

# Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 15th March, 1978

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

### *Appointment*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): I wish to inform the House that I have appointed the member for Vasse (Mr Blaikie), the member for Bunbury (Mr Sibson), the member for Albany (Mr Watt), the member for Moore (Mr Crane), and the member for Canning (Mr Bateman) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

## STANDING ORDERS, LIGHTING, AND TIMING OF SPEECHES

### *Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): There are a few matters which I should like to draw to the attention of members.

The first of these is the volume of Standing Orders members will have found placed on the benches in front of them. As all will recollect, the House amended the Standing Orders during the first session and, as a result of a resolution of the House at the time, a reprint of the Standing Orders has taken place. The paper-covered volumes now before members will be replaced by suitably bound copies a little later in the session.

Early in the first session I convened a meeting of the Assembly House Committee. At this meeting the members of that committee supported and recommended further improvements to the lighting of this Chamber and its surrounds. As a result of my approaches on behalf of the committee certain changes have been made which, I feel, members will recognise as beneficial. I refer to the lighting in the Speaker's Gallery, and in the corridor surrounding the Chamber. These improvements, together with some alterations to the lighting fixtures in the Chamber, have combined to give a more pleasing effect as well as to upgrade the lighting to the level of the relevant Standards Association code.

The Assembly House Committee supported also a proposal to install an electronic device to assist in timing speeches. Members will notice a digital display unit on both sides of the Chamber. These are controlled from a panel in front of the

Clerk Assistant. When a member commences a speech on which a time limit is set, the Clerk Assistant will activate the device and the number of minutes still available to the member speaking will be constantly displayed. As an additional aid to the member, an audible signal will be heard when the member has only three minutes remaining.

I might explain that a compromise had to be accepted with respect to the extent of warning given. In the case of a 45-minute speech, the Speaker gave usually a five-minute warning to members. When a shorter speech of 10 or 15 minutes duration was being delivered, the Speaker gave normally a two to three-minute warning. As a result of the complexities of design, it was decided to select a three-minute warning. At that particular time the audible signal which members have just heard will occur, in addition to which the digital display will flash.

The design of the unit allows for suspension and all of the foreseeable complications in implementation of the time limits in Standing Orders. Therefore, in the case of a sitting being interrupted, the count will stop, to be resumed on the commencement of the sitting.

In conclusion, I should like briefly to pay credit to the technical officers of the Public Works Department who designed and constructed the unit to meet our specific requirements.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

### *Days and Hours*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [3.09 p.m.]: I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m. and on Thursdays at 2.15 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

By way of explanation I point out that this motion is the one normally moved at this time, and it conforms with the hours that we have sat for some years. However, from time to time by consultation with the Opposition changes do take place to meet the exigencies of particular circumstances.

I should also take this opportunity to explain that in view of the difficulties we seem to experience on the Thursday preceding Good Friday in coping with the requests of members

who have special commitments in their electorates—particularly country electorates—it is suggested that we do not sit on that day but work out by arrangement with the Opposition some longer sitting hours, perhaps on the day before.

Some members will recall that on one occasion we did sit early on the Thursday morning, and adjourned at the afternoon tea break. However, if my memory serves me correctly—the Whips would know better—the demand for pairs on that day was fairly heavy.

Mr Jamieson: There were not many here after lunch.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The then Leader of the Opposition and myself managed to work out a situation that was compatible but, on the other hand, it was not a desirable situation.

Therefore, it is better to have a clearly defined sitting day. However, I would exhort members that if we do not sit on the Thursday, they should ensure we do not reproduce on the Wednesday the problem we previously had on the Thursday. I will confer with the Leader of the Opposition about whatever changes may be necessary.

Also, I want to repeat what was earlier advised to the House; namely, that it is intended to rise at the end of the week before the May school holidays and to resume not before the last week in July. The precise date of the resumption of the sitting has yet to be determined. However, I felt that in order to assist members with their electoral and other commitments it was as well to spell it out that that is the intention, subject, of course, to any emergencies which may arise, which will be dealt with at that time.

Question put and passed.

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### *Precedence on Tuesdays and Thursdays*

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)  
[3.12 p.m.]: I move—

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all Motions and Orders of the Day.

This is a routine motion which is moved at this time in order to establish Wednesdays as what is colloquially known as private members' day.

Question put and passed.

## COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

### *Appointment*

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)  
[3.13 p.m.]: I move—

That for the present session—

- (1) The Library Committee shall consist of Mr Speaker, Dr Dadour, and Mr Pearce.
- (2) The Standing Orders Committee shall consist of Mr Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr Sibson, Mr Bateman, and Mr Tonkin.
- (3) The House Committee shall consist of Mr Speaker, Mr O'Connor, Mr McPharlin, Mr Jamieson, and Mr Bateman.
- (4) The Printing Committee shall consist of Mr Speaker, Mr Stephens, and Mr Skidmore.
- (5) The Public Accounts Committee shall consist of Mr Young, Mr MacKinnon, Mr Cowan, Mr Hodge, and Mr Skidmore.

Question put and passed.

## COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

### *Statement by Premier: Standing Orders Suspension*

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)  
[3.14 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a statement concerning the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be received and noted, upon motion without notice, and to enable the aforesaid business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

In moving this motion, I should explain that it is necessary for a rather unusual reason. It would not be moved if there had not been consultation about it. It will not be known to most members of the House, except through advice they have had from their various party organisations within the parliamentary system, that when the Executive Committee of the Western Australian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association met on the 8th March it was resolved that a statement of the kind I am about to present—if my motion is successful—be made on the floor of the House.

The object of this motion is to enable the House to receive the statement and to debate it immediately, because if we do not do it in this way we will have some difficulties in handling the matter due to our Standing Orders. Therefore, I am taking this rather unusual step to enable the aims, organisation and activities of the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be stated in the House.

During the 23rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Ottawa last September a new constitution for the association was adopted. With the adoption of the new constitution it was considered a new commitment was required for the members of the association and to inform and demonstrate to the general public the great significance of the association, and that this commitment should be sought on the floor of each House.

A formal request to this effect was made by the secretary-general of the association and was considered by the Executive Committee of the Western Australian branch on the 8th March, 1978, which resolved that this statement should be made.

One of the significant features of the request we received was that the statement be made on the floor of the House as close as possible to Commonwealth Day, which was Monday, the 13th March. Members will appreciate that this is the earliest opportunity at which a motion could be moved as resolved by the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in this State; that explains why we have the motion before us today.

If the motion is carried, it is my intention to read the statement and the resolution at the end of it and, hopefully, we can deal with it today, in view of the request that the matter be dealt with on the floor of the House as close as possible to Commonwealth Day.

Question put and passed.

#### *Support: Motion*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [3.16 p.m.]: I thank members for agreeing to my motion, in pursuance of which I make the following statement: The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, at the 23rd Conference in Ottawa in 1977, adopted a revised constitution and it is considered timely to make a public statement concerning the association.

The CPA is an association of Commonwealth parliamentarians who, irrespective of race, religion, or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and the rights and freedoms of the individual citizen, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

In providing the sole means of regular consultation between Commonwealth parliamentarians, the association aims to promote understanding and co-operation among them and

also to promote the study of and respect for parliamentary institutions throughout the Commonwealth.

The membership of the association, now 67 years old, consists of branches formed by members of Legislatures in the Commonwealth. The number of branches has grown from six in 1911 to the present 102 and the individual membership of branches stands at about 8 000.

Branches are autonomous but they are grouped geographically into seven regions for representation on the executive committee and for other purposes.

The Western Australian branch is grouped with the Commonwealth and other State branches, together with New Zealand and Pacific Island branches, to form the Australasian region.

The president of the association is the Rt. Hon. Ripton MacPherson, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Jamaica.

The vice-president is Mr J. R. Harrison, ED, MP, Acting Speaker, House of Representatives, New Zealand.

The chairman of the executive committee is the Hon. Datuk Musa Hitam, SPMJ, MP, Minister for Education, Malaysia.

The honorary treasurer is Mr Neil Marten, MP, United Kingdom.

The president and vice-president serve for one year, the chairman and honorary treasurer for three.

The Western Australian branch was formed in 1925, and almost all members of both Houses have always been members of the branch.

The Presiding Officers are joint presidents with the chairmanship of the executive committee alternating annually between these two officers.

The leaders of the two main parties are vice-presidents and the Clerks of each House share the duties of honorary secretary and assistant honorary secretary.

I like to think that our branch plays an active role in association affairs.

In 1970 we joined with the Commonwealth branch and other State branches in hosting the annual conference, and we expect to do this again in about three years' time.

In 1979, our 150th anniversary year, we shall host three important association activities—

- (a) The 15th Australasian Regional Conference;
- (b) the meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly—which has not met in Australia previously; and,

- (c) a delegation from the United Kingdom Parliament.

We have received many delegations from overseas Parliaments, the most recent being from the Legislative Assembly of Sabah, Malaysia.

We participate in the Australasian Parliamentary Seminar, the fourth of which will be held in September this year; we send one member on an overseas study tour each year; we have periodical invitations to fill vacancies at other overseas activities; and at this moment we have a member attending the 27th seminar at Westminster.

The value of the association is fully recognised by Commonwealth Governments. In the communiqués issued following their meetings, heads of government have paid tribute to the association's work.

But a conference at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia some 15 months ago on "The Commonwealth and non-governmental organisations", seeking to increase public understanding of the Commonwealth, recommended a number of steps for a more vigorous information programme, including two directly relevant to parliamentarians—

- (1) Government leaders, members of Parliament and other prominent Commonwealth identities—in their public speeches—to refer more frequently to the pertinence and value of today's Commonwealth;
- (2) on the parliamentary level, members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be more active in publicising the valuable work of the CPA and to seek ways and means of putting on record the results achieved through CPA programmes.

During the Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa last September, the association's executive committee warmly endorsed a proposal that a fresh commitment in support of the association should be sought on the floor of each House of Parliament as near as possible on the same day right across the Commonwealth.

In step with this proposal I am pleased to make this new commitment to the CPA on behalf of the Government of Western Australia and to pledge our continuing support for it. I do this as near to Commonwealth Day as was possible.

I now move—

That the statement be noted, and that this House upholds the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

and pledges its continuing support for the organisation and its activities.

**MR DAVIES** (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [3.22 p.m.]: On behalf of the Opposition I am pleased to say that we are very happy to support the motion which has been moved by the Premier. He gave the reasons for its being introduced and for the timing of the introduction of the motion when he was moving earlier for the suspension of Standing Orders.

It is not unreasonable, after 67 years of operation and having grown from six branches in 1911 to 102 at present, that the Parliaments of the Commonwealth should reconsider and restate their position. In saying that I do not propose that they should suggest a change in their attitude in any way, but it is timely that they should restate their position and remind the members just what the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is all about.

I have mentioned the members but we hope that the media particularly will take the opportunity to point out to the public at large that there is a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, that approximately 8 000 members are enrolled, that it is an individual decision on behalf of members as to whether they take part in it, and that generally this Parliament has an active membership of about 95 per cent or 96 per cent. In other words, most members join and if one or two do not it is probably because they forget to pay their nominal subscriptions each year.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provides a forum for various members to get together for a variety of reasons in different countries and at different times. The Premier has stated that next year we will be hosting a major function of the CPA because of our 150th anniversary celebrations and I think the members of Parliament who will be taking part—and I should imagine all of us will be—in those celebrations will welcome the opportunity to meet with our colleagues from all parts of the Commonwealth. Naturally we do not all share the same views or the same philosophies, but we find that we are able to meet and to discuss and appreciate the other person's point of view and perhaps we will make this world a slightly better place because of the opportunities we have of talking together.

Of course, some members of the CPA have been blessed with chances to go overseas for conferences. I always favour some of the backbenchers being afforded this opportunity, if at all possible, because they, perhaps more than those

who have been here somewhat longer, are able to benefit much more from the experience they gain.

I am pleased on behalf of the Opposition to have been able to support the Premier in the way the motion has been brought into the House this afternoon. I hope that members will read it carefully once again and that the media will take the opportunity to tell the public at large that we have this association and that we have constant contact with other members of the Commonwealth, all, we hope, to the good of this State.

**MR OLD** (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.25 p.m.]: On behalf of members of the National Country Party I should like to add my support to this motion. It is timely, after the adoption of a new constitution, that this Parliament, in concert with other Houses of Parliament throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, should reaffirm its support for this very important institution. It is timely because democracy is constantly under threat in various parts of the world and a show of unity by the various participating nations is very necessary.

There is no doubt that we all gain collectively from the activities of the association. As the Premier mentioned in his statement, we send members from the Western Australian Parliament on overseas study tours and those study tours prove of inestimable value to the participants and to those to whom they report on their return. Conversely, other nations are able to assess the situation in our State and undoubtedly are able to learn from the activities in our fair State. It presents an opportunity for increasing international contact and, as such, I am very happy to add the support of the National Country Party to the motion.

Question put and passed.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 9th March, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

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

**MR DAVIES** (Victoria Park—Leader of the

Opposition) [3.27 p.m.]: Once again we have come to the opening of another session of Parliament and it has proceeded in the traditional way with the Governor giving his Speech in another place; and much of what his Speech contains is what we might have come to expect. It is usually used as an avenue for the Government of the day to outline what has happened and what is likely to happen by way of legislative matters and also to detail its plans for the future well-being of the State.

Unfortunately, as I read the Governor's Speech, as I heard it, and as I have reread it since, the Speech on this occasion fails badly in one direction: it fails to outline any great hope for the future of the State. There do not seem to be any firm plans for the well-being of the State as a whole.

It seems to me that the Government is taking a great deal of self-satisfaction from what has been accomplished and feels at this point that it can drop some of the programmes and some of the attainments we might have expected it to be aiming for. It seems to be stagnating in some kind of self-satisfaction, and I was very surprised to find that that is my overall impression of the Speech that was given.

After only four years in office the Government seems to be bereft of any ideas. The Governor's Speech seems to be largely a hymn of self-praise and seems to deal, in particularly ordinary terms, with the claims of the Government. It says almost nothing about the future. The thought occurred to me that if this is the "State of Excitement" which has been advertised, I do not think anyone will suffer from nervous exhaustion whilst dealing with the legislation and the comment which is outlined in the Governor's Speech.

As I have said before, it is not only what is in the Governor's Speech that is of general interest, but also what is left out that is of interest and is the real matter we should concern ourselves with. The Speech failed to deal with many of the problems which we have to deal with in this day and age.

Eight of the nine pages of the Speech dealt with things already done and there was only one page that dealt with those that are to come. The Government chose to ignore Western Australia's inflation rate which continues to be the highest in Australia and significantly higher than the national average. The Speech made only passing reference to spiralling unemployment and to the worrying difficulties being experienced by a significant part of our resources development

industry. There are very real difficulties in this latter region.

The Government not only failed to acknowledge these facts but also hardly acknowledged their existence. I wonder just how serious the Government is in using the parliamentary opening as a correct avenue of reporting a proper review of the State to the people of Western Australia.

As I said before, it is not what is in the Speech that is of real concern but what is left out of it and I point to three major areas that have been announced since last Thursday evening; they are: Legislation to control electronic bugging, which was not considered worthy of mention in the Governor's Speech; proposals for increased migration—and although the Press report was perhaps only a kite flown by the Minister for Labour and Industry, if his recently published views are serious then he surely would have been thinking about this matter before last Thursday night and it might have received a mention in the Governor's Speech—and the departmental youth work unit.

In addition, we have seen recently much publicity in the paper about the proposed new alumina project and changes to existing projects and I was led to believe legislation would be necessary to control both of those; we attended to the Alwest legislation but that did not rate a mention in the Governor's Speech. I was wondering whether the Government lacked confidence in these projects or whether they were just conveniently overlooked for some reason or other or perhaps it was not thought to be important enough to include this information in the Speech. If the Government is dinkum about its claims made outside Parliament I wonder why they were not mentioned inside Parliament.

Recently, and perhaps this was an inspired leak to the Press, we were told the Government would introduce new mining legislation this year. We all know the history of the mining industry over the last few years since the days of the Tonkin Government. There seemed to be a rumour floated or an inspired leak that the Government would be introducing a new Mining Bill. Is the Government going to introduce such a Bill or not? Once again there was no mention made about this very important measure—certainly I consider it important—in the Governor's Speech.

On a number of occasions prior to the opening of Parliament the Premier said we had a very heavy work load to cope with. However, if we look at the one page that deals with proposed legislation we might wonder whether we are going

to need a spring session as we may be able to cope with the Government's programme during this autumn session. I hear a few "Hear, hears". I believe we could reasonably cope with what has been proposed in a few weeks of sitting.

Mr Laurance: Is that a promise?

Mr DAVIES: It is not customary or necessary for the Government to include everything in the Governor's Speech, but when the Government can mention three major measures within days of the delivery of the Governor's Speech I think the Government might reasonably have taken the Parliament into its confidence, at least in the usual way, and let us know what we can expect to deal with in the forthcoming session.

The major measures proposed by the Government which can be seen in the Governor's Speech include amendments to the Suitors Fund Act, the removal of anomalies in the Prisons Act, and changes to the Parliamentary Superannuation Act. These are all heart-stirring measures but it is a bit of a joke if we are not to deal with more important legislation. These items are important in their own context but they are certainly not major pieces of legislation that are likely to stir us all up and get us out of our seats. If these are not the major measures the Government proposes—and from Press reports over the last few days it appears they are not—why were we not told?

I think it is simply that the Government wants to use its very vast propaganda machine, which is the biggest of any Government in the entire history of this State, and probably bigger than those of most of the Governments in other States. I wonder how the Government keeps all the employees involved busy, but apparently instead of dealing with proposed legislation as we would hope it would in the accepted manner the Government is using its propaganda machine from time to time to feed details of what it will be doing.

It is an insult to Parliament and an insult to His Excellency. We all know how the Governor's Speeches are prepared; they are not done by His Excellency himself but by the Government of the day. Any Governor would hope he would be giving an accurate report to his members of Parliament but it seems our Governor might have been slighted in some manner in the content of the Speech that he was given to read.

I wonder how the Governor felt over the last few days when he saw in the newspapers that the Government was going to do this and that. I do not suppose he had any prior knowledge of these new measures; he would probably have been as

surprised as my colleagues and I were to find these major amendments were about to be introduced when he could have told us last Thursday night. However, the Government did not take him into its confidence and he had to read about it in the paper, as we did. He was not dealt with very kindly. He was given a dreary Speech lacking in interest or importance.

One person commented to me after the Governor's Speech had been delivered about having lost interest in the Speech very quickly and how he had tried to count the number of times the "canary" in the fan above tweeted and squeaked. I notice the "canary" is doing it again and perhaps if anyone is bored listening to me he could try counting its squeaks.

Mr Laurance: Don't look up too often.

Mr DAVIES: We had a very dreary Speech and it was not kind of the Government to deal either with Parliament or His Excellency in the way it did. Some mention was made of the difficulties being experienced by the rural element of our State and I am sure our sympathies go out to those involved. It seems a strange quirk of fate that many of these people have been suffering because of a drought and have then had to suffer further because of flooding.

From the feedback I have been receiving, it appears that the Government is being a little tardy in attending to the needs of the drought and flood-stricken farmers. Perhaps the Government feels these people are seeking too much help; but it does appear that there are areas where communications could be improved between the officers of the Government departments and the people who have been affected by drought and flood.

A national disaster committee has been mooted and I am wondering whether such a committee will ever be set up. We do not want a committee which will look for national disasters or try to encourage such disasters. The committee should be concerned with coping with disasters as soon as they occur, instead of the Government making decisions and Cabinet bringing down instructions in order that the wheels of government may be set in motion. It would be far better to have a permanent committee which could cope with these situations when they arise.

We, on this side of the House, will be watching the Government very carefully to see whether it takes the necessary action in relation to the people affected by the drought. I am sure my colleague, the member for Warren, has some interesting questions to ask. This, of course, will be an

indication of the long hours he has spent on this problem up to the present time.

A situation was recently brought to my notice by a very disappointed group of people. These people are associated with Scottish national dancing. They were required to send a team of dancers to the national championships in the Eastern States and they thought they would qualify for one of the subsidies which the Government announced in its Budget last year, and which we applauded at that time. However, they found that they did not qualify for the subsidy because the team they wished to send to the Eastern States was not a sporting group.

It does not matter whether the team is being sent from this State to compete on a national basis. I mention that matter in passing in the hope that the Government might decide that the encouragement which is available to sporting teams in the form of a subsidy may be made available also to cultural teams. I do not believe everybody wants to take an active part in football, tennis, archery, or some other sport. Indeed, from what I have seen of Scottish national dancing it seems to be very vigorous and to require much more energy than is expended by people when taking part in some sporting events. It would be reasonable for the Government to look at the matter in order to ascertain whether the moneys which have been allocated to sporting teams may be allocated also to cultural teams which wish to travel and compete on a national basis. I do not like the word "cultural". I do not believe any member likes that word. However, it indicates my meaning to the Premier. The Government should look at the question of providing subsidies for teams which are competing on a national basis and which are representing this State.

Since we last met I have been driving to the city at an earlier hour in the morning than previously. I have not been stopping for long periods at my office at Victoria Park prior to coming here. I have been alarmed at the deterioration in the traffic flow. It seems to have deteriorated in the past few weeks. On occasions a car breaks down and that causes serious delays for everybody. However, it seems that both the Causeway and the Narrows Bridge are now unable reasonably to cope with the flow of traffic during peak hours. When I say they are "unable reasonably to cope" I mean that the rate of flow is completely unacceptable. It is no good saying, "Well, it is much better than it is in some other cities of Australia."

We have come to expect a very high standard as far as the traffic flow in this city is concerned, and that standard is falling badly at the present

time. There is a need for the Burswood Island bridge to be constructed. I believe that is the Government's next major crossing of the river, although its position in relation to this bridge seems to be rather obscure. But if the Burswood Island bridge is to be the next major crossing, the Government should get on with the job more quickly than it appears to be proceeding at the present time.

Recently the regional planning authority sent some plans of alterations to proposed resumptions in the area to myself and to the member for Ascot. It appears that the first stage of the work will not begin for another eight to 10 years and that the major stage, which is linking up with Orrong Road, will not occur for some 12 to 15 years. I can hardly believe that we will not have another major river crossing before that time, which is 10 to 12 years or possibly up to 15 years away.

Two years ago I asked some questions on this matter. It was apparent that, since the Tonkin Government left office, very little had been done in regard to planning for the Burswood Island bridge. I believe the Whitlam Government had queried the need for such a bridge. However, when the Whitlam Government left office nobody proceeded with the plan.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.06 p.m.*

Mr DAVIES: I hope the Government will soon be able to tell us where the next river crossing will be, and that it will be in the Burswood Island region. I remind the House again, as I have before fairly consistently since 1965, that at the 1965 elections the then Premier (Sir David Brand) said that within three years a start would be made on that bridge and that it would be completed within six years. Now, 13 years later, nothing has transpired apart from some consolidation of the banks done, I think, when the Tonkin Government was in office. I do not care who did it; at least a start was made, but nothing further has been done.

As I mentioned, the flow of traffic has become unacceptable to people coming to the city each morning and leaving the city each evening. Only a week or so ago the weekend papers referred to the traffic along Mill Point Road and indicated that the people were complaining that the Judd Street overpass, which it was hoped would ease the traffic flow, seems to have done very little in this regard.

I make that plea purely on a parish pump basis because most of the traffic crossing the river has to go through my electorate one way or another and, as I just said, the present flow has become

unacceptable. We would like the Government to honour its 1965 election promise, and it could if it gave the matter the attention it deserves. Surely this is not an unreasonable request.

I also wish to comment on the new number plates and to ask whose brilliant idea it was. Was it a unanimous decision of Cabinet?

Mr O'Neil: All decisions of Cabinet are unanimous.

Mr DAVIES: Was it a decision of Cabinet to change the colour to yellow, and who received the prize for the slogan? We know it has been used in advertising in other States and has drawn some favourable comment, but to be met with the slogan each and every day as we make our way around the city does very little for me, and the number plates are now becoming a subject of ridicule. The nicest thing we could do would be to drop the idea as quickly as possible and not wait for the day when we see the slogan—"State of Excitement"—on a hearse on its way to Karrakatta. There might be occasions when the slogan could indicate some state of excitement—perhaps on a wedding car. However, I do not think the slogan is apt for every situation.

I wonder why we are allowed to have advertising on number plates. On many occasions in the House the member for Welshpool has drawn attention to the fact that literally hundreds of cars have trailer hitches which obscure the number plate. We are told that if we obscure the slogan we are liable to a fine of \$10. The RTA was kind enough to indicate it would not have an all-out drive to apprehend people in this regard. However, if it is illegal to obscure the slogan, why does the RTA not take action to stop the obscuring of number plates by trailer hitches?

They are the few local matters to which I wished to refer, and now I desire to deal with a couple of specific items contained in the Governor's Speech. They cast considerable doubt on the Speech as a reliable guide to the true state of affairs in Western Australia.

I want to point out that under the heading, "Health and Community Welfare" is the following—

An undertaking to help homeless Aborigines in and around Perth is proving successful.

If that is true it is commendable; indeed, commendable, and we congratulate the Government for its undertaking. However, this is one of the most vexed and chronic problems facing the State, so if the Government has made any advance at all it has made a significant advance. But, the question arises, "Has the



Government made any progress? Does the claim truly explain the position?"

Evidence which has come to light since last Thursday evening, and as late as today's papers, suggests most definitely this is not the case and the Government has not made any progress. In yesterday's issue of *The West Australian* there appeared a very simply written but nevertheless powerful indictment of the Government's performance in relation to the plight of homeless Aborigines. The letter was written by Mr Robert Bropho, and we know his standing in the community. He has a high standing and is a well-respected member of the community. I do not like to call him a "fringe dweller" but that indeed is what he has stated as his address in his letter. He gave his address as the Lockridge Camp Site. His letter is headed "Winter and the fringe-dwellers" and, in part, reads—

When I say Aborigines I am speaking of black human beings such as old women and small children and young babies and old men who are living under these bad conditions through no fault of their own. The reason that I say this is because the white man is trying to force his bad habits down our throats.

I do not think there is any need for me to amplify that statement, and what the white man is trying to force on the Aboriginal community. Mr Bropho goes on to say the Aboriginal people are constantly being moved on. He continues—

Where do they move to next? Another three-quarters of a mile up the power line, where they will be for another two years, out of sight, out of mind, till the building area catches up with them again.

In that period there will be many cold winters, with not enough shelter and no place to call a permanent foundation.

I have already contacted the Community Welfare Department, calling on them to support the camp sites with provisions for the coming winter. This was two weeks ago and no reply was forthcoming.

My main concern in writing to your paper is for the young children and old people who are going to face the wintry conditions with inevitable death and sickness.

I know the Government has taken some steps to try to help homeless Aborigines, but Mr Bropho's letter provides all the evidence that is needed to show that the Government cannot claim its programme to help the homeless Aborigines in and around Perth is proving successful. The claim

is a hollow sham and there is plenty of evidence available, every day, to prove that is so.

Another statement in the Governor's Speech relates to the claim that the Commonwealth Government, or the Federal Government—I would refer to it as the Australian Government—has acknowledged in principle the merits of the Western Australian Government's proposals to update Loan Council procedures to enable the States to provide support facilities for major resource projects, and to expand essential services such as water and electricity. Well, less than 36 hours after we heard those words in another place we were reading in *The West Australian* that although the Prime Minister (Mr Fraser) would agree to the States borrowing outside the Loan Council, he wanted the Commonwealth Government to have the right of veto over such borrowings. So, I suppose we are back to square one.

I make no further comment on that issue except to say I agree with the Government that the halcyon days when the developer provided the infrastructure for new development, towns, and the like are gone. Provision of these facilities will be a continuing problem for State Governments. I do not intend to estimate what would be a fair and reasonable proportion for the Government and the developers to pay. I see that the New South Wales Government was quoted in this morning's paper as contributing \$4 million towards the \$143 million likely to be required for the development of Australian paper and pulp mills. That might be a reasonable proportion; I do not know and I am not in a position to assess it. But, I do believe the Government will need to do something in that regard.

The point which needs to be made is the contradiction between the statements by the State Government, in the Governor's Speech, and the newspaper reports of the Prime Minister's attitude.

The State Government paints the picture of Western Australia as being much better than it really is. This is true of many of the statements in the Governor's Speech. Time and time again the point comes through that the claims are overstated.

Yet another example of the Government saying one thing and being contradicted within a matter of days is the claim in the Governor's Speech—

Government planning is well advanced to ensure maximum economic benefit to the State from natural resource development.

The North-West Shelf gas field is an instance.

Now Government planning in this regard may be well advanced but how true is the Government's frequently repeated claim that huge benefits would accrue to Western Australia from the development of the North-West Shelf project?

The President and the Deputy-President of the Port Hedland Shire Council, Cliff Cottier and Arnold Carter, were observers at the South East Asia Offshore Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition held recently in Singapore. Their conclusions were very different from those of the Government. They were reported in yesterday's issue of *News of the North* as saying that Singapore will get the major share in connection with the North-West Shelf natural gas exploration areas.

Once again, this is an example of the Government saying one thing when in reality the position is something different. We wish the Government well and I do not intend to attack the Government over the facts of these issues, though I believe that in many respects it is deserving of censure.

Again, I make the point the Government is not being frank with the people of Western Australia. It is not telling the whole story; it is not telling the truth. The Court Government has a yawning credibility gap—not so much a gap, as a chasm. Matters seem to have been deliberately left out of the Governor's Speech; matters about which the people should be told. The Government has not told the whole story and has not given all the facts.

The lack of credibility on the part of the Government is alarming. Its lack of frankness, its lack of honesty, and its naively optimistic view of the world is alarming. The Premier's rose-coloured glasses are bad enough, but when they get steamed up with hot air as well the State is likely to be steered on an erratic course.

Its comments about the economy are the worst example of the Government's lack of frankness and honesty. To listen to Government spokesmen one would think that our economic problems were now but a mist in the far distance. Of course, the reality is very different.

Every Western Australian consumer is suffering the effects of the poor economic management of this State, and the thousands of people who are out of work are suffering the most.

Our inflation rate continues to be the worst in Australia, as it has been since the Court Government took office. In 1977 it was 1.4 per cent worse than the national average and 2 per cent worse than Sydney and Brisbane. In money terms it meant that Western Australians were

about \$3 a week, or about \$150 a year, worse off than their average fellow Australians living in the other States.

I do not need to remind you, Mr Speaker, because you would remember it well, but prior to the 1974 election the Premier promised that inflation could be beaten to a substantial degree State by State. We have kept on reminding the Premier, and we have kept on telling him where he said it—we have not taken his remarks out of context. We have given the Premier an opportunity to deny his statement but he has never attempted to do so.

As I have already said, the rate of inflation in Western Australia is worse than in any other State. The policies of the Premier have seen Western Australia leap from having the lowest inflation rate in Australia, under the Tonkin Labor Government, to the highest in Australia under the Court coalition Government.

The Premier has certainly created a "State on the move". We have moved right to the top of the inflation scale and it seems nothing is being done to bring us down from the top of that scale.

Of course, a large proportion of our huge inflation margin over other States is attributable to the Government's policy of rapidly increasing charges for Government services. The increases affect consumers directly and indirectly: directly because they must pay the increases for their own households, and indirectly because the increased cost to industry is thrown onto the price of all goods and services. I do not believe industry, wholesalers, and manufacturers are reasonably able to allocate or spread these costs equally over their end products. As a result, the whole situation becomes out of kilter.

I have often heard the Premier speak very forcibly about the disadvantage Australian manufacturers suffer in competing overseas, because of Australia's high inflation rate; but he has been uncharacteristically quiet about the cost disadvantage which Western Australian manufacturers must battle against when they are dealing with manufacturers from other States, and they are at a disadvantage because of Western Australia's high inflation rate—the highest inflation rate of all States.

The entire Western Australian business community is at a disadvantage with the rest of the nation because our inflation rate is the highest in the nation. The reason for that is that some of our Government charges—electricity, for instance—are the highest in the nation, and that the cost of Government services is driving up the cost of everything else.

If the Government wants money in order to do the things it says it wants to do, up goes the cost of Government services and everything else. This vicious circle is a disincentive to Western Australian industry. It stops industry expanding and stops new industry coming here. There is no doubt that this State's cost structure, which is higher than that anywhere else in Australia, is keeping out new investment and new industry. I want to know what the Government intends to do about it.

If we are to overcome unemployment, we do not need huge resource development projects; we need small to medium size manufacturing operations. There is a long lead time on resource development projects. A long time elapses between the decision to go ahead and the effect on the employment market. On the other hand, where it is attracted to come here, manufacturing industry can be established quicker and to a much better employment advantage. It is a simple fact of business life, and I think the Premier well knows that investors will not bring new industry to this State when the essential Government services are so expensive and the cost structure is so much higher than in other States.

If the Government is to reduce inflation, it needs to attract industry; and if it is to attract industry, it must do something about costs. It must acknowledge that costs are too high; it must be frank about it and do something about it.

In his Speech the Governor said—

The national economy shows signs of recovery...Western Australia is well placed to influence the rate and extent of the nation's return to better times.

Again, there is a credibility gap. Again, the Government does not seem to want to acknowledge the true position.

If it is true that there are signs of recovery in the national economy, as yet those signs do not indicate a strong recovery. Indeed, members will have heard the former Federal Treasurer (Sir William McMahon) commenting on the radio programme "PM"—last evening, I think—when he said the Federal Government is in effect wearing rose-coloured glasses, that things are not as good as they might be, and that the Government needs to look to its paces. He made a few suggestions as to how the Federal Government might help the recovery of the economy.

There are signs that Western Australia's economy is faltering, and I will state what they are. There are three principal signs.

Firstly, as I have already mentioned, our inflation rate is head and shoulders above that of other States and it is not coming down as fast as it is elsewhere.

Secondly, some of our resource industries are running into serious trouble, according to what we read in *The Financial Times* and other similar tabloids. During the term of the Court Government to date not a single major new resource development project has got under way; not one major new resource development under way in four years.

Sir Charles Court: What about the \$300 million concentrator in the Pilbara?

Mr DAVIES: Is it under way?

Sir Charles Court: I'll say it is. It is in the process of being built.

Mr DAVIES: In the last three years?

Sir Charles Court: Yes. We negotiated it and about a third of it has been built.

Mr DAVIES: We are talking about new projects.

Sir Charles Court: This is brand new.

Several members interjected.

Sir Charles Court: You had better check it. I think your advisers are out of touch.

Mr DAVIES: I had a look through the fairly glossy publication the Government put out and I noticed the Government was claiming credit for the new shopping centre at Belmont because it was built while the Government was in office. I thought it was callous of the Government to make that claim. Commerce itself might be a little sad about what is going on.

Mr Shalders: There will be a vacancy for a new speech writer tomorrow.

Mr DAVIES: I have written my own speech, as I always do, if it will help the honourable member. Anyway, I cannot accept that there has been any major resource development project.

Sir Charles Court: What about Agnew, as a result of the Minister's visit to UK?

Mr DAVIES: When?

Sir Charles Court: Since we came into government.

Mr DAVIES: What has happened to it?

Sir Charles Court: It is being built.

Mr DAVIES: Is it developing?

Sir Charles Court: Yes.

Mr DAVIES: Tell us also about those which are closing down.

In addition, a number of mining projects are

facing difficulties because of falling world prices and over-supply. The nickel industry is in a deep depression, and of course hundreds of people have either lost their jobs or are about to lose their jobs. That will do nothing for the unemployment position.

The iron ore industry has suffered serious setbacks in the wake of the world glut of steel. There are reports that Cliffs Robe River may have to close down its biggest Pilbara pelletising plant later this year, and that Hamersley is under a similar threat. Further reports suggest that because Goldsworthy is having difficulty getting new contracts it will be struggling to have a new mine open when the Shay Gap deposits run out in a few years.

These problems are not the fault of the Government. There is not a great deal the Government can do about them and I do not blame the Government for them. But I believe that had the Government established an economic intelligence unit, as suggested by my predecessor during the last election campaign, it would have been able to forecast some of the movements, and the disastrous effects of the impact on many industries might have been clear before the events actually happened.

That is what we wanted to do. We wanted to be able to assess accurately the economic climate in the coming year. I believe it has been well described to the House on previous occasions. Had it had such a unit, the Government might have been able to give these matters much more attention.

Thirdly, our unemployment position is worsening. This is also true of the rest of Australia. It is very sad but the position in Western Australia relative to other States is deteriorating. Despite this, the Governor's Speech made only the fairly coy statement—

The unemployment level remains unacceptable.

What a way to dismiss the heartbreaks of some 35 000 people who are looking for a job! What an understatement it is to dismiss the matter in such a way: "The unemployment level remains unacceptable."

There is little wonder that the Premier does not want to say much about unemployment. In 1972 he was the miracle worker who stood on this side and said he could wipe out unemployment in six months. We are happy to remind him of it again, and to ask him when that will take place.

Mr Tonkin: He didn't say in which six months.

Mr DAVIES: Now, after he has been in office

four years, the unemployment situation is worse than ever. More than three times as many people are out of work now than was the case when he made his boast in 1972. The sad part of it is that people obviously believed him then, and they have not woken up to the fact that, as a member on this side interjected a moment ago, he did not say in which six months he would accomplish this decrease in unemployment. I suppose when, if ever—and I sincerely hope it will occur before very long—the unemployment figures improve, the Premier will say, "There you are! Didn't I say it could be done State by State? I am the man to do it." I do not believe the handful of limited schemes the Government has to deal with unemployment are adequate or appropriate; they are merely a Band Aid solution when a major operation is required. I believe the Government's schemes are ill-conceived, hastily conceived, and poorly funded. The magnitude of the unemployment problem ought to be apparent to the Government, and it should convince the Government of the desperate urgency to take action to stimulate employment.

When faced with this proposition in the past, the reaction of this Government has been to try to talk its way out of trouble and to throw a smoke screen of words over the problem. The Government's talk has generally been more concerned about employment than unemployment—a claim which is breathtaking in its meaninglessness, and a great cop-out line for a Government that does not seem to care.

The only comment we seem to get is that Western Australia is still third from the bottom of the list, so the Government does not think the situation is as bad as it was 12 months ago. We also get the comment, "The employment position is good." No-one seems to talk about the many people who are unemployed; that is, no member of the Government wants to talk about them. They talk about a new wave of resource development providing massive numbers of jobs, but the unemployment figures continue to rise month after month after month and it is London to a brick on that on Friday when the new figures are released they will be higher than the figures for last month.

It was confidently predicted on "AM" this morning that the unemployment figure would reach the 500 000 mark; and "AM" seems to have a happy knack of being able to predict unemployment figures fairly accurately.

I want to remind members opposite that during the State election campaign last year the Minister for Labour and Industry told hundreds of students at Carine High School that the Government

would provide 100 000 new jobs in 18 months. Two-thirds of that period of time has passed, and the level of unemployment is up again. What did the Minister for Labour and Industry have to say about the 35 000 people who were unemployed in January? He said, "There is no cause for alarm."

Why should we not be alarmed? The reason the Minister said there is no cause for alarm is that the Government was expecting an increase in our unemployment; so having expected it and having found that an increase in unemployment did occur, the Minister says, "There is no cause for alarm; that is just what we predicted." In other words, the Government does not seem to be alarmed or worried about the situation and, therefore, no-one else should be. That is a callously irresponsible attitude on the part of the Government. I believe that is a heartless statement which indicates an abdication of the Government's responsibility.

"No cause for alarm" indeed! There is grave cause for alarm. It was good enough for the Minister to promise before the election 100 000 new jobs in 18 months; but when they did not materialise and unemployment rose he said it is nothing to worry about and that there is no cause for alarm. We hear no word of apology for the situation, nor do we see any act of contrition on the part of the Government for misleading the electorate before the last election; all we have is a dismissal of the whole matter as being merely some statistics. I do not believe that attitude does the Minister for Labour and Industry any credit at all, yet it seems to be an attitude which is repeated month after month as the unemployment figures are announced.

I do not know whether the Minister is in contact with the people who are putting up with the hardship, the desperation, and the heartbreak that unemployment causes. I do not know whether Ministers have that local level of contact which back-bench Government members and members of the Opposition have the opportunity to experience. I know Ministers cannot be available to speak to anyone who wanders in and out of their offices, as perhaps other members of Parliament can be, and probably this insulates them from the realisation of the true position. This is a sad situation indeed, because where once upon a time I rarely had to deal with an employment or unemployment problem, I have to deal with them now almost daily; and if I am not dealing with them my secretary is dealing with them and referring them to the appropriate authority.

I find that the Department of Social Security has adopted a much harder line in respect of not

only unemployment matters but also pension matters. Too much of my time is being spent ringing the department and trying to sort out queries. The point I want to make is that when we phone the department and say, "You people have made a mistake" on almost every occasion they say, "We agree; we have made a mistake and we will rectify it straightaway." Sometimes "straightaway" means it is three weeks before the cheque arrives. The department now seems to want to show us how one cannot get a social security benefit, rather than how one can get a benefit, and I do not believe it has any right to do that.

The officers of the department are there to do a job, and if the application fits the situation and the rules, they have a responsibility to accept it and not to humbug around and cause extra work as they do to so many members of Parliament. I am sure back-bench members opposite receive exactly the same sort of requests that I receive: "Help me find employment" or "Help me sort out my pension problem."

Mr Nanovich: I get inquiries from people who are looking for employees.

Mr DAVIES: If the member for Whitford will refer them to me I will send him some people. He is remarkably lucky if that is the situation.

Mr Nanovich: I have one case in which a person wants machine operators to operate a machine for three shifts a day, but he cannot get employees.

Mr DAVIES: He probably wants skilled employees who are just not available at the moment, and this reflects on the attitude of the Government over the years in refusing to train tradesmen—something about which I will speak in a moment. I cannot accept the argument that the benefits paid to unemployed persons are so grandiose that the persons wish to remain unemployed. What a slight that is to the people of Australia. What a slight it is to our education system when we educate children in high school and university, give them a degree, and then suggest they are better off unemployed. If that is what the member is suggesting is happening, that is a sad reflection on our system.

I do not believe that is happening; if it was happening the Government would have long ago got onto it, just as it has got onto deserted wives and widows and others who are allegedly not abiding by the rules applicable to the pension they are receiving. The Government has tried hard to crack down on many people who allegedly have been not available for work; however, it is a sad situation to suggest that countless numbers of

people do not want to work and would rather be on the dole.

Bring me one such person; I have yet to see one. When people have suggested to me that unemployed persons do not want to work I have issued the same invitation, and no-one has yet been able to say, "This fellow is on the dole and will not work because he is a surfie." There may be some like that, but to put every member of the unemployed in that category does little credit to any member of this Parliament. As I said, if we are educating our young people to adopt that attitude, it is a sad reflection on our education system.

This brings me back to the point I was making. I think the Ministers are insulated from the real facts, the heartbreak, the disenchantment, the sadness, and the trauma which are associated with unemployment. They do not know exactly what goes on, and I believe it is time the Government realised that the unemployed are not statistics. The unemployed are people and they need urgent action to assist them out of the situation in which they find themselves.

The Government throws up a third verbal smoke screen when it is confronted with unemployment. It is the claim that the Government is creating jobs at the rate of 1 250 a month. Perhaps 1 250 jobs are available each month, but clearly anyone who can add must know that there cannot be 1 250 extra jobs a month. There would not be any unemployment if these extra jobs were created every month. That figure breaks down to about 40 jobs a day, but my arithmetic might not be too good.

Mr Young: Have you taken into consideration the number of people coming here from the Eastern States and New Zealand?

Mr DAVIES: The last set of figures I saw showed the trend was going the other way—that people were leaving the State.

Mr Grayden: That is not so.

Mr DAVIES: That was in the newspaper about the middle of January.

Sir Charles Court: The population is growing at double the national average.

Mr DAVIES: I think it was reported in the newspaper about the middle of January that the trend was the other way.

Sir Charles Court: That is not a statistical fact.

Mr DAVIES: We can use statistics how we like, but these were the figures quoted by the Bureau of Census and Statistics and at the time I wondered how it reached a reasonably accurate account of what was happening. I heard claims

made by the Minister on several occasions last year when various surveys were being conducted and I wondered how we got an accurate claim. Do we count every person coming across the border?

Mr Grayden: You get it from the Commonwealth Employment Service. Our figures have swollen by 10 per cent.

Mr DAVIES: Do they register as a separate part of the unemployment figures?

Mr Young: It is part of the information in their applications.

Mr DAVIES: I did not know that; I am grateful for the information. I thought the Premier was indicating that more people were becoming permanent residents, but I did not know that a check was carried out by the Commonwealth Employment Service. I shall have a look at the figures. Are they available generally?

Sir Charles Court: That is not the only method by which they make assessments. You have your transport facilities which give indications.

Mr DAVIES: I agree; I can use my brain a little and I can see how they could possibly do it, but I do not believe this would be a terribly accurate method of assessing the position. It could be a desperately accurate method, but I do not believe it would be. However, I am not prepared to argue that fact.

I wish to talk about the figures as we know them; that is, the official figures which have been released; and the Government cannot run away from the fact that the present level of unemployment in Western Australia is the worst since the great depression. Thankfully I remember very little about the great depression. All I can remember is the fear within the household when every Friday night my father would announce whether he had or had not been put off. He was generally able to work through the depression and I think we were particularly lucky because of that. But I can remember the fear when he came home every Friday night of wondering whether his job was going to be there next week. I was not very old at that stage and if I can remember that far back I am sure some of this trauma is now affecting the young children of today when they see their parents out of work.

The figures show—and I shall talk about the official figures now—that in January 35 236 people or 6.63 per cent of the work force were out of work. There is general agreement that these official figures understate the true level of unemployment and that the real figure could be considerably higher, perhaps as much as 2 per

cent higher. I shall not argue about that because I find that to be a generally accepted fact.

The figures produced by the ANZ banking group in its monthly employment review show that the situation is deteriorating more rapidly in Western Australia than in other parts of the country. I am grateful to a former member of Parliament for drawing this information to my attention; he has not been a member for some years but he still takes a keen interest in matters. The bank's analysis of job vacancies shows that fewer jobs were offered in Western Australia in February this year than in February last year. The figure was 14 per cent lower this year.

Mr Coyne: Is that over the nation or the State?

Mr DAVIES: In Western Australia fewer jobs were offered in February this year than in February last year and the figure this year was 14 per cent lower than it was last year. In New South Wales the drop between the two years for the same month was only 4 per cent. This year's February figure was also lower than this year's January figure, which is a most unusual trend because we expect the February figure to show some improvement on the January figure. Western Australia is the third worst State in terms of the number of jobs offered.

Mr O'Connor: Percentage-wise or the number of jobs?

Mr DAVIES: Numbers, and I will relate them to percentages in a moment. Yet we are supposed to be creating 1 250 jobs every month. That is just not an acceptable statement.

Sir Charles Court: Do you not read the statistic which shows the number of people employed this year as against last year?

Mr DAVIES: That is what I am trying to draw attention to.

Sir Charles Court: It is as real as that.

Mr DAVIES: The Government has often claimed that it has coped well with unemployment because in Western Australia the rate of unemployment has been the lowest or the second lowest of the States. The fact that this is marginal, about 0.1 per cent or 0.2 per cent, enables it to say that. If we were the best State and we were showing an improvement, I should be the first to congratulate the Government, but we are not. We are slipping in our position with regard to the percentage and with regard to the number of jobs available. Every aspect of employment is deteriorating for the Government, and this is the thing that concerns me; yet it does not seem to concern the Minister very much.

Mr MacKinnon: The population is increasing at double the national average.

Mr DAVIES: I should imagine that this should be creating jobs as well. One of the Minister's arguments for increasing migration is that it will create jobs because more people will be wanting houses, and so on.

Mr Jamieson interjected.

Mr DAVIES: As the member for Welshpool says, they will get work by taking in each other's washing! However, the raw employment figures, while disturbing enough in themselves, look even worse when compared with the figures for unfilled job vacancies. They destroy totally the Government's claim to have a better job creation record than that of any other State Government.

The true nature, extent, and seriousness of the unemployment situation are not gauged alone from the figures showing the total number of people out of work. An even better measurement is one which shows how much chance all people who are out of work have of getting a job. In other words, the best measure is the one which shows how many people are competing for each job, the ratio between the number of people out of work and the number of unfilled jobs. That is a very real figure to take into consideration.

I heard this morning that in Canada 31 unemployed people are competing for every job and that one has a much better chance of winning a prize in one of the local lotteries than of obtaining a job. The odds are 1 to 31 to get a job and 1 to 11 for winning a prize in the charities, if one is able to afford a ticket.

Let us look at the position in regard to the number of people out of work and the number of unfilled jobs. In this regard this State fares very badly. The figures shoot down all the Government's claims about having an unsurpassed employment record, which is what it talks about. It does not talk about having the greatest unemployment record since the great depression. I suppose the Government reckons that that is talking positively. It talks about having the greatest employment record which does little to help people who are without a job.

Let us return to the position in respect of the number of people out of work and the number of unfilled jobs. The official figures show that in January throughout Australia there was an average of 17.91 per cent of people out of work for every job vacancy; in New South Wales the figure was 15.52 per cent; in Victoria the figure was 14.8 per cent; in Tasmania the figure was 12.4 per cent; but in Western Australia, where we are supposed to have this unsurpassed

employment record, 18.46 per cent of people were competing for every job. Our figure, of course, is substantially higher than the national average and is exceeded only in Queensland and South Australia.

I shall quote those figures again. The national average was 17.91 per cent; the figure in New South Wales was 15.52 per cent; in Victoria 14.8 per cent; in Tasmania 12.4 per cent; and in Western Australia 18.46 per cent of people out of work were competing for every job vacancy.

I do not say that is an unsurpassed employment record. I think it is a disgrace. There has been a 39 per cent decline in unfilled vacancies since January last year. In one year there has been a 39 per cent decline in unfilled vacancies. Although the percentage of the work force unemployed in Western Australia is the second lowest of the States, the people who are out of work in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania have a better chance of obtaining a job than those in Western Australia.

The Government can take cold comfort from the fact that although it says it has an unsurpassed employment record, it has the second lowest percentage which is only marginally different from the other States. If one goes to New South Wales, if one goes to Victoria, or if one goes to Tasmania one has a better chance of securing a position than one has in Western Australia.

That is the reality behind this State's employment figures. It is the reality also behind the Court Government's spurious claim to have a record for jobs which is better than any other Government. It is easier to get a job in a number of other States than it is in Western Australia. The Government's claim as far as its job record is concerned is spurious. It is dishonest. It is a disgrace. The situation is even worse in some sections of the employment market; that is, in regard to particular categories and particular areas. Let us examine some of the areas which give rise to real concern.

At the end of January, 1978, there were 60 unskilled manual labourers out of work for every job on offer. I think one would have a much better chance of winning a prize in a lottery in Western Australia than one would have of obtaining a job if one were an unskilled labourer. The position here is probably worse than the position in Canada. That figure shows a marked deterioration when one looks at the figure for last year, at which time only 25 unskilled manual labourers were competing for each job. In 12 months we have gone from 25 unskilled manual

labourers competing for each job to 60 unskilled manual labourers.

Mr Young: Are those official figures?

Mr DAVIES: Yes, these are taken from official statistics.

Mr Young: It is interesting, because without going into a lot of detail, much could be said about the number of people who apply for jobs at different offices and the occupations that they give when they register.

Mr DAVIES: We can take all of these special situations and categories, but when one is dealing with this problem one must deal with the position as one finds it, and as indicated by the official figures.

It is quite true that there is talk of women applying at several employment offices for part-time work and of women registering under different names and all those sorts of things. However, jobs are now becoming so scarce that people realise the best chance they have of obtaining a job is to stay with one office and to chase a job through that office. I am not denying that there could be areas of disagreement; but we have to take the figures as shown to us last January and the figures available for this January. If the figures were wrong last January, they would be wrong also this January, because the same situation exists.

The ratio between unemployed people and job vacancies is worse in some areas of the State than it is overall. We heard the member for Geraldton talking about the position as he found it in his electorate. At the end of January there were 27.38 per cent of people unemployed for every vacancy in the Port Hedland area. Therefore it seems that perhaps some of these people who have travelled to Western Australia from New Zealand and from other States of Australia might be headed north. Geraldton certainly has a problem and I do not believe that problem is solely as a result of the drought. Obviously Port Hedland has a problem. This may be seen from the figure I have just mentioned and which I shall quote again: 27.38 per cent of people unemployed for every vacancy in Port Hedland.

The piecemeal measures the Government has implemented in order to cope with unemployment have been inadequate, inappropriate, and too late in many respects. These measures operate at the periphery of the unemployment problem, instead of going to the heart of the matter, which I believe is what is required.

The Government announced yesterday a new youth employment unit in the Department of Labour and Industry. Although we do not know



much about the manner in which it will operate, we are very pleased that it has been set up. I believe it is a laudable idea and the Government is to be congratulated for implementing it. It is a pity it was not implemented earlier when my predecessor suggested it in January of last year. It was one of the suggestions he made for dealing with the unemployment problem. He suggested that, as well as creating jobs, we should help the people who are out of work.

The Labor Party proposed that such a unit should look into the particular cases and the causes of unemployment amongst young people and the special problems associated with it. We said it should also establish and maintain, at Government expense, mutual support groups for young unemployed people. It should also run courses to assist the unemployed, work with private employers on employment matters and co-operate with the Federal Government's community youth support scheme. Such a unit would be very useful, as will the one the Court Government is now proposing.

Schemes such as these are useless without the introduction of other measures which actually create jobs. We can tell the unemployed how to live on their unemployment benefits; we can tell them how to dress and how to wash; we can tell them how to live and what to do with their spare time; we can tell them how to look for jobs. But if the jobs are not there, nothing is being done to overcome the problems. Youth unemployment units will not create jobs. They will deal with part of the problem, but they will not give the end result for which we are all looking.

The Government claims to have committed \$17 million to activities designed to stimulate employment. This figure is highly misleading because it implies that the Government's normal works programme, to which it would be committed anyway, is specifically designed to stimulate employment. In fact this programme would go ahead regardless of the size and nature of the unemployment problem.

The Government brought forward also a scheme for minor maintenance work on public buildings; but it was unable to say how many jobs it created in this way. In any case, the funds allocated were pitifully small. The work was not labour-intensive. It was short-term work and required principally skilled tradesmen.

As I indicated earlier, that is not our area of greatest concern. A much more comprehensive scheme of job creation by the Government is a great necessity. I appreciate that short-term unemployment relief programmes do not do much

to ensure long-term job security for the unemployed. I appreciate also that the number of jobs we need in this State can be created only by the private sector. But until the private sector is able to produce these jobs, until new development projects get under way, until there is a significant upturn in the economic situation, the Government has to fill the gap as best it possibly can.

The problems of drug-taking, alcohol, and a myriad of others give cause for real concern. These problems will become greater and more numerous as time goes on unless the unemployment figure is brought down, and I believe there are a number of ways in which this can be done.

Dr Dadour: Tell us please.

Mr DAVIES: I will. There should be an immediate special appropriation for labour-intensive community projects which will not only create jobs, but also be socially valuable to the whole of the community. Some of these funds should be available to local authorities on a dollar-for-dollar matching grant formula.

When funds are allocated, priority should be given to areas I highlighted earlier, such as Port Hedland, Geraldton, Kwinana, parts of the south-west, and others in both the metropolitan and country areas, where unemployment is highest. If the Government were to watch its Budget more carefully and forgo the practice of maintaining large surpluses in some areas, a significant amount of funds could be allocated.

The Government should review its own apprenticeship situation to ensure that it is employing the maximum possible number. Late in 1976, the period for which the latest figures are available, the Government was almost 250 apprentices under quota. I believe the departments have tried to improve the situation, but they are still short of the quota.

Mr Grayden: We are still 12 per cent better than the departments in the other States.

Mr DAVIES: We are talking about the employment record, and not the unemployment record and the difficulties connected with it and the difficulties we will face as a result of a shortage of apprentices. The Government has a splendid record in the training of all manner of apprentices over the years. It has filled a very vital need in the community, and I believe it must continue to do this.

The Government has a responsibility to the community and, I suggest, to private enterprise, to train tradesmen because generally fellows who are trained in places like the State Engineering works, the Midland Workshops, and the MTT are

splendid tradesmen and are snapped up by the community. I imagine the Government would be anxious to fill its quota and ensure there was no decrease in the number of apprentices being trained, despite the fact that we are 12 per cent—

Mr Grayden: Some establishments do not have the facilities for training. That is one of the reasons.

Mr DAVIES: That is true. I believe the trade unions have a responsibility continually to update and review training procedures and ensure that the amount of time and money spent is being spent wisely. I believe the Government would get ready co-operation in that regard. There are difficulties, but when the Government suddenly drops the number of apprentices being trained by 250 to save money it is merely wearing blinkers. It is not properly looking at the problem or looking far enough ahead.

We could consider ways of allowing civil servants to retire a little earlier—perhaps two years earlier. I do not know whether this has ever been considered seriously. It has been floated often enough. I know there are a number of civil servants who would be quite happy to retire a couple of years earlier.

Mr Taylor: Waterside workers can, so why not civil servants?

Mr DAVIES: If waterside workers can do so I think we could allow civil servants to do so also.

Mr Tonkin: The Premier brushes the idea straight off.

Mr DAVIES: I do not think he would.

Mr Tonkin: He certainly did last year.

Mr DAVIES: Do not be nasty to him now. I think he has been too busy to think of it and that if he remind him about it now he will have another look at it.

Sir Charles Court: We will not be reducing the retiring age for civil servants because all they will do is go to the labour market and get another job.

Mr Tonkin: Are you a mind reader?

Sir Charles Court: Fit and able people will do that for the sake of their own morale.

Mr DAVIES: The persons who would elect to retire earlier would not do that. If they chose to retire earlier they would be fairly ready for retirement and would know what they wanted to do. If they did take another job they would probably do only part-time work not acceptable to others. However, the matter could be looked at again.

I also believe private employers could be invited to make submissions to the Government on ways

in which they could employ additional people if some Government taxes and charges which would be levied in the event of additional people being employed could be waived. This would be a kind of incentive to employers. If the employers were prepared to take on more people the Government could assist by waiving the taxes and charges. I do not think it has ever been done. The responsibility is on employers rather than on Governments to come forward and indicate they will do certain things if the Government will in turn do other things. In other words a deal could be negotiated.

In addition there should be much greater pressure on the Fraser Government to loosen its overly-restrictive monetary policy, thereby releasing more employment-generating funds. I refer briefly again to what a former Australian Government Treasurer (Sir William MacMahon) said on the national news yesterday.

In addition, measures could be taken at a Federal level to boost consumer spending in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

They are a few ideas. I am sure that each and every one in the Chamber has ideas which an active, creative, but more importantly, a concerned Government would be exploring and implementing.

There ought to be a politically bipartisan approach to the unemployment problem. It is not our problem or the Government's; it is everyone's. It is the problem of the whole Parliament and it is so serious and important that such an approach ought to be possible. It is certainly desirable. However, it is impossible to have such an approach at present because the Government and its counterpart in Canberra have no real fear about unemployment. They do not seem to care about the unemployed. Once again they have on their rose-coloured glasses and they do not want to tell the full story either because they do not like it or they do not know it. I believe they know the story. They know the situation is far worse than the public at large believe. Either way, however, they are guilty of shameful neglect and of disillusioning a generation of young Australians.

This is possibly the greatest fear I have for the future of this country; that is, that the children—and I call them children but others can call them youths or young men or women; but really, basically they are still children—who cannot get jobs are becoming disillusioned. It is all right for a while. These young people do not mind not having a job for a few weeks—say, six or seven weeks which is normally the length of the school holidays. However, when they have finished school, and the holidays are over, and

everyone else is going back to school and they are left, knowing they should be working but also knowing they cannot get a job, then they face the most soul-destroying situation in which a person can be placed.

As I have already pointed out many effects of the unemployment problem are becoming apparent. I believe the Government is more interested in stating that the unemployed are all dole bludgers, because in this way it salves its conscience instead of examining the problem rationally. Earlier, by way of interjection, we dealt with this question. It is a great shame that there is this attitude about dole bludgers. All unemployed are placed in the one category despite the fact that many of them are genuinely and sincerely looking for work but cannot find it.

I appeal to members of the Government to forget dogmas and prejudices and to get serious about the matter and understand what it means to be unemployed. I do not believe they really know what it means. They have failed miserably so far to be serious about the problem. The Government has not properly attacked the question of unemployment. I am willing to co-operate with the Government and I am sure every member behind me is prepared to do likewise in any effort to bring about a decrease in the number of unemployed people.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

I want to conclude by moving the following amendment—

That the following be added to the Address-In-Reply to His Excellency's Speech—

but we regret to inform your Excellency that unemployment in Western Australia is at the highest level since the great depression and that the measures proposed by the Government to cope with it are neither adequate nor appropriate.

I am taking this action because as the Government dismissed the question so capriciously in the Governor's Speech, we must draw to the attention of His Excellency just how serious the position is. We cannot let him merely say that the unemployment figure is unacceptably high. We must specifically draw the matter to his attention. Because the Government dealt with the matter so lightly in the Governor's Speech, I would like the amendment added to the motion before us so that we clearly demonstrate the concern the whole of the Parliament has for the unemployed in Western Australia.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [5.12 p.m.]: I have a great deal of pleasure in seconding the amendment of our leader because it is most important at this time of the session to bring to the notice of the Government the serious situation which faces some 35 000 people in Western Australia, and a great number of others indirectly.

The Leader of the Opposition has referred to statistics and to bring the matter into perspective I want to refer again to several of these statistics. It should be pointed out to the House that when the Court Government was elected in March, 1974, the total number of people out of work represented 1.41 per cent of the work force, so virtually at that time of the year, when the Tonkin Government went out of office, the only people out of work were those who were unemployable. Now, four years later, the percentage of the work force out of work has risen to 6.63. In other words, 35 236 people were seeking employment at the end of January, 1978.

At present, 42 per cent of Western Australia's unemployed are under the age of 21 years. School leavers comprise 4 969, while 10 000 other young people are also out of work. In addition, in January, 1978, there were 669 unfilled vacancies for juniors, but 12 months ago the number of unfilled vacancies for juniors was 1 353. This indicates a substantial reduction in the 12 months.

Furthermore, to highlight the situation, I wish to state that in January, 1978, there were 22 juniors for every unfilled vacancy.

In recent years statements in respect of unemployment have been made by the Premier. They have been quoted several times in this House. On one occasion he said—

In my opinion it is the responsibility of a Government to provide opportunities of employment for the work force. It is drafted to do that job when it is elected. We must create employment opportunities for young people.

At the time he said that, the Premier was in Opposition. He said further—

If we are given the opportunity to perform we will solve the problem. We would love to have the responsibility to show what can be done by a Government with the right philosophy. I would be prepared to stake my reputation on success.

Mr Tonkin: What a reputation!

Mr HARMAN: That was a completely unqualified remark made by the Premier when he was in Opposition in 1972. The member for

Warren (Mr H. D. Evans), who was then Minister for Agriculture, interjected and asked—

How long would it take you to do it?

The present Premier replied—

Within six months of getting back into office and sorting out some of the mess which has been created. At least we would restore confidence and get people spending money and expanding industry. By doing this we would create full employment.

The Premier has had four years in office—not six months—to do all those things to create full employment, to get people spending money, and to get resource developments off the ground; but in those four years the number of people out of work has risen from something like 7 000 in 1974 to over 35 000 in 1978.

So one can look very critically at the remarks of the Premier. If he meant what he said, obviously he did not know how he was going to achieve it, because he has not been able to achieve it since he has been Premier. In the future, any time the Premier makes a statement of some intention on his part, members who sit behind him must be very wary about what will happen. As I have said previously in the House, on many occasions the Premier's utterances about solving unemployment have been excellent. His track record for utterances is excellent but the results are very dismal. In fact, as I have pointed out, the number of unemployed has continued to rise every year the Premier has been in charge of this State. That is a very poor record and one of which I am sure no member of this House is proud.

As well as having regard for some of the statements made by the Premier, members should consider the plight of those who are out of work. In some electorates members may not come face to face with people who are out of work; perhaps the only contact they have with unemployed people is through reading in the newspapers about the mounting unemployment in the State. But I can assure those members it is a very serious problem for the people who are out of work, and an equally serious problem for the parents of those young people.

Members would really feel for those people if they were confronted, as I am, sometimes two or three times daily, by parents calling or ringing to ask whether I can do something to get a job for their son who has been out of work for 12 months or their daughter who has been out of work for six, nine, or 12 months. The story they put to me—and I believe it—is that their sons and daughters are losing confidence and are losing their enthusiasm and their initiative. They are

becoming accustomed to sitting at home when they cannot get a job. They go out in the morning to try to find work, without success, and they become accustomed to receiving their unemployment cheques each week. This is becoming part of their life.

The way of life into which a great number of our young people are being forced is having a horrific effect on their future outlook. It is no wonder some of them are drifting into the anti-social situations which are prevalent today. We should be concerned for these young people and their parents.

The next point I want to make is that the solution to unemployment in Western Australia is to encourage people to spend money. Consumers represent the means to get people back into employment. When consumers spend money, a demand is created. The staffs of factories make more of the items consumers want, and more workers must be put on to cope with that demand.

What is happening in Australia today? It appears to me the Fraser Government has a policy of reducing inflation without worrying about enticing people to spend money. That has the effect of increasing the number of people who are out of work. It has the effect that many of our resources—not only human resources but also physical resources and resources in manufacturing industry—are lying idle. That is the result of the Federal Government's policy.

That policy is actively pursued by the Premier of this State because he accepts the policy of the Federal Government. The Federal Government and the Government of this State are part of the same party and follow the same political philosophy. So when the Premier makes statements about arrangements for creating employment, they are merely utterances because he and the Prime Minister of Australia are firmly committed to a policy of bringing down inflation no matter what the consequences; and one of the consequences is to ensure there is an increase in unemployment. They believe inflation will be reduced by increasing unemployment.

I do not know where they learnt that kind of economic theory but it certainly will not help this country in the long term or the short term. The fact is the Liberal Party and the National Country Party have no real economic policy for the future of Australia. If they let things go along as they are now going, trying to get inflation down without concerning themselves about the idle resources of this country and mounting unemployment, should they decide to engineer consumer spending there will not be anything for

consumers to spend their money on. There will then be a demand for goods, and inflation will take off again.

In simple terms, that is the philosophy of the Liberal Party; that is its policy, if one can call it that. I have not heard one major speaker for the Federal Government say anything positive about the future of our economy. What it means is that the economic system we have in Australia at present seems to be at the cross-roads. One can only wonder what the Government will come up with, but so far it has come up with nothing except to ensure that an increasing number of people each month are put off or are unable to find work.

Coupled with the lack of economic policy—which I think is due to the fact that the Government does not know what to do and is not prepared to take advice—we will see a downturn in mineral development, which is already being experienced in the iron ore and nickel industries, and in the building industry. All these matters will have an effect on the economy in the next 12 months, and obviously the situation will become worse rather than better.

It seems to me that if the Premier is really concerned about the people of this State he must say to himself, "I was wrong in 1972. It is impossible for me to solve the situation. I cannot do it. What I said then, I said without really thinking. It is obviously a matter I must take up with the Federal Government, and I should do something about it very quickly." That is the only attitude the Premier can adopt. He must eat humble pie and recognise that he has failed to overcome the problem in this State or, in fact, to do anything about it at all.

We need to have consumers spending money. People will then be re-employed. The Premier's tack should now be to recognise he has failed and then mount an attack on the Federal Government to ensure it adopts a sensible policy which curtails the mounting savings of the nation. Savings are increasing at a greater rate than ever before in our history. People are saving and nobody is spending. Investment is down and savings are up. We must encourage people to invest, and for that there must be some confidence. It is up to the Liberal Governments in Canberra and Western Australia to display some initiative which enables people again to have confidence in our system. That is the first thing that must happen.

The second thing that must happen is a change in policy so that consumers are encouraged to spend. It might be said by some that the tax cuts which came into effect in February were designed

to do just that—to get people to spend more money—because with a reduction in tax people would have more money to spend. But when we examine those tax cuts closely we find those who received the greater benefit from the tax cuts were the people with money, while the people on lower incomes received hardly a dime. There was therefore no real increase in spending power because the people who want to spend do not have the extra money to do so, and the people who have money are receiving only a bit more. In effect, it will not be a positive solution to the problem.

We in Western Australia are in a desperate situation. The Premier has failed to get the economy going again through his own policies. It is about time he ate humble pie and started mounting a campaign against the Federal Government and the Prime Minister to ensure some changes take place in Australia's economic policies so that all of us will benefit through people spending money again and getting back to work.

It is with a great deal of pleasure—and not a great deal of satisfaction, I might add—that I take this opportunity to tell Parliament about the desperate situation of people who are out of work in Western Australia. It must be done. The Government must be told of the great concern and the plight of its young people, and it is about time it took some notice of us. I support the amendment.

**MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [5.30 p.m.]**: I wish to support the amendment to the Address-in-Reply that was moved by the Leader of the Opposition and refer to some figures that have been made available to us by virtue of the publication, *Commonwealth Record*. This document simplifies the statistics in regard to unemployment figures; the figures are presented to us in a way that most people would be able to understand. In the *Commonwealth Record* of the 1st to the 15th January, 1978, the Federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (the Hon. Tony Street) said—

At end December there were 404 085 unemployed persons registered with the CES or 6.5 per cent of the estimated labour force of 6.2 million. This compares with 327 534 or 5.4 per cent of the labour force as at end December 1976 and 328 705 or 5.4 per cent of the labour force at the end of December 1975.

Notwithstanding the supposed ability of the Fraser Government, assisted by the Court Government in this State, it is obvious that the

unemployment situation is not improving. These Governments have been unable to fulfil their objective in regard to an improved unemployment situation. In fact, the Federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations went on to say—

Unfilled vacancies fell during the month by 293 or 1.4 per cent to a level of 19 963. Last December vacancies increased by 1 045 (4.1 per cent) to 26 544 while in December 1975 they increased by 876 to 29 254.

So it is apparent that over a very short period of time the number of unfilled vacancies decreased; in other words, fewer jobs were available nationally than were available two years earlier.

In the *Commonwealth Record* of the 6th to the 12th December, 1977, a statement appeared along similar lines. This statement was to the effect that during the month the number of registered unemployed increased by 41 215, or 10.2 per cent, compared with increases of 8.3 per cent in January, 1977, and 4.6 per cent in January, 1976. So it is quite easy to see what has happened. In 1976, the registered unemployed increased by 4.6 per cent and yet, by January, 1978, the increase was 10.2 per cent. The Minister went on to say—

At end January there were 445 300 unemployed persons registered with the CES or 7.2 per cent of the estimated labour force of 6.2 million. This compares with 354 589 or 5.7 per cent of the labour force as at January 1977 and 343 939 or 5.6 per cent of the labour force at the end of January 1976.

So the unemployment figures continue to rise. Let us look at what has happened in regard to unfilled job vacancies. During the month of January, the number of unfilled vacancies rose by 4 905, or 24.6 per cent, to a total of 24 868. So at least this increase in the unfilled vacancies will provide a little solace to those people who are unemployed, and possibly it will give some of them the opportunity to obtain employment. However, we must remember the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the manner in which the Commonwealth Employment Service—not only in this State but in all other States also—is attempting to make it difficult for young people to receive unemployment benefits. One wonders how many youths in this category have been denied unemployment relief, notwithstanding the fact that they are endeavouring genuinely to seek employment. Obviously many of these people have not taken their complaints to their local members.

Because a Commonwealth Employment Service operates at Midland, I receive dozens of

complaints about this matter. One mother came to me and told me that her son had been denied unemployment relief because he had not filled out a form. When I approached the department, I found out that not only had he filled in the form, but also he had done everything else the department asked of him. He had filled in the necessary form, and he had attended interviews. He had then received some unemployment cheques, but after approximately three payments the cheques were stopped. The reason given was that he was now ineligible for unemployment relief because he had not filled in the forms.

I approached the department and was told that apparently some mistake had been made because the form in regard to disqualification referred to December of last year when he was ineligible for unemployment benefits. For some strange and inexplicable reason, this form had reached the top of the file and his cheques had been stopped.

It appears that the youth of today are being discouraged from seeking unemployment benefits. This is one case only where I found the department was in error in regard to unemployment relief payments. The member for Maylands referred to the number of juniors in this State who are unemployed.

I would like now to turn to the Western Australian figures relating to unemployment, job vacancies, and unfilled job vacancies. Advertisements which have appeared in the local Press have pointed to a rather disturbing state of affairs.

The national figures in regard to unfilled vacancies showed a 4.3 per cent fall in February of this year as compared with the month of January. However, the figures show that Western Australia and New South Wales had the third lowest number of unfilled jobs. In Western Australia 3.5 per cent fewer jobs were offered in February than in January. In regard to these figures, at a later stage I will refer to a speech made in this House last year by the Minister for Labour and Industry when he told us of the good record of the Government in regard to job creation.

I would like to refer to some of the remarks made by the Minister for Labour and Industry and to point out to him gently that some four months after he made those remarks, it has become obvious that the hopes and aspirations of the Government will not be fulfilled. There will not be a proliferation of jobs in this State as he had promised us. From 1977 to 1978, Western Australia suffered a 14.7 per cent fall in advertised job vacancies. Over the same period

the fall in New South Wales was 4.3 per cent. The source for these figures is the ANZ monthly employment service. I suggest to the Minister and to departmental officers that it might do them good to look outside the narrow confines of the statistics available from the National Bureau of Census and Statistics and to find out what the world thinks of the economic situation facing the Government in Western Australia and also the Federal Government.

In Western Australia there were 1 909 unfilled vacancies in 1978 compared with 3 925 in January, 1977. This means that 1 000 fewer jobs were available in January this year. So much for the Minister's statement that jobs would be created to employ people!

The State Government is presently setting up a system to train unemployed people but I would like to ask how many of these people will be placed after they are trained. Where are the jobs for them? It has become apparent that employers in this State and in other States are taking advantage of the money available to them to provide jobs for unemployed people. A large proportion of the wages of these people is obtained through the relief scheme. After six months these people will again be unemployed while the employer seeks workers who will meet the criteria to enable him to obtain cheap labour. The scheme will do nothing at all except perhaps provide six months' employment to a few unemployed people. This scheme could deny some people the possibility of full employment. If this cheap form of labour were not available, employers would offer positions on a permanent basis.

I would like to refer now to some of the statements made by the Minister for Labour and Industry in August last year during a debate in this House. I spoke about the Minister in the following terms—

The Minister has said this State has a better record than any other State with regard to unemployment, and I must agree that we are clearly and fairly in front of the other States when it comes to percentages. However, percentages do not make any difference to the unemployed. There are still 1 594 more workers, as at the 8th July, 1977, who are unemployed and who do not have any relevance to the national average. They happen to be unemployed and looking for jobs. I have shown that a total of 9 300 supposed construction jobs will, in fact, provide work for 3 000 workers over a period of three years.

I will return to these figures later to show that even my projections were incorrect and that it is not possible for this Government to keep its promises in regard to employment in 1978. Certainly the Government could not achieve its target as set out in the figures given to me in 1977.

The Minister spoke on that occasion and he referred to a document which I have here tonight. This document sets out some statements made by the Minister, one of which reads as follows—

Mr Grayden said the review also showed W.A. had a significantly higher proportion of the population employed than in Australia as a whole.

What does that mean? What help is that to the unemployed? They want jobs; they are aware that some people are working and there is some employment. But what about those who are unemployed? What effort has been made to obtain employment for them?

I am reminded of some remarks made by the present Premier during a debate in 1972. I am not a person who likes to dig up old statements to send up the Government, but in this case some of the statements are most pertinent.

During the debate on a no confidence motion in the Legislative Assembly on the 16th August, 1972—recorded on pages 2577-2623 of *Hansard*—the present Premier—at that time the Leader of the Opposition—made the following statement referring to the Tonkin Government—

The Government has just been waiting for something to turn up and hoping a big project would break and solve the problem. I want to tell the Government that it does not happen that way. We have been through it and we know it must be made to happen. Western Australia has a peculiar economy. It does not matter how one likes to deny it, we must say it has a regional economy. This may be an advantage or a disadvantage. It is an advantage if the Government has the know-how, the drive and the imagination to go out and come up with ideas for the State . . .

Some six years afterwards we find that apparently the Premier is unable to solve a problem for which he had all the answers in 1972. His performance in 1978 has been dismal. There is no shadow of a doubt about his tactics; like other leaders of other Governments he appealed to the electorate at large on the faint and false hope that some projects would get off the ground. However, this just did not happen. Certainly the Premier has plenty to answer for, and yet he will endeavour to

see that the Opposition's amendment is not carried.

During the same debate the present Premier made this statement—

This is what we have to do. We have to go out and get things done. Ministers have to do it and departmental heads have to do it . . . We have heard talk about millions of dollars around the corner, but, to come back to my point, while these things make it easy if the necessary project drops out of the sky, if we cannot obtain it when we need it, we must then take stock of the situation and deal with the small and medium-sized possibilities.

That brings me to the document presented to this House by the Minister for Labour and Industry in August, 1977, in which he lists certain projects due to get off the ground and provide a great impetus to solving the unemployment problem in Western Australia. What actually happened? Since that time, notwithstanding those projects which were about to get under way, the unemployment problem in Western Australia became worse.

The Minister for Labour and Industry is also the Minister for Immigration, and I suppose he could claim our unemployment figures have increased due to the great influx of people from the Eastern States or, indeed, from overseas. I realise the Government has no control over the movement of people from one State of Australia to another, but certainly the Government has control over immigration, and if immigration were the cause of increased unemployment, why did not the Government take steps to reduce immigration? If people are coming here from the Eastern States, that simply represents a shift in the unemployed. They are people without jobs in the Eastern States coming to Western Australia, hoping some of these projects will get off the ground.

If I may digress for a moment, let us consider the regional figures for unemployment in Western Australia as they relate to Port Hedland. They reveal that at the end of January, 1978, there were 27.38 persons unemployed in Port Hedland for every unfilled vacancy. Port Hedland! This is supposed to be the great area of employment. This was where we were going to see the greatest effect of this Government's actions to reduce unemployment and to provide job opportunities. It is a myth!

It is of no use the Government turning around now and saying that the international market for iron ore is in a depressed state and that Japan is experiencing a recession in its steel industry. This

fact was well known to us in August, 1977, when the Minister for Labour and Industry produced this great document. We were aware at that time of the problems being experienced overseas. We were aware that people from Japan were coming here and saying, "There is a problem. We have so much iron ore stockpiled we do not know what to do with it. Our steel exports are poorly and we are in desperate trouble." The Japanese were trying to renegotiate all their agreements, and the Government knew about it.

Notwithstanding these facts, the Government attempted to deceive the people of Western Australia by saying, "We will put things right in 1978." I am not too sure what it is that the Ministers of the Government must do; certainly, the Premier foreshadowed action along certain lines, but I am still waiting. I hope his Ministers do something in the very near future in an endeavour to overcome the unemployment problem in this State.

Let us consider some of these projects and the number of people expected to be involved in their implementation as they relate to the unemployment figures at this time. One project listed as about to come on stream was the Agnew nickel mine and concentrator. I am led to believe the construction stage has concluded and it is ready to go into production. It was estimated by the Minister for Labour and Industry that between 320 and 435 men would be employed by the company, once the project came into operation.

Mr Davies: Is it going to come into operation?

Mr SKIDMORE: Well, one must have doubts about that. I sometimes wonder whether the great mining cartels do not manipulate the work force to their advantage, and say, "Western Mining Corporation will close down its nickel mine at Kambalda so that there will be a surplus of workers available for the Agnew project." Western Mining placed these workers in a very poor economic situation. They were faced with selling their homes and resettling their families elsewhere.

Because of the relative isolation of Kalgoorlie, they are unable to recover their capital investment, which surely every person in Australia is entitled to expect. Because of the lack of job opportunities in the immediate area, they have been forced to look for employment in other districts, with the resultant upheaval and relocation of their families. Children must be taken from their schools and placed in different schools, and so on. Could this be a manipulation



of the work force simply to provide experienced workers for the Agnew project?

What difference would such an exercise make to the unemployment figure? Not very much, because it represents merely the transfer of some hundreds of workers from the nickel mines at Kambalda to the nickel mines at Agnew.

Mr Laurance: Do you not think that Falconbridge and INCO, the two giants of the industry, could put Western Mining Corporation out of business? They could wipe out the Western Mining operation altogether.

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not blame Western Mining for what has happened.

Mr Laurance: They are accepting their share of the downturn.

Mr SKIDMORE: Western Mining is so beneficent that it makes me feel a great debt of gratitude! Is the honourable member suggesting that with all the millions of dollars which have flowed from Western Mining to its overseas shareholders over the years, it could not keep workers on for a short period in order to allow them to find other jobs, shift out of their homes and relocate themselves? These men have a commitment not to disadvantage their own families, but Western Mining Corporation was not concerned about that. The sum total of the company's efforts has been the manipulation of labour.

Mr O'Connor: Do you know Western Mining built up a stockpile worth around \$50 million?

Mr SKIDMORE: I am well aware of that fact; I heard the debate in the House last year, and I believe the member for Yilgarn-Dundas put that point very adequately. However, that makes no difference to the manipulation of the work force which has taken place.

Mr O'Connor: It is contrary to the argument you are putting now.

Mr SKIDMORE: If that is the Minister's point of view, I suggest he expounds on it when he has the opportunity.

The Agnew nickel mine and concentrator project apparently is about to take off. I am a little sceptical that it will ever employ 435 workers, although I hope I am wrong. In fact, I do not think the number employed there has even reached the minimum number of 320 permanent employees suggested by the Minister back in 1977. He foreshadowed that the project would employ at least that number by 1977, yet here we are some three months into 1978 and still we do not have the project employing labour. So much for promises!

The next project listed by the Minister was the Western Mining Corporation Kalgoorlie smelter extension. The number of employees was "to be determined". I would not think such an operation would require more than 15 or 20 men. No wonder the Minister omitted to provide us with these figures; he was ashamed to put them down, because they looked so insignificant alongside the other grand figures to be required by the other projects. The figures may have been factual, but the Minister did not want to put them down because it would make the picture look too ugly.

The next project was the expansion of the Muja power station.

Mr B. T. Burke: You would get a shock.

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes, we could well get a shock. According to the Minister, some 200 construction workers would be required. However, to bolster the figures, the Minister said that 200 was the minimum figure and that there could be a maximum work force of 500 during construction. I doubt very much whether at any time the work force has reached the maximum of 500. I hope the Minister for Labour and Industry can prove me wrong so that I may be able to say to him, "I apologise; I was wrong." I will certainly apologise to the Minister if he can show me that this great extension of the work force has actually taken place.

The next project which was going to set us along the road to economic recovery was the expansion of operations at Hamersley Iron, which was to involve the expenditure of some \$375 million. Hamersley Iron was to mine additional areas and dispose of its extra production by sales to Japan and possibly the European Economic Community and other countries able to take our iron ore. We are all aware that this development now is in the balance and that it rests upon the negotiations currently taking place between the company and the Japanese. I hope the negotiations are successful; I do not want to see workers at Hamersley Iron stood down or dismissed because this extension does not take place. However, it is distinctly possible that it will not occur. If Hamersley Iron is unable to obtain a market for its products, it will not be able to proceed and, in fact, will reduce its exports of iron ore with a consequent lessening of job opportunities in the area.

However, this was one of the projects this Government was putting forward prior to an election as being one of the reasons it should be returned to Government. The Government claimed it had the solution to the unemployment problem; only a short four months ago it made

this claim. I simply say the Government did not have the solution then and it certainly does not have it now. It is an inept Government, quite unable to show any degree of responsibility in regard to unemployment.

I hope somebody can help me on this next project, because I am not aware of what it entails. I refer to the expansion of the mining operations of Cliffs (WA). To the best of my knowledge, that project has not commenced, either. In fact, from my reading of the situation, it has less chance of getting off the ground than the Hamersley Iron project. I might be wrong; I hope the Minister can tell me I am wrong, if he gets the opportunity.

In essence, what did this project amount to? It meant there would be a construction work force of some 500, with an operational work force of 290.

I am not too sure of the precise figures relating to the increase in unemployment in Western Australia over the last month or how many people currently are unemployed in this State, but from memory I believe it is about 35 000 people. It could be said that some of those people are not able to fill jobs by virtue of their training in fields which are not open to them now because of reduced job opportunities. However, I find myself wondering why, all of a sudden, we are unable to secure tradesmen to fill certain vacancies and that now there is a suggestion we should increase our immigration intake to fill vacancies requiring skilled tradesmen.

It is the responsibility of government and employers alike to fulfil the aspirations of our youth by providing employment opportunities, and I believe the Government should take the initiative in this area by encouraging the employment of apprentices. If such a scheme had been embarked upon when we put it forward, we would not have a shortage of tradesmen today. I remember coming into this House four years ago at a time of falling employment and asking the Government to implement an apprenticeship scheme whereby the youth of our State could receive skilled training in the various trades.

Of course, the answer was, "We are getting on with it. It is all working to plan and going sweetly, so do not worry." Had it been going to plan then we would have our tradesmen now. However, there was no programme from the Government.

Mr Grayden: That is not true.

Mr SKIDMORE: Members opposite look at the question of apprenticeships merely as a means of satisfying their own ego. If they are able to increase the number of apprentices in one year from 3 000 to, say, 4 000 they think they are

doing a good job. However, they do not think about where these apprentices are being placed. They do not care whether or not we want electricians; they simply say, "Let us train electricians in bulk."

What is wrong with having a scheme whereby a pool of apprentices is established so that employers who foresee a shortage of skilled labour in particular trades can call on these lads to learn their trade? Such a scheme has been proposed for many months. In this way, we would provide a training ground which would produce skilled tradesmen where they were most needed. However, the Government has not acted on these suggestions, because the Minister for Labour and Industry now informs us there is a shortage of skilled tradesmen.

I do not know whether or not the Minister can answer any of the points I have raised. I see great problems ahead of the Government when it tries to justify its actions and its rejection of our amendment which is before the House. I think the Minister will be unable to justify some of the statements he made when he spoke in this House on this issue and read from a statement, a copy of which he made available to me. Some of his remarks do not hold up. The Minister said—

A Department of Labour and Industry review has revealed that the growth in employment in Western Australia in the past three years was by far the best growth record of any State or Australian Territory.

I wonder whether the Minister in all honesty can say that that statement is fair and factual. That statement is the first paragraph of the document the Minister gave me last year. Instead of repeating the statement I suggest the Minister should listen when something is being said. The statement continues—

The Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Grayden, said today the review showed that W.A.'s record would have been even better had it not been for an increasing population and labour force which had created a temporary gap between those seeking work and the number of jobs available.

If members were to analyse that they would have to agree they had not seen so much gobbledygook in all their lives. I will not try to analyse it as it is a statement of stupidity; a statement of nothing. It has no relevance to a concise and considered opinion by a responsible Minister. I am not sure what the Minister meant. The words look good on paper. He had to get something on paper because he had been slammed by the Opposition in regard to the unemployment problem.

The Minister had to justify the Government's position so he came up with those words, or had someone write them for him. To continue with the statement—

Mr Grayden said other statistics showed that total employment in Western Australia had increased at a far healthier rate than all other States—5.61 per cent between May 1974 and May this year.

That is great. There has been an increase but one would expect it. There was an increase of 5.61 per cent in job opportunities, but in fact we are going backwards; the figure for the number of employed is higher because we have an ever-increasing number of positions available. I do not know where we are going. I quote again—

South Australia had shown an increase of 1.87 per cent. Queensland had been virtually stable, while New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory all recorded significant falls in total employment.

I do not know the relevance of that statement. I find there is no reference there that could equate this situation with ours. It is padding by the Minister to try to show the Government is being responsible.

Mr Pearce: All padding and no document.

Mr SKIDMORE: I am concerned that the Minister's performance has been a dismal one in the four months since he made this statement, especially with the problem of finding increased work. To quote further—

During the term of the present State Government however the percentage of the labour force unemployed in W.A. had consistently been below the national average.

I want to go back to that rather inhuman statement that as long as one has a statistical analysis which is better than any other State one does not have a problem in this State. Is that what the Minister for Labour and Industry is saying in the statement when he says that the unemployment position in Western Australia is better than all the other States? Is the Minister not aware that no matter how many people are statistically unemployed, they still suffer pangs of hunger and the fear of losing their possessions and being put out of their homes?

I suggest the Minister might spend some time with me in Midland. He could go around the electorate with me and speak to people who have been trying to get work for 12 months or more.

Mr Grayden: The Labor Party is not doing much to assist.

Mr Davies: We will co-operate.

Mr SKIDMORE: We will co-operate but not with the deception being practised by the Government on the people of Western Australia. If the Government wants to put forward a policy of deception, we will not be a part of that. If the Government wants to come up with decent legislation giving the unemployed the opportunity to be properly employed, we will support it.

I draw attention to my opening remarks and state that we are prepared to co-operate and that we are concerned with this problem. I would like to see an expansion take place at Hamersley Iron. I would like to see all the projects for 1978 get off the ground, but whilst the Minister for Labour and Industry comes up with the proposition like he did of deceiving the people of Western Australia, I am afraid the Opposition will not co-operate.

I suggest the Minister comes to my electorate and has a look around and meets some of the people that I meet at the CES office in Midland who are trying to get work—people such as bricklayers, plumbers, labourers, and teachers. There are plenty of teachers out of work, but they are a different kettle of fish, and if I have time I will speak on this matter.

All the tradesmen in my area looking for work apparently are unavailable. If the Minister wants to make a statistical analysis of the CES figures he will find they are there. We do not want more people coming to this country. If we could bring them in and have jobs available for them it would be all right. If the Minister can prove that there are jobs available for these people, we will support him and I am sure the trade unions would say, "We want the migrants."

Mr Grill: When were the Filipinos asked to come?

Mr SKIDMORE: Not so long ago.

Mr Grayden: Hard-rock miners were not available.

Mr Davies: I bet the Filipinos were experts.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister can rest assured we are not going to support anything along those lines.

In the time available to me I would like to touch briefly on the problem of unemployed teachers as it is a matter of concern to many people. I know the rationale of training teachers has been one of concern to the Government, and rightly so. The question of their control has been one that has given the Minister much concern and I know that the present Minister for Education is concerned.

The cold truth of the issue is that there are

unemployed teachers. They were trained to do a job and I believe that if an edict that came around had not been issued, we would have achieved two things. We would have been able to employ more teachers and would certainly have been able to alleviate the stress on parents whose children were attending either first or second-year schooling.

As I understand it—and my information comes from an officer in the Education Department—a suggestion was made that if the superintendent came along and said to the principal, "You have to deploy your teachers in that form. Because your figures are four or five down you will lose a teacher", that is what happened. The class numbers go up and the educational value to the children is lessened. In other words, less time is given to the teachers. The teachers themselves are disturbed about this. The parents and citizens in my electorate are concerned too. When I phoned the department I was told, "There seems to be some mistake. I will look into it and get back to you." Twenty minutes later I was told that there was no hassle and that everything had been put right. Things were going to be like they were at the end of the previous year.

Dr Dadour: Where does the money come from for this?

Mr SKIDMORE: In the short time left to me I do not wish to be sidetracked. During the Address-in-Reply debate I will take note of the member's query and deal with it then.

Several members interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: I thank all the members for assisting me. I will leave the matter of the economics of employing people to the Government, which should know better. In answer to the member for Subiaco, I believe it is the Government's responsibility to find the money. That is what the Government has been telling us for the last four years. A few years ago the Premier said it was a State responsibility. If the member for Subiaco likes, he could read the documents I quoted from tonight. They will indicate where the money will come from and that it is a Government responsibility.

Whether we like it or not the present unemployment position is viewed with a great degree of suspicion by the people in this State. I hope the Minister will undertake to visit me in my office and if he does so I will get some of the unemployed tradesmen to speak to him. I am sure I can arrange a meeting at the Midland Town Hall so that he can tell them about the jobs the Government is to create. The Minister can tell them how the Government wants to bring in migrants because we are short of so many

tradesmen in this State. I hope the Minister has an answer for them, but I am sure he will have difficulty in convincing them.

To sum up, the Minister for Labour and Industry in August of last year promised us performance by the Government which has not been produced.

Mr Grayden: You have had a performance far excelling that of any other State.

Mr SKIDMORE: Unemployment in this State has increased and job opportunities have gone down the drain.

Mr Grayden: Many jobs have been created in the last three years.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister may say that but I believe the points I have made clearly illustrate my stand. The Minister shows a callous disregard for people when he says a statistical analysis shows that there has been a 6.5 per cent or 6.2 per cent, or whatever, increase in job opportunities in this State.

The slogan for the State is, "The State of Excitement". Members will excuse me if I say that if I were to be the first member to pick up such a licence plate, I would feel obliged to cover up the words "The State of Excitement". Any excitement in this State is coming from the workers who are unemployed; not from the Government.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [7.30 p.m.]: The amendment moved by the Opposition is, by its nature, a censure motion, but, in essence, it is nothing but a pathetic apology for a censure motion. We have heard the allegations in respect of Watergate and, on a Commonwealth level, in respect of "computer-gate", but the Labor Party in this State, as far as unemployment is concerned, over the years has adopted a shut-the-gate attitude in respect of any attempts by this Government or industry to create job opportunities in Western Australia.

The current situation in the world is well known to the Opposition. There has been a general downturn in the economy, as there has been in all the States of Australia. Possibly Western Australia has been the hardest hit because it has suffered grievously over two years from a drought with all its ramifications. We know that farmers in drought-stricken areas cannot buy cars or refrigerators; they cannot spend or invest in any way.

The Opposition knows the situation generally in the agricultural industry with the downturn in

prices for grain and the chaotic condition of the beef industry.

In addition we have had a downturn in the mining industry, with the exception of gold and bauxite. Everyone knows the parlous plight of the iron ore industry and the situation in respect of the nickel industry and other minerals. Therefore when the Opposition comes along at this stage and states that the Government should be achieving miracles, when Governments across Australia and around the world have been far less successful than this Government, it is adopting the worst form of hypocrisy.

In the light of what is happening in Australia and throughout the world, the Western Australian achievement is extraordinary by any standards, and the Opposition is well aware of it.

Between 1974 and 1977, when the number of jobs available in other States was declining, what was happening in this State, not by accident, but purely as a result of the Government's forward-looking policies? In this State in those three years 25 000 additional jobs were created when the number of jobs in the other States was declining. Yet the Opposition comes along with a wishy-washy amendment of this kind. We know that several amendments will be moved because invariably that is the situation. However, the Opposition regards the subject of this amendment as of most consequence, and the fact that the amendment cannot be justified, indicates that the Opposition does not have much about which to criticise the Government.

Western Australia has the second lowest incidence of unemployment of all the States, our figure being 6.63 per cent, with the national figure—the average of the States—at 7.21 per cent. We are far below the national average. As a matter of fact we would have been the lowest State but, by decimal points, we lost that position to Victoria on this occasion. However, over the last two years we have been either the lowest or the second lowest.

Let us contrast that situation with the extraordinary position which applied when the Tonkin Government was in office about four years ago. In the dying months of the Tonkin Labor Government we had an appalling unemployment record. For example, in January, 1974, just before the Court Government took office, Western Australia had the fourth highest unemployment level in Australia, and it was above the national figure. It took the Court Government two years to rectify that situation and by January, 1976, the Court Government had the lowest unemployment figure of all the States,

and it has had either the lowest or second lowest ever since. What a contrast to what applied when the Tonkin Labor Government was in office and the unemployment here was above the national figure.

The present position was achieved notwithstanding the fact that we suffer great disadvantages. In the first place our unemployment figures are swollen by a huge influx of people from the Eastern States and New Zealand. The people in those two places regard Western Australia as the promised land and they follow the exaltation, "Go West young man". They are coming in their thousands and as a consequence our unemployment figures are swollen. The Commonwealth Employment Service has 10 per cent of its registrations listed as coming from the Eastern States or New Zealand. They have exhausted the opportunities in their own State or New Zealand and have worn out their welcome. They have possibly exhausted the unemployment benefits there and the service over there is no longer prepared to pay them. They have come here and members can imagine their work attitudes.

As I have said, for the last two years we have had the lowest or second lowest unemployment figures of all the States. What would Western Australia's figure be had we not had the influx of 10 per cent from the other States?

Another big factor must be taken into consideration; that is, our huge Aboriginal population. Victoria and New South Wales have only a handful of Aborigines. While Tasmania had no Aborigines some years ago, it now has a handful who have come from other States. But Western Australia has a huge number. Some years ago it was 28 000. Whether, they regard themselves still as Aborigines and are listed as such, I do not know, but the number is certainly large. Because of their residence in places like Fitzroy Crossing, the Warburton Mission, Laverton, mining towns throughout the Murchison and Pilbara, and towns throughout the Kimberley and other far-flung areas of Western Australia, the Aborigines are not in a position to obtain employment. There is none available and so the Aborigines of Western Australia swell our unemployment figures.

While on the one hand for two years we have had the lowest or second lowest unemployment figures of all the States, on the other hand we have this great influx of people from the Eastern States, and the large number of Aborigines swelling our unemployment figures. Despite these circumstances, the Labor Opposition in this House chooses to attempt to amend the motion

for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply purportedly to censure the Government. The amendment in essence is nothing but a lame apology for a censure motion. It is a wishy-washy cover up on the part of the Labor Party members in this House in an attempt to hide their guilt in respect of the actions they have taken in the past to hinder this Government in its attempt to attract capital in order to get new industries off the ground. It is a whitewash and a cover up to hide the guilt which every member of the Opposition must feel on this question of unemployment and the creation of job opportunities. Members opposite are guilty in the extreme and they have sought this method to hide their guilt.

Mr Blaikie: You have stunned them into silence.

Mr GRAYDEN: They have every reason to be silent, because they know the facts I am submitting cannot be disputed.

We have three Labor States in Australia now—South Australia, New South Wales, and Tasmania—but they are not the States with the lowest unemployment figures in Australia notwithstanding the fact that they do not have a huge Aboriginal population or a great influx of people from other States. Therefore it ill-becomes the Opposition to attempt to censure this Government on the question of unemployment and, as it has done so, it indicates it is completely bereft of any real occasion to criticise the administration of the Court Government.

I emphasise that the Government has created 25 000 additional jobs in the last three years under the most difficult conditions. Firstly, there was the Whitlam Government which frightened capital away from the State, and then there was the drought and the downturn in the world economy. The creation of the jobs was not done by accident, but because throughout Australia this State is recognised as the State with the go-ahead policies under the Premier and Leader of the National Country Party.

It is known that this Government will take advantage of any opportunity and it is for that reason, and that reason only, that 25 000 additional jobs were created in the last three years when the number of jobs in most of the other States decreased.

Sometimes I have occasion to go to the Eastern States to attend conferences of Ministers for Labour and Industry, Ministers for Immigration, and Ministers for Consumer Affairs. At each and every one of those conferences I have found that Western Australia has been the envy of all the

other States because every other State in Australia realises the tremendous development that this State has in mind. That development is being undertaken to create job opportunities under the most adverse circumstances.

What are the job opportunities? Firstly, we know the situation in respect of the North-West Shelf—a \$3 000 million project. We know the position in respect of alumina—\$1 000 million or thereabouts. We know the position in respect of the expansion of the iron ore industry, notwithstanding that the industry is suffering a downturn. We know what the situation is in respect of many other developments. In all, of course, it totals up to \$10 000 million over the next decade—\$10 000 million!

It is for this reason that when one travels to the Eastern States and meets the various Ministers and members of Parliament in those States, without exception they envy Western Australia. The people in those States are told by the members of Parliament in New South Wales, the members of Parliament in Victoria, and the members of Parliament in Tasmania to go to Western Australia because this is the State where the opportunities lie. It is a simple thing, of course, if one goes into a member's office, and one has no ties, to be told that as work is not available in the Eastern States what about thinking in terms of going to Western Australia. All the members of Parliament in the other States are aware of the tremendous development programmes which this State has in mind.

The Government's record—quite apart from attracting capital and quite apart from promoting industry in this State—is absolutely remarkable. We could talk in terms of apprentices because this question has been raised. We could point out the dismal record of the Tonkin Government in respect of apprentices and pre-apprentices. For instance, four years ago the Tonkin Government had 150 pre-apprentices. Today, we have 520.

We know what the situation was in respect of apprentices during the term of the Tonkin Government and we could contrast that with the situation that applies at the present time. In Western Australia we have a record number of apprentices—over 13 000 for the first time in the history of the State. That number has been achieved during a time when we have had an economic downturn virtually right across the board. We have over 13 000 apprentices plus 520 pre-apprentices, a far better record *per capita* than any other State.

We know the situation as far as Government departments are concerned, notwithstanding the

idle criticism of Government departments we have heard tonight. This Government employs 12 per cent of all apprentices in Government departments—far more than do the other States. Might I say that in respect of apprentices this has not come about by accident. In order to ensure that industry took on the maximum number of apprentices we called meetings of managers of industry. For instance, we had every manager in the Kwinana area attend a meeting because we regarded that as a particular region. We pointed out the necessity to take on apprentices' and industry responded.

We called all local government officers together and we had a similar meeting. Local government responded wonderfully. The Perth City Council alone, after the meeting, said it would take on six apprentices. We carried out the same procedure with other sections of industry and it is for that reason our figure at this particular time is over 13 000. Again, that has not come about by accident; it has come about as a result of initiative by the Government.

I might just mention that this financial year we will be taking on 4 000 apprentices in Western Australia. As I have said, we also have 523 pre-apprentices. As far as Government departments are concerned, we called together the heads of all departments and we asked them to examine the apprenticeship position and urged them to take on additional apprentices. They also responded. I mention this just to refute some of the statements made that the Government has been lax in its attempts to attract apprentices. The situation, of course, is that our record in respect of apprentices is the best in Australia.

Linked with apprentices we have the question of adult trade training. Again, Western Australia leads every other State in this field. I will list some of the things we have done. We have created additional apprenticeships. One is in horticulture. This was done recently on our initiative. We have another apprenticeship in tile laying, and another in wall and ceiling fixing.

In respect of adult trade training, the Opposition should know that we initiated a farm training scheme at Moora which has worked successfully. We are now in the process of duplicating it. That had never been done previously. We have a training course in gyprock fixing; again, not done previously. So it goes on. We have another one in respect of plaster products. Those are some of the things we have done in respect of adult trade training. This has been done in the face of bitter opposition from some unions, and in some cases from Labor members of Parliament.

When Western Australia achieved a breakthrough in the metal trades in Kalgoorlie some time ago in mechanical fitting, it was the first time in Australia that we had managed to have an adult trade training scheme in the metal industry ambit—the first time! That was achieved partly because of the closure of a goldmine, but let us hope it will be an example for other similar schemes in this State and an example to the other States. These things are not done lightly. There was bitter opposition from the trade union movement until the last moment.

In respect of adult trade training schemes we had this sort of opposition all along the line from the trade union movement, and the Labor Party because it took the side of the unions in respect of this matter. I am just glossing over adult trade training. In respect of apprentices, and as far as adult trade training is concerned, Western Australia leads every other State.

What else has this Government done in respect of creating job opportunities? I think members of the Opposition would be aware of the Government's recent move to make 250 jobs available within Government departments. Members opposite might also be aware that we had great difficulty in filling the first 250 job vacancies. In order to fill the last 30 positions we had to look for people over 21 years and under 24 years, notwithstanding the unemployment among young people which is alleged to exist in this State.

When the Government advertises six months of work in Government departments at which young people can be trained and where they will obtain job experience which will stand them in good stead through their lives, we find that notwithstanding the fact that there are our 15 000 young people under the age of 21 years in this State registered as unemployed, we could not fill the 250 positions. Notwithstanding that experience, the Government has made available another 250 positions for young people who want jobs, and who want job experience. Of course, they could not be in better hands than in Government departments.

The applications which have been called for these 250 jobs at the present time is just one other aspect of what the Government has done to create job opportunities. We know what the Government has done, of course, by way of assistance to country shires in drought areas. We know the Government has allocated \$4 million for minor works right outside the capital works programme so that small contractors throughout the country can be provided with work. That is just one other scheme which is working successfully.

We know also what the Government is doing in respect of the building construction industry. It is endeavouring to push forward every project which will generate employment. We have the law courts project costing in the vicinity of \$20 million. During the last few days the State Government Insurance Office has announced that it will construct a \$1 million building at Karratha in the Pilbara. I hope that will greatly help Geraldton because a tremendous amount of building material and fabrication material is supplied from that source. The Government is looking around at every department and is hastily pushing forward its projects in order to assist the building construction industry.

When we consider what the Government is doing in respect of apprenticeships, adult trade training, and of creating jobs in Government departments; when we look at what the Government is doing in respect of its tremendous development programme and its intention to promote development costing \$10 000 million over the next decade; and when we look at what the Government is doing in the building construction industry, we can see the shallowness of the attempts by the Opposition to belittle what the Government has done.

But, of course, this Government has a record which is unsurpassed by any State in the Commonwealth, and what it has done has been done in the face of bitter opposition from the Labor Party. We know what the Opposition did in respect of the wood chip industry; we got no assistance at all from the Labor Party in respect of the establishment of that industry in Western Australia. The Labor Party was not interested in creating job opportunities for young Australians. So we had opposition all along the line.

I can recall the statements made by the member for Warren over and over again. What an about-face members opposite ultimately performed. Today, notwithstanding that opposition from the Labor Party, we have a wood chip industry.

We know what is the current situation in respect of uranium and uranium mining. The mining of uranium would, of course, create a huge number of job opportunities for Western Australians. Is the Government getting support from the Opposition in this respect? Of course it is not. It is getting nothing but opposition from the Labor Party and the union movement.

Let us look at the bauxite industry. This is a \$1 000 million industry in the south-west alone, with the possibility of tremendous development on the Mitchell Plateau. What is the Labor Party

doing in respect of this industry? What are the trade unions doing in respect of it? Are they assisting the Government to get these projects off the ground—projects which will create employment? Of course they are not. They are doing their utmost to throw a spanner in the works, and any person at all who comes along with a plan to prevent bauxite mining or uranium mining will find a sympathetic ear with most members of the Opposition—a most sympathetic ear indeed.

So we see the extent of the hypocrisy of the Opposition when on the one hand its members talk of the record of the Government in respect of creating employment and overcoming the unemployment problem while on the other hand they go out of their way wherever possible to stymie everything the Government does to create job opportunities and to develop a climate in which we have overseas investment to develop this tremendous State of ours. But the Labor Opposition goes far beyond opposition to such industries as wood chipping, and bauxite and uranium mining. We know its attitude in respect of immigration. What an illogical attitude it is.

The members of the Labor Party know, or should know, that there are certain occupations in which skilled tradesmen are in short supply, and when skilled tradesmen are in short supply a project simply cannot proceed. Notwithstanding such shortages and notwithstanding situations in which industries simply have to grind to a standstill for the lack of skilled tradesmen, members of the Labor Party say, "No immigration as far as skilled tradesmen are concerned. Bring in relatives and aged parents of people already here; bring them in to the extent of 80 000 a year, but not skilled tradesmen." They close their ears to the facts, and the facts of course are these: Every skilled tradesman creates jobs for four or five other people. If we have a shortage of skilled tradesmen in any category the one way to overcome our unemployment situation is to bring in skilled tradesmen. Naturally we attempt to get them from the Eastern States, but they are seldom obtainable from that source.

We had a classic case some time ago in respect of hard rock miners at Kalgoorlie. The developmental work and ore breaking simply could not proceed because of a shortage of hard rock miners. It is not possible to create instant hard rock miners; nor is it possible to create instant tradesmen of any kind. The training of these tradesmen is a long, slow process.

At the present time the Government is working towards some flexibility in respect of the Commonwealth immigration programme. Where



we see a shortage of skilled tradesmen, we want to be able to obtain them from whatever source is available to us. But what is the attitude of the Opposition in respect of such immigration? Again it is opposed to any attempt on the part of this Government to create job opportunities by bringing in skilled tradesmen who, in turn, will generate job opportunities.

What is the attitude of the Opposition in respect of industrial unrest? Its attitude is well known to all of us. Does the Opposition go out of its way to try to reduce industrial unrest which would lead to increased productivity and enable Western Australians to compete much more easily on world markets and make cheaper consumer goods available in this State? Does the Opposition go out of its way to attempt to reduce industrial unrest? Of course not. The Opposition goes out of its way to foment industrial unrest whenever it gets the opportunity.

What is the attitude of the Opposition in respect of wages? We all know that if we are to reduce inflation and overcome the unemployment problem we must stabilise the wage situation. Yet we have the Opposition lending its weight wherever possible to unreal demands by militant unions throughout the State.

So on the one hand the Opposition is berating this Government for its alleged failure to do everything possible to obviate unemployment, and on the other hand it is adopting this attitude of putting a spanner in the works whenever it gets the opportunity. In this respect I have referred to the wood chip industry, uranium and bauxite mining, immigration, industrial unrest, and the stabilisation of wages. On every count the Opposition has been culpable, and it is for that reason I say that those who sit on the other side of the House are guilty men in respect of this particular issue.

Therefore, although naturally this amendment is a censure motion by its very nature because it involves an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, I repeat that in essence it is a lame, pathetic apology for a censure motion, and it emphasises the fact that the Opposition is scraping the bottom of the barrel and is absolutely bereft of ways in which legitimately to criticise the Government.

This censure motion is a tremendous compliment to the Government. As far as I am concerned, the Government is being paid a compliment the like of which I have seldom witnessed. If the Opposition is attempting to criticise the Government in respect of its record of creating jobs and its record in the matter of

unemployment, then that indicates it has no justification for criticising the Government in respect of any issue at all. If the Opposition is giving this matter priority and it has no basis for its criticism in this respect, then quite obviously there is no other matter in respect of which it can criticise the Government.

I would be remiss if I concluded without touching on another aspect of what the Government is doing in respect of creating job opportunities. This matter has been mentioned during the debate. The Government has within the last few days created a youth employment and training unit within the Department of Labour and Industry. We are looking for a top man to head this unit and for that reason the salary being offered is relatively high. We are looking for a top-level panel of people to assist the director of this unit, and I have in mind certain people—simply because they have indicated they would like to assist. The Under-Treasurer (Mr McCarrey) has offered to assist, and I cannot think of anyone more ideally suited to the task. This indicates the priority the Government attaches to this unit. The Under-Treasurer himself has said he would welcome the opportunity to serve on such a unit. The Director-General of Education (Dr Mossenson), and the Under-Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry also will be included, and I think we will be looking for some top people from industry.

This is a unit from which we want decisions, and we want it to have the opportunity to do something positive in respect of youth unemployment and retraining. Over 15 000 of our unemployed persons are below the age of 21 years. The Department of Labour and Industry is so completely involved with pre-apprentices, apprentices, apprenticeships, adult training, and the various Statutes it must administer, that it is simply not in a position to concentrate full time on employment opportunities for youth and the re-training of youth; and this unit is being created to do that.

Let me point out that we have many awards in Western Australia which do not make provision for junior workers. The one affecting local government employees is one in question because it contains no provision for the payment of juniors. This is the sort of matter which the new unit will be considering; however, apart from approaching employers and creating job opportunities, it will be thinking basically in terms of training and re-training.

Industry after industry has approached me in respect of this issue and said, "Why should a carpenter spend four years in an apprenticeship if

when he concludes his apprenticeship he will work in a factory doing jobs for which only 12 months' or even less training is required?" We have a great pool of unemployed youth in Western Australia, and this is likely to be a problem which will remain with us for a very long time.

The special unit within the department will be concentrating on this section of our unemployed people. It will be dreaming up new initiatives in respect of training and re-training, and these initiatives will be discussed with the trade union movement. I hope we will see developments such as we have never seen before.

We all know what the Department of Labour and Industry did last year in respect of creating job opportunities. It wrote 18 000 letters to employers throughout Western Australia and by that means was able actually to obtain 1 800 jobs.

The youth employment and training unit will be doing those sorts of things; but above all it will be making recommendations for the training and re-training of our youth. I would hope that as a consequence of this amendment members of the Labor Party in this House will depart from their obstructionist policies of the past whereby they have attempted at every opportunity to prevent the Government from creating new job opportunities. I would hope the Opposition will depart from that policy and put its weight behind the Government in its efforts to create job opportunities in Western Australia.

The fact that the Opposition has moved this censure motion in these terms commits it henceforth to this new policy. Recently there has been a change in the leadership of the Opposition. If this is to be the new policy, obviously the change of leadership as far as we are concerned is welcome in the extreme. Whether things will work out that way remains to be seen, but the fact that the Opposition has moved this motion surely commits it to supporting Government attempts to create job opportunities. It commits the Opposition to supporting the Government in its most successful efforts to create apprenticeship opportunities in Western Australia, in its most successful efforts to create pre-apprenticeship opportunities, and in its most successful efforts to create new adult trade training courses.

Let us hope that this is what the Opposition is going to do henceforth. Can we take it for granted that henceforth we will not have opposition from the Labor Party in respect of uranium? Can we take it that we will not have opposition in respect of bauxite?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr GRAYDEN: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I shall conclude by saying that this censure motion is a compliment indeed to the Government of Western Australia.

MR TONKIN (Morley) [8.17 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, of course, we of the Opposition are not going to try to prevent the Government from creating job opportunities, but it is our job to look at the whole situation and the Minister for Labour and Industry has mentioned some aspects which require us to look at other factors. It is not just a question of jobs at any price; it is not just a question of development at any price. The Minister mentioned things such as uranium, and so on. These matters are obviously far too complex to be brushed off by saying, "Don't you want jobs?"

The Government has stated that it believes in federalism and in the control of the States by the State Governments rather than control from Canberra. We challenge the Government to make federalism work by making this State a trendsetter. We know that the Minister for Labour and Industry has said that this State is a trendsetter in this respect, but there are one or two flies in the ointment and we know why Benjamin Franklin said that there are lies, damned lies, and statistics because the figures the Minister quoted are far too complex to be interpreted as simply as he has done.

The Premier has said that he believes the State can cure such things as unemployment and inflation and that he can cure them in six months. We suggest that this should be done. There are ways in which a State Government, irrespective of the Australian situation, can use its initiative to an extent that it has not done so far. We are not detracting from the fact that the unemployment record in this State is better than in some other States. We are not trying to detract from the Government all the credit which is its due, although it is not right to say that the 25 000 additional jobs—I think that was the figure—which have been created in three years are the result of the Government's work. We know that many of the decisions affecting employment are not taken by Governments but by corporations and at all levels of society. So it is certainly not right to say that the Government has been responsible for all those jobs, but we do not wish to detract from what the Government has done although we believe it can do much more.

There are many civil works which are socially desirable. We are not talking here about just sending people to work for the sake of a job. It is a question of sending people to work at a job which is socially desirable. There are many works

which are socially desirable. We obviously need swimming pools, libraries, cultural centres, sports grounds, and cycleways, and this work can be done in close liaison with local government.

We believe our youth should be trained and employed. Such a programme should be put under the control of an energetic and innovative Minister so that there is a deliberate development to train our people, especially our young people, to employ them in socially useful occupations, and thereby not only to reduce the drain on the country of such things as unemployment benefits but also to lessen the tremendous psychological trauma associated with young people who when they first try to get a job are told by society in effect that they are not wanted. Such a plan as the one mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition would work best in consultation with employers, with employer organisations, with employees, and with employee organisations.

There is a serious social factor at work here which is threatening our social fabric, and that is the large numbers of unemployed youth who are likely to become alienated from a society which appears to have rejected them. This is something we cannot quantify and which we often ignore. Yet it is just as important as the other quantifiable factors which we continually cite.

A scheme should be instituted to ensure that every young person gets a job, a training opportunity, or a work preparation course on employers' premises, and such a scheme would need to avoid the pitfalls of present schemes which cause people to be sacked and then replaced by other employees for whom a subsidy is paid so that the net result is nothing as far as employment is concerned but everything as far as the employer's pocket is concerned.

The reason we have moved this censure motion is not to say that the Government has done nothing but rather to suggest that this aspect of our social life needs greater attention. We as an Opposition would be remiss if we said we were not going to move a motion related to unemployment. It would be taken as a belief that we think things are satisfactory, and they are not. They were not satisfactory when we were in Government either when there was a high degree of unemployment that we found unacceptable and that we tried to do something about to the limits of our capacity. It may be that that was not great enough, but it is the Opposition's job to emphasise those aspects in the community which are not getting enough attention.

The reason the Opposition believes that 7.2 per cent of the work force in Australia being

unemployed is such a problem is that the figures given are much lower than they are in actual fact. There are at least 100 000 extra people who would be classed as unemployed if jobs were available. That would take us up to nearly 10 per cent of the population. Who are these people who are not counted at the moment and who are unemployed? They are people who are intimidated into not registering, such as school leavers who go along to the Commonwealth Employment Service and are turned away; and unless they have very close support from their parents they do not know their rights. Many people are not registering for many weeks during which they are out of work. Many school leavers who are still unemployed were unemployed in 1976 and have not yet had their first job.

It is all very well to say that they may be unemployable or do not want to work—that is another matter—but those people who glibly cite these cases must remember that there are 18 people looking for every job available. So it is nonsense to say, as the Premier said in front page coverage in the *Daily News*, that if they cut their hair and cleaned their teeth they would all get a job. That is absolute nonsense. Of the 18 people looking for a particular job if one brushed his hair and cleaned his teeth he would get the job, but what would happen to the other 17? Unless the brushing of teeth caused a tremendous expansion in the toothpaste industry extra jobs would not be created. If 18 spruced-up people apply for one job there will still be only one job and when it is filled 17 people will be turned away. This is a figure which is completely ignored. We do not wish to make political points out of this situation. The fact is that far more people are looking for a job than there are jobs available, and this is well shown by statistics.

Other people are mobile and looking for jobs and therefore are not counted. I heard of a case recently of a person who went down south to get a job at a mill and because he did not turn up to the Commonwealth Employment Service on Tuesday and hand in his form he was scrubbed off as being no longer unemployed. If he had stayed in Perth and therefore cut down his chances of getting a job because he was skilled in mill work, he would have continued to get his unemployment benefit and he would have been counted as being unemployed. These kinds of anomalies occur and cause the figures to be false.

Married women are another group in this category. During the last two years the number of people in the category of keeping house or voluntarily inactive has increased by a quarter-of-a-million; in the past two years a quarter-of-a-

million Australians have suddenly wanted to keep house. It is important that we set this against something and what was missing from the Minister for Labour and Industry's speech when he quoted figures was that he did not set them against anything. If we look at the previous three years we will see that there was practically no change in the number of people who were in the category of keeping house or voluntarily inactive. Yet in the last two years we have seen an increase of a quarter-of-a-million. Quite clearly a considerable proportion of that quarter-of-a-million are people who would have a job if there was a job for them, but they do not show up on our unemployment figures.

We suggest that the unemployment figures are really very high and could go up to 9 per cent or 10 per cent of the work force. Given that that is so, we would be remiss if we did not draw the attention of the Parliament and the people to the matter. Small businessmen are being squeezed. I was speaking to a group only this week and the 1976 devaluation is still squeezing them because of the increase in the price of imported components. Of course, they had to shed labour to survive in this sort of situation.

We notice in particular a tremendous increase in unemployment in the private sector in contrast to the public sector. Although various Governments have been putting a fairly tight rein on their employment, nevertheless great unemployment has occurred in the private sector. We know that the number of small businessmen going to the wall has increased tremendously during the last two years. They are in a very difficult period. Some of them are still managing to survive by putting people out of work.

I turn to the tax cuts by the Fraser Government which have been publicised recently. A study by the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research shows that 43 per cent of these benefits go to the top 10 per cent of income earners, so there is a very disparate sharing of these taxation benefits. Nearly half of the taxation benefit is going to the top 10 per cent of income earners. A further survey showed that those people in the 10 per cent are far less likely to spend their money on consumer goods than are people at the lower end.

At a meeting this afternoon I heard some figures which made it quite clear that if one was down on the lower economic scale there was quite a shortfall in what one spent and what one earned. The amount spent was greater, probably because such people were in debt in various ways. As one went up the economic scale one reached the situation where people earning \$150 or \$160

had 38c to spare. When one went up to the \$200 mark the amount of income above expenditure increased.

So it is clear that the person on the higher income level will save some of his tax cuts while the person on the lower income level out of necessity would spend more. These tax cuts have not been aimed in the right direction because 43 per cent of them have gone to the top 10 per cent of income earners. The Minister for Labour and Industry himself alluded to one of the great problems involved in the tremendous pressure being borne by people under 21 years of age. We have the situation in Western Australia where over 42 per cent of all unemployment is borne by teenagers.

If I had research assistants like the Minister for Labour and Industry has I would be able to add the other figure that is vital and tell members the percentage of the population, which would reveal the disparity of the 42 per cent and the other figure. I know that the people of employable age under 21 would not be 42 per cent, but 42 per cent of the unemployed are under 21.

Further studies have shown that there are close links between unemployment and high crime rates, suicides, mental illness, heart disease, drug usage, and domestic violence. The New South Wales Drug and Alcohol Advisory Service showed in a study that there was a higher usage of drugs in areas of high youth unemployment. A study was undertaken at the Macquarie University which showed strong links between the incidence of heart disease amongst Australians and the level of unemployment. So we know one of the factors in heart disease is stress and it is distressing for people in our society to be unemployed, especially with the level of unemployment benefits payable. I think it was the Minister who spoke about the high level of unemployment benefits payable in Australia. In fact, we pay the lowest of any OECD country.

The Victorian Mental Health Association study showed that suicide was 12 times higher than the average amongst the unemployed, although this is not to suggest unemployment is the direct cause. We need to look at the matter closely before we say all those people committed suicide because they were unemployed, but such a stressful situation would not have helped.

People who are unemployed perhaps are not successful and because of this they might tend to suicide. Therefore I am not saying there is a direct one-to-one cause but I would suggest that the strain of being unemployed does not help. The

Victorian Mental Health Association has the same view.

The South Australian Government showed there was an enormous 238 per cent increase in criminal offences among people unemployed between the ages of 14 and 18 between June, 1973, and June, 1976. So in three years there was a 238 per cent increase. At the same time the number of employed juvenile offenders increased by 37 per cent, thus revealing a tremendous disparity.

There are many other studies to show there is a relationship between unemployment and various social illnesses. This means that irrespective of the figures and irrespective of which Government is to blame or which Government is best, we should take a passionate view of these matters rather than just quote people as statistics. They are not. Behind every statistic there are many worthy human beings who have had very little influence on society. Because of the position they hold in society they have little chance of influencing the direction in which society will go. People in positions such as ours, or similar, who have a chance of standing on their own feet and influencing society find it very difficult to imagine how hard it is to be in the more unfortunate person's shoes.

According to the department of employment in Western Australia there are 22 juniors for every unfilled vacancy. I think I quoted earlier a figure of 18, but that was for the general population. This is the answer for people who say there is work for the unemployed but that they will not take it. I heard of a case today where an employer said he could not get someone for a particular job. He said this to a person who knew someone who was unemployed and who was able to fill the position that same day.

This shows a problem with information. It is quite clear that people who are unemployed and want to work are not being channelled into places where there are jobs. It seems to me the services of the CES have to a large extent broken down. I would not be surprised if they had been subject to very harsh staff ceilings when their staff should have been increased to cater for the work load in this recession.

The latest figures I have show that the unfilled vacancies in Western Australia in January of this year totalled 1 909 compared with 3 125 12 months earlier. This is another way of measuring unemployment; the number of unfilled vacancies. It is a useful method of working out the unemployment situation in conjunction with the unemployment figures. It is staggering to note

that in Western Australia in January, 1978, there were 60 unskilled workers for every unskilled job vacancy. The claim that all those people who are unemployed can get jobs if they want them is belied by these figures. If there are 60 applicants for every vacancy, how can they all do the job?

One of the very worrying factors which will cause social problems for us in the future is the fact that people are tending to stay out of work for longer and longer periods. As almost half of the unemployed are young people the effect on them is likely to be permanent.

The Australian figures for August, 1976, showed that 41 per cent of the unemployed had been out of work for three months or more compared with 25 per cent a year earlier. This shows that people were staying out of work longer. The figures indicated that half the people were looking for their first job.

The position is much worse now. One in 10 has been receiving unemployment benefits for more than a year and over one in four has received unemployment benefits for more than six months. This is a very worrying side of these figures. It is unfortunate that at times politicians have tended to encourage the selfish side of human nature by pointing the finger of scorn at the so-called dole bludger by damning these people who cannot defend themselves.

We, of course, are not defending the dole bludgers. We are not saying that people have a right to the dole and to unemployment benefits if they will not work. However, when one classes a whole group of people in such a way, I think one has to be far more careful, especially when one is dealing with human beings in a situation such as this. One should ensure that one is not throwing out the baby with the bath water. One has to make sure that what one says is accurate in every case. The answer, of course, is not to condemn all of these people. The answer is not to reduce unemployment benefits. The answer is to weed out those who will not work.

One of the members from this side of the House, perhaps it was the Leader of the Opposition, asked what is wrong with our education system. If in fact our schools are turning out—as is alleged by members opposite, although we dispute it—hundreds of thousands of youngsters who just will not work, what is wrong with our education system? Surely that is an indication that our society is failing. Surely that is an indication that our education system is failing in respect of the people who are in that position. The number of people is certainly not as great as the Government suggests. Surely these people

need help in order that they may understand the pleasure and joy of work; that in fact being part of society and contributing to society brings its own reward, apart from any wages one might receive.

Instead of condemning these people I believe that we should examine ourselves and our society to try to see what has happened.

I shall return to my main point. A Government which presides over massive unemployment, and this is happening at the present time, may try to get off the hook by saying, "They are all dole bludgers. They do not want to work. Do not worry about them." That is cruel and inaccurate.

Mr Watt: Who are "they"? Who are the people who say that?

Mr TONKIN: Anyone who says that sort of thing. I am condemning anyone who makes that type of statement.

Mr Watt: I have heard very few people who have included everybody.

Mr TONKIN: Good. I hope that is so. I have moved among many different types of people in our society and among people who vote in many different ways. I have been disturbed by the large number of people who say those kinds of things and who generalise in that manner. I believe it is something which we, as responsible members of the community, should call a halt to. We should not exploit it. We should say, "Just a minute. There are many people involved in this." The figures speak for themselves. After all, if there are 80 people applying for one unskilled job it is obviously nonsense to say these people will not work. We do not know whether or not they will work because the jobs are not available. When that position is filled, there will still be 79 people waiting.

There are still many manpower shortages in the community. The Minister for Labour and Industry referred to immigration. I should like to deal with that, because it is something about which I have thought a great deal, and have spent a considerable time studying.

Mr Pearce: The Minister has spent none.

Mr TONKIN: The whole problem is the Minister wants an instant cure for refusing—or for his Government or for the Government in Canberra or for the Liberal Party as a whole—to get down to the problem of manpower planning. It is all very well to say today, the 15th March—is that right?

Mr Davies: You are right.

A Government member: The ides of March.

Mr TONKIN: That is right; the ides of March.

It is very well to say on the 15th March, "We have a lack of skilled tradesmen." Three or four years ago youngsters in our community wanted to be apprenticed.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr TONKIN: I have had these youngsters on my doorstep, and I know many other members have had them on their doorsteps also, for many years. If we had a manpower planning policy as a nation and as a State—

Mr Grayden: We have.

Mr TONKIN: I am not denying that there may be one; but I am saying it is clearly inadequate.

Mr Grayden: We have a committee; do you realise that?

Mr TONKIN: It is all very well to be cosmetic—and I hope it is not being cosmetic—but it is not good enough to have a committee and to say, "We have a committee"; but when I ask members opposite for the results of their deliberations, there is nothing.

Mr Grayden: We have manpower planning committees in three towns.

Mr TONKIN: Can the Minister show us a manpower policy?

Mr Grayden: We have manpower panels for precisely that purpose.

Mr TONKIN: Can these manpower panels show a manpower policy?

Mr Grayden: That is the whole object of it.

Mr TONKIN: I presume the Minister will be happy to produce a manpower policy to this House. That is what is needed. That is why we do not have sufficient skilled tradesmen at the present time and have to import them ready-made. When were these manpower panels set up?

Mr Grayden: Just recently.

Mr TONKIN: There is the problem. Hopefully we will have a situation in a few years' time where we will not have to say, "Look, we have this great shortage of skilled tradesmen and therefore we must import them from overseas", because we will see the fruits of this manpower planning and manpower policy.

I am certainly very interested to know about that. If the omission has been remedied, both on a national and State basis, in the recent past, then we applaud it. We are very pleased to see that.

If members consult *Hansard* they will see that the Labor Opposition, in this State, Federally, and in other States, has been saying that manpower planning is necessary. This is one of the features of the majority of the OECD countries; they have manpower planning. This has

been one of the big discrepancies between this country and other OECD countries. We, in this country, do not have a manpower planning policy. If we are moving in that direction we, on this side of the House, are pleased to hear it.

We are losing 50 000 tradesmen per year from Australia. There are many reasons for this. However, I should like to put forward a philosophical reason which goes to the heart of our society and is one of the sicknesses in it. The reason is we are encouraging people to enter nonproductive sectors. I use that term with qualms, because the term "nonproductive" can have many different meanings depending upon one's definition of economics and so on. However, I am thinking of people who sell used cars, of insurance people, of people—

Mr Bryce: The member for Bunbury nearly fell off his chair.

Mr TONKIN: —who have moved away from the skilled trades area, because we look down on certain people in our society. It is all very well for members to say, "No, we do not." Some members may not look down on certain people in our society; but as a society and as a community we tend to look up to a person who does not dirty his hands at work; who wears a collar and tie; who calls himself an executive; and who probably drives a nice car of which he owns the rear wheel. We tend to look down on those members of our society who dirty their hands.

So we have a situation where people are completely unskilled. They sell various articles and get into the situation where they stand around used car yards all day trying to work out how to get someone to buy a car. For example, tonight my wife happened to call into a used car yard. I forbade her to do so, but she disobeyed my instructions. She called into a car yard and said, "How much can I get for this car?" The salesman tried to sell her a car. However, she said, "I will not do anything until I see my husband." The salesman said, "Don't worry about that; that will come later. We will give you this car tonight." Fortunately, she was so scared of me nothing happened and we still have the old bomb which we had before.

These people hold so-called executive positions. They do not dirty their hands. If one looks at their actual training and skills one will find they are minimal, unless one classes a good set of dentures, which results in a very nice smile, as a qualification. The type of people we are losing from Australia at the rate of 50 000 per year are those who can really say, "There you are, those are the bricks I laid", or "That is the mortar I put

on", or "That is the house I painted", or "That is the house I built."

Mr Laurance: Do not forget what cannot be sold will not be made.

Mr TONKIN: That may be so; but there are different ways of selling. I would suggest that one of the big costs in many of our goods is the very high number of people who are standing around waiting for the fly to walk into the trap.

Mr O'Connor: If you do not have the salesmen you will have more people unemployed.

Mr TONKIN: That is where I get back to my original point. The Minister for Water Supplies suggests that if we did not have those salesmen we would have more people unemployed. I suppose members opposite would say we should cure unemployment by having everybody employed. That then shows the fallacy of the argument, because we should not have just any kind of employment. It is no good having 800 unemployed people digging holes and filling them in so that we may say they are all employed.

What we must do is give people socially useful occupations, and I question the social usefulness of some in comparison with others. That is why we lose skilled tradesmen. Through the pay packet we are encouraging people to move into what is euphemistically called the executive class. The other day I came across a person 15 years of age. I do not know what else he knew, but he did know he was training to be an executive. This is the absurd situation. We make people ashamed to have a skill and to make things. That is one of the factors.

There are many others which are causing us to lose tradesmen. Whatever the factors, the situation is not good enough. We must not decide that although we have all these unemployed youths we will not train them, but will bring in skilled tradesmen from other countries. We have a responsibility to our own youth.

I could go on and on, but I will not use all the time available to me as I suspect the House has heard enough of me for one week. I therefore conclude by saying that the Opposition is quite sincere when it submits to the House an amendment of this nature. It is not saying the Government is responsible for all the ills of the economy. It is not saying the Government is doing nothing. We applaud the initiatives which have been taken, especially those which are not cosmetic and result in things being done. However, we do believe there is a great deal of human misery which could be alleviated by Government initiative. There has been a kind of trite folk wisdom coming from the Prime Minister

and the Premier who both state that Government spending is bad and that there are too many public servants and so on. I remind the House that public servants do not build schools, roads, or hospitals.

It is not true to say that the public sector of itself is nonproductive or will not make movements in the right area. Quite obviously, although it can, the public sector need not compete with the private sector. It can feed the private sector. If we had public spending on needed items such as schools, hospitals and roads, the private sector would benefit.

In conclusion I wish to state that despite the myth—and possibly the majority of Australians might go along with it—we cannot agree that there is something inherently bad in Government spending and that private spending is all good. I have suggested areas of private spending with which we could do without because they are not socially useful. If the public spending is wisely administered, the private sector can benefit and this is something we should not ignore.

It is not good enough to say we will have an investment allowance. There is only one OECD country which has tried and stuck with investment allowance and given it a go. The others got rid of it. What is occurring is that instead of its being capital-widening, it is resulting in the introduction of plant which is getting rid of employment. The capital investment is leading to an increase in unemployment. I suggest we need a far more sophisticated outlook than a straight investment allowance.

**DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [8.55 p.m.]:** I find myself in a most peculiar position. I was all ready to condemn the Government for what it has done.

**Mr Pearce:** For what it has not done.

**Dr DADOUR:** Has done.

**Mr Pearce:** Has not done.

**Dr DADOUR:** The member for Gosnells can please himself. I will get around to what the Government has not done in a moment.

**Mr Pearce:** I am pleased to hear that.

**Dr DADOUR:** It is with a great deal of humour that I read the amendment as follows—

but we regret to inform your Excellency that unemployment in Western Australia is at the highest level since the great depression and that the measures proposed by the Government to cope with it are neither adequate nor appropriate.

I do not know too much about appropriate measures, but I have been listening to the

Opposition and it is quite obvious that it intends to overcome the unemployment problem by creating Government employment. There is no doubt about it. When members opposite are asked about the source of money to pay for the employment, no-one will answer. They say that that is economy and that we are not talking about economy.

I was ready to condemn the Premier because he has created 3 000 jobs in the Public Service in this last financial year. As a Liberal Party—so-called conservative party—we have a policy of an increase of no more than 2 per cent in any given year, but we have exceeded that figure with the 3 000.

**Mr Pearce:** If you cut back to the 2 per cent there would be even more unemployment.

**Dr DADOUR:** Let us consider the matter and ascertain why we cannot overcome the problem the way the Opposition wants to do so; that is, by more Government spending.

**Mr Pearce:** To provide more jobs.

**Dr DADOUR:** How can we do that when there is only enough money to pay for what we have at the moment? We are already embarrassed with increased taxation and the small measure of relief which is forthcoming will not last long because SEC and sewerage charges will skyrocket and take it from us. The building programme must be maintained and therefore more charges will be involved.

**Mr Pearce:** What do you think unemployment costs the Government when you take into consideration the dole and all the other community welfare benefits? That money could be used to provide jobs.

**Dr DADOUR:** I will not argue on that point. I spoke about it some time ago and, as usual, members opposite were either deaf or could not care less.

**Mr B. T. Burke:** That is not true.

**Dr DADOUR:** Members opposite have had the best "labour" Premier they could have. He has created 3 000 jobs in the Public Service.

**Mr Taylor:** I am trying to work that out. It escapes me.

**Dr DADOUR:** That is the policy of members opposite.

Let us consider the situation in Australia compared with the situation in other parts of the world. Compared with the total population the number of Government employees in Great Britain is one in 74; in Canada it is one in 33; while in Australia it is one in 11. We have so many so-called employees in the Government



service now that our economy cannot take any extra burden.

Mr Pearce: But you are using invalid comparisons in those figures. In some countries teachers aren't Government employees.

Dr DADOUR: The member for Gosnells will have an opportunity to talk later.

Mr Pearce: You talk sense now.

Dr DADOUR: The point is that the policy of members opposite is to increase Government spending which will result in increased taxation. Already it is not worth a man's while to work long hours or work harder for more money because he loses the bulk of it in taxation. Employers are given no incentive to employ more people. In this way the very thing we are trying to save is being destroyed. The private sector employs the bulk of the work force. My condemnation can only be that too many have been employed in the Public Service—another 3 000. I spoke about this on the 26th October last year.

Mr Pearce: It did not make sense then either.

Dr DADOUR: I took the Premier to task on the matter, but he answered me by stating that I should have seen the numbers requested by the departments because then I would be proud that the numbers had been kept down.

Mr Pearce: Then you are personally responsible for that much unemployment.

Dr DADOUR: I do not take that as an answer. I ask: Who is kidding whom? I say this is wrong, but when I look at the alternative which the Opposition is putting forward, it makes me sick.

Mr B. T. Burke: You would not extend the Royal Perth Hospital just to create jobs?

Dr DADOUR: It makes me sick to think of the policies members opposite would employ. We are in Government and we are not much good. However, look at the Opposition; no wonder we are in Government!

Mr Skidmore: What is wrong with us?

Dr DADOUR: The policy of members opposite is on the nose. They are trying to ruin our country. They are hell-bent on destruction and there is not an ounce of common sense between the lot of them. Members opposite even attack the poor doctors.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The member for Subiaco.

Dr DADOUR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. A total of 18 per cent is spent but none can see that the remaining 82 per cent is the lion's share. On top of that, 25 per cent of State expenditure is

spent on health. The majority of that amount goes to the teaching hospitals. Members opposite have not woken up yet. Members from this side are starting to wake up now. Members opposite will notice that the doctors do not answer back.

Mr B. T. Burke: What has this to do with unemployment?

Mr Bryce: The doctors are bleeding our society.

Dr DADOUR: They may be, but when one looks at the bludgers on the other side of the House, one just wonders.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce: At least they are poor bludgers, and not rich bludgers.

Mr B. T. Burke: I appreciate the colourful language, but what has this to do with unemployment?

Dr DADOUR: Unemployment is a bone of contention, and it is the greatest problem we have. I believe that unless taxation is reduced, and charges are reduced or kept to a minimum, we will find our costs spiralling further. We used to have the situation where dad went to work, and mum went to work occasionally for occupational therapy. When the children were off her hands and she wanted something to do she took a part-time job. Now, it is necessary for both parents to work to maintain the ordinary standard of living. Members opposite seem to believe that we should increase taxation further.

Mr Bateman: We did not say that.

Mr Pearce: We said we could use the money more sensibly in order to provide jobs.

Dr DADOUR: Whitlam used dole money for exactly the same purpose.

Mr Pearce: More money would be collected from taxation because more people would be earning.

Dr DADOUR: The member opposite is talking about productivity. Members opposite do not know what that means.

Mr Pearce: The member for Subiaco is not sure what taxation means.

Dr DADOUR: I am saying the philosophy of members opposite is different from mine, and it is wrong. It does not matter what statistics are produced by members opposite, the whole point is that we must encourage the private sector. There are ways and means of doing that.

Mr Pearce: What are they?

Dr DADOUR: There are priorities. Members opposite speak about meaningful works. Much of the work which is being done on public works, hospitals, and schools is not necessary.

Mr Pearce: What work on schools is unnecessary?

Dr DADOUR: I find that water is necessary, as is sewerage. With regard to sewerage, we are now in the 20th century but I challenge anybody to go to the Shenton Park sewerage works and take a whiff. Although we are in the 20th century, the sewerage works at Shenton Park are back in the dim ages.

Mr Taylor: Have you tried the Woodman Point sewerage system?

Dr DADOUR: No, I do not go down that far.

Mr Taylor: It is better than yours!

Dr DADOUR: The number of complaints I receive about the Shenton Park sewerage works is shocking.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about the suggestion that septic tanks could be a solution to the problem?

Dr DADOUR: I do not think money should be spent in that direction. I am sure the member for Canning who went away on a study tour to observe rubbish and sewage disposal, could come up with some answers. The answers should be found now. It is a priority, and it is a duty which is absolutely necessary.

Mr Pearce: What about the unnecessary expenditure you were telling us about?

Dr DADOUR: The solution is to stop work on some of the projects which do not have a high priority. I am putting forward my priorities.

Mr Pearce: What are your priorities? What about sewerage?

Dr DADOUR: One look at the member for Gosnells reminds me of sewerage. As I understand the problem, we want our priorities right. The first priority is to supply water to the people so that they can continue their usual life style. That is the duty of any Government. Water has to be obtained from somewhere, otherwise the size of Perth must remain finite. It is the duty of the Government to supply that water.

Then there is the problem of housing.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear!

Dr DADOUR: These are our priorities. The construction of additional housing would take many unemployed people off the dole. Those people would be employed meaningfully.

Mr Pearce: By spending Government money on Government housing. That is exactly the point we are making.

Dr DADOUR: That is right, but the building programme should not be cut down. The member opposite does not know what his priorities are.

Mr Pearce: We are saying the Government's initiatives should supply jobs. The member for Subiaco should change sides.

Dr DADOUR: We cannot live without private enterprise, but we are strangling private enterprise with additional taxation.

Mr Pearce: You are saying we should spend more on housing. That is what we are saying.

Dr DADOUR: Not spend more money, but spend the money where it is used more meaningfully.

Mr Pearce: That is what I said 15 minutes ago, and you would not believe me.

Dr DADOUR: I do not agree with what the member opposite said. Our philosophies are vastly different; we are on different wave lengths. Anyway, through you Mr Speaker, I believe our priorities should be those I have mentioned.

We sometimes hear one of our Ministers in particular talking about the return of the boom years. Let us face it: the boom years are finished.

Mr B. T. Burke: I think that is about right, too.

Dr DADOUR: As I said, our boom years are finished, but we will have better years. The Federal assistance scheme of providing \$65 per week by way of subsidy towards the training of apprentices is excellent, and I congratulate the Minister for taking advantage of the scheme for the betterment and training of tradesmen. As I have said, the boom years are finished but we will have better years. I do not know how far away they are.

I agree with members opposite that unemployment does lead to vandalism and the misuse of drugs. It is a shame that work cannot be found for these people. When people have been unemployed for some time it is often very hard to get them employed again. They get used to a certain way of life, and that also is a heartbreaking part of the situation. We are conscious of it. The member for Morley mentioned the social consequences and this is a point we must recognise.

I will continue to say we must find employment in the private sector, and we should encourage the private sector as much as possible.

We should be very careful about Government spending. This is why I took issue with the Premier. When I was speaking in the grievance debate last year, the increase in the public sector was 1 500; it is now 3 000. This is essentially wrong from what I understand of liberalism. However, I know it is sometimes necessary to do things which we later find are wrong.

Nevertheless, I find it very indigestible, to say the least.

One can exaggerate in talking about the amount of building that is going on. One can say that \$20 million will be spent on extensions to Princess Margaret Hospital for 20 beds, which works out at \$1 million a bed. That is an unfair statement because other amenities at the hospital also are being brought up to date. I am trying to be fair and honest as I understand the situation.

I condemn the Opposition for moving an amendment such as this when it is obvious it has not a solution. Members of the Opposition are throwing dirt at us when in reality they do not know what they would do. When we ask them what they would do, they stammer over their reply.

Mr Bryce: You did not listen to our leader. He gave a whole string of points.

Dr DADOUR: I listened to the Leader of the Opposition. I am in a position where I cannot do anything but reject the amendment and support the Government.

Mr Pearce: You could try understanding it before you reject it.

Dr DADOUR: I do understand it. I asked pertinent questions of the member for Swan about the economy and where the money would come from for the extra people working in the Government. He told me it was an economic matter and he would not talk about it.

Mr Skidmore: That is right.

Dr DADOUR: He could have told me in a few words: By increasing charges.

Mr Skidmore: The Federal Treasurer has been trying to solve the problem and has not got to first base.

Dr DADOUR: I would have thought more of him had he mentioned priorities.

For those reasons, I reject the amendment.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [9.13 p.m.]: In part, the amendment states that the measures proposed by the Government to cope with unemployment are neither adequate nor appropriate. I would like to touch on that aspect and follow through with some details which have not been given up to this time.

One of the measures proposed is to increase immigration. This could well be a precipitous and desperate policy. We find that the unemployment figure in Australia stands at 445 300 as at the 31st January, but next Friday might tell an even gloomier story. We suspect that unfortunately it will. Western Australia's unemployment figure is

6.63 per cent of the work force, which numerically is 35 236. To contemplate seriously an immigration policy of any consequence at this time is to court even further disaster.

Mr Grayden: Only in categories where there is short supply. Do you realise that?

Mr H. D. EVANS: In the Press statement in *The West Australian* on the 14th March it is stated, as the Minister said, that skilled migrants in certain categories would be allowed to immigrate. The suggestion is that major projected developments will require electrical fitters and riggers, which are two of the categories named. I also point out that we have yet to see anything concrete in the way of projected developmental programmes. In the past four years we have not seen one initiative taken by the Government. There is talk of there being \$10 000 million in investment but at the present time there is nothing to give substance to that claim. In the last four years not a single initiative has been taken industrially by the Court regime.

It has been suggested that the intake of migrants be increased from 70 000 to 100 000 per annum. The Director of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry apparently supports this proposal in its entirety. The Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council not surprisingly took issue with the proposition and expressed an attitude which does not really go far enough. The attitude of the Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council was that a crash training programme should be instituted to cater for out-of-work Australians and fit them for the kinds of jobs which could become available. It was suggested such a programme would obviate the proposed mass immigration.

To suggest immigration of any consequence at this time is, in the first instance, to overlook the problems which have been caused by past immigration schemes. Those problems are very substantial and to add to them now would be irresponsible. Many problems have not been resolved and some of them have been urgent for many years. The problems will continue to increase, and among them I cite assimilation and the standard or quality of life which many migrants do not enjoy.

No attempt has been made to train migrants when they come to this country. In too many instances they have been seen as a source of factory fodder and nothing more. Unfortunately, that has too often been the trend in the past. It is fairly obvious at even a cursory glance that many of the menial, lower-paid jobs go to migrants. One has only to consider the number of migrant

women working in the hotel and catering business at dish washing and mopping. Some of the lowest paid and most unpleasant jobs seem to be done by migrants. A former union organiser who is in this House could bear testimony to that fact.

The reasons are fairly obvious. Migrants cannot communicate with their union officials or with management. As a consequence, all too frequently they are prepared to accept below-award conditions and the unpleasantness to which they are subjected.

I can personally cite at least half a dozen men, three of whom have been in this country for over 20 years, and the whole of that time has been spent in an isolated timber town. Their only contact with the outside world has been in their work. In the evenings and at weekends they have sought and found solace in drinking considerably. That has been their entire life since they have been in this country.

Mr Laurance: Are you saying they are unhappy?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I am saying they are not at all happy with a life of frustration. They would probably have been better off on a lower wage in the country from which they came, among people who understand them, which we have not tried to do. Drinking is their only recreation, solace, and pastime. They are three in particular, but I could refer to others.

Language difficulties exist with all levels of migrants. In schools the special difficulties of migrant children are not fully recognised. Some attempt at remedial teaching has been made in latter years. The difficulties are being catered for to some extent but not sufficiently. Many migrant children do not come into contact with the English language—their adopted mother tongue—until they leave the home. When it comes to their situation as students, not only do they have to master the subject matter but also the means of communication—the English language. A test or examination is a dual examination as far as they are concerned.

These children do not receive the remedial treatment that they need and to which they are entitled.

Mr Laurance: This is terribly interesting, but what has it to do with the amendment?

Mr H. D. EVANS: It is to do with the amendment. These problems exist, and they are increasing. They need urgent attention, and yet here we have a proposition to bring out more migrants.

Mr Pearce: Don't use such long words—you will confuse the member for Gascoyne.

Mr H. D. EVANS: At the present time there are 600 teachers who cannot find jobs.

Mr Pearce: There are a lot more than that.

Mr O'Connor: Whose fault is that?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister's statement is interesting. This is the number of unemployed teachers as claimed by the Government.

Mr O'Connor: Who lifted the lid off it?

Mr H. D. EVANS: Many of these teachers could find very useful employment in such remedial teaching. However, apparently there is no intention for this to happen and the Government will not agree to the proposals put forward by the Teachers' Union which could alleviate not only the problems of migrant children, but also other problems. There are other services to which migrants should be entitled and to which they do not have ready access. An increase in the number of migrants would increase the pressure on these services, and I will refer specifically to the treatment of elderly migrants in our community.

Some migrant groups look after their aged people, but unfortunately this is not always so. Many elderly migrants are subjected to a special sort of suffering and to the best of my knowledge no study has been undertaken into the needs of these elderly people in our community. None of us in this Chamber can take pride in such a state of affairs, and indeed, it is something about which we should lower our heads in shame.

No study has been undertaken into the mental disorders of migrants. All of us are subjected to an increased tempo of life, but migrants have additional problems. The doctors and the drug manufacturers who are involved closely with people suffering from mental disorders will concur with my statement that people in our modern society are more prone to mental disorders than were past generations. We are all aware of the pressures of life, but let us just imagine the problems of an individual entering an entirely new situation. Any initial tendency towards a mental disorder must be compounded, and so there is a special need in this area. Again we should feel a degree of shame about our deficiency in regard to this social problem.

The Government is now contemplating a 20 per cent increased intake of migrants; from 80 000 to 100 000. It is a substantial increase, and it will bring about a substantial increase in our problems.

The Minister referred to the fact that one

skilled tradesman can provide jobs for four unskilled workers. I accept his statement that a skilled worker will create further employment, but it is unfortunate that it is left until the last moment to decide that skilled workers are needed for some project. We should not need to bring in trained individuals from some other country.

The State figures in regard to unemployment have been quoted fairly frequently this evening. We have been told that 42 per cent of our unemployed work force are under 21 years of age. This percentage is made up of 4 969 school leavers and 10 000 other workers who are not school leavers. However, these figures do not take into account the fact that in every senior high school in the State there are students in year 11 who have not been able to find employment. These students have returned to school because of the lack of jobs, and the school virtually is providing a babysitting service. There is no real course to improve the employability of this group; the students are just marking time hoping that some employment opportunity will arise. This is the situation in every high school in Western Australia, and it is one aspect of youth unemployment that the Minister did not touch on, and it is one he could well have referred to.

I will now refer to the opportunities for the training of skilled workers. These opportunities should be made available to the school leavers. If there is insufficient time to train school leavers for the jobs which will become available, surely some of the partly skilled unemployed adult workers could be trained as riggers, fitters, or for any job where there is a demand. This should result in skilled workmen being available in a much shorter time than would be the case under the apprenticeship scheme.

From my understanding of a film which was shown to the Tonkin Cabinet, the North-West Shelf gas will not be brought to shore until about 1984-85. That is the timetable, and to suggest an increased migration scheme to cater for that development is preposterous.

Sir Charles Court: When do you use the tradesmen? You do not use them when a project is finished.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Of course that is so.

Sir Charles Court: That is what you are saying.

Mr H. D. EVANS: No I am not.

Sir Charles Court: You are completely off the beam.

Mr H. D. EVANS: If the developmental work is to proceed over the next seven or eight years, there will be ample opportunity to train our own

workers. No substantial building projects will commence for at least two or three years so at this juncture we have ample opportunity to have trained personnel available in an increasing stream as they are required. All it needs is some planning, but unfortunately the Government is not doing this. The whole crux of the issue lies in improper training and a lack of organisation of the manpower resources of the State.

As far as the social consequences of an increased migrant programme are concerned, I had an opportunity recently to discuss the problem of unemployed youth with the head of a psychiatric institution, and this gentleman pointed out that one of the frightening features of youth unemployment is that after three months the attitude of those seeking jobs starts to change. Frequently these youths become very depressed and gloomy. They experience a lassitude and this is reflected in a reluctance to seek work and a total demoralising of the individual. After the first three months of unemployment, the rush of enthusiasm for work has vanished completely and an individual has to force himself even to attend an interview. This is the normal psychiatric trend in unemployed people and the problem is increasing daily.

After a young person has been unemployed for 12 months, he will probably be suffering from a major malaise which will affect him for the rest of his life. These circumstances then lead to an increase in crime, vandalism, drugs, and many other undesirable social consequences. This state of affairs has been documented *ad nauseam*.

I could not resist a slight smile about some of the comments made by members on the other side of the House tonight. Apparently in the eyes of the Minister, it is quite all right to blame the Fraser and Court Governments' shortcomings on the world economic downturn, but when this same situation arose while the Whitlam Government was in power, motions of no confidence were moved in this House to the effect that the state of the economy was the fault of the then Federal Government. Today it is not the fault of Governments, but the fault of those fellows on the other side of the world.

Mr Bryce: The other side of the Chamber! They were blaming us for it.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Unfortunately the good doctor is not in his place at the moment. Apparently it is quite all right for Mr Fraser to embark on great loan programmes, but when Mr Whitlam tried to do so, it was improper, indecent, and incorrect. However, it is all right now that the Liberal Government is doing it and there seems to

have been a change of heart in this Chamber. Members opposite should have some regard for history.

By way of conclusion I would point out that the Liberal-Country Party coalition on the other side of the Chamber has exactly the same philosophy, and must take the same responsibility, as the Liberal-Country Party Government in Canberra. Those Governments have deliberately chosen as part of their economic recovery programme to lower inflation, but at the cost of employment. They have made no bones about that. "Tough luck Joe, you haven't got a job, but inflation will be lowered no matter what the cost." This is the tack the Canberra Government has taken with the blessing and tacit or otherwise support of the Western Australian Government. So members opposite must bear their full share of the responsibility for the completely untenable position as far as unemployment is concerned in Western Australia.

I support in its entirety the amendment as it was moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

**MR BRYCE** (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.31 p.m.]: I rise to support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and I suggest to the members of this House that no thinking person could vote against it. The amendment essentially comprises two parts. First of all it says—

but we regret to inform Your Excellency that unemployment in Western Australia is at the highest level since the great depression—

Is there any member of this House who would have the temerity to suggest that is not a statement of fact? How could members opposite support a move in this Chamber to oppose the expression of that opinion—it is a statement of fact? Is there any member opposite who will not agree with the Opposition when it suggests this is in fact the position in Western Australia today? The amendment goes on to say—

—and that the measures proposed by the Government to cope with it are neither adequate nor appropriate.

Might I suggest that it logically follows that if we are in fact experiencing the highest level of unemployment in this State since the great depression, it is obvious the policies this Government has been pursuing are both inappropriate and inadequate.

The sole reference to unemployment in the Governor's Speech was contained at page 2,

paragraphs 5 and 6, which I will quote for the record. They read as follows—

We are creating new jobs faster than any other State, although the unemployment level remains unacceptable.

Both the Western Australian and the Commonwealth Governments continue to pursue policies aimed at stimulating activity in the private sector as the only effective means of creating sufficient employment opportunities in the longer term.

We have attempted in vain to secure from members opposite, from the Premier and the Minister, some indication of precisely what are those phantom-like policies which the Government is currently implementing and are designed to stimulate the private sector.

Every time we ask for some indication of these policies we are deafened by the silence. The Minister for Labour and Industry no doubt appreciated the silence with which his speech was greeted this evening, because we decided to listen to him to see precisely what he had to say. Might I say through you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Watt), to the Minister that it was one of his lacklustre, less professional performances in this House, and it became fairly obvious towards the end of his contribution that because he had no interjections upon which to build his speech he was well and truly struggling.

This is the essence of his case, which well and truly warrants an answer in this place: For the first few minutes of his contribution he outlined the nature and extent of the problem. At that stage of his speech we thought he was supporting the amendment because he indicated quite clearly how serious is the situation and how widespread unemployment is in this State.

He went on to spend a certain amount of his time extolling the virtues of his Government for having created 25 000 extra jobs in the last three years. However, he overlooked a couple of things. He does not in all sincerity believe that the Government created those extra 25 000 jobs. I suggest he knows full well that these jobs just happened and would have been created as part of the function of the normal economic process, anyway.

The second important thing that he overlooked is that whilst the Government lays claim to those extra 25 000 jobs over the last three years, the Minister is forgetting that an extra 50 000 or 60 000 people have been thrown out of work, because there is a net surplus of 35 000 Western Australians who are out of work. It matters little how much the Minister talks about the number of

jobs created if in fact the reality is that 35 000 people are out of work, being the net surplus of people looking for jobs.

However, the meanest part of the Minister's rationalisation of the Government's position was his attempt to extend the unpalatable, unsavoury reality as far as the Government is concerned to the Aboriginal population of Western Australia. He implied to the members of this House that we should accept that one of the built-in factors extending the high level of unemployment was the atypically high level of Aborigines in our community as a proportion of our total population.

Could I through you, Sir, remind the Minister that was precisely the situation between 1971 and 1974 when the Tonkin Government was in office, and the proportion of Aboriginal people in our population was the same then as it is now. We did not run for cover and blame the Aborigines; we did not say when we were being condemned because 1.4 per cent of the population was out of work, and 10 500 to 12 500 people could not get jobs, that it was because there were too many Aborigines in Western Australia. That situation has not changed at all, and the Minister knows it.

Mr Grayden: The highest incidence of unemployment of all the States.

Mr Pearce: He thinks the Aborigines migrate from New Zealand.

Mr BRYCE: That is the very next point to which I wish to refer. The next blind alley up which the Minister took his argument was the suggestion that it was people from New Zealand and the other States of Australia who were swelling the ranks of unemployed in Western Australia. He tried to suggest in all seriousness that this is something new.

Why, ever since the iron ore boom of the 1960s, we have had a high proportion of New Zealand workers and Eastern States workers in Western Australia for varying periods of time, and the Minister knows it. He knows full well that when unemployment reached the disturbing level of 2.3 per cent in 1972 when 12 000 people were out of work in Western Australia—to quote the words of his own leader—a high proportion of those were people from the iron ore country who had returned to Perth. Many of those people were from New Zealand and the other Australian States. So what is new? Where is the excuse in suggesting that this explains the Government's poor showing?

The Minister went on to tell us to go along with him in respect of certain pipe dreams. He told us there is a lot of hope for the iron ore industry and

that wonderful things will happen in respect of natural gas and the bauxite industry. With respect, Mr Speaker, I ask the Minister how long the people of Western Australia have to wait. How long do we have to sit back and wait for the performance, for the goods to be produced?

This Government now is in its fifth consecutive year of office and, despite these disturbing milestones which mark each successive year with yet higher levels of unemployment, we are still being told not to worry, that the solution is around the corner and that wonderful things will happen in all the industries to which I have just referred.

I guess the most disturbing feature of the Minister's argument was his suggestion that in fact it was the Opposition which was to blame for the level of unemployment. He talked about industrial unrest and about development in various industries.

Let me draw one particularly important point to the Minister's attention. If he is sincere, I hope he will make a representation on behalf of myself and the member for Cockburn to his Minister for Industrial Development and, if necessary, to his Premier to allow us to assist in respect of perhaps the biggest and what the Minister himself has described as the most exciting project on the horizon in Western Australia which, of course, is the production of natural gas.

Nobody in this House would seriously question that the Australian Labor Party, as the Opposition in this place, wholeheartedly supports the North-West Shelf gas project. However, what we find is that the Government is throwing a shroud of secrecy around the information associated with the plans to get this great scheme off the ground. If the Minister is sincere in his statements, I would respectfully request him to make an approach to his Minister for Industrial Development who, I regret, cannot be here this evening, or, if necessary, to his Premier, on behalf of the member for Cockburn and myself.

The member for Cockburn, being the previous Minister, and I, as the Opposition spokesman on industrial development, would like to be able to attend a very important convention, the national standing convention on the North-West Shelf gas development project only a couple of days away, on the 17th March. Inquiries were made from the office of the Leader of the Opposition to the department concerned to see whether an invitation could be issued to me and the former Minister for Industrial Development to attend the conference and to participate and learn and, if necessary, to contribute to this stage of

discussions. We were told we were not invited, and that we were not welcome to participate.

Mr H. D. Evans: Who are the hypocrites now?

Mr BRYCE: A list at the back of the little format I hold in my hand reveals a total of 84 people are to attend the conference including, under the heading "Miscellaneous", people from the Press and television. "Others" are listed as four and there are only two politicians, the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development.

I sincerely hope this was the decision of a bureaucrat and that it does not reflect the attitude of the Government. I also hope that when we ask the Minister or, if necessary, the Premier, the answer will be different, because we on this side of the House are equally keen to see that this project gets off the ground. We would like to contribute. We believe it is improper for this Parliament to be kept in the dark; it is unreasonable in the extreme.

Mr Davies: I think the Minister for Labour and Industry gave you an invitation to co-operate.

Mr BRYCE: I am looking forward to it; perhaps it will be a question without notice tomorrow night to the Minister.

I refer again to the milestones by which I suggest this Government will be remembered. The Minister for Labour and Industry had the temerity to suggest unemployment was not a problem. The member for Subiaco talked about priorities. I would suggest to the Minister and the Premier that our priorities are very different indeed.

We on this side see the question of the right of somebody to work in gainful employment as being absolutely essential and a fundamental responsibility of government. That is why we have moved this amendment here tonight; it is one fundamental area in which the Government has failed. The Premier is on record on numerous occasions in this Chamber as having said that it is a fundamental responsibility of government to provide employment opportunities.

However, the figures speak for themselves. The figures will indicate to people in years to come that in fact, over a six-year period, the Court Government was a Government of economic stagnation. The Premier, who was a highly successful Minister for Industrial Development in the 1960s has become the Premier for unemployment in the 1970s.

Let us have a look at the track record on which he will be able to look back. In 1974, 7 500 people were unemployed; in 1975, the figure reached

12 500; in 1976, it topped 19 000; in 1977, it reached 26 500; and, today, it is over 35 000.

I am reminded that less than 12 months ago when we were debating a similar issue in this place, I suggested to the Minister for Labour and Industry that we were facing the prospect of 30 000 Western Australians being out of work by Christmas. The Minister did not exactly agree, and I would like to remind him of what he said on that occasion. I refer members to page 601 of *Hansard* of Wednesday, the 17th August last year. I should like to quote a couple of choice remarks. In the third paragraph of the first column I am reported as follows—

What concerns me greatly is the very strong likelihood that in this State at Christmas 1977 there could well be 30 000 people out of work. This is not my projection but the projection of people qualified to make it, who suggest the evidence is standing here before us indicating that the unemployment figure will grow more serious. After Christmas 1977 we face the prospect that during 1978 the level of unemployment in this State will be approaching 40 000.

The Minister for Labour and Industry interjected with his very familiar comment, "Rubbish!"; I can almost hear him say it. "Rubbish!" he said when he was told the number of unemployed in Western Australia would rise over 30 000.

Mr Grayden: We had over 15 000 school leavers. You are not including those, are you?

Mr BRYCE: Is the Minister suggesting now that young people between the ages of 15 and 20 are not eligible to be considered? On one hand he tells us the Aborigines in the remote part of the State make up an unfair proportion of the Government's responsibilities and on the other he says that these young people are not to be considered when arriving at unemployment statistics.

Mr Grayden: These young people are employed by the middle of the year.

Mr BRYCE: I believe I have made the point perfectly clearly. The Minister knows full well he will have to eat his words, rubbish as they are, because the facts now demonstrate quite clearly we were right and he was wrong.

Mr Grayden: Your hypothesis was wrong then, and still is wrong.

Mr BRYCE: My colleague, the member for Morley indicated tonight that in all probability, the present number of unemployed is closer to 40 000 than 35 000 because of statistical problems and inconsistencies.



Mr Davies: Yes, they take out the tall ones and the short ones, the thin ones and the fat ones.

Mr Grayden: You will see a steady reduction as we go on, and as the school leavers are absorbed.

Mr BRYCE: One could forgive the Court Government for its performance if it had not made so many extravagant promises to the people, if it had gone to the people in a reasonably humble vein and told the truth and explained the reality of the situation. But no, the Government was not prepared to do that. It sold the people a pup. It sold its very extravagant exaggerations. It promised quite glibly an extra 100 000 jobs.

We know there were inconsistencies between the various statements and confrontations between the Minister and his leader. We know the Minister at a public meeting during the election campaign said, "We will do it in 18 months." The Premier quickly corrected him a short while later and said, "No, it will be seven years." Perhaps the Minister for Labour and Industry was talking about a magic wand, and maybe the Premier was talking about the natural increase in the number of jobs over a seven-year period.

However, the point was that when the people went to the polls on the last occasion in Western Australia, they had tucked away very firmly in the back of their minds a fairly monstrous lie. They thought an extra 100 000 jobs were going to be created very quickly indeed.

Having laid that foundation, the Government is embarrassed if it cannot deliver the goods; and of course it cannot deliver the goods. The economy is crumbling right around it. The Premier as an individual thrashes around fairly widely, but the Government can be fairly said to have fallen asleep at the wheel.

Let us look at what is happening to industry. Apart from the thousands of individuals who have been thrown out of work, the nickel industry has almost ground to a halt; the iron ore industry is faltering badly; the mineral sands industry is sagging seriously; and the gold industry is also in serious trouble. Small businessmen are going to the wall every day of the week. The manufacturing industry is gasping for air because of a tremendous excess in capacity and the building industry is experiencing the same dilemma. The number of approvals is down and the number of workers who are leaving the industry is disturbing.

This is the reality in Western Australia, despite all the exaggerated promises made by this Government. When those promises were made there were no qualifications that in 12 months' time or in two years' time we would compare

ourselves with other States. These were absolute and bona fide undertakings given to the people that these things would happen. What do we find? The Minister in this Chamber tonight blamed a few foreigners, an indigenous ethnic minority, and the Whitlam Government—he is still playing that record despite the fact that his Government is in its fifth consecutive year of office.

We ought to consider the cost to Western Australia. I heard a figure referred to by the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament and I have not yet had an opportunity to verify it. He made the claim in the Federal Parliament yesterday that the number of people who are unemployed in this country are costing us \$5 billion a year in terms of the loss of gross national product. If we compute that on a State-by-State basis it is reasonable to assume that the 35 000 Western Australians who are currently out of work are costing us, in terms of productive capacity in this State alone, \$500 million a year. That is the economic cost to us. We have not got time to look at all the social costs.

One of the glaring inconsistencies in the Minister's explanation which is reflected in the statements made by all the members of the front bench opposite related to the argument that he used tonight as a sidetrack by going off at a tangent to talk about industrial relations. If the Minister seriously wants to concern himself as the Minister for Labour and Industry, he ought to study every day very, very seriously the productive capacity that is lost to this State as the result of unemployment compared with that lost because of a handful of strikes. I should like to commit those figures to the record again and bring them to his attention again. The 1976-77 figures indicate that because thousands of Western Australians were out of work we lost 5.5 million man days in factories, in industry, in the professions, in the trades—everywhere. We lost that amount of productive capacity in this State because of unemployment. During the same period only 252 000 man days—a very insignificant amount—were lost as a result of strike action by the work force. They are figures which the Minister ought to savour a little more seriously when he is looking for scapegoats.

I suggest that the real culprit as far as the downturn in our economy is concerned is the Liberal Party with its philosophy which is hell bent upon throwing people out of work, and I am going to suggest to the members of this Chamber again that it comes as no surprise to us. There are three basic reasons. The Minister knows, and the Premier has lived with, this reality for decades in politics. The Liberal Party has accepted the

fundamental belief that thousands and thousands of people must be thrown out of work before inflation can be solved. That is poppycock, it simply is not necessary, and that assumption simply is not true; but I suggest that it is simply callous, to say the least. Fraser brought in this philosophy and he has been ably supported by the Premier of this State. Not one single argument has been presented to the Prime Minister by the Leader of this Government to plead the case on behalf of the 35 000 people in this State who are unemployed and to tell the Prime Minister that his national monetary and fiscal policies are throwing people out of work. He has been overtly supported by the Premier.

Mr Shalders: Tell us about the Wran Government's record.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker, this is the same old sidetrack—"Let us look at somebody else's backyard." When the member for Murray was on the hustings chasing around Mandurah for votes he was not saying to the people, "These 100 000 jobs we are going to promise you are dependent upon what happens elsewhere, overseas and in other States." All the extravagant promises which he and his colleagues were making were not underwritten with all the qualifications that they are now trying to hide behind such as looking into somebody else's backyard and talking about comparisons.

The reality is that this Government has to be compared with its predecessors in this State. This is the Western Australian Legislative Assembly. We are talking about Western Australia. This is the Western Australia that the Premier likes to remind us about all the time in the most parochial fashion. Let us see how this Government's record compares with those of its predecessors. We have to go back to the years of the deep dark depression to find a Government that presided over such a disastrous economic downturn. The Tonkin Government, the Brand Government, the Hawke Government, the McLarty Government, and the Wise Government all had records that this Government would dearly love to have, and when it put these extravagant promises to the people there was no suggestion that when it went back into office it would be looking at the other States. We can anticipate that the Premier will take his place in this debate shortly and say, "But look at the other States. Look at the number of jobs we have created." He cannot escape from the fact that there is a surplus of 35 000 people without jobs, no matter how many jobs he has created.

The second argument in the Liberal Party's philosophy to rationalise this question of

unemployment has been trotted out on numerous occasions. We saw the Minister do it earlier this evening. It is to blame the unions. Fraser went to the people in 1975 and he gave a gold-plated undertaking to all the workers of Australia that there would be no reduction whatsoever in the real living standards of the workers of this country. Of course, since he has been in office we have seen a permanent and steady decline in the real standards. We have seen Liberal Party politicians standing in this place and other Parliaments representing capital and saying, "We cannot afford labour to enjoy the same real wages that they gained during the period of the Whitlam Government. They have to be brought down."

The Prime Minister gave this bona fide undertaking. We have seen him welch on the deal and as a result, simply because the trade unions have not been prepared to sit back and say, "You can deprive us of a certain proportion of our real standard of living", and because they have not been prepared to sit back and cop that situation, so we see the Minister and the Premier discovering these ugly militants under the bed in terms of being responsible for bringing the economy to a halt.

I have already outlined in great detail that it is not the people who go on strike that cause the great losses to the economy of this country; it is the deliberately designed policies of conservative Governments, at both national and State level, that have produced monetary and fiscal policies on the assumption that one needs unemployment before one can tackle inflation. That is an assumption we simply do not accept.

The final peg upon which the Liberal Party hangs its hat is the argument that people who are out of work are, after all, either unemployable or simply dole bludgers. We would like to see a few members opposite dissociate themselves from those remarks, but we do not see them tripping over one another to do so because many subscribe to that view.

We on this side of the House see that as the ultimate moral and political hypocrisy in deliberately setting about the task of creating unemployment and then accusing people who are unemployed of being dole bludgers; those people the Government has thrown on the human and economic scrap heap. That is hypocrisy of monumental proportions.

The last comment I would like to make concerns a recent statement by the Premier. It is a typical economic enunciation we are accustomed to hear from him. When he was in Kalgoorlie recently he summed up the economic

worries of the western world, great philosopher that he is, by saying all that was simply wrong with the free enterprise system in the capitalistic world was that there was a lack of leadership and direction.

One assumes his ego had run riot and that maybe he was the individual who had this leadership and sense of direction. This is the record he played during the life of the Tonkin Government. For months on end he said both inside and outside this place that that was all Western Australia needed and that he should be given the opportunity to put things right.

In those days the present Premier said, "Just let me get my hands on the helm and I will provide the necessary direction and leadership." He had the hide to say such a thing about the world economy only a few days ago. Is the Premier suggesting that the President of the United States and some of his political contemporaries should send for him and his wonder cure?

The Premier simplifies the position and says, "It is a simple problem." No-one takes him seriously. The reality of it is that our economy has stagnated since this Government has been in office. It very simply and realistically has been concluded by the people of Western Australia that this Government has fallen asleep at the wheel. All the Government's promises have amounted to nothing.

Mr Herzfeld: Do you go around the State with your eyes closed?

Mr BRYCE: I have given the member a summary of the situation and after hearing what the member has had to say in the past I am sure he has nothing to bleat about. I go around the State with my eyes open. I have visited the iron ore, nickel, mineral sands, and other industries over the last few months, and the honourable member would know that what I have said is very true indeed. Every one of those industries is sagging with a depression of one sort or another, despite the fact that this Government has made extravagant promises which it would now like to see erased from its policy speeches.

This Government has the responsibility to provide people with the opportunity to earn a livelihood. It has failed in that responsibility and I believe members in this House would be failing in their responsibility if they did not amend the Address-in-Reply to inform His Excellency the Governor that the policies this Government has used to try to solve unemployment are indeed very much inadequate and wholly inappropriate.

MR TAYLOR(Cockburn) [10.05 p.m.]: The Opposition has demonstrated to anyone who has

listened and given the matter some thought that there is a problem with unemployment, and the Government is not taking all the action it could to cope with it. From the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, who demonstrated his capacity and knowledge of policy this evening, it should be obvious to the Government that it has a problem and it should take some action with respect to it.

I do not want to canvass the remarks made by other members who have spoken tonight, but I would like to draw attention to two aspects in respect of which I think the Government can take initiatives. I refer to the Kwinana area which has problems peculiar to it, but these problems may be found elsewhere in the State.

The first aspect concerns young people in the area. Unemployment is tremendously high among adolescents, and over the last 12 months unemployment among young people has grown 30 per cent. This is a far higher percentage than anywhere else in the State. There is no avenue for employment of these young people in the area. It is not a matter of consumer confidence or any other term used in the Government's clichés. We have a situation in the area where a community has been created by the Government. It has a limited range of industries and there is no way they can be expanded to provide employment for young people.

The community which has been created there, relative to adults, has one of the highest percentages of young people; it is a young community like the iron ore towns. Unemployment among youths over the last 12 months has increased by 30 per cent. It cannot be left to private enterprise or any other group because there is not a large number of industries in the area compared with the rest of the State. It is an area the Government can tackle and the Government should not ignore it. The proportion of unemployed youth in Kwinana compared with the bulk of the metropolitan area is unreal.

The other matter involves older members of the work force. The young certainly are in bother but people over 45 are in even greater difficulties. There is a growing proportion of these people in Kwinana as well as in other parts of the State who are unable to find employment, and in the present climate are unlikely to get a job.

They are stagnating in a very real sense. Members of the Government might like to listen to a brief note left for me by my secretary some months ago which seems to sum up the problem of a growing number of people. It involves a phone call from a lady who wanted to talk about her husband's unemployment. At 52 years of age

he was rejected because of his age. He is very despondent. He has always worked hard. This woman just wanted to talk to someone, "to remind our members of Parliament about the little people." This woman's husband was, at 52 years of age, beginning to lose hope because he was unemployed, and the number of people in this classification is growing.

In many instances in Kwinana these are people who came to this State 10 or 15 years ago on the promise of a new life. They certainly found it for a few years during the boom period. However, many unskilled and semi-skilled workers now find themselves unemployed. They cannot leave because of family commitments or because their bank balance is low, yet there is no work for them in the area. They cannot be mobile like many young people.

I mentioned an incident last year of a company in the area which stood down 60 of its work force overnight. The company did so by sending telegrams to them. Of those involved, half were wages staff and half were salaried staff. The company selected those least fit, both physically and I use the term "mentally" although I mean perhaps "emotionally", to cope with their employment. It was such employees as the chap who had suffered a heart attack after spending his time shovelling nickel ingots. He suffered a heart attack and was no longer wanted. When someone had to go, he went. One of the office staff who had a withered arm, despite the fact that he was a qualified accountant and could cope with his job, had to go also. Another example is a man who was in hospital and the company sent a message to his wife who then had to go to the hospital and tell the man that he was not wanted. The group which was stood down by that national company was made up of those people least able to look after themselves; those people least able to obtain other employment. The Government has a responsibility to those people. The Government cannot leave the matter in the hands of so-called private enterprise or free enterprise and trust that it will assist.

What does one do if one is in the situation in which another constituent found himself? I refer now to a medical report from which I shall quote. One doctor is writing to another doctor. The medical report reads in part, as follows—

Many thanks for asking me to see this 54 year old man who was recently retrenched from W.M.C. and has been passed medically unfit when he applied for a job at Cockburn Cement. He was also passed as medically unfit by Dr. . . . —

I shall refer to him as "Dr X", rather than mention his name. The paragraph continues—

—7 years ago but has had several medical examinations in the interval which he has passed.

This man has worked all his life. He is a fitter. The company doctor passed him as unfit, although his own doctor passed him as fit. The following words may elucidate the situation. The report continues—

As you know he is contemplating Union action as he wants to work and also he is concerned as to why he has been passed unfit on this occasion when he has no symptoms of ill health and he has not been told any reason.

Further down the following appears—

I consider him fit for work but it is clear that his blood pressure was the problem and I thought I would speak to Dr. X which I did this morning as he has been away. He could remember him and stated that his Audiogram was well down in addition to his blood pressure—

And now we have the important part which reads as follows—

—and that he simply makes a recommendation as to their medical status and it is the Administrative side of the company that makes the decision as to whether to accept them or not.

This is the situation of a 54-year-old man who has given his services to the State, and has been passed as fit by his own doctor, but the company doctor merely passes on his opinion as to the man's medical status and the company makes the decision. What does this mean, apart from the social consequences which would be emphasised by this situation?

Let us try to look at the situation in economic terms from the point of view of the company. It means that the company, at least in that area and I am sure it is doing it elsewhere, is accepting those men who are most skilled, who are the strongest, most agile, and best able to cope with the work. That is fine to a point; but they are also the men who would best be able to obtain employment elsewhere. They are the men who would be acceptable to other employers for particularly difficult jobs. The gentleman I referred to in the doctor's report is a fitter. It could well be, in fact I know it is the case, that most of the companies in Kwinana employ many of their staff just to carry out routine work. The work is done in the workshops; it is done in a

plant. This man is not sufficiently fit to be a rigger, to go up masts and chimneys and fabricate steel mesh 150 feet up in the air.

However, the men who are able to carry out that type of work are being offered the jobs in the workshop. It is fine for the company; but it is very poor economics for the Government. These men are 45 years of age and older, have some skills and are relatively fit; but they are not employed and they receive social security payments.

The subject of immigration has been mentioned and it has been suggested that trained men should be brought to this country in order to be employed on particular projects. I should like to make the point that in the Kwinana area, and I suspect the situation is similar elsewhere, many of the men who are employed are those who would normally be mobile and who would be able to obtain employment elsewhere. They would be able to persuade other employers that they could cope with a particularly difficult job. The men who have been turned out, however, are those who have the skills but who would not be able to cope with the more difficult jobs. These people have given a lifetime of service in the work force.

These are both matters on which the Government must take action. One is with respect to young people in that particular area. These young people are not able to travel; they cannot get to Perth or Fremantle early in the morning in order to apply for jobs. The transport system is absolutely abominable. These people must stay in those areas. If the Government will not assist them there is no-one else in the world from whom they can obtain employment.

The second group of people to which I have referred should be assisted also. Some members may be aware that in the United Kingdom legislation is in force which enables workers who may be considered to be handicapped to be registered. Employers have a legal obligation to accept a certain percentage of handicapped people. I am not referring at this stage to those people who have lost an arm or a leg; I am referring to those who are very capable and able, but because of their age or because they are not as agile as a younger person, are being deprived of opportunities to work.

It seems to me that the Government could well take the lead with respect to Government departments. I know the State Housing Commission has a very good policy of assisting a large percentage of people who might otherwise be considered as less suitable job applicants. The Government must take the lead in that regard. More importantly, in areas such as Kwinana the

Government must persuade industry to play its part. If the Government were to persuade the companies to employ these people, it would be playing its part. I gave the example where a man was passed as fit by his own doctor but not by the company's doctor. This man should be given the opportunity to work. A system should be initiated similar to that in the UK where companies are obliged to employ a certain percentage of such people.

This would fill a position already held; but in the main if the other person is a younger, more active person, he has a better chance of finding alternative employment.

I do not intend to canvass the whole range of unemployment within this State. This has been adequately covered. However, as far as the Government is concerned there are certainly two groups of people who can be assisted; who in fact must be assisted. I support the amendment.

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [10.18 p.m.]: The Minister for Labour and Industry has very effectively answered this amendment. In fact, his utterance tonight was one of the most commendable he has made in this House.

Government members: Hear, hear!

**Sir CHARLES COURT**: It was calm and considered and really tore to shreds the arguments which have been advanced by the Opposition in respect of this amendment.

**Mr Jamieson**: Why are you on your feet answering then?

**Sir CHARLES COURT**: I just want to deal with one or two points which were not covered by the Minister for Labour and Industry and I shall start by referring to the amendment. Somehow or other I gained the impression that the Labor Party, both State and Federal, has not caught up with the fact that there was an election on the 10th December when the people of Australia made a very clear-cut decision. I remind members opposite that when the people made that clear-cut decision they did so with full knowledge, reminded day in, day out, by the Labor Party and by the media of the high level of unemployment that existed in Australia, a level which the Prime Minister was not prepared to accept and a level which I have not been prepared to accept.

The people of Australia, with that full knowledge, the full knowledge of what they had in the Fraser Government and the full knowledge of what they could have obtained with a Whitlam Government, decided in the most emphatic way that they would stick with what they already had.

Mr Davies: It does not help the unemployed.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Governor does not need to be reminded about unemployment, because the Government told him about it in the Speech which he read. Therefore, one has to agree with the Minister for Labour and Industry that this amendment is either the height of hypocrisy or it is from an Opposition which is completely bereft of any ideas.

Mr Davies: What you said does not help the unemployed one iota.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Subiaco was closer to the mark than he thought, except at the point where he referred to me as a good "labour" Premier, or words to that effect, because it is a fact that there is still scope in Australia for a tremendous amount of economy in the recurring expenditure of government.

I do not run away from this at all or hide it. I do not stop preaching it because it happens to be true. The extravagance of the Whitlam Government period will take years to erase.

Mr Bryce: Don't tell me you'll blame the Whitlam Government again?

Several members interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is in this recurrent expenditure section of government where the extravagance took place and the real inflation was substantially generated with the result that some of the things built into the Government systems, both State and Federal, will take years and years to work out and get them back to something the nation can afford.

The member for Subiaco is not right in comparing the percentage of public servants and Government employed people in Australia with those in Canada unless he adjusts the Canadian statistics because he was not comparing like with like.

I come back to another point when he said that some of the things such as water, sewerage, and the like should be stepped up. It is no secret that I have been pressing at the national level to have the expenditure on the basic assets—the working assets—of the nation stepped up. However, this is quite different from any suggestion that has come from the Opposition tonight of just stepping up our expenditure and running into a deficit, if that is what is in its mind.

Mr Bryce: No-one said that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Opposition wants us to be extravagant with Government expenditure. That is different compared with the development of some basic working assets of the nation. Railways, roads, ports, water, sewerage,

and power are the basic assets of the nation. I have been in the forefront—and there is no secret about it because it has been said publicly many times—in advocating that this type of public expenditure is both desirable and necessary. Of course we have to get the money out of revenue or from borrowed funds. I believe—and this is what I was talking about as members would know had I been reported in full in Kalgoorlie on Sunday—that if the whole of the free world at the Government level made decisions to do some of the positives to counteract some of the negatives canvassed and practised over the last few years, we would be looking at an entirely different situation from that which exists today. So, although the member for Subiaco was not trying to be kind to me or the Government, he was probably closer to the mark than he thought because he advocated tighter control of government expenditure where there is still waste and a stepping up of expenditure on the other side—the capital works. In this regard he is somewhat inconsistent with his advocacy that the Government should cut back expenditure.

However, it is a fact of life that the Government has a responsibility to incur what I believe is a greater expenditure throughout the nation in respect of the working assets and we as a State Government, as I will demonstrate in a few moments, have done our part within the resources available to us to do something about these important things.

I remind the Opposition that if it had studied the last Budget it would have seen that because the Government had been frugal and careful with its funds in the Consolidated Revenue section, the Government was able to put into capital works many millions of dollars which were all employment generating.

Mr H. D. Evans: Which came from overcharging for the State's facilities.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the member for Warren wants those programmes cancelled and more people put out of work, let him say so. That is what he is saying and implying.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is an extra cost on every business in the State.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I ask the honourable member whether he wants more people put out of work and charges reduced because I want to remind him that the Government's financial policy was responsible for generating a lot of employment during the present financial year. If he wants those policies reversed, let him say so because every utterance which comes from the

Opposition on the question of State finance is always orientated towards deficit financing.

Where does the deficit come from? It comes from loan funds because we have no reserve bank or printing press, and when it is taken from loan funds it is usually taken from employment-creating works.

The Leader of the Opposition can do better than he did tonight. If he analyses his speech he will see he put forward not a single constructive thought. He used the old ploy of Oppositions: We should put charges down and spend more. No-one ever does any arithmetic and tells us where we are to obtain the money. Most Oppositions are guilty of this. No Opposition ever states what charges it would be prepared to reduce and how it would replace the money or make up for the revenue it would not have.

Mr Davies: I did not say that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am talking about what was said because I wrote it down.

Mr Davies: Have a look at what I said.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I want to refer to the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition when he led up to his amendment because they are pertinent to the amendment. He said that the Government was bereft of ideas, was guilty of self-satisfaction, was doing nothing about the future, and had omitted items from the Governor's Speech. That is something which has long become hackneyed because no Government can put everything into a Speech and he admitted that. Every Bill and little item cannot be included or the Government would be criticised for having a tedious Speech which goes on and on. Even now Governments have a struggle to keep the Speech to a reasonable length. The Leader of the Opposition said the Government is not doing everything it can and is not being frank with the people. I do not know any Government which has done as much to promulgate the information about what it is doing and why, as has this Government.

Mr Bryce: Are you going to give us an invitation to the seminar on Friday?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I want to come back to the point because the Leader of the Opposition was on very shaky ground when he referred to the Government being bereft of ideas, being self-satisfied, and doing nothing about the future.

If he would look at the Governor's Speech alone he would find it is the report of a Government which has a thrust on many fronts, not on one particular front. I know of no Government, in my memory, which has endeavoured to keep the

machinery of the Government thrusting on all fronts and not just concentrating on industrial development or on one particular field such as public works, education, or health. If he looks at the Governor's Speech he would realise there is a tremendous programme of resource and industrial development. It does not matter how much the Opposition likes to ridicule the work done on the North-West Shelf gas because the fact is that this Government saved that project.

Mr Davies: Who ridiculed it? We totally supported it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: This Government had to save that project from complete destruction, by unilaterally acting against the wishes of the Whitlam Government. In the meantime we have managed not only to save it, but also to keep it moving to a point when we will get gas by 1984.

Several members interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Warren has said that we do not have to worry about tradesmen until 1984.

Mr H. D. Evans: I did not say that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The big works will commence soon. A start will be made on the massive construction by the end of next year.

Mr H. D. Evans: You have two years for training. Do not distort what is said.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the member for Warren that his colleagues have made a complaint against the programme of the Minister for Labour and Industry who wants to shorten the training period for certain types of skills. They say this should not be done. I heard Mr Peter Cook of the TLC on the radio this morning condemning the Minister's proposal. I do not see how we could train them in two years, not tradesmen of the sophistication we will need.

Mr Bryce: If the Premier is dinkum will he arrange an invitation for us—

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should get onto something important instead of being childish.

Mr Bryce: Are you saying that is not important?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Let us deal with the amendment.

Mr Bryce: Are you not prepared to arrange an invitation?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will not discuss that.

Mr Bryce: Of course not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members opposite

get treated with much more courtesy than they ever treated us as an Opposition.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: I want to remind the Leader of the Opposition who said we are doing nothing about the future that it was during the term of this Government that we managed to get some of the most sophisticated and competent people in the world to accept commitments for oil exploration in some of the most difficult waters of the world and to bring the most sophisticated technology in the world with total commitments already in the region of \$300 million for exploration.

Mr H. D. Evans: They were here and planning before this Government took office.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Warren does not seem to understand that these things have been initiated, advertised, researched, allocated and commenced in the life of this Government.

Mr H. D. Evans: They have not stopped. Rubbish!

Sir CHARLES COURT: It has achieved plenty.

Mr Bryce: There are 35 000 people out of work.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Those members opposite who cannot understand private enterprise would not see the challenge to the people of this State to better their technology, and to keep up with modern technology. They cannot see the opportunities these developments will bring to the young people of this State.

I will move on, in view of the fact that it is no use wasting time and that the Leader of the Opposition has not heard about the concentrator plant at Tom Price or the \$300 million involved—which was started and will be finished in the life of this Government.

Mr Bryce: And which will inevitably come to a standstill in the life of this Government!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Leader of the Opposition did not seem to know of the visit to England by the Minister for Industrial Development, when he negotiated for the Agnew project to get started. He brushed it aside as though it did not matter.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about our invitation? Get onto something important.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Does the Opposition dismiss as being of no consequence the thrust by this Government in the field of consumer affairs? Members opposite should look at the programme

being embarked upon by the Minister concerned. I refer to some of the industrial initiatives which have been taken by the Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr B. T. Burke: Workers' compensation!

Sir CHARLES COURT: We know the programme in respect of pre-apprentices was envied by the rest of Australia because our Minister got off his tail and did something about it. I refer to the field of health. Here we are taking the initiative, even though we are being criticised for spending too much money on some of the health institutions we are building in this State in order to provide health services second to none in this nation.

Look what has happened in the field of conservation and the environment during the period of this Government, and the progress which has been made. Large areas of national parks have been created. Money has been set aside so that they can be managed instead of being just lines on a map, as they used to be under the previous Labor Government. These are some of the things which have been done.

Mr Davies: What about the amendment?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I refer to the initiative taken in the development of water resources in order to see us safely into the next century. Steps have been taken to see that this State will have an adequate water supply. We will also introduce a sensible system of rating which past Governments have shied away from for years.

I also refer to the initiative taken by this Government in getting some access to overseas funds. That initiative has been ridiculed tonight by the Opposition.

Mr Bryce: Who did? Why do you not stand in your place and be truthful?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Did the member opposite not hear what the Leader of the Opposition said? He was sneering at the idea.

Mr Bryce: The Premier is in wonderland.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Because of our initiative we were able to get this break-through. In the meantime, I have publicly criticised the decision made by the Commonwealth Government which would inhibit our use of this new access to funds for capital works.

Mr Bryce: The Premier set up a phantom to knock down himself.

Mr Davies: So were we also criticising the Commonwealth Government.



Sir CHARLES COURT: I am glad to hear that.

Mr Davies: Why do you not listen? You said we were not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Opposition is so centralist it would, at heart, encourage the control being imposed by the Federal Government.

Mr Davies: The Opposition is not centralist; it was supporting the Premier. However, the Premier could not believe that any Opposition would help him.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Labor Party is socialistic and centralist, and one cannot get away from that.

Mr Davies: If that is what you want, that is what you will get.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Take the offshore administration and the progress we have made there. We have not made enough yet, and I hope the Opposition will support us.

Mr Davies: We will.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I hope the Leader of the Opposition will. The Leader of the Opposition claims that we have not done anything, we are bereft of ideas, and have done nothing for the future. I ask: Who made it possible to have deep sea fishing carried out off the coast, at Albany?

Mr Taylor: And who started that; when did that start?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Who managed to get it together? It was completely bogged down.

Mr Taylor: It was done two months before the election; you cannot get away with that.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Taylor: It was approved two or three months before the election.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the honourable member for Cockburn that he is completely off the beam.

Mr Taylor: Look at the file in your office.

Sir CHARLES COURT: What the member for Cockburn is talking about is a project which proved to be unsuccessful.

Mr Taylor: They were not able to follow it through, but that was not our fault. It was three months before the election.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was proved to be uneconomic so the project had to be renegotiated.

Mr Taylor: I will ask the Premier some questions about it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was the initiative of this Government which made it possible to get

that project off the ground in a sensible way with the large type of ocean-going fishing vessels.

Mr Taylor: It fell through in your term of Government.

Mr Bryce: The Premier should face the reality of the situation.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Progress in education is another thrust of this Government. The previous Minister set a good example and the present Minister is carrying on that vigorous programme. Because of initiative, new ideas are being introduced.

Mr Bryce: There are 600 school teachers out of work.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should not talk about school teachers being out of work. I just remind members opposite about who initiated the system which caused the surplus.

Mr Bryce: You blamed the Whitlam Government.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We had to sort it out. I remind members opposite of the new systems where initiatives are being taken. I refer to another thrust by the Government in railway rehabilitation.

Mr Bryce: How long is it since you rode on a suburban railway? How long is it since you went to Armadale?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: We have committed ourselves to a programme of rehabilitation of the main line from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana, and it will be done. We have already called tenders for some of the major contracts. This is another thrust of this Government; we have not waited for the final Commonwealth commitments.

I remind honourable members opposite further—when looking for something for the future and some thrust by this Government which is supposed to be bereft of ideas—of the development taking place in the cultural facilities in this community. Is that not a part of the total responsibility of Government?

Mr Davies: It does not help the unemployed.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Many people are employed in building the new Art Gallery. Those people would otherwise be out of work. The Opposition should get its facts in proper perspective.

I have mentioned those few headings to indicate how the Government has thrust forward on all fronts on which the Government is expected to take action.

Mr Bryce: There are 35 000 people out of work.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We reject the arguments put forward by the Opposition. I come back to what was emphasised by my colleague, the Minister for Labour and Industry; that is, the situation in which we deal with this question of unemployment. Of course, we are not happy with it. We accept it as a major challenge and a major problem. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues—despite the fact that in a period of three years, while jobs in the rest of Australia were going down, we went up by 25 000—asked about the 35 000 unemployed.

Mr Bryce: Is the Premier saying that New South Wales and Tasmania did not create thousands of jobs in the same time?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am just saying the honourable member need not take my word for the creation of jobs by us. We do not deal in riddles. I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to look at the employment factor in the statistics and to look at the number of employed people that went up in Western Australia. If we have 35 000 unemployed here that does not take any of the credit away from the fact that we went up by 25 000 in the number of people employed. Is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition saying that we should put up a fence on the South Australian border and tell people that they cannot come in while there is unemployment in this State?

Mr Bryce: When you promised 100 000 jobs you did not say we should look at South Australia and Tasmania.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The people in the other States can see that the West is best and they make up their own minds to come here of their own free will. What the Minister said is true; they are being encouraged to come here.

Mr B. T. Burke: Before you sit down, what about the invitation?

Sir CHARLES COURT: They are encouraged to come here by people in the Eastern States, including parliamentarians, who see that they can get them off their backs by sending them here. If people genuinely want work we welcome them here because we are very short of tradesmen.

Mr Skidmore: What tradesmen?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Tradesmen who can make it possible for other people to be employed in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Mr Pearce: I tried to get an immigration permit for a tradesman. I have applied for a number of people to come to this State—tradesmen and engineers—and have not been able to get one.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the honourable member has cases of tradesmen who genuinely want to come here from other countries, I suggest he refer them to my colleague because we are trying to persuade the Commonwealth Government to relax the conditions so that we can get more skilled tradesmen into Western Australia.

When my colleague was referring to the question of unemployment he made the point that we have been able to do these things in spite of the overall world and national situation and in spite of the problems of drought which are very widespread.

Mr Skidmore: Do you think you are an orphan in that?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am trying to put the matter in its proper perspective.

Mr Skidmore: I am asking you to do likewise and make a comparison with the other States.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Of course there has been drought in other States, but I am trying to make the point that we have had a drought for the second year, and in some parts of the industry for the third year, and we are still better off than the other States are. Why does the honourable member not get his facts into proper perspective?

Mr Skidmore: What about the job vacancies that have gone down in this State?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members of the Opposition do not seem to be able to study the position with any clarity or objectivity. They should be proud of the fact that this State has a better economic performance than any other State. The way they are going they will do their darndest to destroy that because they have a vested interest in destroying confidence in this State. They are trying to give the impression that we are in the middle of a great recession.

Mr Bryce: We are trying to co-operate. What did you do about natural gas? Your department turned around and said, "Sorry."

Mr B. T. Burke: What have you got to hide?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will not deal with that one. The honourable member has said he will refer the matter to the Minister. Sufficient unto the day. I will not become involved because I do not know the circumstances, apart from the fact that I have to open it. I remind members opposite that when we were in Opposition we got no courtesies from them. Look at what we have done for members opposite because we have acknowledged the rights of the Opposition in many of these matters.

Mr Bryce: Why do you not create a standard and be a statesman?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members opposite have no quarrel about the courtesies they have received from this Government; no quarrel at all. They have been treated very generously.

Mr H. D. Evans: So were you.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We were not.

Mr H. D. Evans: Cite an instance instead of generalising.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will not waste my time. I will gladly relate some of the mean, contemptible things done to the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy when the Labor Party was in Government. But that is not the subject tonight.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will resume his seat. The subject matter now under discussion does not appear to be the one before the Chair and I ask the Premier to confine his remarks to the amendment.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Mr Speaker, I was coming back to the point made by my colleague about the circumstances under which we consider the situation and about the performance in this State being so much better than that in other parts of Australia. A tremendous number of stand-downs have occurred in the meat industry because of seasonal conditions, and in the mining industry because of the world downturn in metals, but we have still managed to keep our economy in a more buoyant position than other States have.

The Opposition made fun of and ridiculed the point made by my colleague about Aborigines. When the Labor Party was in Government the Aborigines were not dealt with in the statistics in the same way as they are today. An entirely different situation prevails now.

Mr Bryce: In 1967 that census was held.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am talking about the method of counting the unemployed at the time. The point made by my colleague is true because many of these people are now incorporated as unemployed when previously they would not have been in the statistics as far as the unemployed are concerned. That does not mean they were not in the census.

Mr Pearce: The CES is different from the census.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am not talking about the census.

I conclude by saying the Government has a positive record. It has made a thrust on all fronts

of Government activity, and in spite of the world situation and the Australian situation this is the most prosperous State, and it has taken the most positive actions.

I want to remind some members opposite that the actions taken by my colleague, the Minister for Labour and Industry, in respect of seeking out employment for youth and greater opportunities for apprenticeships were initiated by him. They were not copied from another State, and in most cases the example he set and the success he had represented the thrust used in other States as the prototype to expand this type of activity to try to create more work for youth.

The Government is concerned about unemployment but it rejects this amendment as being hypocritical and not based on fact.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [10.46 p.m.]: One could have imagined that the Premier was speaking to the Address-in-Reply and not to the amendment, because he ranged rather wide in subject matter in dealing with unemployment. How he was able to tie some of it in, I am not sure. However, he succeeded, and I do not intend to range so far. I merely want to reiterate things I have stated so often in this Chamber.

How soul-destroying unemployment is, particularly for the young people of this community. Although the Premier might still try to blame the Whitlam Government for all sorts of things—and the teacher surplus now seems to have been created by it—we must appreciate the fact that these people are citizens of Western Australia.

We must also appreciate the fact that much of the leeway could be taken up by employing many of the teachers who are now on unemployment benefits and have become what some members opposite claim to be dole bludgers. They are waiting around for a job because they cannot get one which is suitable for them. They are probably in the Premier's electorate on Swanbourne beach all day because they have no money to buy clothes anyway.

Be that as it may, the fact is we have a vast number of effectively trained school teachers waiting for employment. The hard part of it is that employment for the newly-trained school teachers is allocated on a certain basis. Where they are married and their spouse is already teaching with the department, the newly-trained teachers do not get a go. They are allocated on their ability and qualifications, so it is pounds to peanuts that by the time the bottom of the last echelon is reached and the new group of highly

trained teachers is coming along, the better ones will obtain employment.

What will happen to the stragglers who have gone through? What will happen to the public money that has been spent on them? Having finished their training and been further trained, is not the fact that they are actually doing a job more important than a few extra lousy dollars for the Treasury of this State?

Although we had a considerable surplus in the Treasury last year, from what I hear, this year's surplus will be a few million dollars more than last year. The availability of an extra \$1 million for teachers' salaries in this financial year could do a great deal to overcome the problems in that sphere alone.

If we consider some of the other matters the Premier dealt with, we must wonder how dinkum he is. He spoke about the North-West Shelf, and no-one wants to see that go ahead more than I do. I can see an exciting time approaching for the north of this State with all the subsequent advantages, but I am not as sure as the Premier is at this stage that the project will go ahead. He told us that development will commence by the end of next year, but all I have heard of is a \$50 million survey and assessment which is to be undertaken to consider whether the proposition is still feasible. I do not know whether or not we are both reading the same literature, or whether the Premier is receiving advance information. When I talk to various people associated with these developments, they are always much more careful than the Premier is.

Mr Sibson: Particularly when they are talking to you.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course they would need to be careful because they know I am a responsible person and I want responsible facts. I do not wish to indulge in any kite flying because I feel far too often the Government has misled the population of this State either through the Premier or his Ministers. Time and time again tonight we have had repeated the absurd statement made by the greatly-praised Minister for Labour and Industry. The Premier got up tonight to praise him but said nothing about 100 000 jobs he said he would be creating in 18 months to assist teenage children. It is absurd for politicians to make statements that are untrue and that will destroy the faith of the coming generation. The Government could not keep these promises; the economy of the State could not stand the burden of what it proposed, and this in itself would wreck employment possibilities for these young people.

One could say, as the Premier does, that we

have these wonderful training schemes, and that they are far better than the schemes operating anywhere else. However, the facts are that a considerable number of young people have been left to roam the streets because there is nothing better for them to do. I would like members opposite to visit my electorate office at Cannington on a Monday morning. They would see the many young people who visit the Commonwealth Employment Service situated above my office; people are turned away after they have had their papers signed. As my colleague said earlier, some of the young people return to school where they are neither use nor ornament because they have reached the maximum that their ability will allow and so they make mischief and cause problems for the headmaster and his staff.

We must find some way to take up the slack. I am very keen to see all the school leavers given a fair go. The brighter students in the community will take up the available positions but the average and the below-average students—who also are citizens of the State of Western Australia—are not receiving much consideration. The training schemes suggested by the Premier will not take up the slack or indeed do anything to overcome the problem. A scheme should be developed so that a complete dossier is kept in regard to every school leaver so that we know what is happening. We know that many of these youths lounge around talking to one another all day in the undercroft of the Brownlie Towers mansions in Cannington or in similar places. They have nothing to do all day except to get into mischief. Such situations end up costing the State a considerable amount of money.

Some people have a fetish about Government spending on services, and although the Premier says that there is a required proportion of Government spending, I take it that many Government members would want to cut down as much as they can in this area. However, I remind them again that every Government service provided relies to some degree on private enterprise. It may be necessary for Government departments to purchase pipes for water supplies or cement for buildings, and all this helps with employment in the private sphere. A Government which cuts right back on Government spending induces more unemployment problems.

My colleagues made a little bit of a fuss a while ago when they sought to know more about the special seminar on industrial development and the north-west. Looking at the list of people invited to the seminar, I see that it includes people from various sections of the community and also some

politicians. Unfortunately, no Opposition members were invited. It would not cost the Government anything at all to have some extra observers present. Governments do have a habit of changing, and surely if this Government were interested in the State of Western Australia, it would want to ensure that if such a change occurred, the present Opposition would be in a position to carry on the business of the State in a proper and sound manner. For that reason alone the Premier should ensure that Opposition members are invited to such seminars. It would not cost a great sum of money, nor would it embarrass anyone to inform people on such a subject matter.

Alcoa wants to inform the Government and also the Opposition when a project is being considered, and therefore this company issues invitations to groups from both sides. In this way the company seeks to ensure the support of everyone. This is a feature of the American-based industries. I have noticed that American businessmen are more accustomed to deal with horse-trading types of political parties in the United States than they are with the more doctrinaire-type parties in Australia. These people realise the Labor Party is intent on the socialist ultimate, as the Premier keeps reminding us, but they are observers of our Constitutions, both State and Federal, and they are fully aware that there is no immediate danger in this particular direction.

Although I see socialist enterprises as being inevitable, I realise also that we cannot socialise everything tomorrow. Because of our particular kind of economy, it will be a very slow process as far as we are concerned. Overseas people who wish to invest money in Australia want friendships on both sides of the political spectrum, and so they are prepared to invite observers of different political persuasions to their seminars.

Mr Speaker, I will not wander too far onto extraneous matters of that type. I rose merely to say that often I have found myself in the same position as my leader. It is of no use the Premier or anyone else saying that 28 000 more jobs will be created. I am sure we will find that these jobs will not help our own unemployed. These jobs will provide employment for transient people from, say, New Zealand and Tasmania. We will have an influx of Australians from other States who cannot find jobs in their own States. I refer to the economic situations that have occurred. Naturally, if there is a possibility of employment it will be an attraction, and once the numbers start coming in more jobs are generated.

It is not necessarily the intention of the

Government to do it in this manner; nor can it put up a fence on the boundary, although sometimes we might like to do it.

Treasury officials always used to tell me that they had great difficulty in convincing the present Premier that this State is not an island. He always took the view that it was, and he still takes that view to a great extent. However, we cannot solve the problems of Australia State by State, despite the much vaunted statement of the Premier that unemployment is in the main a State responsibility about which the States should do something. We all know what he said about solving inflation State by State. That just did not add up to correct economic thinking.

Sir Charles Court: You referred to a figure which should be included in the Budget for teachers. Did you say \$1 million?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, I said it should be \$1 million in this financial year in order to take up these people.

Sir Charles Court: That would provide 100 teachers for one year. We have already employed 268 more than we need.

Mr Tonkin: More than you need? What about the children's needs?

Sir Charles Court: We have employed 268 more than we need.

Mr JAMIESON: That cannot be so when class numbers are unusually and unnecessarily high; and yet we have an excess of teachers available. I cannot reconcile that point of view at all.

Sufficient teachers would be available to take care of these people, at least during their basic training and during whatever training they require in the classroom. If these teachers are trained later they will probably just scrape through and be only average teachers. We do not want just average teachers to teach our school children; we want the best teachers, and if we can do anything to lift the standard we should do it.

The Premier spoke about the rehabilitation of railways, but the way he is cutting down railways we will find we will not need to rehabilitate many because there will not be many left. If we consider a line such as the Meekatharra line, we would find that the people employed on it would be coming down here to take the other jobs, and taking up the leeway here. Therefore I do not think many employees would be involved there.

Mr O'Connor: You wouldn't suggest that we retain that line, would you?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, I would. I think the retention of that line is more important than many other matters, considering the future

potential of the area. Were the people of Western Australia complaining to the Government about subsidising that line?

Mr O'Connor: They would not have known about it.

Mr JAMIESON: They do not know about many subsidies, nor do they know about some surpluses which are well hidden.

Mr O'Connor: Those millions of dollars make a difference.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course they do, but if you will let me deviate for a minute, Mr Speaker, the cold hard fact in respect of the Meekatharra railway line is that every train going up the line was fully laden, and every train returning down the line was fully laden. I have never known a railway upon which trains were filled to capacity in each direction to be closed.

Mr O'Connor: What was the annual loss on that line?

Mr JAMIESON: Of course it made a loss, and a great loss. However, all of our railway lines make a loss. What is the loss on the Albany line? It is tremendous. Also, many spur lines used for carting grain and superphosphate make a loss. These losses are considerable; but are the people complaining about them? Just try to close down those lines and see what happens. The farmers would quickly complain, and rightly so. Those lines are an amenity and as long as we can possibly retain them as an effective transport system, we should do so.

Many mistakes were made in respect of that northern line which should have been remedied before it was too late. However, they were not remedied. Rubbishy sleepers from the Midland railway line were used on that track and they should not have been used. Much money was wasted on trying to upgrade the line which could have been far better spent in other ways on more permanent upgrading.

However, with all this we come back to the cold, hard fact that some 35 000 people are out of work in this State. This is the problem which the Government must face up to. In 1972 the Tonkin Labor Government struck a very rough patch in which we had a bad unemployment percentage. We were able to taper the unemployment percentage to about 1.42 per cent at the time the present Government took office. It is necessary to work on percentages; it is no good working on numbers of jobs because as the population increases so does the number of jobs in the community. Since that period the percentage of unemployment has continued to increase and it is now at a rate which is not satisfactory to the

Opposition, even though it may sound all right to those opposite who have a job and were voted in at the last election and are secure for at least a couple of years. To them what we say may sound like a cracked record being played over and over again, especially when we reiterate the Premier's words.

Look at what has happened throughout Australia since the 10th December. Even then 93 per cent of the people were employed. We know how the Jack system operates amongst the people of Australia, because those 93 per cent were looking after themselves rather than the other 7 per cent. However, it is incumbent upon us as members of the Legislature to look after the people who are in need rather than those who are capable of looking after themselves. That is what we are doing tonight by moving this amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

It is a deplorable fact that we now have a greater number of unemployed people than we have ever had in the history of this State. We should not have this number of unemployed. Sure, it is not possible to solve the problem in Australia overnight, because the unemployed people will simply flock over the Nullabor as the Premier said; but his problem is to see that his Federal colleagues try to solve their responsibilities in the Eastern States while we are doing something about the matter here, particularly as the Premier always said that the responsibility for alleviating unemployment was substantially the responsibility of the State and not the Commonwealth.

I have never agreed with that because I can see the problems associated with it. However, the Premier made that statement, and if he is to stick by it, it is up to him to do something not only in Western Australia but also in Canberra to ensure that the Federal Government does something about the unemployment situation so that it is reduced to a reasonable level.

**MR GRILL (Yilgarn-Dundas) [11.09 p.m.]:** I would like to make a few comments on this matter as it touches on the eastern goldfields. The eastern goldfields area of this State has suffered as no other area has suffered from the effects of unemployment. This area, which is the cradle of this State's prosperity, which is still an area for great wealth in this State, and an area which has come to the rescue of the State on several occasions, is in a state of tremendous decline; it is in a state of high unemployment; and, more importantly—and I think the Government has been impressing this point upon us tonight—it is an area of great job loss.

We have seen tremendous job losses in the

eastern goldfields area during the last 12 months. In Kambalda, we have seen 600 men put off. We have seen the Anaconda mine closed. We have seen retrenchment notices hanging over the heads of most of the men working at the Windarra mine. We have seen the same thing happen in respect of the North Kalgoorlie treatment plant. We have seen the whole of the nickel industry fall into a decline and we cannot see any prospect of that industry picking up.

In fact, the real prospects of that industry over the next few years are very dismal. It is problematical whether we will see any forestalling of the present decline before 1985. All of this decline has taken place very quickly and in the face of inactivity by the Government. It was only a year ago in my first speech to this House that I warned the Government that the nickel industry was in a condition where it could fall into a state of decline. I had not heard any warning of that fact from the Government up till that time. I would have thought this would be an area which the Government would be monitoring and about which the Government would have some knowledge.

Apparently the Government either had no knowledge of the situation or was not prepared to share that knowledge with the people of this State. After I had made that comment in this House concerning the state of the industry, the Minister for Mines assured the House in no uncertain terms that the Windarra nickel mine was one which would not close down. But what have we seen? Within the last month or two, we have seen the entire Windarra operation being told it was going to close down.

I ask those people who have some authority within the Government: Does the Government know what is happening within the industry, when on the one hand the Minister for Mines can say, "Have no worries about the Windarra nickel operation; that will not close down" and then, only a few months later, the entire mining operation, including the open cut and the deep mine in the locality close down? Does the Government know what it is doing? I ask the Government to answer that question because I do not think the Government has its finger on the pulse.

The same applies with goldmining. All the great mines of the Golden Mile are now closed. The major mines which were operating on the Golden Mile when this Government came into power have closed down. Like the nickel industry, the decline of the goldmining operations on the eastern goldfields—apart from the one mine at

Mt. Charlotte and the mine at Norseman—has occurred during the period of this Government.

Yet, if the Government had looked ahead to this day, only some few months hence from the time it allowed these great mines to close down, would it have been so certain in its support of Western Mining Corporation and Lake View and Star in their determination to close down their mines? Would the Government have stood idly by and allowed these mines to close in the face of opposition from the workers and unionists? These things occurred only some few months ago, but the Government of this State—namely, the Government supported by members opposite—allowed these things to happen and did nothing about it.

There is now a resurgence in the goldmining industry and there is a very good possibility that if we had the plant and equipment which was on the Golden Mile when this Government came into power, the goldmining industry could have some hope.

In my view, the Government has failed in a number of areas. Firstly, it has failed in respect of the nickel industry inasmuch as it has failed to monitor the industry. Secondly, it has failed in ensuring that the nickel industry and those mining companies within it wrote long-term contracts. It allowed those companies to speculate on the spot market for nickel metal. Had the Government monitored the situation, and gone to those companies and said, "Look, you are playing with fire. You are not writing long-term contracts. You are dabbling in the short-term spot market. There is no future in the spot market and you should get out of it and write long-term contracts" would the position be any different today?

Sir Charles Court: No, it would not.

Mr GRILL: In all probability, they would still be in operation, because we have seen what happened with Agnew. That company wrote long-term contracts and is still able to operate. It confidently predicts at this stage that it can go ahead and operate indefinitely on the basis of those long-term contracts. If one company can do it, why cannot the others? I suspect the others did not write long-term contracts, firstly, because they were short-sighted and, secondly, because this Government has not been long-sighted enough to request them to do so.

Mr Watt: Do you think the situation has worsened more on the goldfields over the last 12 months than in other places?

Mr GRILL: It is worse because a much greater percentage of the work force has been put off. Over 1 000 men have been put off or are about to

be put off in the mining industry. Kalgoorlie and Kambalda have one base industry. If we take 1 000 men out of the industry, we are taking approximately one-half or one-third out of the work force, which is a catastrophic proportion.

Mr Watt: Figures given to this House earlier do not support your claim. For example, in Albany, Bunbury and the metropolitan area, the unemployment rate has increased by about one-third. In Geraldton, it has increased by some 75 per cent, but in Kalgoorlie it is only 25 per cent.

Mr GRILL: If the honourable member will just allow me to explain, there is high unemployment in the goldfields.

Mr Watt: But there has been a greater percentage increase in unemployment elsewhere.

Mr GRILL: That may be so, but there is still high unemployment in the goldfields, where between 700 and 1 000 people are unemployed.

However, that is not so much the problem. As I said before, the problem is the high loss of jobs. People who lose jobs in the goldfields do not stay in the area because there are no job opportunities for them. Generally, they must get out of the area and move to the coastal regions to find employment. Even though the increase in unemployment has been tremendous, the important thing is not so much the unemployment but the loss of jobs and people to the region.

The loss of people creates a tremendous loss of confidence and a situation where properties which were worth several thousands of dollars probably are worth a lot less now. It creates a situation where businesses built up over decades are now worth a lot less than before.

I do not want to paint too grim a picture of the area, but the situation is not good; it could have been a lot better if this Government had done something about the goldmining industry a long time ago. If it had acted, we would not have seen the goldmining companies sell off the only plant on the goldfields that can treat refractory ore. This Government stood by and allowed Kalgoorlie Lake View to sell off the roasting plant from its Fimiston leases—the only plant in the area which could treat the vast reserves of sulphide ores which still remain in the area. It was estimated by Western Mining Corporation in documentation given to the Federal Government that 22 million tonnes of ore going something between four and five weights still remains in the ground.

Nearly all of this ore must be roasted by a refractory type plant, but this Government stood by and allowed that plant to be sold and therefore has created a situation where those massive reserves of ore cannot be treated.

Sir Charles Court: This Government has done more for the goldmining industry than any other State.

Mr GRILL: As I said up in Kalgoorlie at a meeting attended by the Premier, this Government has done virtually nothing for the goldfields.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk rot! No-one in Kalgoorlie would agree with you.

Mr GRILL: The only thrust the Premier has given to the goldfields has been downwards. If the Government had reacted in a proper fashion it would have prevented the companies selling off their plant and equipment; if it had done so at the time, the company would be in a position to treat refractory ore now.

The Government stood by because Government officials and departments have not been prepared to monitor the situation properly, and if they could not have seen there was going to be an upturn in the price of gold, they should have done.

Sir Charles Court: You were amazed at the generosity we showed.

Mr GRILL: I told the Premier in Kalgoorlie that the whole thing was a sham, and he can remember me saying it. This Government has failed to decentralise into the goldfields.

Sir Charles Court: You said you were amazed at our generosity. That is what you told me personally.

Mr GRILL: In respect of the School of Mines.

Sir Charles Court: No, when I was up there over our assistance to the goldmines.

Mr GRILL: I said quite the opposite.

Sir Charles Court: You might have said it publicly but it is not what you said to me privately.

Mr GRILL: I did not speak to the Premier privately.

Sir Charles Court: Not much you didn't!

Mr GRILL: I congratulated the Premier over the School of Mines.

Sir Charles Court: Don't come that with me!

Mr GRILL: Do not be so silly.

Sir Charles Court: You were amazed at our generosity.

Mr GRILL: I said publicly that the whole thing was a sham. There was more than one witness to that because every dignitary in the town was there and they heard me as clearly as the Premier is hearing me now. This Government has failed to decentralise into the goldfields. It has been urged by successive members from the goldfields to do



something about decentralisation into the area. Only last year it was asked to give some consideration to moving a department or part of a department into the area, but it has done nothing for it.

It must be appreciated by this Government that this area is subject to the vagaries of the market and needs stabilisation, but we are still straddling the razor's edge year in and year out and the Government is prepared to do nothing. The only time the goldfields had a decent fair go was during the time of the Tonkin Government and there are very few people in the eastern goldfields who will argue with that fact.

The Government has failed to stem the loss of confidence in the area and has failed in respect of the major industries in the area. The unemployment which has been created there is only secondary to the loss of jobs in the region and the loss of confidence that the region has suffered. The Government has allowed the mines to be sold off and has allowed the mines to sell themselves out, and it has done nothing.

Mr Coyne: You cannot interfere with private enterprise like that.

Mr Pearce: How much has private enterprise done?

Mr Coyne: Use a few brains.

Mr GRILL: The member for Murchison-Eyre could not do anything. He should do what he normally does which is to sit by mum and do nothing while the major industries in his area are wiped off the map. That is his performance and that is what he will go down for in history—the man who does nothing, the man who says, "You cannot do anything." We will do something. If the Government is not prepared to do something it should get out of the goldfields altogether, move over, and give us a go.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

#### Ayes—17

Mr Barnett	Mr Hodge
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bryce	Mr Pearce
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Carr	Mr Taylor
Mr Davies	Mr Tonkin
Mr H. D. Evans	Dr Troy
Mr Grill	Mr Bateman
Mr Harman	

(Teller)

#### Noes—27

Mr Blaikie	Mr O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Cowan	Mr O'Neil
Mr Coyne	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Sibson
Dr Dadour	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grayden	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr Hassell	Mr Tubby
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Watt
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Williams
Mr Laurance	Mr Young
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Shalders
Mr Nanovich	

(Teller)

#### Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr T. H. Jones	Mr Clarko
Mr Wilson	Mrs Craig
Mr McIver	Mr Rushton
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Mensaros
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr McPharlin

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate (on motion) Resumed*

*Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Herzfeld.*

*House adjourned at 11.27 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TRANSPORT

#### *Southern Western Australia Transport Study*

1. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is it now anticipated that the Southern Western Australia Transport Study will be completed?
- (2) Will the report be tabled in Parliament before any recommendation is implemented?
- (3) If (2) is "No" will the Minister state the reason?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Minister for Transport expects to be in a position to place the Southern Western Australia Transport Study report before Cabinet towards the end of March.
- (2) The procedure for dealing with the report will be a matter for Cabinet to decide.
- (3) Answered by (2).

### ROAD TRANSPORT

#### *Frozen Goods*

2. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister received correspondence complaining of the unsatisfactory delivery of freezer traffic previously handled by Westrail, and now delivered by private transport?
- (2) If "Yes" would the Minister state from whom the complaints have been received, from what parts of the State and what action has taken place to eliminate any problem?
- (3) Would the Minister advise when Westrail freezer van WBR 23433 was renovated at the Midland workshops and the total cost to renovate same?
- (4) Would the Minister advise Westrail's intentions for utilising the freezer vans now stowed at the Leighton yard?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) However, on investigation, some complaints were found to be of little substance. In other cases where there was substance to the complaint, every attempt has been made to satisfy that complaint, but it must be appreciated that in a change of such magnitude as the transfer of temperature controlled goods from railway to road services, some users will benefit and there will, no doubt, be a minority who are slightly disadvantaged.  
In the main, complaints have been received from Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe, Esperance, Dundas Shire, and Mt. Marshall. Steps have been taken to ensure that the quality of the type of service offered has been at least equal to or better than previously offered.
- (3) WBR 23433 issued after general overhaul of 22nd September, 1977. Cost of overhaul was \$6 788.
- (4) An examination is being undertaken into the possibility of converting them to general purpose rollingstock, or alternatively, selling them.

## ROAD TRANSPORT

### Freight Rates

3. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Has the special committee formed to determine the road freight rates from Mullewa to Meekatharra reached an agreement?

- (2) If "Yes" would the Minister inform me of all proposed rates?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of the Transport Commission Act, the Commissioner of Transport called tenders for the provision of a road transport service from Perth to serve Mt. Magnet, Cue, and Meekatharra. The steering committee has examined the tenders and has accepted the rates which the Commissioner of Transport has accepted in accordance with his statutory responsibility.
- (2) I will table a complete schedule of the rates submitted by the successful tenderer.

The schedule was tabled (see paper No. 66).

## RAILWAYS

### "N"-class Locomotives

4. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Further to my question 1012 of 1977 re "N"-class diesel locomotives and his answer concerning the trials of the 12th and 13th October, 1977, can the Minister now advise me of the findings of those reports?
  - (2) Have further trials been conducted with the "N"-class since 13th October, 1977?
  - (3) If so—
    - (a) when;
    - (b) what was the result; and
    - (c) when is it now envisaged that the "N"-class will be utilised on daily services?
  - (4) Have fumes entering the driver's cab now been eliminated by the manufacturers?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Both test runs were satisfactory.
- (2) Further test runs have been carried out, but no formal acceptance trials have been conducted.
- (3) (a) and (b)

Date of Test Run	Locomotive No.	Light engine or Loaded	Journey	Result
14/12/77	1871	Light engine.....	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
15/12/77	1871	Loaded .....	Forrestfield to Avon	Unsatisfactory
19/12/77	1871	Loaded .....	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
20/12/77	1871	Loaded .....	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory

Date of Test Run	Locomotive No.	Light engine or Loaded	Journey	Result
27/12/77	1871	Loaded	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory
18/11/77	1873	Light engine	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
22/11/77	1873	Loaded	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
24/11/77	1873	Loaded	Mundijong to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory
30/11/77	1873	Loaded	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory
12/12/77	1873	Loaded	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory
27/12/77	1873	Loaded	Jarrahdale to Forrestfield	Satisfactory
1/12/77	1874	Light engine	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
6/12/77	1874	Loaded	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
7/12/77	1874	Loaded	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
9/12/77	1874	Loaded	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Satisfactory
12/12/77	1874	Loaded	Kwinana to Jarrahdale	Unsatisfactory
5/1/78	1875	Light engine	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory
6/1/78	1875	Loaded	Forrestfield to Avon	Satisfactory

- (c) No date has been set for the "N"-class locomotives going into regular daily services.
- (4) The manufacturers have looked into the problem of fumes entering the cab and have made modifications which should prove satisfactory.

## RAILWAYS

### Federal Funds

5. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister advise why the State Government spent only \$110 000 in 1976-77 of Federal funds for railway projects, when the Federal Government estimate for spending on this was \$225 000?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The amount of \$225 000 was included in the Commonwealth expenditure estimates for 1976-77 to cover settlement of claims by the State for reimbursement of expenditure on projects, approved by the Commonwealth, as coming under the specific provisions of the Railway Standardisation Agreement Act.

Only \$110 000 was recoverable under these conditions in 1976-77.

The fact that less than \$225 000 was recovered does not indicate failure to take advantage of Commonwealth funding; it only points to an over-estimation of expenditure which ranks for reimbursement under the agreement in that year.

## MINING

### Sodium Nitrate Stockpiling

6. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will he advise if an officer of the Mines Department discussed with Westrail in the latter part of 1977 the possibility of stockpiling the explosive sodium nitrate at Dalwallinu?
- (2) If "Yes"—
  - (a) when did discussions take place;
  - (b) where; and
  - (c) with what results?
- (3) Has the Mines Department discussed the stockpiling of sodium nitrate with the Dalwallinu Shire Council?
- (4) If so—
  - (a) when; and
  - (b) what was the outcome of those discussions?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) In late 1977 the Chief Inspector of Explosives investigated and made recommendations as to the proper safety measures to be adopted should a proposal to tranship ammonia nitrate from rail to road facilities at Dalwallinu come to fruition. In this connection Westrail was asked to supply plans of the railway yards at Dalwallinu.
- (2) (a) The request to Westrail was made in mid November, 1977.  
(b) At Northam.  
(c) The plans were supplied.
- (3) Similarly plans showing dwellings and other improvements in close proximity to the Dalwallinu railway yards were requested from the local shire clerk.
- (4) (a) The request to the shire was made in mid November, 1977.  
(b) The plans were supplied.

## HAWTIN ROAD

### Upgrading

7. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware that Hawtin Road in Forrestfield is being used by heavy haulage trucks as a major through road until the Roe Freeway is constructed?
- (2) Is he further aware that there have been many accidents along this road in recent weeks, one resulting in a fatality?
- (3) Is he also aware that the road is too narrow to carry heavy traffic with safety?
- (4) If answer to (1), (2) and (3) is "Yes", will he act urgently to have Hawtin Road upgraded to carry such traffic?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Questions 7, 8, and 9 were addressed to the Minister for Traffic, but they should have been addressed to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport. The Minister for Transport has provided the replies.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware that a fatal accident occurred recently.
- (3) The road should not present a hazard to the reasonable driver.
- (4) Hawtin Road is a local authority road under the control of the Kalamunda Shire Council. As such the council has the responsibility for any improvements to it.

#### NICHOLSON ROAD TRAFFIC BRIDGE

##### *Widening*

8. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

In view of the continued traffic congestion at the Nicholson Road bridge in Cannington each morning between 7.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m., will he advise—

- (1) When is it anticipated the Nicholson Road bridge will be widened to carry the two lanes of traffic which are causing this congestion?
- (2) Is it envisaged that work will commence on this bridge in the near future?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Traffic congestion on Nicholson Road is not solely related to the capacity of the road bridge but is also influenced by the capacity of the junction with Albany Highway. There are no plans for immediate widening of the bridge which carries a daily volume comparable to the two-lane bridges on Guildford Road and over the Helena River on Great Eastern Highway. Nicholson Road is the responsibility of the Canning Town Council and the Gosnells City Council and these councils should initiate any scheme for widening.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS

##### *Welshpool-Hale Roads Intersection*

9. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) In view of the ever increasing traffic hazard at the intersection of Welshpool/Hale Roads, Wattle Grove, will he advise exactly when this particular section will be upgraded and traffic lights installed?
- (2) If this work is to be delayed, what are the reasons for such delay?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Traffic control signals are installed on a priority basis which depends largely on conflicting traffic volumes and accident record. This intersection is not listed for signals in 1977-78. Priorities for 1978-79 are currently being assessed and this site will be considered along with many others in the metropolitan area.
- (2) Answered by (1).

#### HOUSING

##### *Forrestfield Development*

10. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:

In view of the extreme inconvenience and damage caused to homes and gardens by dust and sand blowing throughout the Forrestfield area adjacent to the State Housing Commission development, will he advise—

- (1) Is the State Housing Commission prepared to offer some form of compensation to those who have been affected?
- (2) If "Yes" in what form?
- (3) If "No" why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) As one of the three parties directly involved, the Housing Commission has advised the Shire of Kalamunda it is prepared to consider genuine claims for compensation when development is completed.
- (2) Monetary compensation has been suggested.
- (3) Not applicable.

## EDUCATION

### *School-based Funding*

11. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

With regard to the policy statement from the Director-General's office, No. 13 entitled "School Based Funding", would he advise—

- (1) How long does he anticipate it will be before the policy will be implemented generally?
- (2) Will allocations to individual schools be based on per capita sum?
- (3) If (2) is "No" what factors will be used in determining the allocation to an individual school?
- (4) Does he anticipate that the additional clerical work generated will require additional ancillary staff time at individual schools?
- (5) If (4) is "Yes" will their salaries be drawn from school based funding allocations?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) This will be dependent upon the progress made in the three pilot high schools involved.
- (2) and (3) Allocations to individual schools will be determined as a lump sum for overhead expenses together with an amount dependent upon the enrolment of the school. Adjustments will be made for additional costs which may arise outside of the metropolitan area because of district loadings.
- (4) and (5) Until some experience has

been gained in school based funding, it is not possible to predict the extent to which additional clerical work might be generated. It is not anticipated that additional staff will be required, although it may be necessary for additional clerical time to be purchased by the school from its budget. This will be considered in determining the overall allocation to schools after the experience of the pilot scheme has been evaluated.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### *Bullsbrook*

12. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

In view of his department's intention to offer year 11 courses from the beginning of 1979 at Bullsbrook District High School, would he advise—

- (1) What additional buildings, if any, will be erected to accommodate year 11 students?
- (2) Will these buildings be permanent or demountable?
- (3) If permanent, when will tenders be called and construction commenced?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Until current enrolments at Bullsbrook District High School have been analysed, it will not be possible to assess whether additional rooms will be required.
- (2) If additional rooms are required, transportable classrooms will be provided for 1978. This will enable the project to be evaluated before the Education Department makes any commitment to permanent structures.
- (3) Answered by (2).

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

### *Copies*

13. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Can he state whether copies of the Local Government Act are available for purchase and, if so, where?

- (2) If copies are not available for purchase by the general public, can he indicate what action is being taken to produce a new printing, and when he expects copies to again be on sale?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr RUSHTON) replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Copies of the reprinted Local Government Act are available for purchase from the Government Printer.

## USED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS

### *Wednesday Night Trading*

14. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware of any complaints from used car yards in relation to their having to stay open until 10 p.m. each Wednesday night?
- (2) Is there a consensus of opinion from used car yards wishing to curtail the Wednesday evening opening?
- (3) If so, what action does he propose?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Under the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act, used car yards may be open until 10 p. m. each Wednesday night. It is not mandatory to do so. I am not aware of any complaints from used car yards.
- (2) The Australian Automobile Dealers Association (W.A. Division) has indicated to me a consensus opinion from used car yards to curtail the authorised hours of trading on the Wednesday evening. They have also sought to transfer to Thursday evening when late night trading commences.
- (3) Amendment to the authorised hours is receiving consideration.

## STATE FORESTS

### *Dieback and Bauxite Mining*

15. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Lands and Forests:

With reference to the answer provided to question 1168 part (8) of 1977—

- (1) What species is it proposed to use to rehabilitate bauxite mine sites and dieback areas located in forest areas where salinity is expected to result from the bauxite mining operation?

- (2) What will be the length of time before it is possible to specify rehabilitation procedures for this area?

- (3) If "satisfactory stand development" does not occur, what rehabilitation procedures will be used?

- (4) What will be the estimated cost of rehabilitation per hectare in this area?

- (5) Who pays for the rehabilitation?

- (6) When will the research referred to be completed?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) Trials currently under way will determine the most suitable species for use when and if bauxite mining extends into these areas.

- (2) and (3) It is not possible to nominate when the results of the research now in progress will be available.

- (4) An estimate cannot be provided until rehabilitation techniques are defined.

- (5) The mining companies, except that at Jarrahdale the Forests Department is responsible for planting.

- (6) Answered by (2).

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Wagerup and Alwest Refineries*

16. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What quantity of water will be required each year to service—

- (a) the Wagerup refinery;

- (b) the Alwest refinery?

- (2) What is the maximum salinity level which can be tolerated for water needs in the alumina refinery process?

- (3) What will be the source of water required for—

- (a) the Wagerup refinery;

- (b) the Alwest refinery?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Water requirements, as stated in company proposals, are as follows—

- (a) Wagerup: Initial stage 460 000 kilolitres per year. Each additional million tonnes of alumina production will require 2.3 million kilolitres of water.

- (b) Worsley: Initial stage 4.6 million kilolitres per year. Second stage would require an additional 4.6 million kilolitres per year.
- (2) The acceptable salinity level varies with the design of the process plant. For example, the proposed Worsley refinery will use water from Wellington Reservoir which currently has around 800 milligrams per litre total dissolved salts.
- (3) (a) The source of water for Wagerup refinery is still under investigation.
- (b) The source of water for Stage I of Worsley refinery will be Wellington Reservoir. The source for Stage II of the refinery is under investigation.

### BAUXITE MINING

#### *Dieback and Water Salinity*

17. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Do studies, carried out by the CSIRO, suggest that bauxite mining and the associated spread of the dieback disease, causes significant increases in the salinity of some water supply catchment areas used for supplying water to Perth?
- (2) If "Yes" will the Minister table the relevant documents?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Based on studies carried out by the Hunt Steering Committee and the CSIRO, there is no indication that bauxite mining operations in the western high rainfall zone of the Darling Range cause any increased in salinity in any water catchment.
- (2) The member is referred to the report of the Hunt Steering Committee, tabled in Parliament on 6th October 1976.

### BAUXITE MINING

#### *Effect on Dieback*

18. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:  
Is there any evidence to suggest that the bauxite mining operations and/or explosions used in bauxite mining have caused the spread of the jarrah dieback disease?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

There is evidence to suggest that bauxite mining operations in common with other

forest activities involving the use of mechanical equipment has caused the spread of jarrah dieback disease.

There is no evidence to suggest spread from explosions.

### BAUXITE MINING

#### *Available Forest within Alcoa's Lease*

19. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the estimated number of hectares of forest which could be mined for bauxite in the forest area west of the quarantine line within Alcoa's lease?
- (2) Approximately, when will bauxite mining operations carried out by Alcoa extend east of the jarrah dieback quarantine line?
- (3) Can he provide an estimate in tonnes of mineable bauxite located west of the quarantine line, but within Alcoa's lease and within economic haulage distances from Wagerup, Pinjarra and Jarrahdale?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The whole of Alcoa's mineral lease ISA has not been geologically investigated to determine the total reserves of bauxite. Economic grade bauxite occurs in scattered deposits which are not uniformly distributed over the lease. Only some parts of the lease contain sufficient bauxite to be of interest for mining. Based on current mining experience, approximately 6 to 8 per cent of these areas of greatest interest could prove suitable for mining.
- (2) There are no plans to mine in quarantine areas during the current three-year quarantine period.
- (3) Because geological investigations are not complete, no definitive estimate can be made. However, there are sufficient reserves of bauxite in the western, high rainfall, low salt storage areas of the Darling Range to support expanded alumina refining operations by Alcoa for at least the next 20 years.

### MINING ACT

#### *Precedence over Land Act on*

#### *"A"-class Reserves*

20. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Mining Act have precedence over an "A"-class reserve constituted under the Land Act?
- (2) Does it follow that the Land Act does not affect the operation of the Mining Act in relation to reserves made under the Land Act?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The two Acts co-exist.

### MINING ACT

#### *Precedence over Land Act on "A"-class Reserves*

21. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

Does the Government propose to take action this session to alleviate the apparent anomaly where the Mining Act has precedence over "A"-class reserves constituted under the Land Act?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

There is no apparent anomaly as far as I know.

If the member would like to amplify the reasons for his question, I would be prepared to examine the matter further.

### BAUXITE MINING BY ALCOA AND ALWEST

#### *Caustic Soda Residual*

22. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What is the area of mud lakes containing caustic soda at—
  - (a) the Alcoa refinery site at Kwinana; and
  - (b) the Alcoa refinery site at Pinjarra?
- (2) What is the quantity of caustic soda stored in these mud lakes?
- (3) What is the approximate relationship between tonnes of bauxite mined, and—
  - (a) area of mud lake;
  - (b) tonnes of caustic soda residual which is stored in mud lakes?
- (4) For what length of time after the completion of the mud lake will the caustic soda contained therein remain potentially hazardous?
- (5) Have there been any leakages of caustic soda into surface or ground water systems adjoining the Pinjarra and Kwinana sites?

- (6) If leakages have occurred, when and where were they detected in the ground water monitoring systems?
- (7) If leakages have occurred were they detected in the ground water monitoring systems?
- (8) If not, how were they detected?
- (9) If leakages have occurred what is the estimated quantity of caustic soda which has leaked, and what is the estimated rate of movement of the caustic soda in the ground water system?
- (10) What procedures could be adopted to remove caustic soda from a ground water aquifer?
- (11) What would be the impact of a leakage of caustic soda, via ground water aquifers, on the marine ecology of Cockburn Sound?
- (12) What would be the effect of a leakage of caustic soda into a ground water system used for water supply?
- (13) What concentration of caustic soda in water is acceptable if the water is being used for human consumption?
- (14) If caustic soda leakages have occurred, is it possible that leakage has not been detected in ground water aquifers surrounding mud lakes located at Pinjarra?
- (15) If caustic soda leakage has occurred from the Pinjarra mud lakes—
  - (a) what is the estimated time it would take for the caustic soda to reach the Peel-Harvey Lakelands system; and
  - (b) if not, what is the rate of flow of the ground water system and the length of time it would take to travel from the Pinjarra site to the Peel-Harvey Lakelands?
- (16) What will be the area occupied by mud lakes each year if bauxite mining operations are commenced in the saddleback area?
- (17) Where will the caustic soda mud lakes which will result from the Alwest mining operations be located?
- (18) What specific procedures will be adopted to guarantee that caustic soda leakage will not occur from mud lakes sited on the Darling Range?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The areas of bauxite residue at the two Alcoa refineries are—



- (a) At Kwinana—250 hectares, of which 90 hectares have been filled and rehabilitation is well in progress.
- (b) At Pinjarra—220 hectares.
- (2) The amount of dilute caustic soda solution in operational bauxite residue ponds varies with process requirements and seasonal factors and is recycled for use in the refinery. After residue ponds are filled and rehabilitated, caustic soda in solution is progressively removed by recovery bores over about 10 years.
- (3) (a) At Alcoa's Pinjarra refinery approximately 2.8 hectares of residue pond are required for storage of the residue from the processing of 1 million tonnes of bauxite.
- (b) Answered by (2).
- (4) Answered by (2).
- (5) to (8) No leakages have occurred from the bauxite residue ponds at Pinjarra. A small leakage was detected in 1974 at the residue ponds now being rehabilitated at Kwinana. The leakage was detected by a groundwater production bore on the bank of residue ponds before being detected in any of the monitoring bores located around the perimeter of the residue ponds.
- (9) A report by expert consultants estimated that the total leakage of dilute residue pond solution from the Kwinana residue ponds has been 160 000 cubic metres. It was estimated that the leakage was moving north-westwards at approximately half a metre per day. The leakage is believed to have ceased or reached an insignificant level in 1976.
- (10) Since the leakage was detected, the situation has been closely monitored by the company, its consultants and a committee of senior Government officers. A system of high volume bores has been installed at the north-western boundary of the Kwinana residue pond area. It is expected that these bores will recover the majority of the leakage.
- (11) The consultant's reports indicate that the leakage of dilute solution from the Kwinana residue ponds will have no effect on the marine ecology of Cockburn Sound. Studies are continuing to confirm this assessment.
- (12) The effect would depend on the volume and concentration of the leakage and the volume and flow of the groundwater in the aquifer. The leakage which has occurred is very small in relation to the total volume of the groundwater aquifer at Kwinana.
- (13) There are no published standards of acceptable levels of caustic soda in groundwater as a dilute solution is not regarded as toxic. The generally relevant standards are the World Health Organisation standards relating to pH and total dissolved salts.
- (14) No, because the residue ponds are situated on deep natural clays and monitoring systems are most comprehensive.
- (15) (a) Answered by (14).
- (b) No detailed studies have been carried out, but based on what is known of the aquifer in the area concerned, the transfer time would be very great because of the dense clay soils.
- (16) to (18) Clause 5(4) of the Alumina Refinery (Worsley) Agreement 1973, requires that the Worsley Joint Venturers will submit proposals for the ponding of bauxite residues from the refinery operations not less than two years prior to the estimated production date. The proposals must include provisions for the location, construction and maintenance of the residue ponds to avoid any interference or pollution to underground water, groundwater or land drainage system. When submitted to the Government the proposals will be subject to rigorous analysis by Public Works Department, Department of Conservation and Environment, and other expert bodies prior to approval being given.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Gnangara Mound: Groundwater Levels*

23. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Does the department keep regular records of groundwater levels in the Gnangara area?
- (2) How far back do these records go and how regularly are readings taken now?

- (3) Would he please supply water table level readings for the above area on a monthly basis, commencing 12 months before substantial draws on the aquifer were made by the Government?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Lake levels—earliest reading 1953. Monitoring Wells—earliest reading 1964. Readings within proclaimed Public Water Supply areas are currently taken eleven times per year. Elsewhere frequency is eight times per year.  
 (3) There are 150 monitoring points in this area and the information is stored in computer files. Thus the question relates to more than 12 000 readings. There would be some delay in producing these because of a computer transfer now in course and, in any case, the information is possibly beyond the requirement of the member.  
 The following four typical records are representative of the area and were recently released by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board in response to Press enquiries on groundwater levels.  
 Water Table Levels (Metres Above Sea Level).

		Lake Joondalup	Lake Joondalup (Bore)	Gnangara Lake	Morley (Bore)
1977	Max .....	17.2	19.0	42.4	30.4
	Min .....	16.7	18.6	41.9	29.9
1976	Max .....	17.6	19.3	42.8	31.0
	Min .....	17.0	18.9	42.5	30.2
1975	Max .....	17.8	19.5	43.3	31.5
	Min .....	17.0	18.9	42.6	30.5
1974	Max .....	17.7	19.5	43.3	31.8
	Min .....	16.8	18.6	42.4	30.3
1973	Max .....	17.5	19.3	43.2	31.7
	Min .....	16.6	18.5	42.2	29.8
1972	Max .....	17.5	19.3	43.1	30.6
	Min .....	16.9	18.8	42.6	29.9

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Gnangara Mound: Dead Trees*

24. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that dead trees are evident around the Government's draw areas from the Gnangara aquifer?  
 (2) If not, will he arrange for an officer of his department to show me each of the bore areas, and point out the trees which are not dead or dying?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) These questions are answered by

question 25 directed to the Minister for Forests.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Gnangara Mound: Dead Trees*

25. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Lands and Forests:

- (1) Is she aware of reports of trees both dead and dying around the Government bores at the Gnangara Mound?  
 (2) Has her department taken any action to investigate these reports?  
 (3) If "Yes" to (2), what action has been taken and with what results?  
 (4) If "No" to (2), what action is proposed?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.  
 (3) Studies of the impact of groundwater extraction on the indigenous vegetation, jointly sponsored by the Forests Department and Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board, began in 1976. Earlier ecological studies dating back to 1965 were utilised as a baseline for comparison. It has been established that the low rainfall of the past decade has caused considerable natural lowering of the groundwater table and resulted in the death of some trees dependent on it. At present it is impossible to separate this climatic effect from the impact of groundwater extraction. A progress report on these studies is submitted annually to the Environmental Protection Authority.  
 (4) Answered by (3).

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### *Star Swamp Area*

26. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has a decision been made on the preservation or otherwise of the Star Swamp area?  
 (2) If so—  
 (a) what is the decision;  
 (b) what are the details of the area involved; and  
 (c) what are the reasons for that decision?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.  
 (2) Answered by (1).

## TRAFFIC

*Off-road Vehicles: Legislation*

27. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Does the Government propose to bring in legislation this session to cater for off-road vehicles?
- (2) If "Yes", when?
- (3) If "No" to (1), why not?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister for Local Government proposes to submit a Bill during the current session.
- (3) Not applicable.

## COCKBURN SOUND

*Fish Deaths*

28. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Has the Minister's department ascertained the reason/s for the large number of fish deaths which occurred last week in Cockburn Sound?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) what was the reason; and
  - (b) what action has been taken to ensure that it does not happen again?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No. Identification of cause was impossible.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## COCKBURN SOUND

*Release of Fatty Globules*

29. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has his department investigated the release of the fatty globules into Cockburn Sound as reported last week?
- (2) If "Yes",
  - (a) who was responsible;
  - (b) why did the release occur; and
  - (c) what action has been taken to ensure that it does not happen again?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Anchorage Butchers.

(b) Accidental release resulting from human error.

(c) In future the pumping component of the treatment process can only be operated under supervision of the Works Engineer. The Public Health Department has also required additional screening to be included in the treatment processes.

## LAPORTE TITANIUM

*Effluent*

30. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that on January 30th there was a breach of Laporte's effluent pipeline, this time at the arch over the estuary?
- (2) What action, if any, is proposed by the Government in conjunction with Laporte, to minimise the breaches that have been occurring?
- (3) What precisely is contained in the effluent, and in what quantities?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Sections of the existing pipeline are being progressively replaced with new pipes. The work is being carried out by Laporte with Public Works Department approval of standards and supervision.
- (3) The daily discharge of effluent is 7 200 cubic metres containing the following constituents—

iron, Fe (in solution), 6.1 gm/litre.

acidity (as  $H_2SO_4$ )—

free, 27.5 gm/litre.

total, 39.4 gm/litre.

sulphate,  $SO_4$ , 38.6 gm/litre.

titanium, Ti, 0.51 gm/litre.

suspended solids, 1.06 gm/litre.

## LAPORTE TITANIUM

*Effluent*

31. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that approximately one kilometre of Leschenault Estuary foreshore now suffers from a constant red staining not inconsistent with the effluent from Laporte?
- (2) Is it possible that the holding ponds at Laporte are leaking and the effluent is causing the pronounced red staining?
- (3) (a) Is Laporte putting down a series of bores or drill holes to try to discover the source of the leak;  
(b) have any results been achieved to date; and  
(c) what other action is being taken, either by Laporte or the Government to ascertain the cause of the problem?
- (4) What is the method of construction, location and material used for Laporte's effluent ponds?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Possible but unlikely. It is suspected that this minor, localised staining results from seepage from the ducting system around the factory.
- (3) (a) Yes.  
(b) The coring has determined a small seepage confined to a width of some 30 metres.  
(c) Methods of intercepting the seepage are being considered.
- (4) Two excavated effluent ponds are located within the factory, one a concrete pond with a rubber lining, and the other constructed of imported porcelain brick with a special effluent-inactive mortar mix.

### LAPORTE TITANIUM

#### *Sulphur Emissions*

32. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware of complaints by residents in the close vicinity of Laporte, relating to fall out possibly of an acid nature which is affecting duco on cars and roof tiles?
- (2) If "Yes", what action has been taken to resolve the problem?
- (3) If "No" to (1), will he investigate the complaints I have received?
- (4) As residents of the area claim there is greater discomfort at night time from sulphur emissions than during the day, can he inform me—
  - (a) is there a greater discharge during the hours of darkness, and if so, why; and
  - (b) what is being done to ensure that nearby residents are caused as little disruption as possible to their life styles?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. I would be grateful if the member would let me have details of the complaints which he has received.
- (4) An officer of the Public Health Department will be in the area in the very near future and will investigate the residents' claims.

### MATERNITY HOSPITALS

#### *Birth Deformities*

33. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are records kept at all of the State's maternity hospitals in relation to the incidences of birth deformities, with particular reference to neural crest defects?
- (2) Will he please give details of these for the past ten years at each of the maternity hospitals, including the now non-existent Kwinana Maternity Hospital?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The hospital data is only available from 1975 onwards and is recorded by statistical divisions of the State. Tables regarding the incidence of neural defects for the years 1975 and 1976 are supplied. Also supplied is data from a separate study of death and hospital records compiled by Professor M. S. T. Hobbs of the University of Western Australia on the incidence of neural crest defects in Western Australia, 1966-1973.  
It should be noted that the Western Australian rate of 1.8 per 1 000 births is low by world standards.

It would be possible to obtain the data for each of the State's maternity hospitals, but this would take some time and I believe that the information supplied is more informative.

#### NEURAL CREST DEFECTS.

(Source: 1975 Midwives Data.)

Location of Mother's Residence.	Number of cases.
Perth Statistical Division—	
Postcode—	
6016.....	1
6018.....	1
6021.....	1
6025.....	2
6050.....	2
6051.....	1
6053.....	1
6056.....	4
6058.....	1
6061.....	1
6076.....	3
6107.....	1
6108.....	1
6151.....	1
6153.....	1
6155.....	1
6162.....	1
6163.....	5
Upper Great Southern.....	—
Midlands .....	1
South-West .....	7
Lower Great Southern.....	2
Central.....	1
South-Eastern .....	3
Pilbara .....	1
Kimberley .....	—
Total	44

#### NEURAL CREST DEFECTS.

(Source: 1976 Midwives Data.)

Location of Mother's Residence.	Number of cases.
Perth Statistical Division—	
Postcode—	
6007.....	1
6012.....	1

6014.....	1
6021.....	2
6024.....	1
6025.....	2
6052.....	1
6061.....	1
6062.....	1
6101.....	1
6104.....	2
6105.....	1
6110.....	2
6253.....	2
6154.....	1
6155.....	1
6162.....	1
6163.....	4
6167.....	1
6169.....	1
Upper Great Southern .....	1
Midlands .....	3
South-West .....	3
Lower Great Southern.....	1
Central.....	5
South-Eastern .....	1
Pilbara .....	—
Kimberley .....	3
Unknown .....	1

Total 46

#### INCIDENCE OF NEURAL CREST DEFECTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA—1966-1973.

Location.	Number.	Rate per 1 000 births.
Perth .....	181	1.7
South-west .....	19	1.5
Southern		
Agricultural .....	16	1.9
Central Agricultural..	16	1.5
Northern		
Agricultural .....	16	1.8
Eastern Goldfields .....	13	1.5
Central .....	2	1.7
North-west: Pilbara, Kimberley .....	23	2.0
Western Australia	286	1.8

## DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES

### *Rockingham Schools*

34. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

Further to my questions during 1977 relating to the provision of dental facilities at a primary or primary schools in the Rockingham area, is he now able to advise me if any schools in Rockingham have been selected for the provision of such services in 1978?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Yes. Tenders have been let to construct dental therapy centres at Bungaree Primary School, Rockingham, and Safety Bay Primary School. These centres will also serve the following primary schools—

Hillman,  
Rockingham Beach,  
Warnbro,  
Star of the Sea.

## POLICE STATIONS

### *Personnel*

35. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What is the number of police stationed at Rockingham Police station?
- (2) How does this equate with numbers of police to population?
- (3) Would he please list—
  - (a) the metropolitan and near metropolitan police stations with a higher manning per head of population; and
  - (b) would he please list the metropolitan and near metropolitan police stations with a lower manning per head of population?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 23.
- (2) One policeman to approximately 734 head of population.
- (3) (a) 2 stations, namely Fremantle and Midland.  
(b) 31 stations, namely—  
Armadale.  
Bayswater.  
Belmont.  
Brentwood.  
Cannington.  
Claremont.  
Cockburn.  
Cottesloe.

East Fremantle.

Gosnells.

Hilton Park.

Inglewood.

Innaloo.

Kalamunda.

Lockridge.

Maylands.

Medina.

Morley.

Mt. Hawthorn.

Mundaring.

Nedlands.

Nollamara.

North Perth.

Palmyra.

Scarborough.

South Perth.

Subiaco.

Victoria Park.

Wanneroo.

Wembley.

West Perth.

## WARNBRO SAND DUNES

### *Retention*

36. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has a decision been reached on—
  - (a) the retention or otherwise, of the Warnbro sand dunes area; and
  - (b) what is that decision?
- (2) If "No", when can it be expected that a decision will be made, and why?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr RUSHTON) replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) The beach and near dunes in the Warnbro area are reserved under the Metropolitan Region Scheme for parks and recreation; a large part of this reserve is owned by the Crown.  
The remainder of the dune system is in private ownership. The Department of Conservation and Environment has advised the owners on principles that might be applied when the land is subdivided. Suggestions were made for limiting access to areas of fragile dunes and installing car parks, picnic areas and footpaths on more stable dunes. Other areas, it was suggested, might be subdivided subject to satisfactory detailed planning.

The owners have not yet submitted proposals based on these principles and therefore final decisions or possible modification to recreational reserve boundaries have not yet been made.

- (2) A decision in respect of the privately owned land will be made when development proposals are submitted.

### JETTY AT SAFETY BAY

#### *Extensions*

37. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have approaches been made to himself or his department to have extensions put on to the Safety Bay jetty to facilitate crayfishing operations, alleviate overcrowding and reduce the risk of harm to swimmers in the vicinity?
- (2) What was the result of those approaches, and what was the reason for the decision?
- (3) If the result was in the negative, will he consider making allowance for the extensions this year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter was investigated by the Public Works Department and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, both of which considered that, although an extension of the jetty could improve operating conditions it would be of a low priority in relation to other more pressing facilities required by the fishing industry throughout the State.
- (3) The extension of the jetty has been included in the overall programme for State fishing industry requirements, and its priority will be reviewed at the end of this year.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

#### *Work Scheme in Rockingham*

38. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

What has been the result of my submissions made last year to the Premier, for a work scheme similar to that implemented in the Kalgoorlie area, to commence in Rockingham?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The only "submission" I can find from

the member is one contained in a telegram sent to me on 29th August, 1977, to which I replied on 5th September, 1977.

The member will be aware of employment stimulating programmes included in the Budget introduced last session, and a number of other initiatives taken by the Government in both metropolitan and country areas.

### SCHOOLS

#### *Rockingham Electorate*

39. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

What are the enrolment figures for the following schools for 1977 and 1978—

- (a) Rockingham High School;
- (b) Safety Bay High School;
- (c) Hillman Primary School;
- (d) Bungaree Primary School;
- (e) Cooloongup Primary School;
- (f) Baldvis Primary School;
- (g) Rockingham Beach Primary School;
- (h) Safety Bay Primary School; and
- (i) Warnbro Primary School?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

School	1st August, 1977	February/March, 1978
Rockingham Senior High School	1 309	1 292
Safety Bay High School		179
Hillman Primary School	442 (+ 52 pre-primary)	491 (+ 50 pre-primary)
Bungaree Primary School	620 (+ 72 pre-primary)	550 (+ 72 pre-primary)
Cooloongup Primary School		128 (+ 24 pre-primary)
Baldvis Primary School	75	102
Rockingham Beach Primary School	447	452
Safety Bay Primary School	663 (+ 72 pre-primary)	675 (+ 72 pre-primary)
Warnbro Primary School	383 (+ 89 pre-primary)	407 (+ 50 pre-primary)

### SERENITY LODGE

#### *Financial Assistance*

40. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has an application by Serenity Lodge for financial assistance been approved by his department?
- (2) Does the agreement need Ministerial approval?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes", when will that be given?
- (4) What qualifications, if any, are attached to the grant?

- (5) Are there any other authorities to which institutions of the nature of Serenity Lodge can make application for financial assistance and will he list them please?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.  
 (3) Approval was given on 8th March, 1978.  
 (4) The Serenity Lodge Steering Committee in applying for the grant, has agreed to meet the standard conditions of grant for community health programme funding. No special qualifications have been specified.  
 (5) The Alcohol and Drug Authority is the relevant State authority.

### TRAFFIC COUNTS

#### Old Coast Road

41. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many Police/Road Traffic Authority personnel were deployed on the Old Coast Road between Mandurah and Bunbury on each shift for Friday, 3rd of March?  
 (2) (a) Have counts been made to indicate the numbers of vehicles that could be expected to use the Old Coast Road on the first day of a long weekend; and  
 (b) what do such counts indicate?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) It is not the policy to disclose details of police and traffic patrols, but I will make the information available to the member on a confidential basis, if he so wishes.  
 (2) (a) Yes.  
 (b) Average number of vehicles over five Saturdays of a long weekend—4 526.

### WAGE SUPPLEMENTATION

#### Government Scheme

42. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Are employers able to employ persons under a scheme and have the employees wages paid in full or supplemented by the Government?

- (2) For what period are employers able to draw on Government funds for this purpose?  
 (3) Will he take action to ensure the scheme is not abused by employers who dismiss an employee at the end of the wage supplementation period and then engage a new employee under the scheme?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) From a minimum six months to the conclusion of a particular training scheme as arranged with the employer and employee.  
 (3) There have been a few accusations that some employers have misused the schemes. These cases have been investigated by the Commonwealth Employment Service without finding adequate information to support the accusations.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

#### Figures

43. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) What are the latest unemployment figures at all Commonwealth Employment Services offices within Western Australia?  
 (2) How do they compare with the figures for the same period in 1977?  
 (3) With reference to the Kwinana Commonwealth Employment Services would he please give me a breakdown of the Mandurah, Rockingham and Kwinana areas?  
 (4) What are the number of job vacancies currently recorded at each Commonwealth Employment Services office in Western Australia?  
 (5) Precisely what action is being taken to alleviate the unemployment situation in the Rockingham area in relation to—  
 (a) teenagers; and  
 (b) the rest of the unemployed workforce?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1), (2) and (4)—

	Unemployed as at Jan. 1977	Unemployed as at Jan. 1978	Job vacancies as at Jan. 1978
--	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

COUNTRY			
Albany .....	743	1 001	81
Bunbury .....	1 210	1 642	78
Esperance .....	234	298	16



	Unemployed as at Jan. 1977	Unemployed as at Jan. 1978	Job vacancies as at Jan. 1978
Geraldton.....	894	1 531	68
Kalgoorlie.....	629	786	73
Kwinana.....	1 350	1 643	107
Manjimup.....	266	275	28
Merredin.....	199	267	11
Northam.....	468	716	66
Port Hedland.....	1 421	1 862	114
<b>METROPOLITAN</b>			
Cannington.....	2 287	1 888	112
Gosnells (newly created).....		1 679	23
Claremont.....	981	1 191	43
Cockburn.....	634	865	9
Fremantle.....	1 791	2 313	85
Midland.....	1 009	1 495	52
Morley.....	1 237	1 633	49
Mount Hawthorn.....	1 852	2 260	46
Osborne Park.....	1 035	1 657	17
Girrawheen (Newly created).....		994	1
Perth.....	3 607	3 601	107
Professional Office.....	833	1 137	243
West Perth.....	1 620	1 708	80
Victoria Park.....	2 035	2 794	126
	<u>26 335</u>	<u>35 236</u>	<u>1 635</u>

- (3) The latest available unemployment figures for the local government areas of Mandurah, Rockingham, and Kwinana are for the period ending October, 1977, and are 308, 515 and 533 respectively.

- (5) (a) and (b) In December, 1977, the entire Kwinana industrial area was canvassed by a Government Job Squad and prospective employers were urged to take on additional employees. They were advised on the availability of financial assistance under the various employment and training schemes to encourage increased placements. Unemployed in this area are able to take advantage of the benefits of employment and training schemes available to the rest of the community.

A youth employment officer is to be appointed to the Department of Labour and Industry to assist increasing youth employment.

Under the State Governments employment scheme, 10 young people from this area have been found positions within the Government service.

## SERVICE STATIONS

### Roster

44. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is it possible under current legislation for service stations advertised as roster stations over long weekends to remain closed?
- (2) If "Yes" under what circumstances?

- (3) If "No" to (1), what penalties are provided for the non-compliance?
- (4) Will he investigate complaints of service stations rostered to open and not so doing?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Under the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act, the occupier of a service station which by gazetted notice, is authorised to be open during extra-ordinary trading hours is required to keep the shop open during those hours.
- (2) An applicant may be included on the roster following assessment for suitability and recommendation by the West Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce Inc., but the occupier may elect to not participate in future rosters by written notice to the Minister at least one month before the expiration of a roster period.
- (3) A \$40 maximum penalty is provided.
- (4) Complaints of rostered service stations not being open when required to be are, and will continue to be, investigated.

## HEALTH

### Defoliant 2, 4, 5-T

45. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) (a) How many places in Australia and the world manufacture the defoliant known locally as 2,4,5-T;  
(b) who manufactures it and where?
- (2) What is the maximum level of dioxin permitted in this chemical in—  
(a) Australia;  
(b) by the World Health Organisation; and  
(c) other countries of manufacture?
- (3) How does dioxin come to be part of the 2,4,5-T, i.e.—is it as a result of the manufacture of the chemical or is it already present in one of the components?
- (4) Is dioxin present in any waste from the manufacture of 2,4,5-T?
- (5) In what way is the waste from the manufacture of 2,4,5-T at Kwinana disposed of or treated to ensure the non-release of dioxin and/or any other harmful by-products?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Known producers of 2,4,5-T acid are—

Celamerck, West Germany.  
 Dow Chemical, U.S.A.  
 Ivor Watkins-Dow, New  
 Zealand.  
 Chemical Industries (Kwinana)  
 Pty. Ltd., Western Australia.

- (2) (a) 0.1 milligrams per litre of total acid content.
- (b) 0.1 milligrams per litre of total acid content.
- (c) No information presently available.
- (3) Tetrochloro dibenzo dioxin (TCDD) can be present in trace amounts in one of the raw materials used in 2,4,5-T manufacture, and the level of TCDD can increase during certain types of manufacturing processes. Such processes are not used at Kwinana.
- (4) See (5).
- (5) The process used to manufacture 2,4,5-T at Kwinana does not produce wastes and the material produced conforms to the Australian and World Health Organisation standards with respect to TCDD levels.

## RECREATION

### Youth "Drop-in Centres"

46. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Are any State Government funds available to assist in the establishment of "drop-in centres" for youth?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the nature and amount of the total funding, and will he please provide me with details necessary to apply for funds?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Funds are available for the development of recreational facilities for equipment, subsidies, and for fostering programmes, all of which may relate to the establishment of "drop-in centres" for youth.
- (2) Funding for capital development is through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, which in the financial years of 1976-77 and 1977-78 allocated amounts of \$1 million and \$1 500 000 respectively. Applications for allocation from this fund and for equipment, coaching, and programme development, must all be made through the office of the Community Recreation Council.

Detailed information on recreation funding has been forwarded to the member from the Director of the Community Recreation Council.

## TOWN PLANNING

### Subdivisions in Warnbro

47. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) In what years was approval given for subdivisions in Warnbro, south of Hokin Street?
- (2) Will he please detail each subdivision approved and the year and department responsible?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr RUSHTON) replied:

- (1) In 1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1965, 1972 and 1975.
- (2) Seven major submissions, all approved by the Town Planning Board.
  - (i) 28-7-1958—Area bounded by Fendarn Street, Ecclestone Street, Currie Street, Hokin Street, and Reveley Street. 139 lots.
  - (ii) 1-12-1959—Area bounded by Farrington Street, Fendarn Street, Ecclestone Street, and Currie Street. 100 lots.
  - (iii) 29-11-1960—Area bounded by Farrington Street, Currie Street, Studzor Street, Fendarn Street, and Herlihy Way. 254 lots.
  - (iv) 15-6-1962—Area bounded by Pollard Way, Studzor Street, Currie Street, Bralich Street, Powis Way, and McCormick Street. 233 lots.
  - (v) 12-11-1965—Area bounded by Okehampton Road, Forty Road, Kingsbridge Road, and Curie Street. 385 lots.
  - (vi) 11-1-1972—Area bounded by Kingsbridge Road, Currie Street, Holcombe Road, and Barbrook Way. 120 lots.
  - (vii) 25-2-1975—Area bounded by Forty Road, Holcombe Road, Kingsbridge Road, and Barbrook Way. 123 lots.

## HIGH EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

### Discovery in Warnbro Area

48. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many high explosive devices have been found in—
  - (a) developed areas of Warnbro over the last 2 years; and
  - (b) undeveloped areas of Warnbro over the last 2 years?
- (2) What are the dates, locations and precise nature of each explosive device found along with the details of disposal in each case?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

As publicly announced, the Government is investigating the possible presence of live ordnance shells in this area. This involves liaison between State and Commonwealth authorities. The specific answers to the member's questions are as follows:

- (1) (a) Nil.  
(b) 8.
- (2) 11-9-77—approx. 300 metres east of Currie Street, Warnbro, one 25lb. H. E. artillery shell, detonated on site by Army.  
23-9-77—bush area, Warnbro, exact location not recorded, two 25lb. H. E. artillery shells, detonated on site by Army.  
30-9-77—bush area, Warnbro, exact location not recorded, one 3.7 anti-aircraft shell, detonated on site by Army.  
5-10-77—approx. 300 metres east of Currie Street, Warnbro, one 25lb. H. E. artillery shell, detonated on site by Army.  
5-10-77—Sand dunes in bush area near 82 Currie Street, Warnbro, one 16 lb. H. E. artillery shell, detonated on site by Army.  
12-10-77—approx. 300 metres west of Warnbro Avenue, one 25 lb. H. E. artillery shell, detonated on site by Army.  
20-1-78—Bush area, Warnbro, exact location not recorded, one 25 lb. H. E. artillery shell, detonated on site by Army.

## BAUXITE MINING

### State Forest Rehabilitation

49. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What period of time is required before it is possible to evaluate the potential of a tree species planted on a bauxite mine site?
- (2) What are the maximum ages of the most forward tree species which have been planted on bauxite mine sites?
- (3) When will it be possible to guarantee that these tree species will be able to survive and reach maturity?
- (4) (a) Is it possible to specify any tree species which can be successfully used to satisfactorily rehabilitate bauxite mine sites and survive to maturity; and  
(b) what are these species?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) The time will vary with tree species and the end use envisaged. In the higher rainfall areas it is estimated 20-25 years could be needed to be able to predict future growth patterns with any surety. Longer periods may be necessary in drier areas.
- (2) Twelve years.
- (3) As this is a unique situation it is not possible to estimate when a guarantee could be given.
- (4) (a) and (b) No. Current research is directed to providing information on which to base predictions of long-term performance.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### STATE FORESTS

#### *Dieback: Alcoa's Financial Offer*

1. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Forests:

Considerable notice was given of the following question—

- (1) Is it a fact that nearly 12 months ago Alcoa offered the Forests Department \$500 000 over a five-year period to assist with jarrah dieback research?
- (2) Has the offer been declined and, if so, will the Minister explain why?
- (3) If no decision has yet been made in respect of this offer will the Minister indicate why no decision has been reached?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

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

- (1) No.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

No formal offer has been made. However, I understand that Alcoa has had discussions with a number of Government and academic bodies over the past two years with respect to funding dieback research projects.

The company recently indicated that possibly \$100 000 per annum could be made available over a five-year period for specific projects.

The Hunt Steering Committee is formulating a dieback research programme. When this has been defined it would be appropriate for the State to consider funding from Alcoa.

## EDUCATION

### *Student Guilds*

2. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

My question without notice is as follows—

Since the Government's students' guilds and associations legislation of last year has not prevented the associations affiliating with the Australian Union of Students, does the Government intend to make further amendments to the Act during this session?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

In replying to the question asked by the member for Gosnells, I would like him to indicate what he means by his question. In the first week in February, at their request, I met with the duly elected President of the Australian Union of Students and the President of the Guild of Undergraduates of the University of Western Australia to discuss the matter. I was advised by them that the number of tertiary institutions now affiliated with the AUS is three. The use of student funds for outside bodies had not occurred at that time and indeed, subscriptions for affiliation with outside bodies had been deferred.

The same two gentlemen are seeing me again within the next few days. However, if the member has specific knowledge that what I have indicated is

in fact not the case, I would like him to let me know.

## EDUCATION

### *John Curtin High School*

3. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Education:

I would like to ask the Minister the following question of which some notice has been given—

(1) Is the Minister aware that the headmaster of the John Curtin High School recently advised some parents and students seeking to re-enrol this year for 4th and 5th year that the school catered only for academically gifted students in those years and that they would be better off registering for unemployment benefits?

(2) Was the headmaster expressing official Government policy when he gave this advice?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I would like to thank the member for some notice of the question, and my reply is as follows—

(1) and (2) In the time available I have been able to establish to the best of my knowledge that the headmaster did not make that statement. If the honourable member has information that this statement was made by someone else, then the matter will be investigated further. The question refers specifically to the headmaster and I have been able to establish that he did not make the statement.

## LOTTERIES COMMISSION

### *Tattslotto*

4. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

(1) Has the Government received from the Lotteries Commission a submission in respect of introducing a form of lottery generally known as Tattslotto?

(2) Has the Government made a decision on the approach?

(3) If so, when will this form of lottery be introduced in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) Speaking from memory, as I understand it the submission from the Lotteries Commission does not refer to Tattslotto, which is a special name—I

think probably a trade name—for a lottery which applies in at least one other State. However, a submission has been made to the State Government for a type of "lotto" and the Government has expressed no objection to what the Lotteries Commission proposes to do.

I should add that the actual implementation of the lottery is, of course, a matter for the Lotteries Commission and not the Government.

### STATE FORESTS

#### *Dieback: Effect of Bauxite Mining*

5. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Forests Department conservatively estimates that three hectares of forest will be devastated by dieback for every hectare of diseased forest mined?
- (2) Is it also a fact that it is proposed to mine 1 500 hectares of forest annually?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

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

- (1) This estimate was provided by the Forests Department as an input to the group which studied the simulation of the effects of bauxite mining and dieback disease on river salinity.
- (2) No.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

#### *Job Creation Scheme in Geraldton*

6. Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that tomorrow it will be exactly six months since I wrote to him requesting special Government assistance for employment-creating projects in Geraldton?
- (2) Does he recall a joint submission presented to him by the Town of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough on the 4th November, 1977, detailing projects which warrant such assistance?
- (3) Is it a fact that reminder appeals have been made to him by the Town of Geraldton, the Shire of Greenough, and myself?

(4) Is the Premier aware that unemployment in Geraldton has deteriorated consistently to 15.7 per cent on the last available figures?

(5) Does the Government intend to take any significant action to help ease the problem; and, if so, what and when?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (5) In reply to the member for Geraldton—and I am not sure I have all his questions in precise detail or in order—I recall his raising this general question some months ago; as to whether it was six months ago I could not be precise.

I also recall the submission that was made jointly by the local authorities of Geraldton and Greenough, and on which a considerable amount of work has been done. I am in the process of replying in considerable detail to that submission.

However, in the meantime I remind the honourable member that not only were some very massive employment-generating funds included in the State Budget, but since then a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government which affect and help not only the metropolitan area but also country areas, particularly the drought-stricken areas. The member must be aware of the fact that a great deal of the unemployment in Geraldton is a product of the drought in that region.

### HEALTH

#### *Sun Screening Lotions*

7. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

My question relates to the impost by the Australian Government of a sales tax on sun screening lotions.

- (1) Is the Minister aware that during his absence the Acting State Minister for Health gave an undertaking that he would approach the Federal Government in an endeavour to have the sales tax lifted?
- (2) Has the Minister received a reply from the Federal Government; and, if so, would he table that reply in the House tomorrow?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) No, I am not aware of the Acting Minister for Health having made an approach to the Federal Government. I certainly do not recall having seen a reply come through my office since I returned after having been re-elected. However, for the sake of complete accuracy I suggest that the member for Maylands place the question on the notice paper.

## EDUCATION

### *Community Kindergarten Association*

8. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can the Minister say why he has failed to respond to a request from the Community Kindergarten Association, first made in a letter on the 9th December, 1977, and repeated in subsequent approaches, to meet with a deputation from the association?
- (2) Will he undertake to meet with representatives of the association in the near future as a first step towards establishing a more positive relationship with this body in the interests of parent involvement in pre-school education?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) As the Acting Minister for Education indicated during my recent absence, the so-called Community Kindergarten Association was not ignored by me, and letters in response to those from the association were taken by me to a seminar which I attended on Monday evening, as was other correspondence relating to this question of the association and the role that it plays. I left the correspondence there with the departmental officers when I left to attend another function.

As I understand it, the question relates more particularly to the future of this association and whether I intend to recognise it. The simple answer is that at the present time the generation of parent involvement is being carried out in a far more meaningful way than the association is capable of achieving.

Mr Bryce: Give us some evidence.

Mr P. V. JONES: A seminar is being held each Monday evening, which is attended by something like 100 parents. Certainly 70 or 80 parents were in attendance when I left the seminar on Monday evening. The first seminar at the John Forrest High School was attended by many parents, who filled in a questionnaire relating to what involvement they wanted, and so on. I am willing to develop this subject at any time with the member for Dianella, or anybody else interested in discussing it with me, rather than pursuing it and taking up the time of the House at the moment.

However, I would like to remind the honourable member, as I reminded Mrs Lefroy prior to December last year, that the association went ahead and formed itself without consulting with me.

Mr Pearce: You are the last one who should talk about consultation in this area.

Mr P. V. JONES: Even after I had indicated that the Government would by legislative motions provide a parent body, this particular group of people went ahead on their own without giving the Government any warning whatsoever.

Mr Pearce: That is their democratic right.

Mr P. V. JONES: Sure, any group of people whatsoever may get together in the interest of this area of education; but in such circumstances for it to expect to be recognised as the official body to be enshrined in legislation is asking too much.

## EDUCATION

### *Student Guilds*

9. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

Further to my earlier question without notice, which the Minister did not actually answer, is the Government intending to introduce amendments to the student guilds legislation in this session?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

As I indicated earlier, if the member can show me positively any area in which this legislation is not working, I will proceed with the undertaking I gave in this House when the legislation was

being discussed—and I have repeated it to the institutions—that if the institutions are seen not to be administering the legislation in its statutory form and in its spirit, then most certainly the Government will consider further amendments.

