

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 28 October 1980

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

RAILWAY GRAIN FREIGHT RATES: AMENDMENT

As to Motion: Speaker's Ruling

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I am prepared to rule in connection with the notice of motion standing in the name of the member for Mt. Marshall concerning amendment to the scales of charges under the Government Railways Act.

The authority for Parliament to disallow or amend subordinate legislation is expressed in section 36 of the Interpretation Act.

The opening words of section 36 read—

36. (1) When by any Act it is provided that regulations may or shall be made, and—

- (i) it is provided that such regulations may or shall be made by the Governor; or
- (ii) it is not provided by whom such regulations may or shall be made,

any regulation made under, or by virtue of, such provision—

- (a) shall be made by the Governor;
- (b) shall be published in the *Gazette*;
- (c) shall, subject to subsection (2) hereof, take effect and have the force of law from the date of such publication, or from a later date fixed by the order making such regulations;
- (d) shall be laid before each House of Parliament within the six sitting days of such House next following such publication.

The Act then proceeds to describe the manner in which regulations may be disallowed by either House of Parliament or may be amended by a resolution agreed to in both Houses. I should point out that the Act provides that the term "regulation" includes rule and by-law.

Subsection (4) of section 36 of the Interpretation Act provides for, and brings under the disallowing and amending provisions, regulations made by an authority other than the Governor. This can be interpreted as applying to these scales of charges if it is accepted that the scales of charges constitute regulations, or, in this context, by-laws.

I now refer members to the Government Railways Act. Section 22 of that Act provides—

22. The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, from time to time, by notice in the *Government Gazette*:

(1) Fix scales of charges to be paid—

- (a) by persons carried on or using a railway; or
- (b) for goods carried on a railway . . .

etc. The fact that the "scales of charges" have, at various times, been termed a schedule to by-law 55 is irrelevant. The scale of charges is made pursuant to section 22 of the Government Railways Act, by the Western Australian Government Railways Commission. There is no requirement for a scale of charges to be laid on the Table of the House. The fact that the scale of charges has been tabled does not cause it to become a by-law.

The by-law-making power in the Government Railways Act is to be found in the succeeding section, section 23, and this section does not authorise the setting of freight rates by by-law.

Section 24 of the same Act requires the approval of the Governor, the publication in the *Government Gazette* and the tabling in Parliament of by-laws "made under the last preceding section".

It is clear that in passing the Government Railways Act, Parliament has intended to draw a distinction between those matters which should and those which should not be the subject of "by-laws" as the term is used in the Interpretation Act. Section 22 has been deliberately expressed in such a way that the "scales of charges to be paid" do not fall within the terms of section 36 of the Interpretation Act.

I therefore must rule that the present motion before the House in the name of the member for Mt. Marshall is not in order as the House does not have the authority either to disallow or to amend the scales of charges made under section 22 of the Government Railways Act.

Point of Order

Mr COWAN: I raise a point of order. Mr Speaker, by giving that ruling are you not suggesting that by-law 55 which was published on 23 May 1973 is invalid? If you were making that suggestion to the House then surely everything that is contained in that by-law also is invalid.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will make no other statement in respect of this matter than the statement I have made. If members want to place an interpretation upon the statement I have made, that is for them, but it is quite clear to me after consideration, and discussion with many people,

including the member for Mt. Marshall and the member for Merredin, that the ruling I have made is sound.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Lack of Confidence of the House: Notice of Motion

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [4.36 p.m.]: I give notice that at the next day of sitting of the House I shall move—

That the House has no confidence in the Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs because of his consistently divisive and confrontationist approach to his portfolios and abrogation of Ministerial responsibility as evidenced by:

1. His cowardly and unethical public attack on the Principal of Belmont Senior High School, a person for whom he has Ministerial responsibility.

Mr O'Connor: Is he one of your candidates?

Mr PEARCE: To continue—

2. Misleading statements made by him in this House and in the Press concerning proposals for a village at Noonkanbah after his office had been advised by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs that the substance of his statements was inaccurate.

Mr Grayden: Tomorrow we will substantiate all our claims.

Mr PEARCE: To continue—

3. His unparliamentary and untrue allegations that a Member of this House had left an Aboriginal child to die 24 years ago.
4. Racist and divisive statements made by him concerning Noonkanbah and Aboriginal Affairs in this State.
5. His consistent pattern of denigration and personal attack on individuals to avoid responsibility for his own mistakes and those of his Department.
6. The standard of his Ministerial and Parliamentary conduct which is below that expected of a person occupying high office.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Sir CHARLES COURT: I rise on a point of order. If I heard correctly, the member for

Gosnells, in reading his notice of motion, used the word "cowardly".

Mr Bryce: Too kind!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The mere fact that the member has given notice of his motion lends itself to some unfortunate publicity because, no doubt, the Press is at liberty to publish the motion as it was read.

I ask for your ruling, Mr Speaker, because it seems to be unparliamentary to use the word "cowardly" and, therefore, is not permissible.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Unfortunate as it may well be—the choice of words used by the member for Gosnells in framing his motion—it is not within my power to rule out of order any part of the motion, notice of which has been given. Indeed, that is one of the forms of the House.

If a member wishes to give notice of a motion he can frame it as he thinks fit.

I want to return to the point: I believe it is unfortunate that the member for Gosnells used the words which he chose to set out his motion. Notwithstanding that, I believe I have no authority to refuse to accept the motion.

Point of Order

Mr PEARCE: On a further point of order, Mr Speaker, regarding my "unfortunate comments" I believe the term "cowardly" to be parliamentary, if only because the Deputy Premier directed that term to me during debate on the Budget in this House less than two weeks ago and no action was taken on that occasion.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat.

I thought I had made it clear I was not ruling the notice of motion, given by the member for Gosnells, out of order. Indeed, in doing so I have ruled against the Premier and I have ruled in accordance with what I believe to be the conditions which apply in this House.

Mr Grayden: This is one occasion the Opposition will regret.

Mr O'CONNOR: My understanding, Mr Speaker, is that you said you are not able to alter any words in the notice of motion. Am I to understand that if the words "lie" or "liar" are used against an individual, they are to be left in the notice of motion?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Indeed, it is only by way of substantive motion that a member of this House can accuse another of misleading the House and, indeed, saying anything he feels he ought to say. But, that does not give licence to any member of Parliament to abuse that privilege. It is one of the privileges of the House, and one which has been accepted for years in a parliamentary democracy.

I can only reiterate: I hope members of the House will couch their motions in moderate terms, and not use inflammatory and insulting words when framing those motions.

Having said all that, I want to reaffirm my opinion that I have no authority, in my view—someone may be able to show that I have that authority—to reject a notice of motion because it contains certain words.

Mr Pearce: The term was used by the Deputy Premier and is recorded in *Hansard* on page 1967.

The SPEAKER: Order! I prevail on the member for Gosnells to be silent. If he interjects again I shall warn him; indeed, I shall name him.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Minister for Police and Traffic) [4.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I have some information which I was asked to provide at the third reading stage.

The member for Merredin asked how much Government departments had paid in respect of the fuel franchise levy. The following estimates have been provided to me by the Treasury Department: In 1979-80, \$640 000; and 1980-81, \$701 000.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Lack of Confidence of the House: Notice of Motion

The SPEAKER: Before I call the next order of the day I advise that I took the brief opportunity which presented itself during the proceedings which have just taken place to consult with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

As a result of that consultation I want to give further consideration to the point of order raised by the Premier, and supported ultimately by the Deputy Premier.

In order that I may do that with some degree of accuracy, I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 4.48 to 5.08 p.m.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: Firstly, I wish to deal further with the point of order raised by the Deputy Premier and to indicate that my knee-jerk reaction in ruling the way I did was incorrect by precedence of this House. Indeed, in November 1976, the present member for Mt. Hawthorn gave notice of an amendment, paragraph 2(b) of which was as follows—

the allegation that in a personal statement made by the Premier (Sir Charles Court) in the Legislative Assembly on the 14th day of September, 1972, in grave breach of privilege, he lied to the Legislative Assembly.

A point of order was taken by the Premier and, subsequently, the Speaker ruled in the following way—

After a good deal of consideration, I uphold in part the point of order raised by the Premier in respect of the words "lied to". I do this for the simple reason that had this word been used in debate in respect of a member I would have objected to its use as being unparliamentary, and it is obviously wrong to allow the use of the word in written form in an amendment. However, this leaves something of a vacuum, and as I do not want to hold up the debate, I direct the Clerks to delete the words "lied to" from the amendment and to insert the word "misled".

I want now to refer to the point of order taken by the Premier today. He specifically took exception to the word "cowardly" being used in the notice of motion given by the member for Gosnells.

Speaker Hutchinson's ruling was that he ought not to allow in the framing of a motion words that he would otherwise rule unparliamentary. We then need to look and see if in fact the word

"cowardly" has been permitted in debate in the House. There was an occasion in September 1977 when the Premier said—

Mr Bryce: Of all people!

The SPEAKER: The next member to interject will be named. The Premier said, "It is hard to say which is the more cowardly approach—the ALP moratorium or the ACTU referendum." A point of order was taken and finally the Speaker—who happened to be this one—ruled as follows—

In the context in which they were used I do not consider the words used to be unparliamentary and I do not ask for a withdrawal.

I said on that occasion that in the context in which the words were used a withdrawal was not required because they referred to a political party and another organisation rather than to a specific person. In this case, the context in which the word has been used is such that it is directed to a particular person and, more particularly, to a member of this House.

I return to what I said earlier: I believe it inappropriate to frame a motion in that way and I prevail upon the member for Gosnells to delete the word "cowardly" from the motion because in the context in which it has been used I believe it to be unparliamentary.

Mr PEARCE: Notwithstanding the fact that the Deputy Premier used that word against me on Tuesday, 7 October and recorded on page 1967 of *Hansard*—he said, "You are a coward"; and, subsequently, "You are cowardly"—I am prepared to adhere to your ruling, Sir, and to remove the words "cowardly and" from paragraph (1) of my motion.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Gosnells for his preparedness to amend his motion. Might I say that had my notice been drawn to the use of that term when used by another member of the House in describing the member for Gosnells, I would certainly have taken action. The matter was not drawn to my attention and I do not recall the words being used; however, I assure the member for Gosnells and all members that had I been aware of the situation I would have asked for a withdrawal.

BILLS (3): THIRD READING

1. Banana Industry Compensation Trust Fund Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

2. Colleges Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Grayden (Minister for Education), and transmitted to the Council.

3. Cemeteries Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

HOUSING BILL

In Committee

Resumed from 23 October. The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Watt) in the Chair; Mr Laurance (Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 22: Powers in relation to development and management of land—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Mr LAURANCE: I move an amendment—

Page 15, lines 32 and 36—Delete the word "tenants" and substitute the word "lessees" in each case.

This amendment follows on from the first amendment moved in relation to this clause which concerned tenancy agreements. It was never the intention that this particular clause should relate to tenancy agreements. It was intended to relate only to contracts of sale, mortgages, or leases.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 23 to 80 put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

BEE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 14 October.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.20 p.m.]: This Bill and the Beekeepers Amendment Bill might be called "industry Bills". I should like to make several comments in regard to the structure of the industry. It may have been preferable to deal with

the Beekeepers Amendment Bill first; however, we shall proceed in this manner.

We saw there was a degree of difference of opinion in matters relating to the banana industry and the same situation applies in the bee industry. There has been a difference of opinion amongst producers resulting in the establishment of a splinter group of beekeepers. It is unfortunate that in small industries of this kind, complete unanimity of purpose cannot be obtained. However, it may be achieved eventually.

Seven provisions are dealt with in this Bill. The good sense of some of these measures will become clear to members as we deal with them. The first provision allows the committee to refuse payment of compensation in cases where antibiotics have been used to treat brood diseases, without authority in writing. This is not an unreasonable measure, because antibiotics can mask brood diseases without actually eradicating them. If antibiotics are used improperly, the problem of residues could cause concern amongst the medical practitioners of this State, if not in relation to overseas export honey.

The Bill provides also for a finite retirement period for members of the fund committee. This rectifies what could be called an anomaly which exists in the appropriate legislation or regulations concerning the appointment of members of boards for an indefinite term. A maximum period of service of three years has been set. In order to maintain continuity which is vital in organisations of this kind, provision is made for alternate retirement. There is provision also for the appointment and retirement of deputies.

When members look at these matters they will see they are logical in the administrative sense and I do not believe anyone would dispute that.

A further provision in the Bill states that the maximum limit of the money which may be held in the trust fund—previously it was \$30 000—shall be removed.

I mentioned previously that two organisations are interested in these matters and I shall refer in detail to that later. However, the beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union feels the removal of the ceiling of \$30 000 which may be held in the trust fund is desirable. The Honey Industry Association expresses some reservations in this regard. It feels it is not completely desirable that the ceiling should be removed. I should like to indicate the reason for this, because it may be worthy of consideration by the officers of the department.

Industry discussion with Mr Kessell suggested removing the maximum amount of money which

may be held in the compensation fund or raising it by 50 per cent. The point was made that, in view of inflation, a bad outbreak of disease could seriously deplete the fund at a time when a lengthy period could elapse before the next collections were due. Collections coincide with the two-yearly registration period of beekeepers.

It is difficult to say whether it is desirable for the ceiling of \$30 000 to be removed. A family concern could own in excess of 1 000 hives and members will appreciate that, if it were necessary to compensate for the loss of production of 50 per cent of those hives, it would be a costly exercise.

It appears the removal of the ceiling of \$30 000 is a realistic and practical approach to this matter, bearing in mind the rate of inflation and increased costs.

The contribution to be made within the period set is to be laid down by the Minister. It can be seen, as referred to by the Minister in his second reading speech on the Bill, this will give a degree of flexibility to the system. Therefore, it will not be necessary to raise this matter in Parliament each time an amendment is required, because it can be dealt with on an administrative basis, no doubt with consultation and general acceptance of the industry.

The levels of penalties have been increased. A breach of the Act incurs a penalty of \$50 and that figure was set in 1950. At that time such a penalty was realistic, but it cannot be regarded as a deterrent today. Therefore, it was necessary to revise the penalties. This has been done and the maximum penalty contained in the Bill is \$500. Although the penalty had not been adjusted for 30 years, the increase seems a little steep and perhaps the Minister could indicate the manner in which the figure was arrived at. I should like to know whether it was by consultation or arbitration.

I am aware the beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union accepts the penalty and, as they are the people who will be involved in the matter, it is not for me to object strenuously to it.

The third point raised by the Honey Industry Association related to an amendment to the parent Act. It is clear the association was not aware that the parent Act is outside the scope of the amendment before us. The association suggested there should be greater representation on the trust fund committee and it put forward the proposal that one member should be nominated by each of the three groups; that is, the Honey Industry Association, the beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union, and the Western Australian Apiarists Society. It is a good idea to

have representation of amateur groups in the industry proper. There are a number of amateur beekeepers and they should be aware of the need for hygiene and disease control within the industry. Perhaps greater involvement of amateur beekeepers in the industry would lead to better communication and better education.

I make that point, although it may not be relevant because it cannot be introduced into the discussions on the parent Act. However, it still does need examination by the department and I hope the Minister will pass that information on to his officers because it may be a proposition which could be helpful to the industry as a whole. As an industry measure the reasoning would be fairly acceptable.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.31 p.m.]: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his support of the Bill. I have taken note of the points he has raised. I realise there is a divergence of opinion within the industry, and whilst this is unfortunate, I have made every endeavour to consult with both major sections of the industry to obtain their opinions.

I think the member realises it is necessary to have the ceiling removed from the sum of \$30 000 in the compensation fund. The member convinced me of this necessity during his speech. If we intend to compensate an industry there must be a fund commensurate with that industry. Although the beekeeping industry in Western Australia is comparatively small, there is still a large amount of money involved in it.

The maximum fine of \$500 is considered reasonable. As the honourable member himself points out, it is 30 years since the fine of \$50 was applied. I do not know what formula was used to arrive at this figure but if we relate the minimum wage of 30 years ago to the minimum wage today, we will find that there has been quite a change. I accept this trend because it seems to be world wide. A maximum fine of \$500 gives the magistrate some latitude to apply a fine up to that amount. It will be one which will satisfy the penalty side of this Bill for some time.

I have taken note of the member's suggestion with regard to the appointment of members to the committee. Whilst I cannot give any undertaking at this stage, I will consider his comments when the time comes for the appointment of the committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BEEKEEPERS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 14 October.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.34 p.m.]: It is probably apposite to make the point that the Honey Industry Association has made the claim that it did not receive full consultation on the amendment. Members spoke with the appropriate officers in the Department of Agriculture some months ago, but it was not a formal discussion.

The beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union indicated that it had had consistent discussions with the departmental officers and that section is quite satisfied with the department's approach. I do not know how the rift between these two groups can be bridged. A meeting of the Honey Industry Association was held at Kojonup during the weekend and members discussed at some length some of the propositions put forward.

I have a summary of the deliberations of the meeting and once again there is one area only where an amendment could be effected. It is not a major amendment, it simply seeks to drop the word "foul" from the phrase "American foul brood disease". The term would then be "American brood disease". This would be done for the sake of notation and the implications which may apply, and it is for those reasons that this euphemism is desirable.

I have a complaint which I wish to place on record; that is, since the total ban on honey from the Eastern States and equipment connected with honey production, 10 queen bees have been brought into the State from New Zealand. The association is concerned about the quarantine provisions because there are some diseases with which we do not have any trouble in Western Australia, but they may be reaching this State.

The association made the point that the feral bees which produce such services as pollination must be protected and the introduction of these queen bees could have far-reaching effects. The association is concerned about the strictness and stringency of the quarantine regulations and I am sure the officers of the Department of Agriculture and the APB also are concerned.

I have raised that point so that the Minister is conversant with one of the main concerns in the industry. Imported honey accompanied by a

certificate is probably not the most satisfactory control. This matter needs some attention.

The measures contained in the amendment are: firstly, to reduce the registration period from five years to two years. That is quite reasonable because if we wish to have an up-to-date list of commercial beekeepers, or amateur beekeepers then it needs to be kept up to date. If the records go back as far as five years there could well be some disparity. To register every second year is not an onerous task and it is most desirable.

Secondly, another important matter is one which would permit the designation of an infected area. This is vital to prevent the spread of diseases which are apparent from time to time. Beekeepers are fairly itinerant; they follow the bloom of various flora from Geraldton to the south coast. If there is a good flow of honey in the wandoo or the karri, the beekeeper is the first to know. The beekeepers move their hives into these areas very rapidly and it is important that in the event that there is some disease, some restriction should be imposed so that the disease is not spread. The area infected should be designated and subjected to quarantine and movement restrictions. Once again, this amendment appears to be in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

The penalties have increased from \$100 to \$1 000 for a breach of the Act. The fine for the impersonation of an inspector is \$500. If a penalty is to be effective in preventing people from breaking the law then it needs to be commensurate with present-day values.

If a beekeeper knows that there is a good flow of honey in a certain area, and is aware that his hives are diseased, he may still be tempted to move into that area if the fine is \$100. He may choose to move his bees because in a matter of a week he could pay that fine and still have money to spare. By his actions, he could well have spread that particular disease to other hives which are taking advantage of the same flow. A fine of \$1 000 is reasonable and is a possible deterrent. The president of the beekeepers' section of the Farmers' Union conceded that this was a practicable approach, and the members of his section accept this amendment. As we are dealing with an industry measure, we have to be directed by those people who will suffer the effects or who will operate under the terms of the regulations.

There are certain measures which the Honey Industry Association desires to have implemented. These measures come under the parent Act, with one exception. The first measure seeks to amend the principal Act. The association suggests that in section 13, provision could be made for disease

varieties and parasites to be included. That would require a new approach to the parent Act. It could be that that would be more desirable. Section 6 of the principal Act also is considered to be at fault and could well bear examination by the administration of the Department of Agriculture.

The association feels that with section 15 of the principal Act, some concern has been expressed by the beekeepers about the term "use of prescribed substances prohibited". That term requires some elaboration and clarification. So, sections 6, 12, and 15 of the parent Act require some examination. I believe the members of the association have made some valid points and we must bear in mind that most of them are experienced beekeepers, despite the fact that there is some divergence of opinion with the majority of the commercial industry.

The only query I raise is in relation to the infectious diseases. Perhaps it would be possible to adopt the name "American brood disease" rather than the name "American foul brood disease". This may make a difference in regard to overseas sales.

Once again we are dealing with an industry administrative Act, and to that end it seems to achieve its purpose. It has the agreement of the majority of beekeepers.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.45 p.m.]: Once again I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his support of the measure. He made several points which are pertinent to the industry, and certainly I will look into these.

The bee industry is a relatively important one. Historically it has looked after itself to a very large degree, and this is well demonstrated by the fact that the beekeeping industry set up the Honey Pool of WA. This organisation has acted entirely independently and very successfully.

On several occasions in this House we have discussed the importation of honey, and I note the comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he said that the system of a certificate of freedom from disease or a certificate that honey comes from a disease-free area is not a very satisfactory one. However, there is really no other way to allow the importation of honey than to accept the word of the Department of Agriculture in the State of export that the honey concerned has either come from a disease-free area or it has been sterilised in the manner prescribed by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture. I can assure members that the prescribed method

of sterilisation is very safe because of the temperature to which the honey is subjected.

It will now be possible to restrict by order the movement of hives and hive products if we are unfortunate enough to have an outbreak of any of the diseases mentioned in the Act.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the prescribed substance. Let me assure him that this refers to the use of antibiotics and drugs which have not been prescribed or recommended by the department. This matter was dealt with in part in the previous amending Bill, and it was well explained by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition himself.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

BEEKEEPERS AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Amendment Bill.
2. Firearms Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

DAIRY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 October.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [6.08 p.m.]: This Bill will involve a little more controversy than the previous two because it takes into account quite a number of views from sections of the industry all of whom have a point of view of their own and a personal interest which humanly enough they will follow and must do so to further their own interests. We will have a look at those matters separately.

The aims of the Bill are, firstly, to give the Dairy Industry Authority powers to enforce delivery by vendors on at least five days a week and to impose conditions on licences to ensure this can be done. The penalties include the suspension of a licence for up to three months, prosecution, and a daily sum for further infringement. These

are all fairly severe impositions, but at the present time it should be noted that under the existing regulations vendors are required to deliver to households on six days as is the situation in most of the Eastern States. The present situation in Western Australia is that the six-days delivery cannot be enforced and one of the reasons is that licence holders tend to lease rounds to vendors which makes it virtually impossible for the DIA to take the action it needs to take on receipt of a complaint.

Further, it is difficult for the DIA to establish a prosecution for an infringement by a vendor because most customers, once they have made a complaint, are not prepared to follow it up to the extent where prosecution becomes involved. That is understandable but, nonetheless, it makes for some situations that have occurred in the industry which need to be rectified.

The second amendment is to simplify the method whereby the DIA may define dairy areas or districts by publishing descriptions in the *Government Gazette*. At the present time two or three vendors may operate in the one area which gives rise to all sorts of complications, not the least of which is that vendors find they are serving small, isolated areas instead of single, big blocks which would make for economies in time and in travel costs.

The reason for this situation is in part the blame of the processing companies; they have to answer for this situation in quite large measure. I think the DIA is to some extent culpable in allowing this situation to occur in the first instance.

The intention now is to go back and establish block zoning as the norm for the industry, a situation in which a particular vendor may follow all the aggressive sales policies he is able to undertake with regard to all the products he offers for sale. This should result in vendors taking a greater interest in their particular area and their particular round. Some vendors are in the business only on a part-time basis and, as a consequence, they cannot be expected to show the same interest and enthusiasm as do those who are owner-operators. That is the intention of the regulations, but I understand that the DIA cannot or does not intend to move on this with any great speed until such time as the industry has to some extent put its house in order.

A further provision is that the DIA be allowed to invest surplus funds; those it does not require immediately which can be carried over and invested with a permanent building society. I see nothing wrong with that and it might even be of

some joy to the Minister for Housing in rectifying some of the deficiencies in housing funding that he must surely be aware of.

The final amendment is to enable the DIA to take over the role of the advisory committee that was set up under the Filled Milk Act of 1959. There we have the four provisions and I think it behoves us to become a little familiar with the problems of the industry, the attitude of the DIA, what it seeks to achieve, and how the conflict between the sectional interests has reflected to some extent against the interests of the consumers—this has to be borne in mind.

First and foremost, there is the accepted philosophy of the DIA and the Milk Vendors Association. Mr Lewis, from the Milk Vendors Association, is emphatic that the course adopted by the DIA is correct. I can only assume he speaks for members of the association. But their studied consideration is that the most effective way to maintain overall sales of milk is to encourage home deliveries, as it can be shown that the home delivery sales of the total milk sold in Western Australia is in the vicinity of 40 per cent, as compared with Sydney and Brisbane where the figure is something over 60 per cent. The reason for this is attributed by the DIA to the fact that some vendors are not treating the sale of milk—which is their livelihood—with the enthusiasm and aggression shown by their counterparts in the Eastern States. The reason might lie with the set-up of the various rounds for lease.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Prior to the tea suspension I cited the provisions contained in this amendment and looked at the basic and reasoning philosophies of the Dairy Industry Authority. It is adamant that milk vendors if they apply themselves vigorously can improve the overall sales of milk. That contention is generally accepted by surveys conducted in the Eastern States and, indeed, in Great Britain. The contention is that household sales generate a far greater demand for milk.

It must be appreciated that in the milk industry there are a series of industries that have a point of view. Some conflict exists but certainly a great degree of self-interest is evident.

In the first place the producers have been unable to get much of an increase in the past few years in the daily licensed quota to which they are entitled. The quota is their means of income, so the overall level of sales is of paramount importance because that indicates hopefully what their increment will be.

The vendors have a point of view. Amongst the vendors there seems to be some disparity of opinion: On the one hand the Milk Vendors Association claims that five days a week selling instead of three or four days a week selling will produce an overall increase in the amount of milk sold and that although perhaps all of it will not be used it will arrive on the doorstep. The overall quantity will improve the total sales by the DIA. This trend is shown by figures for the period 1977 to 1980. In 1977, 105 324 000 litres of milk were sold; in 1978, 105 088 000 litres were sold; and in 1979, 106 044 000 litres were sold. One can appreciate that a large increase has not occurred in the total sales of milk, a situation which is causing concern to the dairy producers.

The conflict between the DIA and the milk vendors will become apparent to members when they look at the article in the *Daily News* of 2 July 1980 under the heading, "Milkmen sour on five deliveries". The article states—

A Subiaco vendor, who makes deliveries three and four times a week... said that servicing his 250 customers five nights a week would cost him at least an extra \$60 a week.

That is the contention of one vendor who complains that if he is compelled to make five deliveries a week it will cost him \$60 extra a week, yet the attitude of the authority is that a five-night delivery will enable block zoning to be introduced and would thereby encourage owner-operators to look after and develop their areas to increase sales.

The philosophy of the DIA is that five nights a week sales would increase the overall sales whereas the vendors claim that such a system would be to their detriment and to the detriment of customers because it would increase the costs of delivery of milk. So, somewhere between those differing views there has to be the correct view.

The points of view of the processing plants and the people who work in them have to be taken into account. In the first instance, the processing plants look for the greatest economy they can develop. Whether they would be happy to reduce processing by a couple of nights a week to give them as great a capacity and at the same time a lesser operating period, I do not know. The workers have a point of view. I have no doubt that members of the processing plants' staff would look for as great a level of employment as they could obtain. They would much prefer five days a week employment than four days a week employment.

So we come to the situation that the DIA has put forward a point a view, the processors have put forward a point of view, the members of the vendors association have a point of view, and the Miscellaneous Workers' Union which represents the workers in the processing plants, which has a different stake in the matter, has put forward its point of view as have the companies which operate the processing plants. None of these groups appears to agree strongly.

I do not know where the consumer fits into this situation because the overall philosophy is to establish as great a level of milk sales as is possible. There is nothing amoral in this, it is a matter of providing a service five days a week, and then the customer, the housewife, is at liberty to take advantage of it. That I think would be a true summation of the situation.

However, I cannot help wondering whether the cost structure of the milk industry could bear close scrutiny. On 23 October 1980 the price of milk increased by 2c for a 600 millilitre bottle but the people concerned wanted more. They wanted an increase of 10c. In the five years between 1975 and 1980 the price of milk increased from 19c to its present level. On 1 November 1975 the price was 19c for a 600 millilitre bottle and on 1 November 1980 that price had increased to 31c, an increase of 12c which represents a 63 per cent rise in five years.

Mr Davies: What do you think it will be in another five years?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The way this Government is going?

Mr Davies: Yes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I shudder to think of such a situation.

Mr Old: If Whitlam was still in Government the price would now be \$1.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I want to bring the Minister back to reality. While the price of milk has increased by 63 per cent the average weekly earnings of an employed male—I emphasise the word "employed" because it seems to have significance at this time—rose by 44 per cent from \$169.10 to \$244.30.

Even though average weekly earnings have increased by 44 per cent and the price of milk has increased by 63 per cent, the industry still wants more. Something seems to be wrong with this situation. Sections of the industry are clamouring for more money and the consumer is footing the bill and is not keeping pace with the increases in his cost of living.

The consumer has fallen back by something like 20 per cent in five years; so, 4 per cent a year has been the average discrepancy between the rise of wages and the rise in the cost of milk which is just one commodity. It probably would be apposite to mention that during the recent election—

Mr Davies: It could well be that sales are falling.

Mr H. D. EVANS: That is a possible factor. While the DIA claims a large percentage of the increases the responsibility rests with the vendors to look after their rounds as thoroughly and as aggressively as they can. However, a discrepancy has occurred between the increase in the price of milk and the increase in the average weekly wage.

The consumer has had to bear 15 increases in the price of milk during five years. I can recall that in the time of the Tonkin Government, if the price of milk had even tremored upwards, that occurrence would have brought down the heavens and the wrath of the Press, but, in the five years I mentioned, the price of milk has increased 20 per cent more than the increase in the average weekly earnings.

I believe there is a need for a greater examination of this problem because of its complexity.

I will compare the price of milk in Western Australia with its price in other States. The price of a 600 millilitre bottle in Brisbane is 32c; in Sydney it is 31c; in Melbourne it is 30c; in Canberra it is 28c; in Hobart it is 28c; and in Adelaide it is 27c. I cannot reconcile the price of 27c in Adelaide very readily and I thought that the Victorian price would have been considerably lower. However, the price in Perth is at about the centre of the range for capital cities. Of course, there are other factors to be taken into consideration. I think this matter requires some fairly hard evidence, not just speculation and intuitive feeling by various sections of the community. I think somebody has to find out where the weaknesses lie in the industry.

The current semi-chaotic state of the leased rounds has been attributed a considerable portion of the blame, but, other factors are involved.

When the Minister comes up for air I ask him to consider some points. I wonder whether he is able to provide any hard evidence of the need for a five night round and whether it is clearly demonstrable, because that is the reason given for the proposed setting of the number of nights. We have had an unenforceable period of six nights but now it will be set at five nights.

In connection with the five night round that will apply, I ask the Minister: Will this number be at the discretion of individual vendors? Can a vendor select the number of nights? Can he decide to do a double delivery on a Wednesday night and another on a Sunday night? That aspect of the matter is important. It has an effect on the processing plants which have to ensure that harmony within the industry is maintained and that everybody knows precisely what he is doing. I wonder whether the processing plants will work to the five day delivery system. I want to know how they will function.

How will this proposal affect the jobs and conditions of employment of the hundreds of workers involved in the processing and transporting side of the industry?

The points I raised needed to be raised and the questions I asked needed to be asked. I also want to know to what extent the opinion of the vendors through their association has been canvassed and whether the newspaper items are valid and justified in their criticism of the vendors. I will wait with interest to hear the answers to these questions.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [7.45 p.m.]: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his general support of the measure, admittedly with some reservations. The dairying industry—certainly the vending section of it—is represented in the main by the Milk Vendors Union of which Mr Bob Lewis is the president. However, many vendors are not members of that organisation. I understand some are members of the Transport Workers' Union, and some do not belong to a union at all.

Mr H. D. Evans: What percentage would be members of the Milk Vendors Union?

Mr OLD: I could not give an accurate percentage, but it seems to fluctuate tremendously.

Mr Pearce: It is not compulsory unionism!

Mr OLD: No, we have taken the compulsion out of unionism!

During the past two years I have received representations from the Milk Vendors Union on this subject. Its members have expressed concern that their industry is going downhill. It must be realised that some vendors buy a milk round, and then lease it to somebody else. I think the member for Warren mentioned part-time milk vendors. I have been told that some do the work for exercise while training for football, or some other sport.

There is a hard core of very responsible milk vendors who see their industry suffering because of the irresponsible action by what I consider to be the minority.

We have been trying for some 18 months to get down to a basis for legislation I could justifiably bring before the House. It has been demonstrated throughout the world that where milk vending becomes inefficient or ceases, the consumption of milk declines very dramatically. The member for Warren quoted some figures which indicated that the consumption of milk is fairly static, dropping a little last year and improving a little more this year.

Western Australia was the only State to increase its milk consumption in the past year, and that increase was by some 2 per cent which is negligible when considering our increase in population. We confidently expect there will be a rather large increase in population over the next four or five years, and we certainly anticipate there will be an increase in the demand for milk.

When people do not receive the type of milk delivery service which they require, the inclination is for them to sack the milk vendor and purchase their milk at the local supermarket. When the woman of the house looks into the refrigerator and finds she has only half a carton of milk, usually she does not rush to the corner store. She will leave it until the next day. However, if the milk bottles go out five nights a week and a set quantity of milk is purchased, it will be in the refrigerator and it will be used.

The member mentioned processing, and the five deliveries each week. He asked whether there was any discretion on the part of the vendors. This Bill is designed to give the authority power to take action if, in fact, a round is demonstrated to be operating unsatisfactorily. I can assure the member for Warren that the authority will not insist on X number of deliveries per week, provided the vendor concerned is able to demonstrate that the round he is servicing is being serviced satisfactorily.

As was mentioned, in the past there has been a requirement for six deliveries each week, but there was nothing in the Act to allow the authority to take any action to ensure that happened. One of two courses had to be followed. One was to take out any requirement for a set number of deliveries and leave it to the industry to settle. The second course was to give the authority that power to enable it to ensure that satisfactory deliveries were made. In the interests of the industry, the second alternative is what should be done.

A good percentage of the vendors own their own rounds. They are small businessmen who are very keen to see that their businesses operate efficiently and profitably. These are the people I had in mind when I introduced this Bill to Parliament. They are the responsible sector of the industry who will ensure a solid industry, and who will ensure a profit for themselves, and right back to the producer.

I was interested to hear the observations about the price of milk. Might I suggest that, perhaps, the wrong impression is being given because the milk industry is called upon at regular intervals to put forward submissions for particular sections of the industry. Those submissions are dealt with by the present committee under the chairmanship of Professor Roy Lourens. He is very capable and I think those members who know him would agree that one could hardly find a better man to do the job. All factors are taken into account when a price rise is recommended to the authority. The authority either accepts or rejects the submission.

The present committee has put forward well documented evidence and it is normal for the Dairy Industry Authority to study the findings of the committee, and to update the price of milk if the recommendations are accepted. But, there is no guarantee this will continue.

The dairying industry, in general, is an energy-intensive industry both on the farm, during transport, and during processing. As a consequence, there have been fairly hefty increases in costs in all sectors of the industry and they have to be taken into account.

On several occasions the member for Warren mentioned block zoning. I want to make it perfectly clear that no undertaking has been given to the vendors that block zoning will be introduced but, certainly, there is the thought that an efficient vendor should be given the right to service an area efficiently.

Mr H. D. Evans: I think I said the DIA was working towards this, but it required the industry to get its house in order first.

Mr OLD: It would be a fairly big step to take, and we would want to be sure it would work before we were agreeable to the introduction of block zoning. However, once a vendor shows he is capable and keen, and able to increase the sales of milk, he will receive the consideration he deserves. By allowing the authority to alter boundaries without having to go through the Lands and Surveys Department, we will streamline the process of the authority defining dairying districts for vending.

It was rightly pointed out that part of this Bill is designed to repeal the Filled Milk Act of 1959. That Act was introduced when there was the possibility of reconstituted milk coming into this State which would have been sold in competition with natural milk. Filled milk consists of natural milk with the addition of butter oil. The Filled Milk Act was introduced to stop that. The committee set out in the Act has never met because there has not been any occasion for it to meet. The fact that the Act has existed has been a deterrent. We thought this would be an appropriate opportunity to repeal that Act, and make its provisions part of the Dairy Industry Act.

I think I have covered most points raised by the honourable member, and I commend the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 9 put and passed.

Clause 10: Section 55A inserted—

Mr H. D. EVANS: Although it is not spelt out, and no doubt there will be a change in the future, both Mr Lewis and Mr Travers of the DIA were concise and unequivocal in their claim that it was intended it would be compulsory for vendors to deliver five nights a week. At present the regulations require deliveries on six nights. However, because some rounds are held under licence, and leased to somebody else, it is necessary to introduce this provision.

With the operation of the compulsory five nights' delivery, on which nights will the vendors be obliged to deliver? Will a vendor be able to choose which five nights he will deliver, or is there to be a stipulation? Processing plants are involved, and although they have fairly sophisticated storage provisions there is the question regarding which days they will operate and process milk. Will the processing plants choose the nights on which they will process, and how will that tie up with the vendors and the nights on which they will deliver?

Mr OLD: I discussed this matter briefly with Mr Travers, the Manager of the DIA. My understanding is there will be flexibility. There probably will have to be a double delivery on Sunday night. Apart from that, it would be up to

the vendor when he delivers provided he gives an efficient service.

From my discussions with the Manager of the DIA there is no intention that the Government will get out the big police whistle, and have the vendors followed to make sure they deliver. The authority will have to be satisfied that the vendors are doing their job satisfactorily, and providing a service to the customers. If not, the whole object of the exercise will be defeated.

The processing plants have demonstrated their ability to cope with the situation where, to say the least, deliveries have been irregular. I think five deliveries a week will be satisfactory to the processing plants. However, I would not expect they would work on Saturday nights, so Sunday night would be a double delivery.

Mr H. D. Evans: It was pretty unequivocal by both Mr Lewis and Mr Travers that the DIA would be looking to a five-night delivery.

Mr OLD: Yes, it will be looking to that. I have discussed the matter with Mr Travers in the last 24 hours, and that is the explanation he gave.

Mr HODGE: I have listened with interest to the Minister for Agriculture, and I have some doubt that this clause will achieve the results for which he hopes. He seems to be pinning his hopes on the pious wish that a delivery on five nights a week will result in a bigger volume of milk being sold to householders. I do not believe that will necessarily be so. My milk vendor delivers on only three nights a week, and I find that perfectly satisfactory. In fact, when he formerly delivered on five nights a week we had constantly to leave out notes asking him not to deliver because we did not require milk.

I have read the Minister's second reading speech closely, and I find no explanation that a more frequent delivery of milk will result in greater sales. I would like to see more milk being sold, as would all members of the Chamber; but I think these days the consumption of milk is determined by its price. I believe people purchase the amount of milk they require or can afford, and I cannot see how more frequent delivery will result in their being able to afford more milk or to require more milk. With modern refrigeration, there is no impediment to the storage of milk for two or three days; certainly it does not pose a problem to me.

I have not received a complaint from any constituent about the infrequency of milk deliveries in my electorate. On the other hand, I have received representations from milk vendors who maintain that if they are forced to deliver five nights a week, it will result in a significant

cost increase to them in respect of petrol and wear and tear on their vehicles. They will seek to recoup that possibly in the near future by another increase in the price of milk.

I do not know why milk should be in a special category. We do not have deliveries of meat, eggs, or vegetables nowadays; certainly it is not common to have them delivered to the home. If people require a commodity they go to the local shop and purchase it. Perhaps there is a reason that milk is in a special category, but I do not know of it.

The Minister has not put forward any evidence to show that requiring milk vendors to deliver on five nights a week will result in greater volumes of milk being sold. On the contrary, I think it will result in increased costs, which could mean less sales.

I believe there is more hope for increased sales in the introduction of an orderly system of block arrangements of delivery areas. That certainly has the promise of resulting in a better and more efficient system, and perhaps an increase in the sales of dairy products such as cream, yogurt and other products which people could be persuaded to buy if vendors adopted an aggressive marketing tactic and canvassed their products from door to door.

One vendor in my electorate told me that, at his own initiative and expense, he carried out a survey of his customers to see whether the delivery of milk on five nights a week would result in their purchasing more milk. He received 110 replies, and only 10 people said they would like delivery on five nights. Only seven people said they would purchase more milk if deliveries were made on five nights a week. Obviously on that basis it would not be an economical proposition for him to deliver five nights a week.

I believe it comes back to the matter of the price people can afford to pay, and what their requirements are for milk. Certainly I am not convinced that requiring deliveries on five nights a week will result in more milk being sold. Certainly that would not influence me to buy more milk; in fact, as I have pointed out, it is an inconvenience to me. I suspect before long my vendor will be wanting to charge more for milk to cover the cost increase caused by extra deliveries.

I would be interested to hear the Minister expand on the information he has given to the Chamber. I would like him to give definite information that this will result in increased sales of milk, sufficient to offset the cost increase in respect of delivery.

Finally, I would ask the Minister why this is not a voluntary matter. I am surprised that this Government, which purports to be in favour of free enterprise, should interfere with the activities of these small businessmen. I would have thought the Government would be more interested in leaving it up to the milk vendors to decide what is economical for them, bearing in mind the wishes of their customers. The Minister laid emphasis on what he thought the industry wants, and what is good for the industry. I would like to hear him speak a little more about what is good for the consumer, and what the consumer wants. For instance, has the Dairy Industry Association received many complaints from consumers?

Mr Old: Yes.

Mr HODGE: I would be interested to hear the statistics. As an MLA, I have not received a single complaint in this regard. The Minister may have evidence that complaints are being made direct to the DIA.

I hope he will answer the points I have raised.

Mr OLD: The points raised by the member for Melville are exactly the same as those raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We have received advice of trends from all parts of the world which indicate that when vending falls off or ceases, the consumption of milk drops, despite what might happen in the household of the member for Melville.

In respect of the vendor who conducted a survey amongst his customers, I would dearly like to read the questions asked, because it seems to me they could be like the questions in the recent Gallup polls prior to the election. Probably the questions were framed so that the vendor could get the answer he wanted.

Mr H. D. Evans: That sort of question was involved in the meat referendum after the last election.

Mr OLD: Yes; that was fairly conclusive. In respect of the voluntary situation, that is what we have now. We have a voluntary system which is *ultra vires* the Act, because the regulations say they shall deliver on six nights a week, but this is not done on all rounds. When the prices committee meets, the vendors' income is worked out on the basis that they deliver six nights a week. The member for Melville says it will cost vendors extra to deliver six nights a week, but that argument carries no weight because their costs are allowed for on the basis of six deliveries a week. We are now asking them to deliver five times a week.

The member for Melville said he has received no complaints. I do not doubt that is correct

because I do not think many people would go to their local member of Parliament to complain because the milkman did not call.

Mr Davies: Why not? They complain about everything else.

Mr OLD: Well, they do not come to me to complain about the milkman. However, many complaints are received by the Dairy Industry Authority.

I reiterate that this will not suit all vendors; that is obvious because some of them have slipped into the habit of delivering on three nights a week, and have taken other jobs. I suggest those people in the main are probably lessees, and it might be better if they were to take a milk round themselves and start to run it as a business.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 11 to 22 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

RURAL INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 October.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.12 p.m.]: The purpose of the Bill before us is to extend the operation of the Rural Adjustment Authority so that it may act in respect of applicants who have been injuriously affected by the clearing bans applying to certain river water catchment areas in the south-west. That in itself is desirable, and the purpose is fairly obvious. Some farmers, because they are no longer able to clear, have reached the limit of the arable land available to them, and many will not be in a viable position. It is essential, of course, that situation be remedied and one of the remedies is to allow the Rural Adjustment Authority to operate in this area.

The principle is fair enough, but there are many unanswered points in regard to the operation, and the Minister's explanatory notes fall way short of the mark.

The first query is in regard to the manner in which the Rural Adjustment Authority will operate. Will it treat applications made by farmers affected by the clearing bans in the same manner as it treats an economical problem of a farmer in different circumstances in another area of the State? There is a vast difference between

the two. Firstly, there is the moral issue that one has been placed in an unviable situation because of conditions enforced upon him by the Government. If the situation is that the community, through the Government of the day, have changed their minds in respect of this matter, then it is the community, through the Government of the day, which must pick up the tab. The community should not expect individual farmers to suffer economic disadvantage as a result of a change in the attitude of the community.

So, what guidelines in respect of eligibility will be laid down by the Rural Adjustment Authority in dealing with the farmers concerned?

The Bill also gives powers in respect of redistribution of land acquired by the Public Works Department under the Country Areas Water Supply Act. This is land which will be acquired by purchase or possibly resumption; but in the main I have no doubt it will be acquired through purchase.

These lands cannot be redistributed for agricultural purposes. Bearing in mind that no further land can be cleared in zone "A"—there are varying degrees of clearing in the four zones, but we are dealing with the first zone now although the same problem applies to the other zones but with a lesser degree of severity—any farmer who is to remain in operation will have to have sufficient land now or will need to acquire land already cleared.

The Rural Adjustment Authority will be the authority responsible for the dispersement of the land that becomes available. The funding, too, will provide further problems, because the set of circumstances dealing with farmers affected in the clearing zones will be different from those affected across the border in areas where straightout economic circumstances are the causes of the problems and, therefore, affect the overall economics of the farming operation of that particular individual.

There is a question of Crown lands where, through questions I have asked, I have learnt that they are being examined for possible release now. When this land becomes available it will be up to the Rural Adjustment Authority to determine where it is released. Once again, it is not clear as to whether there will be a priority accorded to the farmers who are affected by the clearing bans in the water catchment zones.

These are matters about which the Government has been silent. These are matters which, right throughout the whole area, are a source of consternation and concern, which is natural

enough when we are dealing with people's livelihoods. While there is the occluded position of the Rural Adjustment Authority there is a further complicating factor of the role of the Public Works Department and the Valuer General's Department, because the three bodies will now be part and parcel of dealing with the same problem. If that is not going to make for more confusion, my knowledge of Government departments is less than I considered it to be.

Up to this time there has been a range of problems, in the main involving communication, where in many cases there has been a delay. I can cite one case of an application that has not been processed and dealt with since last February. This is the sort of position with which these people are now confronted, but with the tripartite form of administration with which they will be confronted, I cannot see their situation being resolved very rapidly at all.

There will be an opportunity to review the entire situation of the country water supply problems when the amendment that is further down on the notice paper comes before this House. I shall certainly take the opportunity then to enumerate the problems and the deficiencies of this Government in its handling of that problem. It has had some repercussions within the Government department itself, but the problems which are manifest for the farmers in those areas are certainly not adequately being catered for at the present time. I am unable to determine whether this amendment before us will assist to any marked degree. It certainly gives an opportunity to do so, but until we can elicit first hand in what way it will be applied in conjunction with the Public Works Department and the Valuer General's Department, we will not get the overall picture.

Perhaps the Minister could explain with some degree of preciseness just how the Rural Adjustment Authority proposes to work its conditions of eligibility; the priority it will accord to these farmers; whether it will get additional funds; whether the funds it uses will be rural adjustment moneys; or whether the allocation that previously would be accredited to the Public Works Department will be taken over by the Rural Adjustment Authority.

The terms of the amendments themselves are satisfactory; they do give an avenue whereby a certain section of the farming community can be assisted; but it is the administration and the manner in which these will be applied that are not clear and are of concern. They are of concern to the Opposition but more so to the people in the

catchment areas, especially if the track record of the Government is anything to go by.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [8.20 p.m.]: The second reading speech given by the Minister when introducing this Bill was very short, a matter of about four paragraphs. I thought it left quite a bit to be desired in the way of detail. The previous speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, made reference to certain aspects which certainly were not explained in the Minister's speech. The principle is acceptable inasmuch as it will provide for some assistance to certain sections of the farming industry; but there are several matters that need more clarification.

In talking about the Rural Industries Assistance Act the Minister said that a too literal translation of the word "financial" could be taken to preclude some of the broader measures agreed to by the Government in pursuing its objective of restoring the viability prospects of farming enterprises affected by control of clearing in catchment areas.

I would like to know what are the viability prospects of the method proposed to make the farming enterprises more viable than they have been. Is there a plan afoot which will assist those farms to be more productive? Will such a plan allow the clearing to be done on a controlled basis whereby it can assist in controlling the spread of salinity, which is the basic reason for the controls being introduced in the first place? Has the Government given thought to introducing some better way or what, if any, is the specific plan that may have been investigated to assist the viability referred to in the Minister's speech?

The amending Bill to the Country Areas Water Supply Act which is listed on the notice paper will be the subject of debate in the House and at that time other avenues will be discussed. I propose to take advantage of that amending Bill to debate certain issues which the Bill raises. I would like the Minister to provide some information on the matter of the viability prospects referred to in his speech.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [8.23 p.m.]: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mt. Marshall for their contributions. I apologise for the brevity of the second reading speech; I will endeavour to make up for that this evening.

This Bill was designed to clear up certain anomalies within the Act which would allow the Rural Adjustment Authority to undertake the buying and selling of land instead of being purely and simply a financing authority, which the Act was originally designed to make it be.

The Public Works Department water supply branch has been involved in endeavouring to solve what is a very big and important problem in the catchment areas—that is, stream salinity. In an endeavour to do this the Wellington catchment area was declared some years ago and clearing restrictions were placed upon it.

Unfortunately, due to prior notice, there had been a tremendous amount of clearing done before the Bill became law. When it was found necessary to apply restrictions in other areas the same notice was not given and, therefore, people in those areas did not have the opportunity to clear land prior to notice being given.

Mr H. D. Evans interjected.

Mr OLD: Hold on; the member for Warren asked me a question; he can say more a little later.

The PWD water supply branch has been endeavouring not only to manage the stream salinity but also to administer compensation to the farmers in the catchment controlled areas. This has proved to be a very big job.

Through the agency of the Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, the department has entered into this field in the last 12 or 18 months to assist the Public Works Department in its endeavours. However, the Department of Agriculture has had virtually no authority within the catchment areas except to provide a service and make suggestions to the PWD.

As members will be aware, an appeals committee was formed and the deputy director is one of its members. The committee has done a very good job. The purpose of this amendment is to endeavour to restore viability to farmers in the catchment areas to that which they would have enjoyed had they been able to continue with their clearing. That is the basis upon which compensation is made for injurious affection. That is also the basis upon which there has been some cleared land allocated to other farmers.

On some of the catchment areas it is possible to purchase cleared land and allocate it to a next door farmer and thus make him viable. Obviously there will not be enough cleared land in catchment areas to make all farmers on the catchment area viable, so there are two alternatives. Those who wish will be assisted to relocate elsewhere. Further than that, the Government is prepared to make some Crown land immediately adjacent to the catchment areas available for clearing; that is, land outside the catchment areas. This will be allocated to farmers either contiguous to or within reasonable operating distance of that land so they can be

restored to the viability they would have previously enjoyed.

I must come back to the point that whoever administers the Act can do so only to the extent of the cleared land that is available or the various pieces of land that are available outside the catchment areas. So there will be some relocation.

We will not have a tripartite situation. The Public Works Department will be interested in the salinity of streams in the catchment areas. The Rural Adjustment Authority will relieve it of the responsibility of the clearing of land and the relocation and sale of land, etc.—all that I have just been through.

It will not be a matter of a farmer having to deal with the PWD and the Rural Adjustment Authority as a team, because the authority will be doing this on behalf of the PWD.

Mr H. D. Evans: And the Valuer General will make recommendations.

Mr OLD: The Valuer General will have to come into it anyway. Two bodies are involved, not three. The Rural Adjustment Authority is one and the Valuer General is the other.

Mr Pearce: I saw that gesture. It was disgusting!

Mr OLD: Obviously only the member for Gosnells would take it as being a gesture, but if he accepts it as such, I am pleased to send it over.

Mr H. D. Evans: The applications to clear will be lodged with the PWD.

Mr OLD: We are talking about restoring viability to farmers.

Mr H. D. Evans: Before you restore viability, you have to assess the salinity engineering problems which the PWD will do and some of the applications have been there since February. There are three bodies; one is the Valuer General, another is the PWD, and the third is the Rural Adjustment Authority.

Mr OLD: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is quite wrong and he is being very quaint and old-fashioned about the matter. The farmers may deal directly with the Rural Adjustment Authority which will utilise the funds which, in the past, were made available to the PWD. They will still be made available to the PWD and, through that department, to the Rural Adjustment Authority. Normal rural adjustment loans will be made through the authority's fund.

Mr H. D. Evans: Will applications to clear be made to the PWD?

Mr OLD: Yes, they will. Farmers will make an application to clear and, if they get knocked back,

they will go to the Rural Adjustment Authority; but they will not be dealing with the PWD, the Rural Adjustment Authority, and the Valuer General.

Mr H. D. Evans: There are three organisations and this is the complication of the situation. Are you trying to tell me the fellows who have been waiting since February will obtain a faster resolution to their problems under this legislation?

Mr OLD: I should like the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to tell me the people who have been waiting since February.

Mr H. D. Evans: I shall do so.

Mr OLD: If he tells me their names, and if their cases are genuine, they will be dealt with promptly.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Rural Adjustment Authority—I do not believe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition doubts the competence of that body—will be able to satisfy, to a large degree, the requirements of the majority of farmers in the catchment areas. As I have said before, there is not enough land to go around.

Not only are we taking the action I have set out, but also we are experimenting with clearing in various ways. For example, we are experimenting by clearing the under-storey only and by pattern clearing. We are doing this to gauge its effect on stream salinity. There are experiments underway in the catchment areas already under the guidance of my deputy director. The results of these experiments will take some time to assess, but once the salt is mobilised—if it is going to be—we will know.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is aware, there has been a joint venture on the Wellington catchment area between the CSIRO, the PWD, and my department.

CSIRO has come up with some conclusions which would indicate, there can be a degree of clearing of the land leaving a certain percentage of the timber. In a number of circumstances, this will act as the pump necessary to keep the water table down.

These are the sorts of things we want to pursue further. We would like to allow some people to operate with the under-storey cleared and the heavy timber left. Whilst this is not an ideal situation in which to work with machinery, at least the country can be top-dressed and pastured and used for running stock.

These are the types of matters the Rural Adjustment Authority will be taking into account.

Right now it is all theory. We should wait six to 12 months and look at the situation then in order to assess the results.

All I can say is, the people with whom I have spoken are very happy the Rural Adjustment Authority is entering the scene and it is doing so with a knowledge of farmer requirements for finance and land. I am not saying the PWD does not have that knowledge, but it is certainly not expert in that field. The job of the PWD is to look after the quality of the water gathered from the catchment areas and that will remain its job.

Mr H. D. Evans: What funds will be available to the authority? Will the money come from Rural Adjustment Authority funds or will additional funds be provided from Treasury and the PWD?

Mr OLD: There will be the normal funds which have been allocated to the PWD in the past for compensation and acquisition of land. Those funds will be made available to the Rural Adjustment Authority. On top of that, there will be the normal Rural Adjustment Authority money on which there are varying demands.

Over the last 12 months there has not been a great call on the funds of the Rural Adjustment Authority. Whilst that situation obtains, the balance of the money held by the authority can be made available to catchment areas.

I understand the apprehension of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because he represents an affected area. Part of my electorate is in the catchment areas also and this matter causes me concern. However, I believe this could be an answer. Already we have carried out this sort of programme on a couple of occasions and we have been able to keep farmers in the area or close to it.

I am very hopeful that, whilst this may not be the be-all and end-all of the matter, it will relieve the situation to the extent that we will be able to go back to viable farming and have a reasonable population on the catchment areas.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

**APPROPRIATION BILL
(CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

In Committee

Resumed from 23 October. The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Sir Charles Court (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Progress was reported after the Vote—Valuer General, \$3 530 000—had been agreed to.

Vote: Miscellaneous Services, \$152 554 000—

Item No. 2: Anzac Day Trust, \$108 000—

Mr DAVIES: The estimate for this item last year was \$100 000 and the expenditure was \$134 000. This year's estimate is \$108 000. I realise the amounts available can vary, depending on when Anzac Day falls. If it happens to fall on a Saturday, the amount going into the trust is generally much greater than that otherwise available. However, a marked underestimate was made last year and a surprisingly small figure is estimated this year.

The Anzac Day Trust does some very good work and the money it distributes is appreciated greatly.

Sir CHARLES COURT: So far as this item is concerned, it is well nigh impossible to be precise, because it is dependent upon a number of factors and particularly the incidence of betting taxes. Therefore, we can only indulge in what is a calculated guess of what might happen.

The Leader of the Opposition made the point a great deal can depend on the day on which Anzac Day falls. It can influence the types of sporting fixtures provided. However, provision has been made for betting taxes expected to be received as a result of racing and trotting meetings held on Anzac Day for the year 1980-81.

Members will be well aware of the background of this particular item and the fact that the trust was set up after a referendum of RSL members. Legislation was passed in 1960 to vary the observance of Anzac Day. While the revised form retains the previous solemnity of the day till 1.00 p.m., the conduct of sporting events is permitted in the afternoon.

For the benefit of members who have been elected to Parliament recently it is interesting to note that the total net proceeds of racing and trotting meetings, 60 per cent of net proceeds of other sporting events and various other fees are

payable to the Anzac Day Trust for distribution among ex-servicemen's organisations.

This item provides for the transfer to the trust of betting taxes on racing and trotting meetings held on Anzac Day and for a grant of \$5 800 for liquor taxes equivalent to occasional licences that were granted under the Liquor Act.

I emphasise this could vary if it is a wet day or a sunny day as the case may be. This could very seriously influence the patronage of events and also the amount of betting that takes place.

The important point is that the trust receives the proceeds of the betting tax and, so far as other sporting fixtures are concerned, it receives 60 per cent.

Item No. 9: Australian Ballet Foundation, \$38 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I wish to question the amount of money which has been allocated to the Australian Ballet Foundation in view of the fact that it had \$47 500 allocated in 1979-80 and it spent \$49 000. The allocation has been reduced to \$38 000 and it seems to be quite unfair that a foundation which adds so much to our social life and which is always struggling to make ends meet has had its allocation reduced by \$9 000.

I hope the Treasurer will be able to explain the reasons for this reduction. I realise the budgetary position is tight but I believe a foundation such as this should receive at least the same amount as it received last year.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I draw the member's attention to the fact that we have been trying to build up the Western Australian Ballet Company which has been through some rather difficult times. The State Government has given aid to that company in a very generous way and the company would very quickly state that fact if the honourable member were to contact them. The Western Australian Ballet Company has moved into the restored His Majesty's Theatre and is using that theatre as its headquarters. So that the company could become established and hopefully go on to greater things, we have backed it very heavily; that is, the Western Australian Ballet Company, as distinguished from the Australian Ballet Foundation.

The State grant to assist the Australian Ballet Foundation is at a level of activity based on a calendar year. In 1979-80, the foundation received assistance as follows: Second moiety of 1979 grant, \$17 500; first moiety of 1980 grant, \$19 000; donation to headquarters appeal \$12 500, which makes a total of \$49 000. The balance of the provision for 1980-81 is calculated as follows: Balance of grant for 1980 calendar

year \$19 000; initial payment of 1981 grant \$19 000—which is yet to be finalised—and so the total is \$38 000.

The foundation receives grants from the Commonwealth and each of the State Governments towards its operating costs. It presents annual seasons in all Australian capital cities, and that is the reason for our contribution; otherwise, there would be an outcry locally if we were contributing to the Australian Ballet Foundation and did not share in its performances.

During 1979-80 the Commonwealth and other States agreed to make contributions to an appeal to establish a national headquarters for ballet in Melbourne. Western Australia's donation of \$25 000 was paid in moieties of \$12 500 in 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Item No. 12: Australian Crime Prevention Council, \$1 050—

Mr SKIDMORE: I am rather curious to know why it is that the Australian Crime Prevention Council, about which I know absolutely nothing, has received \$1 050. What is the Australian Crime Prevention Council?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The council is an Australia-wide organisation which studies the problems of crime prevention, correctional institutions, and rehabilitation on a broad national scale.

Its membership includes distinguished members of the judiciary, legal profession, Police Forces and Legislatures. Other States also make annual contributions to help meet the costs of the council which established a regional branch in Western Australia in 1973. Previously, it was known as the Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After Care Association.

It is a modest contribution we make, but joined with the other States, it is a worth-while contribution. I recall this item was queried several years ago and the explanation I provided at that time was satisfactory to the member concerned.

Item No. 16: Australian Institute of Public Administration—WA Regional Group, \$100—

Mr DAVIES: In this day and age, \$100 is hardly worth while paying out. Could the Treasurer provide me with the background of that donation and tell me whether it comes under review from time to time? Or, is it one of those donations the Government is stuck with and is too embarrassed to say anything about stopping?

It certainly will not break the Government to continue paying that amount and it may be welcomed by the institute to help pay for its postage.

Sir CHARLES COURT: This is one of the small items which has come into the Budget. The institute is obviously not pressing the Government for an increase.

The institute is concerned with furthering the study and practice of public administration by means of publications and regular meetings. By maintaining a liaison with its counterparts throughout Australia the Western Australian Regional Group participates in endeavours to foster a national approach towards the problems of administration. The items are being reviewed rather critically at the moment and we have to be much more severe this year, as I explained when the member for Welshpool raised this matter in general debate with regard to the parts which concern my portfolio. I would not like to say we have finished scrutinising these items. Perhaps the \$100 will help the institute with its postage.

Item No. 19: Australian Music Examinations Board, \$26 000—

Mr BLAIKIE: I seek some clarification on this item from the Treasurer but, at the outset, I wish to say I was delighted some years ago when the Government bailed out the music students when the University of Western Australia was not prepared to pay the cost associated with the examinations which were conducted under the auspices of the Australian Music Examinations Board.

The action of the Government was most commendable because those students who take on music as part of their activities feel it is important to participate in examinations which are conducted Australia-wide. In fact some people continue their studies and obtain an A Mus A.

Can the Treasurer indicate the number of students involved in this allocation and has the Government given consideration for an arrangement of fees which would be paid by students on a *pro rata* basis, say if 1 000 students were taking an examination they could pay a fee of \$2 or \$3 each?

I am not suggesting that is a policy I would certainly pursue but I am interested to know the number of students who benefit from this allocation.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I imagine the number of students involved is considerable because the Australian Music Examinations Board examines a substantial number of students as the honourable member will know as a result of the interest he took when examinations were in jeopardy a few years ago.

I cannot be precise but I imagine there is quite a substantial number involved. On the question of

fees, my understanding is that fees are paid. I know that fees were paid for examinations way back in the days of Professor Heinz, when he examined me. It was a nominal fee but from the fees paid by my grandchildren I note they have moved with the times.

The Australian Music Examinations Board was established by agreement between various authorities throughout Australia. The University of Western Australia is a signatory to that agreement. The additional provision this year is necessary to cover the expected deficit of the Australian Music Examinations Board. The grant has been assessed as follows: Expected deficit for 1980, \$27 000, less advance paid in 1979-80 leaves a balance of the 1980 deficit to be paid in 1980-81 of \$13 000. The advance towards the 1981 deficit to be paid in 1980-81 is \$13 000 which gives us an estimated subsidy payable in 1980-81 of \$26 000.

Due to the increasing financial burden of the board the university gave notice of its intention to withdraw from the agreement financing the board from 31 December 1975.

The State Government recognised the important role of the university in the administration of the board's activities and accordingly agreed to provide financial assistance to the University of WA to meet shortfalls in the board's budget for 1975 and subsequent years.

So I think it is wise that we have been able to retain the university in the board's activities because of the expertise and facilities available.

Item No. 21: Beehive Industries of W.A., \$8 000—

Mr T. H. JONES: Could the Treasurer explain this organisation to me?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Beehive Industries was established in 1973 to provide a limited area of part-time employment for pensioners and retired people. It has achieved considerable success in relieving the loneliness and boredom resulting from inactivity which is often associated with retirement.

A grant of \$6 000 was provided in 1977-78 to assist with operating costs while the organisation was applying for Commonwealth funding. The application to the Commonwealth Government was unsuccessful.

Provision is made for the final grant of \$8 000 approved for the triennium commencing 1978-79. The allocation this year is the end of our commitment to assist the organisation to become established whilst it was taking its place in the queue for Commonwealth funding. From my

understanding of the organisation and having seen its operations in other States, I believe its activities are beneficial and I would class it as a worthy organisation.

Item No. 23: Cat Welfare Society (Inc.), \$20 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I take this opportunity to refer to the rather horrific idea of Harry Butler when he suggested that all cats should be injected with an influenza virus so that they can all die. It seems to me that it is almost the parallel of saying that all humans should be injected with a diphtheria virus so they can die. It is quite an unreal attitude.

I understand that there was a discussion held previously when speaking to the main part of the grant and the Cat Welfare Society (Inc.). The Premier gave an explanation with regard to the \$20 000 grant to the society.

What worries me is that the \$20 000 should be spent in a manner which would indicate the need for people to understand that we can no longer tolerate feral cats—not only in the metropolitan area, but also throughout the whole of the State. Feral cats are the greatest predators ever. If one wants to have any birds around, one has to get rid of the cats.

Obviously other animal welfare societies have not made any approach to the Government regarding funding. What would be the Treasurer's attitude to an application for funds from the Dogs Refuge Home at Shenton Park or the Animal Protection Society of which I am the president? No doubt other societies could be helped.

It must be remembered that many such societies are attempting to police the Acts which we have established to try to prevent cruelty to animals. It appears to me that these societies have been overlooked in the past. I note that the RSPCA has again received a grant this year. With this grant to the Cat Welfare Society, other societies now can look to the Government for assistance in carrying out their work, a great deal of which is voluntary.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I would not be so bold as to make a promise to the member for Swan that any body which applied for assistance such as that given to the RSPCA or the Cat Welfare Society would receive the same consideration. Every case is considered on its merits, and to the best of my knowledge, some have appealed with success and some without. I can say only that any organisation which feels it has a case for assistance should apply.

In reference to the Cat Welfare Society, I can only remind the honourable member, as I explained to the member for Welshpool, the State grant is to a maximum of \$20 000 on the basis of \$1 for every \$4 contributed by the society itself. In other words, this is a real self-help exercise.

I was very interested in the figures I gave to the member for Welshpool. Some 12 000 cats are collected each year, and homes are found for approximately 2 000 of those. The balance have to be destroyed painlessly.

Item No. 27: Citizens Advice Bureau, \$32 250—

Mr McPHARLIN: I would like to ask why the grant of this bureau has been increased suddenly by \$12 050.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I think the increase is more one of bookkeeping than an actual cash increase. Provision has been made for an increase in the grant equivalent to the value of rental charges to be raised for premises occupied by the bureau and for additional operating funding of \$1 500 from 1980-81.

Many organisations are carrying on their activities on a rent-free basis in properties that were available to the Government. Some of these arrangements were temporary pending a decision about the future use of buildings. From time to time the use changes or there is a change of ownership and organisations have to move. For instance, one property was purchased by the university and the organisation concerned had to negotiate with the university to see whether it could continue on a rent-free basis.

For proper relativity between all organisations it was felt desirable to include an assessment of rent in each case. This assessment has been included as part of the actual assistance given. This makes it possible to compare the assistance given on an equitable basis by including the rent factor. In the case we are discussing, practically the whole increase relates to the value of the premises the bureau has been occupying rent free in the past.

Mr H. D. EVANS: On this same item, can the Treasurer indicate whether the Citizens Advice Bureau is required to submit an annual report, and if so, where is the report lodged, and does it include the number of bureaux and general operative details?

Sir CHARLES COURT: In such cases organisations which are seeking assistance for the first time make an application and acquaint the Treasury or me, as the case may be, with the details of their operations. An assessment is made

as to whether such an organisation should be included within the miscellaneous category.

Part of the study that is made is into an organisation's financial background and its budgetary system. We have had to be much more severe lately in the type of accounting and financial control we require. However, this particular organisation does very good work, and it accounts to the Treasury officers for its activities each year.

From my memory of the particular file relating to this bureau, I believe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would be satisfied with the explanation it provides to the Treasury as to how it uses its money and for what purpose. None of the organisations included in the miscellaneous list does not have to give a very full accounting of its operations to the Treasury.

I do not know whether the honourable member knows the procedure followed. A number of Treasury officers control a group of items within the miscellaneous category. With so many items, members will realise that the list has to be broken down. People such as Mr Hansen and others, become very well informed on the activities of the particular group of organisations allocated to them. I rely very heavily, as my predecessors have done, on these officers to maintain a liaison at that level.

It is not all that often that people are dissatisfied with the decisions or recommendations that come from these officers and seek to see either the Under Treasurer in the first instance or me.

Most of these organisations have established a very good working relationship with these officers within the Treasury. The budgetary control system is tighter today than it has ever been. This has happened for two reasons; firstly, to help the organisation itself, and secondly, to make sure we are not paying out money unnecessarily to these organisations.

Item No. 29: Civil Rehabilitation Council, \$12 500—

Mr HODGE: I am disappointed at the miserly increase in the grant to the Civil Rehabilitation Council. This organisation looks after the spouse and family of people serving prison sentences, and it does an extremely good job. However, it seems to be struggling for funds each year.

A large portion of the money allocated to the council is returned to the Government by way of payments to the State Housing Commission, the Metropolitan Water Board, and the SEC. Many of the people whose spouses are in prison are battling to pay rent, SEC charges, and Water

Board charges, and they appeal to the Civil Rehabilitation Council for financial assistance. A significant portion of the council's money is used each year to help the families meet payments to Government instrumentalities. In times like this, when it is acknowledged that the resources of all charitable organisations are stretched to the limit, the Government could make a slightly more generous increase to such an organisation. This increase is less than 5 per cent—it is not even keeping up with inflation. I would be interested to hear the Treasurer's explanation for such a small increase.

Sir CHARLES COURT: As I have tried to explain before, each and every one of these cases is studied in detail before the Budget is put together. Some of these studies commenced as early as last December. I repeat that a number of officers in the Treasury have specialised knowledge of the various participants and they develop their own working arrangements with these organisations.

The honourable member said that some of this money will come back to the Government. The grant from the Government mainly is to assist with the administration of the council's activities.

The council's activities are recognised and supported by the Parole Board, the Department of Corrections, and State Welfare Services. Having regard for our own budgetary constraints, this was the most we could do for the council.

If the honourable member's request were met, every organisation in the miscellaneous list would want something extra. It would be \$600 here, \$50 000 there, and \$250 000 somewhere else.

Mr Hodge: These people specialise in helping people most in need.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have just pointed out that we have only so much money. If we give more to these people we must take it away from someone else.

Mr T. J. Burke: Take it away from the cats!

Sir CHARLES COURT: If someone on the other side were to say, "Take some money away from X and give it to this one", I would be more impressed with the argument. I can assure the honourable member there has been communication in each of these cases. The organisations do not just receive a cheque as of right. They have to make application and justify that application with the Treasury.

Mr PEARCE: One accepts the Treasurer's statement that there is only so much money to go around, but that does not prevent the Opposition from raising the question of priorities. Just at first

glance, the Civil Rehabilitation Council, which looks after people, is to receive \$12 500, and the Cat Welfare Society, which looks after cats, is to receive almost twice as much—\$20 000. We heard the Treasurer last week telling us that approximately 10 000 cats are destroyed each year. So the Government is paying \$2 for each cat destroyed. I am not suggesting that the Treasurer is not right in saying that extra money given to one organisation must come from somewhere else, and I am not arguing that the Treasury officers do not have a fair understanding of the situation, but I feel we need a little more explanation than this.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member seems to have a complete misunderstanding of what this is all about. We are not responsible for actually running the Civil Rehabilitation Council; we give it some assistance. By the way, the \$20 000 for the Cat Welfare Society is the upper limit on the basis that it contributes no fewer than \$4 for every \$1 we contribute on a self-help basis. So the honourable member is not comparing like with like.

If the honourable member communicated with all these bodies in the list, he would find that their attitude towards the Treasury is quite different from his attitude. I would not like the public to believe that somebody just pulls a figure out of a hat. The amounts are arrived at after a great deal of consultation. While each organisation would like to get more, it realises the situation. I do not know whether in fact this particular body has asked for more. I cannot recall their pressing for a steep increase. The case for each organisation is examined. I would not like the member to think it is an arbitrary figure. There are constraints imposed on us; and some of these bodies have admitted they accept those constraints.

Mr HODGE: I listened closely to what the Treasurer had to say. What the Opposition is trying to say to him is that there should be a system of priorities when allocating the available money. Any group dealing with disadvantaged people—the people in greatest need in the lowest socio-economic strata—should receive the most help. I believe any member here would argue that the families and spouses of people serving prison sentences would be in that category, and they are greatly in need. They should receive more consideration, as we are dealing with people in dire need.

I did not speak on this item by chance. I attended the annual general meeting of that organisation; and I studied its annual report and its financial statements. It is my opinion that it

could do with a substantial increase, as could most other charitable organisations dealing with these sorts of welfare cases. I know there is not unlimited money to spend, and the Government cannot be generous to everyone. However, the charitable organisations dealing with extreme hardship cases should have been given more consideration. It is a very small increase of less than 5 per cent. A more generous increase would certainly have been put to good use.

Item No. 32: Council of Social Service of W.A. Inc., \$22 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: Some very simple and concise questions to the Treasurer: What is the Council of Social Service of W.A. Inc.? Why did it receive \$17 000 last year? Why has the figure increased to \$22 000 this year?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Provision is made for additional funding to the council in recognition of further responsibilities accepted by the council at the request of the Government. This is one of the cases where there is constant communication between the Treasury and the organisation. The council co-ordinates the activities of a large number of statutory and voluntary welfare agencies. It conducts seminars on topics of social significance; and its activities include a community information sharing service and a court welfare service. Grants to the council commenced in 1973-74, and were last increased in 1977-78.

Item No. 44: Forty Plus Enterprises, \$900—

Mr SKIDMORE: A rather concise question to the Treasurer again: What in the devil is Forty Plus Enterprises, and why does it get \$900?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Might I suggest that there is no organisation in this list that has no justification for its establishment. Members in this Chamber have made their representations—

Mr T. H. Jones: But it is a funny name, is it not?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Let us not denigrate those concerned. I think the member for Collie would qualify.

The contribution represents the value of the rent of the premises made available to the organisation to carry out its activities. It is not a cash grant in the normal way. Forty Plus Enterprises wanted somewhere to be accommodated by the Government. As I explained to the member for Mt. Marshall, a decision was made a couple of years ago, so as to avoid any inequity between the different organisations in comparing like with like, to place a value on the rental where premises are made

available by the Government. For some organisations, the rental cost is very considerable—

Mr T. H. Jones: Is it a social club?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Forty Plus Enterprises is a voluntary employment agency catering for the unemployed in the 40-65 age group. I think the member for Collie would just make it.

Mr T. H. Jones: Not quite.

Item No. 49: Homes for the Aged, \$275 000—

Mr T. H. JONES: What is the Government funding for Homes for the Aged at the moment, understanding the allowance for furniture subsidies and also the daily subsidies made by the Commonwealth? Can the Treasurer explain to the Parliament the present basis of subsidising in this area?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The figure allowed in the Budget is the best estimate we can make of the anticipated furnishing subsidy claims for homes for the year. We have a certain amount of forewarning about these. We try to make an estimate of those being planned, and those under construction or those being extended. The State subsidises the provision of essential furniture, furnishings, and equipment for aged persons' accommodation which has qualified for a Commonwealth capital subsidy. The State reimburses the organisations for the expenditure on items as follows—(a) under the Commonwealth Aged Persons Homes Act, the Government subsidises accommodation to two-thirds of the actual expenditure to a maximum of \$30 000 in a financial year; and (b) under the Commonwealth Aged Persons Hostels Act, the Government subsidises accommodation of the order of \$250 per accommodation unit.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It is becoming increasingly difficult for the committees charged with the responsibility of operating these homes. The costs in all areas have increased dramatically; but the pensions from which a portion is paid by those who occupy the homes have fallen behind the increases in the overall costs. This is reflected in such items as air-conditioning and the provision of matters of that kind which could not be classed strictly as furnishings.

Air-conditioning is a case in point. It is becoming increasingly difficult to finance it. Other problems include maintenance, such as painting. I am wondering whether the allocation can be extended to meet the items that are becoming increasingly a problem for the committees running the homes.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The item we are considering is related to the straightout question of furniture, furnishings, and equipment. The formula will be subject to review from time to time. It has a ceiling.

Most of the organisations with which I have been in contact seem to be satisfied with the assistance they receive. The main capital item to which the member is referring becomes part of the actual total contract. In many of these places today, it is much more economical to have air-conditioning included in the construction costs.

I know of no pressure on the Government at the moment to change this formula. I want to emphasise we are dealing with single items only. We are not dealing with an operating situation.

Item No. 51: Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention, \$20 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I question the role of the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention without casting any aspersions upon its activities. I am concerned at the fact that the grant of \$20 000 in 1979-80 is the same as for 1980-81, and it has not varied for quite some time. I understand—and I may be corrected by the Treasurer—that the foundation does not require any funds beyond the \$20 000. However, there are many activities that the foundation could undertake in the area of industrial accident prevention which it does not. It appears to be a small amount of money from the Treasury each year. I ask the Treasurer whether the foundation has asked for more funds and has been refused? If it has not requested more funds, has the Government given consideration to higher funding pending a greater output of accident prevention in more areas than are presently covered by the foundation?

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is important that we do not confuse the activities of the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention with the broader question of industrial safety as administered by my colleague the Minister for Labour and Industry. This is a voluntary organisation which has done very good work indeed. It has endeavoured to be self-supporting.

One of the great successes is the fact that it has tried to be self-supporting by involving industry on a broad scale in educational programmes, with a series of awards and the like. Practical experience shows that if the Government tries to do that sort of thing, everyone takes it for granted. However, if people have to do a bit for themselves, particularly in relation to raising funds, they take a greater interest in it.

The Leader of the Opposition and I were at a function today at which the foundation figured largely. That function related to the presentation of the CML Safety Awards. That is one of the important sets of safety awards in Australia. There is a State competition, and the winner goes into the national competition. Our last success at the national level was in 1978, with the Forests Department. The interesting thing about the function was that there was a balanced participation by both the public sector and the private sector. The Metropolitan Water Board construction (north) branch participated in the awards for the second time; and it was the runner-up this time. The Government Printing Office was a merit award winner. At the Federal level, Telecom was also a merit award winner.

The activities of the foundation are proceeding as it was intended. It is continually trying to ensure a wider field of activity. However, it is not intended that its activities conflict with those conducted by the Department of Labour and Industry.

In relation to the question whether the foundation had sought an increase, I think like everybody else it would like an increase; but it is able to manage on what it is receiving. The matter will be reviewed next year.

Mr SKIDMORE: I accept the reasons given by the Treasurer regarding the present activities of the foundation. However, I must take up with him the question that the major part of the activities of the foundation deals with the employers. For instance, there is the presentation of awards for accident-free periods. That is a marvellous thing. The recipient is given a plaque to put on his desk, and it shows there has not been an accident for six months, 12 months, or whatever. The point is that there is the need to consider industrial accident prevention for the worker on the shop floor. Activity in that field is almost non-existent.

Few establishments exist at which there is an accident prevention programme for workers. It appears to me that because of the magnificent work the foundation has done for employers' liabilities and responsibilities for accident prevention, perhaps we could harness the foundation's resources and expertise to enable the workers to be instructed in accident prevention.

I know the foundation holds courses in forklift truck driving so that people are aware of the proper methods to adopt when working around forklifts in a warehouse or factory. Similar courses could be conducted in other areas. However, the lack of such courses concerns me.

Workers should be taught about accident prevention. I have raised this issue on many occasions. It would seem to me that now we have an opportunity to use accident prevention programmes in other areas. Discussion between the Department of Labour and Industry and the people who conduct its accident prevention programme is virtually nil because it resorts to the same sort of tactics with its Government instrumentalities as it does with people from outside the Government.

The department's instrumentalities receive a plaque for attaining so many days free of accidents; they are congratulated for not losing manhours in any given time. I think we should look at the foundation as something which could over the years instil greater responsibility for industrial accident prevention in the minds of workers who are the lower echelon in factories but who make business what it is.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am surprised by the comments of the member because the foundation gets right to the work force. I will give him an illustration. The award that was won by the Metropolitan Water Board's construction (north) branch today is a remarkable record. The reason for its record is that the branch staff is a closely knit team. I think there are about 230 men involved in this group of which 35 per cent come from countries where English is not spoken.

The fact that they have been able to involve themselves in the safety programme is the reason for the branch's success. The workers come mainly from ethnic groups which have strong family ties and emphasise the importance of safety to the family as well as to the worker. I think the honourable member would be well rewarded if he had a talk with the people responsible for the participation of this branch in the foundation and had a talk to the workers at the branch.

I will give the member another example. He should go down to the Forests Department. He would see how that department has been transformed. The workmen and their families are involved in safety programmes. If the member went to presentations there he would see that the workers' families have a personal involvement in the safety programmes.

I think the member is a little out of touch with what is going on.

Item No. 52: International Congress of Bio-Chemists, \$20 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I have a terse and serious question to ask of the Treasurer. What is the International Congress of Bio-Chemists? Why is

it felt necessary to increase its grant to \$20 000 when it spent only \$12 500 of its allocation of \$20 000 for last year?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The International Congress of Bio-Chemists will be held in Perth in 1982. It will be the biggest congress of its kind ever held in one locality in Australia. The local people involved in this profession, or science, whatever one decides to call it, have worked hard since 1975, first of all, to obtain the allocation and, secondly, to prepare for the congress.

It is necessary in the run-up to the 1982 convention that the congress receives this money. The convention will attract a minimum of 5 000 visitors from outside of Australia and from within Australia there could be something like 3 000 people attending, but the organisers have to do a lot of work in the meantime. It was agreed they would be given assistance in the run-up to the 1982 congress.

This grant is another advance. The organisers naturally must account to the Treasurer how they spend the money. If they do not spend it in one year, good luck to them. They realise that money does not grow on trees; we can help them only to a certain extent.

This convention will be of great advantage to tourism and to the scientific community; it will be a tremendous event in terms of scientific participation.

Item No. 54: International Year of the Disabled—1981, \$10 000—

Mr HODGE: The State Government allocated previously an amount of \$140 000 to the International Year of the Disabled Committee. However I notice that an additional requested amount of \$50 000 for promotional purposes was not granted; the Government granted only \$10 000. I wonder what it thinks the committee should do to obtain the rest of the money. It requires \$50 000 for suitable promotional work to promote the International Year of the Disabled—1981. The amount of \$10 000 will be nowhere near adequate.

I do not know whether the Treasurer expects the committee to become a fund-raising body and go out to raise the additional funds. I certainly do not believe that is its function and I hope the Government does not believe that is the committee's function.

I would like to know from the Treasurer whether later on he intends to increase that amount of \$10 000 to make it up to the amount of \$50 000 which was requested by the committee.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Government has not been ungenerous to the various groups representing the disabled. There would not be one of them of which I know that claim we have been ungenerous. What the member did not mention was that a State grant of \$140 000 was made available to the committee in 1979-80.

Mr Hodge: I mentioned that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was mentioned very much in passing. He concentrated on the amount of \$10 000. That \$140 000 was given to the committee well in advance of the promotion to enable it to be prepared for the run-up to this year. The people involved in this organisation know well enough that when they are at a definitive stage of their preparations they always can talk to us, as they have done in the past. Many of the people involved, such as Sir George Bedbrook, have been heavily involved for many years with sports for the disabled such as paraplegics and quadriplegics. I do not think any organiser would say we have been ungenerous. When they have a real case they come to discuss it with us. In this case we had to determine a figure for the Budget and the figure of \$10 000 was put in after taking account of our earlier grant of \$140 000.

Sir George Bedbrook and his colleagues know if they have a need they cannot fill from other sources that they can see us.

In the past these people have been amazing, especially in their help to paraplegics and quadriplegics who have done extremely well in their international and national sports. They went out independently and set an example to the many fully physically able people by showing what can be done when disabled people solicit support from sponsors.

At the moment I cannot remember the name of the finance company which helped with the national games for the disabled, but the games were a tremendous exercise which showed great participation by a sponsor. I have no doubt Sir George Bedbrook will be in to see me if he feels he has some problems with obtaining support from other sources.

Mr HODGE: I will follow that point. The Treasurer skirted the central issue I raised. I did not criticise the general level of aid that the Government provided to the Para-Quad Association. I acknowledge the fact that \$140 000 already has been granted to the committee. However, the committee made representations to the Government and, in particular, I believe to the Treasurer and the Minister for Health. The committee requires \$50 000. I heard that request

in an address the other evening from Sir George Bedbrook. That is the reason I raised the point. That amount is essential to the success of the International Year of the Disabled.

I ask for a commitment from the Treasurer that he will give sympathetic consideration to the request.

Sir CHARLES COURT: As always the organisers will see me when they reach the point of their having reached the limit of their budgets.

Mr DAVIES: I am delighted to hear that the Treasurer expects a call from Sir George Bedbrook who I believe is the leading orthopaedic surgeon in Australia and has an international reputation in his field.

Mr Harman: In the world.

Mr DAVIES: It could well be that he is a leader in the world, but, I am a modest fellow; I do not want to overplay my hand. He has an international reputation. He wants to see that the International Year of the Disabled receives proper promotion.

The member for Melville was correct when he said that the organisers have a magnificent programme lined up for next year. It involves many organisations; not only the Para-Quad Association and others which immediately become apparent, but also Government, local government and industry bodies and private employers, the trade union movement and political parties.

In a practical way, not in a sympathetic way, these organisations and bodies will try to highlight programmes of education dealing with medical matters, with recreation and, apparently, with every aspect associated with the lives of the disabled. Sir George Bedbrook is indeed worried about the amount of money with which he will have to play. His committee has a modest staff of, I think, one co-ordinator and an office secretary with the rest of the work being carried out by voluntary workers.

Mr Young: The committee has a staff of two—one and one-half, if one likes. It has one senior man who spends half his time with the committee and it has another senior man who is full time, and in addition there is the secretary.

Mr DAVIES: I have seen a programme and obviously the Minister has seen a programme of what is involved.

Many organisations are involved in looking at how the disabled can be assisted. Often a difficult situation exists in which people have sympathy but cannot do anything practical for the disabled. Many of these people could make a valuable

contribution to the disabled community. All possibilities—certainly not charity—are looked at by this committee to promote what I believe will be an exciting year. I congratulate the Government on the contribution it made to the International Year of the Child. I believe that promotion was eminently successful because many organisations were able to be co-ordinated properly and they ensured quite an impact on the community at large. However, I do not believe there is the same sympathy or empathy for the disabled as there is for children. Possibly the International Year of the Disabled will need greater promotion than it is likely to receive. For quite some time the committee has worked hard as the Minister for Health no doubt knows. It has accomplished a lot, but the whole promotion may founder or not be as well put forward as it could be for the want of a few thousand dollars.

I am doing what I can to promote the work of the organisation by putting its international emblem on the mail which leaves my office. It is unfortunate that it is not a very distinctive emblem, but many people have asked me about it since I have been putting it on my mail and I am pleased that my small effort is showing some return.

The whole success of the year will depend upon proper promotion. The work to be done is not extravagant at all. Indeed, it is practice and involves many organisations. This, I think, will be its strength. The community has to be made aware of what is to happen, and has to be ready to look around for what is being promoted. I think the year will commence with an official opening some time in January—possibly in the Supreme Court Gardens because of the difficulty faced in accommodating disabled people. It will then be promoted at the Summer School and continue to the end of the year. Indeed, there is a very good programme.

Apart from offering my congratulations—from my limited knowledge of the International Year of Disabled Persons—I am pleased to hear the Treasurer will accept the call from Sir George Bedbrook who, I believe, is chairman of this committee. I am sure that somehow or other the word will get back to Sir George that the Treasurer is waiting.

Sir CHARLES COURT: He has been in touch already. That is why I am surprised at the discussion going on. Already he has made his overtures through the Minister, and now he will see me. It has been initiated already. I would not hazard a guess as to what they will get because we thought when we made the other contribution it was in anticipation of the run up for the year.

He will come in now to demonstrate the additional needs which have been generated since then.

Item No. 55: Japanese Studies Scholarship, \$24 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: A sum of \$16 461 was expended on this item last year, and the estimate has been increased to \$24 000 this year. Bearing in mind some of the other items which have been cut down, it seems to me this is an area where there could be a reduction to, perhaps, \$15 000.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Swan will have noticed that the underspending last year is approximately the amount of the increase that is shown for this year. I have to emphasise that it is purely an estimated figure because we can never be certain how much will be spent. Provision has been made for a further two scholarships in 1980-81. The additional provision reflects appreciation of the Japanese yen against the Australian dollar, and an increase in air fares. The item provides for the grant of two annual scholarships to enable students to further their Japanese studies in Japan. A selection committee was formed on the advice of the former Tertiary Education Commission to enable students to continue their Japanese studies.

The scholarships enable promising students, who have trained in a professional discipline and have knowledge of the Japanese language, to spend one year in Japan on a work-study programme. After the period in Japan it is expected the students will have developed a fluency in the language, and built up a broad knowledge of their field or discipline as it pertains in Japan. They will then be able to move with ease and competence among their Japanese peer groups and thereby strengthen, at the professional level, ties between Japan and Western Australia.

The item provides for two students' round Perth-Tokyo air fares, monthly maintenance allowance, and other expenses for travelling, books, and other materials. Against that I think I should mention the Japanese, on the other hand, make a much more generous contribution. This is part of the reciprocity.

Item No. 58: Lady Gowrie Child Centre, \$8 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: I question that the sum of \$28 000 allocated last year to the Lady Gowrie Child Centre has been reduced to \$8 000. No doubt there is very good reason, but I would like the Treasurer to explain the reduction.

Mr DAVIES: I felt certain someone would ask why the allocation for the Lady Gowrie Child Centre has been reduced. The centre has been

relocated from Victoria Park to Karawara. We had to get support from the Federal Government, the State Government, and local government.

The State Government made an allocation of \$40 000 spread over two years, and it was part of the State's contribution to the International Year of the Child. The \$20 000 of the \$28 000 shown in the Budget papers for last year was the second instalment, and the \$8 000 is the amount traditionally granted by the Government over a number of years. That will explain the reduction to \$8 000.

We are very grateful indeed for the Government's contribution, and we are also grateful to the South Perth City Council for its contribution, and we are grateful to the Perth City Council which bought the old premises and land back from us for approximately \$120 000. I think we paid £27. 1s. 9d. initially for the land.

The Federal body gave us the absolute minimum for the establishment of a child care centre, and we have developed it as the Minister would have seen. On opening day the Minister for Health was struck down with the dreaded flu, and the Minister for Education was not able to attend. However, the Minister for Community Welfare was present on that day.

The committee has established, at a very reasonable cost, a three-unit centre at Karawara which accommodates a day care centre, a pre-school centre, an infant health centre, a neighbourhood drop-in centre, and after school activity programmes and various other facilities which are all related to the community at large. The whole centre was constructed for less than \$200 000.

The committee is to be congratulated on what has been done at Karawara. However, there has been no increase in funding and therefore a resultant lack of organisation. We have been left with the barest sum of money, and any increase has not met inflation. Whilst the Commonwealth Government did back up some additional activities, it has not increased our funding to anywhere near what is required this year.

Another difficulty, because of the area in which we operate, is there are many single parent families and disadvantaged families to care for. We can take only the minimum, or a token fee from many of them. For this reason our income is restricted but under our charter we are required to help this particular type of person. We are in some financial difficulty. For the first time in my life I had to dismiss a perfectly competent member of the staff because no longer could we afford to employ her. By dismissing her we were

able to save \$16 000. She was a teacher at our pre-school centre. Her work is to be shared amongst the other teachers, but the fact is we are able to save \$16 000 in a complete financial year—certainly not in the balance of this year.

We still will have a shortfall in our finances and it looks as though the only option is to make lamingtons or butterscotch, and run cake stalls. That is no way to run any organisation, let alone one which provides the range of services available at Karawara.

Over a number of years the State Government has provided a sum of \$8 000. A member of the Legislative Council—not of my political colour—inspected the centre and wrote to the Treasurer asking whether the matter could be reviewed. The answer was it could not be reviewed because of the stringent financial difficulties with which the Government was faced.

The real threat is, having established this very splendid centre—and everyone is loud in his praise of the way it has been established—and the fact that the buildings are used throughout the days and the weeks more than any other group of buildings of which I know—there is no waste whatsoever—we have exhausted all our funds. We are now in the position where some of the units may have to close down because we do not have the money to maintain them.

The shortfall will be fairly small this financial year and we are taking steps to increase our revenue in the coming years. To this end we are talking to all kinds of people, including the Commonwealth Government. I do not know whether the Treasurer is able to commit himself at this stage, but certainly we would like an increase in our grant. More importantly, we would like some Treasury expertise to see whether we are heading in the right direction and going the right way about spending the money which is available to us. We have juggled the figures from column to column, and from side to side, but we cannot do any better. It will be a great tragedy if, for the want of some financial expertise, we have to close down one of the units.

There are three separate buildings each of which requires separate funding. It is probably one of the best organisations of its kind, certainly in this State and, I believe, in Australia. The Government made a contribution to its construction as a mark of its appreciation for what was being done during the International Year of the Child. The centre was opened officially by Lady Cowan. We thought she was the appropriate person because the original

building was opened by the wife of the then Governor General, Lady Gowrie.

I would like to know whether there is any likelihood of additional assistance being provided by the Government, and whether at some time we might be able to have the services of a Treasury expert in order to find some funds we have not yet tapped. That would be a valuable contribution. Some five years ago when we were in difficulty a Treasury official was able to make some practical suggestions.

I have been able to answer my own member regarding the decrease in the sum of money to be made available to the centre. I would like some indication that perhaps the Government appreciates the situation, and might be prepared to give further consideration to making certain the centre remains operational.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition has answered the query raised by the member for Swan, so I will not repeat that. With regard to the matter of getting a Treasury officer to look at the internal funding of the organisation, I am sure I could arrange that when the Treasury gets out of its present difficulties in respect of the Budget and the Grants Commission relativities inquiry. With regard to the possibility of an increased grant this year, I cannot see any prospect of that because we have already been through each of these claims with a fine tooth comb.

I am sure I can arrange with the Under Treasurer for the appropriate officer with the best knowledge of this organisation to look at its internal funding.

Item No. 70: New Norcia—Water Supply, \$185 000—

Mr CRANE: I would like to thank the Treasurer for the provision of \$185 000 for the New Norcia water supply. This is a matter which has caused considerable concern over a number of years; and the concern has been increasing because of the continuous dry years.

About three years ago the Government very generously rehabilitated the dam on the Calingiri Road and, at considerable cost, piped water into New Norcia. This helped the situation considerably, and has been the means of enabling New Norcia to carry on.

However, the people at New Norcia are concerned also about the Salvado College. New Norcia is well known to historians because it was founded about 1846 by Father Salvado, who eventually became Bishop Salvado. It has played a tremendously important part in the history of Western Australia, particularly in respect of the

rehabilitation of Aborigines. I think not enough people appreciate the work done by the Benedictine community at New Norcia and also at Kalumburu in the north. Anyone who has visited the latter will appreciate the work done by these people who have a great understanding of Aborigines.

I only hope that Governments and the bureaucracy will stay away and enable the Benedictine community to carry on with the good work they are doing. I visited Kalumburu recently, and I have never seen such a happy and honest community of people. Many people try to denigrate Aborigines, but it would do anyone's heart good to go to Kalumburu and see the work which has been done by the Benedictine community.

I am very concerned for the Benedictine community, and was most appreciative when the Treasurer wrote to me and said he was allocating \$185 000 to help alleviate some of the problems they are experiencing. Last year the Salvado College had to close a week earlier than usual because of water restrictions, and we were most concerned that it would not be able to open again at the normal time. However, the Federal Government made a grant which helped considerably, and it enabled water to be carted to the college.

This sum of \$185 000 is to be spent on the rehabilitation of the catchment area of the Calingiri Road dam, which was constructed about 1944 and since then has deteriorated. It is a big catchment area which has grown wild and needs rehabilitation and new drains. Perhaps a bituminised area would help considerably. Unfortunately it is too late for the coming summer because the winter rains have gone, but this rehabilitation will be of tremendous advantage in a normal wet year. I hope next year will bring the rains for which we have been looking for some years, and the problem at New Norcia will be alleviated considerably.

In my humble opinion water problems are increasing in country areas, because salinity is rising. I believe the long-term solution will be found only in the provision of a reticulated service. I would hope in time to come a pipe will be extended southward from the Agaton scheme, which I hope will be brought to fruition in the not-too-distant future.

When the Treasurer wrote to me to advise me of this allocation, I had discussions with Father Justin of New Norcia in respect of alleviating the problem. Unfortunately he was about to leave for Rome at the time because, as members may

know, the Benedictine Order is 1 500 years old this year. Celebrations were held in New Norcia.

I wonder how many people appreciate the role New Norcia plays in our State. It is unique in the southern hemisphere. It houses a most informative museum of paintings and artifacts many of which have been collected in Spain and brought here. I would recommend a visit to this museum for anyone who has a feeling of pride in the history of our State.

The fact that the school will now be able to carry on after this year with some degree of certainty that a bad season will not cut its water supply will be of great help to the community. Father Michael said only recently when I spoke to him that perhaps it would be better if the Premier's suggestions were directed towards the provision of a catchment area, without worrying so much about equipping Wilfred's Well which, although it is of advantage in an emergency, probably would not provide the amount of water that could be provided by the catchment area. I intend to visit the area in a week or two along with an engineer from the country water supply branch, and all these matters will be pointed out to him. I am sure then a proper plan will be drawn up.

Only today I was told the Public Works Department has not received instructions regarding what it will do in the area, and it is my intention to write to the Minister for Works tomorrow to draw his attention to that fact.

In conclusion I would like very sincerely to thank the Premier. It is nice to know that when the Estimates are being discussed, it is not only criticism that is directed at him; and in fact one can point to many worth-while projects. I assure him the people of New Norcia and the persons in the metropolitan and other areas who are fortunate enough to be able to send their young men and women to the Salvado College for a better education—

Dr Dadour: I thought you were going to go for the scheme water before. That is what you told me.

Mr CRANE: If the member for Subiaco cares to read what I have said, he will find I mentioned that I hoped the Agaton scheme would be brought into being in the near future and that a pipeline would be constructed south to New Norcia and the surrounding areas. The sum of \$185 000 allocated in this Budget will fill in between now and when the Agaton scheme can be introduced.

Dr Dadour: Politicking!

Mr CRANE: For the benefit of the member for Subiaco, I am not politicking but merely saying

how thankful and grateful we are for the money allocated for this project. I am sure the Premier will understand that the member for Moore will not let him lose sight of the fact that we do want the Agaion tapped to serve the drier areas.

Mr JAMIESON: Mr Deputy Chairman, I am sure the Committee is grateful to you for being so tolerant to the member for Moore who has given us a great dissertation on all sorts of things on an item which refers to the New Norcia water supply.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr Watt): I listened very carefully and he did in fact relate all his comments to that.

Mr JAMIESON: Oh, yes; Kalumburu and a few other places could be roughly related to New Norcia, I suppose! The cost of getting water to Kalumburu would be fairly high.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the member for Welshpool could set a good example now.

Mr JAMIESON: I will.

I would like the Premier to tell us the reason for this departure from normal practice by providing money for the provision of a water supply in the Consolidated Revenue Estimates instead of in the Loan Estimates. I cannot see any great justification for setting an example like this, as laudible as the reasoning may be in respect of the provision of water for this small township.

For instance, how does New Norcia fall within the scope of priorities set out for country water supplies? Does the provision of this money cut across what the Public Works Department contemplates doing? If it does not, why was not the amount included in the estimates of the Minister for Works? It seems to me a remarkable achievement has occurred here which requires a lot of explanation.

I do not want Bishop Salvado to turn in his grave because I am well aware of all the mighty things he did; I know the area well, and I appreciate all that goes on there.

However, it is a most unusual procedure for a Government to adopt, and if it is going to adopt this procedure in future it should let us know because there might be a few other small towns for which we might be able to achieve something from the Consolidated Revenue Fund—something we would not normally be able to achieve for them, and for which they would have to wait their turn in the allocation of the Public Works Department.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Lest there be a suggestion of something sinister about this, let me

put the record straight. The situation of New Norcia is different, because it is not a gazetted townsite.

Mr Jamieson: It has a hotel and stores, and all the things that make a townsite.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Treasury does not lightly put items into Miscellaneous Services, for one of the reasons given by the member for Welshpool; that is, it focuses too much attention on the allocation and everyone could claim a precedent. However, this allocation had to have a home, and the only place the Treasury officers could find for it was in the Miscellaneous Services vote.

Part of the deal which the member for Moore did not mention is that while this is being done by way of a grant, this money is being spent at New Norcia to overcome a desperate emergency. We were talking about people a while ago; these are people who are really in dire need. We had to do a deal with the people at New Norcia, and an agreement was made that if and when the water supply system becomes a Government one, all the assets of the New Norcia people must be passed over to the Government. So I would not like members to think this is just a charitable act; it is a sensible one to cope with the dire need of the people there.

The member for Moore mentioned that the school had to be shut down, and the Commonwealth Government provided aid to enable water to be carted. This item is provided so that the problem may be resolved on a better basis, although it will not resolve it on a complete basis.

That is the reason the allocation was taken out of the normal funding and put into Miscellaneous Services. It was done reluctantly because we would prefer it to be included in the normal vote.

Item No. 76: Police Pipe Band, \$2 000—

Mr SKIDMORE: Could the Treasurer explain the reduction from \$6 000 to \$2 000?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The explanation is very simple: In 1979-80 there was a special grant of \$4 000 for the replacement of uniforms.

Item No. 78: Residential Child Care Institutions, \$1 979 000—

Mr HODGE: Could the Treasurer explain why this amount was removed from the vote for the Department for Community Welfare? I would be interested to hear the explanation in view of the Treasurer's remarks about the New Norcia water supply. It seems the Government is voluntarily shifting something from the Department for Community Welfare and including it in this vote.

Sir CHARLES COURT: As from 1980-81, all grants and subsidies payable to the voluntary residential child care agencies that come under the mandate of the Consultative Committee for Residential Child Care will be met from the Miscellaneous Services division instead of from an allocation within the Department for Community Welfare vote.

Government subsidisation of residential child care organisations will be both rationalised and increased from 1 October 1980 by—

- deletion of all bed fee payments; that is, fees paid for empty licensed beds and those for occupied beds in scatter cottages, both of which have been payable at the rate of \$5 per week for many years;
- raising the level of subsidy on salaries for approved child care staff and administrators from 60 per cent to 75 per cent; and
- increasing the basic child maintenance subsidy payment for State wards and non-wards in private institutions to offset cost rises.

The provision is assessed as follows—

Existing Commitments			\$1 651 000
<i>Growth of Activities</i>			
Adjustment of child subsidy rates for cost increases		\$56 000	
Provision for increase in salary subsidies of administrators and approved child care staff from 60 per cent to 75 per cent from 1 October		\$130 000	
Capital Grants (replacements)		\$90 000	
		\$276 000	
<i>Less</i>			
Savings on bed fees	\$65 000		
Reductions in levels of special facilities operating grants to Castledare and Clontarf	\$20 000	\$85 000	\$191 000
<i>New Initiatives</i>			
Staff (7)		\$49 000	
Provision for award rises		\$88 000	
		\$1 979 000	

Mr HODGE: Whilst the information was interesting, I would still like to know why this particular item has been transferred to this vote.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was a matter of convenience to bring this item under this vote. In the view of the Treasury it was necessary to bring these items together. They are dealt with as separate items.

Item No. 86: Royal Western Australian Institute for the Blind, \$25 000—

Mr HODGE: There has been no increase again this year in this allocation. I understand that for some time the allocation has been \$25 000; it has been this amount for at least three years. I would

like an explanation as to why the amount has not been adjusted at least to match inflation.

I attended the institute's annual general meeting and its president made it quite clear that the institute was battling. He outlined the excellent work it was doing, particularly in providing employment opportunities for blind people. He made it fairly clear that he was far from satisfied with the support received from the State Government.

If the Government believes in the work the institute is doing it should be prepared to increase its allocation to keep up with inflation. In these days of high unemployment there should be a real increase in this respect.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Commonwealth Government is basically responsible for the work of the blind. We have not discontinued our contribution, although this work is predominantly the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

The institute has been very active in self-help, which is to its great credit. It has its own trading activities which we applaud, because it does produce goods of a high quality. Its work is quite remarkable considering the disability of the people concerned. However, we have to draw the line somewhere. We would like to make more generous contributions to bodies such as this, but a value judgment was made and the institute was acquainted with the situation. I am sure it will be back again next year putting forward its case.

Item No. 87: St. John Ambulance Association, \$4 000 000—

Mr PARKER: I understand that included in the submission by the association was a request that it receive sufficient funds in order to increase its contribution to the superannuation fund for its employees from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent of wages to be more in line with the Government superannuation fund and those funds in the professional and semi-professional areas generally. Is such an increase included in this allocation?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I can give the member only the information I have at the moment. If he requires more information I can obtain it for him. We have been fairly generous to the St. John Ambulance people. We have had to have many long consultations with them to explain that there is not a bottomless pit involved.

The allocation in 1979-80 was \$2 765 000. The association was allowed to spend that amount with some reluctance on our part. However, this year the allocation is \$4 million. I could not be precise about the actual break-up of the item; it is a responsibility of the association. Certainly, we

do not want the association to become just another Government annexe. This item provides for an annual grant to assist towards the association's operating and capital requirements.

In 1979-80, the association received a grant of \$2 765 000. However, before the close of that financial year it became necessary to provide supplementary funding of \$416 500 for operating and capital purposes.

In addition, the Medical Department provided \$225 897 in 1979-80 to meet the operating deficit of the Air Ambulance Service. As responsibility for this service has been accepted by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, no provision for this purpose is required in 1980-81.

Under an arrangement entered into in 1978-79, the Government has agreed to meet the annual repayments on borrowings of \$630 000 obtained by the association to purchase and renovate its new headquarters building in Belmont. Repayments on the loan will be over a 10-year period and provision has been made to meet the third instalment of \$101 100.

Accordingly, the association's grant through this item for 1980-81 is detailed as follows—

	\$
General operating and capital	3 899 000
Belmont loan repayment	101 000
	<hr/> 4 000 000

I could not advise the member off the cuff as to the break-up of the item as it is very much a matter for the association. The allocation has been a very detailed and prolonged matter between it and the Treasury. I understood that, having regard for all the circumstances, it had agreed to work within this budget.

Mr PARKER: I can appreciate the Government not wanting the association as such to become a Government annexe, but I understand that this is one of the few States where ambulance services are run by an association. In other States they are run as part of the Government department in the same way as the Fire Brigade and the Police Force. This would leave the association free to continue its work in areas such as first aid and other voluntary work which it does in the community. There are continual rumours about the imminent takeover of the association by the Government. Has the Government given any consideration to such a move?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The only consideration we have given to this matter is that we do not want to take it over as a Government department. We would much rather it remain as

it is. It has a lot of potential. In other States, people who contribute through an insurance type of scheme for the use of an ambulance do so in far greater numbers than in this State. These matters are under consideration by the Treasury.

Item No. 88: St. John Ambulance Brigade, \$23 500—

Mr BLAIKIE: I find it of real concern to me that many people in this State do not understand the difference between the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. In fact, the brigade is a voluntary organisation and I would like to pay special tribute to the work it does. In areas I represent, such as Busselton, Bunbury, Margaret River, and Augusta, the brigade is operated and staffed entirely by volunteers. It is a fitting tribute that it should be allocated this amount of money. When one considers the services provided by the brigade and the area it covers, one would realise the Government could not run the St. John Ambulance Association as a Government department. There would not be enough money to go around.

Mr Hodge: How do they do it in other States?

Mr BLAIKIE: Members representing country areas understand and appreciate the service provided by the brigade for the residents of their communities and the taxpayers of the State. The brigade saves the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr Hodge: The member for Fremantle was talking about the association, not the brigade.

Mr BLAIKIE: The association is a paid travel service for people in Perth, Bunbury, Collie and similar places. The bulk of this State is serviced by the brigade. It is a purely voluntary organisation.

Mr Carr: There are volunteers in the association also.

Mr BLAIKIE: I suggest the member for Geraldton does not know what he is talking about.

Mr Carr: I think the member for Vasse is somewhat off the track here.

Mr BLAIKIE: I want to pay a special tribute to the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in regard to the service it provides to the State of Western Australia.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I appreciate the comments made by the member for Vasse. It would be a sorry day if we did not have the brigade, because it provides a service from one end of the State to the other. It is valuable also in that, in the event of a disaster in a particular area, there is a group of people who have an elementary

knowledge—in some cases a quite advanced knowledge—of first aid. They are people who will not take fright at the sight of blood. That is a tremendous asset and the Government values very highly the brigade's activities. In fact, we are rather disappointed that some of the brigade people who used to get a great deal of fulfilment from operating in ambulances alongside the professionals, are not allowed to do so any more. That is rather unfortunate.

Item No. 90: Samaritans of W.A., \$10 800—

Mr WILSON: When one looks at the figures for the Samaritans of WA and sees the sum of \$10 800 remains the same as for the previous allocation, it is important to note that the State is receiving a valuable service at a rather cheap rate.

I understand approximately half the allocation is used to pay the mortgage and the balance is for administration costs. The service itself which is perhaps of a more voluntary nature than any other service in this State—it has only one part-time typist as a paid employee and 120 trained volunteers working as counsellors in centres not only in the metropolitan area, but also in Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and the Pilbara—made a rather modest request that its allocation be increased by \$1 000. That request has apparently been turned down. I believe the extra amount would have been used for advertising. Of course, if a counselling service of this nature which works in the community does not advertise its services, it cannot be fully effective.

The fact that the Samaritans of WA did not receive the extra amount means it will have to cut down its advertising programme. I have been told that, because this organisation is involved in preventive work to a large extent, the cost it saves the State in terms of outlay on Mental Health Services is quite considerable. In fact, if the Mental Health Services had to run a counselling service of this nature, it would cost approximately \$100 000 a year, not \$10 000. This organisation provides a valuable service and is saving the State a great deal of money. I do not know whether it is receiving full recognition of its worth to the State.

When considering the value of the work of this organisation, we should bear in mind the present economic situation and the plight of people in low income areas. A recent report referred to the fact that the suicide rate in this State was increasing and this organisation deals specifically with this problem. In times of economic stress, such as we are experiencing at the present time, this sort of organisation plays a valuable role in helping people and in preventing a great deal of mental illness in the community which could be very

costly for the State Government and Commonwealth Government services.

It would not have taken much effort on the part of the Government to meet the request for an extra \$1 000 for a valuable voluntary organisation such as this, to enable it to meet its running costs and extend its service in a modest way.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is clear from the remarks made by the member that he is aware we entered into an arrangement with this organisation in 1975-76 to service its borrowings of \$28 000 at an annual cost of \$5 760. This was to enable the Samaritans to establish a headquarters in Subiaco. I have visited the operation and I was very impressed with the way in which it is conducted.

I do not question the work of the service and the role it plays; but the Government has gone as far as possible this year and no doubt the organisation will be in touch with us again next year—as it always is—to see if we can provide further help. We had to draw a line somewhere and this is where we drew it, bearing in mind the sum of \$5 760 is bespoken every year to finance borrowings which made it possible for the organisation to establish its premises.

Item No. 97: Stirling Centre Project, \$5 000—

Mr DAVIES: Could the Treasurer enlighten us as to the nature of the Stirling Centre project?

Sir CHARLES COURT: This item provides for a State donation to the appeal for funds for extension to St. John the Evangelist Church in Surrey, England.

Most members will recall that, leading up to the 150th Anniversary celebrations, a team from Channel 9 was in England doing a documentary and obtaining information of historical value to the celebrations. Quite by chance the team discovered the development work being carried out in the cemetery area of the St. John the Evangelist Church where Stirling was married and, in fact, buried. There was a good deal of consternation, because the team arrived just in time to find bits and pieces of Stirling's headstone.

The local rector and his wife rallied around and, when they realised they had the grave of such an historic person in the cemetery, they felt very upset about the situation and eventually managed to find all the pieces of the headstone.

By way of information to members, because it relates to the particular figure, I should like to point out the artificers have put the headstone together in a remarkable way. It was hard to believe there were so many joins in the stone. It

has been recreated to give the impression that, where it has been joined, there is a flaw in the marble. The headstone is in the church at the present time waiting to be installed at an appropriate place related to the Stirling Centre.

It was remarkable that the people there, until the matter was brought to their attention, had taken little notice of this. I suppose familiarity breeds contempt.

There is a magnificent stained glass window in the church which was dedicated to the memory of Admiral Stirling and his wife and family and there is another equally magnificent window dedicated to the Mangles family, who were Lady Stirling's people. Generations of people worshipped in the church and probably never bothered to ask who Stirling was. However, the understanding of the parishioners of the church in regard to Governor Stirling has now been changed and they realise he had many aptitudes in addition to his term of Governor of this State. He eventually finished up as an Admiral of the Royal Navy.

It was agreed we would make a donation to the tremendous effort in this area. The parishioners there have rallied around and raised a very large sum. I cannot give the Leader of the Opposition the precise amount but it was approximately £130 000. This sum is to be used in the construction of the Stirling Centre which, in the future, will be annexed to the church.

The centre will be used for social community work. It is not purely for entertainment purposes. There is a need in the parish for a great deal of social work and the St. John the Evangelist Church, through the Stirling Centre, will be a focal point in that work.

We made what we thought was a modest contribution and we felt it would be rather odd if the State of Western Australia was not identified with a project of this nature after it was brought to our attention.

Item No. 111: Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, \$110 000—

Mr DAVIES: I want to ask why there are variations in the amount allocated for the WASO over the last two years. On occasions the Treasurer has said the orchestra would be greatly improved with a few additional strings. I agree we can always do with a few extra players.

Indeed, I believe there is a problem in that there are a number of good players around, as a result of the work done at the university, who are unable to obtain employment in Perth and the WASO could employ them if the money was available. Last year the vote was \$146 000 and

expenditure amounted to \$134 000. This year the estimate is down to \$110 000.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Last year members will recall we made a special grant to finance the tour to the north, because it was the first time the WASO had been taken up there. It was a rather costly venture, but very successful. It is not an easy exercise to move an orchestra of that size in the north, but it was highly successful. It was carried out as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations at a cost of \$36 000. It was possible to take the symphony orchestra to areas in which the people would not normally be able to enjoy live performances of this nature.

So far as added assistance to the orchestra is concerned, the Under Treasurer sits on the committee and my understanding was they were watching very closely the time when they could increase the string section, which is the one that has the greatest need. I am surprised the Leader of the Opposition says there is a surplus of suitable players.

Mr Davies: Not only in strings, but also in other areas.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I understood there was a world-wide shortage of string players of symphony standard. The situation may have changed recently and I could be wrong, but up till a few months ago I understood the Under Treasurer was ready to negotiate with the WASO at a time when it felt a change should take place. I believe Mr Chisholm enjoyed a close relationship with the Under Treasurer and the orchestra now has a new manager.

I will ask the Under Treasurer whether there have been any recent meetings on the matter, because it was my wish we should strengthen the string section as much as possible; however, we cannot do it overnight.

Comparisons are made between the WASO's performance on Saturday night when it had a strength of 60 and the philharmonic orchestra with a strength of 120. The local people expect our players to produce the same volume, sounds, and quality as the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra or the NKK produce with a strength of 120.

Item No. 115: Child Health Centres, \$40 000—

Mr PEARCE: Last year I took up with the Minister for Health the question of the extent to which the Government has subsidised child health centres when they are in a composite shire building as distinct from being a separate entity. It is possible I have the percentages slightly wrong, but I had a complaint in relation to this

matter from the Gosnells Shire Council. When it was seeking to establish a separate child health centre in the Huntingdale area, instead of building a separate centre for child health, it wanted to construct a composite building which had a number of functions and really provided a community centre in which child health facilities were to be a part.

If local government buildings are built for economic purposes the Government takes back the subsidy for child health centres. That subsidy is cut quite dramatically; it is a very small subsidy, one in 10 as distinguished from one in four, if a separate building is built. Why cannot the Government place some emphasis on child health centres as separate identities? It does seem an unfortunate state of affairs when we have the Government paying \$40 000, which is only double the amount spent on the Cat Welfare Society. It seems to me the Government is not placing sufficient emphasis or priority on the health of our children; it is putting a greater emphasis on the killing of cats. It does not seem to be a reasonable way of allocating the Government's money.

Many local government authorities are not satisfied with the level of subsidy which is being provided for child health centres. Will the Treasurer or the Minister for Health be able to provide some answers? There has been a suggestion that the subsidy for child health centres should be provided for when they are in composite buildings. Maybe this will be allowable at some time in the future.

I ask: Has the Government reconsidered its attitude to health centres and if so, would it look again at the figure of \$40 000 which has been allocated for child health centres? It appears that \$16 000 was paid out last year; a little over half the money allocated. I think it is a fair indication of the difficulties being placed on the building of these child health centres. It is such that local government authorities are not in a position to claim the amount of subsidy the Government is prepared to make available on a State-wide basis.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I hope the honourable member is not relating the amount of money to the very large amounts of money the Government spends on community health. The grant made under this particular item is for a particular purpose. The provision is based on expected claims from child health centres now being planned or constructed in towns throughout the State. We make a list of centres due for construction, or in the construction stages, which are likely to make a claim for their share during the year.

The Government provides a subsidy equal to one-third of the total cost of construction of new child health centres which conform to standards approved by the Public Health Department.

In the case of combined child health and pre-school buildings, the contribution towards the child health centre is \$6 000 in areas north of the 26th parallel and \$4 000 in areas south of that line.

With regard to the question of whether there is a differentiation between composite buildings and specific purpose buildings, that is something I cannot answer off the cuff but I will make some inquiries for the member.

Mr PEARCE: I am most grateful for the Treasurer's concern that I might be making my comments out of a misunderstanding or ignorance of the facts. The Treasurer has indicated clearly that I know exactly what these child health centre subsidies are for and he distinguished them, as I did, from the money the Government spends on community child welfare.

Perhaps he will concede the point I am making. If in the last year the local government authorities in Western Australia were able to claim \$16 000 only for the construction of child health centres, then there cannot have been very much in the way of construction of child health centres if they are entitled to claim one-third of the construction costs of their own building.

On the basis the Treasurer has mentioned, how many child health centres would we receive for three times \$16 000? My guess is that that amount would not pay for one. That is the niggardly approach of the Government in the subsidising of these buildings. Because of the requirements for local government funding and the necessity for local government authorities to have community facilities in larger buildings, this means the Government subsidy is hardly being used. That is the point the Treasurer made and which I made previously.

A revision of the formula is required in regard to the incorporation of child health organisations into larger buildings so that local government authorities will be more likely to build child health care centres. I believe this is important and that is why I ask the Government to reconsider its attitude and the formula of child health centres incorporating larger buildings to try to encourage a greater demand from the local government authorities which would like to build these facilities.

These authorities are given subsidies but the local government authorities are not in a position to provide their two-thirds contribution. We are

spending only twice as much on young children as we are spending on the killing of cats. That is not a reasonable balance of priorities.

Item No. 120: Regional Cultural Facilities—Contribution to Trust Fund, \$750 000—

Mr CARR: This relates to a Government policy which was established in 1979-80 to provide \$750 000 each year towards regional cultural facilities. The Geraldton Town Council was allocated the first of those grants and it is the subject of my comment. My understanding is that the Government has promised the Geraldton Town Council more than \$750 000, a figure more like \$1 million. I find difficulty in locating where that amount shows up in the figures. It may be that part of the payment was to be made in 1979-80 and part was to come out of this year's allocation. If that is the case then it would seem to indicate that the centre which is to receive a grant this year may be receiving considerably less than \$750 000.

That was my understanding of this scheme when it was first introduced. Perhaps I should ask a more general question: Is there some section in the Budget papers which contains a statement of the condition of this trust fund and for other trust funds such as the community sporting facilities trust fund?

The CHAIRMAN: The member is drawing a fairly long bow.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The item is purely a means of getting the sum into the trust fund. Therefore, it is a global figure. Whatever commitment was made to the Geraldton people, it will be met.

With regard to the provision in connection with community sporting and recreation facilities, under the old system if a building was not finished in time or for some reason was not paid for by 30 June, the money was lost. To avoid that situation I introduced a new system so that local authorities would receive the full benefit of the amount available. That was so that we would not have the situation where people spent money quickly so that it would not be lost.

The item we have here is purely to honour a promise. Whatever commitment we made to Geraldton, it will be paid.

Mr Carr: I am surprised it does not show up fully under this item.

Item No. 121: Senior Citizens' Centres—Maintenance Grants, \$57 000—

Mr DAVIES: I am associated with a local senior citizens' group and this year its application

for a \$2 000 maintenance grant was knocked back because it had made too much money.

I think this is a poor way of organising things and it teaches groups to be dishonest. In other words, they may hide some of their assets so that they can show a trading loss on the year. It would appear that a new policy has been adopted by the Treasury. Previously, some items of income were not taken into consideration. They are now and this means that organisations do not show a trading loss.

The full \$2 000 should have been paid to Meals on Wheels, irrespective of a trading loss! A large amount of voluntary work is done by this organisation. Over 200 meals a day are provided and the work is done mostly by voluntary people. They work very hard to see that the costs associated with the running of the centre are kept down.

My point is that there is no reward for being careful with the finances of this organisation. The Government is more or less saying that if an organisation loses more than \$2 000 it will recoup what is lost but does not need new and good financial management. Can the Treasurer enlighten me on this matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT: When considering item 121 we should also have regard for item 122 which is the capital contribution we are making to these centres.

Mr Davies: They are really quite different.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Whilst we are dealing with one, we must remember that every one is related to the capital. Nevertheless the matter is important to the organisations themselves. There are specific increases in the amount of money available under the capital item. I know of no change in attitude. We have Government assistance to a maximum of \$2 000 per centre. It is a fairly well-established system and I have heard of no different accounting method. I do not recall any senior citizen objecting to these procedures.

Mr Davies: This came about only recently.

Item No. 122: Senior Citizens' Centres—Subsidies towards Construction, \$100 000—

Mr WILSON: I assume that the allocation of \$100 000 represents the matching amount to the Commonwealth's three-year \$12 million programme for funding senior citizens' centres.

Earlier this year I made representations to the State Minister for Health and the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security regarding the need

for a senior citizens' centre in the Girrawheen district in the Shire of Wanneroo.

The Shire of Wanneroo supported my representations because there is an urgent need for the establishment of such a centre in that region. In fact, that shire has set aside its own share of the necessary funds on a continuous basis over a period of some four to five years.

In the same way, concept plans had been drawn up and the people were very keen for it to go ahead. Subsequently I was informed by the Minister for Health that there was a lengthy backlog of proposals for the construction of the senior citizens' centres in the State, and that the Shire of Wanneroo itself had placed a higher priority on a centre elsewhere in the shire to the one which I referred to earlier. It seems this was on the basis that when a submission had been made in respect of more than one centre from a particular local authority area, it was thought that only one centre could be accommodated in that particular area at a time.

Mr Young: That is not really the case.

Mr WILSON: The Minister says that is not really the case. I cannot understand what the case is.

Mr Young: I could explain it to you, but I do not think you want me to.

Mr WILSON: I would have thought this was not the time to do so. I would have thought this explanation would be contained in the letter sent to me, but it was not.

Mr Young: I thought it was clear to an average person, although not to you.

Mr WILSON: If the impression I gained from the Minister's letter is wrong, no doubt he will want to correct me. The point I wish to make is that that impression was given on a number of different occasions to a number of authorities. It seemed to be the impression gained by the Shire of Wanneroo, and I suppose it is not hard to understand why I gained the same impression.

It is a well known fact that the Shire of Wanneroo is the fastest growing local authority in the State. Therefore, I would have thought more consideration could be given to its needs.

Mr Young: Would you like me to explain what the situation is?

Mr WILSON: Yes.

Mr Young: Every authority puts in its bid for the number of senior citizen centres it deems ought to be placed in its particular area. They are all assessed according to their priority. In other words, the Shire of Wanneroo may well put in for four or five centres. They may have allocated to

them on the list of priorities perhaps even two, and many other authorities would not even be within the first half-dozen. So you just cannot simply say that the Shire of Wanneroo ought to have two or three of these centres just because it happens to be a fast growing area. It is a matter of where it ends up in the priorities.

Mr WILSON: Okay, but I think there is a little more to it than that. In the letter I received from the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) she gave the explanation that apart from the availability of funds, the order of priorities was decided upon by the State Minister for Health in Western Australia. She went on to say—

In this latter regard it is expected that relative need for a facility would be an important factor in determining an order of priority.

It seems to me when we consider that the Girrawheen area consists mainly of Housing Commission homes, and that the SHC is constantly increasing the number of units for aged pensioners in that area, it should constitute quite a considerable need, and an easily recognisable need in that area.

Mr Young: It is not denied it is a need, but it is where it fits in the priorities in respect of all the other undenied needs that counts.

Mr WILSON: Of course the Minister can say that.

Mr Young: All your colleagues who got senior citizen centres in priority to you would disagree with you. Those who came after you would probably say they were hard done by.

Mr WILSON: I have not heard from anybody in that regard.

Mr Pearce: Not many of us got senior citizen centres.

Mr WILSON: But the one who is responsible for allocating these priorities, according to the Commonwealth Minister, has his own way of deciding what the priorities are.

Mr Young: Well, I do not do it personally.

Mr WILSON: I assumed the Minister did not do it personally. Also, his department has its own way of deciding what the priorities are, and the Minister did not interfere with the priorities.

Mr Young: That is not true. A committee of State and Federal officers is set up to do this. I will write you a letter about it.

Mr WILSON: All right. The Minister might say he is not personally responsible for the

priorities, in spite of what the Commonwealth Minister has said.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr Blaikie): Order! If the member will address his remarks to the Chair, we might make progress.

Mr WILSON: I would not have a great deal of hope about that, and that is not a reflection on the Chair, but a reflection on my failure to communicate with the Minister for Health.

I cannot see the logic of the system whereby committees are set up to assess priorities while the needs in some areas are virtually created by other State authorities.

Sir Charles Court: Before you sit down, so that I can follow up your query, tell me the one you want and which has been rejected.

Mr WILSON: It was the one requested in Girrawheen by the Shire of Wanneroo.

Sir Charles Court: It was the one it requested that was given the priority.

Mr WILSON: The Shire of Wanneroo gave it a priority.

Mr Clarko: Why was the one in Sorrento supported by the shire also?

Mr WILSON: That was supported also.

Mr Clarko: It was given a higher priority.

Mr WILSON: I have admitted already that it was given a higher priority, but I have said also that some consideration should have been given to the fact that the Shire of Wanneroo is one of the fastest growing areas in the State. It would be logical to conclude that there must be a pressure of needs in that shire area, and especially in that part of the shire which is largely a Housing Commission area and into which the Housing Commission is packing more and more aged people.

Mr Clarko: I do not want to disagree with you, but the people of Sorrento waited a long time for their centre. They waited for much longer than the people of Girrawheen. Irrespective of your argument, one has not a greater need than the other.

Mr WILSON: I am not contesting that.

Mr Clarko: The Shire of Wanneroo obviously feels that way.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr Blaikie): Order!

Mr WILSON: I am not contesting what the member for Karrinyup is saying at all.

Mr E. T. Evans: He is giving a good speech!

Mr WILSON: I am saying that special consideration is deserved in this case because the SHC, as a form of policy, is directing more and more aged people to a certain area, and another State instrumentality does not seem to recognise the urgent need that is being created there. The Minister has informed me that funding will not be available until 1982 or 1983 for this centre, and that is a long time to wait. The need is increasing all the time.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have noted the honourable member's comments. I want to point out that the provision in the Budget is made on the calculation of expected requirements after a canvass of departments and local authorities concerned. Hence in this section there is a substantial increase—an increase of \$71 624 to be precise. However, I will have a talk with the Minister about the point made. I think he raised a query early in his comments about the basis of subsidisation, and just in case I misunderstood him I repeat: It is the Commonwealth Government two-thirds; the State Government one-sixth, to a maximum of \$20 000; and local authorities one-sixth.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr Shalders.

COLLEGES AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 11.11 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**PERTH ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE***Takeover*

1190. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) What are the terms of takeover for the Perth Entertainment Centre?
- (2) How much has been paid out so far?
- (3) How much is still owing?
- (4) What will be paid in total?
- (5) When will the takeover be completed?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The State purchased the Perth Entertainment Centre at a valuation of \$7 442 500 which represented the amount borrowed by the previous owners to finance construction of the centre. No payment was made in respect of \$1 494 000 of shareholders funds and loans which were lost on the sale. Transfer was effected by the State taking over responsibility for the term debt.
- (2) \$2 191 943.
- (3) \$6 786 618 being the outstanding principal sum and interest due.
- (4) Estimated at \$16 650 000 inclusive of interest if loans are left to run their full terms ending in 1999.
- (5) Takeover was completed on 30 June 1976.

COURT: DISTRICT*Building*

1199. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the original estimated cost of the district court building?
- (2) What was the original estimated time for completion of the building?
- (3) What is the current estimated time of completion for the building?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) \$22 400 000.
- (2) October 1980.

- (3) October 1981. Together with unfavourable weather conditions at critical times of construction, industrial disputes and strikes have been prime contributors in delaying the completion of the District Courts.

PRISON: CANNING VALE*Cost*

1200. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the special maximum security unit at the Canning Vale complex?
- (2) When will it be completed?
- (3) What will be the cost of the work release section?
- (4) When will it be completed?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) \$7.145 million.
- (2) Subject to normal budgetary considerations, at the end of July 1983.
- (3) \$525 000.
- (4) Subject to normal budgetary considerations, at the end of December 1981.

WATER RESOURCES: MWB*New Building*

1201. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What was the original estimated cost of the Metropolitan Water Board's new headquarters at Leederville?
- (2) What will be the final cost?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Building costs..... \$10.8M
Land, fitting out, furniture,
consultants' fees, etc.....\$ 4.1M.

\$14.9M

- (2) Expected total final cost \$14.9M

WATER RESOURCES

Gascoyne

1202. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Water Resources:

How is it intended that \$140 000 provided for the continuation of the Gascoyne ground water supply scheme will be spent?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The completion of bore mains, power line and pump improvements, and the drilling of five additional bores to fully tap the deep aquifers.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

New

1203. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will an additional 36 buses financed through leasing arrangements become available in the current financial year?
- (2) What will be the costs of the additional 36 buses over the term of the leasing agreement?
- (3) Where does the Government intend to purchase four air-conditioned buses from?
- (4) When will they be purchased?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not known until leasing arrangements have been made.
- (3) and (4) Consideration is being given to a Westrail proposal to call public tenders for the supply of four air conditioned buses in 1981-82.

FUEL AND ENERGY

Conservation Programme

1204. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

How was the \$103 000 contributed by the State Government in 1979-80 to the national fuel conservation publicity programme spent?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

In 1979-80 all States except Queensland participated in the national energy conservation publicity campaign, and each State contributed funds in proportion to their population, while the Commonwealth provided additional funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

All moneys were paid into a joint trust account, from which the campaign costs were drawn.

I am advised that the greatest expenditure was on television, press and radio advertising. Further funds were used for displays, preparation of pamphlets, and various public relations exercises. A booklet entitled *More Than a Dozen Ways to Save Our Petrol and Your Money* was distributed to all households in participating States.

Because of the nature of the joint funding arrangement, it is not possible to allocate Western Australia's contribution to specific items. However, the campaign effort in each State was roughly proportional to initial contribution.

WITTENOOM

Government Assistance

1205. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Why was \$23 843 spent on assistance for Wittenoom in the last financial year when the estimated expenditure was \$90 000?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

An amount of \$90 000 was included in the 1979-80 budget as a provision for concessional loans, travel grants, and other assistance for residents of Wittenoom who wished to leave the town and re-establish elsewhere in the State.

In the event, fewer applications were received than had been expected, and total expenditure during the year amounted to \$23 843.

LAND

Karratha

1206. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How much of an estimated \$1.2 million to be spent on extension of reticulation and expansion of treatment works at Karratha will be financed by land sales?
- (2) Will the sales of land be in Karratha or elsewhere?
- (3) How many lots are expected to be sold for what will be the overall price per lot?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) If the member is referring to General Loan Fund Estimates *vide* Item No. 8, Public Works Department (Country Towns Sewerage), any necessary elaboration would come within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Works.

Future land sales at Karratha by the Lands Department will continue on the basis that a service premium, as set by the Townsites Development Committee, will be incorporated in the upset price to recoup cost of services as funded by Treasurer's advance and pre-paid to servicing authorities.

GRAIN

Barley

1207. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it intended to establish a national barley board?
- (2) Does the Western Australian Government support the formation of a national barley board?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) The establishment of a national barley board is at present being considered by the Barley Committee of the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation. The Government has not considered the proposal.

GRAIN

Barley

1208. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What are the total charges per tonne levied by the particular grain handling authorities on barley in each of the following States—
 - (a) Western Australia;
 - (b) South Australia;
 - (c) Victoria;
 - (d) New South Wales;
 - (e) Queensland?
- (2) In which States of Australia is the warehousing of barley by the particular grain handling authority carried on?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Year 1979-80—
- (a) Charges not yet set;
 - (b) \$6.00 plus \$1.97 for shipping costs;
 - (c) \$8.20;
 - (d) \$12.00 not including wharfage;
 - (e) \$11.50.
- (2) In all States grain handling authorities warehouse barley only for marketing boards.

GRAIN

Oats

1209. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What are the total charges per tonne levied by the particular grain handling authorities on oats in each of the following States—
 - (a) Western Australia;
 - (b) South Australia;
 - (c) Victoria;
 - (d) New South Wales;
 - (e) Queensland?
- (2) In which States of Australia is the warehousing of oats by the particular grain handling authority carried on?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Year 1979-80—
- (a) Charges not yet set;
 - (b) \$7.80;
 - (c) \$8.30;
 - (d) \$14.50 including wharfage;
 - (e) Not applicable.
- (2) Victoria and, as a result of a recent decision, Western Australia.

GRAIN

Oats, Barley, and Rapeseed

1210. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Under the existing agreement between Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and the Grain Pool, precisely how are the handling charges calculated for—

- (a) oats;
- (b) barley;
- (c) rapeseed?

Mr OLD replied:

- (a) to (c) This information is confidential to the parties concerned.

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Deposits

1211. Mr JAMIESON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

What was the total amount in 1 per cent interest variations of investors' funds held on deposits by building societies in Western Australia as at—

- (a) 30 June 1975; and
(b) 30 June 1980?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (a) At 30 June 1975, WA permanent building societies held deposits totalling \$202.9m. A further \$45.2m was held as secured borrowings.

A dissection of deposits by interest rate is not available, however, generally the rates paid were between 8 per cent per annum and 12.5 per cent per annum dependent on the amount deposited.

- (b) At 30 June 1980, permanent building societies held deposits totalling \$646.2m with a further \$232.3m being held as secured borrowings.

The interest rate for secured borrowings ranges from 4¾ per cent per annum for government funds to 12¾ per cent per annum for funds obtained by way of Trust Deed.

Interest rates paid for deposits is as follows—

	\$m
7%	9.1
8%	242.0
9%	6.5
10%	108.3
11%	173.1
12%	69.0
13%	17.6
14%	19.6
15%	1.0
	<hr/>
	\$646.2
	<hr/>

EDUCATION: SCHOOL

Swan View

1212. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Education:

In regard to the Swan View Primary School, when is it planned to commence the filling and grassing of that school's oval, in view of the fact that this work was promised to commence in September?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Swan View Parents and Citizens' Association has been assured that work on the school oval is to be carried out at the beginning of the growing season for grassed areas.

Quotes for the fill will close on Wednesday 29 October and subsequently this work will be completed within a week to be followed by reticulation and grassing shortly after.

ANIMALS

Dog Act: Amendment

1213. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Government still receiving requests from local government bodies requesting changes to the Dog Act?
- (2) If so, what are the main complaints?
- (3) Is the Government preparing amendments to the Act?
- (4) Has the Government received requests for the use of tranquilliser guns in the control of dogs?
- (5) What is the Government's policy with respect to this matter?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Since answering question 511, I have received only one further request for an amendment to the Dog Act.
- (2) The Local Government Association has requested that there be a modified penalty prescribed for owners who allow their dogs to defecate in a public place and fail to remove the excreta.
- (3) All of the amendments requested are still under consideration.
- (4) Yes; on several occasions in the past.
- (5) For reasons of public safety, the Government does not support the use of tranquilliser guns.

TRANSPORT: BUSES*Gosnells Bus-train Transfer Station*

1214. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have plans been drawn up for a bus-train transfer station at Gosnells?
- (2) If so, which properties in Wheatley Street would be affected and/or resumed?
- (3) Will he table the proposed plans?
- (4) When is a final decision expected on this proposal?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Not applicable.

HOSPITAL: ROYAL PERTH*Doctors' Quarters*

1215. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that a bar is being installed in the doctors' quarters of Ainsley House, Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) (a) If "Yes", who authorised the work;
(b) how much is it costing; and
(c) who is paying for it?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Hospital Administrator;
(b) approximately \$8 500;
(c) doctors who are members of the Resident Medical Officers Association—RPH—and the Milligan Society—medical practitioners previously in the employ of RPH.

NOONKANBAH STATION: TRANSPORT OF DRILLING RIG*Police Escort: Request*

1216. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Who requested the police escort to travel with the drilling rig to Noonkanbah Station?

Mr HASSELL replied:

There was no formal request concerning the oil drilling rig. Police are duty bound to ensure free access along the highway.

LAND*Broke Inlet*

1217. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) (a) Adverting to questions 958 and 2020 of 1979 relevant to vesting of reserves, has the working party which was set up to study the vesting of Reserve No. 17495 and the tenure of cottage owners at Broke Inlet completed its study; and
(b) has it made a report?
- (2) If "Yes"—
(a) with what body is it intended that Reserve No. 17495 will be vested;
(b) will cottage owners at Broke Inlet be allowed a lease of the land they use?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when is the report of the working party expected to be completed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) The working group is not investigating Reserve No. 17495. This reserve is vested in the Shire of Manjimup for camping and recreation.
The cottages at Broke Inlet are on Reserve No. 19787 which is within the area being studied by the working group.
(b) No.
- (2) (a) and (b) Not applicable.
- (3) The report of the working group is unlikely to be available for at least a year.

ELECTORAL*Kimberley: Charges*

1218. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

In view of the answer to part (1) of question 155 of 1980, relevant to postal vote offences, and the absolute authority imposed on him by section 5 of the Electoral Act, am I to understand that it was his authority under which the prosecutions were made?

Mr HASSELL replied:

No. The decision to prosecute was made by the police in the light of the evidence revealed by their investigations.

EDUCATION: PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Brand Place, Camboon, and Noranda

1219. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the current enrolments at the following pre-primary centres:
 - (a) Camboon;
 - (b) Noranda;
 - (c) Morley-Brand Place?
- (2) What is the full capacity for enrolments at each of these pre-primary centres?
- (3) What are the anticipated enrolments for 1981 at each of these pre-primary centres?
- (4) Will the Government rest content in seemingly allowing these centres to continue to be underused due to an insufficient intake of five-year-olds, rather than ensuring they are fully used by allowing four-year-olds to be enrolled?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) 62;
(b) 28;
(c) 33.
- (2) (a) 100;
(b) 50;
(c) 50.
- (3) (a) 90;
(b) 45;
(c) 35.
- (4) Inclusion of four-year-olds with five-year-olds to make up numbers is not a sound educational practice, especially in new areas. Staffing of centres in 1981 will be based on enrolments of five-year-olds.

HEALTH

Head Lice

1220. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the programme of inspection of school children's hair for nits been terminated?
- (2) If so, why?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No. Regular routine visits to every school are paid by a school health nurse who carries out head lice inspections at the request of the teaching staff. In addition, teachers have the authority to inspect children's hair under Education Department regulation 19A. Mass screenings are arranged, as required, by Community and Child Health Services and assistance with treatment may be provided by local authority health departments. This service is still available to all schools, as requested.

I understand and appreciate the concern of parents at the presence of head lice in their children. Unfortunately, eradication is not possible and parents must be encouraged to examine their own children's heads at regular intervals. There is no way that the problem can be maintained at a low level without parents' co-operation in this examination and in subsequent treatment.

- (2) No applicable.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decisions: Appeals

1221. Mr TERRY BURKE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) (a) How many appeals against local government decisions have been received in the last three years;
(b) by authority and total?
- (2) (a) How many have been upheld;
(b) by authority and total?
- (3) What were the broadly categorical reasons for upholding appeals?
- (4) (a) Where local government approvals have to be referred to the town planning authority or other statutory bodies, how many have been rejected;
(b) by authority and total?
- (5) What were the broadly categorical grounds for refusing approval?
- (6) (a) How many on site inspections has she made in order to justify decisions taken;
(b) by authority and total?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) This information is published in the annual reports of the Department of Local Government.
- (2) to (6) The detailed analysis sought in these questions is not undertaken by my department and would involve a considerable amount of work to compile.

RAILWAYS

Revenue and Operating and Maintenance Costs

1222. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he please provide me with a detailed breakdown of operating and maintaining costs of each of Westrail's railway lines?
- (2) Will he also supply a detailed breakdown of revenue received on each railway line?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not available.

ROADS

MTT: Share of Cost

1223. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What amount has been apportioned to the Metropolitan Transport Trust for its share of the capital cost and maintenance of roads?
- (2) What is the basis for apportionment?
- (3) Has the cost of bus lanes been wholly debited to the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

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

TRANSPORT: BUSES

MTT: Annual Report

1224. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

Would he indicate when the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust annual report will be presented to Parliament?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The report will be tabled as soon as practicable. The printer has indicated printing should be completed by end of November.

WATER RESOURCES

Quality: Complaints

1225. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is he aware of complaints from some consumers who are having continuing problems with dirty water from their taps in spite of attempts by the board to rectify such problems?
- (2) In particular, what assurances can he give that this problem, which is affecting Mr and Mrs Trajanovich of 75 Curlington Crescent, Balga and which is of extreme concern to them because of possible detrimental effects on their young baby, will be thoroughly investigated and fully rectified once and for all?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) It is the standard procedure that when complaints regarding dirty water are received they are investigated and remedial action taken as necessary.
- (2) The mains in the vicinity of the particular property referred to have been flushed and the service to this property has been replaced. The matter is being kept under observation and further action will be taken if the problem persists.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRISONER

Lionel Cruttenden: Compassionate Leave

346. Mr BRYCE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it a fact that he overruled the Department of Corrections in respect of leave of absence privileges which were extended to Mr Cruttenden?
- (2) How does the Chief Secretary reconcile this action with the crackdown that he himself has instituted in respect of leave of absence provisions?

- (3) Should I now advise any of my constituents who are in gaol that they will improve significantly their chance of receiving leave of absence if they indicate they are prepared to hand out Liberal Party how-to-vote cards?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (3) To deal with the third part first, I can only say that if that is the best level of questions the member for Ascot can ask, then he does not deserve an answer.

Mr Bryce: It seems to work for Mr Cruttenden.

Mr HASSELL: Let me make it quite clear, so there is no misunderstanding even on the part of the member for Ascot, in seeking to cause trouble in a purely political way, perhaps in league with some of the people who have been involved in this matter already outside the House—

Mr Davies: They have every right to be.

Mr HASSELL: No they have not.

Mr Davies: Yes they have.

Mr HASSELL: I will deal with that.

Mr Bryce: It is about time you were shown up for what is going on.

Mr HASSELL: Let me make it clear; I receive representations quite frequently from members of Parliament from both sides of this House and from both sides of another place in respect of the placement and treatment of prisoners. All these representations are dealt with properly and fully by me and by the department. Furthermore, the representations are dealt with fairly. Also in relation to the member's third part of the question, the additional leave for Mr Cruttenden was approved some two or three months ago and it was never dealt with in the context of any offer made to me or to my knowledge to any other member of Parliament in relation to what he would do—

Mr Bryce: He was asked though, wasn't he?

Mr O'Connor: No.

Mr HASSELL: Asked what?

Mr Bryce: To assist on polling day?

Mr HASSELL: He was not.

Mr Bryce: Wasn't he?

Mr HASSELL: Are we going to—

Mr Bryce: Did the Deputy Premier just—

Mr HASSELL: —answer these questions, or have a cross-fire of interjections?

Several members interjected.

Mr HASSELL: He was not asked to hand out how-to-vote cards prior to polling day, and he was not asked to hand out how-to-vote cards in any context that related to representations made to me on his behalf in connection with his leave of absence.

Mr Bryce: I didn't say that. He was asked to, wasn't he?

Mr O'Connor: Oh, give him a go.

Mr HASSELL: I am telling the member for Ascot that Mr Cruttenden was never asked to hand out how-to-vote cards.

Mr Bryce: To assist the Liberal Party?

Mr HASSELL: He was never asked to assist the Liberal Party.

Mr Bryce: Right—full stop!

Mr HASSELL: Is that clear? Mr Cruttenden wrote a letter to the Deputy Premier some time ago offering to assist on polling day. The Deputy Premier responded to Mr Cruttenden and said of course his assistance would be welcome and that he could contact the party in the usual way to make his services available. I do not know what is wrong with that; I do not know what is sinister about it, and I do not know what the honourable member is trying to make out of it. However, let me assure him there was nothing improper at any stage about anything that has been done in relation to Mr Cruttenden.

I will return to the other parts of the member's question. When Mr Cruttenden sought additional leave I considered his file in detail. His file is approximately 2½ to three inches thick. I went through it very thoroughly because I do not believe in making concessions unless there is a proper reason to do so. I reached the conclusion there was a proper reason to do so, and accordingly I granted the additional leave some two or three months ago.

Mr Bryce: What was the advice of your department?

Mr HASSELL: I will deal with that right now because the first part of the member's question was, "Did the Chief Secretary overrule the Department of

Corrections in relation to Cruttenden?"

I want to tell the member, because he obviously does not know, that the responsibility for approving leave of absence rests with the Chief Secretary.

Mr Bryce: I am quite aware of that.

Mr HASSELL: It does not rest with the Chief Secretary because I made it rest with the Chief Secretary, it rests with the Chief Secretary because this Parliament declared in an Act that it should.

Mr Bryce: I have read the Act.

Mr HASSELL: The Parliament did so many years ago when it decided to allow the programme to operate subject to the discretion of the Minister of the day. I receive a number of files each week. I cannot give a precise number—perhaps 10, 20, or 30.

Mr Tonkin: Have a guess.

Mr HASSELL: These files relate to recommendations for leave of absence for prisoners in the system. In some cases I accept the recommendation of the department and in other cases I do not. Let me give an example of cases where I do not accept the recommendation because I want to put that in its correct context. The Opposition thinks there is something peculiar about my decision differing from that of the department.

Mr Bryce: I am just asking for the facts.

Mr HASSELL: Let me tell the member for Ascot the facts. Approximately a month to six weeks ago I received a recommendation that leave of absence should be given to three people who were convicted of murder in 1975. I declined to approve it. That was a recommendation by the department within a system which operates and it was declined. I did not see any questions being raised by the member or his colleagues about that.

Mr Davies: Who knew about it?

Mr HASSELL: The Cruttenden case was taken up because the Opposition wanted to make some cheap political capital out of something which was innocent in every respect.

Mr Davies: Innocent as a new born babe! You haven't convinced us one little bit.

PRISONER

Lionel Cruttenden: Compassionate Leave

347. Mr PEARCE, to the Deputy Premier:

Was he correctly reported in the Press last week, and I presume indirectly in the House this evening by the Chief Secretary, as saying no approach was made by him to Mr Cruttenden to hand out Liberal how-to-vote cards but that the approach was made by Mr Cruttenden to him?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Whether it was said in the Press or not, I never made an approach to Mr Cruttenden. Mr Cruttenden made an approach to me.

EDUCATION: SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

South-east Metropolitan Region

348. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

In the light of his fairly extravagant statements about the vast sums of money available for principals of high schools—

Mr Sibson: He did not say "vast".

Mr BRYCE: If the honourable member reads the transcript of some of his TV utterances he will see there that the Minister for Education said that the principals of senior high schools had vast sums of money available to them for minor works.

Can the Minister for Education indicate to this House how much money was made available to schools in the south-east metropolitan region this year; is he aware that that amount of money has to be shared between 15 senior high schools and 78 primary schools, and that the money has already been virtually spent or completely committed?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I would be pleased to obtain the information that the member for Ascot requires.

Mr Bryce: See, he doesn't know.

Mr O'Connor: He would know.

Mr GRAYDEN: If there is a danger hazard in any one of the 700-odd schools in Western Australia, there is an obligation

on the principal to do something about it. Invariably, if the principal telephones the Public Works Department some action will be taken within 24 hours if some situation constitutes a danger. The Public Works Department can spend up to \$200 without any reference to head office. We authorise principals in any school in the State to call in a private contractor if necessary to have a hazard removed. The obligation is on the principal to ensure the safety of the children while at school.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Belmont: Hazards

349. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

I would like to ask a supplementary question in view of the context of the Minister's remarks in reply to the previous question. Is the Minister aware that the Principal of the Belmont Senior High School has recorded, through his registrar, somewhere in the vicinity of 280 to 300 requests to the Public Works Department in precisely that manner this year?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I am aware that the principal made a large number of complaints. I am aware also—and I will have this checked out tomorrow—from information I received today that the cause of 147 of the complaints was vandalism, and that one of the reasons for the vandalism is that the principal is absent on so many occasions.

Mr Laurance: What is he doing?

Mr GRAYDEN: That is just—

Mr Bryce: And you are cowardly.

Mr GRAYDEN: —politicking.

Mr Bryce: To have withdrawn the word "cowardly" is the most stupid thing you ever did. You are a coward.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr Bryce: The complete coward—demeaning and unethical.

The SPEAKER: Order!

ROADS: MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Employees: Retrenchments

350. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

Is it correct that there is a proposal before the Main Roads Department to make 14 men in the metropolitan area depot, Carlisle, redundant before Christmas; and that a further 14 men will become redundant after Christmas? Does the Minister understand that? He has a frown on his face.

Perhaps I will read it once again.

Mr Nanovich: Why don't you put the question straight, without babbling on?

Mr DAVIES: The Minister seems to show some puzzlement on his face. I will wait for the answer.

Mr RUSHTON replied:

This information is not known to me. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to put it on notice so I can give him a reply.

Mr Davies: The answer is, "No, he does not understand."

PHARMACY AMENDMENT BILL

Pharmacy-related Professional Services

351. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

This is a similar question to the one I asked last Thursday.

The Minister did not have the answer at that stage, but he may be able to give me an answer today.

In the second reading speech introducing the Bill to amend the Pharmacy Act, the Minister used the words "pharmacy-related professional services". I am seeking clarification. Can he explain to me in some detail what he meant when he referred to "pharmacy-related professional services" in the context of that Bill?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I am a little perplexed. I thought I had answered the member last week.

Mr Carr: You said last week you did not know the answer.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr YOUNG: I used a number of specific words I had on a note in my hand. I

thought there was another part of the question.

Mr Hodge: You did not give it specifically.

Mr YOUNG: If the member wants a specific answer, I will give it to him tomorrow. I thought the answer I gave last week was satisfactory.

PRISONER

Lionel Cruttenden: Repayment of Funds

352. Mr PEARCE, to the Chief Secretary:

As asserted in the House last Thursday by the Deputy Premier, is it a fact that Mr Lionel Cruttenden has repaid \$100 000 of the \$170 000 that he was accused of embezzling? If so, can he explain the fact that the Official Receiver says that the amount of money repaid by Mr Cruttenden does not exceed \$9 000? Can he tell us where the \$100 000 has gone?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I cannot give the member for Gosnells particulars of the money stolen; I could not give them from the top of my head. If he wants those particulars he will have to put the question on notice so the answer can be worked out properly.

FUEL AND ENERGY: SEC

Establishment Fee

353. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Can he give some indication when I may expect to receive the written answer he promised to my question 932 on 30 September concerning the levying of SEC establishment fees on Housing Commission tenants who had previously

paid a deposit fee for electricity and gas?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I have already indicated to the member for Fremantle today, before the House sat, that this matter is still being reviewed. As I have already indicated, it is a matter for some discussion between officers of the State Energy Commission and officers of the State Housing Commission. At present I am advised no-one is being charged this fee, or is being required to pay this fee.

Mr Wilson: That is not so.

Mr P. V. JONES: Perhaps some of the member's constituents—

Mr Wilson: Some of them paid it months ago.

Mr P. V. JONES: I know they did. The problem has been existing for eight or nine months.

Mr Wilson: They have already paid it.

Mr P. V. JONES: It is still a matter of discussion between those involved, with a view to finalising some policy. That relates not only to the people who have already been involved; but there are still 4 600 people yet to be involved.

PHARMACY AMENDMENT BILL

Pharmacy-related Professional Services

354. Mr YOUNG (Minister for Health):

Could I just clarify the situation for the member for Melville? I have referred to the answer to the question he asked me last Thursday. I told him quite clearly I would be sending him a letter on the matter. Reference to the answer has jogged my memory. The letter is in the course of preparation; but I will give him the answer separately.