a golden rule of survival when things are going bad.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Is that the farmer talking?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, but my system has kept me afloat, which is more than the Government's system has done. Is the total expenditure down by \$250 000 or is it up by \$65 000?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: An overpayment occurred last year; I have explained that. It is not a decrease; it is a reflection that last year an overpayment was made and a recoup followed.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Is the Minister aware that the same amount of overrun occurred the year before? Can we predict a similar overrun this year? Was there an advance last year to cover this year's overrun? If so, why is not an allowance made for that this year?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The allocation was made and for some reason a payment of \$124 577 was made in excess. That is most unusual.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I understand there was an overrun.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: There was not an overrun because the amount was not actually spent. It is a very quirky thing which has happened.

Hon MAX EVANS: Cash at bank was greater at the end by \$124 000 because the money was left in. That is an underspending. Next year the Budget expenditure is kept down to \$1.68 million because it is drawn down in the bank balance. I had to go outside this place to get that answer.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I am pleased that people can go somewhere and get some answers.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I refer the Minister to my previous question, because something like 3 000 families are hanging on the answer.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I answered that question previously. My understanding is that no consideration has been given to that.

Division 69: Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority -

Hon MAX EVANS: We would save time and the use of calculators if the debits and credits appeared in the correct columns. The way these are shown one could assume the debits are to come off and they do not because one is a credit. The net difference of \$4.4 million between the increase and reduction in the bank account, gives an appearance of a lot less expenditure. Expenditure is \$12.6 million against the total gross expenditure of \$15.2 million because the bank account has been run down. I hope that next year the credit figure will appear in brackets.

Hon Kay Hallahan: The Treasury officials will take note that brackets will be of some assistance; brackets have appeared in previous years.

Hon MAX EVANS: Commonwealth recoups were shown last year but there is nothing in the Estimates this year. Were Special Projects from last year carried over?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That was a Commonwealth expenditure program carried out in 1988-89. I am hesitant to label a particular program but it appears it was an Aboriginal communities development program.

Hon MAX EVANS: I wonder what is the definition of Corporate Services because it appears very heavy on what I call the administration "inside" and without any hands on "outside".

Hon Kay Hallahan: It may be to do with computers.

Hon MAX EVANS: It seems to be a very large administrative amount for a department of this kind.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: This represents a decrease in corporate expenses due to the ministerial expenses now being the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. That probably explains a lot of expenditure shown against the Minister for Education's office which was queried earlier.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The Special Projects allocation has increased from around \$483 000 to \$1.8 million. What are these projects? What is included in Land Tenure and Management, and whose electors will benefit?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That would be predictable. They are all in one part of the State.

Hon Max Evans: Down south.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The increased provision for Special Projects is mainly due to carryover expenditure for the Aboriginal visitors scheme and Commonwealth grants for staff housing together with additional funding for database consultancy and the Muirhead consultancy. On the question of land tenure, as we are talking about expenditure, I doubt whether we could specify geographic areas. The member could put the question on notice and I will supply an answer.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: Would the allocation for the running of the Mogumber property be included under Land Tenure and Management? That land is run by a trust and Government money is used; the area covers some 13 000 acres although it is not fully developed. It would have a budget of well over \$150 000, so would that amount be covered under this item? The amount should appear somewhere, although I am told the budget is not nearly enough to cover the work which needs to be done.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I do not have notes on individual projects. My notes state that this item covers excision costs, resourcing and training for communities to manage the

community assets and other land related matters. I would have thought that would not be enough money to cover the ongoing maintenance programs. I may be wrong but it appears the amount covers excision costs and the initial resourcing and training for communities to manage their affairs.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: If that is the case, where would one expect to find money provided for the operation of the Mogumber property, because the amount of money involved would have to be at least half of that item?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am of the view that that is not part of the item. It may be that it is part of the Reserve Management item which is to assist communities with the operating costs of living on reserves. That is the item above the one the member referred to, and involves a larger sum. However, it is conjecture. If the member wants particular information about the money allocated to the Mogumber property, she might put a question on notice to the Minister.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: No community is living on the Mogumber property; the property is being developed in the interests of Aboriginal people, but the Aboriginal people do not live on it. However, the Morawa Aboriginal community would very much like to live on it. In the meantime it is a large property which is being farmed, but it will not be highly developed unless the Government increases its allocation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: In responding to Hon Margaret McAleer's comments the Minister said that if she cares to place a question on notice an answer would be provided. It would be a courtesy, if a question is directed to the Minister, for the Minister to give an assurance that she will take up the matter with the responsible Minister. This would make life much easier for everyone. We had five attempts at that query, and if the Minister had said that she would seek the information in the first place, I am sure we could have made more progress. So, with all the forbearance we can muster -

Hon Kay Hallahan: We are doing well.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister is doing well; even Mr Berinson would agree with that statement.

Regarding the \$1.8 million for Special Projects referred to earlier, the Minister suggested that funds were available for the Muirhead project. Could she further expand on that?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I understand that an allocation was made for the Muirhead consultancy within that project. The Leader of the Opposition says many things with which I do not agree, but he should keep in mind that I am very agreeable about getting information for members. The notes with which I have been provided regarding the Muirhead question state that a suitably qualified person is to liaise with the relevant agencies in order to monitor and assess their progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the interim report of the Muirhead Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

I indicated earlier that I would follow up some matters raised by members. Quite frankly, I am happy to do that. One does get the feeling on some occasions that a member's interest is rather immediate in responding to the situation and these matters are not of particular interest when the new day arrives. This can create a lot of work, and for that reason I have been a little economic in saying where matters will be followed up. I will do so when members have a particular interest in matters.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Earlier the Minister mentioned a list of projects relating to the Special Projects item and referred to something to do with a database. Has the Minister a similar explanatory sheet on that issue? If not, can the Minister find out what is its business and what it is to be used for?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is a new project to be used for the Aboriginal Development Commission and other Government agencies.

Vote put and passed.

Minister for Transport, the Environment, and Parliamentary and Electoral Reform -
Division 71: Marine and Harbours -

Hon GEORGE CASH: Last year \$290 000 was set aside for the Grants and Subsidies -

Land Tax Refunds - Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour item. This year an amount of \$34 000 has been allocated. Why is there a need this year for that allocation, and could the Minister expand on that item?

The Department of Marine and Harbours has imposed increases in charges on a number of facilities it operates on behalf of the Government along the west coast. Prior to the 4 February election the Government gave a general undertaking that it would not increase taxes and charges beyond the rate of inflation; that is, not beyond about seven or eight per cent. The Department of Marine and Harbours did not take any notice of the Government's edict because in some cases significant increases have occurred of up to 60 per cent in each of the next three years. If my earlier computer figures were accurate - I have no reason to believe them not to be - significant increases will take place well and truly above the 50 and 60 per cent increases, for each of the next three years. It is clear that the department is embarking on a user-pays exercise. I recognise that the intention of the Government is to move in that direction, but some of the money allegedly borrowed by the department and charged out to projects involves an interest rate of 24 per cent. I wonder what it is all about, where the Department of Marine and Harbours borrows the money from and how it arrives at that 24 per cent figure. I am not necessarily asking the Minister to respond to those general issues at the moment. I would like to know whether he could cast some light on why there is an interest charge of 24 per cent.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Regarding the item of the \$34 000 in the 1988-89 allocation, the Government directed that land taxes be refunded to lessees of the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour. I understand that two claims are outstanding and awaiting payment in 1989-90, and the total amount of money involved is \$34 000.

I am not in a position to respond in any detail to the other matters raised by the member, but I am happy to pursue them and to provide the detail.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am obliged to the Minister and appreciate the fact that he has taken the initiative to provide the information.

The other matter I raise relates to the work of the Fremantle Port Authority, to some degree on behalf of the Department of Marine and Harbours, because it will manage an area of the Fremantle Small Boat Harbour presently under construction. Some 12 months ago when this was discussed I said that it would be in the interests of the community not to just construct the existing small boat harbour in Fremantle but to extend the breakwater further to the north and include in that area a major public launching ramp.

I envisaged at the time that at least four public launching ramps would be made available. I understand that some feasibility studies have been done. While the original breakwaters were being built for the new small boat harbour, considerable savings would have accrued to the State by using those contractors involved in the original construction, if the contract had been extended to cover that public launching ramp area. Of course, that saving is now not available to the Government because most of the contractors have moved off site. One estimate has suggested the cost now would be \$1 million more than would have been the case had the original contractors been allowed to continue the work north of the existing small boat harbour.

There is a need for public launching ramps in that area. The present road pattern - I am referring to Rudderham Drive in North Fremantle - will be able to cope with the traffic that is expected if the small boat launching ramps are constructed. I accept that it will cost much more, but the facility will be available to the community. I believe it is a much sought after facility and will be appreciated by owners of small boats and people who are interested in small boating as a recreational activity. I would be obliged if the Minister would convey my comments to the Minister for Transport for his information and consideration because, whether this Government does it this year or next year, before too many years pass there will be a small boat launching area in that location because there is a need for such a facility.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I do not have any explanation to offer to the member. I am happy to pursue his suggestion and convey these matters to the Minister responsible.

Division 72: Transport -

Hon PETER FOSS: This Division indicates one of the worst ratios of working and administrative people. At best the ratio is 1.6:1 if the policy development and planning

people are left out. If they are put in the ratio is 0.8:1. The Minister's staff includes 20 people to run a fairly small budget department. The Minister for Education has only 16 to run a budget of over \$1 billion. This department has gone overboard in administrative staff generally.

Hon N.F. Moore: Mr Pearce needs a fair bit of assistance, I think.

Hon PETER FOSS: He probably does. It is time that Ministers were accountable for the number of staff they employ. This one seems to be the worst of all. The Minister is setting a bad example to the rest of the people in that service.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: This department needs an overhaul. The Minister in another place has referred to an ongoing review. They are not very satisfactory. It is important to have a review that terminates somewhere and makes recommendations. The Minister for Transport has 20 persons on his staff. We are not too sure what they do; maybe they serve the Christmas drinks.

While dealing with the Department of Transport, I want to briefly comment on the permit system. That bureaucratic system definitely needs to be reviewed. Deregulation has entered the wheat transport system to some extent and permits are now part of that system. However, the permit system in transport is archaic and is due for a review. I understand why a substantial number of staff is needed to control the permit system as it takes so long to obtain a permit.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The permit system is part of a broader and constant debate. I am sure the member appreciates that. I am not in a position to respond to the other points raised by the members.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: Why has there been such a hefty increase of \$3 million to the contribution from the transport trust fund? What is the money used for?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It is a funding mechanism. The closing balance as at 30 June was \$51 605. All the money that came in was disbursed. I refer the member to table 21 in the supplementary Budget information.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I support the comments of the acting Leader of the National Party about the Department of Transport and its ongoing review. If there was ever a department in this State that has reviews which never reach an end, it is this department.

Two years ago I visited the department and I asked the Director of Transport when he expected the small bulks review to be completed and, in particular, when the review into the cartage of gypsum would be completed. I was told the reviews would be finished in December of that year. Two years later we are still waiting for the results of those reviews to be presented to this Parliament.

It is interesting that a question should be raised regarding \$6.5 million that has been allocated to this department from the transport trust fund. Members will be aware that the moneys from the transport trust fund come from the fuel levies charged by this State. It was only recently that this Government again increased the levy. At the time I did not expect another \$3 million would be transferred to this department to continue the ongoing reviews in which it specialises.

Without being too derogatory of the department - some very good members of the Public Service work there - arguments have been put that the funds of this department are basically self-perpetuating. Inspectors go out onto the road with a view to enforcing regulations and fining people for not having the necessary permits for certain items they are carting. The revenue from the fine is almost equal to the expenses incurred by inspectors. If the Government were to look at the system it would find that if the regulations were not in force the ridiculous permits would not be necessary and it would not need inspectors who are incurring additional expenditure by catching people for not having the required piece of paper. It is a clear indication of a function which is self-perpetuating and which achieves very little for the community. In the past representatives of the Department of Transport have said they would phase out the permit system. In the time I have been in the Parliament there has been no lessening of the permits required and it would take a miracle for those permits to be phased out within two or three years. I live in hope not only that the department will wake up to the unnecessary use of permits, but also for a change in

Government when the Liberal Party will exercise some influence in order that the department will determine the issues regarding permits and ongoing reviews.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I support Hon George Cash's remarks on the transport trust fund. The Budget shows a leakage of \$37.9 million in the transport trust fund in addition to the \$6.5 million.

I hope the remarks I made the other night did not fall on deaf ears and that future planning by the department will lead to a road design that will cope with future traffic flows instead of using an outdated design to build roads. If the Government does not keep up with the trends of modern overseas transport it will be faced with rapidly rising costs and a road system that will not cope with increased productivity in the rural economy. Every year I have said in the Parliament that there have been no improvements in this area. A section of the Albany Highway has been upgraded at great cost in the last 18 months and it is already deteriorating in some places. There are major flaws in the concept of road design. If the syphoning of petrol money will help in the planning of our roads to overcome these problems I would be slightly happier about the way in which the petrol money is collected. The department is not designing and building roads which will cater for the community's needs.

Division 73: Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust -

Hon PETER FOSS: This Division appears to have a reasonable ratio of people to administrators; that is, 8.8:1. If one looks at the figures in more detail one will notice the cost of administration compared with the total vote. The cost of administration is 93.9 per cent of the vote. At first glance it appears to be strange, but the reason is that Transperth has set off against -

Hon Graham Edwards: Which figure are you using - total gross expenditure or total net expenditure?

Hon PETER FOSS: I am using the estimate for Administration under Salaries and Wages and Contingencies.

The reason for the increase is that large amounts of money have come from other parts of the department, including income from fares. Some of the money has come from State reimbursements, including social welfare concessions and the contribution from the transport trust fund. One gets the feeling that the justification for the increase is to allow for the cost of the subsidy this service is providing on fares and services which otherwise would not be provided except as a social measure. It is almost completely subsidised because it is being reimbursed for everything except administration.

Earlier I referred to a \$6 million overrun in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. I have still not received an answer to my question and it should be explained. Without being asked, the department should be anxious to explain to the Parliament the reason for the overrun. The vote for this Division last year was \$18.304 million and \$23.404 million was actually expended. I hope that in future when there is an extraordinarily large overrun the department will offer an apology and an explanation for it before the Opposition seeks the information.

I have examined the figures and there is a \$5.1 million overrun. If one examines it more carefully the situation is worse than it looks. A large amount of the overrun was offset by moneys from other Government departments. The estimate of total outgoings is \$138,924 million and the total actually expended is \$146,294,367. The real overrun in expenditure was \$7.37 million. An overrun of this magnitude deserves an explanation. Of that amount, \$5.989 million comes from traffic operations. That leaves \$1.4 million. Why was there a shift from Salaries and Wages to Contingencies? Last year's votes and estimates show more in Salaries and Wages and less in Contingencies. The figures have now been swapped so that the amount for salaries is reduced and the amount for contingencies is increased. The MTT looks better than Westrail but in fact it is not that good. Total expenditure of the MTT in 1988-89 was \$146 million actual, with an estimate for 1989-90 of \$164 million. Westrail had a total expenditure last year of \$322 million, with an estimate for 1989-90 of \$355 million. The net expenditure respectively is estimated to be \$27 million and \$311 million, taking into account all the moneys from other sources.

My first query is: Are excessive recoups being given in the social welfare and State reimbursements concessions? It appears that everything is paid for except administration.

Secondly, why was there an overrun of \$5.1 million on the vote? Thirdly, how could the MTT overspend its total expenditure by \$7.37 million? Finally, what is the reason for this huge shift of the amount from Salary and Wages to Contingencies?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It was suggested that administration accounted for 90 per cent of the total expenditure.

Hon Peter Foss: Not of total expenditure, but of the vote.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I asked whether the member was referring to the total gross expenditure or the total net expenditure. The administration figure is \$5.9 million.

Hon Peter Foss: The vote is \$27 million and that is the figure I am referring to. The other Government subsidies listed at the bottom of this page pick up the operating costs and the vote pays for the administration. That is why I asked whether the Government over-subsidised under the State reimbursements concession because all that is left is the cost of administration.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: With regard to the overexpenditure by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, I seek leave to table some papers providing further details.

[See paper No 848.]

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: With regard to the overspending referred to, I am happy to obtain further detail and to supply that to the member in a summarised form. Hon Peter Foss referred to the shift of funds from Salaries and Wages to Contingencies. I ask for further clarification.

Hon PETER FOSS: It is an accounting matter more than anything else. Last year's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure show an estimate of \$10.49 million under Salaries and Wages for Administration, and actual expenditure in 1988-89 was \$5.905 million, which appears to be a saving of \$5 million. Contingencies Administration showed an estimate of \$18 million last year with an actual expenditure of \$19 million. It seems a swap has taken place to some extent in administration costs from Salaries and Wages to Contingencies.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I understand the salaries and wages figures referred to by Hon Peter Foss relate to an amount within that salaries and wages area. It is not related to contingencies.

Hon Peter Foss: I am curious to know how the department could save \$5 million on administration salaries.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It is not a saving, it is a reallocation to Traffic Operations.

Division 74: Western Australian Government Railways Commission -

Hon GEORGE CASH: I invite comment on three areas. Firstly, under the heading Contingencies, the amount under item Finance, Accounting and Supply - Debt Servicing Costs is estimated to increase from \$33 million to \$44 million this year. Secondly, depreciation is estimated to increase from \$15 million to \$20 million and, thirdly, the allocation for Stores and Materials has increased from \$12 million to \$26 million. I ask the Minister the reason for the substantial increases in those three items.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The reason for the increase in debt servicing costs is that work on the electrification project necessitated an increase in debt in 1988-89 and Westrail borrowed \$57.3 million, of which \$38.3 million was used on electrification and the northern suburbs railway project. For 1989-90 \$63.4 million has been borrowed, with \$64.6 million expenditure on electrification and the northern suburbs railway, reflecting an increase in the use of internal funds and balances.

The change in the depreciation figure reflects an increase in assets acquired in Westrail's modernisation and electrification processes, including replacement of old locomotives and wagons by more effective equipment. The increase for Stores and Materials reflects Westrail's first contribution to an asbestosis provision, an amount of \$3.5 million.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The item Other contingencies including Stores and Materials shows an increase from an actual expenditure last year of \$12.4 million to an estimated expenditure this year of \$26 million. Given that includes an amount of \$3 million for an asbestosis program, there is still a considerable further increase.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: This aggregation of sales resulted in expenditure of \$10 million and revenue of \$11 million. This is to be compared with the old method where net revenue of \$1 million would have been recorded.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Are we dealing with Other contingencies including Stores and Materials, which has increased from an actual expenditure of \$12 million last year to an estimated expenditure of \$26 million this year?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I have already explained the provision for asbestosis claims of \$3.5 million. Goods and service costs represent \$10 million. This is a result of a changed accounting arrangement under which the gross expenditure is charged and the recoup is shown in railways revenue.

Division 75: Environmental Protection Authority -

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Under item 6 is an amount of \$353 000 shown for estimated pollution control in 1989-90. Given the task at hand, that seems to be a modest amount. A matter has been raised with me in order that I bring it to the Government's attention. A move is being made in my electorate - I take it by the City of Melville and possibly by the State Government - to move from a site on Leach Highway in Myaree a company which has conducted a wool scouring operation for many years and which has had an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. I will quote from a letter received from the City of Melville dated 27 November 1989 and which I hope relates directly to the item under discussion. It states -

The Environmental Protection Authority and other Government Agencies have recognised this fact -

The need to relocate -

and accordingly established a working party to look at relocating all metropolitan wool scours.

Over the past few years, odour problems, ground water pollution and insect nuisance arising from the scours have been affecting a large area which abounds the scours.

At a meeting of the Council held on 21 November 1989, it was resolved that you -

Me, as local member -

be advised of the Council's concern over the continued operation of the scours from the Leach Highway site and be requested to support the relocation of these scours to a more appropriate location.

I raise this matter because, given the fact that the Environmental Protection Authority is mentioned in this letter as being the Government agency responsible for finding a relocation position, it seems to me that the amount set aside under Other Services of about \$350 000 is little enough given the nature of this one problem, which must be replicated many thousands of times across Western Australia. I do no more than bring this matter to the attention of the Government as it seems to be easy enough for it to say that a business which has been at a particular location for many years can simply be shunted to one side without, from what I can see, any real effort on the part of the EPA to come to grips with what must be done to relocate that business. I imagine that to relocate a business such as the Hulme Wool Scouring Company would involve a high cost to that company, which seems to me to be something the EPA has not addressed if it is the agency requiring the company to move from that site.

Division 76: Electoral Commission -

Hon GEORGE CASH: Why has the allocation for item 4, Services and Contracts, increased by nearly 100 per cent from \$700 000 to \$1.4 million in round terms this year?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The additional expenditure reflects, firstly, transfer of election expenditure for 1989-90 from item 8, which has been closed; secondly, additional costs associated with the joint arrangement with the Australian Electoral Commission for electoral roll maintenance and habitation reviews; and, thirdly, an increase in Department of Computing and Information Technology charges.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: The vote last year for Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly

General and By-elections was \$2.83 million. Can the Minister explain why an end cost of \$3.7 million was incurred? That is no mean leap in the course of running a general election, and I assume a few by-elections.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The excess expenditure of \$925 000 was the result of additional funding sought for the advertising campaigns; the additional salary and printing costs associated with the Legislative Council election; and computer programming costs associated with the introduction of optical scanning of electoral rolls.

Vote put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again at a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management).

[Continued below.]

MOTION

Sittings of the House - Extended after 11.00 pm

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [10.41 pm]: I move -

That the time of this sitting be extended to the extent necessary to complete consideration of parts 15 and 16 of the Budget.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [10.42 pm]: After some discussion with the acting Leader of the National Party, I believe we can agree to the motion, but I have to advise the House, for the benefit of those members who may not have heard the discussion we had a few moments ago, that the Leader of the House in fact proposed that we sit until a particular hour tomorrow morning, which was certainly unacceptable to Mr Caldwell and me, and I am sure would have been unacceptable to all members. The compromise - and I do not like that word - that has been reached is that we now complete parts 15 and 16. Members will be able to determine for themselves how long that will take. They have the option of finishing at 11.15 pm, if they so desire, or at 5.15 am tomorrow, if that is as long as it takes to complete part 16. I support the motion.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Committee

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. The Chairman of Committees (Hon J.M. Brown) in the Chair; Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management) in charge of the Bill.

Schedule 1 -

Progress was reported after vote 14 had been agreed to.

Minister for Community Services, Justice, and the South West -

Division 77: Community Services -

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I refer to a question that arose during the Minister for The Family's part of the Budget, in relation to holiday activities. I believe that in the last Budget, the Department for Community Services funded some of these holiday activities. I am a little confused about where the funding will come from this year, whether it will be in whole from the Office of the Family or in part from the Department for Community Services.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: As best I can tell from the material available to us, those holiday activities would not be funded under this vote but under the Office of the Family.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I refer to Item 5, Youth Services, which is obviously an area that requires a great deal of encouragement. One should ensure that youth services are supported by reasonable funding, to the point of providing opportunities; yet the funding has decreased. Can the Minister explain why there has been a decrease in an area where we should ensure there is an increase?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The major single reason for the decrease is found in the fact that the 1988-89 expenditure included a full year for the Children's Court; the current year includes

only five months' costs because as from 1 December, the Children's Court has been transferred to the Attorney General's Department. Other changes include a reduction in the Kids And Crime program, but an addition to the Troubled Youth program. There is a net reduction, taking the total of those, by an amount of the order of \$100 000.

Hon MAX EVANS: I refer to staffing for the North Metropolitan Region, East Metropolitan Region, and South Metropolitan Region. There are 300 000 electors in the North Metropolitan Region, and about 200 000 in the East Metropolitan Region and the South Metropolitan Region. I wonder what staffing has to do with the population in the areas, or are there more problems in the eastern suburbs?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not believe these regions correspond to the electoral regions.

Hon Kay Hallahan: They also have substantial responsibilities.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: To provide responses to that, it would be necessary to have an indication of the numbers served from the regional offices. I do not have a breakdown of the population on that basis.

Hon MAX EVANS: There is a huge difference in the numbers. We have 136 staff under Management and Finance. Is that management of the department itself, or does it refer to servicing the community in respect of Management and Finance? We have the Small Business Development Corporation, so I wonder what this is?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That allocation in that directorate, which is a separate directorate, is necessary in order to manage the amount which goes out to the community. Funding to non-Government agencies has increased enormously. That figure is up to \$24 million. That involves a huge amount of administration, as does the financial and material assistance. We have a vote of virtually \$5 million. A great deal of liaison and other work is necessary with various community groups which are in receipt of those moneys. I do not think that is an excessive amount for that directorate, which I think is quite an efficient one.

Hon MAX EVANS: Do they check up on how the money has been spent?

Hon Kay Hallahan: The whole administration of the department, and the non-Government sector.

Hon MAX EVANS: I do not know whether outside services are involved. What does Non-Government Agency Support, \$24 million, represent? It is about 23 per cent of the total budget for this section.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: In this State we have tried to involve and encourage localised services whereby various funding programs are community managed. The belief is that local people are more responsive to their community needs, and the community becomes involved, which is preferable to a bureaucratic structure delivering services into the community, which results in alienation. This is a way of building up a cohesive community with an interest in providing the services required by the community. They are sociological concepts, but in my view they work far better than a centralised bureaucracy funding straight out with no community input. We would be the poorer for that sort of model.

Hon MAX EVANS: Would the Minister give four or five examples of organisations to which the Government is paying money?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I shall give the member an idea of funding programs. There is the supported assistance accommodation program, which provides emergency accommodation. Within that are three sub-programs: Women's refuges, youth refuges, and general family refuges. Then we have family support services. These are very flexible services responding to our need to provide advice to families and to provide funding, counselling, material aid and a whole range of things, depending upon what a community needs.

Residential child care was predominantly a function of the churches, which traditionally provided accommodation for children in the event of a breakdown of the family, or where orphans were involved in the old days. The poverty programs have been introduced in the last few years, because there was an acknowledgment that certain families had a lot of problems and assistance needed to be targeted to them. Agencies were established in a number of areas which had difficulties, and they were funded. They cover a very wide range.

Division 78: Legal Aid Commission -

Hon PETER FOSS: One of the minor accounting matters I draw to the attention of the Chamber is what looks like an alarming administrative overhead in this department, where 83 people are shown under Administration. Twice the number of people appear under Administration as those actually doing the work. Last year's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure show that those people are made up in probably the same way as they are shown in these Budget papers. Under non-legal staff are three finance and administrative managers, who are, strictly speaking, administration, and 79 clerks, typists and assistants. In view of the fact that in the law quite often the product is the printed word, I do not know that I necessarily regard those clerks, typists and assistants as being administration. Many of them would be as much involved in the work of the Legal Aid Commission as a printer in a printing office would be involved in the work of that office rather than in the administration. If the term "administration" is to be used, it would be more effective if a distinction were made between administration strictly speaking in the corporate services of the Legal Aid Commission and people involved in actual legal aid work such as typing and drafting.

What is of concern is that while the number of people who appear to be employed by the commission is constant, possibly one legal officer has become a section head. The amount of money spent on, for instance, Duty Counsel Fees has gone down by \$11 800, Legal Disbursements has gone down by \$169 000, and Private Practitioners Fees has gone down by nearly \$1 million. Each of these must mean a real reduction in the legal services being provided to the people of Western Australia. It is quite evident already, from what we have read in the Press, and from the experience of anyone who has had anything to do with legal aid, that there is inadequate legal aid at the moment; there is hardly enough even to help the poor, let alone those who are better off than that but do not have enough money to afford legal services.

I understand the Law Society is putting forward a proposition to try to meet the need for legal services involving a fund with a contingency fee system. That will be coming to this Parliament at a later stage. In the meantime we have inadequate legal aid in terms of the resources available to the commission, and now there has been a further cut in the amount of money provided. These are real cutbacks, without taking into account the fact that costs are going up all the time. Was this a decision of the Government to cut back on legal aid, and what does the Government see as the consequences of this cut in the amount of money provided?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: There was a very special factor involved in legal aid costs last year which would account for virtually the whole of the difference to which Hon Peter Foss has referred. There was an amount of roughly \$1.1 million as a result of the Fremantle Prison riot, the trial of which seemed to go on forever, but substantial special allocations were made for asbestosis claims as well. The first of those does not apply this year and it was the subject of a special, additional allocation last year. The second does not apply for rather different reasons; namely, that an arrangement has been made to fund further asbestosis cases from the recovery of fees in successful actions so far.

I take the opportunity to point out that apart from those special factors it should be understood that the State's contribution for legal aid has risen substantially in order to cover the first instalment, so to speak, of the phasing down of the Commonwealth contribution. That process will take about four years and will end up, in round figures, from memory, increasing the State's contribution from just below 30 per cent to more than 45 per cent of the total.

Division 83: South West Development Authority -

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The South West Development Authority is of particular interest to me. This organisation has grown very rapidly and is now regarded by many, in the south west particularly, as a bit of a bureaucratic monster. There was a good deal of controversy earlier this year about the tabling of the authority's annual report for the previous year. It was tabled late in this Parliament and was severely qualified by the Auditor General. In response to some criticism and querying of that situation, in the local media in particular, the South West Development Authority issued a writ on the *South Western Times* with the aim of silencing that criticism. It was successful in doing that for a time. Subsequent negotiations between the parties has resolved that and the writ has been discontinued. However, that writ was issued at taxpayers' expense and I was involved because the writ was issued over a

newspaper article that was credited to me, but the newspaper used a few words of a slightly more extreme nature than I would have chosen.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Those were the words they debited to you.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is about right. I believe there is increasing concern about the South West Development Authority's activities. The authority is increasingly seen as a bureaucratic body that drives itself and that has got too far away from the community based organisation that it was originally intended to be. There is also a great deal of concern about the political nature of many of its activities, particularly prior to elections. I can certainly vouch for that, having been involved in two elections in that area in two years. By some coincidence, some people might say, the South West Development Authority was involved in expensive launches of glossy brochures and programs just prior to elections. Another aspect of its promotional activities is a news brief that is circulated widely and regularly throughout the south west. It always seems to feature the local Labor members of Parliament very prominently, with photographs and all sorts of accolades for the work they are doing in that area. Anybody would think they are the only parliamentarians actually doing anything down that way; in fact, the Labor parliamentarians are in the minority because there are more Liberal than Labor members of Parliament in the south west.

I have several questions for the Minister and will start with a general question about the latest annual report. When is the annual report for the South West Development Authority due to be tabled in Parliament this year? Should it be tabled before the end of this year, and if so, when can we expect to see it?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: As with many of my responses, this has to be subject to correction; however, my memory is that the report from the Auditor General which was presented today and which indicated that the Auditor General had been unable to complete his audit of various agencies in time included the South West Development Authority. If I am correct in saying that, it would mean that the authority itself has completed its work but that it is one of a batch of about half a dozen, I think, that the Auditor General has been unable to attend to within the required time. I repeat that that is subject to correction, but I have the recollection that this authority was on the list.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I thank the Minister for his response and turn now to the general figures. I notice that the difference between the actual expenditure in 1988-89 and the vote for that year was \$546 000. Why did the budget go over to that extent and where did that money go?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: While that information is being obtained perhaps I can make a more general comment in response to Hon Barry House's complaint about the South West Development Authority's being a bureaucratic monster. I do not pretend to have been closely associated with the authority but I must say that to the extent that I have been able to observe its operations, and particularly its level of acceptance in the area of its work, both seem to rate very highly. There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that the various projects which the authority has sponsored and in many cases initiated have already contributed a great deal to the south west region and I am surprised, frankly, to hear it discussed if not in disparaging terms then at least in terms which do not appear to give credit for what it has contributed. I must say, as one of the Ministers associated with the budget process, that we are used to forceful advocates from the various departments and authorities but I believe that if there were such a thing as a prize each year for the best arm-twisters, certainly the South West Development Authority would end up on the short-list. I believe it has done a great job -

Hon P.G. Pandal: - propping up the Government.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: If Hon Phillip Pandal wants to suggest seriously that the South West Development Authority has not done a good job, that is his judgment.

Hon P.G. Pandal: I have seen some of the things the South West Development Authority has done and that is exactly what it is there for.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The South West Development Authority has succeeded in its objective of improving facilities in the south west. I think I am correct in saying that it includes districts which are growing as fast, or faster, than other areas of the State. That is also a measure of its contribution.

Hon MAX EVANS: I want to correct an answer the Minister gave a few minutes ago regarding the late lodgment of annual accounts; the South West Development Authority is not on that list.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Is it not?

Hon MAX EVANS: No. I would be surprised if it were, based on last year's experience. As Hon Barry House pointed out, Hon D.L. Smith, the Minister for South-West, took umbrage when it was pointed out that the South West Development Authority had not kept proper books of accounting for three years. For a lawyer, the Minister was way out when he said he thought it was not material. As a lawyer he should have known that under the Companies Code directors of companies can be fined \$5 000 or face one year's gaol for not keeping proper books of accounting. That is how seriously this matter is viewed in the private sector. However the Minister shrugged off as unimportant the fact that the authority had not kept proper books of accounting for three years. In the private sector the directors of the South West Development Authority could have gone to gaol, but the Minister thought that was unimportant.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: If I could concentrate on the main factors contributing to the increase of actual expenditure over the original Estimate, they include the following: The salaries vote increased by \$198 000, which reflected an approved increase of 3.2 full time equivalent positions and also an unbudgeted redundancy package; debt servicing costs were \$122 000 above the original estimate; and computer equipment, the new regional offices at Collie and Manjimup, and the expanded Mandurah office. The additions for the latter were on a basis supported by the Department of Computing and Information Technology at a cost of \$30 000. Another item which accounted for \$100 000 was the cost associated with economic and social development work related to the development of Kemerton Park. That constituted a contribution for the development of community facilities in the Harvey Shire. The other significant item was \$40 000 for promotion and marketing at the Dimaru Fair in Hong Kong.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I thank the Minister for that information. The Liberal Party views the South West Development Authority as having a definite role as a facilitator and coordinator which cuts through some of the red tape. In many instances the authority has performed its functions well. Prior to the last election the Liberal Party made clear that it regarded the South West Development Authority as serving two distinct areas. The Peel region is a very distinct region which must be separated from the lower part of the South West Development Authority's jurisdiction. I am happy to give credit where credit is due and I would make mention of one project which the South West Development Authority initiated and was involved in. The establishment of an artificial reef in Geographe Bay deserves commendation; the reef has been remarkably successful since it was established. The reef was established using old tyres and if one wants to go fishing in Geographe Bay the best place to go is to the reef because one can be assured of catching something. The Budget papers indicate the total staff of the South West Development Authority is 35. Could the Minister give me a comparison with the staff numbers over the past two years?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: As I indicated earlier, the increased costs include provision for 3.2 full time equivalent staff. Therefore, the comparable figure for last year would have been 32. I do not have any figures going back beyond one year.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Could the Minister indicate how many staff are actually employed as journalists in the South West Development Authority? They may be employed under different titles but they are really journalists.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not have that breakdown.

Hon MURIEL PATTERSON: Is it the intention of the South West Development Authority to provide funds to hold a rock concert in Bunbury during the holidays?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not have anything in my papers to indicate that the authority would sponsor a rock concert. Hon Graham Edwards has reminded me that the youth program, under a different department, sponsors entertainment of an alcohol free nature. That could include rock concerts, but Hon Graham Edwards does not have any indication with him as to whether that program would include a concert in Bunbury.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I might be able to help the Minister a little. I am not aware of

sponsorship for a rock concert, but the South West Development Authority is assisting financially with the provision of a bus to take young people from Bunbury down through Busselton to Smith's Beach during the summer. A limited bus run was used last year, but that was not very successful. I hope it is successful this year.

Could the Minister indicate the vote for the four contingency areas compared with the actual figures for 1988-89? It is a little hard to get a picture of what happened without those comparisons.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Are you asking for a comparison of the Estimate for this year with the actual expenditure last year?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: No, I am asking for a comparison of the vote for the 1988-89 Budget with the actual figure.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Does the member want the estimates and actuals for 1988-89.

Hon Barry House: Yes, for the four areas.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Unfortunately a number of headings have changed so they are not strictly comparable. I am sorry I cannot provide the comparison. If the member wishes, I will have those figures extracted as best I can and forward them to him. I notice that contingencies were divided, for example, into six items last year and compressed into four items this year so I am not sure whether we will get a meaningful comparison.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: A large increase has occurred in Economic and Social Development. This year the allocation has increased to more than \$2.3 million compared to last year's actual figure of \$1.6 million. Can the Minister explain the increase?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The increase in this vote is the result of the transfer of debt servicing costs and an increase in costs for 1989-90. These costs were transferred to Economic and Social Development due to borrowings for advancing social and economic development projects. Contingencies include debt servicing costs, social and economic projects, the regional advisory committee and grants and subsidies.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I do not see a figure for rental for the large area of office space which the authority occupies in the Bunbury Tower. Why is this figure not shown as a debit to the authority's accounts?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Office rental comes within the Corporate Services vote of \$562 000.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Does that figure cover all rent?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: No. I do not have the breakdown but the range of matters covered by this vote as well as office rental includes payroll tax, travel expenses and allowances, staff training, superannuation, telephones, workers' compensation, stationery, office supplies and sundry consumables.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I ask the Minister to supply those figures.

Vote put and passed.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Conservation and Land Management, and Waterways -

Division 84: Police -

Hon GEORGE CASH: The matters that I wanted to raise in respect of the Royal Commission that the Liberal Opposition proposed recently have been adequately covered. We still expect the Government to give due consideration to the formation of a Royal Commission. One of the reasons that I gave for that in this place last week was that of the 3 700 police officers currently employed by the Police Force 3 650 officers at least are entitled to have their names cleared given that Mr Freeman mentioned a figure of about 45 persons presently under investigation for various matters

On the question of manpower generally in the Police Force, members will be aware that prior to the last election the Government promised an additional 1 000 officers over and above retirements and resignations over three years; soon after the election that time was increased to four years. Now I understand the time span has been pushed out to five years. The Police Force has been well and truly conned in respect of that promised increase in manpower;

clearly the Government never intended to provide the 1 000 additional police officers over three years. I regret that very much, even though it was pressure from the Opposition that caused the Government to come up with those figures in the first place.

Hon P.G. Pental: Hear, hear!

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is fair to say that with the inadequate manpower across Western Australia the Police Force generally is under tremendous pressure. That is clearly indicated if one considers the latest annual report of the Commissioner of Police which states that crime has increased by approximately 10 per cent during the last year. Of course, specific areas of crime have increased dramatically in 12 months: Fraud has increased by 24.8 per cent, breaking and entering is up 19 per cent, and robbery is up an amazing 45.7 per cent. Motor vehicle theft for the year ended 30 June 1989 amounted to 14 410 vehicles, an increase of 8.8 per cent over the last year and an increase of about 80 per cent over the last five years.

Clearly some areas still need to be addressed by the Police Force, indeed by the community generally, when it comes to law and order. One matter of interest to me over a number of years - and I have raised this before with a number of serving police officers - is the possibility of increasing the manning levels for the Police Force by creating in Western Australia a police reserve or auxiliary branch. There is tremendous opportunity for such a police reserve and many people in Western Australia would be pleased to join and serve in the police reserve. That is a matter for consideration by the Government. Many people in the community, especially serving police officers and in particular members of the Police Union, will probably argue - as they have in the past - that if the Government can spend money on a police reserve, that money should be put into the full time Police Force. I appreciate that argument; it certainly has some merit. However, we should consider Police Forces around the world - particularly the Royal Hong Kong Police Force which has about 27 000 serving police officers and an additional police reserve of about 5 000 men and women. My discussions with officers from that police force indicate that the reserve works very closely with the permanent police force and provides additional strength in the manning levels. The London Metropolitan Police Force which has around 25 000 to 28 000 full time police officers also has its own police reserve. Again my discussions with some very senior officers of the London Metropolitan Police Force indicate that that police reserve has served that region well over many years. Police posters are displayed around the City of London inviting civilians to join the London Metropolitan Police Reserve. The people who tend to join are retired police officers, retired members of the armed forces who have an interest in that type of work, and others who are concerned about law and order. They patrol shopping centres during shopping hours offering a police presence that so many people have called for recently.

I have no doubt that many people in Western Australia would be willing volunteers in that type of police reserve. It is an opportunity for them to provide additional manpower to the Police Force. However, more than that, these people would have an opportunity to be involved in the maintenance of law and order across the State.

Last year's expenditure under item 2, Corporate Services, totalled \$10.6 million. The estimate for the current financial year is \$14.1 million. What is the reason for that increase? I am not objecting to any increase in allocations to the Police Force, but am interested to know where it will be spent.

Last year's expenditure under item 6, Public Relations, totalled \$1.9 million. The allocation for this year totals \$450 000. The amount expended last year indicates a huge expenditure by the Government in the lead-up to the February election. During the last half of 1988, law and order was foremost in the minds of most Western Australians. They were confused and concerned about the level of the breakdown of law and order. They identified the Government as not giving enough assistance to the Police Force. The Government was required to mount a massive public relations campaign using both television and the usual glossy brochures. However, the election has gone and the public relations budget for this year totals only \$450 000.

The amount expended by the State Emergency Service - item 9 - last year totalled \$1.8 million. This year it is anticipated that that service will spend approximately \$1.5 million. The State Emergency Service is a very important section of the Police Force.

The volunteers in the State Emergency Service believe that they are a poor relation of the Police Force even though the service is attached to the police budget. Volunteers have indicated that they are not provided with adequate equipment, both in respect of motor vehicles and protective gear. They believe that they do not have the required protective gear to attend a chemical spill, particularly in rural Western Australia, and that they will suffer as a result of that. I understand that the Government is attempting to bring the various SES units in Western Australia up to scratch through a replacement program. However, there is a long way to go. In the main, members of the SES are volunteers. They do a tremendous job and are deserving of more support than is provided in this Budget.

As always in a Budget debate, when the hour gets late members begin to cut back on their comments. I guess that, in relation to the police vote, I will have to wait until another time to raise other matters.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The increase in item 2 reflects the computer mainframe upgrade and in-house transfers between items to improve financial management. There were also general increases to meet the flow-on costs from growth in the consumer price index. The improved financial management refers mainly to the fact that the Police Department transferred printing and computing expenditure into item 2, Corporate Services, from items 3 and 4. The department centralised these expenditures to improve financial management and to gain greater control over printing and computing costs.

The decrease in the figures in item 6, Public Relations, involved a deduction of costs associated with the running of the crime prevention campaign in 1988-89 and the removal of the State Government Insurance Commission contribution to the Neighbourhood Watch initiative.

The decrease under item 9 was brought about by a change in policy relating to State Emergency Service vehicles. Officers were actually required to hold on to their vehicles for a longer time because they were very high quality four-wheel drive vehicles and had longer lives.

Hon MAX EVANS: There has been a increase in the number of police officers to 31 822 this year from 31 617 last year. How much is the number increasing each year? At that rate, it will take five years for the Government to provide the 1 000 extra police it promised.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The actual increase in police cadet numbers in 1988-89 was 332 and the estimated number of additional cadets in 1989-90 is 168, which will provide an additional 500. The remaining 500 additional cadets will be employed over a two year period.

Hon MAX EVANS: Does the figure show the total number of officers in the Police Force?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am quoting the additional officers, which is what the member asked for. The actual number of additional officers employed in 1988-89 was 332.

Hon Max Evans: I want the actual numbers for last year.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I will give the member the figures again.

Hon Max Evans: What are the 1988-89 figures?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: In 1988-89, 332 additional officers were employed and in 1989-90, 168 additional officers will be employed, bringing the total to 500. The remaining 500 additional officers will be employed over a two-year period. There is another factor which needs to be taken into consideration: While these people have been recruited there has been wastage in other areas.

Hon MAX EVANS: The net figure last year was 3 617 officers and this year it is 3 822. There was a net increase of 205. The Minister cannot say the figure has been increased by a certain number because the number of officers who have left the force may be greater than the number recruited.

Hon Graham Edwards: I am quoting from the actual figures - they are the actual additional officers.

Hon MAX EVANS: At the last election 1 000 additional police officers were promised by this Government over the next three years. The Police Force could lose 1 001 officers during

that time. We should be talking about the net effective increase and not the number recruited. Let us have some honesty in accounting.

Hon Graham Edwards: I take that as a reflection on the figures I am providing and I can assure the member I am not dishonest.

Hon MAX EVANS: I am talking about the net effective increase. The actual recruitment of 1 000 officers over a number of years means a net increase, not the gross increase. The Opposition accepts some losses and the actual net increase in the Police Force last financial year was 205.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I was going to make the same point. Last year's Budget shows the number of cadets as 100, plus eight Aboriginal cadets. This year's Budget shows there will be 120 police cadets. I ask the Minister whether any Aboriginal cadets are included in that figure.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am advised that Aboriginal cadets are included in the figure of 120.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I understood it was Government policy to try to keep like with like from Budget to Budget in order that it would be easier to compare figures. It appears that we are continually coming across discrepancies. It would be almost impossible for a person without being able to make inquiries, as we are doing here, to understand the Budget figures.

Hon MAX EVANS: I think the member was making the point that last year it was clearly shown that eight Aboriginal cadets would be employed, but the number of Aboriginal cadets has not been specified in this year's Budget.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: One of the first things I heard when I came into this Parliament was that there was a move by the Labor Government to abolish the police pipe band and the mounted police. After much protesting, the decision was reversed. Recently I brought to the attention of the Chamber that mounted police would no longer be allowed to attend country shows. I asked questions of the Minister regarding this matter and I was told that that decision had not been made by the commissioner. I advise the Chamber that it invoked strong feeling among the personnel. I hope the Minister for Police and Emergency Services will ensure there is no reduction in the public relations work done by the mounted police because it would be a serious diminution of the effectiveness of the Police Force. On occasions the mounted police do serve a useful purpose as part of the Police Force. The goodwill and public image those people and, indeed, the animals give to the Police Force is invaluable and I hope that a similar proposition will not crop up in four or five years' time.

I ask the Minister under which item are the mounted police and the police pipe band accounted for?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I do not know under which item they come, but I will be happy to obtain the information and provide it to the member.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Considerable attention has been given to the Government's program to increase the number of police officers available on duty and the plan to increase the force by 1 000 over a period of years. A criticism that has been made to me is that while it may be the case that more police officers are being made available, in fact the mobility of the policemen is constrained by the lack of a corresponding allocation to provide more vehicles. For example, we have the example of the Armadale Police Station having to service remote places like Byford, or Serpentine being serviced by Pinjarra Police Station. In the case of a person reporting a crime, such as breaking and entering, it takes at least three hours for a policeman to attend to the report. The problem is there is only one vehicle to service a large area.

I notice in item 3, Police Operations, that the actual expenditure in 1988-89 was \$14.6 million and the estimated expenditure this financial year has been decreased to \$14.16 million. The allocation for Support Services has also decreased from \$28.6 million to \$27.5 million. Has the Government paid attention in this year's Budget to the allocation of vehicles for support services to make the growing Police Force more accessible to the needs in the community?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I have already provided that information to members.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I hope the Government does not try to eliminate the one-officer police stations in country areas. This matter has been mentioned on a previous occasion. I again advise members that if the one-officer police stations are closed police officers will be required to travel long distances. The National Party made its position clear when it was suggested a year or so ago that one-officer police stations would be closed. It was gratifying that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services reversed the decision at that time. I certainly hope that this matter is not raised again for a long time because it is most important that the smaller towns in rural areas are serviced by a police station. For example, it is very important that the police station remain in the small town of Broomehill, because the nature of the local population makes it necessary for a policeman to be on the spot. On many occasions small country towns have problems which can be nipped in the bud if a police officer is on the job very smartly.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: Under item 8, Traffic Services, I query the decrease of \$500 000.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: In 1988-89 expenditure on non-recurrent specialised equipment was approximately \$495 000, representing \$190 000 for a photographic processor, \$150 000 for the replacement of radars, and \$155 000 for various other items of equipment. The deduction of non-recurrent expenditure on specialised equipment purchases and the Aboriginal driver training scheme are the reasons for the decrease.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: My colleague, Hon John Caldwell, referred to single man police stations. I refer to the manning of police stations in other areas, particularly in the south west, where a shortage of police presence has been apparent at various times. This has resulted in an increase in the crime rate in some towns. The Police Department should look into this matter very closely to ensure that officers are able to reach these areas without delay.

I refer particularly to stations which have eight or 10 police on the staff. If one or two officers are on holiday and another is off sick, by the time officers are rostered for their various duties, including traffic duties, there is invariably a shift during which no officer is available. That happens not only throughout the south west but also throughout the State. The community is demanding that the Police Force provide protection, and when that protection is not available other security devices are employed and paid for by the community. That is a double take because the Government takes money from the taxpayers to provide police services, but some sections of the community must also pay for protection for themselves. Consideration should be given to the service provided by the police to ensure that they are employed in the best interests of the community.

I want to clearly place on the record that I am not suggesting the police do not do a good job, because they certainly do. I have received only cooperation and assistance from the Police Force, and I am sure that applies to most of the community. However, problems arise because of the shortage of police officers. I hope the Minister will convey that to the appropriate quarter and that the problem is addressed as soon as possible.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am happy to convey those remarks to the Minister.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I add my support to the remarks by Hon Murray Montgomery. The shortage of allocation of overtime to officers in country police stations has caused a severe downgrading of the services available in isolated areas. The allocation of police officers in the rural areas should be constantly monitored, especially with fewer stations and consequently greater areas to be policed. It is sad to see the concentration of police in road block operations in the city when it is evident that the best deterrent for motorists who may commit offences is for police cars to be on the roads. I think it was Ogden Nash who said -

Nothing improves one's driving
To quite the same extent
As a police car that's just coming
Or a police car that just went!

I ask the Minister to bear that in mind when allocating scarce manpower resources.

Division 86: Conservation and Land Management -

Hon MAX EVANS: I refer to the big increase in the allocation for Commercial Operations

from \$16 million to \$34 million. I am not certain whether other revenue will be received from the areas listed at the bottom of the page. What is the extent of commercial operations, and what is expected to be the eventual financial returns from these operations, if any?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The main reason for the increase in the current Budget is the additional funding of \$17.7 million for commercial logging operations, which will be fully offset by additional revenue.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I refer to Natural Disasters under the heading Contingencies. Last year the actual expenditure was a little more than \$1 million. Obviously, no-one wishes a natural disaster on any part of the State, but the estimated figure for this year is only \$95 000. It may be that the coming year will be a good year with no disasters, but I would have expected an appropriation of about the same amount as last year.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I understand that the Government does not budget for natural disasters, but should one occur the funds are sought to meet the circumstances of that disaster. The amount set aside is for small fires, for example.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: I am sure that if one does not provide for natural disasters, or at least keep them in mind, they will come along at some stage and hit hard. There should be some appropriation for them and I find this approach incredible.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: A disaster may or may not occur. The important thing is that funds are sought should one unfortunately occur. It is a difficult thing to forecast.

Hon MAX EVANS: Under Conservation and Land Management there was an actual expenditure last year of \$1 million for Natural Disasters, and under Attorney General, Minister for Budget Management, and Corrective Services, Natural Disaster Payment and Other Relief Measures, there is an amount of \$3.5 million. What is the difference between the two?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The amount shown in Miscellaneous Services relates to a joint Commonwealth-State fund under which the State has to provide a certain amount. My understanding is that the Commonwealth funds any amounts above that. This appears in part four, which has not yet been dealt with.

Hon MAX EVANS: Is the natural disasters figure appearing under CALM a payment within the industry?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Yes.

Hon MAX EVANS: Under item 1, Commercial Operations, the Minister has referred to revenue. Is the forestry department now buying and selling timber? I ask this because purchases are shown. Are they actually in competition with the private sector trading in timber?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am not sure of the nature of the operation. I know it is related to logging.

Hon MAX EVANS: There are large pinewood plantations and hardwood conversion sales. There are sales out of the Government's forests, but why have costs increased from \$16 million to \$34 million in round figures? Is that the cost of extracting the logs for sale, which has increased by \$18 million?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: That is the answer.

Hon MAX EVANS: Then is someone else being paid to get the logs out, because salaries are shown as being a flat amount?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: All these amounts may not be recouped in the first year. There are sales in subsequent years. Integrated logging operations will be introduced progressively and brought under the direct control of CALM. Tenders for this work are currently open and have been called; so by 1 November 1989 in the northern jarrah forests and 1 January 1990 in the southern forests all logging operations will be done by contractors working for CALM. The funds to pay these contractors are in that \$34 million. That money will be recouped as a matter of course from the sale of logs.

Hon PETER FOSS: One department has a substantial overrun of precisely \$4 million, which seems rather extraordinary for a department spending \$80 million. Can the Minister supply particulars of that overrun?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The whole vote is paid into the trust fund and actual expenditure was \$86 million in round figures. I am happy to provide further information about that matter.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Under Contingencies the Environmental Protection estimate is \$4.755 million which is more than half the total allocation to the Environmental Protection Authority of \$7.8 million. Can the Minister indicate what sorts of services are included in that \$4.75 million and whether that is in any way related to EPA activities?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: This area involves fire control and protection of wildlife, lands and water from adverse environmental impacts such as weeds and feral animals. Much use is made of aircraft in the fire control area to detect wild fires and prescribed burns. Other expenditure includes retardants, fire equipment and manual prescribed burns. In the protection of the environment the major expenditure in many areas relates to the enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Act and regulations by wildlife officers. Other areas of concern are dieback disease, mining, weeds, rare flora, feral animals, insects, water erosion and salinity. That is a good indication of what that amount is for.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: In brief, protection of the forests?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Yes.

Hon MAX EVANS: A number of divisions have notes showing such things as "Salaries of Executive Director". If revenue is brought forward for a specific department it would be helpful if there could be side notes giving explanations about particular departments.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I will be happy to pass on that suggestion.

Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY: Under Contingencies there is reference to the WA Herbarium which was formerly under the control of the Department of Agriculture. It has now come under the control of CALM. It is interesting that there is a reduction of almost one-third of the allocation for last year. Does this mean they are doing less work in the herbarium than in the past or does it involve a more efficient use of personnel?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The reduction reflects an adjustment for a one-off computer purchase in 1988-89.

Division 88: Waterways Commission -

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I raise this matter by way of using this debate as a quarter final appeal in the hope that the Minister may pass on to the Waterways Commission a matter that is of concern to a lot of people in the South Metropolitan Region, but in particular in the City of Canning. I do not want to go into the detail, suffice it to say that in May of this year the mosquito problem surrounding the Canning River and its environs was sufficiently serious for that local authority to get in touch with local members of Parliament, asking that the State Government consider sharing the cost of a very substantial spraying program to eradicate that problem. On 18 May I referred the matter to the Minister for Waterways, with a request that the Waterways Commission at least consider sharing some of the funding shortfall about which the City of Canning was complaining.

Subsequent to that, the matter seems to have fallen into a hole. When no reply had been received by early October - which is a time lapse of nearly five months - I again wrote to the Minister for Waterways; since that time there has been no response. My experience with Hon Ian Taylor has been that he is normally very prompt in responding to matters of this kind, but seven months have now passed, and it would seem that the Waterways Commission has been able to thumb its nose at members of Parliament, the Minister, and the Canning City Council in respect of funding a mosquito control program in the Canning River to the extent that the City of Canning is given some relief. I do not expect the Minister to be able to make an immediate response, but I ask him if he would undertake to refer the matter to the Waterways Commission to see why those complaints have fallen on deaf ears, and why the original complaint of the City of Canning has not been given the courtesy of a response.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I undertake to do that. It is strange that there has not been a reply. I will be happy to pursue that.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I thank the Minister for his preparedness to pursue the matter. The only response has been an interim acknowledgment dated 25 May from the principal private

secretary to the Minister for Waterways, saying that the matter would be referred to the Waterways Commission. Since then, the matter has fallen into a hole.

Hon Graham Edwards: Would the member be prepared to give me a copy of that response?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I refer to the item for the Peel Inlet Management Authority, and I notice that the allocation has been increased by roughly one-third. Is the on again-off again Dawesville Cut included in any of those calculations and estimates?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I do not know that the cost of the Cut would be included in those figures, but I am advised that this increase is almost entirely due to the expansion of the Waterways Commission's role in the Peel-Harvey management strategy, which comprises some expansion of the normal water monitoring program, the taking over of the monitoring of run off from the catchment, and the upgrading of the weed harvesting program to more effectively control the weed problem.

Vote put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Racing and Gaming).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [12.16 am]: I move -
That the House do now adjourn.

Adjournment Debate - Robe River Iron Associates - Iron Ore Consultative Council - Incorrect Media Statement

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan) [12.17 am]: I draw to the attention of the House a report in *The West Australian*, which arises out of a media statement issued jointly by the Deputy Premier and Senator Peter Cook, in which they condemn Robe River Iron Associates in relation to workings of the Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative Council. Prior to that statement being made and issued to the media, the Deputy Premier's department was fully aware that the facts that were alleged in the media statement were incorrect in respect of substantial matters.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you act on behalf of Robe River Iron Associates?

Hon PETER FOSS: Of course I do; that is how I know these things. It is very important that people put forward the facts they know. Prior to the statement being made by the Deputy Premier, his department was advised that the facts stated by him were incorrect in relation to what that company had said about the granting of leave. First, what is correct is that the representatives on the Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative Council had applied for leave without pay. However, the industry is subject to an award, which is an order of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission of February 1980. It provides that before a person is entitled to take leave without pay all other leave credits must be expended; that is, a person has to take his or her current leave entitlements. Generally speaking, people who wish to apply for leave are required to give one month's notice that they intend to do so. However, the company waived that requirement.

Hon T.G. Butler: Was that an award requirement?

Hon PETER FOSS: Yes. However, notwithstanding that the company waived that requirement, and that people could have taken their leave entitlements, they declined to do so.

Hon Tom Helm interjected.

Hon PETER FOSS: I do not know what they belonged to.

Hon Tom Helm interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: What the Minister said was that they insisted on one month's notice, and because they had not been given one month they were not able to go. That is quite incorrect. The Minister's department was advised prior to the Minister's issuing the

statement. Either the Minister knew that the information was incorrect, or he did not bother to check with the officers in his department who had been advised. I happen to know that officer, Mr Peter Murphy - I have had previous dealings with him - and I am sure he is a diligent person and he would have made sure that the Minister knew. In these circumstances I cannot see how the Minister could have made the statement he did. If he had bothered to check he would have found that his statement was completely incorrect. These people could have gone to the Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative Council, but they chose not to because they would have had to take paid leave in accordance with the terms of their award.

Hon Tom Helm: A week.

Hon PETER FOSS: It would not have been a week, it would have been three days; they could have applied for three days and taken three days.

Hon Tom Stephens: The company did not give them an opportunity to give a month's notice.

Hon PETER FOSS: The member did not listen to what I said. They were required under the award to give a month's notice. The company made it quite clear that they did not have to give one month's notice, and they could take that leave. What the senator and the Minister failed to say was that they could have taken the leave. They said the company would not permit them to.

This is very important. We appreciate in this country the differences being made as a result of the sorts of things that have happened at Robe River. Robe River is one of the few companies which is actually producing in the way it should be.

Hon Tom Stephens: We should bring you to the Pilbara to campaign for your party.

Hon PETER FOSS: The Minister had the cheek to say that this is damaging our sales to Japan. What has probably been the most useful thing relating to our sales to Japan is the fact that ever since Robe River took the action it did, the number of hours lost has decreased, and there has been a steady increase in the amount of iron ore being produced. Robe River is now one of the most productive companies in the Pilbara. It is one of the few iron ore producers in the world producing at rates well above the rate of capacity; every other company is producing below the rate of capacity.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: Another important thing is that at the time this was happening the Minister failed to report that the maritime unions were on strike and were preventing other people from delivering iron ore. Anybody who has had any dealings with the Japanese would know that they do not rely on what they read in *The West Australian*, they all read something called the *Tex Report*. As far as the Japanese are concerned, what is happening in Western Australia is based entirely on the *Tex Report*. If we look at the *Tex Report* we will get a very clear understanding of what the Japanese think of the iron ore industry in Western Australia. Contrary to what we might understand from the union officials, who wish to hide the fact that the measures which have been taken by Robe River in Western Australia are the sorts of measures which should be taken by other industries in Western Australia - not just, for instance, the airline industry, where the Government assisted - if those measures were taken with every industry in Australia as a whole, we would have a different situation. The *Tex Report* shows that many iron ore industries are having a tremendous amount of trouble with the unions, but Robe River is one of the few with no adverse reports. A very good impression has been created among the Japanese as a result of the measures taken by the management of Robe River. The failure to act gives a very bad impression to the Japanese.

I hope that Mr Parker will make sure that he gets his facts right rather than pander to the unions and try to say that Robe River is doing it incorrectly. It should at long last be recognised that Robe River is doing it correctly and the result of this strong action has been a tremendous improvement in production. One thing which has come out of the Robe River incident is this: Since Robe River started saying, "Stop these restrictive practices; get back to doing some work; management is to manage," around Australia people have started to speak more frequently about getting rid of restrictive practices. It was not until Robe River took these measures that that became the case. One should recognise that the increased productivity which Robe has -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: It goes hand in hand with a concerted effort by all the people involved. That effort is the effort of the workers of Robe River. Anybody involved with management will know that a company does not achieve good productivity and a reduction in lost hours unless the efforts of the employees are behind it. The unions are upset that Robe River is doing so well; they are upset that the workers are producing so well in cooperation with the management. I hope Mr Parker will recognise the signal achievement which has resulted from the change in the way management has worked at Robe River. Rather than denigrate the company all the time and listen blindly to the statements of the unions -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: - when he has been advised that those statements were wrong, he should make sure that he states the facts about Robe River increasing productivity for this State.

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [12.27 am]: To continue with the statement about Robe River and what Hon Peter Foss has said, we should be aware that since 1986 there has been no representative on the Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative Council, which meets about once a quarter to discuss matters affecting the industry in the Pilbara. That is because the new Robe River management, consisting of Peko Wallsend and North Broken Hill, have not allowed their union representatives to attend. On the other hand, the employers themselves do not send representatives to that industrial council. That council was set up to try to prevent the very actions which took place in Robe River when the work force was locked out and the management was forced to pay those workers the wages owed to them when they were illegally locked out in 1986.

A number of facts need to be drawn to the attention of this House, not just the recent facts of which we have been informed and which were alleged to have been made by the deputy chairman of that council, David Parker. The House should also be made aware that the lost time incidents which happened at Robe River as a result of the increase in productivity are partly because those incidents reported to the Department of Mines are only the tip of the iceberg. These are the sorts of things which go on at Robe River under the management of Peko Wallsend. If Hon Peter Foss thinks that is the kind of industrial relations we want in this country, that is not what this country is used to or what it has been built up on. We have increased productivity at the risk of a dissatisfied work force. There has been an 85 per cent turnover in the work force since that new management came into being at Robe River.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM HELM: Why is it that Peko Wallsend has to tell lies to people when they recruit in the Eastern States? Why does Peko Wallsend tell employees for Pannawonica that they must go 300 miles inland from the coast, and then show them photographs of Cape Lambert, which is the port for Robe River Iron Associates? If we are talking about the truth we should talk the truth. Hon Peter Foss did not tell us what was going wrong with that company when Peko Wallsend took over. It was accepted by the trade union movement that those things needed to be addressed, but not with a complete disregard of the Industrial Relations Commission which told Robe River that the actions it had taken were illegal.

Peko Wallsend has also constantly challenged the court, and the Industrial Relations Commission, and the bloody foundations on which industrial relations, particularly in the Pilbara, have been based. That is accepted - there must be changes and there have been changes. Hamersley Iron is an example of the changes that have taken place in the Pilbara, not through the actions of Peko Wallsend but perhaps through the warning that company has given all of us. Is that the reason why, in July, on the anniversary of the takeover by Peko Wallsend of Robe River, there was a call for all delegates from Peko Wallsend and from across this great nation of ours, including the Eastern States and Tasmania, to present to the management of Robe River a charter of rights for workers to give them the ability to speak up? If people were volunteering to go to this Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative

Council meeting why would they not go? It was not because they would lose three days but because they were scared of being identified as union troublemakers - not only them, but that kind of dictatorial attitude does not stay in the work force; it goes into the towns of Pannawonica and Wickham. As I have done before in this Chamber, I invite all members to go to Pannawonica and Wickham - not with me but on their own - and talk to the people who live there. They will see that the attitude of Peko Wallsend or Robe River is active in the workplace, repressing people's points of view. Freedom of speech is something we take as a basic right but those workers at Robe River are afraid to speak out. They are afraid not for themselves but for their families and the way their families are treated.

Hon Peter Foss: You haven't explained why they haven't complained.

Hon TOM HELM: They are frightened to complain, that is why. It is a wonder there are any union representatives or shop stewards in that town. Members should not think the misinformation is from only one side. I have tried to explain on a number of occasions in this Chamber that if that is the sort of thing we want, the Japanese are aware of the situation that exists there and of course they are quite aware of the tonnages that go out; but are they aware of the way in which the rail, the reclaimers, and the machinery that is used to get that ore from out of the ore body and into the ships has been destroyed, undermined, and not maintained? Are they aware of the accidents that have happened? That is another example. People are free to declare when they have had an accident, and the doctor may tell them to take some time off, but they are afraid to take that time off. I do not know whether that is true but there are people in workshops who are encouraged not to take that time off because it is not good for the record. If those people can do light duties they go back to work.

Hon Peter Foss interjected.

Hon TOM HELM: I am sure Hon Peter Foss can explain to us what that work consists of, and I am sure he spends a lot of time in the Pilbara, particularly at this time of the year - which in fact is a good time to go - because if the work force is not moving that iron ore there are some really expert burglars around. If the iron ore workers are not doing it, somebody else is. That tonnage is still moving and always has moved. It is moving now, at the rate of tonnage that has been expressed - and I do not say it is a lie - because of the inborn danger that is evident in those two communities. I must say that before the Peko Wallsend takeover of Robe River, Pannawonica was one of the longest established and best iron ore or mining towns to visit in the Pilbara. If members consider the isolation the people there have to put up with, and the oppression they suffer by the new owner of those mines, I must tell the House that the WAI OCC is the only hope we have of getting sustained trading and guarantee of supply across to Japan so we can keep up that market.

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan) [12.34 am]: I will take just a few minutes to give some of the facts. I have been to Pannawonica and Wickham many times. Robe River is operating at 10 per cent over its capacity whereas companies like Mt Newman are operating at worse than 10 per cent below capacity, buying iron ore from Robe River to make up their contracts. Lang Hancock cannot get his iron ore from Mt Newman and has to go to South Africa because of the shortage.

Hon Tom Stephens: Their pit collapsed - don't blame that on the workers!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order!

Hon MAX EVANS: Hon Tom Helm said that the workers are too afraid to speak. I have been up there at times when they were too afraid to work hard because the unions did not want them to work too hard. They had two truck drivers on each Haulpak truck. When Peko Wallsend came in, all the union organisers did nothing. They were like the Tom Helms of this world - they sat there and tried to stir up trouble the whole time, to muck up the company and destroy it. They were the first to be given a hat and tools and told to get out and do some work. They were given all the worst jobs and did not last very long. That soon sorted them out.

I gave a speech before about the work practices in that place. They were ripping the whole place off. Whereas there were 1 400 employees before, there are now 800 employees who are doing 15 or 20 per cent more work. Hon Tom Helm would not give any thanks if that company were allowed to go broke. The unions would have broken its back before - it would have gone broke and 1 400 people would have been out of work. It would never have

got off the ground again. The employees should be damned glad the management came in and saved the company. Now 800 men have good, solid jobs rather than 1 400 people being out of work and no iron ore being mined there. That is the way the unions were destroying that company earlier; they are the facts.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral) [12.36 am]: I hope the members of the Press Gallery were listening tonight because what they would have heard is a damning indictment of two members on the other side of this Chamber. I believe we have heard the most scandalous confessions of two members opposite. I do not know whether we have an unusual flash of humour emerging from the other side of this Chamber, but what we have just heard is two members of this House confess that they are in the pay of these companies that they have spoken about tonight.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Point of Order

Hon PETER FOSS: I think the member is trying to turn some sort of reflection on us and that is most improper.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! I advise Hon Tom Stephens not to pursue that point of view without a substantive motion to that effect.

Debate Resumed

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I will make just one point: What we have seen in this Chamber is a clear demonstration of a conflict of interest, and that is in fact not an issue for a point of order but a clear demonstration that we have two members here in this House who have owned up to being in the pay of a company - matters where one member is before the courts of this State, or talks about industrial matters, and then comes into this House -

Point of Order

Hon PETER FOSS: I must make a personal explanation. I do not act for Robe River in the matter of industrial relations -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! You cannot make a personal explanation now. You should make it at the end of the member's speech.

Hon PETER FOSS: The point of order is that he is continuing the same point that he made before.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I advise Hon Tom Stephens not to make those comments regarding Opposition members unless he is prepared to move a substantive motion to that effect.

Debate Resumed

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have listened to your ruling, Mr Deputy President, and I will certainly consider the opportunity that I have as a member of this House to move at the earliest opportunity a motion to that effect, if there is sufficient time. Nonetheless, I can well understand the sensitivity of members opposite in the context of what we have heard in this Chamber tonight. I think it is absolutely the most scandalous example of misbehaviour.

Point of Order

Hon PETER FOSS: The member certainly is continuing to cast aspersions and I think this is quite unacceptable.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): There is no point of order. The only word I heard was the word "scandalous" which may offend some members but I do not think it constitutes a reflection on members of the Opposition.

Debate Resumed

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The contribution of the Western Australian Iron Ore Consultative Council cannot be praised enough in this State because its actions in respect of the companies which have participated in the process initiated by the Labor Government of Western Australia have ensured progress in the iron ore industry which is second to none. We have seen an enormous increase in productivity in participating companies, and there has been a movement away from restrictive work practices, which has been a delight to our

customers and the companies involved in that industry. Far from Robe River setting the pace in this industry, we have yet to see the end result of that style of misbehaviour as an employer in the north of this State, and what exactly the long-term impact of it will be on the prospects of that company and the best interests of the industry. Hon Tom Helm clearly drew out the importance of the spirit of cooperation engendered by the WAI OCC. In that context the contribution of the WAI OCC deserves to be praised; not by any means does the hijacking of industrial relations through illegal practices on the part of some smart alec companies deserve to be praised.

*Personal Explanation - Robe River Iron Associates
Foss, Hon Peter - Pecuniary Interests Denial*

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan) [12.41 am] - by leave: Hon Tom Stephens indicated there was some suggestion I had brought actions before the courts in the matters to which I referred. I make it clear that neither I nor my firm in respect of these industrial relations matters pursued by Robe River, either before the commission -

Hon Tom Stephens: But you are in their pay.

Hon PETER FOSS: - or before the courts, have acted for Robe River. I have certainly acted for Robe River over a number of years, both before and after these circumstances, but I have no personal interest -

Hon Tom Stephens: Good justification for pecuniary interest in this place.

Hon PETER FOSS: Not at all. There is no way my firm was involved in these matters at all. I mentioned my firm acts for Robe River, but so do many people around Perth. I certainly have no pecuniary interest in the matters referred to.

*Adjournment Debate - Robe River Iron Associates - Iron Ore Consultative Council
Incorrect Media Statement*

HON R.G. PIKE (North Metropolitan) [12.43 am]: What we are really talking about tonight is big business, big unions and big Government. We are talking about the comfortable arrangements which have existed within the totality of the Commonwealth of Australia for a considerable period. Robe River represents a breakthrough in regard to an economy of operation reintroduced to industry justifying the capital investment made.

I am certain that both Robe River and the union have created problems; there is probably good and bad on both sides. Robe River has proved quite decisively an issue which will be debated many more times in this Chamber with the Labor members springing to the defence of the union movement in order to preserve the very clear feather bedding that exists not only within this industry but also in many others. We will have retreads of this debate for a long time to come. I am not surprised; I would expect Hon Tom Helm and Hon Tom Stephens to spring to the defence of the unions in that area, which, among other things, would have representation on the various selection committees that endorse those members and are a part and parcel of the Labor Party. Having said they are part and parcel of the Labor structure, there is nothing wrong with that.

Hon Fred McKenzie: That is why the Liberal Party was wiped out in the north.

Hon R.G. PIKE: The union movement, without apologies, is an intrinsic part of the Labor Party structure. Of course we are beginning to see the seeds of the disintegration of that. Hon Fred McKenzie just interjected; we find that his union - the Railways Union, which probably sent him to this Parliament - has disaffiliated with the Labor Party.

Hon Fred McKenzie: They will be back.

Hon R.G. PIKE: Why did it disaffiliate? It was because the Bob Hawke and Brian Burke principle of belting the socialists within the Labor Party and keeping them under heel while manipulating the Government in order to appear as though they represented the middle-of-the-road people in this State and in the Commonwealth has prostituted the beliefs the unions fervently hold. If we take that a step further, we will find that the facts speak for themselves. The hip hip hoorays opposite can laugh if they like, but we now find that the union which has been the bastion of the Labor Party in this State since 1890 - the Coal Miners Union - is earnestly considering disaffiliating with the Labor Party. There is one other union I have forgotten, but which members opposite will recall, that either has or is in

the process of disaffiliating with the Labor Party. There is a lack of confidence in the integrity of this State, and the actions of the union movement speak for themselves.

Tonight we are really debating the history by which Robe River happened to be the first company to move within this State to introduce proper economies and proper production; and it has achieved results that, if compared with results hitherto, are quite staggering. Therefore, the union lackeys in this place - namely, the Labor Party members - must support the proposition that it is wrong for Robe River -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! There is too much interjecting. The hour is getting late, and the sooner Hon Bob Pike finishes, the sooner we will be able to go home.

Hon R.G. PIKE: I can wait to go home; I am happy to listen to the interjections.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I am not.

Hon R.G. PIKE: Finally, I would say to the House in particular and to the people of Western Australia in general that the real issue will be the establishment of industry-based unions throughout the Commonwealth of Australia. If that is not done, we will see the values and the economy of Australia continue to go downhill, as the feather bedding - which was introduced as a result of big business, big Government and big unions in this State - prostitutes this country and its economy. We will have many more Robe Rivers until we find a solution to that problem.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.47 am (Wednesday)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING - BUNBURY ADULT LITERACY GROUP
Funding

690. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Will funds be provided to the Bunbury Adult Literacy Group to enable it to continue its present operations?
- (2) If so, what level of funding will be provided?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Employment and Training has provided the following reply -

- (1) The community based adult literacy program is a Commonwealth funded initiative. It is understood that funds for this program will be allocated in 1990 at a similar level to 1989. An advertisement calling for submissions from community based groups will be placed in the weekend newspapers. The Bunbury Adult Literacy Group may apply as it did last year.
- (2) It is not possible to determine the level of funding for any group until submissions have been received.
- (3) Not applicable.

EDUCATION - TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
Rural TAFE Advisory Committee

879. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Has the advisory committee for rural TAFE been appointed?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) who are the members;
 - (b) how were they appointed; and
 - (c) what are the terms of reference?
- (3) If not -
 - (a) who will be the members;
 - (b) how will they be appointed; and
 - (c) what will be the terms of reference?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has provided the following reply -

(1)-(3)

The notion of a single advisory committee for rural TAFE is a misconception. The three existing regional colleges of TAFE at Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton have college councils which advise on the needs of their surrounding regional areas. The Midland Regional College of TAFE will also have such a council.

EDUCATION - TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION*Midland TAFE Rural Headquarters*

880. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) When was it decided to locate the rural headquarters for TAFE at Midland?
- (2) Were organisations which represent users of the service, such as the WA Farmers Federation and the Country Women's Association, consulted prior to the decision being made?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What were the reasons for its location at Midland rather than Northam or some other regional centre?
- (5) Is the building to house the rural TAFE headquarters at Midland already under construction?
- (6) If not -
 - (a) what was the commencement date; and
 - (b) what is the anticipated completion date?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has provided the following reply -

- (1) The decision to alter the status of the Midland College of TAFE to the Midland Regional College of TAFE was made in July 1989 with the release of the document "The Restructuring of TAFE". There will be a comprehensive range of programs available from the college, which will not focus solely on rural education. TAFE does not have a specific rural headquarters, but a number of major resource bases at regional colleges which service the requirements of the rural areas. These colleges are located at Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton, and soon at Midland. There are also three independent colleges at Karratha, Kalgoorlie and Hedland.
- (2) No.
- (3) The decision was seen to be a management prerogative, and as it will not impact adversely on existing TAFE provision through the region there was not seen to be a need for consultation. However, organisations such as WAFF are widely consulted on education/training issues related to the agricultural sector.
- (4) The Midland College of TAFE is the closest available facility of sufficient size to provide a substantial resource base to support the central region. Northam does not have a sufficient resource base at present; however, the Office of TAFE is progressively building up the Northam facility. A \$1 million classroom/workshop facility will be constructed there, and a proposal to appoint an Assistant Director (Programs) at Northam is presently being considered.
- (5) As there is no TAFE rural headquarters, no additional accommodation is required.
- (6) Not applicable.

QUEENSGATE OFFICE AND CINEMA PROJECT, FREMANTLE*Industrial Problems*

886. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of industrial problems which appear to be beleaguering the Queensgate office and cinema project currently under construction at Fremantle?

- (2) Has the Minister investigated the primary cause of the multifaceted industrial disputation on the site and what action has he taken to attempt to resolve this industrial disputation?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Labour has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes. The Fremantle City Council advised me some months ago that there were some problems associated with the site; however, I was requested not to take any specific action in relation to the matter.
- (2) My latest advice is that the situation at the site has improved and that it is proceeding satisfactorily.

HEALTH - HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Allocation Breakdown

890. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Health:

Further to question 805 of 21 November 1989, will the Minister provide details of the breakdown of the proportion of the \$400 000 which has been committed in respect of each of the facilities at the following hospitals-

- (a) Kalamunda;
- (b) Wanneroo;
- (c) Rockingham;
- (d) Armadale; and
- (e) Swan Districts?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

| | <u>Equipment</u> <u>(\$000s)</u> | <u>Facilities</u> <u>(\$000s)</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Kalamunda | 20.0 | - |
| (b) Wanneroo | 48.5 | - |
| (c) Rockingham | 15.0 | 60.0 |
| (d) Armadale | 16.0 | 100.0 |
| (e) Swan Districts | 20.5 | 100.0 |
| | <hr/> 120.0 | <hr/> 260.0 |

In addition, a further \$20 000 has been committed for the cost of architectural planning fees for the alteration of facilities at the hospitals.

MARINAS - OCEAN REEF MARINA

Silting Rate Surveys

917. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any studies or surveys been carried out to determine the rate at which the Ocean Reef marina is silting up?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide details?
- (3) Has there been any structural failure or collapse of part of the Hillarys marine breakwater?
- (4) If so, will the Minister provide details?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The entrance accumulates at up to 2 500 cubic metres per year. This is removed by dredge or dragline when necessary.
- (3) Structural failure has not occurred with the Hillarys marina breakwater. Some settlement of both the corestone and the armourstone has occurred, as is normal with a rubble mound breakwater designed to normal standards. Movement of stone under severe wave action is a normal and expected part of these flexible sea defence structures.
- (4) See (3).

RAILWAYS - YORK-QUAIRADING RAIL LINE

Condition - Freight Carriage Restrictions

919. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to question 777 of 14 November 1989 and with reference to the Westrail Weekly Notice No 46/89 -

- (1) Are there any restrictions imposed on the carriage of freight between York and Quairading due to the condition of the railway line?
- (2) What funds have been set aside to ensure the upgrading and maintenance of the York-Quairading line during the current financial year?
- (3) How much is to be spent on the York-Quairading railway line during the current financial year?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) No, the York-Quairading railway line is constructed of light rail, timber sleepers and gravel ballast and trains operate at speeds and axle loads appropriate for this class of railway line.
- (2) \$374 000.
- (3) Answered by (2).

EDUCATION - EASTERN GOLDFIELDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Enrolments

923. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students attended the Eastern Goldfields Senior High School in 1989?
- (2) What is the anticipated enrolment for 1990?
- (3) Does the Ministry of Education have any plans for a second secondary school in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?
- (4) If so, when is it anticipated that the new school will be built?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Education has provided the following reply -

- (1) 1 162.
- (2) 1 128.
- (3) The Ministry of Education has a second high school site in Kalgoorlie, which will be developed when numbers warrant it.

- (4) Not applicable.

FISHING - VICTORIA QUAY, FREMANTLE
Recreational Fishermen - Parking Arrangements

924. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the many recreational fishermen who use Victoria Quay at Fremantle -

- (1) Where are they expected to park their vehicles?
- (2) How far are these parking areas from the wharf?
- (3) Is it correct that, until recently, fishermen were permitted to drive their vehicles close to the wharf and deposit their fishing gear before parking in the normal car parks?
- (4) Why has this drive-in facility now been prohibited to the fishermen?
- (5) In view of the assistance the "drive-in/drop-off" facility provides for those who find difficulty in walking the distance from the parking areas carrying heavy gear, will the Minister undertake to have this access to the wharf reinstated for the fishermen?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) In the marked bays provided along Victoria Quay Road and opposite A and B berths.
- (2) Approximately 80 metres, except at A and B berths where the distance is 40 metres.
- (3) Fishermen were not authorised to drive their vehicles into the cargo stacking areas to access the wharf face, however lack of adequate barriers and signs made this difficult to police.
- (4) For safety and security reasons.
- (5) No. See answer to (3).

PORTS AND HARBOURS - FREMANTLE HARBOUR
Dredging

927. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the cost of dredging Fremantle Harbour?
- (2) If it was funded from a loan program, what interest rate would apply and over what term was the loan period?
- (3) What is the annual interest commitment payable on the cost of the dredging?
- (4) What additional income is anticipated as a result of the increased depth in Fremantle Harbour?
- (5) Is the Federal Government's policy to reduce imports likely to have an adverse effect on the cargo volume being processed through Fremantle; if so, will this have an adverse effect on the Fremantle Port Authority's income and, if so, what is the likely impact?
- (6) Will the Minister give an assurance that the port authority will not raise its charges to resolve its debt problems?
- (7) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Approximately \$30 million including the commercial boat harbour and land reclamation.

- (2) Borrowings of approximately \$24 million through Treasury Corporation at normal Government interest rates and repayment based on three per cent of the outstanding total loan commitment. Approximately \$6 million funded by land transfer to LandCorp.
- (3) Interest commitment based on Treasury Corporation rate is variable but based on 30 June 1989 cost of borrowing interest commitment is approximately \$3.6 million per annum.
- (4) Over the 20 year evaluation period the average estimated income is approximately \$5.1 million per annum.
- (5) Current expectations are that there will be no significant effect on the port. However the port authority anticipates that over time we will see an increased in value added exports through the Port of Fremantle. The port authority is actively looking to increase its share of Australian container and breakbulk cargo by the active marketing and facilitation of cargo movement between the shipping hub ports of Singapore, Kaoshiung and Japan and the Australian intermodel system.
- (6) The inner harbour dredging commercial boat harbour and land reclamation resulted in a harbour with an accepted international depth of 13 metres and approximately 30 hectares of reclaimed land under a project shown to be commercially viable with the full recovery of capital and all costs including interest over 19 years. The project is funded primarily by the lease income of the reclaimed land. The FPA does not have a debt problem and therefore it will not be necessary to raise port charges to meet the project's debt commitments.
- (7) Not applicable.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - FREMANTLE HARBOUR

Dredging

928. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

What was the justification for the dredging program of Fremantle Harbour?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

Trade is vital to the economic wellbeing of the State of Western Australia and with the Port of Fremantle handling up to two-thirds by value of this trade it is vital that the port have the draft to enable the port to be regularly and reliably scheduled into major international shipping schedules. The port, with 13 metres of water, is now able positively to influence international shipping services through Fremantle for the benefit of a wide range of WA exporters and importers. The detailed feasibility and financial study undertaken by the Department of Transport and the Fremantle Port Authority clearly showed that the investment was operationally, financially and economically justified.

TAXI CONTROL BOARD - LICENSED TAXIS

Defective Condition - Notification Policy

929. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

Does the Taxi Control Board, through its regulations, rules or general code of conduct, have a policy on whether a lease taxi driver is responsible for notifying the lessor or the lessor's agent of any mechanical modifications necessary to be made to the vehicle or made to the vehicle by other persons?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

Where a licensed taxicar is found to be defective an inspector may direct, by,

notice in writing, the owner or the driver to remedy the defects specified. If the notice is not complied with by the due date, the owner is notified and given further time to comply.

WATERSIDE WORKERS - WYNDHAM PORT

936. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

What is the number of waterside workers employed at the Port of Wyndham and what are the average weekly hours recorded as being worked for guaranteed wage purposes for the 12 months ended 30 June 1989?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

23 waterside workers.

10.7 average weekly hours.

HEALTH ACT - AMENDMENTS

Local Government Association's Submission

944. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister received and considered the Local Government Association's submission on proposed amendments to the Health Act relating to infringement prosecutions and penalties and registration and licensing?
- (2) If so, what is the Government's position with regard to the association's recommendations?
- (3) If there are disagreements with any of these recommendations, what are the reasons for the disagreement in each case?
- (4) If the Minister has not yet considered the submission, will he undertake to do so and respond to parts (2) and (3) as soon as possible?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.

- (2) A number of the Local Government Association's recommendations have already been acted on. A Bill is in the process of being prepared to give effect to the amendments sought in connection with fees and charges and the Offensive Trades (Fees) Regulations are being amended to provide for an increase in all registration fees, with an operational date of 1 January 1990. The remaining amendments that have been sought in relation to certain prosecution and penalty provisions are currently under active consideration with a view to appropriate amendments being introduced during the next session of the Parliament.

- (3) Answered by (2).

- (4) Answered by (1).

STATE FINANCE - TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Contingent Liabilities

946. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

With reference to the note to Statement No 20, what further contingent liabilities have been listed in the Treasurer's Annual Statements for 1988-89 under contingent liabilities?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Treasurer has provided the following reply -

If the member would be more specific, I will answer the question in writing.

STATE FINANCE - TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
Rothwells Ltd (In Liquidation) - Treasurer's Advance Payment Movement

949. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

With reference to chart number 0120365 of the Treasurer's statements, can the Treasurer reconcile the movement of the Treasurer's Advance "payment" of \$33 million to Rothwells Ltd (in Liquidation) showing the \$10.5 million credited by journal transfer form on 14 June 1989 and the balance at 30 June 1989 and any further movements in this account to date?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Treasurer has provided the following reply -

The original payment of \$33 million to the provisional liquidator of Rothwells was made on 30 May 1989 and debited to Consolidated Revenue Fund - chart No 0120365.

On 14 June 1989, in accordance with the Treasurer's approval, \$10.5 million, being a component of the \$33 million recoverable from the National Australia Bank, was transferred by journal entry from the Consolidated Revenue Fund - that is, credit - to the Treasurer's Advance Account - that is, debit - thereby reducing the charge against Consolidated Revenue to \$22.5 million, as explained in answer to question 862.

The Treasurer's Annual Statements report as at 30 June 1989 a total charge against Consolidated Revenue - including legal and advisory costs of \$39 415 - of \$22 539 415 - see page 57 - and against Treasurer's Advance of \$10.5 million - see page 136. The Treasurer's Advance was cleared by a credit of \$10.5 million received from the National Australia Bank on 8 December 1989.

STATE FINANCE - TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
Guarantees, Indemnities and Sureties

950. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

What are the guarantees and indemnities in the Treasurer's Annual Statements - Part C - Guarantees and Indemnities Issued under the Provisions of Other Acts, and Part D - Sureties Issued, for -

- (a) WA Government Holdings Ltd;
- (b) WA Development Corporation;
- (c) Gold Corporation and subsidiaries;
- (d) Exim Corporation;
- (e) Rural and Industries Bank;
- (f) Petrochemical Holdings Ltd;
- (g) Petrochemical Industries Limited; and
- (h) Rothwells Ltd

which include any events subsequent to balance date to date of signing statements by the Auditor General on 20 November 1989?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Treasurer has provided the following reply -

There have been no specific guarantees, indemnities or sureties issued subsequent to the Auditor General's signing the Treasurer's Annual Statements on 28 November 1989 which would come under "Part C - Guarantees and Indemnities Issued under the Provision of Other Acts" and "Part D - Sureties Issued".

ROTHWELLS LTD - LIQUIDATOR
\$10.5 Million Payment - R & I Bank, SGIC

958. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Did the Government receive an amount of approximately \$10.5 million from the liquidator of Rothwells Ltd due to the SGIC and/or the Rural and Industries Bank?
- (2) If so, why was it paid to the Government?
- (3) On what date was it received?
- (4) To what account was the amount credited?
- (5) Was the amount credited to the \$10.5 million supplementary advance or against the \$33 million paid direct to Rothwells?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Treasurer has provided the following reply -

(1) No.

(2)-(4)

Not applicable.

- (5) No. An amount of \$10 490 000 was distributed by the liquidator of Rothwells Ltd to the R & I Bank - \$1 694 988.43 - and the SGIC - \$8 795 011.57 - as an interim dividend - under terms of a deed - on 29 November 1989. An amount of \$10 500 000 was received by the State on 8 December 1989 from the National Australia Bank, being a recoupment of funds the State advanced under the terms of a deed.

LAND - WANGARA
Industrial Park Rezoning Plans

962. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the State Government through the State Planning Commission and Industrial Lands Development Authority intending to rezone, or rezoning, land in Wangara for an industrial park?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide details?
- (3) Are affected land owners being offered compensation for their land commensurate with present zone values or such values as the intended rezoning might attract?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Planning has provided the following response -

(1)-(2)

A statutory improvement plan - No 23 - over approximately 600 hectares of land in the Wangara/Landsdale area has been gazetted. Amendments to the City of Wanneroo planning scheme and consequently the metropolitan planning scheme are proposed to rezone the improvement plan land.

- (3) Offers are being made based on independent valuations of current market value and having regard for the future industrial potential of the land.

**TRADE UNIONS - WA LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE DRIVERS, FIREMENS AND
 CLEANERS UNION**

State Employment and Skills Development Authority Bill - Concerns

965. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of concern expressed by the Western Australian

Locomotive Engine Drivers, Firemens and Cleaners Union in respect of a number of aspects contained in the State Employment and Skills Development Authority Bill?

- (2) If so, can the Minister tell me whether he has had discussions with the union in respect of these concerns and whether the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Labour has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter has been resolved.

SORRENTO QUAY - SHOP TENANTS

Lease Arrangements, Complaints

966. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a number of tenants who lease shops at Sorrento Quay, on land administered by the Minister for Transport, claim they were induced into entering lease arrangements as a result of certain misrepresentations?
- (2) Will the Minister meet a deputation comprising tenants and their legal representatives to discuss this matter and, if not, why not?
- (3) Has the Minister received correspondence outlining the tenants' complaint from Michael Whyte and Co, barristers and solicitors, acting for a number of the tenants and, if so, has he responded to this correspondence?
- (4) Will the Minister instruct the Department of Marine and Harbours to communicate with the tenants' legal representatives in respect of the complaints and grievances raised by the tenants?
- (5) Has the major tenant, Hillarys Boat Harbour No 2 Pty Ltd, honoured all of its obligations to the Minister under the terms of its leasehold at the marina and, if not, which specific obligations has it failed to honour?
- (6) Is it the responsibility of the major tenant or the Minister to provide a permanent ferry service from the marina to Rottnest Island and, if so, will the Minister provide details of the schedules which have been agreed to?
- (7) Can the Minister advise why the ferry service promised to the tenants has not been provided in accordance with the representations made to the tenants?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, however I have already requested the tenants' legal representative to meet with officers of the Department of Marine and Harbours, and at that meeting the tenants' legal representative indicated that my direct involvement was not required at this time.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) This has already been done.
- (5) I am not prepared to disclose the arrangements existing between Hillarys Boat Harbour No 2 Pty Ltd (in Receivership) on the grounds that this would be a breach of commercial confidentiality.
- (6) Neither.
- (7) I am unaware of any specific promise made to tenants.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS - HIGH SPEED CHASE

Female Offenders - Penalty and Charges Progress

971. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to question 1530 asked in the Legislative Assembly, what penalty was given to the offender who was remanded for a pre-sentence report?
- (2) What progress has been made with the charges against the three offenders who failed to appear in court on the set date?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The offender was placed under the control of the Department for Community Services for six months and part of that order was a conditional release order for 10 weeks.
- (2)
 - (a) The offender remanded to Camarvon Children's Court failed to appear and an order for a bench warrant to issue was made.
 - (b) The offender has been remanded to 20 December 1989 for a Department for Community Services report and a community services order report.
 - (c) The offender has been dealt with and is subject to a six-week conditional release order.

ROADS - STIRLING HIGHWAY, MOSMAN PARK

Widening Proposal

978. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it proposed that Stirling Highway be widened in the Mosman Park area?
- (2) If so, what is proposed?
- (3) Why is this proposal necessary?
- (4) When will this proposal commence?
- (5) Is the proposal related to land on the west side of Stirling Highway?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Why is resumption being considered for land on the east side of Stirling Highway?
- (8) How many properties would be affected under the proposal?
- (9) What is the cost of any proposed resumption?
- (10) What consideration has been given regarding properties that already have a very small frontage that could be affected by such a proposal?
- (11) How much land would a property at 654-656 Stirling Highway lose should the resumption go ahead?
- (12) What is the cost of the proposed roadworks?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

(1) No.

(2)-(12)

Not applicable.

TOURISM COMMISSION - PEDEN, MRS STELLA

"Great Southern Regional Guide" - Telephone Number Error

987. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Tourism Commission received a letter dated 3 November 1989 from Mrs Stella Peden, of Frankland River Cruises, Nomalup, regarding a printing

error in the "Great Southern Regional Guide" where Mrs Peden's telephone number was listed as that of "Great Southern Wilderness Expeditions" and her business name listed against the telephone number of "Holiday Houseboat Hire", her new cruise competitor on the Frankland River?

- (2) In view of the widespread distribution of the "Guide" and the likely adverse financial effects of the printing error for Mrs Peden, is an investigation into this matter to take place?
- (3) What promotional or other assistance does the commission plan to offer Mrs Peden to counter the possible adverse effects of the error?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following reply -

- (1) The Western Australian Tourism Commission has received a letter dated 3 November 1989 from Mrs Stella Peden of Frankland River Cruises.
- (2) The complaint as detailed by Mrs Peden on 3 November was referred to in a letter to Mrs Peden on 1 May 1989 in which an apology was offered following an internal investigation of the transposition of Mrs Peden's telephone number and that of a competitor. The guide in which the error occurred has not been reprinted.
- (3) At that time the commission offered to assist Mrs Peden by highlighting her tourist operation by taking an advertisement in the annual publication of "The Leeuwin Way" magazine. The publication is a four colour production that enjoys substantial distribution and is published by Holiday Stopover. However, the December/January issue has not yet been published. Due to this the commission was intending to redirect the advertisement to the quarterly newspaper on the region also produced by Holiday Stopover. The edition in which the advertisement would be placed is February's - the first available following the non-publication of the magazine.

JURY TRIALS - ACQUITTALS *Supreme and District Courts*

989. Hon R.G. PIKE to the Attorney General:

- (1) How many acquittals have there been in jury trials, in both the Supreme and District Courts, in the two years to 30 June 1989?
- (2) How many acquitted were legal aid funded?
- (3) What was the average time, in days, that jury trials lasted?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

As indicated in the answer to Legislative Council question 753, this information is not readily available and would take about two weeks to compile. As also advised at the time, I am not prepared to divert scarce resources for that purpose.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS - MILLIGAN STREET-ST GEORGE'S TERRACE *Delays*

990. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the traffic lights at the intersection of Milligan Street and St George's Terrace are still causing considerable delay?
- (2) Has the department considered a no right turn arrow in Milligan Street for traffic turning west into St George's Terrace?
- (3) What are the average pedestrian traffic counts at this intersection during peak hour traffic?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes. As stated in reply to question 738, the Main Roads Department has the intersection under review.
- (2) Yes. Prohibition of right turns from both Milligan and Mount Streets into St George's Terrace is being considered. Initial indications are that it would cause significant inconvenience to circulating traffic with little reduction in delay to other movements.
- (3) No pedestrian counts have been done since the "Walk" phase was installed in October 1989. Typical counts of 450 pedestrians per hour during peak vehicular traffic periods were recorded in February 1989. Midday pedestrian movements are almost twice this figure.

HEALTH - DOCTORS

Gnowangerup - Deficiency Concern

992. Hon MARGARET McALEER to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Gnowangerup doctor is leaving his practice as at 22 December 1989 and that the surgery will be closed from that date?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that local people are extremely concerned that no other doctor is taking over the practice?
- (3) What does the Government propose to do about it?
- (4) Does the Government accept responsibility with respect to the provision of a medical service for Gnowangerup, given that the Government's involvement in the hospital situation has directly resulted in the loss of the present doctor?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The regional director of the great southern health region is liaising with the current doctor about the possibilities for the future of current permanent care patients and a visiting medical service from a nearby town. The regional director is liaising with and assisting the current doctor and the Gnowangerup Shire Council in the advertising for and the seeking of another doctor.
- (4) No. Medical services in small country towns are provided by private medical practitioners. In general the Health Department assists both medical practitioners and local communities with advice when requested.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SPORT AND RECREATION - RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

City of Wanneroo - Pre-election Government Commitment

650. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that, prior to the February State election, a commitment was given to the City of Wanneroo that the State Government would fund \$2 million for recreational facilities on a dollar for dollar basis?
- (2) If yes, will such funds be made available to the council?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1)-(2) I understand that a commitment was given. I am not sure exactly where we

are with that project. If the member places the question on notice I will provide him with the detail he seeks.

POOLS WA - LOTTO
Eight Game Card Price Difference

651. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Why is an eight game card in the Pools WA 6 from 38 priced at \$4.25 while an eight game card in the Lotto 6 from 45 is priced at \$2?
- (2) What does the additional 25¢ fee charged on the Pools WA card represent?
- (3) Is this charged on the Lotto games?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I thank the member for some advance notice of the question.

(1)-(3)

An eight game card in the Pools 6 from 38 in WA is priced to the customer at \$4.25, representing 50¢ a game, of which \$4 is forwarded to the Lotteries Commission and 25¢ is retained by the agent as the selling commission. This is in accordance with the Australian Soccer Pools bloc agreement. Lotto is marketed for both midweek and weekend at different costs per game -

- (i) Weekend Lotto costs 25¢ a game;
- (ii) Midweek Lotto costs 50¢ a game.

The selling commission is included in the cost of the Lotto game and not added to the cost as in Soccer Pools. An eight game coupon costs the customer \$2 for weekend Lotto and \$4 for midweek Lotto.

PRISONERS - SEX OFFENDERS
Minimum Security Classification Records

652. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) How many sex offenders classified as minimum security prisoners were in prison at the commencement of each of the 12 months commencing January 1989?
- (2) In which prisons were they and how many were in each prison?
- (3) What would the total roster be for such prisons at those times?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(3)

I thank the member for some advance notice of this question. I regret that I am unable to respond in spite of the early advice. In respect of the general question, records have not been kept in a way that allows that information to be easily extracted. In fact, it would take a great deal of time, and it is doubtful whether the resources that would be required for that could be justified. On the other hand, an undertaking was given that there would be a careful monitoring on the placement of sex offenders at Wooroloo. That has been recorded. Unfortunately, just as I was asking for that advice, the computer broke down and the department was unable to extract the information. I was hoping it would have reached me by now. That happened before I left the office at about three o'clock. I think there would be no doubt about my having that information tomorrow.

PRISONERS - SEX OFFENDERS
Records

553. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Corrective Services:

In view of the fact that my question was not phrased in a manner which enabled the department to respond, will the Minister give an indication of what records are kept so that I may frame another question which will result in my being given a satisfactory answer?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I cannot say. However, I am prepared to ask the department generally to provide whatever information on sex offenders is readily available from its computerised records. That would be in addition to what I would hope will be an itemised account in respect of Wooroloo.

EDUCATION - OCEAN REEF AND BEECHBORO PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Reconstruction

654. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Education:

I have given advance notice of the question.

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the mortar mix used to build the new cluster building at the primary school at Ocean Reef and the Beechboro Primary School is too weak?
- (2) Will these buildings have to be pulled down and rebuilt?
- (3) Will the schools be ready for occupation by the beginning of the 1991 school year?
- (4) Does the Building Management Authority have responsibility for the supervision of the construction of these school buildings?
- (5) Should it be necessary to demolish these school buildings in order that they may be properly and safely restored, who will be responsible for the additional costs?
- (6) If the structures are allowed to remain in their present condition, will this present any danger to pupils and staff using the buildings?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I thank the member for giving notice to the Minister for Education's office. The Minister for Education has provided the following reply -

(1)-(6)

Dr Lawrence is aware of the situation at Ocean Reef and Beechboro Primary Schools. That situation is being investigated.

BURSWOOD CASINO - OVERSEAS OWNERSHIP

655. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has the Minister researched the assurance given by the former Minister that the casino would not fall into overseas hands?
- (2) Has he made a decision about what will happen to the casino?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The application has been referred to the Gaming Commission and is the subject of a thorough investigation. I will be in a position to make some decisions about the matter when that investigation has been completed.

BOND CORPORATION - DOWDING GOVERNMENT
Financial Recovery Action

656. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Attorney General:

I refer to reports that Bond Corporation has today launched an action to recover \$500 million from the Dowding Government. I ask -

- (1) Has the Attorney any knowledge of that action?
- (2) Has he been consulted, either in this portfolio or as Minister for Budget Management?
- (3) Does the Attorney intend to make an impact assessment on Government revenues in respect of that matter?

(4) If not, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

No.

(3)-(4)

In those circumstances, I am clearly not in a position to give any consideration to the matters raised by the questions.

BOND CORPORATION - DOWDING GOVERNMENT
Financial Recovery Action

657. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Attorney General:

In the light of the action launched today by Bond Corporation and also of the Attorney General's admission that he is not aware of that action, will he undertake to provide the Parliament before its rising at the end of this week with a comprehensive statement of the Government's action in respect of that matter?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I would be very surprised if I could be in a position, within 48 hours, to provide a comprehensive statement on an issue which, on Mr Pendal's account, is as large as this one is. Obviously, there will be a need to take all manner of advice and I would not be able to anticipate it.

BOND CORPORATION - DOWDING GOVERNMENT
Financial Recovery Action

658. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Attorney General:

I acknowledge the Attorney General's difficulty given the possibility of the next 48 hours. May I rephrase my question and ask him whether he will provide a statement as comprehensive as is possible given that probably there are no more than a couple of sitting days before the Parliament rises?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I would think that no sensible statement on an issue as large as this could be prepared in that time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT - ANNUAL REPORT
Steering Committee on Aboriginal Communities and Local Government Report

659. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer the Minister to the recent tabling of the Local Government Department's annual report.

- (1) Has the draft report of the steering committee investigating remote Aboriginal communities and local government in Western Australia been finalised?
- (2) If so, will the Minister indicate whether that report will be tabled in this session of Parliament - perhaps I should qualify that by saying this session of Parliament prior to the end of 1989?
- (3) If the report is not yet finalised, would the Minister give an indication of when the finalisation is expected?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(3)

The report the honourable member refers to is, I understand, very close to completion. I guess I could say categorically, as I have not yet seen it, that it is not likely to be tabled before the end of 1989.

Hon George Cash: You are aware that it is close to finalisation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That is my understanding.

BOND CORPORATION - DOWDING GOVERNMENT
Financial Recovery Action - Government Liability

660. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House:

In relation to Bond Corporation matters, has the Government received any up to date information on the extent of its potential liability in the event that Bond Corporation's action succeeds?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am not sure whether Hon Phillip Pendal is referring to the action which he mentioned a few minutes ago, about which I know nothing, or some other action.

BOND CORPORATION - DOWDING GOVERNMENT
Financial Recovery Action - Government Liability

661. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House:

I am referring by extension to questions on the Notice Paper which remain unanswered in respect of this matter. Will the Leader of the House will be in a position, prior to the rising of the Parliament, to tell the House the extent of the potential liability?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I think this refers to questions which were previously put to the Premier or Treasurer, or both, in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister to whom the questions were directed indicated that he did not regard it as appropriate to enter into public discussions on this matter in view of the litigation on foot. I agree with that.

OPTOMETRISTS ACT 1940 - AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
Optometrists' Crossword Advertising

662. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Health:

I sent a copy of my question to the Minister's office indicating that I would ask it this afternoon.

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Optometrists Act 1940 allows very little variation in the way optometrists can promote and advertise their services?
- (2) Is the Government proposing to introduce a Bill to amend the Act?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) Does the Minister have any objections to advertising via crosswords in local newspapers by optometrists?
- (5) If not, can an interim letter of authority be sent to the Optometrists Board allowing their members to proceed?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(5)

I indicate to the member that I have not been provided with the information he is seeking. I will check when I leave the House to ensure that we have the information tomorrow.

Hon Reg Davies: I may be able to read the answer in the paper tomorrow.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Let us not take too much credit away from the member; if the member asks topical questions I suppose other people will know they are topical as well.

QUESTIONS - Nos 926, 937, 938, 940

Previously Answered - Original Questions and Answers, "Hansard" Incorporation

Hon J.M. BERINSON (Leader of the House):

I seek your indulgence, Mr President, to refer to four questions previously addressed by the Leader of the Opposition, namely questions 926, 937, 938 and 940. In each case the Leader of the Opposition was advised that answers had previously been given by letter to Hon Gordon Masters. Mr Cash asked that the answers be incorporated in *Hansard*. The original questions were numbered 158, 159, 162, and 167.

I seek leave of the House to have the questions and answers to which I have referred incorporated in *Hansard*.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

APPENDIX A

926. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

Further to his answer to question 156 on 18 April 1989 -

- (1) Which routes are envisaged for the three ships currently under construction at Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty Ltd?
- (2) Who financed the three vessels and who are the parties to the contract for the construction of the vessels with Australian Shipbuilding Industries?
- (3) Was the contract written in -
 - (a) Australian dollars; or
 - (b) US dollars; and
 - (c) what was the rate of exchange between Australian dollars and US dollars on the date of the contract?
- (4) What were the total losses/deficits incurred by Stateships for the financial years ended -
 - (a) 1982;
 - (b) 1983;
 - (c) 1984;
 - (d) 1985;
 - (e) 1986;
 - (f) 1987;
 - (g) 1988; and
 - (h) 1989 estimated to date?

ANSWER:

- (1) The ships will be deployed in the Stateships domestic and overseas services.
- (2) The shipbuilding contract is between Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission and Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty Ltd.
- (3) (a) Yes.
(b) Not applicable.
(c) Not applicable.
- (4) (a)-(g) The information is available in the financial reports tabled in Parliament for each of the years in question.
(h) The Budget estimate for 1989-90 is \$14.89 million.

937. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

Further to his answer to question 156 of 18 April 1989 -

- (1) When are each of the three vessels to be constructed by Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty Ltd due for completion?
- (2) Is the State Government chartering, purchasing or leasing the vessels and who is the other party to the contract with the Government and Australian Shipbuilding Industries?
- (3) Is it intended to dispose of any of the current vessels used by Stateships and, if so, which vessels and when?

ANSWER:

- (1) 31 March 1990, 30 June 1990, and 30 September 1990.
- (2) See answer to question 158.
- (3) It is proposed that the larger vessels will be disposed of at the appropriate time, which will be determined by charter commitments, service obligations and disposal economies.

938. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Were the 1987-88 accounts of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission qualified by the Auditor General?
- (2) When did the Auditor General sign his statutory report in respect of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission?
- (3) When were the accounts tabled in the Parliament?
- (4) Were the accounts tabled within the required period provided by the Financial Administration and Audit Act?
- (5) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

- (1) No.
- (2) 12 December 1988.
- (3) 30 March 1989.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Not applicable.

940. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Did the Auditor General qualify the accounts of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission for the year ended 30 June 1988?
- (2) Did the Auditor General indicate that the objectives of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission required a further refinement?

ANSWER:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes. The Auditor General has suggested that the objectives be more clearly defined in order to introduce the performance indicators called for in the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1985. This is consistent with the phasing in of the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act with all Government agencies.