

Legislative Council

Thursday, 9 June 1994

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 pm, and read prayers.

PETITION - BUS AND TRAIN FARES, INCREASE

The following petition bearing the signatures of 90 persons was presented by Hon Sam Piantadosi -

We, the undersigned people of Western Australia wish to convey objection to any proposed increase in bus and train fares.

We believe that at a time when the State Government is reaping the benefits of the economic upsurge any further increase in public transport costs is totally unwarranted.

Additionally, we believe that on environmental and social equity grounds the Government should be doing all within its power to increase patronage of the public transport system and that increasing fares will not achieve this.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper No 95.]

PETITION - DEATH PENALTY

The following petition bearing the signatures of 41 persons was presented by Hon J.A. Scott -

The undersigned ask you to consider the following points in relation to the possible reintroduction of the death penalty.

We wish to register our complete and unadulterated opposition to the reintroduction of the 'death penalty' in Western Australia. Everywhere experience shows that executions brutalize those involved in the process.

Nowhere has it been shown that the death penalty has any special power to reduce crime or violence. It has never been shown to have any special power to meet any genuine social need. The desire for vengeance can be understood and acknowledged but the exercise of vengeance must be resisted.

The history of the endeavour to establish the rule of law is a history of the progressive restriction of personal vengeance in public policy and legal codes.

[See paper No 96.]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chairman, Unelected - Report

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [2.40 pm]: I am directed to report that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies at a meeting this morning was unable to elect a chairman. Accordingly, under Standing Order No 316 the matter is now returned to the House. I move -

That the report do lie on the Table.

[See paper No 97.]

The PRESIDENT: For the benefit of members Standing Order No 316 states -

The standing committee shall elect one of its members as Chairman. In the event of an equality of votes the Council shall appoint the Chairman.

MOTION - STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chairman - House, Hon Barry, Appointment

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [2.42 pm]: I move, without notice -

That Hon Barry House be appointed chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

Mr President, I do so in accordance with Standing Order No 316 which you have just read to the House. The standing order confirms that where there is an equality of votes in a committee meeting in the election of a chairman, the matter is to be returned to this House, and the House will appoint a chairman for that committee. Members will be aware that Standing Orders Nos 310 to 337 cover generally the functions of and other matters relevant to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. In reading those standing orders members will understand the importance of that committee to not only this House, but also the community of Western Australia. In moving this motion I draw the attention of the House to the fact that Hon Barry House has been a member of that committee for a number of years. I was also a member of that committee for a period. I worked closely with Hon Barry House during my period of membership and found him to be totally dedicated to achieving the objectives of the committee. There is no question that he is a person of proven ability. He is a person of demonstrated leadership in chairing committees of this House, in particular, the Government Agencies Committee.

For those who are not members of the Government Agencies Committee at the moment, I inform them that prior to the prorogation of Parliament the chairman of that committee was Hon Barry House. Members should look at some of the work he as chairman has submitted to this House on behalf of the committee and, therefore -

Hon Doug Wenn: Don't bring it down to one person; the whole committee did that. He just brought it into the House.

Hon GEORGE CASH: If Hon Doug Wenn reads *Hansard* in about a week he will see where I got to before he interjected. He will notice that the next thing I was about to say was that Hon Barry House presented these reports as the chairman on behalf of the members of that committee. I am surprised that Hon Doug Wenn should make that interjection because I was a member of the Government Agencies Committee along with him for a period. I found that at all times while I was a member of that committee, no matter from which political parties members came they worked particularly well together. I thought Hon Doug Wenn would have supported that.

I recognise that when a chairman presents such a report to the House he does so on behalf of the committee and, therefore, of all members of the committee. I do not intend to signal out every individual member of the committee and let the House know whether I think he or she is doing a good job or otherwise. My job today is to move for a chairman of that committee, and I nominate Hon Barry House. I hope that Hon Doug Wenn, having been a member of that committee for some years and knowing the importance of that committee, will be one of the supporters of this motion. The role of chairman is an important job. I believe Hon Barry House can do that in a competent and confident way. I invite the House to support the motion.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Mining and Pastoral) [2.46 pm]: I second the motion. This is not the first time that such a motion has been before the House. I agree totally with what the Leader of the House has said. I have no doubt that Hon Barry House will carry out his duties in an eminent fashion. It disturbs me that once again Hon Tom Stephens is forcing us to take this matter to a vote because he wants to be the chairman of this committee.

Hon Kim Chance: What rot! How do you know?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Standing Order No 311(a) states -

Unless otherwise ordered, the standing committee shall consist of 6 members.

Perhaps we should consider that and reduce the membership of the committee to five -

Hon John Halden: So you can dominate yet another committee and run everything so you won't have this little embarrassment?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: - and we would not have this problem.

Hon John Halden: Of course you wouldn't.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: We would not have the problem of the matter being returned to the House. Hon Barry House has been the chairman of this committee for a considerable period. Members of the standing committee well know that they can continue with this charade as much as they like, but when the matter comes back to this House, given the balance of numbers in this place, he will be elected.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: We thought some of you might actually have a conscience.

Hon Tom Stephens: Why didn't you have a vote in the first week of Parliament resuming?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! If members are going to carry on screaming and yelling when I call order they are inviting me to take some punitive action, which I am reluctant to do. However, I will not allow this place to develop into a circus. Each member will have an opportunity to speak on this motion. If members have something to say that is contradictory to what a previous speaker has said they will be entitled to put that view forward. I hope that I will be able to ensure that they are able to put that contrary view without any interjections.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Mr President, you can be assured that I will address you and you only. I have no intention of listening to the nonsense from my right.

Hon Tom Stephens suggested by his interjection that we should have put this motion when Hon Iain MacLean was unable to take a seat in the Parliament. It is disgraceful that Hon Tom Stephens would allow a man's death in this Parliament to cloud his judgment and insist that we take the vote when he was not here.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: That is a disgraceful comment.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: If the Opposition were a decent party it would have had a man step aside each time a vote was taken in this Parliament. I understand that every Parliament in this country except this one would concede to that arrangement. The member concerned tried to use it in his quest to get his own select committee and tried to take advantage of the fact that we were a vote down on this side of the House.

Hon Tom Stephens: You have been taking advantage of the malapportionment in this state.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It was for no reason other than the unfortunate passing of Hon Bob Pike and the requirement in the Statutes and regulations.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I insist that honourable members cease their interjections. Hon P.H. Lockyer is perhaps contributing to the barrage of interjections by what I believe is a diversion from the subject matter of the motion before the Chair. If he wants to pursue his views on that subject I suggest that he move a motion for that purpose. I do not think he is doing this House any good by pursuing the course of action he is at the moment.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Mr President, thank you for your guidance and I may move such a motion in due course because I feel very strongly about this matter. It reinforces my view that perhaps this is the occasion on which this House should consider amending this motion to the effect that the number of members on this standing committee be reduced to five.

Hon Tom Stephens: And take out one of our members!

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: If I were asked to recommend which member should be removed from that committee one would not have to be Einstein to know who it would be.

Hon Tom Stephens: Take off one of the Government members.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I would like to take Hon Tom Stephens off that committee because I am told his contribution to it is almost nil.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon P.H. Lockyer cannot reflect on a member's activities in regard to any committee of which he is a member.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am trying to bring a bit of decorum into this place and members are not helping me by interjecting while I am speaking. Members are taking this to an absurd length. Let us deal with the motion before the Chair. If Hon P.H. Lockyer feels there is some justification for changing the standing orders, it is his prerogative to move the necessary motion. I am not stopping him from making reference to it now, but it would assist the proceedings of the House if he spoke about whether the House wants Hon Barry House to be chairman of the committee. If it does, let us do it and, if it does not, let us quickly decide who will be the chairman.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Thank you, Mr President. There is no stronger supporter of this motion than me. I know that the standing orders must be applied to all members, including me, but I do not want to leave a grey area. I am tired of coming into this Parliament every time a different arrangement is made by this standing committee and having to go through this charade. I understand that every other standing committee of this Parliament is working extremely well.

Hon John Halden: Don't say that too loudly.

Several members interjected.

Hon John Halden: I do not think that was a well-rehearsed line.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am informed by Hon Bruce Donaldson, the chairman of one of the standing committees of this Parliament, that a vote has never been taken by that committee.

Hon Tom Helm: Sit down.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I will not sit down and I will stand here for another 37 minutes and seven seconds if it pleases me and, provided I comply with the standing orders, people like Hon Tom Helm should shut up.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Tom Helm is not helping the situation by making that sort of interjection. I ask him and other members to desist from interjecting.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Mr President, that is the first time I have responded to an interjection, but it came from someone in this House who is normally well mannered and I did not expect it of him. I share an electorate with him and his politeness is normally overwhelming.

I do not want to be forced to do what you, Mr President, foreshadowed I may well be able to do; that is, move to change the standing order. I sincerely hope that this House deals with this motion swiftly and that the members concerned do not allow this sort of thing to happen again. In the end, the numbers rest with this side of the House.

Hon John Halden: We know that - you have pointed it out many time. It has been the case for the last 104 years.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I understand that the member who has chaired this committee for a considerable time has done so competently and has the support of members of the committee. The members of the Labor Party know that they are only rattling the tin just for the sake of the rattles. The Labor Party members do themselves no justice. The Leader of the Opposition should stop them and should instil discipline into some of the less disciplined members on his side of the House. I know his grip is slipping a bit because I have heard some of the comments that have been made around this place. Nobody sympathises with the Leader of the Opposition more than I do for the onerous

task he has in trying to control Hon Tom Stephens from time to time. I was one of the few people in this state who sent his wife a sympathy card on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. I know what she has to put up with. The astonishing thing about him is that he can be an absolute gentleman when he wants to be. I put this down to a temporary aberration on his part. I urge the House to support this motion.

HON JOHN HALDEN (South Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [2.57 pm]: Before I respond to some of the comments by Hon P.H. Lockyer I will refer to what occurred this morning. The Opposition, with its vote this morning in the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, was doing no more than repeating to the Government the message I conveyed in recent statements to the House on policy issues relating to the functions of the standing committees of this House. If this system is to develop with bipartisan support, there must be some accommodation made for the Opposition to have a proportionate share of the chair and share equally with the Government in the number of members on the committees of this House. The system has functioned long enough for the House to make more time available for meetings and place greater reliance on the recommendations of committees in considering the issues which come before this House.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Sam Piantadosi was one of those members who, a moment ago, was contributing to the argument that the side on which he sits suffers from a lack of numbers. It appears to me he is hellbent to ensure that that deficit is greater. I suggest that he should not do that.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Obviously the Opposition could not let the opportunity pass without making its protest in the way it did this morning. However, I am hopeful the Government understands the Opposition's strong position as this will result in positive changes being made this session which will strengthen the quality of the work we do in the Chamber through a constructive use of the existing committee system.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am getting fed up with this. Hon Nick Griffiths has taken over from where Hon Sam Piantadosi left off. Even if he wants to defy me and be rude to me, I would have thought that it behoves him to be at least courteous to his leader, who is endeavouring to put a point of view to the House on a very important and serious matter. Unfortunately I am the only one in this place who can deal with him. His leader may be able to deal with him later, but he cannot do so now, but I can. I do not want to do that because obviously it is not in my nature, but his leader is speaking, and for goodness' sake let him do it.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The Standing Committee on Government Agencies is proving itself to be the type of committee that the upper House would want, but the Opposition restates its view that we need an adjustment of the committee system. We look forward to an early resolution of the points that we believe require resolution.

It was my intention to do no more than read that statement to the House and make our point that for a long time we have been saying that we need to take a more bipartisan approach to the committee system. When we were in government, the then opposition chaired two of the five standing committees.

Hon Peter Foss: Thanks to you, no doubt.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Indeed. I accept that praise.

Hon Peter Foss: What a load of rubbish!

Hon JOHN HALDEN: As I recall, the then opposition had the numbers on some of those committees. Our view is not that we should have the numbers but that we should reflect the appropriateness of the committee system; that is, that we remove ourselves from the hothouse of this place and consider, in a more rational and bipartisan way, whatever matters are referred to those committees or which those committees take on. However, bipartisanship can be reflected most specifically by the equality of numbers and the sharing of the chairs of those committees, and also by giving those committees appropriate time to consider their deliberations and ensuring that when they report to the House, the House deals appropriately with those deliberations.

I had hoped that would be the end of the situation, but I cannot tolerate, and I do not think the House should tolerate, these continued attacks, for whatever reason - and I do not necessarily blame just one side of the House - upon a member of this House. I do not believe it is warranted in regard to the motion before the Chair, which is purely to appoint a chairperson of a committee, for a member to then attack one, and only one, person on the opposition side who has nominated for that position. There were, in fact, three people who nominated for that position.

Hon Phil Lockyer pointed out clearly the problems that the Opposition has in regard to the committee system, and he said it by way of threat and coercion; that is, "You knew we had the numbers in this place and you know damn well we do what we like." That is reinforced again and again. That is not the basis upon which the committee system should operate. We have seen in recent times the committee system operate in some of the most weird and wonderful ways that one can imagine. We do not have to go back much further than the recent events in regard to the Standing Committee on Legislation. The committee system should reflect our collective will to cooperate as much as possible within those committees. We all understand that when we get back into this Chamber, other and very distinct pressures are placed upon us, but if the committee system is to have any integrity in its own right, we cannot have the attitude of government members, who have controlled this place for 104 years, and who say, quite blatantly, "We will control everything for as long as we can get away with it. We will decide every factor and facet of what happens in the committee system because we will have the chairmanship and we will have the numbers."

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: It is also in the interests of Western Australia that we do that.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The only way that the member would serve the interests of Western Australia is by leaving this Chamber as quickly as possible. An inane comment like that deserves no other response. The attitude that has been voiced so clearly by Hon Phil Lockyer, to put it bluntly, gets up the nose of the Opposition. It also gets up the nose of the community. In the past few weeks, members opposite collectively have behaved in an appalling way on these committees. Read *The West Australian* -

Several members interjected.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Members opposite laugh. They should read the comments of academics; the comments of political analysts. They do not support members opposite. The arrogance that members opposite have exhibited yet again demonstrates the underlying problem that we face.

Hon N.F. Moore: Why not nominate some members?

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Let us not make it a bigger problem. The Opposition will take the opportunity of pointing out, on as many occasions as possible, the inequalities that exist within both this House and the committee system. We will not do it - and it was not my intention, as is obvious from my prepared speech - by getting into a vilification of any individual in this House. However, if that is the game that members opposite want to play, we will be in that. If the game is also to flaunt the fact that members opposite have always had the numbers and will always beat us at every opportunity, then we understand that.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Do not be a sook.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: That interjection has cut me to the bone! This matter should not be dealt with in the way that Hon Phil Lockyer has dealt with it. The way to deal with it is the way that the Leader of the House and I can deal with it; that is, to negotiate, discuss and work through the problem. Clearly, we will make points from time to time, and I am sure the Government will wish to make contrary points from time to time, in a reasoned and sensible way, but it does not warrant the outrageous attack or comments that we have just heard. If this House is to function, as is suggested by the royal commission and members opposite, and as we have heard so many times, as an important House of Review and as central to the democratic process in this state, then I suggest that members opposite do a lot more than just pay lip service to that concept and do not, whenever it

suits their purposes, threaten and cajole us, and backtrack from what they have said and done in those committees, because at the end of the day the sham that exists will be exposed. We should not have that sham continue, and we should have bipartisanship.

That does not mean that, from time to time, pressures will not be placed upon us - I suggest principally from our parties - in regard to how we vote in this Chamber. I accept the political realities of that. However, how the committee system works is absolutely dependent upon there being some integrity within that system and some integrity being shown by all of us. Members opposite, bearing in mind that they have always had the numbers, should not take the opportunity of threatening us with those numbers and, as was the case today, of verbally assaulting an Opposition member. That will not achieve anything. All it will do is turn what was to be a short, five minute speech into a situation where I and other members on this side have to take the opportunity to defend a colleague. If members opposite want to be silly and to lose totally the perspective of the game, they can do what Hon P.H. Lockyer has just done; that is, inflame the situation. I cannot think of a more stupid response that I have ever heard, to a matter that could have been resolved in five minutes, than the last outburst that I heard from Hon P.H. Lockyer.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: The truth hurts.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Hon P.H. Lockyer does not hurt me at all.

The realities are that the Opposition will continue to highlight the inequities within the committee system in this House. Whenever the opportunity is provided to us, we will work constructively in an attempt to achieve reform. However, based on what has happened, the Opposition will now oppose the motion.

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Minister for Health) [3.11 pm]: I support the motion and Hon Barry House's committee record. I must also answer the claim that an opposition chairman should be appointed to the committee.

Hon John Halden said today that during the term of the previous government, opposition chairmen were appointed to committees. I also heard him say the same thing recently on radio. It is bizarre to claim - as he did on radio - that the appointment of opposition chairmen indicates the difference between the way in which his and our governments operate. If the member were in a commercial trading situation, as Minister for Fair Trading I would be prosecuting him for misleading conduct! He indicated to the people of Western Australia that it was through the bounty and good grace of the then government that opposition chairmen of committees were appointed. The fact remains that this situation was not to the credit of the then government. That government can be judged only on its behaviour in the Chamber in which it has a majority, and in that Chamber no opposition chairmen of committees were appointed.

Hon Graham Edwards: That is not a House of Review.

Hon PETER FOSS: I recall that a committee was appointed in the other House on which the previous government would not appoint a single Liberal member, even though one was requested. Therefore, the record of the previous government in the Chamber in which it had a majority does not support the view expressed by Hon John Halden.

I would like to hear - it would be worthwhile - every Opposition member state, although not necessarily during this debate -

Hon Graham Edwards: Make the invitation and we will take it up.

Hon PETER FOSS: - that if in the distant future, if it ever happens, members opposite have a majority in this House, they will undertake to carry out the principle they are espousing. I would be very pleased to hear that said.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: My experience in this House is different from that outlined by Hon John Halden. I doubt the reasons for the Opposition calls for a majority on the committee through the chairmanship because -

Hon N.D. Griffiths: We want to expose your bad government.

Hon PETER FOSS: - my experience is that, unlike this side of the House, the Labor Party does not give its members freedom in committees.

Several members interjected.

Hon Kim Chance: You have just proved how much independence your members have. You're a joke, Peter!

Hon PETER FOSS: I understand that members opposite have pressures on them, and Hon John Halden has admitted the Labor Party situation. Members opposite are told what to do by members not only in this House, but also the other place. On this side of the House we have a party room.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: I can hear the jeering, but members opposite are like the people to whom Plato referred; namely, those who are locked in chains and can only see shadows on the wall - they do not know reality. Members opposite have never experienced the reality of a freedom to vote in an upper House party room, in which members can actually make up their own minds.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER FOSS: Members opposite cannot comprehend that.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let me get a word in edgeways. I can see the look of disappointment and sheer disdain on the face of the Leader of the House as he has sat there wondering why nobody has indicated support or opposition for the motion. He is becoming fidgety about this, and I can understand that. Nobody seems to be placing any importance at all on the words of the motion moved. I would be developing an inferiority complex if I were him, as members have given the impression that they do not like his motion by speaking about entirely different matters. We should at least deal with what the Leader of the House suggests should be considered, and we should make up our minds on that matter; that is, whether Hon Barry House should be elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

I would like to see us talk about the status of our committee system at some time when a motion is moved which permits us to do so. I let things go at the beginning of the debate, but when I do so the same thing always happens. When I give a little leeway in this place, members take that to mean that the rules are out the window and that they can have an all-in brawl about anything but the motion before the Chair. I do not know about the Leader of the House, but I certainly have had enough of that this afternoon. Also, I am conscious of the clock. Some other things need to be handled this afternoon. I have some arrangements after 6.00 pm - as do other members, I guess - and the way we are going we will not know whether we have a Chairman for the Standing Committee on Government Agencies by 6.00 pm. The Minister for Health should refer to the motion, and I will be insisting that any subsequent speaker does the same.

Hon PETER FOSS: With respect, Mr President, I must deal with one point: It was suggested that Hon Barry House should not be the chairman of the committee because all the other chairmen of committees are Government members; therefore, the Opposition could not function properly. I must deal with that point because it was raised as a reason for not appointing Hon Barry House. A huge difference exists between committee members from this side of the House and those opposite: People on this side are allowed a freedom in their actions on committees.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: Compare Hon Tom Helm's record with that of Mr Tomlinson in terms of independence.

Hon PETER FOSS: I recall Hon Garry Kelly's independence, and look what happened to him.

Hon T.G. Butler: What happened?

Hon PETER FOSS: He lost his endorsement.

Hon T.G. Butler: Wrong, you fool!

Hon N.D. Griffiths: He was endorsed but he was beaten by Hon Jim Scott.

The PRESIDENT: Order! What this has to do with the motion I do not know.

Hon PETER FOSS: When I served on committees, members opposite always had a problem in that they could not move from their party position. This created difficulties in negotiating matters as members opposite had to toe the party line. We always knew that whatever happened, once it got to this House, not only was there no choice as to whether they voted according to the party line, but also there was no way in which they were able to dissent. At least in our party people do not have to follow the party line. They can choose to follow the party line, but at least they know if they want to take their own line they can do so, and they will not suffer as a result.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister is not helping me either. I do not want members to deviate from this motion. As one of the Government Ministers in this place I would think the Minister would be one of those people who want to get on with the business of the House. All the Minister is doing is absolutely ensuring that will not occur because I will be accused, if I stop the next speaker, of being biased in my attitude. I do not want that to occur. Therefore, I am asking the Minister, so that accusation cannot be levelled subsequently, to get back to whether he wants Hon Barry House to be the chairman.

Hon PETER FOSS: I am sorry, Mr President, but the fact remains I believe I am doing so.

The PRESIDENT: I do not.

Hon PETER FOSS: I understand that, Mr President. My problem is that I do wish -

Hon T.G. Butler: We know what your problem is.

Hon PETER FOSS: - to support Mr House and I wish to put forward these arguments as reasons for doing so. The fact is my comments happen to be in response to what Mr Halden says. I would not have wished him to raise those points, but he has, and I do not believe they can be left unanswered.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Phillip Lockyer digressed little by little until any resemblance between what he was saying and what is in this motion was purely accidental. Nevertheless, he did persist. I then could not very well say to the Leader of the Opposition who endeavoured to refute what was said, "I won't let you refute it." I believe that letting the Leader of the Opposition go, cancelled the business out. What I am trying to do now is to stop that deviation so that from now on we can get back to seeing whether we can get Hon Barry House elected prior to his term in this Parliament running out.

Hon PETER FOSS: I will cease my remarks, but I still maintain -

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Hon PETER FOSS: I have not sat down yet! I will cease those remarks, but the remarks of Mr Halden that I am addressing were not his irrelevant remarks but his relevant remarks, and it is important that I reply to those. I wanted to put on the record the incorrectness of the statements he has been making publicly in the way we have been handing out the chairmanship in this Chamber. The main reason I support Hon Barry House is that he has shown himself to be a very good Chairman of Committees and for that reason he should be supported.

HON REG DAVIES (North Metropolitan) [3.23 pm]: I will be voting against this motion not because Hon Barry House would not make a good chairman of the committee; in fact, I was happy to support him as Chairman of Committees. Generally,

he does a fine job there. I will vote against it because I am concerned that government members chair all committees to the exclusion of every other member - opposition as well as crossbench members. I am also concerned that if Hon Barry House is elected chair of this committee - as he will be - it will be seen by the public that once again the Executive is dominating all the committees of this House. I can understand the Government dominating the committees in the other place, because that is where the Government is formed and we expect that to be a more political hotpot, but not in this House of Review where we should be keeping the Executive in check.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: Do you believe this is a House of Review?

Hon REG DAVIES: I believe very strongly that is the role of this place, and I am concerned, as I have said on a number of occasions, that we have so many of the Executive as members of this House. I know that what the Minister for Health said a minute ago is absolute fact: Members of the Labor Party follow their political dictates in committees. Recently I heard a member of the ALP say that he could not make a decision until he discussed it with his party. That is against the whole principle of the committee system. I heard another member of the Government say, "But I am conscious of what my Minister wants to do in relation to this matter." Both the major parties are guilty of following the dictates of their party when making decisions in committee. The committee system worked very well over the previous four years when opposition members generally dominated the committees numerically, and in most cases the opposition chaired the committees. That worked extremely well. Surely, the idea of committees of the upper House, where they are trying to check the Executive and in some cases the excess of the Executive, is that we should have a fair balance. I do not think having a member of the Government elected as chairman will give that fair balance. In fact, Hon Jim Scott, who represents a very wide number and range of people in the community, is not even a member of a committee. This House has not seen fit to put him on a committee let alone to chair one.

Hon Doug Wenn: He has not asked.

Hon REG DAVIES: He has asked. I am disturbed by the way the media looks at the committee system of this House. We have not dispelled their fears about what is happening currently with the committee system of this House. The committee system is being questioned by the community and the media, and rightly so. It is now time that we got the committee system working as it should for the benefit of the people of Western Australia to ensure that the Executive does not transgress as it has in the past. We do not want a return to the past in this state where this House was as negligent as the other House, because it had the opportunity daily to question Ministers and to check many of the excesses of the Executive, but it failed to do that. I do not want to see that happen again.

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan) [3.29 pm]: It had not been my intention to speak on this motion but my mind was changed after what Hon P.H. Lockyer had to say. In opposing the motion I do so with some apology to the person who has been suggested by the Leader of the House to chair this committee. I have some respect for Hon Barry House. I think he has acquitted himself well in this Chamber as Chairman of Committees and I have no doubt that he would make a good chairman of this particular committee. However, I have equally as much conviction that the members who sit on that committee from this side of the House would do equally as good a job.

[Leave granted for the motion to be continued.]

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The Minister for Health was being hypocritical when he said that the reason he intends to support Hon Barry House is that he believes him to be capable of being a good chairman. The Minister should be open about it. The reason is that he is a member of his party. He does not support members on this side of the House because they are not members of his party and are beyond his dictate. Mr Foss and others like him are scared of this place ever becoming a bona fide House of Review. It is a long way from that now.

It is unfortunate that we have been drawn to this position. The Leader of the Opposition was right in what he said. He was going to make a statement and then we would have moved onto the next business of the day, which is business which I thought the Government would have been keen to bring forward - the presentation of its Budget. When one sees the way in which the Government has been so easily diverted from that course, one wonders what it is hiding and what it is worried about in the Budget. Why is it stonewalling the presentation of what should be one of the features of its activities?

Hon Barry House would make a good chairman, but I would like the opportunity to put forward either Hon Kim Chance, Hon Doug Wenn or Hon Tom Stephens as chairman of the committee. The proper place for the matter to be decided is on the floor of this Chamber. I understand that the due process of the committee has been worked through and it was unable to elect a chairman. It is fortunate for this House and the community that we are blessed with six people who would be equally good chairmen of that committee. Ultimately it is up to this Chamber to make that decision. It is unfortunate that, in the course of moving to make that decision, such a personal, unfair and unwarranted attack has been made on one of our members. At the end of the day, I do not know whether that person would have been put forward.

It is not good enough for members opposite to revert to personal abuse of members on this side of the House simply because they choose to pursue their democratic rights. What is more, it is not appropriate, if the Government wants co-operation from the Opposition, for government members to flaunt the fact that they have the numbers and will damn well do what they like. If that is their attitude, we will damn well make sure that they do not do what they like.

This is an important committee which plays an important role and carries out important tasks. It is unfortunate that this matter was not dealt with in the way that the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition had intended. We believe that all members on this side of the House could do equally as good a job as any member on the other side. Unfortunately, because some members of the Government have a particular attitude, members on this side of the Chamber are not given the opportunity to show how independent and how good a chairman of a committee they could be. I hope that attitudes will change and the Leader of the House will be prepared to inject a bit more humanity into some of the decisions that the Government makes and we have a dinkum approach to sharing the chairmanship of committees.

I was heartened to hear the comments of Hon Reg Davies. It is refreshing to note that he also wants to see this place act as a proper House of Review and that, for that reason, he will be opposing the motion.

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural) [3.36 pm]: In opposing the motion, I do so with a deep sense of disappointment. It was my view that, following negotiations between the Leader of the House and me, and subsequently the Leader of the Opposition, this matter would be sorted out by a relatively civil exchange of statements by the two leaders. The fact that Hon Phil Lockyer made such an appalling personal attack on the Opposition's nominee as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies is something with which I am absolutely appalled. I am angry that Hon Phil Lockyer should have made that statement. I am also angry because Hon Phil Lockyer, as the seconder of the motion on behalf of the Government, has made a statement that was clearly sanctioned by the Government and the Leader of the House, who had given undertakings to us that the matter would be dealt with in the manner that had been outlined. When the Government allows a person to second a motion, it takes direct responsibility for the statements that member makes on the motion. The personal attack that Hon Phil Lockyer made on Hon Tom Stephens was entirely out of order. Hon Phil Lockyer is not a member of that committee and would have no inkling of the tremendous contribution that Hon Tom Stephens has made to it.

My disappointment is for a number of other reasons, not the least of which is the embarrassment that this must cause Hon Barry House, who has been the chairman for the past year and a chairman for whom I have a great deal of respect. It is not an outcome

that he would have wanted and not one that we wanted. Nonetheless, it underlines that the Government and the Leader of the House, in particular, have no commitment to the reform of this House. Despite all the high flying undertakings that we heard from members opposite when they were in opposition to make this House anything like a House of Review, they have no commitment to it. Their commitment was summed up by Hon Phil Lockyer when he said, "If we've got the numbers, we're going to use them."

Hon John Halden: And repeated it.

Hon KIM CHANCE: That statement was not an oversight; he said it several times. I can only suggest that, in saying that, he is articulating the established view of the Government. If that is the case, the hope that we have all had for reform of this Chamber and that this Chamber may one day realise its ambition of being a House of Review is a forlorn one. That is probably the greatest disappointment I have.

The Government's attitude to committees in general has been appalling - "We've got the numbers. We'll control the committees." That is in total conflict with any concept of openness and accountability and with any hope that we have ever had of allowing this House to run in the manner in which it should be run. I will give an example of how another House of Review in this country works. By the end of this sitting year, in the Senate - Australia's upper House - the chairpersons of standing committees will be in the same numbers on a pro rata basis as the representation of all parties represented in the Senate. That is going somewhere towards achieving a House of Review in a genuine sense.

We have a long way to go and starting from a long way behind the baseline is one thing. However, if we walk backwards from the baseline, which is what this Government is doing regardless of what it has said in the past, we will never make it unless the Government accepts that it is going backwards and that we are not achieving the aspirations that we set for ourselves. The Leader of the House is directly responsible for that. I hold him directly responsible for the words used by Hon Phil Lockyer in seconding the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

As I have said, Mr Lockyer is not a member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. He would not know what a tremendous contribution Hon Tom Stephens has made to that committee. As I said, Hon Barry House has been an excellent chairman. The sad thing is that the quality of his chairmanship has largely become irrelevant to this motion for reasons directly attributable to the words used by Hon Phil Lockyer. What has become relevant to the motion is whether the Government has any commitment at all to making the committee structure work. At the moment, the committee structure of this House has broken down totally. For a number of reasons revolving around the dispute, the Standing Committee on Government Agencies has not functioned for the last two meetings. We do not have a chairman. Other committees have also broken down. One - this is the only way I can describe it - is on strike and another is not functioning because it is in dispute over whether certain matters will be allowed to be presented to the House. The system has broken down totally and it needs to be addressed. It is not going to get better until we have an undertaking from the Government in the very near future that it will do something about it.

I will close by saying something about the contribution from some Government members and Hon Reg Davies regarding Labor members of committees deferring to their Ministers on matters before committees.

Hon Graham Edwards: He criticised the ALP but he was also criticising a Government member.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes. Any committee member who does that should be reminded that he or she is breaching privilege by doing so. If he thinks that when we were in government no Labor member ever acted in contravention of that which the responsible Minister thought he should do, I assure him that quite frequently we trod on Ministers' toes. I will quite happily give examples of when that happened. However, that was, in my case, in the context of a select committee and not a standing committee. While I

might have finished on a lighter note, this matter must be addressed because we are going the wrong way.

HON DOUG WENN (South West) [3.43 pm]: As a member of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies I thought it would be remiss of me not to comment on this matter although, at the outset, I did not intend to. I do not think anybody is challenging the ability of Hon Barry House to chair the committee. However, the outburst by Hon Phil Lockyer is entirely different. He said that he had "heard". I put it to the House that he might have heard, but he was not really listening to, comments about the availability and ability of Hon Tom Stephens on the committee. Hon Tom Stephens, like every member of this House, has a big job to do serving on a number of committees inside and outside this House and, like all of us, there are times when he is not available. I regret my outburst against the Leader of the House, but I thought it was sad that he referred to the number of reports introduced into this place by Hon Barry House. If he wanted to do that, he should have referred to Hon Mark Nevill, who was the original chairman of the committee, or to Hon Tom Stephens, who was chairman of the committee until Hon Norman Moore decided he wanted to go a bit further with the committee and challenged in this House the chairmanship of Hon Tom Stephens. He brought into this place exactly what Hon Phil Lockyer referred to; that is, the numbers game, which is more powerful than anything else in this place.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon DOUG WENN: I will be brief, as I made my points earlier. I stand corrected on one point: The original chairman of the Delegated Legislation Committee was Hon John Williams from this place, who was followed by Hon Mark Nevill. I stand corrected and appreciate members making that point.

It is unfortunate that the outburst of Hon Phil Lockyer has pushed this further than the debate was intended to go by both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. I reiterate that this is not a challenge to Hon Barry House or his capabilities but to the attitude of the other side of the House that seems to think it has a pompous right to have everything in its control. Undoubtedly with its numbers it has, but members go to these meetings to elect chairmen and believe that they will step into that position without any challenge. The committees I have sat on, the Delegated Legislation Committee and the Government Agencies Committee, are committees I have always treated as bipartisan, and we have worked together in that capacity in the past. It was made very clear earlier today that Hon Bruce Donaldson as chairman of the Delegated Legislation Committee, is chairing the committee in a manner in which we do not take a formal vote. Something is moved; we do not look for a seconder, and it is treated with a bipartisan approach. To date during my short time on that committee it has worked very strongly and fairly. The same attitude was always shown when Hon Tom Helm and Hon Bob Hetherington were chairmen of that committee; everyone got on very well and the whole committee worked very well. I am not saying that the Government Agencies Committee will not work in the same way, but the members of the other side of the House have to realise it is every member's right to nominate the chairmen of those committees. The attitude that some have on the other side, particularly Hon Phil Lockyer, is the reason why today I will oppose this motion. It is not aimed against Hon Barry House directly in any way. I have known Barry now for seven or eight years and he and I get on well together. We do not always agree because of our political beliefs, but I am opposing this motion because of the pompous attitude shown by government members towards their right to everything in this place.

HON A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (East Metropolitan) [4.35 pm]: I am mindful of your comments, Mr President, that you want us to direct ourselves very concisely to the question. I will do that. In considering Mr House's suitability for the position, obviously we look at his experience and talents. There is no doubt from the comments made on both sides of the House from people who have dealt with him on this committee and elsewhere that in terms of his personal capacities he is eminently suitable to hold the

position of chair. That is not the reason why the Opposition is opposing the motion before us. Mr House has another characteristic, which is that he is a member of the party which currently forms the Government. This to us is a very, very important point. We believe that if this House of Review is to have any credibility as a House of Review or if, indeed, it is to have any function whatsoever in our parliamentary system, it must be as a House of Review. One cannot possibly have a House of Review where all the committees, which are one of the principal ways in which this body is supposed to act as a House of Review, are in fact in the control of those persons who are of the same party as the Government.

We have heard a lot of pontificating from the Minister for the Arts concerning the fearless independence that members on the other side of the House are able to show in debate, so that when they are appointed to a committee they are completely unfettered creatures. We have seen that is a complete nonsense. Our party quite openly acknowledges that we have a caucus and, by and large, with few exceptions we come to group decisions. We are not ashamed of that. We believe that we go before the electorate largely as representatives of a party, so that we can present a coherent set of policies. However, on the other side there is the illusion of freedom of choice, an illusion which is a thread going through government policy generally. We have this illusion there is some sort of freedom. We believe that time, and in particular last week, has shown us that there is no such freedom within government members. We therefore believe that because Mr House is a member of the party which is in government he is not the appropriate person to occupy this position.

It is no reflection on him but a matter of principle. It is, as the members of the Constitutional Affairs Committee will know, a matter of principle that I make each time that committee meets to choose a chairperson, where I unsuccessfully nominate each year. I do not take my failure as any personal slight. I realise that members of that committee vote along party lines.

Finally, the challenge was put out by the Minister for the Arts. I can assure the Minister that if we on this side of the House were offered the prospect of a democratic Chamber and the prospect of one-vote-one-value, we would more than happily sign away the rights of chairmanship of committees. We believe this place has since its inception never operated democratically. It has never operated as a fetter or check on Executive power, except when there were Labor governments in power. If members opposite were truly prepared to put on the table a proposal to try to make this House a genuine House of Review, my party would embrace that wholeheartedly. If the Minister for the Arts or Government members generally wish to put forward a motion that this House introduce legislation that would see this House move to one-vote-one-value, the Opposition would be prepared to commit itself to a position where whichever party was not in government would have the ascendancy of chairpersonship on the committees.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Minister for Education) [4.39 pm]: For the record, the Government Agencies Committee has had five chairmen since its inception. All have been quite outstanding chairman, I might add. The first was Hon John Williams, a member of the Liberal Party; the next two were members of the Labor Party, Hon Mark Nevill and Hon Tom Stephens, both of whom were appointed chairmen of that committee while the Labor Party was in government. It then so happened that I succeeded Hon Tom Stephens. We have heard at great length this afternoon how this side of politics has dominated the chairmanship of committees. The simple fact of the matter is, as Hon Mark Nevill will confirm - he was the chairman of this committee for three years - that is not so.

Tom Stephens was chairman for a year or two during the time in which the Labor Party was in government. To trot out all this rubbish about how important it is that the chairmen of the committees should come from the Opposition is nonsense. When members opposite were the government and had the numbers - as they did for a short period, in respect of filling chairmen's positions, when the Labor Party had the support of a minor party - members opposite did not suggest that position be given to the Opposition; they grabbed every job they could get their hands on. Hon Mark Nevill and

Hon Tom Stephens were both in that position. Any suggestion that that is not what politics is all about and somehow they are prepared to give away power to anybody else when they have the opportunity is patent nonsense. They are demonstrating hypocrisy that is very typical, I regret to say, of these debates.

However, as I said at the beginning, Hon Mark Nevill did a very good job, as did Hon Tom Stephens, even though they were members of the government. The bottom line is simply that this committee has had chairmen from both sides of politics and that has worked very well. The pity of it is, however, that every time we need to elect a chairman we must come back to the House in order to go through this charade, knowing full well what will be the result. It was done today, as it was the last time I was appointed the chairman, to prolong the agony and to make a point. It is a pity that happens, because it delays the progress of a committee which has done a good job.

It is also a great pity that this House should spend so much time arguing about who should be the chairman of this committee, when not one minute has been spent arguing about what was in its last report. It was the result of an enormous amount of bipartisan work undertaken to do something about state agencies of Western Australia. We should get our priorities right.

HON MARK NEVILL (Mining and Pastoral) [4.41 pm]: I oppose the motion. We are talking about a matter of principle. In 1986 I was a member of a select committee which examined the possibility of setting up a standing committee system in the Legislative Council. We broadly recommended three standing committees - one to deal with delegated legislation, one to deal with government agencies and the other to examine legislation. One of the recommendations in that report was that one of those three committees be chaired by the opposition. That was my view then; it is my view now. It is very easy for government members to be dominated by the Executive. I am quite confident that during the three years I was the chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, that was not the case. In fact, I got into quite a bit of trouble with various Ministers during those three years.

There are many members in this House who could make a more than adequate chairman of that committee. We are not really discussing the merits of Hon Barry House or Hon Tom Stephens. The principle is whether the Government should control all of those standing committees. We know that most of the select committees during the previous term of office were controlled by the then opposition, the present Government.

Hon N.F. Moore: Except you were in office.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I am talking about select committees.

Hon N.F. Moore: Normally a mover is a chairman and we, as the then opposition, moved for the establishment of select committees.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The situation with the standing committees during the previous government was that we had the chairmanship of some of those committees, mainly because of the support of the National Party, which at that stage was not in coalition with the Liberal Party. It is essential that some opposition members chair these committees because most government members have an eye to promotion.

Hon Reg Davies: Or non-government members, other than opposition members.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Many members exhibit quite a bit of fear of their ministerial colleagues. Those ministerial colleagues are also very wary about what the committee members are up to. I remember writing to all the Ministers on our side of the House asking them if there were particular government agencies they would like us to inquire into. Some of them were shaking in their shoes at the thought of the Government Agencies Committee inquiring into one of their quangos. It was very interesting that two Ministers on our side said to me that my committee could inquire into whatever it liked. They were Hon Joe Berinson and Hon Julian Grill. That says much about those people as Ministers. Quite a few Ministers equivocated.

Hon George Cash: I would be more than happy to have the committee look at anything I have.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The Leader of the House has very few quangos.

Hon George Cash: I realise that. I do not have Health or Education, which may say something about what other things I have.

Hon MARK NEVILL: My view is that if a standing committee inquires into an area and makes a mess of it, the Minister is quite at liberty to "carve it up". During the time I was on that committee I do not think it got up to any mischief. About the only really sensitive inquiry we undertook was into the State Government Insurance Commission just before the election. We had to make a few compromises if we were to bring down a report before Parliament was prorogued for the 1989 election. I kept my part of the bargain in bringing down a report. It was not a full inquiry, but under the circumstances it was pretty dangerous behaviour on my part.

The only job I wanted to undertake that I never really put to the committee and which I regret not going ahead with was an inquiry into the Fremantle Port Authority. I did not want to inquire into work practices, because if the committee had done that it would have got nowhere. At that stage there were the different interests on the wharf - the Department of Marine and Harbours supplied the pilots; the stevedores had a peculiar role; the port authority did some things; the overseas shippers did something else and the transport arms did something else. It was an absolute mess and it would have been a very interesting inquiry. I took the advice, which to some degree I regret, that it was better that I not do it. Perhaps I did not show the fortitude I should have shown.

If this House is to be a House of Review it must be prepared to take risks and perhaps upset Ministers who are a bit nervous about responding to committee reports and about their outcome. It needs responsible people to manage these committees and, if the House is to have any credibility, that includes some members of the Opposition.

I oppose this motion on the basis that I have always believed at least one, if not more, of these committees should be chaired by an opposition member. That is essential if this House is to improve its credibility. I thoroughly enjoyed my three years on the Government Agencies Standing Committee. I have not really enjoyed any of the standing committees since then for one reason or another. However, I have enjoyed a few of the select committees I have sat on. Members must become interested in these standing committees so that they put in the effort and achieve results. That happened when I was on that committee. I would like to see it happen on other committees in a way that would improve the standing of this House.

Some members took a philosophical view to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies when I was the chairman. They did not want to see any committee of the upper House inquiring into government business. Before the 1989 change to the electoral boundaries some members regarded this House as grossly illegitimate in the way it was elected and they thought that by promoting a committee system in this House they would give credibility to something which they believed was elected on unfair grounds. Some members opposed inquiries on those grounds. It was interesting to see the reaction of Ministers and the better Ministers let the committee system do what it liked in their areas of responsibility as long as it was not mischievous.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral) [4.51 pm]: I oppose the motion and thank the Leader of the House and Hon Phil Lockyer, who seconded it - as Hon Kim Chance said, presumably with the sanction of both the Leader of the House and the Government - for their kind words about me which provoked my colleagues to express their undying love and devotion for me and my position on that committee and my work in this place.

Hon Barry House is indeed an honourable member - all members of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies are honourable members. In that context this debate is not a dispute over the honour of Hon Barry House or his colleagues.

Hon Phil Lockyer seems to be oblivious to the fact that today's proceedings at the Standing Committee on Government Agencies meeting went something like this: A quorum was gathering at 10.30 am and was virtually in place at that time with the

presence of the Clerk. The quorum was of five members and a Liberal member was absent. Hon Barry House led his colleague, Hon Murray Criddle, out of the committee room to collapse the quorum to await the arrival of the delayed Hon Barbara Scott.

Hon B.M. Scott: We waited for you last week.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The committee did that and I did the same the week before.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Derrick Tomlinson): Order! I draw Hon Tom Stephens' attention to the standing order which prevents the discussion of proceedings of standing committees and advise him that he is going very close to contravening it.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I appreciate your advice, Mr Deputy President, but the committee was not convened because a quorum was not formed. Therefore, I am not in a position to talk about the proceedings of that committee simply because it did not have a quorum. However, I am able to talk about the efforts that were made to try to form a quorum. Hon Barry House effectively collapsed the quorum and deprived the committee of the opportunity of meeting for some 13 minutes while it awaited the arrival of Hon Barbara Scott. On her arrival a quorum was formed and I now find myself in the position of not being able to refer to what happened, but all members know we are now faced with a motion to select a new chairman for this committee. This place is not some sort of gentlemen's club. Life in this place is not a club where the Opposition makes it comfortable for government members and Ministers. This is the House that purports to be a House of Review. The task of Opposition members is to place the Executive under scrutiny with vigour, energy and determination.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is absolutely right.

Hon B.M. Scott: It was difficult for you to do that when you were in the Northern Territory.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Indeed, but fortunately I was paired and the House was able to proceed with its deliberations. No doubt Hon Barbara Scott will take advantage of pairing arrangements to be absent from this place on parliamentary and political business if she chooses. I am not arguing about the member's right to do that.

It is a parliamentarian's task to make even his colleagues feel uncomfortable if he finds himself taking a different viewpoint from them on a particular issue.

Hon N.F. Moore: We have noticed that on occasions.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I do not resile from that because one of the tasks of all members is to not accept the comfortable mind sets we have on issues, but to challenge one another. We must make each other think about the questions before the Chair and to ensure that this House arrives at the best possible solution for the people of Western Australia whom we are here to serve.

Hon N.F. Moore: Is that why you rolled Hon Mark Nevill as chairman?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have never rolled Hon Mark Nevill.

Hon N.F. Moore: Everyone knows you got the numbers and knocked him off.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Hon Norman Moore is so far from the truth; Hon Mark Nevill decided he wanted to go to greener pastures. He had contributed enormously to the work of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies as its chairman.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I draw Hon Tom Stephens' attention to the advice given by the President to previous speakers that this motion relates to the appointment of Hon Barry House as chairman of the standing committee. In the same way as the President advised those members to speak to the point, I advise the Hon Tom Stephens to speak to the point. I advise other members that Hon Tom Stephens has the right to speak, not them.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: This House is debating the appointment of a chairman to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. In the process of considering this appointment members should reflect on the past processes because they have involved

changes to the chairmanship. Hon Mark Nevill was chairman of this committee for a considerable time and he did a great job and that was not disputed by anybody. He certainly was not rolled by anybody. He decided to resign as chairman of the committee and to put the expertise he had gained from that position into good use in other areas. He did that without being rolled by anybody - it was his decision.

We are at the point of selecting a new chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies which is not a committee designed to make life comfortable for the Government. It is to place the Government and government agencies under scrutiny.

Hon N.F. Moore: Why didn't you do that when you were chairman?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I was chairman for 18 months until the Parliament was prorogued. At the next opportunity Hon Norman Moore, whose party had formed a coalition with the National Party, succeeded in having me rolled.

Hon N.F. Moore: The House decided to change the chairman and that is a reflection on the former chairman.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The first time around I had the vote of Hon Murray Criddle -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I advise Hon Tom Stephens that Hon Murray Criddle was not a member at that time.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I am sorry, I mean Hon Murray Montgomery. There are too many "Murrays" in this place. The committee has changed its chairman a number of times and on some occasions that position has gone to a government member and on others to an opposition member. It is appropriate that should occur.

Hon N.F. Moore: Therefore, it is time for a government chairman.

Hon Kim Chance: You had one last year.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: A Liberal Party member has been the chairman of that standing committee for several years - from 1990 when Hon Norman Moore was chairman -

Hon N.F. Moore: I was in opposition then.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: - to the election of Hon Barry House in 1993. If the Government has its way with this motion the Liberal Party will retain the chairmanship of this committee. That will be a tragedy for the process of ensuring that this Chamber is not simply a gentlemen's club or a relaxed place for a conservative government formed in the other place, where this place is simply a rubber stamp that places that Executive under no scrutiny at all. There is a particular role for the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, because that committee has three opposition members and three government members, and the chairman has a casting vote, so he can determine the modus operandi of that committee in regard to the scrutiny of government agencies. There has been ample argument from this side of the House about why it is time to position in that chair someone from the Opposition benches so that we can ensure that there is adequate scrutiny of the Executive through that committee. That committee has done some enormously valuable work, which no-one would dispute, with the exception of Hon Phil Lockyer, who has just cried crocodile tears about the attacks on the chairmanship and membership of that committee. Hon Phil Lockyer has attacked publicly, on television and on radio, the work and focus of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, but he has the hypocrisy to come into this House today and defend the honour of some of the members of that committee. It was extraordinary to see the crocodile tears that were shed by the seconder of this motion.

All three members of the Opposition who have nominated for the position of chairman have been rejected by government members in the votes of that committee that have led to this motion. This is not just a question of my personality. The Government has had the opportunity of selecting someone as amiable and cordial as Hon Kim Chance, who would have been able to provide a different style of chairmanship from the Opposition benches and be the steward and shepherd of the work of that committee. If members opposite find my abrasive temperament totally unacceptable -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: It is your schizophrenia that we cannot handle, not your abrasive manner.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have not had that diagnosis, unlike the psychiatric diagnosis that, no doubt, has been dished out for the member. If members opposite did not want to accept the amiable disposition of Hon Kim Chance, they could have had available to them the expertise of Hon Doug Wenn as chairman of that committee. Therefore, it is not simply a question of my personality, but of the Government being determined to make sure that it has the numbers on and chairmanship of all committees of this place. Hon Mark Nevill could have told the House, but he did not, kindly, that I was a late convert to the committee system of the Legislative Council, but he will know, and I will tell the House, that it was the work that he and Hon Jim Brown put into the Select Committee on Committees, and their determined efforts in arguing forcefully with people like me about the role of the committee system in the Legislative Council, that finally brought me around.

However, members opposite have let down both the work of those members and the arguments that were expounded in 1986 by that committee and by the then opposition about the role of the committee system in this place. Members opposite have dropped the speeches that they made when they were in opposition. They have ignored the sentiments that they expressed about the role of the committee system, and they have taken up too easily the viewpoint that I, and people like me, held when I was first on the government benches 11 years ago. However, I changed my mind, being ably persuaded by Hon Mark Nevill, because I recognised that good government needs a good opposition. One of the ways that members opposite failed the former government was by not providing us with a quality opposition in either this House or the other place, to keep us on our toes, to keep us on our mettle, to ensure that we were a quality government -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: So all the corruption was our fault?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We had failings from time to time, and unfortunately the then opposition did not do its job as an opposition to ensure that we were a better government. We want to offer the Government the opportunity of being a good government in the short time that it is in office, and one of the ways that the Government can be a good government is by ensuring that it has a strong and powerful opposition in this place so that it can be placed under scrutiny and be subject to the checks and balances that it so desperately needs, because the Government has within its midst people capable of gross excesses and incompetence, and it needs the assistance of the Opposition to ensure that it is honest.

One way to ensure that the Government is honest is to give the committee system of this House strength and vigour, through the contribution of opposition members, including the opportunity for the Opposition to chair some committees of the upper House, such as would happen if Hon George Cash were to withdraw his motion or Hon Barry House were to decline the nomination proposed in this motion. There is even a chance that he may do that, because he is an honourable man, and he would recognise that beyond his ambitions to hold higher office in this place, he has the opportunity of being committed to not just the honour and service of his party but the service of the people of Western Australia, by whom he has been elected, by ensuring that this place is strengthened, the role of the Opposition is enhanced, and the committee system includes within it opportunities for the Opposition to make this the best government possible.

Hon Barry House has the opportunity of ensuring that his colleagues are placed under the effective scrutiny of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, under the chairmanship of any one of the three opposition nominees whom members opposite might like to select. I am very concerned to learn from the scuttlebutt around the House that not just this standing committee of the upper House is under some stress and strain as a result of the arrogance of the -

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Surely you are not going to repeat scuttlebutt?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I will leave it to the member to repeat it. I am deeply concerned

to ensure that the Estimates Committee, the Legislation Committee and the other committees of this House do not operate in a politically partisan way -

Hon N.F. Moore: You are an absolute hypocrite. Do you remember Mr Robert Smith? Tell us about your political motivation. I have seen you in action. That is why I know you are a hypocrite.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have said already to members that I want them to talk about whether they will vote for Hon Barry House as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. If I were Hon Barry House, I would be getting a bit concerned, because not too many people have indicated that they will do that. Let us hear your views on that, as distinct from your views on all the other committees.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Mr President, thank you for that invitation. I respond to that invitation and to this motion by saying that the Government has not put forward any decent argument about why I should vote for the motion before the House to appoint a government member as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. The strong and powerful committee system of this Parliament would be good medicine for any government. Ministers should not be uncomfortable or unhappy about coming into this place.

Hon N.F. Moore: We're not.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: They should happily come to Parliament, and recognise that it has a partnership with Ministers to ensure good government. Ministers should welcome their daily medicine in the Chamber in which expertise is made available by the Opposition, and on occasions by members opposite. We draw attention to areas in portfolios where problems exist and attention needs to be focused.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It is a good job that you did not go on with the priesthood.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: This ensures a better system and service to the people of Western Australia. Instead, Ministers come into this Chamber as though it were an execution chamber.

Hon N.F. Moore: Rubbish! Why did you take up the chairmanship when you were part of the government?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Government wants to ensure that the committee system is shut down during its term in office. It wants to neuter the system by ensuring that it is controlled by the club opposite. Therefore, Ministers will not have to face their daily medicine in Parliament and will be protected from the committee system in the upper House. The committees of this House contain too many representatives from members opposite. In conclusion, I take up the offer made by Hon Alannah MacTiernan to Hon Peter Foss. This was a thought which also occurred to me, and I reiterate it.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: You startled her by saying that.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: I had his support all along.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We want to see reform of this place so we can enthusiastically embrace the role of the Legislative Council as a House of Review. That requires further reform to the constitution, and the electoral process determining formation, of this place. Our hopes now appear to be left with the High Court challenge before any opportunity of reform arises in the near future.

Hon N.F. Moore: You did not try one-vote-one-value in your last term in office.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Try us! If the Minister introduces a Bill, he will see how we will vote.

The PRESIDENT: Order! This has nothing to do with Hon Barry House.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We will enthusiastically embrace the offer made by Hon Peter Foss; that is, to recognise that this place should be a House of Review. In the Labor Party, with a reformed upper House, with equality of votes for electing the members to this place, I for one would argue stridently and strenuously - I am sure successfully -

alongside my colleague Hon Alannah MacTiernan, and I suspect all others, to ensure that we did not use those numbers brutally to control this place.

Hon Graham Edwards: Absolutely!

Hon N.F. Moore: *Hansard* should record loud laughter from the government benches.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: This pledge can be made in exchange for reform of this place: if the Government brings about that process of a democratically elected Chamber, we will not use the numbers on the floor of this House to control committees, as the Government has done historically and continues to do today.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: Hands up all who believe Mr Stephens. One!

Hon N.F. Moore: Why did you take on the chairmanship when in government?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: It was my turn.

Hon N.F. Moore: It was an Executive dominated committee.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I was selected because I won the favour of Hon Murray Montgomery in the ballot which saw me elected to that position.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You lost it for the same reason.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I very much appreciated the member's support. I would have hoped that on occasions such as this, a lack of party discipline would be demonstrated to recognise the role of the upper House.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You failed him, Mr Stephens.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Members opposite failed to recognise the role of the upper House as deserving a committee system which is strong, vigorous and energetic, and in which the opposition has a fulsome role. We will not see that situation when this motion is passed. It simply justifies the old ways of doing things.

Hon Mark Nevill: It is going through the motions.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: This Court coalition Government seeks to place its men in the chairs of all the committees to ensure that this House is little more than a rubber stamp. That is a tragedy.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [5.16 pm]: I am asked to consider whether I support Hon Barry House's appointment to the position as proposed by the motion. I am sure that Hon Barry House is extremely well endowed -

Several members interjected.

Hon Mark Nevill: What do you know that we do not?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member stick to the motion.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: - both with integrity and experience. Despite his endowment, I must oppose the motion on a matter of principle. The complete domination of all the committees in this House by the Government is a bad thing which leads to Executive domination over Parliament. I also oppose the motion because my electorate was told by this Government prior to the election that it would be more open and accountable. Part of that accountability comes from this House being able to operate on a bipartisan basis. At this stage we have seen a gradual erosion of the standards which were promised, and recently we saw the passage of the Commission on Government Bill which was an erosion of that openness. To compare this Government with its predecessor regarding accountability is probably not a fair way of looking at the issue. The previous government did not have the numbers in this place. Therefore, I cannot tell whether it would have dominated the committees in this place - no-one knows.

Hon P.R. Lightfoot: You can guess though.

Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan: We promised to do otherwise.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Promises, promises!

Hon J.A. SCOTT: As I said, the voters in my electorate expected this Government to be open and honest. Of course, my electorate did the right thing and balanced out government and opposition with someone from the cross-benches so they did not have to worry about that position. As Hon Kim Chance says, the Federal Government's sharing of responsibility on committees is much more balanced. That is partly because of that quality that comes from the cross-benches being able to break down the government or opposition from dominating the upper House. Unfortunately, this Government's moves so far towards accountability have been very few. In a very short time there have been more and more moves towards secrecy and paternalism by this Government. Instead of getting open debate in this place, most of the debate is happening behind closed doors and this House is presented with a fait accompli. That is not the way this House is supposed to operate; that is not what the Government promised the people in the electorate. For that reason principally I oppose the motion. It is no reflection upon Hon Barry House, whom I hold in high regard.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [5.22 pm]: I feel I must make a couple of brief comments following on from the last two speakers. I regret very much the direction that this debate has taken. I am rather flattered that my chairmanship attributes have been discussed in this place for about two hours, but I am very frustrated because we have spent that much time discussing the chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies when we cannot even discuss the most significant report that the committee has tabled in this House; that is, the thirty-sixth report into the role and scrutiny of government agencies. I want to put on the record that we are discussing this today because of the committee's meeting this morning. That meeting was outlined to members in detail by Hon Tom Stephens. It is worth noting that the previous week's meeting did not get to that stage. The three government members turned up at the required time for the meeting but could not form a quorum because the opposition members did not turn up, even given the 15 minute grace period. Normally it is not convention to mention those sorts of things, but for the record that also took place in the previous week.

Hon John Halden: For the record, that was done because of what happened in regard to the Legislation Committee.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Hon Tom Stephens was not there because he was not in the state.

Hon Tom Stephens: You did not call the meeting for the previous week. You asked the Clerk not to convene the meeting the first week it could have been convened.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I had no jurisdiction whatever.

The PRESIDENT: Order! For the record, let us get on with it.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I assure you, Mr President, that I will support the motion and I will not take the invitation of Hon Tom Stephens to withdraw. I am very frustrated that we have taken nearly two hours to discuss this issue when the time of this Parliament would be much better spent discussing some of the important work that the Government Agencies Committee has done.

Hon Kim Chance: It did not need to happen.

Hon Graham Edwards: No-one on this side disagrees with you on that.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: There is work to be done and the sooner we can move on to that the better.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Hon George Cash
Hon E.J. Charlton
Hon M.J. Criddle
Hon B.K. Donaldson
Hon Max Evans
Hon Peter Foss

Hon Barry House
Hon P.R. Lightfoot
Hon P.H. Lockyer
Hon I.D. MacLean
Hon Murray Montgomery
Hon N.F. Moore

Hon M.D. Nixon
Hon B.M. Scott
Hon Derrick Tomlinson
Hon W.N. Stretch
(Teller)

Noes (15)

Hon T.G. Butler
 Hon Kim Chance
 Hon J.A. Cowdell
 Hon Cheryl Davenport
 Hon Reg Davies

Hon Graham Edwards
 Hon N.D. Griffiths
 Hon John Halden
 Hon A.J.G. MacTiernan
 Hon Mark Nevill

Hon Sam Piantadosi
 Hon J.A. Scott
 Hon Tom Stephens
 Hon Doug Wenn
 Hon Tom Helm (*Teller*)

Question thus passed

STATE BUDGET - PAPERS 1994-95 TABLING

Hon Max Evans (Minister for Finance) tabled the Budget papers.

[See paper No 94.]

Consideration of Tabled Paper

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Finance) [5.27 pm]: I move without notice -

That pursuant to Standing Order No 49(c), the Council take note of tabled paper No 94 (Consolidated Fund Estimates 1994-95), laid upon the Table of the House on 9 June 1994.

This motion enables the Legislative Council to examine and debate the Budget papers associated with the Appropriation Bills which are now before the Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to be able to announce that this will be the first Budget in the state's history that has been brought down before the commencement of the financial year. As Minister for Finance I have been a strong advocate for an early Budget as I wanted to make clear, as early as possible, the Government's financial management strategies so as to enable agencies to plan with confidence. For that reason, this is also the first Budget that provides forward estimates of revenue and expenditure. It is the first since records commenced in 1961-62 which moves the total public sector substantially into surplus. I am also delighted to be able to announce that the Government has halted and reversed the growth in the state's net debt. Latest estimates show that the first reduction since records were kept will occur this financial year and more substantial reductions in net debt are expected in 1994-95. The forward estimates also show that the consolidated fund will be truly in balance in 1995-96 following a small deficit in 1994-95. Importantly, the consolidated fund's net financing requirement will move into surplus in 1994-95 and larger surpluses are expected in the following two years. These surpluses reflect tight expenditure control. Consolidated fund recurrent expenditures are estimated to fall by 1.5 per cent in real terms in 1994-95 and there are further real reductions expected in 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Last year, in this Government's first Budget, we promised to arrest the growth in state debt in our current term. That objective is being met, indeed it is being exceeded, well ahead of our most optimistic expectations. The reduction in this state's net debt position, embodied in this Budget and reinforced in the forward estimates, will be critically important in our task of restoring the state's AAA credit rating. This Budget will further boost the confidence that is being shown in our economy, will further encourage business investment and will provide an environment in which Western Australians can look forward to growing, lasting work opportunities.

There will be no new taxes, no increase in existing taxes, and we have been able to make some reductions in payroll tax to small businesses. By once again raising the threshold, we have exempted hundreds more small businesses from the burden of this inefficient form of taxation. In principle, we are opposed to payroll taxation. It taxes business on inputs rather than profits. The Federal Government taxes business on its profits. The states are not guaranteed a share of that taxation. Consequently, state governments are left with inefficient taxation measures to fund their obligations. The Premier has written to the Federal Treasurer, Mr Willis, to urge him to initiate real reform in this area. The Federal Government should be supporting our efforts. Without its cooperation, it will be hard to achieve our goal of removing payroll tax over eight years. I should point out to the Council that payroll tax concessions granted by the State Government are partly

offset by higher company tax payments to the Commonwealth. For every \$100 of payroll tax relief, around \$33 is lost to the Commonwealth in this way.

As I have just mentioned, the Budget puts within reach yet another of the Government's major fiscal objectives - eliminating the deficit on the consolidated fund within our first term in office. Even more significantly, the total state public sector is estimated to record a surplus of \$45m in 1993-94 and a larger surplus of \$279m in 1994-95. This is a major achievement as the state's public sector, which includes our trading enterprises such as the State Energy Commission and the Water Authority, had not previously been in surplus since records commenced 33 years ago.

Before turning to specific features of the Budget, let me first outline the Budget parameters.

BUDGET RESULT

The consolidated fund will be \$33.1m in deficit. A deficit of \$305.8m for capital services is largely offset by a projected surplus of \$272.7m for recurrent services which will be channelled into capital works. The deficit includes capital repayments of \$67.8m in respect of the Western Australian Treasury Corporation. As a result, the consolidated fund's net financing requirement will be in surplus by \$34.6m, an improvement of \$79.9m on the expected 1993-94 position. The net financing requirement is the amount the Government has to borrow to make up the difference between what it spends and what it receives in revenue. The surplus therefore means that the consolidated fund will repay debt in net terms in 1994-95.

The strong revenue growth in 1993-94, due to buoyant economic activity, will enable us to repay the remaining \$125m of the state's petrochemical or PICL debt before the end of this financial year. This decision to utilise unexpected revenue to reduce debt will add to the growing confidence that this Government has generated in the future of Western Australia. Western Australians have paid dearly for the financial irresponsibility and misadventures of previous Labor governments which culminated in the petrochemical project fiasco. The reckless pursuit of this project has cost Western Australians \$413m. The cost to our financial reputation was substantial. We are in the process of restoring that reputation.

Total recurrent and capital expenditures from the consolidated fund are estimated at \$5 958.9m in 1994-95, comprising recurrent outlays of \$5 457.6m and capital expenditure of \$501.3m. In comparing the 1994-95 estimates with 1993-94 outcomes, care needs to be taken as a number of factors must be considered, including accounting adjustments. On a comparable basis, and after accounting for inflation of 2.25 per cent, as measured by the implicit price deflator for gross state product, the real fall in recurrent spending is estimated to be 1.5 per cent. This tight hold on our operational expenditure is a pleasing achievement and is the result of our public sector reform process. Indeed, the tight but measured control that has been exercised over expenditures, and the movement of some services to the private sector, has meant that full time equivalent staffing positions in the Budget agencies will fall by 1 295 in 1994-95.

The consolidated fund's capital outlays of \$501.3m do not include capital expenditure by the Main Roads Department and statutory authorities such as SECWA and the Water Authority. These authorities are responsible for a large proportion of the public sector's capital works program which amounts to \$1 681.9m in 1994-95. After adjusting for capital repayments, total expenditure on capital works is expected to increase by \$77.2m, or about five per cent. A major feature of the capital program is the beginning of the implementation of the Government's decision to extend the infill sewerage system in the metropolitan area and country towns. In 1994-95, \$65.2m will be spent.

On the revenue side, total revenues are estimated to be \$5 925.8m in 1994-95. After adjusting for accounting changes and net appropriation arrangements, this represents an increase of \$63.9m, or 1.1 per cent. The minor nature of the increase is mainly due to the once-off impact of accelerated debt repayments of \$107m in 1993-94 from the Water Authority and the State Energy Commission. Total recurrent revenues are estimated at

\$5 730.3m. After adjusting for accounting changes and net appropriations, the increase is \$180.6m, or 3.3 per cent.

I have already mentioned that the total public sector is estimated to record a surplus in 1994-95. For the first time in over three decades, a surplus of \$98m is expected for the general government sector. Moreover, a second consecutive annual surplus of \$213m is projected for the government trading enterprise sector.

Revenue

This Budget continues our policy of not increasing the tax burden on businesses. There are no increases in tax rates and, for the second year in succession, no new taxes have been introduced. Although our state revenues have been bolstered by the strength of the building industry, the increase in consolidated fund revenue has been more moderate because of the adverse impact of the subdued international economy on our mining royalties and the restraint on federal funding to the state. Revenue growth is likely to slow in 1994-95 due to the expected easing in growth in the building industry and the lack of any real growth in untied Commonwealth revenues being only partly offset by a moderate pick-up in mining royalties.

Nevertheless, we have been able to provide some further payroll tax relief. However, our capacity to provide relief has been limited by the Federal Government's continued financial squeeze on the states. Despite the claims of a better funding deal for the states at this year's Premiers' Conference, the Commonwealth limited growth in untied grants to only 2.1 per cent in 1994-95, while its own taxes are expected to grow by 9.7 per cent. As a result, untied grants to the states as a proportion of total Commonwealth taxes are now only 13.4 per cent compared with 19.9 per cent in the early 1980s.

Payroll Tax

This Budget provides further payroll tax concessions to assist small and medium sized businesses. The payroll tax exemption figure and other wages thresholds will be increased by 22 per cent. As a result of this measure, the exemption threshold will be lifted from the current \$450 000 to \$550 000. This will exempt an estimated additional 700 businesses. A further estimated 4 300 businesses - around 60 per cent of those liable for payroll tax - will benefit from reduced assessments. The concession will take effect from 1 July and will cost an estimated \$13m in 1994-95 and \$15m in a full year. It is regrettable that we have not been able to move faster to reduce the burden of payroll tax. That has not been possible for the reasons I have already mentioned. Nevertheless, in our first two Budgets, payroll tax thresholds have increased by almost 50 per cent.

EXPENDITURE

Let me turn now to some of the more significant expenditure initiatives which will be undertaken by the Government.

Education

This Budget provides over \$1.2b for education, which represents approximately 20 per cent of total expenditure from the consolidated fund. In recognition of the major contribution made by non-government schools, the Budget provides \$78.5m in recurrent funding to the Office of Non-Government Education and \$20m for the Low Interest Loan Scheme. In government schools, an additional 239 full time equivalent teachers and 77 support staff will be appointed to primary and secondary schools in 1995 to meet an expected increase in enrolments, and to staff new schools and major extensions to existing schools. To meet the additional expenditure generated by increased enrolments in our government school system for 1995, it has been necessary to introduce some efficiency measures. These measures include -

- the continuing rationalisation and review of central and district office functions; and

- the continuing rationalisation of cleaning and gardening activities.

The total capital works program for government schools for 1994-95 is \$68.2m. This includes new works of \$35.6m, full details of which are set out in the Budget papers.

Vocational Education

The Government is also implementing important changes so that the training needs of our young people, as well as the needs of people requiring retraining and skills upgrading, can be met. An additional 1 365 full time equivalent training places will be provided. Of these, 163 will be at new facilities at Halls Creek, Kununurra, Northam, Merredin and Collie. An additional 627 places will be provided at existing colleges.

To ensure that quality training courses are provided at the lowest possible cost, 575 new places will be delivered by private or public providers selected through a competitive tendering process. The Government will also introduce a new state training system which will combine existing agencies to establish a new Western Australian Department of Training and a network of autonomous colleges. A more flexible and efficient training system will result. The Minister will introduce legislation shortly to give effect to these changes.

Health

The Government will spend over \$1.5b in gross terms on health services in 1994-95. The Government is committed to ensuring that the community receives good value for its health dollar. Many services currently provided by the public sector could be provided at the same or less cost by the private sector. The Government has therefore initiated major reforms to the way its health expenditure is administered. A state health purchasing authority will be established with responsibility for purchasing health services from the public and private sectors. This will bring about real competition in the provision of health services in this state. It will also ensure much greater accountability based on rigorous assessments of the community's health needs at a regional level. The Government will open up the provision of publicly funded health services to competition from private providers. These initiatives are essential if Western Australia is to continue to have a world class health service.

Other Budget initiatives include -

an additional \$6.3m to expand home and community care services for frail aged and disabled people. This represents a funding increase of over 10 per cent on last year, and an increase in the program of 22 per cent since this Government came to office. The program allows people to retain their independence by providing a wide range of services including home help, home nursing, home maintenance, respite care and delivered meals;

an additional \$4.8m to expand and improve services for people with mental illness, including \$616 000 for mental health tribunals and a Board of Visitors to be established under the proposed new Mental Health Bill. This additional expenditure will greatly accelerate the process of mental health reform;

\$7.5m to be spent on mammography screening in 1994-95. This represents a 105 per cent increase in expenditure compared with 1993-94. The Government has given high priority to ensuring all women in Western Australia over the age of 40 have access to breast cancer mammography screening and assessment services.

Included in the expenditure on health is a wide-ranging program of capital works costing \$74.1m.

Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice's budget of \$248.8m includes a number of initiatives which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's justice system. Features are -

major workplace reforms have been agreed with prison officers which aim to reduce prison costs by 10 per cent or around \$8m in 1994-95;

a pilot work camp for up to 30 young offenders who will be sent to the camp for between four and six months. The work camps will be a court-based alternative to detention or prison. The pilot project will be closely assessed to determine its effectiveness. Expenditure of \$1.8m is budgeted for this project in 1994-95;

the introduction of reforms to eradicate the backlog of criminal cases in courts; and

the introduction of a new system for collecting motor vehicle fines from 1 January 1995 is estimated to increase revenue by \$8.7m in 1994-95, due largely to the collection of outstanding unpaid notices.

Police

It is an indication of the high priority the Government places on effective law enforcement that the police budget will increase by 9.2 per cent to \$293.7m. An amount of \$4.5m will be provided for 100 civilian staff who will relieve police of administrative tasks and allow them to spend more time in the community where they are most needed.

There are problems facing our police which are, in part, due to the concentration by the previous government on increasing manpower levels without sufficient resources being directed to infrastructure and operational needs. To help rectify the position, a capital works program of about \$52m over three years is planned to be spent, commencing in 1994-95, to equip and upgrade metropolitan and country police stations. This includes \$9m to upgrade operational and support equipment.

Industry and Resources Development

To provide sustainable jobs, we must ensure that our industries are world-competitive. We must also fully exploit our resources and build upon our natural advantages through value adding industries.

Major Budget initiatives include -

\$3.5m for export and trade development;

\$4.5m over the next three years to encourage the State's aquaculture industry;

an additional \$2.4m which will be spent by the Western Australian Tourism Commission on encouraging tourism. This industry has enormous potential, given our location in the Asian region and our comparative advantage in nature-based tourism. Overseas and interstate tourists generated income of nearly \$1.5b in Western Australia in 1993-94 and the industry accounts for around 9 per cent of state employment. Budget assistance will also be provided to upgrade tourism infrastructure such as a south west regional airport;

an additional \$2m to encourage onshore petroleum exploration activity in the state. Mining exploration will also be further helped by the continuing development of a computer database on mining tenements - Tengraph; and

\$875 000 for the proposed relocation of the CSIRO's Petroleum and Mineral Research Division from the Eastern States to Perth.

Swan River Environment

The Swan and Canning Rivers are critically important to Perth's unique and enviable environment, but the previous government was negligent in safeguarding these priceless assets and they are showing dangerous signs of degradation.

The State Government recently joined with the Commonwealth to mount a plan costing \$8.4m over three years to enable the community to develop and implement better land management and to contain the leaching of fertiliser and other nutrients into the Swan and Avon Rivers. Supporting this work, we have announced a major investigative program to help rehabilitation of the Swan and Canning Rivers. An extensive five year study program will proceed, together with the implementation of appropriate corrective action to revitalise our river systems. A research foundation will be established which will work in conjunction with the Swan River Trust and other agencies to ensure that the best research is carried out to support the management measures. An additional \$1.8m will be allocated to the Swan River Trust in 1994-95, including \$750 000 for the foundation.

The Government's decision to extend the infill sewerage system in the metropolitan area

and country towns at a cost of about \$800m over the next 10 years will also make a major contribution to alleviating the damage to the state's river systems.

City Restoration

The Government has decided to embark on a major three year program to revitalise the City of Perth, including our major heritage buildings. We will be giving priority to projects enhancing the natural beauty of the city and improving perceptions of our capital city centre, not only for tourists but also for the citizens of Western Australia. In this pursuit, we shall undertake works costing \$9.1 million in 1994-95. A high priority will be to restore and renovate the area from the Town Hall through the Supreme Court and Government House to the foreshore.

Regional Development

Important new regional projects in 1994-95 include -

- the redevelopment of the Albany foreshore to enhance its use by retail, tourist, marine, and service and industrial users. Up to \$6.9m will be spent on this project over the next four years, including \$2.5m in 1994-95 from the consolidated fund;

- the redevelopment of the Marlston Hill area north of the Bunbury central business district into a mixture of residential, commercial and tourist areas. The redevelopment will involve funding of around \$25m;

- the development of the Carnarvon Fascine canal housing estate will ultimately provide for a total of 690 residential lots and tourist facilities. Around \$9.3m will be spent on this project over the next three years, including about \$1.5m from the consolidated fund in 1994-95; and

- the start of work on the Mandurah arts and cultural centre. Total State Government expenditure on the project is estimated at \$11.6m with \$1.2m budgeted for in 1994-95.

Aboriginal Social Justice

The Government is giving high priority to the social and economic advancement of Aboriginal people. The recent report of the task force on Aboriginal social justice has provided a comprehensive set of recommendations which will enable government to take action during the coming years. One of the Government's first priorities will be environmental health, for which an additional \$3m will be provided to help improve the living standards of Aboriginal communities across the state. This initiative is in response to the strong recommendations of the task force which has drawn up a detailed blueprint for government action in dealing, not only with the basic human requirements for Aboriginal people, but also the paramount issue of social justice.

The Government has already taken the first steps to improve accommodation standards for Aboriginal people by establishing a new Directorate of Aboriginal Housing. Additionally, \$1m has been allocated to implement high priorities arising out of the task force report, such as the establishment of a commission of elders.

OTHER EXPENDITURE INITIATIVES

There is insufficient time to outline all of the expenditure initiatives included in the Budget and Ministers will provide further information when the appropriations are being dealt with in Committee. However, some notable inclusions are -

- A program will commence in 1994-95 to improve the supply of water to farming properties. An amount of \$3.2m has been provided from the consolidated fund in 1994-95 for this program.

- For the second successive year, the Government will increase the funds for the purchase of new books for the state's public libraries. An additional \$500 000 will be provided for this purpose in 1994-95.

- Work has begun on the Subiaco urban village project. This project will involve sinking the rail line between the Axon Street bridge and the Hay Street subway,

and the redevelopment of the industrial land in the adjoining area. This will result in a major improvement in this area and bring into use derelict land which has been vacant for too long.

Capital Expenditures

Our capital works program provides essential public infrastructure where it is most needed while not creating undue pressure on resources at this time of strong growth in the private sector. The main features of our capital works program in 1994-95 are -

expenditure of \$283.3m by Homeswest which includes expenditures of around \$16m in 1994-95 to improve Aboriginal housing;

\$181.6m for the Main Roads Department;

\$190m in new works will be undertaken by SECWA, including \$16.7m for preparatory work on the new Collie power station;

the Water Authority will spend \$235m, including \$65.2m on infill sewerage;

Westrail will undertake a program of \$78.8m which includes a \$19.2m program on upgrading and replacement of freight rail lines.

COMMONWEALTH/STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS

The financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the states over the past decade has been marked by both extensive cutbacks in Commonwealth funding to the states and much greater and unwarranted intrusion by the Commonwealth into areas of state responsibility. The extent of these cutbacks is such that, if the states were receiving the same proportions of Commonwealth tax revenues as they were when tax sharing applied in the early 1980s, they would have received an additional \$6b a year in untied grants in 1994-95. The cost to Western Australia of these cutbacks has been \$600m a year in untied grants.

At this year's Premiers' Conference, the Commonwealth undertook to increase general revenue funds in line with both inflation and population growth over the next three years. While the new arrangement will apply for the next three years, a more appropriate and fairer arrangement would be for the states' general revenue grants to be determined as a share of total Commonwealth taxes, with that share gradually increasing towards the levels applying in the early 1980s. The State Government will continue to push for this reform in its dealings with the Commonwealth. Of particular concern is the fact that our share of total Commonwealth road grants has fallen from 18 per cent in 1968-69 to 8.9 per cent in 1994-95. Western Australia now receives only 7 per cent of national highways funding, whereas we account for 25 per cent of national highways.

BUDGET PRESENTATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

The introduction of an early Budget has meant some unavoidable changes to the Budget papers. Details of aggregate expected out-turns for 1993-94 are provided for analytical purposes, but estimated actual recurrent expenditures at the divisional or program level have not been included. This has been done to avoid confusion with the actual figures which will be finalised after the close of the financial year. The publication of one set of outcomes for 1993-94 should simplify Parliament's consideration of the Estimates.

The presentation of the Program Statements and the Supplementary Budget Information paper will therefore be published after the close of the financial year for tabling when Parliament resumes its sittings in August. As usual, the normal details of outlays and revenues will be shown for the Budget year. Forward estimates are provided for the first time this year.

Net Appropriations

For some time now I have been advocating the introduction of a system of net appropriations which will enable agencies to retain part or all of the revenues they collect so as to enhance budgetary flexibility and to provide an incentive for more efficient operation. I am pleased to be able to say that such a system has been introduced this

year. Details of the agencies operating under net appropriations in 1994-95, and the revenues and expenditures involved, are provided in the Budget Estimates. The Program Statements will provide details of the agreements underpinning these arrangements.

CONCLUSION

The Western Australian economy is not only well out of the recession but is strongly leading the nation into a new growth phase. There is growing confidence in the state's future economic prospects and this government's financial management of the public sector. However, this does not give us reason to relax. The world market is highly competitive and only the lowest cost, most efficient producers can survive. We must remain competitive. This is the only hope for those looking for work. We will not pursue bandaidd solutions to the unemployment problem. We are after real jobs - sustainable jobs.

The Government will continue to provide quality public services to the people of Western Australia and give value for money. We will continue to work hard to ensure that essential state public services are maintained while moving to implement many of the reforms to the operations of government agencies by the McCarrey commission and by government agencies themselves. Competition among service providers will increase and there will be more extensive use of competitive tendering and contracting. Options to privatise state services are also being explored but will only be pursued where we are sure that a substantial benefit will flow to the people of Western Australia. I commend the Budget to the Council.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Cheryl Davenport.

PEARLING AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon E.J. Charlton (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [5.56 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is identical to that outlined in the second reading speech of the Fisheries Amendment Bill. It amends the Pearling Act to reflect the offshore constitutional settlement provisions of the Commonwealth's new Fisheries Management Act enabling Western Australia to save its existing offshore constitutional settlement arrangements with the Commonwealth and make new arrangements as appropriate for the management of the pearling industry. Prior to the offshore constitutional arrangements, the pearling industry was managed by Western Australia from the shore to the edge of the three nautical mile state limit and by the Commonwealth from the three nautical mile state limit to the limit of its jurisdiction. Now pearling is managed from the shoreline to the edge of the Commonwealth jurisdiction - 200 nautical miles from the shoreline - under Western Australian law. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Tom Helm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon E.J. Charlton (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [5.57 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to bring to the House this Bill which will provide for improved accounting and financial reporting practices for local government. Australian accounting standard 27 has been declared by the Australian Accounting Research Foundation as the standard to apply to all local authorities throughout Australia. These principles have been embraced by Local Government Ministers in all states and it is intended that the standard apply for the financial reporting of the current year and the accounting and financial requirements for subsequent years. These new accounting principles have been discussed with the Western Australian Municipal Association, which is not opposed to them, and the Australian Society of Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants, which support them.

The amendments to the Local Government Act included in this Bill will change the types of funds and accounts kept by councils and will provide for accounting directions to adopt the Australian standard. Councils currently have various funds which are required to be kept as separate entities. These amendments will now provide for only two types of funds - the municipal fund and a trust fund. Existing reserve, trading and other funds are to become accounts which will form part of the municipal fund. These amendments provide for alterations to over 30 sections of the Act. They are principally changes in terminology, although some sections have been revised to incorporate the new principles. In anticipation of these amendments local authorities have commenced the conversion process to new standards. This legislation will need to be enacted urgently to match local government's enthusiasm for modernisation. It is essential that it be enacted prior to 30 June 1994. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Tom Helm.

FIRE BRIGADES SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon George Cash (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [6.00 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill seeks to amend the Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1985 and addresses three main issues: It seeks to merge the Western Australian Fire Brigades disablement benefit fund with the WA Fire Brigades superannuation fund; it seeks to remove the restriction on benefits payable to non-uniform members of the fund; and it seeks to allow certain former members to rejoin the fund to allow them to receive their benefit in the form of an allocated pension.

The disablement benefits fund was established under the Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1985 to provide a supplementary payment in the event that a firefighter became partially and permanently disabled. In effect it provides some additional insurance which is not available through the commercial insurance market, due to the occupation of firefighters. Until 1 July 1988, the fund was exempt from taxation under former paragraph 23(JAA) of the Income Tax Act. The Federal Government introduced a taxation impost on all superannuation funds effective from 1 July 1988.

The effect of this change would have been that, under the Occupational Superannuation Standards Act 1987, the fund would have been deemed "non-complying" and would therefore be liable for the payment of income tax at the rate of 47 per cent, whereas a "complying" fund pays tax at the concessional rate of 15 per cent. This amounts to an annual tax liability of approximately \$180 000. Therefore, the Western Australian Fire Brigades Superannuation Board recommended that, to remove the taxation liability, action should be taken to merge the disablement fund with the superannuation fund. The Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner has indicated that such a merger would

render the fund complying, and if action is commenced to achieve this, the liability will be avoided through continued application of the commissioner's discretionary power.

This amendment Bill merges the two funds into one by amending or repealing those sections of the Act which refer to the disablement benefits fund, the Disablement Benefits Board or disablement benefits regulations. The benefits currently payable under the disablement benefits fund will be paid by the superannuation fund, once this amendment Bill is passed. The conditions governing the payment of disablement benefits will be covered under the provisions of the Superannuation Fund Regulations 1986 as amended. The benefits and conditions of the disablement benefits fund will not be affected by the merger of the two funds. In order to merge the two funds satisfactorily, it will be necessary to provide the same benefits to all members of the fund, whether they be uniformed or non-uniformed. Where a member of the superannuation fund is retired for medical reasons, the benefit payable depends on the degree of disability as determined by the insurance company engaged by the board from time to time. If the member is a firefighter, that member is eligible for a benefit under the disablement benefits fund, the amount payable is equal to the insured amount, and is paid as a pension over a five year period. No such benefit is available to a non-uniformed member. These arrangements are discriminatory against non-uniformed staff and contrary to the spirit of equal opportunity legislation. The amendments in this Bill will ensure that all uniformed and non-uniformed members are treated equally.

In addition to the merger of the two funds, the Bill addresses some other minor and housekeeping issues. In particular, it allows certain former members of the fund who have retired to rejoin the fund by the rolling over of their superannuation back into the WA Fire Brigades superannuation fund for the explicit purpose of receiving the benefit in the form of an allocated pension. This is a substantial saving for those members, as they are charged a fee on a cost recovery basis only which is considerably less than the fees charged by private enterprises. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Tom Helm.

STATE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon Max Evans (Minister for Finance), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Finance) [6.06 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is being introduced at the request of the South Australian Government as a complementary measure to legislation in that state for the purpose of facilitating the restructuring of the State Bank of South Australia. Members may recall that the bank experienced financial difficulties in 1991, necessitating the provision of a rescue package by the South Australian Government as its owner. A further consequence was an announcement by the Prime Minister, in February 1993, that the Commonwealth was prepared to provide special financial assistance to South Australia. As a condition of the Commonwealth's assistance, the South Australian Premier agreed to arrange the sale of the bank as quickly as practicable, consistent with achieving a fair market price. He also agreed to the bank being brought into the Commonwealth's tax net and under Reserve Bank supervision by 1 July 1994.

In preparation for the sale of the bank, the South Australian Government has decided to corporatise the bank first. This will involve the transfer of much of the banking and finance business to a public company to be incorporated under the Corporations Law under the name of Bank of South Australia Limited. At the same time the State Bank of South Australia will change its name to South Australian Asset Management

Corporation. It will cease to conduct general banking and finance business but will continue in existence for a number of years in order to realise its remaining assets and pay off its outstanding liabilities.

The State Bank's banking and finance business is principally carried on in South Australia, where it has a substantial branch network. However, it also conducts, or has conducted, business in all other states and territories with the exception of Tasmania. So far as Western Australia is concerned, only one office continues to operate, under the name of Beneficial Finance Corporation. The principal Bill to facilitate the corporatisation of the State Bank of South Australia was recently passed by the South Australian Parliament.

The objective of the Bill before this House is primarily to facilitate the transfer to the corporatised entity of certain assets and liabilities of the bank which are located in Western Australia. The specific assets and liabilities to be transferred in Western Australia will be identified by the South Australian Treasurer in due course, and the transfers will be effected by an order in writing, as provided for in this Bill.

Without legislation of this kind, the transfer of assets and liabilities would be time consuming and expensive for the bank, and tedious for the bank's customers. Bank staff would, for example, need to prepare fresh security documents for customers' mortgages and arrange authorities from all customers for their accounts to be transferred into the name of the new bank. Essentially, the provisions will operate to free customers of the need to do anything to transfer their business to the new bank. There are more than 2 000 customers in Western Australia. The saving in documentation from effecting the transfer of Western Australian assets and liabilities to the new bank under this legislation will not deprive the state of any revenue. The South Australian Government has been requested to make a payment in lieu of the state taxes and fees which would otherwise have been incurred. This payment is still to be finalised but is expected to be in the order of \$36 000.

This legislation will be consistent with the Government's objective of facilitating business efficiency within Western Australia. There are also a number of precedents for legislation of this nature, the most recent being the 1991 Act facilitating the merger of the ANZ Banking Group and the National Mutual Royal Bank. It is understood that legislation similar in content to this Bill is being introduced in all the other mainland states and in the territories. The South Australian Government has asked if this Bill can be passed prior to 1 July 1994, the date on which the new bank is to commence business. Consequently, I encourage all members to facilitate its speedy passage. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Mark Nevill.

House adjourned at 6.10 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SCHOOLS - LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE) PROGRAMS

143. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many schools offer languages other than English (LOTE) programs?
- (2) How many schools have added the LOTE program to their teaching program since 1993?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| (1) | Primary schools | 298 |
| | District high schools | 50 |
| | High schools | 5 |
| | Senior high schools | 77 |

- (2) 1994 data on the number of schools which have added a LOTE program are not yet available.

SCHOOLS - FIRST STEPS PROGRAM

144. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In how many schools has the First Steps literacy and numeracy program been introduced?
- (2) Has the program been sold to non-government schools, if so at what cost?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) 639 government schools. Many non-government schools have taken up the program but the exact number is not known.
- (2) No.

SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

Stepping into Science and Technology Program

145. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the new technology program Stepping into Science and Technology been introduced into primary schools?
- (2) If yes, into what schools?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(2) Science and technology curriculum consultants from the Education Department are not aware of the existence of this program and therefore have no knowledge of it being introduced in Western Australian primary schools. It is possible that the program referred to is being confused with one being developed by the Australian Academy of Science, called "Primary Investigations". The development of this program followed a report produced by the academy in November 1991, "First Steps in Science and Technology". "Primary Investigations" is an integrated program for primary schools in science, technology and environment studies. It was trialled during 1993 in two Western Australian government schools - East Victoria Park Primary School and City Beach Primary School - as part of an Australia-wide trial involving 38 schools. The Australian Academy of Science is proceeding to publish the materials and they will be available for purchase and use by schools in 1995.

EDUCATION - CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

New Reading Clinics and Language Development Centres

146. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have there been any new reading clinics and language development centres established to assist children with learning difficulties since 1993?

- (2) Has a special team been established, comprising teachers and psychologists, to work with parents and teachers of students with learning and attention difficulties?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No new centrally funded reading clinics or language development centres have been established in 1994.
- (2) The learning assistance program was established to work with parents and teachers of students with learning difficulties. In 1993, the project was supported by teachers from the Education Department and a clinical psychologist from the Health Department. The project was based in Joondalup and worked primarily with schools and parents in the Joondalup and Balga districts. In 1994, the program will be operating in the Dianella and Bayswater districts and will be expanded to all districts, during the 1995 and 1996 school years, as part of the implementation strategy of the Shean report.

SCHOOLS - ETHNIC

Steering Committee Establishment; Programs, Funding Review

147. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has an Ethnic Schools Steering Committee been established to oversee the implementation of the after hours ethnic schools program?
- (2) Has there been a review of the State's contribution to ethnic schools programs currently funded by the Commonwealth Government?
- (3) What is the level of per student funding to ethnic school students to assist them with specific learning difficulties?
- (4) Has there been an increase in funding for the after hours ethnic schools program since 1993?
- (5) Has there been an increase in the funding for professional development for ethnic school and community language class teachers?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes. The Ethnic Schools Steering Committee was established in 1993. It comprises two representatives of the Education Department, one representative of the Catholic Education Office and five representatives of the Ethnic Schools Association of WA. The steering committee oversees both the after hours and insertion elements of the program.
- (2) Yes. The state contribution to ethnic schools programs was reviewed in 1992.
- (3) There is no specific funding allocation for this purpose.
- (4) Yes. In 1994 the state contribution was increased from \$30 per student per year to \$35 per student per year.
- (5) Yes. Funding for professional development managed by the Ethnic Schools Steering Committee has been increased.

TAFE - PLACES, ADDITIONAL FULL TIME

150. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How many additional full time technical and further education places did the Government create in 1993 and 1994?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

In semester 1, 1993 the number of places increased by 723 over semester 1, 1992. In semester 1, 1994 an additional 1 200 places were made available over semester 1, 1993.

UNIVERSITIES - PLACES, YEAR 12 SCHOOL LEAVERS

151. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

What percentage of year 12 school leavers obtained a place in universities in 1993 and 1994?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

In 1993, 28.6 per cent of Western Australian year 12 school leavers obtained a university place, as indicated by TISC enrolment data. In 1994, 29.0 per cent obtained a place.

SCHOOLS - SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENTS, ADDITIONAL FUNDS

154. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

In the past 12 months, what additional money has been made available for the appointment of support staff to schools?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The Education Department's 1993-94 budget provided an additional \$3 912 000 for new support staff appointments in schools.

EDUCATION - PROGRAMS, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION'S PORTFOLIO
Quarterly Returns to Treasury, Over or Underexpenditure

155. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

In relation to the programs comprising the Minister's Education portfolio, do the quarterly returns to Treasury for 31 March 1994 indicate overexpenditure or underexpenditure in any of those programs, and if so, what are the programs and what are the amounts?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The quarterly returns to Treasury for 31 March 1994 indicate overexpenditure and underexpenditure in the following programs -

Corporate services	Under	\$364 000
Government schools education	Over	\$1 348 000
Financial and other assistance to non-government schooling and other educational institutions	Over	\$103 000

FISHERIES - KRILL FISHERY, ALBANY, PROPOSAL

156. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

With regard to the Minister's statement on Radio 6AL on Monday, 28 February 1994 in which the Minister indicated that he was aware of the Albany krill fishery proposal and that it had his support -

- (1) What meetings has the Minister had with the proponents of this project?
- (2) Has the proponent indicated to the Minister that he, or any other organisation, has obtained a licence to fish krill?
- (3) If yes, did he/they indicate where the licence would be valid for?
- (4) Did the proponent indicate whether the catch would be utilised for human or animal consumption?
- (5) What annual catch does the proponent expect?
- (6) What size trawler does the proponent intend using?
- (7) Does the proponent intend to process the krill at sea or in a factory in Albany?

- (8) How many jobs will be created if the catch is processed in Albany?
- (9) What commitments has the Minister given the proponent on behalf of the Western Australian Government?
- (10) What action has the Minister taken to ensure that the Australian Fisheries Management Authority expedites policy development for this industry in Australian controlled waters?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

The Minister for Fisheries has provided the following reply -

(1)-(10)

To this date, no meetings have been held with the proponents and no commitment has been given. Before being issued a permit to harvest krill or any other Antarctic marine resource, fishermen would have to convince the federal Environment Minister that the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Life charter would not be compromised.

"HEALTHVIEW" - PRINTING; COST

169. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Health:

With respect to the "Healthview" magazine, Volume 1, No 3, March/April 1994 -

- (1) Who printed the document?
- (2) What was the cost?
- (3) If State Print was not used, why was it not used?
- (4) If it was not used, was it asked to tender?
- (5) If it was asked to tender, what price did it tender?
- (6) What price was tendered by the printer?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Lamb Print, 9 Robertson Street, East Perth.
- (2) \$5 608, offset by income to consolidated revenue of \$2 458 from advertising.
- (3)-(6) State Print called tenders in 1987 under which Lamb Print won a contract to print the magazine, which is the continuation under a new name of the magazine *Headway*, first published in September 1985. The tender called by State Print was for an initial period of three years. The contract was extended because of the satisfactory performance of Lamb Print, with increases to account for inflation. Information regarding the printing requirements for the magazine was provided to State Print in March 1994 to enable new tenders to be called. It is understood that State Print will be calling new tenders early in June.

Note: The March/April edition of the magazine was volume 1, No 5 - not No 3 as stated in the parliamentary question. Since a similar question was asked by Hon Nick Griffiths in March about the November/December edition of the magazine - volume 1, No 3 - it is assumed that the information is sought for volume 1, No 5. This is the information that has been supplied.

HOSPITALS - KELLERBERRIN DISTRICT MEMORIAL, BOARD
Theatre Delineation, Decision

172. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What level of theatre delineation has been adopted by the board of Kellerberrin District Memorial Hospital?

- (2) Will the Minister adhere to the spirit of devolution of responsibility to local boards which he has promoted and now accept the decision of the board?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) At its last meeting the Board of Kellerberrin Memorial Hospital resolved to recommence negotiations to have its operating theatre upgraded from level II to level III.
- (2) Negotiations between the hospital's executive team and the regional director have already recommenced. Agreement on conditions under which the operating theatre may be upgraded from level II to level III is being sought.

TAFE - AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES *State Training Board's Reservations*

174. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the State Training Board have any reservations about the Minister's proposal for integrated autonomous technical and further education colleges?
- (2) If yes, what are they?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(2) In response to a request from the State Training Board, I am to meet with it shortly to discuss the issue of college governance.

SCHOOLS - CLOSURE *No Decision; Gascoyne Junction and Sandstone Primary*

175. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that, in accord with his publicly stated position immediately prior to the Glendalough by-election, no decision has been made by the Government, the Minister, or his department that would lead to the closure of any additional schools in 1995?
- (2) Will the Minister advise whether he is currently considering proposals that would lead to the closure of the Gascoyne Junction and Sandstone Primary Schools in 1995?
- (3) Has the Minister received projection of student numbers at each school for 1995?
- (4) If yes, what are these numbers?
- (5) Will the Minister confirm that, in accord with his pre-Glendalough by-election commitments, no matter what those projected school numbers are those schools will not close without the concurrence of the local school communities?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(2),(5) I refer the member to the document "Ensuring a Quality Education for all Students in Western Australian Government Schools", May 1994.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

EDUCATION - PRIMARY EXTENSION AND CHALLENGE (PEAC) CENTRES, NUMBERS

177. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How many primary extension and challenge centres currently exist and how many existed in 1993?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Currently there are 35.2 PEAC centres. In 1993 there were 34.2 centres. It should be noted that districts are given a PEAC resource allocation and its use is determined at the district level. In many districts a traditional withdrawal model operates, whereby students travel to special programs at PEAC centres. In other districts, local variables, such as distance, determine alternative use of the PEAC resource.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COUNCILS - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT FUNDING

178. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Government provided any funding to industry employment and training councils to assist with research and development in 1993 and/or 1994?
- (2) If yes, how much?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$470 000 allocated to IETC network for specific purpose projects in 1993-94. Also \$35 000 was provided to each IETC - 21 - for research and development activities in relation to industry training plans.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - FTEs, ALLOCATION

181. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How many full time equivalent positions are allocated to the -

- (a) Chief Executive Office;
- (b) Human Resources Department;
- (c) Resources and Services Department;
- (d) Aboriginal Consultative Group; and
- (e) Minister's Office

in the Education Department as at 1 May 1994?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (a) 9.
- (b) 207.65.
- (c) 259.
- (d) 6.
- (e) 17.

SCHOOLS - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAM, FTEs, ALLOCATION

182. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How many full time equivalent positions are allocated to the government schools education program in the following subprograms -

- (a) comprehensive general education;
- (b) supplementary support and access for students; and
- (c) school system framework

as at 1 May 1994?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| (a) | Comprehensive general education | 22 069 |
| (b) | Supplementary support and access for students | 119 |
| (c) | School system framework | 923 |

as at 5 May 1994.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - FTEs, ALLOCATION

183. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

How many full time equivalent positions are allocated to the -

- (a) executive;
- (b) corporate management;
- (c) human resources management;
- (d) financial management;
- (e) facilities and asset management;
- (f) information technology; and
- (g) administrative services

subprograms in the Department of Training as at 1 May 1994?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (a) Five
- (b) Two
- (c) 70.2
- (d) 27.2
- (e) 47.2
- (f) 48.6
- (g) 10.4

TAFE - COLLEGES

Managing Directors, Appointment Costs

184. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What were the costs associated with filling the positions of managing director at each of the TAFE colleges?
- (2) Was a private employment agency used to fill these positions?
- (3) If yes, what was its role and what costs were involved?
- (4) Was the Public Service Board used to fill these positions?
- (5) If yes, what was its role and what costs were involved?
- (6) Was the human resources section in the Department of Training used to fill these positions?
- (7) If so, what was its role and what were the costs involved?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) The process of filling the positions has not yet been completed; therefore, final costs are not available.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) To provide professional advice and direct input to the selection process, \$38 000. In addition a fee of \$7 500 will be charged for each executive search depending upon the outcome of the interviews.
- (4) Yes.

- (5) To provide advice on and determination of position classifications, clearance from the Office of Mobility and approval to tender for assistance from a private consultancy. No direct cost to the department.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Preparation of submissions to the Public Service Commission for classification, advertising, normal mobility clearance and advertising approval procedures, dispatch of information to applicants and preparation of files for interview panels. Normal staff costs were incurred, although this is not possible to specify.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU, REPORTS
New Administrative Structure, Other Companies Advice, Costs

185. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many reports has Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu been commissioned to undertake for the Department of Training regarding its new administrative structure?
- (2) What has been the cost of these reports?
- (3) Which other companies, if any, have provided the department, the Minister or the Government with advice on the new administrative structure for the Department of Training and what was the cost?
- (4) Have any of these reports been made public?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Have staff in the department been provided with copies of the reports?
- (7) If yes, which staff?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) One report, in two parts, has been commissioned.
- (2) \$40 000.
- (3) None.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The department's corporate executive.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA -
CONSULTANCIES AND EXPENDITURE, BUDGET FUNDS

187. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How much money was provided for in last year's Budget for consultancies and how much has been spent so far this year?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The Education Department's 1993-94 budget provided \$1.6m for consultancies and expenditure to 31 May 1994 is \$1 205 039.63.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - NAME
CHANGE TO TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF, COST

188. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

What were the costs associated with changing the name of the Department for Vocational Education and Training to the Department of Training?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

\$19 000.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - REDUNDANCY PACKAGES

190. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

How many people have accepted redundancy positions within the Department of Training since February 1993?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Twenty-six. In addition, two officers have received management initiated retirement packages.

COLLEGES BILL - INTRODUCTION INTENTION

191. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Education:

When does the Government intend to introduce the colleges Bill into Parliament?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

There is no intention to introduce a colleges Bill into Parliament.

SCHOOLS - CLOSURE

No Closures Against Majority of Parents' Wishes

193. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Education:

In view of concerns expressed to me by parents of children attending schools, will the Minister confirm that no Western Australian school will close against the wishes of the majority of parents in those schools?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I refer the member to the document "Ensuring a Quality Education for all Students in Western Australian Government Schools", May 1994.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Collie Workshops, Completion

282. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at Collie Workshops referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

East Perth-Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre, Stage 1, Completion

283. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre, stage 1 referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?

- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
East Perth-Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre, Stage 2, Completion

284. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre, stage 2 referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - FREMANTLE MARITIME MARICULTURE PROJECT, WORKS, COMPLETION

285. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at the Fremantle maritime mariculture project referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - JOONDALUP CONSTRUCTION WORKS, STAGES 1 AND 2, COMPLETION

286. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the construction works at Joondalup, stages 1 and 2 referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?

- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

**TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - MURDOCH HORTICULTURE PROJECT,
STAGES 1 AND 2, COMPLETION**

287. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at the Murdoch Horticulture project, stages 1 and 2 referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

**TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - CENTRAL WHEATBELT COLLEGE,
MERREDIN AND NORTHAM, WORKS, COMPLETION**

288. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works at the Central Wheatbelt College - Merredin and Northam - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - COMPUTING EQUIPMENT, WORKS, COMPLETION

289. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works - computing equipment - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - GAS FITTING RATIONALISATION, WORKS COMPLETION

290. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works - gas fitting rationalisation - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - MACHINERY, WORKS COMPLETION

291. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works - machinery - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not

prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

**TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - JOONDALUP STAGE 2.2 PLANNING ,
WORKS COMPLETION**

292. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works - Joondalup stage 2.2 planning - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

**TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - KARRAYILI ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE,
WORKS COMPLETION**

293. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works at Karrayili Adult Education Centre referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

**TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - KIMBERLEY REGIONAL COLLEGE, HALLS
CREEK AND KUNUNURRA, WORKS COMPLETION**

294. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new works at Kimberley Regional College - Halls Creek and Kununurra referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?

- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

New Works-Library Extensions-Albany and Bunbury Regional Colleges, Completion

295. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the new library extensions at Albany Regional College and Bunbury Regional College referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF - PUNDULMURRA COLLEGE, TRAINING ANNEXE AND WORKSHOP ADDITIONS COMPLETION

296. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at Pundulmurra College - on-site training annexe and workshop additions - referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - KARRATHA COLLEGE

Onslow, Paraburdoo, Tom Price Works Completion

297. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the works at Karratha College -
 - (a) Onslow demountable classrooms;

- (b) Paraburdoo - renovations; and
 - (c) Tom Price - workshop facility
- referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
 - (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
 - (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
 - (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
 - (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
 - (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
Leederville TAFE-Improvements, Completion

335. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have the improvement works at Leederville TAFE referred to in the 1993-94 capital works program been completed?
- (2) If so, what was the cost of the project this year?
- (3) If not, when is it expected to be completed and at what cost?
- (4) Has there been any delay in this project?
- (5) If yes, why, and what are the likely cost implications?
- (6) Has there been any overexpenditure incurred on this project to date?
- (7) If so, what was the additional expenditure for and what was the amount?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(7) The information sought would require considerable research and I am not prepared to allocate resources for this purpose. If the member has a specific problem relative to any of the matters raised, I will be pleased to respond.

STORM - 23 MAY, POWER RESTORATION DATES
Lesmurdie, Mt Helena, Guildford, Maida Vale, Bellevue, Wattle Grove

340. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

Following the storm on 22-23 May 1994, when was power restored to all parts of -

- (a) Lesmurdie;
- (b) Mt Helena;
- (c) Guildford;
- (d) Maida Vale;
- (e) Bellevue; and
- (f) Wattle Grove?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

The Minister for Energy has provided the following reply -

The State Energy Commission of Western Australia has provided the following information. Because of the random nature of the damage to the distribution networks, it is not possible to be specific as to when power was restored to each and every customer in the suburbs nominated. However, in the case of Lesmurdie, Guildford and Bellevue, 85 per cent of the power was restored to these suburbs by the evening of Tuesday, 24 May 1994. Power was progressively restored to the remaining customers over the following three days, finishing on Friday, 27 May 1994. In the case of Mt Helena, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove, 85 per cent of customers had power restored by Wednesday, 25 May 1994 with power being restored to the remaining customers by Friday, 27 May 1994.

STORM - 23 MAY, POWER RESTORATION DATES
Dalkeith, Peppermint Grove, City Beach, Nedlands

341. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

Following the storm on 22-23 May 1994, when was power restored to all parts of -

- (a) Dalkeith;
- (b) Peppermint Grove;
- (c) City Beach; and
- (d) Nedlands?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

The Minister for Energy has provided the following reply -

The State Energy Commission of Western Australia has provided the following information. Because of the random nature of the damage to the distribution networks, it is not possible to be specific as to when power was restored to each and every customer in the suburbs nominated. However, 90 per cent of customers in these suburbs had power restored by Tuesday evening, 24 May 1994. Low voltage mains and "dim supplies" were progressively restored until Friday evening, 27 May 1994.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - COORDINATED COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM, ESTABLISHMENT

350. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Community Development:

- (1) Why has the Government not yet developed a coordinated community based program to address domestic violence?
- (2) Will the Government develop such a program?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

Answer provided by the Minister for Community Development -

- (1) The Government has recently announced the "Abuse in Families" campaign which is a coordinated community education/awareness campaign involving the Department for Community Development's 21 district offices working with community organisations throughout the state.

(2)-(4)

Not applicable.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - "DYING WITH DIGNITY" GUIDELINES

354. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Health Department of Western Australia adopted guidelines with respect to the issue of "dying with dignity"?
- (2) If so, are these guidelines the same or substantially the same as those of the New South Wales Department of Health?
- (3) If guidelines adopted by the Health Department of Western Australia on the issue of "dying with dignity" exist what are those guidelines?
- (4) If such guidelines exist what is the legal authority for them?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No; however, draft guidelines have been released for public comment.
- (2) Yes, the guidelines are based on those of the NSW Department of Health.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) This will be addressed if and when a decision is made to formally adopt a "guidelines" approach to this issue.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRAMS (JOBLINK) - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

359. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Does the Government intend to increase/continue funding of the employment equity programs (Joblink)?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) The employment equity projects have been advised of assured funding until 31 December 1994. In the interim period, the program will be reviewed in the context of government policy and the potential impact of the Commonwealth Government's White Paper on employment.
- (2) Not applicable.

STEPHENSON AND WARD INCINERATOR - MEDICAL WASTE FROM PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

360. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1910, part (1), of 6 April 1994, will the Minister ascertain which publicly funded hospitals and institutions dispose of medical waste by incineration to the Stephenson and Ward incinerator and inform the House?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Arrangements have been made to determine which publicly funded hospitals and institutions dispose of medical waste by incineration to the Stephenson and Ward incinerator. I will provide this to the member once the information is available.
- (2) Not applicable.

LEGISLATION - RECORDS MANAGEMENT FOR ARCHIVAL VALUE, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

362. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has the Minister received recommendations from the Library and Information Service to formulate a scheme for legislation to ensure -

- (a) proper records management so that government documents are collected and assessed for their archival value; and
- (b) when collected are maintained by an independent state archivist?
- (2) If so, what are the recommendations and what does the Government intend to do about them?
- (3) If not, when are the recommendations expected?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) I have reviewed several drafts of a public discussion paper on new legislation to ensure the proper management of public records.
- (2) The document will outline the establishment of a statutory authority with responsibility for reporting to Parliament on matters associated with state and local government records practices.
- (3) I am expecting a final draft any day and will then decide on a date for release and look forward to public comments.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ROWE, WILLIAM - RESIGNATION

Attorney General, No Contact in any Jurisdiction with Respect to Matters Pending

133. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Health representing the Attorney General:

Some notice has been given of this question. In view of the recent departure of Mr Will Rowe from the Ministry of Justice -

- (1) Does the Attorney General still maintain that since taking up her appointment as Attorney General she has had no contact with any magistrate, registrar or judge in any jurisdiction with respect to any matter pending?
- (2) If not -
 - (a) with whom did she have contact and on what occasions;
 - (b) with respect to what matters; and
 - (c) for what purposes?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - SENIOR OFFICERS REMAINING

134. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Health representing the Attorney General:

Some notice has been given of this question. Of the five most senior officers in the administration of law in Western Australia, as of 6 February 1993 - namely, the Under Secretary for Law, the Assistant Under Secretary for Law, the Director of Court Services, the Human Resources Manager and the Executive Officer of Court Services - how many still remain in positions in the restructured Ministry of Justice?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I have the question but not the answer and, therefore, I ask that the question be taken on notice.

COURTS ADMINISTRATION BILL - INTRODUCTION CONSIDERATION

135. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Health representing the Attorney General:

Some notice has been given of this question. In view of the resignation of Mr Will Rowe, as reported in *The West Australian* today, will the Attorney General now consider introducing a courts administration Bill, along the lines of the South Australian Courts Administration Act, to strengthen the independence of court administration?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

No. Court administration is an integral part of the justice system and, as has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions such as New Zealand, works more effectively in a ministry arrangement.

The Ministry of Justice was established to enhance policy development and service delivery across the justice system. Such an arrangement facilitates cooperation between service providers, including staff working in the area of juvenile justice, adult corrections, victims services and courts administration.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - CHIEF JUSTICE'S ROLE IN ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING OF COURT SYSTEM

136. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Health representing the Attorney General:

Some notice has been given of this question. In regard to the recent resignation of Mr William Rowe, the senior court administrator, reportedly over divisions within the Ministry of Justice regarding the administration of the courts -

- (1) What role, if any, does the Attorney see for the Chief Justice in the administration and funding of the court system?
- (2) How does the Minister propose to overcome the increasing delays in criminal courts and reduce the increasing costs of justice?
- (3) Does the Minister accept the recommendation of the McCarrey report that separate expenditure items should be identified in the consolidated fund estimates to be determined after discussions with the Treasurer and the Chief Justice?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The Chief Justice has a close and continuing contact with the Ministry of Justice on matters relating to the administration and funding of the court system.
- (2) I refer the member to the Ministry of Justice's budget announced by the Treasurer today.
- (3) The recommendations of the McCarrey report remain under consideration.

WANNEROO CITY COUNCIL - SPLITTING, PETITION TABLING

137. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Local Government:

In relation to the Minister's answer to question 48 in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, 1 June 1994 with respect to the City of Wannon, is the Minister prepared to table the petition he has received seeking to split the City of Wannon?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

The Minister for Local Government has provided the following reply -

On the basis that the petition, including a description of the four new councils it proposed, has already been canvassed publicly, I see no reason why it should be tabled and decline to do so. Petitions for severance and annexation are received regularly from residents and councils, and are processed routinely and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act without the need for tabling.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - LOCKRIDGE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**
Staffing Levels Reduction

138. Hon T.G. BUTLER to the Minister for Health:

Some notice has been given of this question.

- (1) Will the Minister advise the House why the clerical administration services of the Lockridge Community Health and Development Centre have been reduced to one level 1 officer, with the positions of secretary/coordinator, driver/handyman, and one other level 1 officer being withdrawn?
- (2) With the withdrawal of these positions, how is it envisaged the centre will maintain the efficient delivery of services, with special regard to the overall administration/management, day to day centre management and building management?
- (3) Will the Minister explain why the vacant position of physiotherapist has not been filled, and when the centre can expect the other physiotherapist, who is on secondment, to return? Is the present use of a locum therapist to be permanent?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the functions performed by and the value placed on the centre by other community groups and institutions in and around the Lockridge area?
- (5) Who made the decision to reduce staffing levels at the centre?
- (6) What level of consultation was carried out with the centre staff and the Lockridge community?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The Lockridge Community Health and Development Centre now forms part of the Swan District Health Service. Integration of health services at this level enables economies of scale to be achieved and, rather than duplicating administrative and accounting functions in various units, they can be more efficiently provided from a single base.

In terms of clerical support, the proposed arrangements will result in an additional part time receptionist/clerk position, as compared with that available over the last 12 months.

Hon T.G. Butler: That is not true.

Hon PETER FOSS: To continue -

- (2) Swan District Health Service management have implemented arrangements to enhance support services to the centre, including the engineering and accounting services.
- (3) One of the two permanent physiotherapists is currently on secondment to another health unit until 15 July 1994, and that position is being filled temporarily by another physiotherapist. The second physiotherapist position has been vacant since April 1994, and the role of that position is being reviewed, including the potential to contract out some of the services being provided; for example, aqua rhythmic, hydrotherapy and group diabetes services.

- (4) Yes. The valuable service provided to the community will be continued under the new arrangement.
- (5) The decision to reduce staffing levels was made by the manager of the Swan District Health Service, following consideration of a report detailing opportunities for the rationalisation and streamlining of administrative and clerical services.
- (6) Centre staff and unions have been consulted, with staff meetings convened. As no change is planned in the level of health services provided, the community was not consulted.

**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF -
KARRI FOREST, HIGH VALUE OLD GROWTH, PRESERVATION CONDITIONS**

139. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for the Environment:

Some notice has been given of this question.

- (1) Have ministerial conditions been set which bind the Department of Conservation and Land Management to preserve 3 200 hectares of high value old growth karri forest?
- (2) If so, what provision has been made for this condition, and which area of old growth forest will be preserved?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The areas to be preserved will be identified following a study to be undertaken by CALM.

CARR, DAVID - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

140. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Is Mr David Carr, the Government's consultant on the City of Perth break-up, currently engaged in any capacity by any state government department, instrumentality or agency?
- (2) If yes, what work is Mr Carr involved in?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

The Premier has provided the following reply -

As this question will need to be referred to all Ministers, I ask the honourable member to place it on notice.

POLICE - BADDOCK, COUNCILLOR, DEATH, OFFICERS INVOLVED

141. Hon A.J.G. MacTIERNAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Which police officers first attended the scene of the death of Councillor Baddock from the City of Wanneroo in 1987?
- (2) Which police officers were involved in subsequent investigations in preparing the report of the incident for the Coroner?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Police has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

I am becoming increasingly concerned with such questions as both I and the Commissioner of Police believe it is totally inappropriate

to name police officers involved in any operational investigation. However, if the member has any specific concerns about the conduct of a particular officer or officers, this should be referred to the appropriate authorities.

MINING AMENDMENT BILL (No 1) - UNAVAILABILITY, REASON

142. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Bills in this House are made available to members and to the public after the first reading?
- (2) If yes, why is it that since the opening of Parliament on 5 May 1994 copies of the Mining Amendment Bill (No 1) have not been available from the papers office?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It has become apparent that some amendments may need to be made. Unless I receive those amendments by next week, I will withdraw the Bill.

RADIATION SAFETY REGULATIONS - UNDER MINES REGULATION ACT

Concern; Precedence over Radiation Safety Act

143. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concern expressed by the Chairman of the Radiological Council, who is also the Chairman of the Radiation Subcommittee of the Mines Occupational Health and Safety Board, in the annual report of the Radiological Council concerning radiation safety regulations under the Mines Regulation Act?
- (2) Does the Minister support the continuation of the situation whereby the radiation safety regulations of the Mines Regulation Act have precedence over the Radiation Safety Act?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

- (1)-(2) I am not aware of those matters to which the member has referred. However, if he is referring to a particular report, I will be obliged if he will provide me with its title.

Hon Mark Nevill: It is the annual report of the Radiological Council.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will endeavour to obtain a copy of that report and inquire into the comments attributed to its chairman.

FINI HOMES - HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION PROPOSAL

144. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does Fini Homes have time-share units at Hillarys Marina?
- (2) Are the units on Department of Marine and Harbours property?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Fini Homes together with the Hay Property Group has proposed a residential short stay accommodation development at Hillarys Boat Harbour.
- (2) If it were to proceed, the proposed development would be located on leasehold land within the Hillarys Boat Harbour which is vested in the Minister for Transport.

MINING ACCIDENTS - KAMBALDA, BREACH OF MINES REGULATION ACT

145. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a serious incident on Monday, 9 May 1994 at Long Shaft, Kambalda, whereby a rise miner whose headlamp had failed at 2.00 pm had not been visited between 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm, contrary to statutory safety requirements?
- (2) Will the Minister advise what action has been taken as a result of this serious breach of the Mines Regulation Act?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

(1)-(2)

I understand that the situation as represented by the member does not coincide with the facts as reported to me by the Department of Minerals and Energy. My understanding is that it was a much shorter time than described, when the person was unattended. However, I will endeavour to find supporting information and provide it to the member early next week.

PERHAM, SHANE ROSS - DEATH AFTER 12 HOUR SHIFT, INQUIRY

146. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the death of Shane Ross Perham on Friday, 3 June on returning to his home in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from a 12-hour shift at a mine in Coolgardie?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that inquiries are undertaken to ascertain if the 12-hour shift contributed to this fatality, and to a number of other fatalities of men returning home after long, strenuous 12-hour shifts?

Hon GEORGE CASH replied:

- (1) No, I have not been formally advised of the death of that person.
- (2) I will make some investigations as asked for by the member. I will also compare this question to question on notice 408 on today's Notice Paper which appears to be in a similar vein.

Hon Mark Nevill: The second part is.

HOSPITALS - BUNBURY
Day Surgery Site

147. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Health:

Will a day surgery which "would be an integral part of the Health Campus" be located on the same site as the new hospital in Bunbury?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

That is the expectation. The final decision would be one for the health board. The report suggested that, and that is what I expect the case to be.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES - VICTORIA, MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE

148. Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Will the Minister be attending the Commonwealth Games in Victoria this year?
- (2) If so, who will accompany him?
- (3) If he is not attending the games, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1)-(3)

It has been suggested that I might attend those games to represent Western

Australia in view of our contingent of athletes who will be participating. I originally thought it would be a good idea to attend in view of the fact that we were considering making application for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and it might have been appropriate to have representation by the Western Australian Government. However, we have decided not to seek those games in view of the politics of the sporting world. We have considered applying for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and as a consequence it is unlikely I will be attending the Commonwealth Games in Victoria this year.

FOOTROT - IMPROPRIETIES, MEETINGS, MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE

149. Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Minister attend any meetings where improprieties regarding the outbreak of footrot were discussed?
- (2) If yes, when did those meetings take place?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

(1)-(2)

I attended one meeting that took place on 23 March 1993.

STATE BUDGET - TAXES, 22.5 PER CENT INCREASE

150. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Does the Minister agree with the Budget analysts who have calculated that with the current State Government's Budget brought down today the tax take for Western Australia has increased by some 22.5 per cent over the two years since the Court Government came to office?
- (2) If so, does the Minister accept that the increase in the tax take is in breach of the pre-election commitments of the Court coalition Government?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

(1)-(2)

I am glad the member asked this question. Members opposite seem to misunderstand what are taxes and what are charges. Members opposite refer to the taxes of the Water Authority and the State Energy Commission of Western Australia. I heard debate in the other place which included interjections about taxes. I would say that 22.5 per cent of the total revenue would be about \$300m. We have not increased any taxes of that magnitude. The increase in taxes last year mainly came from tobacco tax, to which this House agreed.

Hon Kim Chance: Not everyone.

Hon MAX EVANS: That tobacco tax amounted to about \$100m, and it was down to \$28m on petroleum royalties and \$12m on iron ore royalties. I do not know where the figure 22.5 per cent came from. Some people are accounting illiterates. People talk about an amount of \$300m over two years. The revenue from the casino went from \$36m to \$50m but we do not expect such an increase next year because people will not continue to lose their money while gambling - or at least not at the same rate. I cannot see where the figure of \$300m came from, because revenue has increased by about \$140m, apart from the repayment of loans.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - TRAINING IN PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR COMMITMENT

151. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Government committed to training in the public health sector?
- (2) If it remains committed to training, why have all of the Government health

representatives resigned from the Health Industry Employment and Training Council?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(2)

The first part of the question is somewhat ambiguous.

Hon Kim Chance: It is quite simple.

Hon PETER FOSS: I am not sure whether I am being asked whether we are committed to its being in the public sector or committed to the training of those who are in the public sector.

Hon Kim Chance: Is the Government committed to training in the public health sector?

Hon PETER FOSS: I still find it to be an ambiguous question. If the member is asking whether we are committed to training people who are in the public sector, the answer is yes. I am not aware that those people had all resigned from the ITC, neither apparently is the Minister for Education. I do not know the significance that should be put on that.

MANDURAH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE - GOVERNMENT FUNDING INCREASE

152. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Minister for the Arts:

I refer to the brochure distributed to members with the Budget papers. I ask -

(1) When did the Government increase its commitment to the Mandurah Arts and Cultural Centre from \$3.4m to \$11.6m, or is the claim contained in this brochure false?

(2) Is the expenditure of \$1.2m envisaged by the Government in the next financial year dependent upon comparable private sector expenditure?

(3) If so, which private sector partner has been found for this project?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(3) This question should be directed to the Minister representing the Premier as the matter is being handled by his department, not mine.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - NORTHERN SUBURBS, BUS AND TRAIN SERVICES REVIEW

153. Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer the Minister to question without notice 82 which I asked in this place last Thursday when I asked whether the Minister would be prepared to conduct a review of bus and train schedules for the northern suburbs because of the evident problems of commuters following the changes to the existing schedules. The Minister said that if I put some specific information before him he would consider a review. Now that I have put the information before the House, will the Minister now act on my request for a review?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thought I indicated at the time that not only did I welcome the question but also we were looking at these options. At the time, I said that as part of the restructure of the public transport system we were looking at taxis and other initiatives that would combine to provide a better service for people, particularly on the weekend as the member outlined. This is happening now. Any information that the member can provide would be most welcome.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - VACCINATIONS
FOR CHILDREN, AFTER WORKING HOURS SERVICES**

154. Hon B.M. SCOTT to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Health Department have a policy which would enable access for parents in the work force to have their children vaccinated against early childhood illnesses, after working hours?
- (2) If so, can the Minister say where in the metropolitan area such facilities are available after working hours?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(2)

We do have a policy for that. I will have to check on the locations where it is available after working hours and will advise the member in due course.

**STATE BUDGET - REVENUE INCREASE FROM STATE TRADING
ENTERPRISES INCREASED CHARGES**

155. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Fisheries:

Will the Minister advise the House what is the estimated percentage increase in revenue to the State Government in this year's Budget from increased charges associated with government trading enterprises?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

The member refers to state trading enterprises, the profits of which bear no relationship to the consolidated fund. The previous government brought in a statutory levy on the total turnover that went from 3 per cent to 4 per cent, and last year we increased it to 5 per cent. That is assessed on the previous year's figures. To my knowledge none of the profit of the Water Authority of Western Australia and the State Electricity Commission of Western Australia has come to the consolidated fund. Both those authorities have been trading at a profit, SECWA having done that for some years. That profitability and depreciation have given those authorities the cash flow to finance the new powerhouse at Collie and a large part of the infill sewerage program. Those enterprises do not make any contribution to the consolidated fund. This Budget requires the approval of the House for only the recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure for agencies. Revenues are provided to indicate whether the authorities will be in a plus or minus situation at the end of the year.

GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY - BOARD MEMBERSHIP

156. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that, prior to the announcement to the board of the Geraldton Port Authority, the Minister issued a press statement that, rather than involving interest groups in the make-up of the board, it would be made up entirely of commercial personnel, and that interest groups such as employees and farmers would have the opportunity for other approaches to the board?
- (2) If that is a fact, why are two of the four ordinary board members on the recently announced new board farmers?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

(1)-(2)

The new board members who have been appointed are not farmers.

Hon Kim Chance: Two of the four are farmers.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: They are not appointed as farmers. One of the new

appointees is an accountant. Prior to all board appointments being considered, a public advertisement is placed in the appropriate media inviting individuals to make themselves available for appointment to the board. That is the process under which we now operate around the state for the port authorities. The background of the applicants is not the important factor; their capacity to be able to make a contribution to the board's operations is assessed. It is not a matter of what their background is; it is their individual capacity to contribute to the good commercial running of the port authority.

GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY - BOARD MEMBERSHIP

157. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

Do I take it from the Minister's answer that in the circumstances he has described a future board could countenance the possibility of an employee being considered on commercial grounds for membership of the board?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

Yes. A judgment is made on the capacity of the individual prospectively to be able to make a contribution to the commercial operations of the board.

STATE BUDGET - ARTS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, SIGNIFICANT ITEMS, MINISTER'S CONSULTATIONS WITH PREMIER

158. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has the Minister been consulted by the Premier with respect to significant items of capital expenditure in the Arts portfolio?
- (2) If yes, why is the Minister unaware of the allocation of up to 10 per cent of arts capital expenditure?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1)-(2)

I have been consulted, and I am fully aware. All that I am suggesting is that the member should address the question to the Minister who has the portfolio responsibility. I am aware of all sorts of matters within the responsibility of other Ministers; but I am not expected, nor would I purport to be the appropriate person, to answer questions about the portfolio of another Minister. I was only suggesting that the member should direct his question to the relevant Minister. I am well aware of the facts; but I will not answer questions that fall outside my portfolio responsibility.

The PRESIDENT: I thought this might interest honourable members. I noted yesterday that in this Chamber in 30 minutes 20 questions were asked and answered. Today 28 questions were asked and answered. When one looks at another place, as I just happened to do, one finds yesterday 11 questions were asked. It seems to me that the way our question period is operating in this Chamber brings great credit. It is a very commendable state of affairs.
