

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 29 August 1985

THE SPEAKER (Mr Harman) took the Chair at 10.45 a.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Acts Amendment (Hospitals) Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Hodge (Minister for Health), and read a first time.
2. Acts Amendment (Sexual Assaults) Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Brian Burke (Premier), and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR CARR (Geraldton—Minister for Local Government) [10.51 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill proposes changes to the constitution of the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission and attends to several other miscellaneous matters.

The constitution of the commission has remained unchanged since it was established as a five-member body by the Local Government Grants Act in 1978. It is now considered appropriate to delete the requirement for a Treasury Department representative and in so doing provide for increased local government representation by substituting a member selected from names submitted by the Country Urban Councils' Association.

This change is proposed following extensive consultation with local government and agreement being reached on the provision for representation by the three associations of local government.

The opportunity also is being taken to provide for the appointment of a deputy chairman who will be that member who is an officer of the Department of Local Government. This will provide more adequately for stability and continuity in the operations of the commission.

All members of the commission are required to exercise their powers having regard to the general interest of local government throughout the State.

The Bill presents the opportunity for a greater say by local government in the manner in which general revenue is to be distributed and will be well-received by local government in Western Australia.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarko.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (FINANCIAL INTERESTS) BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgas—Premier) [10.52 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a Bill for an Act to require members of this Parliament to publicly register their financial interests. It is the same in substance as the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill 1985, which was rejected by Opposition members in the Legislative Council in March this year. A similar Bill was passed by this House in 1983, but subsequently rejected by Opposition members of the Legislative Council.

Public disclosure of the financial interests of members of Parliament is a longstanding commitment of the Labor Party both at a State and Federal level.

The public confidence which a measure of this kind will encourage is an important part of a healthy parliamentary democracy. Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and the Northern Territory, all require disclosure of the financial interests of members of Parliament. So far as the Commonwealth is concerned, the Prime Minister has made public the financial interests of his Ministers. In October 1984, the House of Representatives resolved to establish a register of members' financial interests.

I refer to an assertion made against such legislation: That to require members to publicly register their financial interests is an invasion of privacy. As I have previously said, a member of the community who voluntarily seeks public office must accept the responsibilities which go with that office. Part of those responsibilities, and one of the results of public life, is that one's private affairs become subject to greater public scrutiny than would otherwise be the case.

As I said in 1983, it forms an important part of the Government's programme for parliamentary and electoral reform. At that time, I

set out the Government's policy on disclosure of financial interests. My comments on that occasion are just as relevant today.

The Government believes that members of Parliament, as trustees of the public confidence, ought to disclose their financial interests to demonstrate to the electorate that they have not been, nor will be, influenced in their business by considerations of private personal gain.

The disclosure of interests by members of Parliament is a desirable and necessary step to maintain public confidence that members are discharging their public duties without bias and free from the influence of private interests or personal advantage. It will reinforce the well-recognised principle that any conflict between public duty and private interest should preferably be avoided altogether, but, at the very least, always declared.

Part of the acceptable public scrutiny which can and should take place so far as a member of Parliament is concerned, is that of his or her financial interests. This allows the public to ensure that decisions made are not affected by conflicts of interest.

This Bill is substantially based on the Financial Interests (Members of Parliament) Bill 1983 and the same in substance as the Financial Interests (Members of Parliament) Bill 1985. I do not propose, therefore, to go through the Bill clause by clause.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Hassell (Leader of the Opposition).

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BILL

Second Reading

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [10.56 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill proposes to effect a number of important changes to both procedures and substantive rights under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1982.

The most significant proposals of the Bill may be summarised as follows—

- (a) to extend the range of people who may claim under the Act;
- (b) to further reduce the potential for stress on the victim, by providing a discretion in the criminal injuries compensation assessor to determine applications for compensation without conducting a hearing, or, where a

hearing is conducted, a discretion not to call either the offender or the victim, or both, as a witness;

- (c) to avoid the involvement of the victim of the offence in recovery procedures under the Act. Recovery will be a matter between the convicted offender and the Crown alone. This will further reduce the potential for stress on the victim of the offence;
- (d) to remove from the Act the ability of the assessor to award compensation against a person who has been acquitted of a charge of committing the alleged offence.

I will deal with these matters in reverse order. Under the 1982 Act, the assessor could make an award of compensation in cases where a person had been acquitted of an alleged offence if he were satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the person acquitted did not have a sufficient defence to exonerate him from liability to pay damages in tort.

The Government, when in Opposition, opposed this aspect of the 1982 Act on the basis that it introduced a civil element into compensation for criminal injuries and was especially inappropriate in view of the informal nature of the proceedings before the assessor.

It is proposed that the assessor not be involved in arriving at judgments in respect of civil claims. Accordingly, no application for compensation may be made where the person charged with the offence was acquitted on the grounds that no offence occurred.

Compensation will continue to remain available in cases where the person charged was acquitted but the assessor is satisfied that the offence was committed by some other person.

With respect to recovery of compensation, under the 1982 Act, the Crown could recover as a statutory debt any compensation paid in respect of an offence for which a person was convicted. It could also recover by virtue of a right of subrogation against persons who were not convicted but were found by the assessor to have committed the offence. The Bill proposes that the Crown's right to recover exists only in respect of convicted offenders.

This Bill also makes an important change in the procedures by which the Crown seeks reimbursement from an offender.

It requires the Under Secretary for Law to make a separate application to the assessor for an order directing the offender to refund to the

Crown any compensation paid. Formerly the liability of the offender was established as part of the compensation application. The victim will not be involved in this procedure at all. This will further reduce the potential for stress to be placed on the victim.

The Bill sets out in some detail the procedures that must be followed in such applications. The Under Secretary for Law and the offender are given an opportunity to be heard with respect to various matters, including the making of the award and the financial position of the offender.

Unlike the 1982 Act, the assessor will no longer be required to give notice of an application for compensation to the offender. This will have the effect of further simplifying the determination of matters in relation to the awarding of compensation. It will be open to the assessor to award compensation after considering relevant affidavit evidence and without requiring attendance by the victim. Again this has the potential to further reduce stress on the victim, particularly in sexual assault cases.

Finally, several changes have been made in the range of those entitled to receive compensation under the Act.

The 1982 Act contained a definition of "close relative" which included a parent or child "within the meaning of the Fatal Accidents Act 1959". Because of proposed changes to that Act currently before Parliament, this Bill incorporates the extended definitions which appear in the Fatal Accidents Act. This is a change of form only.

The second is a change in substance by which "close relative" is extended to include *de facto* relationships. A similar change is proposed for the Fatal Accidents Act and the definition in this Bill is in the same terms as the proposed amendments to that Act.

The Bill incorporates substantial parts of the 1982 Act and a number of other changes are made.

I have had an explanatory memorandum prepared which outlines these changes, and I propose to distribute that with the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 28 August.

MRS WATKINS (Joondalup) [11.02 a.m.]: In my maiden speech to this House I made mention of the importance of the tourism industry to this State and suggested that all members should become involved in and be enthusiastic about tourism and support the initiatives being instigated by the Burke Government. The Governor in his speech at the opening of this current Parliament said, "One of the Government's most significant achievements has been to upgrade the importance of the tourism industry in this State."

The formation of the Western Australian Tourism Commission has heralded an era in the development of tourism in this State. Indeed, it has been the major initiative of this Government to provide impetus and priority to this vital industry.

Tourism is a most important aspect of this State's economy and has the potential to develop into the third cornerstone of our economic development, along with mining and agriculture.

In establishing the Western Australian Tourism Commission the Government has created an organisation which has autonomy, commercial flexibility, and relevance to the tourism industry's needs both now and in the future. It was stated from its inception that the commission would be able to function in a manner which the former Department of Tourism could not.

The commission has been able to implement management policies, procedures, and systems which have led to a greater utilisation of taxpayer funds. Efficiencies have been effected by a wide range of management decisions which reflect the commercial approach to the operations of the commission.

It is abhorrent to me that the Opposition has not offered one iota of support to the Tourism Commission and its commissioners. Indeed, since the commission's inception the Opposition has spent many hours in this place making scurrilous attacks on the commissioners. It is amazing that each of these dedicated individuals, who have been put under severe pressure as a result of public castigation by the Opposition, have remained steadfast throughout.

However, I have no doubt that the pressures I have mentioned played some part in the untimely death this week of commissioner Ted Archer. I know members of the Government will join with me in expressing our deep regret to Ted's loved ones.

The Opposition should stand condemned for its unfounded and disgraceful attacks on the commissioners and the Tourism Commission. The insensitive and disgraceful muckraking in which members of the Opposition indulge should be viewed with utter contempt.

In order to assist the Opposition in learning some facts about the Tourism Commission, I will highlight some of the savings, efficiencies and better trading results which have been achieved by the commission in the last 18 months.

The cost of administering the commission's agents accreditation policy since its development in 1971-72 was some \$520 000.

Several members interjected.

Mrs WATKINS: Members of the Opposition can have their turn later, but I am speaking now.

Mr Old: They will not be reading theirs.

Mrs WATKINS: When a teacher teaches a class of disruptive children she uses teaching aids for accuracy and that is exactly what I am doing.

Following a review of this policy undertaken during 1984-85 a decision was made to abolish the scheme from 1 August this year. The decision was made after full consultation with the industry. Available resources from this initiative have been redeployed and better utilised to achieve the overall aims and objectives of the commission. The total estimated saving in 1985-86 is \$364 575.

Also on 1 August new procedures will be introduced by the commission to collect commission on accommodation bookings. Preliminary estimates show that this revised system will provide in excess of \$350 000 to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in 1985-86; that is, an increase of \$192 000. In addition, administration costs will be reduced by \$25 000 in areas of postage, stationery and staff costs. During the course of the review, initiatives to maximise investment income were implemented.

In the 1984-85 financial year additional revenue earnings were \$107 000. Several other initiatives have been instigated; for example, the State tourism authorities' reservation and information system.

Several members interjected.

Mrs WATKINS: I believe it wholeheartedly and it is a pity members opposite are not listening.

The commission's promotional brochures, brochure displays and distribution procedures have been rationalised. Together with other measures this rationalisation has saved the commission \$893 000 during the 1984-85 financial year. Preliminary estimates indicate that a further \$820 000 will be saved in 1985-86. These measures will continue to ensure that the commission achieves and maintains a high level of operational efficiency.

Perhaps the Opposition will take these factors into consideration before it proceeds to tip buckets on this Government for its initiatives in the area of tourism. It should remember what little importance it placed on tourism when it was in Government. Perhaps it is embarrassed by the Tourism Commission's successes which obviously reflect excellent judgment by the Government.

This Government fully appreciates the significance of the tourism industry, both now and in the future, and has increased the funding to the Western Australian Tourism Commission to a level whereby imaginative, well planned, and researched marketing strategies can be realistically financed and implemented.

The most progressive and comprehensive tourism marketing plan in the short history of the tourism industry in this State is currently being implemented.

Members will recall receiving recently an educative brochure entitled *Tourism, the golden opportunity*. This, together with "WAVE"—welcome a visitor every day—is part of the "value for tourism" campaign currently under way in the media.

On 4 August the first of four "Holiday WA" guides was circulated through *The Sunday Times* and featured the north of the State. The response from the public and tourist operators has been extremely favourable. The next guide will be released in November and I am sure it will receive as much public accolade as the first. The "year of the visitor" campaign is one of major significance. The Trans-Australia Airlines and the Western Australian Tourism Commission road show to the Eastern States is due to commence in Sydney on 2 September and will run for two weeks, covering Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Mr Laurance: All this is built around the America's Cup.

Several members interjected.

Mrs WATKINS: If my children behaved like members opposite I would send them to their room to sulk.

Target markets for this road show are the general public, business and conventions, agents, and special interest groups. A media campaign will commence in the Eastern States on 1 September in support of the road show and will continue until mid-November.

In conjunction with the advertising agency, Ogilvy and Mather Pty Ltd, a local campaign to involve trade, business, and special interest groups will be launched. The aim is to invite as many people as possible to Western Australia in 1986.

The major features of this campaign will be a "corporate cousin" campaign and an "invite a friend" campaign. I certainly hope we do not invite friends to mix with members of the Opposition. To ensure this is a major success, support will be sought from the media.

Other marketing initiatives of importance include the location of a Holiday WA Centre in Fremantle in time for the America's Cup, the commencement of negotiations with the Western Australian Hotels Association Inc. to produce and promote a "town and country pub story" programme. The aim of this is to encourage visitors to utilise "pub" facilities within Western Australia. The next initiative is the production of an up-to-date accommodation guide in cooperation with the *Sunday Times*, and support for the Geraldton Tourist Bureau's imaginative promotion entitled, "Batavia Coast".

The Opposition must surely support these and numerous other initiatives being formulated with the cooperation of the private sector interests in the industry. Credit must surely be given to the commission for the "runs on the board" already achieved in marketing tourism. This is singularly the most important function performed by the commission.

This professional approach is being carried out with the close liaison and cooperation of the private sector operations, the strategies of which are working and reaping rewards within the industry. The research and planning division of the Western Australian Tourism Commission has, in a very short time, developed a reputation for being the most professional, up-to-date research function in the tourism industry in Australia.

Once the current research programme is completed the State will have the best data base in Australian tourism with research projects completed on subjects in market areas unprecedented in the Commonwealth. The significance of this to Western Australia is that research information will provide the base for future marketing initiatives, giving us the edge on other States.

Tourism in Australia is a very competitive business. Research and planning are the key to our future success. The current research programme of the commission will ensure that the State remains ahead of the rest of Australia over the next five years. Currently, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Tokyo are being surveyed to ascertain tourism target market information. This provides Western Australia with an edge on the market as this is the largest tourism market segmentation study to be undertaken in South-East Asia. It enables the commission to effectively and efficiently promote itself to these rapidly growing tourism markets as yet untouched by Australian tourism.

Mr MacKinnon: Who wrote your speech?

Mrs WATKINS: I wrote my speech. I was up until 2.30 this morning.

Mr MacKinnon: Trying to work out how to spell the word "Tourism".

Mrs WATKINS: The commission has commenced a programme of providing each region in Western Australia with its own tourism development plan.

Mr MacKinnon interjected.

Mrs WATKINS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was on his feet a short time ago. What makes him think I am not capable of making a speech!

Mr MacKinnon: Mrs Watkins has no understanding of the tourism industry.

Mrs WATKINS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can have his turn afterwards. At present I have the floor and I intend to use my time.

Each of these plans will provide the local tourism industry—

Mr MacKinnon: You are doing what you have been told.

Mrs WATKINS: I never do what I am told. To continue—as well as local and regional tourism bureaus and associations, prospective investors and developers, and the commission

with a sound decision-making and planning base to maintain and encourage professional tourism development in each region.

Once completed, each development plan will be utilised to derive a State-wide strategy for tourism development. In the last 12 months the commission has established an ongoing monitor of visitor characteristics, satisfaction, and expenditure by item and region. This monitor will enable the commission and the industry to undertake definitive feasibility studies, thus providing decision makers with thoroughly researched information on the spending of tourists by region.

Prior to this Government's coming to office, research and planning in the tourism industry in Western Australia was non-existent. Our policy to rectify this situation by making manpower and financial marketing resources available has been most beneficial. Our marketing initiatives have ensured effectiveness. The tourism industry is a sophisticated industry where research and planning are vital to ensure that Western Australia not only maintains, but also increases its market shares.

The restructuring of the commission's administrative and finance division has resulted in many dollars being saved.

A member interjected.

Mrs WATKINS: I will lend the Opposition a copy of my speech when I have finished, and perhaps it can learn something from it.

There will be a higher return on the commission's financial and manpower resources and more effective communication with commission staff. The management of the Western Australian Tourism Commission takes the view that its greatest asset and resource is its employees. To ensure this vital resource is developed in an optimum manner, a new human resources division has been created to develop the manpower resources and manage the organisational development of the commission to provide leadership for the tourism industry in training, education, and human resource management.

To date, a full personnel appraisal has been undertaken and significant training initiatives have been put in place to develop effectively the manpower of the commission. That will increase both employee and organisation efficiency and effectiveness. This can only result in a more efficient retail and administrative operation throughout the Holiday WA Centres.

The tourism industry training committee has an active representation from the commission to ensure tourism industry training requirements are met. This provides young people throughout Western Australia with a chance to enhance their career prospects within the tourism industry. The commission also plans to implement a cadetship scheme providing on-the-job training within the commission for our young people. This will provide the necessary work skills and at the same time meet the ongoing demands of the America's Cup period by providing trained holiday consultants.

The Western Australian Tourism Commission is placing considerable emphasis on the development of regional tourism, hence its investment and regional development division the aim of which is to address the need of tourism plant and infrastructure, which is a vital ingredient of a developing industry. It is this Government's view that the future of tourism is linked to regions. Most of our physical attractions are located outside the metropolitan area. There are currently 107 regional tourist-related projects under way, representing approximately \$1.9 billion in value. Total direct jobs produced by current and planned projects could be as high as 5 400. Each of these projects will be detailed and geographically segmented region by region, and consolidated into an investment register which will clearly document investment in the industry as well as highlighting opportunities in key areas.

The new regional policy is an indication of the Government's commitment to regional tourism, both in dollar terms and human resources allocation. It was put into place after consultation with regional people; and subject to Budget approval, the 1985-86 commitment will be in excess of \$1 million, representing an increase of 200 per cent over the 1984-85 year.

Members will recognise this initiative as a total break from the past when regional tourism was financed according to a handout mentality. This policy is based on incentive funding rewarding the doers and initiators, and will become a blueprint for the future.

In June this year an investment familiarisation trip was undertaken in the north of the State to give first-hand experience of potential tourism development sites to key financiers and developers. A great deal of follow-up work has taken place since June, and I am confident some major announcements on projects will be made shortly as a result of that trip. It is due to the success of the trip to the north that a simi-

lar one is being planned for September to look at Kalgoorlie and the south of the State. An investment brochure will be released in September outlining the aims and objectives of the commission investment charter, and this will be followed by a series of planned investment seminars which will assist the smaller scale operators with advice on planning projects and the need for good research and feasibility information.

I think every member in this place will be aware that many good ideas fall short of fruition, simply because the preparatory work is not done. The Western Australian Tourism Commission, through its planned seminars, will provide the smaller scale tourism operators with the opportunity to ensure that good ideas reach fruition.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the Western Australian Tourism Commission and in particular Mr Eddie Watling for the assistance given to the Wanneroo Tourism Council, of which I am an executive member. My own tourism council has achieved much since its inception in 1982.

Mr Laurance: He almost resigned over this—

Mrs WATKINS: I will get back to talking about the very good work of the Wanneroo Tourism Council.

After its very successful launch in April 1983, we attracted funding from this Government, the Shire of Wanneroo, and Atlantis, giving us the incentive and encouragement to achieve some minor miracles.

I do not believe that too many local tourism bodies can boast having hosted a highly successful Cabinet tour on a double-decker bus followed by a Cabinet luncheon. The members of the Wanneroo Tourism Council certainly can. This happened early in 1984 and afforded the members of the Council the opportunity to lobby the Cabinet for funding for the restoration of the Cabaret Caves in Yanchep National Park. The lobbying was certainly successful and a \$12 000 grant was received.

In 1985 a tourist information centre was opened in the Wanneroo townsite. It is manned seven days a week by a part-time manager and volunteers. In fact, if any member were to come into Wanneroo on a Sunday, he or she might even find the member for Joondalup manning that information centre. It is certainly proving successful.

If members happen to be passing through my electorate at any time, I recommend that they take the time to visit our centre and see the

myriad displays of information on the Wanneroo region as well as the ever-changing displays of local art and craft and photographic displays showing our tourism attractions. We are a very talented lot in Wanneroo. I am sure a surprise is in store for those who would ask what on earth Wanneroo has to offer the tourists. Members should go and see for themselves; they will find that the answer is plenty.

I commend the Government for its commitment to tourism and congratulate the commissioners for the magnificent work being undertaken by the Western Australian Tourism Commission. I believe that tourism will be the lifeblood of this country for a long time. It provides the shining light of hope for the employment of our children and the healthy survival of the small business sector.

As ever, I am an optimist and sincerely trust that the Opposition will mend its ways and support the Government and the Tourism Commission in the future.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [11.22 a.m.]: A modern, well-constructed highway is of great benefit to man. It enables him to move along safely, quickly, and conveniently. Unfortunately, that is not the case with the highway located in my area. Especially is it not so today, because West Coast Highway has been closed to all vehicular traffic between Scarborough and Karrinyup Road because of the actions of some lunatic who set off explosives charges at the new Berringa Beach Hotel, which is also called Observation City. Thus the traffic problems of people using this road, always chaotic at peak hours, are worse today. The people of Scarborough are suffering greatly as the traffic which usually uses the highway is being detoured through that very fine suburb.

The West Coast Highway intersection between Trigg and Sorrento is unsafe at any time. It is not unsafe only at peak hours. It is impossible to move quickly at peak times, but it is an unsafe road at all times. It certainly should not be called a highway. The road is like some sort of uneven thickness of spaghetti laid along the coastal cliff tops. It was built a long time ago. It certainly does not meet modern, safe, road engineering standards.

In the early 1970s I was a councillor with the City of Stirling and appreciated the problems of this very poor quality road. I put a proposition before the City of Stirling that the road be renamed Panamuna Drive. The council accepted that motion. Panamuna is a local Aboriginal word for the ocean, meaning our

Indian Ocean. Some people think of the word in terms of the yacht that Bill Lucas sailed so successfully, but it is a very attractive word. In my view it is a euphonious word. I put forward the proposal that the highway be called Panamuna Drive because even in the early 1970s it was obvious that it would not be able to carry the increasing traffic that was placed on it, especially from the time that the road link was built along the beachfront between Scarborough and Trigg.

Marvellous views can be seen by any motorist who drives along this strip, but he would want to be very careful when looking at the ocean. He would need to glance very quickly at the view, because the road is most unsafe. This section of the road should be taken out of the existing coastal system. People should be persuaded to move away from the sections which are right on the coast, as has already happened up the coast from North Fremantle. Those members who know the coastal road know that if one goes northwards from Leighton, where the oil tanks are, one will find that from the old cable station the road takes one inland along the western side of the railway line. The road moves away from south Cottesloe, Cottesloe, and the Swanbourne beachfront. It moves inland via the Servetus Road route. If by some chance one drives along the coastal area through Cottesloe, when one gets to Swanbourne one is again forced to go inland. When one gets to City Beach one skirts behind coastal City Beach. A few years ago Challenger Drive was built for that purpose. One can still go to these beachfront places if one really wants to, but commuter traffic does not. Commuter traffic increasingly is being taken away from the coastal route.

The proposal in regard to the Trigg dune road is to take people away from the coastal strip of Trigg, North Beach, Waterman and, to a lesser extent, Sorrento. That is ideally what should happen. People who need to travel through our coastal areas should be moved away from the direct coastal section of the highway. That area should be increasingly reserved for the people who wish to go to the coast for recreational purposes or who wish simply to go for a leisurely drive.

Who supports the view that I have just expounded? The City of Stirling does. The section in question is entirely within the City of Stirling and it supports it. The Shire of Wanneroo is the neighbouring authority which includes the area north of Beach Road—that is, the Sorrento area. It also embraces the proposal

to extend Marmion Avenue southwards through the Trigg dunes. The councillors who represent the coastal wards of those two authorities all support the Trigg dune road. The State members of Parliament, not only myself, but also the member for Scarborough, Hon. Peter Wells, Hon. Graham Edwards, and the member for Whitford, all strongly support this particular extension of Marmion Avenue through the Trigg dunes.

One parliamentarian stands out in opposition to this proposal. I refer to Mr Ron Edwards, the Federal member of Parliament. He opposes this one-and-a-half kilometres of road for public reasons which cannot be accepted. His reasons have been overwhelmingly rejected by local citizens who have to put up with the danger and inconveniences associated with the road. The Scarborough Ratepayers Association also stands out like a sore thumb in opposition to the road. In my opinion that particular body, Mr Ron Edwards, and a couple of Johnny-come-lately conservationists, are the only ones opposed to the provision of this road. In *The West Australian* of 22 June this year, Mr Ron Edwards was reported as follows—

Mr Edwards denied that he had any personal interest. He is opposed to the link road because, he said, it would move the problem further south because the traffic it took off the highway would be moved to the Scarborough, City Beach and Cottesloe area.

That statement is absolute nonsense. It is politically naive in the extreme because the statement attributed to Mr Ron Edwards implies that he places the people of City Beach and Cottesloe—who are not his constituents—before his constituents in Trigg and North Beach. Those people will remember at the next election that he has made this choice between the two groups of people. As I have said, Mr Ron Edwards stands out with the Scarborough Ratepayers Association and a couple of Johnny-come-lately conservationists as those responsible for the opposition to the Stirling Council in its endeavours to have the road built.

The new road would cater for the people who travel along our coast between Trigg and Sorrento to Marmion Avenue. Marmion Avenue is only one or two kilometres immediately east of West Coast Highway. It was built at a cost of millions of dollars. Neil Hawkins and I, as local ward councillors in that area, put a great deal of effort into advancing the time schedule for that road quite some years ago.

We were able to persuade the State authorities of the day to accelerate the provision of Marmion Avenue, which is parallel to West Coast Highway. It is a four-lane highway with a dual carriageway. It has controlled access, traffic signals, and so on. It is a magnificent road that is there for the express purpose of taking traffic off West Coast Highway.

It ties in with all the examples I have given of South Cottesloe, City Beach and others, and it is the logical thing to do. All local State members of Parliament know that and support it very strongly. I support them in this matter and in their efforts to bring this matter to fruition at the earliest possible time. Some people are concerned that the new road will in some way create heaps of motor vehicles and cause problems at the traffic lights at the intersection of West Coast Highway and Scarborough Beach Road.

At the public meeting held at the Karrinyup civic centre Mr Woodward, who is a traffic engineer expert with the MRPA, said that traffic would decline at that spot in a few years hence. That is the opposite of what the opponents to this proposal fear could happen. I assume that what the expert has said is correct in regard to this matter.

People travelling northwards from, say, City Beach or Cottesloe will go through the Scarborough Beach Road lights and if travelling to Whitford they will subsequently go inland instead of travelling along the coast. It will not make any difference to the quantum of traffic. Motorists will be encouraged to go via Marmion Avenue and if they do so, will be transferring from an unsafe road to a modern, top-class road. It will also not make any difference to traffic going south from say Whitford to Fremantle in terms of going through the Scarborough Beach Road lights whether they go inland at the Trigg dunes or along the coastal road. It is nonsense to suggest that it will make a difference.

The new road means that we shall not have the huge traffic jams which now occur daily adjacent to the Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club where two lanes of traffic merge into one and traffic is banked up for one or two kilometres north of that area.

In addition, if the new road is properly constructed—and I know the local member for Scarborough is keenly involved in this project, as I have been involved with regard to Duke Street—parts of Scarborough will experience less traffic. It is important that we take all steps

to ensure that the traffic is discouraged from using the Duke Street-Weaponess Road route. We have to get traffic away from that area. We want only local traffic to use those roads and we do not want the suburbs which are located between the ocean and the freeway to have a great number of north-south traffic routes, particularly on roads which are inadequate for that purpose. That is why we are spending millions of dollars on this major project and on others such as the Mitchell Freeway.

Representatives of the Murdoch University Wildlife Association do themselves no credit when they make statements that they will stand in front of the bulldozers working on this development. I wonder whether these people fully appreciate all the issues involved. The State members of Parliament who have supported the construction of this road have not done so willy-nilly; they have made their decision after weighing up the pros and cons of the matter. It does not help community understanding when a couple of so-called conservationists say they will stand in front of the bulldozers. The land involved is the poorest quality to be found anywhere in the world; it is plain white sand covered in part by salt-resistant shrubs. It is a living dune that moves from place to place. Every part of the earth's surface is in some way attractive but this must be at the bottom of the hierarchical list. It must be about the worst part of the earth's surface. I have been to the place where it is proposed to construct the road and it is the poorest part of the area; 65 hectares of land, of which only a very small part will be used. These conservationists are trying to bulldoze the responsible authorities with their incorrect opinions and also bulldoze the local citizens who have to put up with the dangers and the inconvenience of the present system.

For three years people have had the opportunity to make submissions to the City of Stirling and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. Submissions have been made by 2 296 individuals or organisations. I assume that the Murdoch group either did not make a submission because it is too slothful or the area is too far away from Murdoch or, alternatively, a submission was made but its content was not accepted. Either way its position cannot be tolerated. I do not think anyone will fall for its statement about standing in front of the bulldozers. If, in fact, they do so and one of them falls it will not be too sweet for that group.

The vice president of the Scarborough Ratepayers' Association, Mrs Robyn Murphy, was a candidate at the May council elections and she

stood on the issue of opposition to the road. She was defeated, although I must admit she was only narrowly defeated. I believe the people of Scarborough overall will be advantaged if this road is developed in the way I understand it is proposed. On 19 August this year Mrs Murphy was reported as saying that the proposed new road would "cut people off from the beach". That is absolute nonsense. The existing situation is cutting people off from the beaches from Trigg to Sorrento and the proposed road will give people better access to the beaches. Mrs Murphy has things upside down; young, old and in-between aged people will find it much safer to cross this section of West Coast Highway. Three pedestrians have been killed on this strip in the last three years in this very locale. Many more people have been killed in motor vehicles, a number of motorists and a motor cyclist among them. I knew one of those people who was killed in recent years and another death occurred just below my house a month or two ago. It is a dangerous road which is a tremendous traffic hazard.

The proposal seeks to separate commuters travelling north-south and south-north from those who want access to the west to use this magnificent shoreline. I challenge Mrs Murphy and other critics from the Scarborough Rate-payers' Association to say where they stand on the issue of the road carnage taking place in the Trigg and Scarborough Beach area. I challenge them to join the rest of us in establishing a situation where the traffic is moved away from the ocean front which should be left with the least possible traffic so that we can all use and enjoy this great recreational outlet.

Both elderly and young people travelling from the city at night when alighting from the bus on the western side of West Coast Highway have difficulty crossing the road to get to their homes on the east side of the highway. It is a very dangerous situation. Many pensioners have contacted me in recent years expressing concern about this problem. There is no doubt that it is very hazardous and more lives will be lost if we leave this increasing ribbon of traffic commuting on this so-called highway.

During the last couple of weeks this area was visited by Vincent Serventy who has a very high reputation in Western Australia and around the world as a conservationist. He left Western Australia 20 years ago. I recently read a letter to the editor of *The Bulletin* which was

signed by Vincent Serventy of Hunters Hill, New South Wales and I assume that is the same man.

About 20 years ago Mr Serventy left Western Australia, but he was brought back by the opponents of this road. He has wandered over those dunes. He came out with a statement which shows that he had been standing on his head. This is what he is reported as saying in the *West Advertiser* of 21 August 1985—

From a town planning point of view it would be a criminal mistake to make the coast your major highway.

What sort of arrant nonsense is he talking? That is what we are all fighting for, to get a major highway shifted off the coast. That is why we are taking it through this dreadful, low quality sand.

Mrs Beggs interjected.

Mr CLARKO: Thank you for that information. I think the member will agree with me that his argument is topsy-turvy. That is what we are trying to do; to take the highway off the coast. He says it would be a criminal mistake to leave it on the coast. We agree with him. It is difficult to follow his logic. All those who represent the district have that opinion.

Mr Davies: They do not all agree.

Mr CLARKO: The Minister is obviously tied up with other demands, but I have already said that the parliamentary representatives of both political parties support this project. I have said every State member of Parliament supports this project. It is difficult to get the five members to agree on anything else!

Mr Davies: That is what makes it suspicious.

Mr CLARKO: Five of us agree on that, and every coastal ward councillor for that area in the City of Stirling and the Shire of Wanneroo has the same feeling. Four thousand people signed a petition on the matter, and 2 296 submissions came in, most of them for the road. So I say to the Minister there is very strong support for the project. I doubt if one could get stronger support. Those who are against it include Mr Ron Edwards, and I have tried to illustrate why he is wrong.

A member: Where does he live in relation to the road?

Mr CLARKO: I will not take that matter up, but I think it is pertinent. No doubt there are other reasons. Many people have said he is against it because of where he lives. I was

quoted in the Press as saying that. People have rung me up. It is said that that is why he has that opinion.

Vince Serventy picked up this bobtail goanna which apparently came from Lake Joondalup. He said—looking at the dune and not at the goanna—“This can never be replaced once it has been destroyed.” That is absolute rubbish. One can replace a dune like that at any time one wants. Thousands of homes in metropolitan Perth are built in exactly the same sorts of positions. My house is built on the same dune, and the big dunes which go through Doubleview are part of the same system. If one looks at the two-mile reef and the three-mile reef, they are remnants of drowned dunes which were in Perth at the time this Swan coastal plain went up and down, in geological terms, on a number of occasions. We also have the Darling Scarp as part of this action. These are old dunes, and most of Perth is built on this series of dunes.

There were bobtail goannas on my property when I built in 1958, and after my wife and I planted some strawberries we had a few more.

The surface of the earth in its natural form is attractive. It consists of dunes, forests, deserts, and everything else. Man has often helped somewhere along the line. Vincent Serventy himself lives on a piece of dirt which he obviously disturbed when his house was built. It is impossible for man to occupy this planet and not disturb it.

The first environmental study of this area was undertaken as a result of my actions. In the early 1970s, when I discovered a plan for the road to go through this area, I approached the City of Stirling. I said, “Before the road is built, there should be an environmental study. If we are to disturb these dunes, it must be done in a fairly careful way.” A survey was undertaken; it was included in the Swanbourne area study. A report was published in 1976. The study talks about bird life in this area, and if I have time I will refer to it.

This Trigg regional open space is 65 hectares in area. I understand the road and surrounding pieces will occupy six hectares, about 10 per cent of that area, and another section will be cut off in the north-west. In effect this road skirts the area as much as it can, and leaves 80 per cent of it in one piece. It would leave the eastern wooded section, which includes the tuarts and is inhabited by the birds. It leaves those in an area which I think is about 50 hectares in size. The road going round it, Elliot

Road, will create a little enclosure which in time will help to preserve this area and prevent the trees from being removed so that they can grow, as it were, in the shadow of the dunes and protect the birds.

This road will cost about \$2 million, and \$500 000 of that will be spent on environmental management. I have read that that is a record for conservation measures in road construction.

Mr Serventy has put forward the suggestion that the whole area will be turned over to housing. He has said that without any basis in order to strengthen an extremely weak argument. Neither major political party in this State has expressed a view that this area should be used for housing. In my view there is no way either major political party would condone this area being used for housing.

The City of Stirling, in which this land is vested, is totally opposed to its being used for housing. Vincent Serventy tried to put forward this argument while holding up a bobtail goanna so that some people's hearts would bleed. These are probably the same people who will be down at the circus letting loose the animals tonight!

There is as much strength in the argument as suggesting that the area could be used as a Russian naval base. It could be, but it is highly unlikely. Vincent Serventy was not talking as a respected conservationist; he was talking as a scaremonger. He can go back to Hunters Hill if that is all he can do, or if that is the quality of his arguments. He is forgetting his standing as a conservationist of international repute when he starts talking about this dreadful sand with a few sticks on it.

The member for Whitford has stated that they imported a little bobtail goanna from Lake Joondalup to claim some wildlife for it as well. It is a disgrace that Serventy used his great name and reputation to back a campaign like this.

I am disappointed that the MRPA has not agreed to the West Coast Highway being made into a cul-de-sac adjacent to the Trigg Island car parks. Council has agreed to a traffic management scheme which has been sent to the MRPA and it is now being looked at.

As far as I am concerned, I reluctantly accept this compromise. I will keep a close watch on what happens. I will be active and take further steps if it is found that this compromise solution is not working.

We must, of course, consider the aspect of tourism. If we move the traffic away from this lovely section of the coast, not only for the period of the America's Cup but for the rest of time, then many people—not just the locals—will visit this area. It is a lovely region with beautiful beaches, reefs, and cliffs. Everyone will benefit from the advantages that increased tourism will bring to the area.

I refer briefly to the speech of the member for Joondalup, a speech which was obviously written for her by someone from the Western Australian Tourism Commission, or at least that commission provided her with the information she used.

Amendment to Motion

On that note, I therefore move the following amendment to the Address-in-reply—

That the following words be added to the motion—

However, we regret to inform Your Excellency that this House is critical of the Government's handling of the State's tourism industry because of its failure to ensure adequate administrative and policy leadership, to properly identify reputed substantial savings by changes to the Tourism Commission and to provide leadership to the staff of the Commission that would lead to long term benefits to the State and its tourist industry.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.53 a.m.]: I formally second the amendment, and in doing so would like to say that it would have given me the greatest pleasure to support the member for Joondalup in the prepared remarks that she made in the Parliament today. However, when one looks at the record of the Tourism Commission—even as recently as last week—one will understand why the Opposition has moved to this particular amendment.

The Tourism Commission was incorporated and announced by the Government with a great fanfare of publicity. In a Press release on 24 August 1983, the Premier announced that there would be a major overhaul of its involvement in tourism, and the creation of the Tourism Commission. In that Press release the following words appeared—

The Government expected that the Commission would devote a much greater proportion of its resources to marketing Western Australia, and that after initial es-

tablishment costs, management restructuring and rationalisation would enable savings in operating costs, conservatively estimated at \$600 000 over twelve months.

These words were attributed to the Minister for Tourism of the time, the Premier of Western Australia.

The Opposition has continuously questioned the Government about that sum of \$600 000. Interestingly enough, I asked a question on 21 August regarding those savings, and I received an answer on 22 August to the effect that a ministerial statement had been presented to the Parliament—in the Legislative Council—by the present Minister for Tourism. (Hon. Des Dans) that very day. That statement was not a statement of fact, but a mis-statement of the facts. I will not put on the record just how misleading that misministerial statement was.

The claim of savings made by the Minister for Tourism and the Tourism Commission is patently and obviously false. I made a resume of these savings and released it in the form of a Press statement. Therefore, I will not cover every single item of which there were a number, ranging from A to L. I will cite three examples—items C, D and E—from that statement to clearly indicate how misleading and false the statement was. Item C in the statement presented by Hon. D. K. Dans reads as follows—

During the period under review initiatives to maximise investment income were implemented. Income from this source increased from \$34 000 for the six months ended June 30 1984 to \$175 900 in the 1985/86 financial year.

The Government was claiming that \$141 500 extra income had been generated by the commission over and above that generated by the old department. That had been a major saving and a significant improvement in the activities of the commission. In fact, the old Department of Tourism, like all departments in this State, was not allowed to invest funds and generate this income. The Treasury did it on the department's behalf and so the income earned on the short-term money market was consolidated in the Treasury's short-term raising. Thus the department did not have any revenue to invest. This situation has changed, of course, not that the Tourism Commission exists. The commission has a different makeup and it can indeed invest its income. We are talking about something which is nothing more than a sleight

of hand trick. The money is merely being moved out of the Treasury and into the Tourism Commission.

Therefore, one can see that no extra savings are made as a consequence of the establishment of the Tourism Commission—there was merely a change in the accounting procedures.

Item D on the other hand does not really indicate what costs were put into the new system referred to; in other words the capital costs in respect of the computing system that was initiated; not does it indicate the cost of employing extra people to run the systems. In fact, Item D reads as follows—

On October 1, 1984 the Commission commenced live operation on the "State Tourism authorities reservation and information system."

It then went on to indicate that the system had streamlined client booking procedures, and indicated that full year cost savings to the commission would be in excess of \$50 000. As I say, nowhere in item D is there any mention of the real costs involved. What was the cost of that new computing system? What was the cost of the software designed to service the system, and of the people required to run it? Nowhere in the report are these costs taken into account; so the savings were imagined rather than real.

Thirdly, I come to item E which reads as follows—

The commission's Perth, south and north promotional brochures have been rationalised into an 80-page publication. This initiative has seen the unit cost reduced from \$1.40 to 81 cents per copy resulting in savings as detailed.

If one cares to look at the work of the Department of Tourism, as it was prior to becoming a commission, one would see that the particular work on the rationalisation of promotional brochures was commenced in 1983, as a natural progression in its activities in this field. Nothing new has happened; all the commission did was to carry on the work of the department.

These were three items in which it was claimed savings had been implemented; these savings came to approximately \$250 000—nearly \$300 000. I could explain how each of those items clearly is false, but time does not permit. However, I indicate to the House some items that were not taken into account when this particular report was presented to the Parliament. The report failed to take into account the fact that the number of staff in the Tourism Commission is now 151, while a year ago it was only 134. It is

interesting that the Government considers this increase to have been a saving. The old Department of Tourism was supposed to have been inefficient and moribund and yet the Tourism Commission, with an extra 17 staff, is now claimed to have saved thousands of dollars. We had the honey debacle where honey was purchased by the Government from the Great Southern and has been left sitting around the Tourism Commission offices for months on end. In fact the honey has been there so long that it has crystallised in the jars. Again this was a cost to the taxpayers and to the commission that was not taken into account when this House discussed savings made in the Tourism Commission.

I asked a question on 4 July 1985 about office upgrading at the Tourism Commission. It is apparent from the answer that now we have a new streamlined commission that spent \$167 696 on upgrading its offices. It was not good enough for the commission to use the old office space; it had to spend this large sum of money to make its offices more comfortable so that it would be able to carry out those so-called efficiencies of \$600 000. To top it off, we heard the great announcement that the Tourism Commission was taking potential investors on a tour through the north. That happened earlier this year. In question 3444 on 4 July, I asked about that particular tour and found it cost \$15 000. The House may recall that the tour visited Kununurra and that in Kununurra there is no land currently zoned or available for tourism development.

One could not actually undertake a development in Kununurra today, because there is no land available for any such development. Yet the commission took people to the northernmost point of our State and back, at your and my expense, Mr Speaker, although the land is not available.

All of these items were left out of the statement, which is wrong in almost every claim that it makes. Of course, it is also factually wrong in that it leaves out more than it puts in, and the Minister and the commission stand condemned for making those claims.

Part of the amendment moved by the member for Karrinyup refers to leadership of staff. Members will recall that earlier this year the commission released a copy of the Price Waterhouse report which was commissioned by the Tourism Commission. From memory I think it was presented to the commission just prior to Christmas 1984, and as a consequence of that report many staff were sacked from the

commission. The chairman of the commission, Len Hitchen, was dismissed from the commission and moved sideways into the Department of Premier and Cabinet, protocol division. His treatment was absolutely shameful and disgraceful. On 27 August 1985 in this House I asked question No. 238, and was amazed to find that the Government so poorly treated this man that they moved him out of the Tourism Commission, yet he still remains a member of that commission. That is very strange. Not that I think that Mr Hitchen is not a proper man to be a member of the Tourism Commission; I think he would be one of the best commissioners there, but it is strange to see the Government transfer him from one job to another and yet leave him as a member of the commission.

I wish now to discuss the treatment of the other officers of the commission, some of whom have now left the service of the commission, and others of whom were transferred back to the Public Service Board. Today we have heard the member for Joondalup indicating what a wonderful job the Tourism Commission is doing in this State. When, in a moment, I quote from a document that I recently received, she will understand why the Opposition has great difficulty in agreeing with her sentiments, no matter how sincerely expressed.

When the commission dismissed those people, and in some cases transferred them back to the Public Service Board, many of them were very disgruntled. In fact, they received their notice by being invited into the office of the chairman of the commission at that time, Len Hitchen—who was also subsequently to leave, as we later learnt—and told that from that moment their jobs at the commission were suspended. One of those officers received a phone call while he was sitting at his desk in Sydney, and he was told “Your time is up, your job is no longer there, you had better come home.” Another officer was on holidays and was visited by a commission officer who told him not to bother going back to work as his services were no longer required.

Several of those officers were very disgruntled and so they approached their union, the Civil Service Association. The CSA then sought legal advice, and that advice has now come to my attention. For the benefit of members I would like to quote some sections of that report to indicate why the Opposition is still concerned about the activities of the com-

mission. The report was firstly looking to see whether or not there was any action for defamation that could be taken by these officers. I quote from page 7 of the report—

Accordingly our conclusion is that whilst there has been a defamation of certain of your members by the Price Waterhouse report, it is not actionable because there are good defences open to them.

Time does not permit me to give the reasons for that defamation action being, in their opinion, not actionable, but that is by the by. The report indicated that they believed the Price Waterhouse report was defamatory but that no good purpose would be served in pursuing a defamation action. What is more important is the manner in which the staff were treated by the commission. The report is quite damning in what it says about the commission in that regard. I quote now from page nine of the report—

There are two fundamental principles which run through and support every facet of the operation of the rule of law in our society. These are called the principles of natural justice. They are often misquoted and more often misunderstood. In their absolute form they are quite simple. The first is that an adjudicator be disinterested and unbiased; the second is that a party be given adequate notice and opportunity to be heard in respect of any accusation made against him. In the instant case, not only were these people not afforded the benefits available to them under the Public Service Act, which include the right to be heard, they were also denied the right to be heard in accordance with the principles of natural justice. Not only were they denied the right to be heard, they were denied any knowledge that any charge had been laid against them with regard to their competence to perform their duties.

That, in my opinion, is a terribly damning statement, and it simply amazes me that the Labor Government condones the actions of the commission in this regard. Members can imagine what would have happened in any workplace in the community had an employer taken that course of action; had an employer received a report which included allegations against an employee and, giving that employee no opportunity whatsoever to rebut those claims, ordered his immediate dismissal—not a week's notice, not a month's notice, but immediate dismissal. The roof would have fallen off this Parliament! The union involved would

undoubtedly have taken action against the employer; and the Labor Party, whether in government or opposition, would have been loudest in its criticism of the employer concerned. But in this instance, who is the employer? The employer is none other than the Government. This report condemns the action of the Government through the commission in this regard, and in fact it is even worse, as I will go on to say. I quote now from page 11 of the report—

At this stage it should be noted that the actions of the commission were positively reprehensible. Where there have been accusations of uncaring and uncompromising attitudes of your members towards their junior staff, the attitude of the commission showed that little of those criticisms had rubbed off on them.

In other words, the commission received the report which showed problems within the commission, and they compounded those problems by their own actions. The report went on—

If they were valid criticisms of your members, which each deny, it should have put the commission on notice as to the proper manner in which they should have dealt with their senior staff. It didn't.

Again, the report speaks for itself. The actions of the commission and the commissioners were reprehensible, as the report indicates. It amazes me that the Government sat idly by and allowed its employees to be treated in such a shameful manner.

The final quote from the report is—

It is disheartening to have to comment on such an appalling lack of consideration as was shown by the commission to its senior executives in this case.

It is disheartening for me to have to say that, as well. I know from speaking to people that the current staff members of the commission are not happy. There is not a good feeling within the commission and that must augur badly so far as the work of the commission is concerned. There is no wonder, and the commission and the Minister should not wonder, that we are critical of their activities. They should not wonder that we are concerned that the morale in the commission is low, nor that the industry is being critical of its activities. They should not wonder that we have little faith in their ability to properly tackle the task at hand, and that we have chosen to move such an amendment.

The Government of course is to blame for most of this because it is its actions which are predominantly brought home to roost. It set up the commission in the first place. It appointed Mr Len Hitchen in the very first instance. Again, out of 60 applicants it interviewed only one. I make no criticism of Mr Hitchen. The current senior executive of the commission was appointed without even an advertisement being placed in the newspapers. The Government appointed every one of the commissioners currently acting who have made these decisions. Again, it is no wonder that we are concerned at the activities of the Tourism Commission.

In conclusion, it seems that the Government itself has lost faith in the commission because in March of this year a statement to the Parliament praising the work of the commission indicated that one of the major assets of the Tourism Commission is "an aggressive drive to increase international air services to the State". Since then we have seen Exim, a committee chaired by John Roberts and, it seems, almost everybody else, claiming credit for the new international air services to this State. The poor old Tourism Commission whose job it ostensibly was back in March to achieve this, has been shoved aside. The Government seems to have lost confidence in its own commission.

I support the amendment.

MR LAURANCE (Gascoyne) [12.11 p.m.]: I also support this amendment. I have previously made the claim in this Parliament that the new Tourism Commission is corrupt. I have stated this fact previously, and despite threats from outside the Parliament and the spurious attempt by the Government to silence me in the first session of Parliament earlier this year, everything I said at that time has been vindicated.

Let us consider the members of the commission, particularly the managing director (Mr Brett Goodridge). He was a former Government adviser, appointed after the former director of the Department of Tourism had been sacked and replaced by a chairman of the new commission, who within 12 months was himself sacked.

Mr MacKinnon: Both in shameful ways.

Mr LAURANCE: Yes. Then the former adviser was appointed, as has been indicated earlier by my colleague, without even a single interview being held. The position of managing director was not mentioned in the Act when it

came before Parliament. He was put on a salary of \$30 000 or \$40 000 a year as the Premier's adviser and within 12 months he ended up in a \$70 000 job as managing director, without having to face competition for the position. I repeat that that position in the commission should never have been filled anyway. It is well known that he embarrassed the Premier by these actions. This man established a junta in this State. He surrounded himself with a group of commissioners who gained in a personal way. He is not the right man for the job. If we had to employ somebody from the MTT, where Mr Goodridge was employed previously, to run the Tourism Commission, we should have got Jimmy the bus driver because he would have done a much better job.

Mr Blaikie: Actually we probably could have got 10 bus drivers for the same price.

Mr LAURANCE: We probably could have. Mr Goodridge should be removed from the Tourism Commission. When the Government changes in a few months' time I will certainly insist that we work with the tourism industry in an open and honest way to get the best possible man to replace him either from WA, interstate or overseas.

The acting chairman of the commission is Mr Basil Atkinson. I pointed out some months ago that it was quite wrong, improper and shameful that he should be appointed both as a commissioner and as a consultant to the commission. I like the man personally and I said at the time that I was quite prepared to have him serve as a commissioner or as a consultant, but not in both capacities. It is improper for him to act in both capacities. I said it was wrong when I raised the matter in the Parliament. Very shortly after, that situation was changed, indicating that what I had said was quite right and that the situation should not have been allowed to continue; and it was not allowed to continue. The Government completely vindicated the stance I took at the time.

However, it has been brought to my attention only in the last few days that Mr Atkinson's consultancy, at a reported \$30 000 per year, was terminated and he was subsequently appointed as an acting chairman of the commission—surprise, surprise—on a remuneration of \$30 000 per year. In other words, the improper conduct is still continuing and yet, for all outward purposes, the problem has been remedied. The criticism I raise is that the matter supposedly has been attended to, so he is now no longer in the situation of being a

commissioner and a consultant to the commission. He is the part-time chairman on exactly the same remuneration.

Let us look at the other members of the commission. I was critical of them and I just want to go over that ground. Cheri Gardiner was appointed to the commission. I have nothing against her, but she was a managing director or an executive of Radio 6PR and at the time 6PR won 100 per cent of the radio advertising being offered by the commission.

Mr Court: Is that a Labor radio station?

Mr MacKinnon: They did not get 100 per cent. It was \$200 000, but \$5 000 went to Radio 6KY when Howard Sattler jumped up and down.

Mr LAURANCE: That situation was changed, as it should have been changed, because the matter was raised in a proper way. This concern was brought to the attention of the Government.

Warren Tucker was another outstanding executive head of a real estate firm in this State who was appointed to the commission. I have nothing against this man at all. As I said at the time, any one of these examples on its own does not amount to much, but when put together we see a corrupt situation. Mr Tucker discovered when he was with the commission that the department had operated only one outlet in Perth for 30 years and it was decided that a second Holiday WA Centre should be opened in the city. The commission decided that the second centre should be located in the Merlin Centre. That is interesting. Who was the leasing agent for the Merlin Centre—Mr Warren Tucker's firm!

Mr Old: Very cosy.

Mr LAURANCE: Like Mrs Malaprop, one could say it was an incredible co-in-ci-dence! These things have happened since the Tourism Commission appointed Mr Bill Gill. We have heard about the honey fiasco. He was on the commission but he was also working for the Albany tourist body which put up a proposition that a lot of honey should be bought. The commission spent \$30 000 buying and packaging the honey and, to my knowledge, none of it has been sold. It is still sitting in the basement of the Tourism Commission.

Mr MacKinnon: Some has been sold.

Mr LAURANCE: I am informed that some has been sold. Anybody can make a mistake. Perhaps it was wrong to buy the honey, but it was certainly wrong for a commissioner to

recommend the purchase of goods from an organisation with which he was personally involved and was in fact paid by. This action was admitted to be wrong. Mr Gill has left the Albany region. He is still paid as a consultant to the tourism body in that area, but he has returned to the city. Once again, he is a good man. I am not criticising his qualifications at all. He has returned to the city and has set himself up as a tourism consultant. He remains a commissioner. It is very interesting that shortly after he returned to Perth and set up a tourism consultancy—remember he is still a commissioner of the WA Tourism Commission—the commission advertised around the State. I have other examples but this advertisement reads—

Tourism development plan for the goldfields region. The Western Australian Tourism Commission invites . . .

I emphasize this. To continue—

. . . suitably qualified consultants to prepare a tourism development plan for the goldfields region.

Remember that Mr Gill is still paid by the great southern region or the Albany region. Suddenly the commission lodges advertisements for tourism development plans for all the other regions of the State to be carried out by suitably qualified consultants. I am not tilting at windmills. I know all this because it was suggested to me that Mr Gill would be in a very good position to get most of this consultancy work. We will see whether in fact that situation eventuates, but once again it is an amazing coincidence that the commission wants to have these tourism development plans carried out by suitably qualified consultants.

The criticism of Mr Gill is that he has put himself in the same position as Mr Atkinson did a few months ago in that it is improper for a person earning a living as a tourism consultant to be a Commissioner of the WA Tourism Commission. He leaves himself open to those charges. Enough improper conduct surrounding the commission has been pointed out to indicate the public duty we have to be concerned about what is happening with that particular commissioner.

It concerns me also that this junta—the Tourism Commission—took over from a very fine body of people who were doing an excellent job. Sure, they needed more money, and had the former Government introduced a FID tax or increased the cigarette excise take by \$50 million a year it perhaps might have given

more money to tourism. The old Department of Tourism could have used the money well and achieved what is being done today, and probably done better. Even if the change from a department to a commission had been done honestly by the best people available, without a bunch of cronies in it for personal financial gain, I am sure—

Mr Davies: That is a bit rough.

Mr LAURANCE: The evidence points to it.

I am sure we would have been able to get an excellent result using the same people. If the Government is going to get in a group of people who want to fiddle the books for their own gain—

Mr Davies: Fair go! Watch your tongue and have some decency. You got into trouble with your tongue last year, and you are getting into trouble again.

Mr LAURANCE:—it can only be done if the people who are able to criticise those activities are removed. People in a senior position who could have criticised this activity have been sacked—summarily dismissed—in a most shameful way. The reason is obvious: If they were still there they would be able to tell people what was happening among those commissioners.

We have heard how the Price Waterhouse report which resulted in the sackings of the officers has been totally discredited; but worse still, one of the authors of the report then got a senior position in the new Tourism Commission. Whose interest was he looking after when he criticised those senior officers? Whose interest would one suspect? I would say it was his own interest.

What has happened to the people who were wrongfully dismissed? Unfortunately while the Civil Service Association has taken some action on their behalf I think in the final analysis the association has let them down because it has refused to pursue the matter to its logical conclusion. The legal opinion that was quoted earlier in the debate on this amendment supports the people who were sacked. If we look at the CSA's own journal we will see what it says about the legal opinion. The opinion is summarised in the journal because it was very lengthy, and it states—

A legal opinion obtained by the CSA says that a Price Waterhouse Report on the Tourism Commission undoubtedly defamed five senior officers who were formerly employed by the Commission.

It goes on as follows—

The CSA Solicitors say that the Price Waterhouse Report was made in an unprofessional manner.

They also say that the senior officers concerned were denied the rights of natural justice.

What did those people do wrong? The only thing they did wrong was possibly to be on the scene and to be able to bring to the notice of the public those wrongdoings by the people who have replaced them. I do not want to go into detail on all the cases. Most have sought to take the matter further and some are still seeking to take legal action to get some redress for the wrong done to them.

One person who was removed previously was the Director of the Department of Tourism (Mr Noel Semmens). Before the commission was set up he was removed from that position in quite a shameful way. He was then made head of the America's Cup unit. He was shifted quite wrongfully, although a Government has the right to change things if it wishes. Members should recall that this man had taken a great deal of criticism because he put the Department of Tourism solidly behind the America's Cup challenges, and had done so for 10 years. People said, "He is only a yachtsman; he is not spending the Department of Tourism's money in the right way. He wants to get to Newport every three or four years."

Suddenly we won the America's Cup. This man should have been lauded. I believe Alan Bond should have been given a knighthood for his part in winning the cup, and Noel Semmens should have been given some of the highest accolades we can give to any public servant. But no, he was sacked and shifted to a new unit in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Before long a new Minister for Tourism, Mr Dans, was appointed. His electorate covers the Fremantle area and he has had a lot to do with the port. The Chairman of the Port Authority was about to retire, and it looked as though he needed a job. So Mr Dans shifted Mr Semmens sideways once more—for the second time under this Government—and made Mr Beresford Noble head of the unit. I do not know whether he has anything to do with the America's Cup or whether he is a yachtsman. Mr Semmens was unceremoniously dumped and made second-in-charge of the unit.

Then the Fremantle City Council got upset. It said, "We want more involvement; we want to second an officer to the America's Cup

unit." So one of the Fremantle City Council's officers was made Mr Beresford Noble's assistant, and Mr Semmens was made a clerk. What a shameful thing to do to a man who is owed so much by this State. He is not one of those who was sacked as a result of the Price Waterhouse report; his demise occurred earlier. But look at what has happened to this man under this Government. Why go to such great lengths to get people out of the way? I can only see the hand of Mr Goodridge in all this. Somehow or other he has woven a spell over the Premier who has allowed him to do these things—not without embarrassment, because it has been reported to me that the Premier has been extremely embarrassed by a number of Mr Goodridge's activities in recent months.

I want to know where it is going to stop. The extra money being spent by some officers of the old department who are still there is being spent well, and some things are being done well. But as I said, anyone could have done a better job had he been given additional funding. The savings are not there, as has been adequately pointed out by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is quite obvious that the commission itself is continuing to act in an improper way, and the Government has a responsibility to clean it up. The Tourism Commission of this State is in urgent need of being cleaned up.

We should get rid of the managing director and advertise worldwide for a replacement and all those commissioners who are under a cloud should be replaced. I have not mentioned some, and I do not want to refer to them in any way, but those I have referred to have acted improperly and should be removed. The tourism industry should be consulted so a fresh start can be made. We are not opposed to the idea of a Tourism Commission; it is only the wrongdoing that we oppose. There are still some excellent officers there. There is an urgent need to redress the wrong done to those officers who were sacked. The Government should make a public apology to them, and they should be reinstated in some other department, not back in the Tourism Commission. They probably would not want to go there anyway.

There is a tremendous responsibility on the Government to do the right thing in the Tourism portfolio. It has not done it up to date. It has left it under a cloud and it is distinctly smelly. It has a tremendous responsibility to the people of this State to clean it up and to clean it up quickly.

I support the amendment.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [12.21 p.m.]: It is difficult to take the member for Gascoyne seriously if only because he contradicts himself during the progress of his contributions. The most glaring inconsistency in his argument was in the concluding stages when he said that other people on the commission, to whom he did not intend to refer, were under a cloud and should be removed. He then referred to those people.

I listened to the member for Gascoyne carefully. He referred to Mr Hitchen and said he should be removed because he was not working there any more.

Mr MacKinnon: I referred to him and said it was a shame you moved him sideways.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: All right, the Deputy Leader said he should remain there while he was not working there. The member for Gascoyne said that Mr Atkinson should be removed because he was under a cloud. He said Mr Gill should be removed because he was under a cloud. The late Ted Archer very obviously cannot be removed. The member for Gascoyne referred previously to Cheri Gardiner. Obviously he has not changed his mind publicly so he believes she should be removed. That leaves no-one. I am not sure what the member for Gascoyne is getting at if what he said was not for the purposes of seeking a headline.

I suppose the member for Gascoyne, by making extravagant statements that he refuses to repeat outside the Parliament, has the right to assassinate the characters of Mr Atkinson, Mr Gill, and Cheri Gardiner or any other member of the commission he wishes. That is an easy thing to do. It is not a wise thing to do unless one has some substance for it.

Mr Old: You would not go outside Parliament and repeat what you said about Sergeant Fanderlinden in this House.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Briefly, the then Government appointed a Royal Commission, so obviously it was concerned, too.

The member for Gascoyne has thoroughly set about assassinating the characters of these people. He is at liberty, in this place, to do that with the protection of parliamentary privilege. However, I believe that the public generally are starting to question the credibility of a member who says these extravagant things about people who are well known within the community and who have never shown any proclivity to do anything but serve the public interest. Whether

or not the Opposition understands the truth of the matter, the unwarranted attacks by the member for Gascoyne on people like Mr Atkinson serve his party no good and certainly do not arouse widespread support for his views. That is the truth of the matter.

In relation to the Government's efforts in tourism, there is no better reflection of the way in which we have treated this matter than that which is provided by the actions of the Opposition in respect of tourism. We know that, last evening, the Opposition was not even prepared to go on with its own private members' business after claiming that it was being sat on and shut up and being prevented from speaking. Today we had the appalling example of the member for Karrinyup making a speech for half an hour and then, in a throw-away line at the end of his speech, moving an amendment, not speaking to the amendment at all, not showing any interest in the amendment, and expecting us to take the debate seriously.

It is not an acceptable proposition that the Opposition should be taken seriously when it does not illustrate that it is at all sincere or serious about the matters that it raises.

Mr Mensaros: That is not true.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It is sincere and serious about trying to pervert, politically, a particular subject. The evidence that is clearly before the House is that the Opposition does not expect to be taken seriously about a general attack on tourism. I think it is important to briefly state for the record that there has been a dramatic change in the attitude of the Government towards tourism in this State.

The member for Gascoyne blithely dismisses that by saying that a better job can be done if more money is provided. Under previous Governments, of which the member for Gascoyne was a member, the money was not provided. Tourism was not a priority. Tourism was dismissed to the backblocks of economic obscurity by a Government which failed to realise the potential that this sector of the economy had to contribute to the overall welfare of the people of this State.

Money was not provided by the previous Government. Tourism withered on the vine because the previous Government was not, firstly, aware of it or, secondly, prepared to commit itself to the potential of tourism. This Government, with substantial increases in the budget provided for tourism, will make the

community aware of our commitment to that area of activity which was, for so long, ignored by the previous Government.

The member for Gascoyne can accuse Basil Atkinson of fiddling the books. He can accuse Bill Gill of being less than a worthy person. He can accuse Cheri Gardiner of distorting her position to gain some personal advantage. He can accuse Len Hitchen of whatever he likes. What he cannot do is mount a substantial case that maintains or proves that the previous Government, the now Opposition, ever took tourism seriously, that it ever elevated it, in its own priorities in terms of expenditure, to the level of importance that we have sought to place it upon. That is the truth. The Opposition can politicise everything that it wants. It can accuse people who do not have the ability to defend themselves in this place. However, it cannot change the facts and the facts are that this Government has deliberately sought to provoke and support the expansion of tourism for the benefit of this State. It is mealy-mouthed and unfair of the Opposition not to acknowledge the very great efforts made by the Government to expand the resources available for development of tourism in this State.

The Opposition can politicise all it likes. It can assassinate the characters of whomsoever it chooses. However, it cannot change the facts that are reflected in the revenue and expenditure accounts provided in Parliament each year that show that, as far as tourism is concerned, the Opposition, when it was in Government, was oblivious to, ignorant of, and disinterested in an industry that it now seeks to embrace with some new-found enthusiasm.

To give an example of the lack of credibility attaching to the Opposition's efforts, I ask members to look at the way in which the previous spokesman on tourism was supplanted by the spokesman who now, in an off-hand fashion and who after talking for 25 minutes about a road in his electorate, moved an amendment about an area within his responsibility, left it to the former spokesman to lead the debate on things that were printed in a journal weeks or months ago, and then leaves the Chamber.

Mr MacKinnon: He is not the present spokesman.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: All I know is that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not, either.

Mr MacKinnon: I am.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As far as the Government is concerned, looking firstly to the foundation that has been laid in terms of priority and in terms of expenditure, and observing and accepting the commitment the present Government has given to tourism as it is reflected in that context, it is important to note that, in all of the important areas of the Tourism Commission's operation, and in all of the important areas affecting the industry, the present Government has made, through the submissions, some quite outstanding changes. Looking at each of them, and without boring the Chamber, I turn firstly to the marketing activities of the Western Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr MacKinnon: We had that speech earlier from the member for Joondalup.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I know members have heard the speech, but I am simply repeating it so that they are faced with the truth for a change.

In the marketing area the Western Australian Tourism Commission, supported by a Government which accepts the need to resource the commission's efforts realistically, has made some changes which are vigorously promoting the industry, both within and out of the State. The commission is displaying the attractions the State is able to offer to visitors, and is encouraging Western Australians to see their own State. As has been illustrated already, both through the traditional advertising media and through other means, the commission has started to market this State in a way that was not previously encountered.

In investment and regional development, it is true to say that for the first time there has been a realistic approach towards the value of obtaining investment in tourism-related activities within Western Australia. That has been as a deliberate result of the Tourism Commission's commitment, in a professional and expert way, to attract potential investors to look at Western Australia. Therefore, the commission has done an excellent job in marketing—a job that was crying out to be done previously when other governments we succeeded ignored the realities of the situation. In investment and regional development, the rationalisation of all the country tourism organisations and the very thorough efforts made by the commission to attract investors are already starting to pay dividends.

The other important areas referred to by the member for Joondalup—human resources, administration, finance, and research and planning—were ignored by the previous Government. These areas were starved of funds and were not staffed under the previous Government. The commission has made available resources which, to the general good, are benefiting people within the industry throughout this State. In all those areas the Tourism Commission has changed the face of the industry. There is a new confidence and a new optimism—an optimism and a confidence which will not be dragged down by unsubstantiated personal attacks on people like Basil Atkinson. The Opposition will not destroy the optimism and the confidence, things that are seen daily in major tourism projects, being seriously entertained by the industry and by potential investors. They will not be pulled down by the carping and criticism by an Opposition which in nine years did not learn how to spell "Tourism", let alone fund it.

It is not only mean and characterless of the Opposition to start on this sort of campaign, but it is also a symptom of the eternal negativism that the Opposition is so expert at displaying. The Opposition does not have a positive bone in its body, and it will not progress from the Opposition benches until it learns that a good dose of positive thinking in a number of areas is not only good for the State, but is also good for the Opposition's own fortunes.

People do not like to support carping, whingeing critics who, after nine years of failure—as St Paul was struck from a horse by a lightning bolt—suddenly find that tourism is an area to be pursued and cultivated. The truth is that the public generally will not support carping whingers who try to tear down rather than build up.

As far as this Opposition is concerned in respect of tourism—

A Government member: And everything else.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It is true that in most things the Opposition is very negative and whingeing, but the Government accepts that it is difficult after nine years in Government, particularly nine years marked by such failure, to suddenly become positive about its shortcomings.

I point out to the Opposition, and to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in particular, that whether they seize upon the benefit or not it is true that a good dose of positive thinking

in respect of the affairs of this State will advance the Opposition—if that is the mental level upon which it operates—as well as advancing the State's interest.

I was appalled to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agree with the member for Gascoyne when he said that Basil Atkinson had fiddled the books.

Mr MacKinnon: He never said that. Is that what he said?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That was the impression I had.

Mr MacKinnon: That is not what he said.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: What did he say?

Mr MacKinnon: You heard what he said.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Let me say that it appals me to see the Deputy Leader of the Opposition supporting the member for Gascoyne in his allegations that the tourism commissioners are fiddling the books.

Mr MacKinnon: He never once said that the tourism commissioners are fiddling the books.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I thought he said that the tourism commissioners were fiddling the books.

Mr MacKinnon: Is that what he said? I suggest you read *Hansard*.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agree with it?

Mr MacKinnon: I did not hear him say it.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has at least distanced himself from the member for Gascoyne by saying that he did not say it.

Mr MacKinnon: You can turn anything around. I said I did not hear him say that the tourism commissioners were fiddling the books.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Had the member for Gascoyne said that, I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition whether he would agree with it.

Mr MacKinnon: If I said I was going to the moon, would you agree with it?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Yes, I would be happy to see the Deputy Leader of the Opposition go to the moon.

Mr MacKinnon: Of course you would.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: However, had the member for Gascoyne said it, would the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agree with it?

Mr MacKinnon: I am not going to listen to your inane making-up of what the member for Gascoyne said. You have not answered one of the criticisms that I levelled in my speech.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It is very hard to believe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he says that he does not want to sit in this place and listen, but at the same time he says he wants to hear.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKinnon: I said that I do not want to listen to your inane—

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Perhaps the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to make my speeches or write them for me—but as long as I write them he will have to listen to the speeches I write. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition seconded the amendment, and he can either sit in this place and take the rebuttal we produce or he can leave the Chamber. What he cannot do is present a fragmented face to the public. He might get away with it in this House. However, the member for Gascoyne said—and I heard him say it—that Basil Atkinson is under a cloud.

Mr MacKinnon: He may well have said that. I do not remember his exact words.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition if he agrees that Basil Atkinson is under a cloud?

Mr MacKinnon: Well, if what the member for Gascoyne said—

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Wriggle, wriggle.

Mr MacKinnon: I said that if the member for Gascoyne said that then there is cause for concern.

Mr Clarko: It is quite possible at this time of the year.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The member for Karrinyup must be disturbed about this.

Mr Clarko: It is quite possible at this time of the year for him to be under a cloud! You know that everyone is under a cloud.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The member for Karrinyup, in a frantic attempt to excuse the member for Gascoyne, relates his analogy to the weather! I have never thought that the member for Karrinyup was on the verge of developing a theory on relativity. However, he is now saying that the member for Gascoyne really meant that Basil Atkinson was standing

outside in inclement weather. Is that what he thinks? We may have done the member for Gascoyne the grossest injustice.

Mr MacKinnon: He is not in the Chamber.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I know that he is not here, but we may have been thinking—

Mr MacKinnon: When all else fails, ignore totally what is said.

Mr Clarko: Your argument is so weak that you have raised your voice. It was either Disraeli or Gladstone who wrote on his speech notes at a particular place, "Argument weak, raise voice."

Mr Pearce: You are trying to get out of what the member for Gascoyne irresponsibly alleged.

Mr Clarko: Why don't you admit that there is a mess in tourism in WA?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not know whether we have progressed enough, but I illustrate once again that the member for Gascoyne has very little substance from which to draw any basis for the extravagant claims he makes. It is unfortunate that people without the opportunity to defend themselves are put in a position in which their character is so thoroughly assassinated by a man without much credibility.

MR BLAICKIE (Vasse) [12.50 p.m.]: I support the amendment. Having heard the Premier's reply, I feel obliged to read out precisely the amendment, because if ever an extravagant smokescreen was drawn across the trail of an amendment, it was in the Premier's speech. The member for Karrinyup has moved the following amendment—

However, we regret to inform your Excellency that this House is critical of the Government's handling of the State's Tourism Industry because of its failure to ensure adequate administrative and policy leadership, to properly identify reputed substantial savings by changes to the Tourism Commission and to provide leadership to the staff of the Commission that would lead to long term benefits to the State and its Tourist Industry.

The Premier has just resumed his seat and all we have heard from him is a tirade of abuse directed at the member for Gascoyne, all centred on whether he said one word or another. The Premier, in this debate, as is his wont on every occasion that his Government is criticised or under attack, attempted to use the subterfuge of a smokescreen, to use his rhetoric

of "Burkespeak", to take people down a path away from the substance of the amendment the Parliament is discussing.

Mr Wilson: He won't get far with you.

Mr BLAIKIE: He certainly will not get far with the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs. With his devious record he ought to shut up also because there may well be an amendment in which he has to answer his challengers. I will not be sidetracked by people such as the Minister.

The Premier's contentions as to the incidental or odd words that may have been spoken by the member for Gascoyne need to be corrected again. At no stage whatsoever did the Premier answer the challenge made to him to verify the alleged \$800 000 saved by the Tourism Commission. If the Minister for Housing, who also has responsibility for a number of other matters including Aboriginal affairs, wants to get up and speak on the matter, let him do so. The amendment has been substantiated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but there has been not one word in rebuttal by the Premier.

The Premier has not identified the area of this so-called saving of \$800 000, apart from reference to the statement made by the Minister for Tourism—a statement that has been challenged and is now the subject of an amendment in this House. The Premier had the opportunity to identify the area of the savings, but chose to ignore it. On the other hand, he turned around and cast aspersions on the member for Gascoyne. Not one word did he say in explanation of how the \$800 000 was saved.

Mr Burkett: The member for Gascoyne said that the new members of the commission were fiddling the books to their own financial advantage. What a scandal that is! Your mob is so short of an issue that it jumps from one thing to another; from scandal to scandal. When asked to put up or shut up, the member for Gascoyne will shut up as he has done every other time in the past two and a half years.

Mr Taylor: He would not even stay in here while the Premier was speaking. That's how much courage he has.

Mr Burkett: Present members fiddling the books for their own financial gain? Prove it!

Mr BLAIKIE: Those comments remind me of the point made by the member for Karrinyup earlier. I reply likewise to the member for Scarborough. He is demonstrating the adage, "If in doubt, start shouting." I come back to the point of asking where is the alleged \$800 000 in savings? Government members

may know. We are only the Opposition. We have not made the statement about savings; the Government has made it. We want those savings to be identified. The Premier said not one word in that respect.

The independent legal report that was put forward by the firm Ilbery Barblett and O'Dea, Barristers and Solicitors, who acted on behalf of the Civil Service Association of Western Australia, commented on the Western Australian tourism report which was commissioned by Price Waterhouse. Again, some substantive claims were made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gascoyne that members of the Tourism Commission were shabbily treated and that their treatment was gross and unfair in the extreme; and this was further substantiated by the legal firm acting on behalf of the Civil Service Association. The assertion was that this had destabilised officers in the department. The question of what the Government was going to do about it was asked.

Mr Burkett: The claim was further made by the member for Gascoyne that the present members of the commission were fiddling the books for their own commercial gain. What a scandal! Do you agree with that, shadow Minister for trees?

Mr BLAIKIE: The member for Scarborough—

Mr Burkett: Do you agree with it? Just say "Yes" or "No." Fall out of the trees and tell me.

Mr BLAIKIE: No doubt the member for Scarborough will make a response later. I will certainly make my speech now. He can make his in his own time. He will no doubt make the same sort of speech he always makes—he is very loud on the backbenches, but hopeless on his feet. I want to report verbatim what Ilbery Barblett and O'Dea said in their response to the Civil Service Association.

Points of Order

Mr TAYLOR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to Standing Order No. 142 in relation to the repeating of arguments of members who have previously spoken in a debate. The member is using the same arguments put before the House this morning by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MacKINNON: In relation to the point raised by the honourable member, the point is that the report to be quoted from by the member for Vasse is a very extensive one. I quoted

only four sections of that report. I would guess that the member for Vasse is trying to expand on the point by quoting from other sections of the report.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In respect of the point of order raised by the member for Kalgoorlie, I caution members about Standing Order No. 142. However, I feel it is rather early in the day in respect of this amendment for me to invoke any aspects of Standing Order No. 142. Nonetheless, I caution members that they should pay far more attention to that Standing Order than has been the case over the last few weeks with other amendments.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 p.m.

Debate (on amendment to motion) Resumed

Mr BLAIKIE: Prior to the luncheon suspension I was commenting on the remarks made by the Premier in relation to the amendment before the Chair. I was referring to the way in which the Premier, as usual, avoided the issues that had been raised with him when members of the Opposition were seeking a response from the Government in relation to a number of factors we believe are critical to the operations and the Government's administration of tourism in Western Australia.

The Government has said that because there have been changes in tourism administration \$800 000 had been saved. Members of the Opposition have questioned the truth of that statement and yet, when the Premier had the opportunity to refute it or indicate where that \$800 000 had been saved, he made no comment at all. The Premier went into a tirade of personal abuse and attacked the integrity of members of the Opposition on matters not related to the subject under discussion.

We challenge the Government to indicate where the savings have been made. We cannot find them and we do not believe they exist. We ask the Government to prove that they do exist.

I now turn to the demise of the standing of the staff in the Western Australian Tourism Commission, and how the Premier has handled them. The morale of the staff has been very low, and still is.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised a question in a letter from Ilbery Barblett and O'Dea regarding the Western Australian Tourism Commission's action in commissioning the Price Waterhouse report and the subsequent turmoil that flowed from that report. Although

some parts of that report have already been raised, I intend to raise other points which have not been touched upon.

Ilbery Barblett and O'Dea were asked to see whether there was any course of action that persons who had been sacked by the Western Australian Tourism Commission could take legally. That letter suggests that Ilbery Barblett and O'Dea would need to speak with certain persons. They were Mr Terry Bright, Mr Eddie Watling, Mr Mal Nichols, Mr Kevin Basley, Mr Keith Porter, Mr John Starceovich, and Mr Len Hitchen. Subsequently, they were advised that Messrs Porter, Starceovich, and Hitchen were no longer interested in seeking legal assistance. This firm of solicitors did act on behalf of the staff and all other remaining people, although they interviewed Mr Watling who is still in the employ of the WA Tourism Commission and is a very good officer. In my view all the officers were very good. They were part of the "Hitlerism" put forward by the Price Waterhouse report. We all know the end result of that report. A number of officers have now gone to greener pastures. They have been sacked and it is interesting to see how that has devastated the morale of the department.

Today we are faced with a reduction in the morale of the department, and the Government has been completely at fault in the way it handled the administration of tourism in Western Australia. We have seen what happens when political advisers are appointed to positions to advise the Premier, in the first instance. Mr Brett Goodridge was obviously a friend of the Premier or had some association with him when he was appointed as the Premier's adviser on tourism matters.

Mr Pearce: Why should he be a friend of the Premier? Why can there not be a choice properly made of someone who gets on well within the system. This is the problem of the Opposition.

Several members interjected.

Mr BLAIKIE: I would be delighted to comment on the points made by the Minister for Education. It was the Premier's decision to choose this person for whatever reasons, friendship or otherwise. Mr Brett Goodridge was appointed as the Premier's personal political adviser on tourism. I cannot imagine Bill Thomas being chosen for any other reasons; whether it be the fact that he is a personal friend or because the Premier had been dictated to to take him on board.

Mr Goodridge has been appointed to this commission from his previous position as an officer and he is now in absolute control of the department. That has had an unsettling effect on the tourist industry in Western Australia and certainly on the morale of the people who remain in the Tourism Commission. These matters have been raised with the Premier and he has not commented upon or rebutted one of them. The member for Gascoyne pointed out that Mr Goodridge was receiving a salary of \$40 000 a year as an officer and now receives a salary of \$70 000 plus in his present position. He previously had relatively little knowledge of the tourist industry, yet he now runs the whole show. There are plenty of competent people in the community who could have done a far better job for the Government. Many officers had given good service to the department and had stood the Government in good stead. Comment has already been made about Noel Semmens, the previous director, who has now been downgraded to such an extent that he is a clerk. That is quite despicable. He gave the State good and outstanding service and does not deserve that fate.

Len Hitchen also does not deserve the treatment he has received of being shunted sideways and out of the department. However, that is typical of the Government's actions.

The Premier made great play about the fact that only his Government had shown any regard for the tourist industry and that the Government was the be-all and end-all with regard to its progress. The Premier was absolutely incorrect on all points and I wish to set the record straight.

The father of tourism in Western Australia has been recognised as Sir David Brand. Not only was he acknowledged as the father of tourism, but also he set about seeking co-operation from the total community in a very positive way to add a further dimension to the tourist industry in this State. He was successful to such an extent that a prestigious award is made each year in the tourist industry; it is called the Sir David Brand tourism award. The tourist industry presents that as an indication of its regard for Sir David Brand's contribution to the industry. Tourism was in its infancy during the time of Sir David Brand's Government and it has grown steadily to its present level.

It is very easy for the Government to say that it is doing much more for the industry but I challenge that statement. Mr Burke's Government is fortunate that Western Australia won the America's Cup and that has given the in-

dustry its impetus. However, that impetus is being dulled by the administration and policies of the Government and by the way it has completely ignored the very satisfactory and sound service given to the State by the many dedicated officers previously employed in the Tourism Commission. The Government has ensured that those officers have either been moved sideways from the department or annihilated. It has replaced them with a new breed of commissioner. I am very critical of the appointment of Brett Goodridge to this position, when other officers who have served the State well have been moved sideways.

Finally, I return to the point that the Premier has not answered one of the charges made. The Opposition and, I certainly hope, the Press and members of the community, will regard that as an admission of guilt by the Premier. His speech is usually so fluent but this time he has not answered one of the charges.

I support the amendment.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 14

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mr Blaikie | Mr Grayden |
| Mr Bradshaw | Mr Laurance |
| Mr Cash | Mr MacKinnon |
| Mr Clarko | Mr McNee |
| Mr Court | Mr Mensaros |
| Mr Coyne | Mr Rushton |
| Mr Crane | Mr Williams |

(Teller)

Noes 24

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr Barnett | Mr Jamieson |
| Mr Bateman | Mr Parker |
| Mrs Beggs | Mr Pearce |
| Mr Bertram | Mr Read |
| Mrs Buchanan | Mr D. L. Smith |
| Mr Brian Burke | Mr P. J. Smith |
| Mr Carr | Mr Taylor |
| Mr Davies | Mr Tonkin |
| Mr Grill | Mr Troy |
| Mrs Henderson | Mrs Watkins |
| Mr Hodge | Mr Wilson |
| Mr Hughes | Mr Burkett |

(Teller)

Pairs

| Ayes | Noes |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr Thompson | Mr Gordon Hill |
| Mr Tubby | Mr Evans |
| Mr Peter Jones | Mr Terry Burke |
| Mr Trethowan | Mr McIver |
| Mr Hassell | Mr Bridge |
| Mr Watt | Mr Tom Jones |
| Mr Spriggs | Mr Bryce |

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MRS BUCHANAN (Pilbara) [2.30 p.m.]: I would like to take the opportunity during the Address-in-Reply debate to make known my

views on a number of matters. I refer firstly to remarks made earlier by the member for Narrogin in respect of the tax on fringe benefits. At the time I indicated briefly my views by interjection, but I feel that I should elaborate on what I said. While I can see a definite need for a tax on real perks, I believe that there is a special case for allowing an exemption from tax on subsidised housing in the Pilbara and in other remote areas. Subsidised housing is provided for some very good reasons, not the least of which is to attract an adequate and stable work force to some of the industries in that remote area. To remove that incentive would have a disastrous effect in many ways on the iron ore industry, for example, which is heavily subsidised in that respect.

I have expressed that view very loudly and publicly on many occasions and, as the member for Kimberley remarked, I have also made submissions to the Federal Tax Summit, as has the member himself. It is an important issue in our electorates and we both have strongly represented the people in our areas, in this matter as well as in the matter of zone allowances for people in remote areas.

One really cannot compare the situation of people living in subsidised housing in the north of the State with that of people living in the metropolitan area who receive extra benefits as part of their employment conditions. The member for Kimberley was 100 per cent correct when he said that making a submission to the Federal Tax Summit was an appropriate way to deal with the issue. The Federal Government in fact has provided a number of valuable forums which give members the opportunity to contribute on matters affecting their electorates or, for that matter, the States generally. To name just a few, there has been the Tax Summit, the Drug Summit, and also the health commission inquiry. These forums were of considerable interest to me and I contributed to all of them.

In the case of the health commission inquiry, I raised some anomalies which needed sorting out in respect of the Isolated Patients' Travel Assistance and Accommodation Scheme. As members may be aware, this scheme assists people in remote areas who need to come to Perth for specialist medical treatments which may not be available in the north and other remote areas. It is an excellent scheme but it contained a number of gaps which needed bridging, and some headway has been made as a result of my submission and the efforts of all the local members in the northern areas.

I applaud the Federal Government for providing these various forums which give members many opportunities to have some input into policy making. If the Opposition chooses not to participate, that is its prerogative; but I would suggest, particularly to the member for Narrogin—although I know he is not in his seat at the moment—that simply making some remarks on Federal issues in this place is not always the way to achieve something in respect of one's electorate. If the member for Narrogin thinks that perhaps the Prime Minister or the members of the Federal Cabinet have the time to sit down and read the Western Australian *Hansard* to see what the member for Narrogin said, I suggest that he is wrong and needs to rethink his approach.

I turn now to the matter of industrial relations. The Opposition in this House is extremely fond of indulging in union bashing, and last week, of course, was no exception. Members of the Opposition rose, one after the other, and talked about militant unions, and they have been at it again this week. They have conveniently overlooked the fact that there has been a marked improvement in industrial relations in this State since the Burke Government came into office. The Government's policy of actively promoting conciliation and consensus not only puts into sharp contrast the failure of the Opposition's confrontationist policies but indicates that we are producing better results in terms of the level of industrial harmony that has been achieved. The number of working days lost in Western Australia through industrial disputation fell from 262 000 in 1983 to 119 000 in 1984, and that was the lowest since 1975. In my own electorate, in the iron ore industry the fall was even more dramatic; from some 109 000 days lost in 1983 the number fell to 40 000 days in 1984—less than half that of the preceding year. We will not be resting on our laurels in that respect, and further efforts will be made in the coming year.

When the Opposition sets out to condemn the whole union movement on the basis of whatever happen to be the headlines of the day, it really does abandon the standards of integrity and honesty in political debate. The Opposition is seeking political gain but any votes that it thinks it might gain are quickly cancelled out because in the process the Opposition does nothing but damage to itself.

I can give an example of the sort of damage that members of the Opposition do. I was recently approached by a worker in the Gascoyne

area, who advised me of a problem in that area and sought my help to resolve it. The first thing I asked the man was why he had not contacted his local representative, the member for Gascoyne. His response was, "He will not help me; he is against unions."

Mr Laurance: My phone rings continuously from the Pilbara.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I would like to hear about that.

However, since that time I have received a letter from another constituent of the member for Gascoyne, who referred to the first issue and said that he was grateful that I had been able to sort that out. He further asked if I could help him with a personal housing problem because he did not want to go to the member for Gascoyne. I suggest to the member for Gascoyne, who has less than 5 000 constituents on his roll, that if he keeps going the way he is going, there will be nobody left to vote for him. It would not surprise me if there were not a few more people who will not vote for the member for Gascoyne the next time round.

Mr Laurance: Just worry about your own seat.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I can assure the member for Gascoyne that my seat is quite safe.

I use that example to illustrate what happens when Opposition members rise and carp on and on about unions. They alienate themselves from a group of responsible people in their electorates with whom they should be working, as in the case of the member for Gascoyne. He might feel very smug now about receiving a large number of those 5 000 votes but I suggest to the member for Gascoyne that that is going to change very soon.

It is interesting to note the change of attitude amongst members of the Opposition when it came to the farmers' rally which was conducted here at Parliament House. I was in the House at the time and I went down into the crowd and spoke to a few people and listened to the general comments which were being made. There was in my view an air of hostility and I believe it was extremely fortunate that there were no unruly incidents. At the time traffic and visitors to the House that day were obstructed from coming to the main entrance during the hour or so that the farmers' rally was held.

During the rally, in fact, Parliament was visited by a school and I overheard some people in the crowd cursing the bus drivers for trying to manoeuvre their buses through the

crowd. There was a remarkable similarity between what took place that day and a typical union picket line.

The Opposition criticises one and lauds the other. Most members who witnessed that rally recognised that the farmers did need to come to Parliament on that occasion to air their grievances, to get it off their chests, and there was little or no criticism of their actions.

The Burke Government in fact has made the law far more flexible with respect to demonstrations and street marches so that people may have the freedom to exercise their democratic rights, not like the bad old days of section 54B of the Criminal Code, that disgraceful Noonkanbah convoy, and other events that took place under the Liberal rule, and certainly not like the member for Gascoyne who thinks that people working on a construction site should not be allowed to fly their flags and banners. He feels that flags and banners are very evil things which cause shootings and murders, especially the Eureka Stockade flag. According to the member for Gascoyne, that flag is the worst.

Mr Laurance: I don't mind if you identify yourself as a left-winger. You can do that as much as you like.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I am talking about the flag.

Mr Laurance: Your Prime Minister is trying to outlaw the people who fly that flag.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The member for Gascoyne needs to be reminded that the Eureka Stockade in fact was a significant event in Australian history. The flag is a symbol of that event, and if working people around this State like to use that symbol as something that comforts them when they are on the work site, I see nothing wrong with that. This is the flag chart, for the benefit of members who may not have seen one before. The Eureka Stockade flag is listed as a flag of Australia. The notation underneath it says that it was flown in 1854 during the battle at Eureka Stockade, Ballarat, Victoria.

The Southern Cross design was the symbol for a group of miners under the leadership of Peter Lalor. They were protesting about the high cost of goldmining licences and other grievances. The flag was first flown as the standard of the Ballarat Royal League on 29 November 1854 and after the storming of the miners' blockade on 13 December 1854, trooper John King retained the flag until his

death in 1881. His widow passed it on to the Victorian Fine Arts Gallery where it is on public display. It is recognised as part of Australia's history.

Mr Pearce: Did he say it was treason to fly it?

Mrs BUCHANAN: Yes, the member for Gascoyne did. I suggest he brush up on Australian history.

Mr Pearce: He should start out by brushing up on intelligence.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The Minister for Education is quite correct in his comments. One only has to look at what is happening in Queensland to realise how damaging is the Opposition's approach to industrial relations. Under the control of the infamous Queensland Government, working days lost to industrial disputes increased by 184 per cent in the 12 months to February 1985. Over this same period there was a national decline in days lost through industrial disputes of 8.8 per cent; that figure would have been far greater had it not been for the disgraceful performance of the Queensland Government. By comparison, the current Western Australian Government has an excellent record; in fact, we have outperformed Queensland in every respect.

One of the most important achievements of the Burke Government has been the reduction in the level of unemployment. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that the total number of unemployed persons dropped to 7.8 per cent of the national labour force, and in WA over the 12 months to July 1985, unemployment decreased by 10 800 people or 17.4 per cent. The corresponding movement for Australia saw a decrease of 30 000 or five per cent.

Western Australia's current unemployment rate of 7.7 per cent is the second lowest of any State; it is the lowest rate since September 1982. The unemployment rate among 15 to 19-year-olds was 18.2 per cent for the same period compared with 20.6 per cent in June and 22.3 per cent a year earlier. Nobody would deny that the figures are still unacceptably high. However, the youth unemployment rate is definitely declining at a very steady rate.

Apart from the strengthening of the State's economy, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government to relieve unemployment. One of the most important initiatives was the Skills West '85 programme which I commend to members on both sides of the House as being worthy of their active support. One of the main aims of Skills West '85 is to

provide a bridging-the-gap component so that people can improve their skills to make them better able to compete on the job market. This bridging-the-gap component involves personal development, job research techniques, and basic work orientation skills. In fact I had the honour to launch such a programme in Karratha recently which was initiated by the Rotarians. I want to put on record that I commend the members of the Karratha Rotary Club on their impeccable timing in having set up this scheme right at the commencement of the second stage of the North-West Shelf gas project, which is a crucial time for local unemployed people. It is not that we have any wish to be selfish about those jobs. We only want to make quite sure that the people in Karratha, Dampier, and thereabouts, have every opportunity to compete for the jobs which will become available on the second stage of the gas project.

Mr Old: That is not a very good project though, is it?

Mr Taylor: No-one has ever said that.

Mrs BUCHANAN: That is right. I have not said that. I recall that when the Bill was before the House I spoke very highly of that project. I noticed there was complete and utter silence from members opposite. The Government is not in favour of reducing young people's wages as a means of tackling unemployment. Such a measure, although it might seem attractive to some on the surface, would do absolutely nothing to improve the level of skills of our youth, nor would it address their difficulties in competing more effectively for stable career-oriented employment. It would in fact lead to a rise in the incidence of exploitation of young people and it would also lead to a significant decline in their living standards. Setting the rate of pay closer to the amount of unemployment benefits would serve as a direct disincentive for people to seek work.

It was interesting to note that when questioned before the Industrial Commission during its application to reduce youth wages by 10 per cent, the Western Australian Confederation of Industry (Inc.) was unable to say a significant number of jobs would be created if wages were reduced. There is no simple short-term solution to unemployment and I think everybody is aware of that. It is something which will require a concerted and combined effort on everyone's part over a period of time.

I must say that I was absolutely delighted to hear about the Federal Government's Budget initiatives in respect to traineeships. This is in line with the recommendations of the Kirby report and will have far greater and more long-term benefits than the proposed wage cuts.

Another matter which I would like to address during this debate is the Opposition's statement that if the Liberal Party gained Government it would remove the State fuel levy. I would like to take the opportunity to place on record my strongest opposition to that proposal. It would be a complete disaster in the north-west in terms of the road-building programme that we have going up there. The bitumenising of our northern roads would probably cease altogether because the State levy—

Mr Old: You are not worried about the farmers, I take it?

Mr McNee interjected.

Mrs BUCHANAN: So the member does not want them built? The member is saying he does not want any roads built. He is probably right because there certainly will not be any money with which to build them under the Opposition's proposal.

Mr Clarko: Who said we won't?

Mrs BUCHANAN: Perhaps members opposite will tell me where they will get the money for bituminising northern roads.

Opposition members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Order! Order! Members know me to be a placid person in the Chair but I then had to call for order four times. I do not want to get upset and I am sure members do not want me to get upset this late in the afternoon on the last sitting day in the week. If members are going to interject they should do so in an orderly manner and in a manner which does not preclude the member for Pilbara making her speech.

Mrs BUCHANAN: In recent times some major road and bridge works have been completed in the Pilbara. From memory, the Roebourne section of the North West Highway has been widened, the Newman-Port Hedland road has been commenced, the sealing of the Onslow access road is under way, a fairly large bridge over the Harding River outside Roebourne is being constructed, and I noticed on a trip to Port Hedland last week that two new bridges are being constructed on the North

West Coastal Highway between Roebourne and Port Hedland. That is just a few of the road projects.

Of course, all of those projects take a lot of money. I shudder to think what would happen if the Liberal Party were in office and the funds which are derived from the fuel levy were suddenly cut off.

Mr Taylor: They would also sack the day labour force.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The member for Kalgoorlie is absolutely astute in making that comment. Roads throughout the north-west are vital to the future of the region and to the well-being of the people who live in those isolated areas. The improvement of the northern roads is vital to the development of the tourist industry about which we have heard much today.

The Leader of the Opposition said that when the fuel levy is cut out the money for roads will come out of Consolidated Revenue. He does not say what other methods will be used to get enough money to build roads, neither does he say where he will cut other expenses to make sure that the Main Roads Department gets its fair share. The regressive policies of the Opposition would take us back to the dim, dark ages.

Mr Laurance: Regressive! Wickham would not be there except for the conservative Governments of this State.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The Opposition had nine years and did very little. If it were not for various industries in that area, the Opposition would have very little to point to.

Mr Laurance: You have to accept the history of it all.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The member does not know too much about history the way he went on about the Eureka flag. He should go home and learn more about Australian history.

Mr Laurance: There was no Wickham there until the Liberal Party got into the north.

Mrs BUCHANAN: Cliffs-Robe River Iron Associates were responsible for it.

Mr Clarko: Would you speak a little about supermarket prices before you finish your speech? Tell us also about the hurricane lamp.

Mrs BUCHANAN: That has gone to the Eastern States from what I have heard. The hurricane lamp has been well and truly extinguished.

I am rather tired of the snide remarks made by members opposite every time I make a speech on any subject. They show their lack of

feeling for people in the north-west when they continually make snide remarks and laugh and titter. They simply do not care. The people in my electorate know that I have done everything possible to have prices vigorously monitored.

Mr Clarko: Monitoring the prices does nothing.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I hope the comments made by the member for Karrinyup will be recorded in *Hansard*. I will have great pleasure showing those comments to the people of the north to show them how little the members of the Opposition care.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask that the member for Karrinyup cease interjecting for the next three minutes.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The Burke Government has encouraged competition in the north-west. Members will be aware that the Farmers' Karratha agreement has at long last expired. I commend the Minister for Lands and Surveys on his swift action for ensuring that there were no unnecessary delays for the commencement of the new shopping centre in the town. Last week I had the pleasure of the company of the Minister for Lands and Surveys in inspecting the site which is being prepared for the new shopping centre.

Another measure taken by the Government in terms of watching prices in the Pilbara is the appointment of a fair trading officer who will be attached to the Department of Consumer Affairs. He or she will be stationed in Port Hedland in February next year.

That is not in my electorate, but I am sure that people in Newman will greatly benefit from it.

Mr Grill interjected.

Mr Clarko: Did the Minister write this speech? Are you helping her?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There are still two minutes to go.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I do not mind responding to interjections from the Minister for Transport. They are always very intelligent and knowledgeable, unlike the comments made by the member for Karrinyup.

In conclusion I wish to commend this Government and its many achievements which

were given recognition in His Excellency's Speech. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

MR CRANE (Moore) [2.59 p.m.]: I welcome the opportunity to make some comments during the Address-in-Reply debate because it is an opportunity for me to mention a number of problems concerning me in the electorate and particularly problems concerning my constituents. I wish to make a few comments relating to the state of the economy and the state of the nation.

For a while today we spoke about tourism. I did not take part in that debate. However, I remind the House that the member for Vasse was right when he said that the late Sir David Brand was and is the father of tourism in this State. He was respected by all people. I am sure no-one would attempt to deny him the honour of being the father of tourism. I am not attempting to condemn this Government for its tourism policies or for what happened this morning. I did not want to be a part of that debate.

In June this year I received a letter from the Central West Coast Tourist Promotion Commission. It expressed concern that it wanted to have the caves in the Jurien-Cervantes area opened up for tourists. The Nambung cave and the Drovers cave are both very attractive. The letter stated—

I am aware that the Dandaragan Shire Council, the Moora Apex Club, the Jurien Chamber of Commerce, Cervantes Ratepayers and Progress Association and the Jurien Ratepayers and Progress Association have all at some time tried to convince the Government that these caves should be opened up to the public. All attempts to have the caves opened have failed.

As a result of that letter, I wrote to the Minister for Tourism, Hon. Des Dans, pointing out the importance of the area and encouraging its promotion. The Pinnacles, probably the tenth wonder of the world, are in that area. I understand quite a number of members of Parliament have not seen them. In my letter to the Minister I invited him to accompany me on a trip up the coast to inspect at first hand the caves and to meet with the Dandaragan Shire and the people in the shire. I am happy to say

that the Minister thanked me for the offer and asked me to take the matter up further with the Tourism Commission, which I intend to do.

As members would be aware, I am the owner of a vehicle which is quite capable of going anywhere I want to go, being a four-wheel drive. If the Minister will accompany me, as I believe he will, I intend to drive him up the coast to meet the people in the area. I want this Government to appreciate the fact that tourism does not start and end in the metropolitan area. It must go further afield. I support the comments on tourism made by the member for Joondalup this morning. I agree with her entirely. It is a very important industry and must be encouraged, but it is not a one-sided sword. Tourists must be taken to the country because that is where many of the attractions are.

I hope that in the future the Minister for Tourism and I will go up there via the coast track past the gunnery range at Lancelin. I have already taken one of our Ministers, the Minister for Lands and Surveys, up that track. I hope also that we in Western Australia will recognise the need to construct a road up the coast which will continue to Geraldton and on past Geraldton around the coast of Australia.

Last year the Shire of Wanneroo wrote to me when it was anxious to have the America's Cup challenge conducted off the coast adjacent to Wanneroo. I immediately wrote to the Premier and other Ministers concerned supporting the Shire of Wanneroo in this approach. Since then there has unfortunately been much controversy over where certain marinas ought to be located. I do not intend today or at any time to become a part of that controversy. I prefer to leave that to the people who live in the areas to decide for themselves. At the time I wrote no venue had been chosen for the America's Cup. I asked that the Ocean Reef area be seriously considered. I based my argument on the grounds of commonsense. Unfortunately, commonsense is not an ingredient which Governments seem to take hold of very often.

The commonsense approach was based firstly on the fact that Ocean Reef was close to the metropolitan area. It was about equidistant from Fremantle and Yanchep or Two Rocks, which has a marina. It was adjacent to Rottnest Island and if the challenge were to be held in such a central position the Ocean Reef marina could have been enlarged to the size required. That would mean that the spectator fleet could converge on the cup defence off Ocean Reef

from Two Rocks in the north, from Fremantle in the south and from Rottnest in the west. That was the commonsense approach.

Ocean Reef is a central area. Those people from America who have offered large sums of money—in the millions of dollars bracket—to areas in Fremantle would have been helping to construct a very useful marina at Ocean Reef, one which would have served the needs of this State for many years to come. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

I venture to say that when the America's Cup challenge is being conducted it will be during the time of the white rock lobster fishing season when the fishermen in Fremantle will be very busy. There will be a very serious problem of congestion in the Fremantle area with the spectator fleet trying to get to the course and the fishermen wanting to go about their work from their harbour, which is adjacent to the course. A tremendous number of problems could easily have been avoided had we applied that simple ingredient of commonsense I mentioned earlier. Unfortunately, we did not do so and will have to put up with the consequences.

I was very happy today to have met one of the committee members of the Sail Training Association of Western Australia, a Mr Malcolm Hay. Members will recall that I have suggested many times in this place that such a sail training scheme be conducted in Western Australia. Now that it is an established fact I offer my wholehearted support to it. I was also very happy to meet today with Captain Chris Blake who is the master of the sail training scheme from Hong Kong. He also was the master of the United Kingdom sail training scheme some years ago. It was nice to meet a sailing master. Captain Blake pointed out how successful such training schemes for young people have been. He does not train them to be sailors. He trains both girls and boys in another dimension. It presents a challenge to the elements and it gives young people an opportunity to express themselves in many different ways. Those opportunities are often not presented in normal life. I fully support the scheme and I am sure it will be successful in Western Australia.

A problem throughout my electorate and, indeed, throughout Western Australia exists with respect to education. I am sorry that the Minister for Education is not present. I did not even have to look to see whether he is here because I know that he always interjects during my speeches. I knew that he was not here because I had not heard a murmur. There seems to be a very serious problem with respect to school

buses. There were some problems last year regarding school bus contracts, but the problem in this instance revolves around the application of the policy of the Education Department concerning school buses. We had trouble in Bindi Bindi very recently with the result that if the department has its way the Bindi Bindi school may eventually close down. The problem also exists in other areas. I draw to the attention of the Parliament that when the coalition was in Government, although the policy was the same, we did not have the problems this Government seems to have. That would suggest—I would like to be proved wrong—that this Government is not as compassionate or as considerate of country people in the application of the policy as was the previous Government.

I draw it to the attention of members of the Government so that they may remember that for the moment country people are already under siege. There are tremendous problems in the country at the moment. I refer to falling prices and increasing costs. This school bus problem gives them another burden and another worry. I hope that members opposite will take stock of what I have said and endeavour to do something about applying a policy as it was applied before for country people. Members should remember that country parents who are endeavouring to educate their children are usually at a tremendous disadvantage.

The next problem to which I refer is one I have brought to the attention of members previously and it concerns straying stock in the Quinns Rock area. This is a very serious problem. I know of one woman who had very serious damage done to her motorcar resulting in great costs to herself because no-one was prepared to say he owned the stock, which is usual in these instances. I wrote to the Shire of Wanneroo and also the Commissioner of Police, and today I received a reply from the commissioner, from which I quote as follows—

Some of the problems stem from the condition of property owners' fences.

Some of these fences are described as "two strands of wire". Some way must be found to improve the condition of these fences. However, other action can be taken.

I believe the people of Quinns Rock could very easily solve this problem for themselves and, at the same time, make quite a bit of money for their local P & C or any other civic body. Most of the stock, if not all, are unmarked and unbranded. These "cleanskins" as they are known belong to anyone who

bothers to round them up. The people of the area should get hold of a semitrailer, round up these stock, take them into the Midland saleyards, sell them and then keep the proceeds for their community. If they were to do that they would overcome the hazard on their roads. The people who legitimately own the stock but do not own up to it because of the consequences would very quickly repair their fences. That would be the end of the straying stock problem. I am very serious about this. One way to make people take notice is to hit them in the hip pocket nerve. These stock represent a very dangerous hazard on the roads at Quinns and I do not believe that the people in that community should have to face the dangers of negotiating straying stock on their roads at all hours of the day and night. I hope they take up my suggestion, round up the stock, sell them and keep the proceeds for their community.

So much for the problems affecting my electorate particularly. I take this opportunity to once again remind members of the serious state of the economy in Australia and its effect on rural industry. Perhaps it is to the point of boredom that I keep mentioning this problem, but for many years now we have seen the industry in serious decline. Recently the industry has been faced with another burden and I refer to the application of the antidumping legislation on DAP fertilisers, legislation which has increased the cost by approximately \$80 a tonne.

Antidumping legislation was designed so that overseas countries where Governments were subsidising the production of certain commodities would not be given the advantage of putting these commodities on the Australian market at a reduced price. The legislation was introduced in order to be fair to our local manufacturers.

In this instance it is not the case, because the fertiliser coming in is not being subsidised in its manufacture. It is being manufactured at a price these overseas countries can afford, because the people there are prepared to work. Therefore the antidumping legislation is being applied illegally in this instance. We should concern ourselves with this matter because it is very seriously affecting our rural industry.

Again I remind the House of the number of attempts I made in this place and by way of writing letters to various people to have the Select Committee, of which I was deputy chairman, which inquired into rural hardship, take its findings to the Prime Minister and the Fed-

eral Cabinet to point out to them just how much this additional cost burden was affecting our rural industry. Members may recall that, at the time, I asked the Premier by way of a question in the House whether he would send our committee to Canberra so that we could present our findings to the Prime Minister. I indicated to him that I thought it would be perhaps \$10 000 or \$12 000 to send us to Canberra and that I was prepared to pay my own fare.

I was concerned that the committee should be allowed to go across, because at the same time a committee of the upper House was to go overseas to discuss a matter which had already passed through the upper House. I asked also about the cost of sending that committee overseas. In reply to my legitimate question the Premier indicated that the cost would be \$20 000. He was prepared to spend that money to send the upper House committee overseas, but he was not prepared to spend \$10 000 to send our committee to Canberra to put the case of our farmers.

In the 19 August edition of the *Daily News* I was amazed to find an article headed "MPs' travel costs total \$93 000". Remember, the Premier had said \$20 000. I am too much of a gentleman to suggest that the Premier lied to Parliament; I am too much of a gentleman to suggest that he misled the Parliament. However, I do suggest that the batteries in his calculator must have been flat! That must have been so for him to have said the cost would be \$20 000 when the actual cost was \$93 000. Someone certainly did not do his homework. Unfortunately the Premier is not present at the moment because I would have liked to "eyeball" him on this matter. It certainly seems that the Premier or one of his officers needs to check his calculator.

Mr Taylor: Surely it is a matter for the President of the Legislative Council to consider.

Mr CRANE: Perhaps; I do not know who should do so. The members who served on our committee were dedicated to and concerned for the rural industry.

I have been concerned with a couple of Press articles of recent weeks, one of which appeared in the *Daily News* of 14 August. The report stated that the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare had recommended that the export of live sheep should continue.

The next day in *The West Australian* I read the headline "Stop live sheep trade, Govt told." The Press cannot have it both ways. Either one report is right or they are both wrong.

Is it that the esteemed people up in the Press gallery get their facts wrong? I do not think so. It was probably the action of a sub-editor who wanted a sensational story. However, the fact remains—and I have brought this to the attention of Mr Norman Taylor, who is the president of the Australian Journalists' Association—that this is absolutely ridiculous and misleading reporting. The journalists of this State must lift their game a little.

The point that concerns me more than anything else is that when we read the substance of these reports, we find that they generally contain a lot of inaccuracies. For instance, in one of the articles it was reported that farmers send their sheep overseas in a poor condition and that the farmers should stop doing this. Farmers do not send their sheep overseas in poor condition. They sell their sheep and the exporters who buy them are the ones who ship the sheep. The veterinarians watch the sheep when they are being loaded onto the ships and it is quite false to imply that farmers are responsible for the poor condition of the animals.

I refer now to the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare and the comments made by the chairman of that committee, Senator George Georges. I suspect that many of Senator Georges' comments were based on his personal viewpoint. I am so concerned that I have asked the library for a copy of the report of that committee and when I have read it, it is my intention—if it is inaccurate—to move in this place that this House conduct an inquiry to point out the inaccuracies of the select committee's report because this matter is one which seriously affects the rural industry.

I refer now to the state of the Australian economy. There is no doubt that this country is facing a great problem because it is bankrupt. The previous speaker said that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to create employment or to help the unemployment situation. I understand her concern because I know it is genuine, but I do not agree that it is impossible to do anything about the situation. This is where the previous speaker and I differ. I believe it is possible to do something about unemployment; the Government should get off the backs of those people who provide employment. Australia is bankrupt, there is no question of that. One need look only at this nation's balance of trade to know that with even the sim-

plest of housekeeping the situation is serious and, indeed, intolerable. Unless something is done about the situation soon, it will become worse than the situation which exists in Argentina or some of the other South American nations. At present, our borrowings are \$70 billion. If one says that quickly enough it does not sound very much. Fifteen years ago, that figure was \$3.5 billion. What happened 15 years ago? That was about the time that the most disastrous Government that ever came to power in this nation was elected into office—that is, the Whitlam Government. It has become fashionable for many people to blame someone else but I can assure the House that the effects of the Whitlam years on this country will be felt well into the twenty-first century.

Mr Taylor: Did you approve of his 25 per cent across-the-board cuts?

Mr CRANE: I did. I do not say that everything the Whitlam Government did was wrong, but I assure the House that that Government made this nation into a welfare state.

Australia's foreign debt costs this nation approximately \$10 billion a year in interest.

Mr Hodge: How much of that foreign debt was incurred by Government and how much by private enterprise borrowing?

Mr CRANE: I have not broken those figures down but I am sure that a great deal belongs to the Government. We must keep borrowing more money overseas in order to pay our debts and every member of this House will know that even in the simplest housekeeping budget one cannot do that. If there is not enough at the end of the week to buy an extra pound of butter, one must go without that butter and pick it up the following week. That is the situation this nation is facing and by the year 2000 our overseas debt will be in excess of \$100 billion. This country cannot bear such a burden and one of the reasons it cannot is excessive Government spending. Mr Fraser was probably the most disastrous Prime Minister this country ever had, but Mr Whitlam was a tragedy.

We have in Canberra at present, as we have had for many years, a coalition party Government. Many people say that the Government is a Labor Party Government but I do not. What is the ALP, after all? The ALP ought to be called the "Assorted Labor Party" because it is certainly a party of sorts; it is the ALP, it is the left-wing, it is the right-wing, it is the centre-left, it is the centre-right and it is left right out. It is made up of a conglomeration of interests.

That in itself would not be too bad, but the real tragedy is that the present Government is in coalition with the Australian Council of Trade Unions. The Government was elected but the ACTU was not. That is the problem that confronts this nation. It was quite evident this is the problem when the dispute arose at Mudginberri.

What has happened at Mudginberri? The answer is simple. It is the greatest tragedy that is affecting this country at this time. There is a dispute when there should be no dispute at all because management and the workers got together to formulate some arrangements and they are happy with those arrangements. Those arrangements meant that the cost of killing a buffalo was reduced from \$120 a head to \$40 and that workers themselves are earning the best part of \$1 000, and in some instances, more than \$1 000 a week. How do people who are unemployed or who work with a pick and shovel feel about people earning \$1 000 or more a week? This is inequitable but we do not object to their earning that money because they are working for it. However, the union has stepped in and prevented that abattoir from operating and our coalition Government—that is the coalition of the ALP and the ACTU—has not moved one finger to help the workers and management. This situation must not be allowed to continue because it is only the tip of the iceberg.

I draw the attention of the House to the following letter which appeared in the papers recently written by Jim McDonald, the Western Australian president of the Small Business Association of Australia—

The issue is far beyond the mere industrial brawl. It addresses the very foundation of our society and our future as a nation committed to the rule of law.

What a good description by the president of the Small Business Association of Australia. Yet how many people have turned to ask of that coalition Government in Canberra what it is going to do about the situation? It is time we all acted.

MR OLD (Katanning-Roe) [3.27 p.m.]: I wish to raise a few points, some of which refer to electoral problems and others which are more general. I am sorry that I must bring this matter forward but a constituent in the Jerramungup area brought to my attention a problem with having a child treated by a speech therapist. The Minister will appreciate the seriousness of this problem. This person

has a child who does not have a very serious speech problem but it is one which requires treatment. Thus these people must travel monthly to Albany to avail themselves of the services of a speech therapist there. I understand that there is a possibility of another speech therapist being appointed to the Albany Regional Hospital and I ask the Minister concerned to give consideration to some type of travelling speech therapist who could work throughout the Albany region, on the basis of attending different towns once per month in order that people who have children with speech problems may be able to have treatment.

I must make the point clear: The constituents who were talking to me are not particularly worried from their own point of view as they are able and have the financial resources to have their child treated, but they did bring to my attention the fact that there are some people in the area who do not have the same resources but who would require the same treatment.

I also ask the Minister to look at the possibility of appointing another speech therapist who would travel in the region, as we have with dental health. It may be a departure from the norm but I am quite sure it is worth consideration.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House the sporting activities in a small town in my electorate. That town is Borden, where the local football club has entered into a fairly ambitious programme. They have a new grassed oval which would be a great credit to any town in Western Australia. The club has done this in the main through voluntary labour and contributions from the district, plus \$25 000 granted by the Shire of Gnowangerup. The project to date has cost \$99 000. The club received a grant from the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation of \$8 300, which has been the only contribution from the DYSR. The district had contributed \$66 700. The expenditure to date has been \$50 000 for the dam and catchment, \$33 000 for reticulation, \$8 000 for oval levelling, \$6 000 for electric installations, and \$2 000 for fertiliser. The club now wishes to install lights, which will cost a further \$25 000.

I know that some people would say this oval is quite a luxury, but I think people who are interested in football will readily appreciate the fact that any oval without lights today is not considered very suitable, especially in country areas where people cannot get to training very

early during the winter. Therefore, the training in places like Jerramungup, where lights have been installed, is carried on until about 7.00 p.m. or 8.00 p.m.

I inform the Minister—and I am giving prior warning of this situation so the Minister is aware—that an application will be made by the board of the football club through the Gnowangerup Shire seeking one-third assistance from the DYSR. I feel quite sure that when this application is received it will get the consideration it deserves from the Minister, but there is nothing like being forewarned that these things are coming up.

Mr Taylor: The problem with these types of applications is that they request 10 times above what is allocated.

Mr OLD: I agree, having been involved in the allocation to a small degree; but I think the member for Kalgoorlie would appreciate the fact that here is a small community which has made a massive contribution to a project, and I feel that is one aspect which should be taken into account. I am quite sure it is taken into account when allocations are made. Obviously, the Minister relies to a large degree upon the assessment of his staff, but I am only bringing it to the attention of the House so that, when the matter does come before the Minister, he knows the complete background.

One matter causing concern is the activities of the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board. It is certainly not my intention to enter into a witch-hunt in the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board because that board has been subject to referenda and it has been the decision, albeit a fairly narrow decision, of producers to continue the activities of the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board.

We now have a situation where the Minister for Agriculture, who unfortunately is not in the House, has put forward certain propositions which he claims are in accord with the recent committee of inquiry into the meat industry. Some of the proposals that the Minister and the Government have approved are in no way in accord with the recommendations of that committee. Certainly during the investigations of that committee certain matters were brought out which had been alleged by members of this House, and in another place, regarding the gross subsidisation between the consumer and producer. It has been proven that this situation does exist and the committee recommended that there should be no consumer subsidy to the lamb industry. I do not believe that is a

great problem. If consumers are prepared to pay the price required for lamb in Western Australia and some of that money does go back to the producers as a subsidy, then so be it; but if it is counterproductive to the extent that the lamb industry in Western Australia is being emasculated by imports from the Eastern States, today I think it is time the Minister and the Government took note of what is going on.

Strangely enough, I received a letter this morning from a producer in Kojonup, who is not in my electorate. It reads—

I wish to bring to your notice a complaint I have concerning the West Australian Lamb Board.

I farm at Kojonup and I have been quarantined by the Department of Agriculture with footrot in my sheep. This was introduced with the sheep purchased at the Katanning sale yards. When this was discovered I was able to confine the outbreak to one mob of mixed aged sheep, including some lambs.

I arranged for the buyer from Kojonup abattoir to come out and inspect the sheep so that I could send the whole mob to slaughter and eradicate the outbreak. He informed me that he could not take the lambs because the lambs would only be worth approx \$6 in the butchers' shops, and they would cost about \$6 to kill and sell and on top of this they would have to pay another \$6 to the local lamb board for the privilege to kill them, but the lamb board would not take them.

Here we have a situation where a man's flock is quarantined. He wants to get rid of his stock, but the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board will not accept them and not allow them to be killed in a private abattoir. The letter continues—

This would mean that I would have to pay out approx \$6 plus freight just to get rid of them.

I feel this is a disgraceful situation where a Government body can demand payment from the abattoir and the producer but still will not take the carcass. I believe this is very wrong. I feel that if the lamb board can insist that a fee be paid to kill the lambs in this situation where the only method of removing the infected animals is direct to slaughter then the lamb board should take the carcasses and sell them themselves.

Yours faithfully

That is a one-off situation. It is not uncommon, but it is certainly not the norm. However, it points out some of the shortcomings in the Act. I have been watching very closely the activities of the board and also the number of lambs being imported from the Eastern States. In view of the fact that it has been claimed on many occasions that lamb producers in the Eastern States suffer very badly from the activities of private enterprise and do not get anywhere near the money that people in Western Australia receive through the activities of the WA Lamb Marketing Board, I asked the Minister a question on 20 August as follows—

Would he advise the comparative lamb prices to producers in South Australia and Victoria?

The answer was as follows—

Auction prices for the week ended 16 August were—

| | South Aust. | Victoria |
|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Under 16 kg. score 3 | 73c/kg | 107c/kg |
| 16-19 kg. score 3 | 109c/kg | 118c/kg |

The 16-19 kg score 3 lamb is the size lamb we are looking at for the local trade. My second question was as follows—

What net price is being paid to producers by the WA Lamb Marketing Board for lamb of similar quality and classification?

The answer was that the 16.6-20.0 kg, score 3 lamb price was 110c/kg. That is the lamb which was the old red lamb, and it is the one being used on the local market. The price for 13.1-16.5 kg, score 3 lamb in Western Australia was 120c/kg. Members will note there is little difference between the two, yet we have a situation where it pays Eastern States' producers or merchants to send lamb to Western Australia.

I would like to quote from a publication called *Commodity Letter* which is published in Melbourne. I refer to the issue of Wednesday, 23 July 1985. It is headed, "Lamb carcass exports to WA: A profitable alternative." I am not going to read the whole article, but it suggests that producers should get together and have their lambs killed at an abattoir, charter or hire a carrier to bring them to Western Australia, and have a contact point here which can accept them readily. The article states—

an opportunity market appears to exist for up to about 400 000 carcasses at prices significantly better than present new season prices in Eastern States.

Up to this year, the greatest number of carcasses that had been imported into Western Australia was 184 921. The article goes on as follows—

This weeks WA Lamb Board producer schedule shows that 13-16kg lambs (Fat Score 3) were fetching 135-140c a kg (DW). For similar quality lambs purchased by the WA trade the price according to the ruling Lamb Board Distributor schedule is \$2.28c/kg (DW) for new season lambs and \$2.06c/kg (DW) for old season lambs. But Eastern State lamb carcasses which on average are heavier at 16.5kg (DW) can be readily purchased for \$1.20c/kg (DW) or cheaper. It shows up the margin that may exist for exports to WA.

The figures appear sound. Assume lambs will cost about \$20.00 each. If we add to this the cost of service killing at \$5.50 a head and the cost of freight at \$4.00 a head the landed price in WA is about \$30.00. Lamb carcasses shipped in carcase form should fetch at least \$35.00 a head.

It is clearly an alternative market. But it needs to be stressed this market has developed for all the wrong reasons. WA Lamb consumption is down to about 6.50 kg a head of population or about a third of Eastern State consumption which is now approaching 17.0 kg a head of population.

That is an absolute disgrace, and it is something I have raised in this House before. The WA Lamb Marketing Board is failing in its duty to the producer in not promoting the sale of local lamb and bringing the price down to a level which will attract the local consumer to purchase lamb. Let us not forget that every lamb imported into Western Australia means that another carcase has to be shipped overseas from Western Australia.

The last time I was able to get any information on the net price to producers for export lambs the figure was \$5 a head. That was two years ago, and I can assure the House that the export price has not improved since then. If anything it has probably slid a little, but the WA Lamb Marketing Board will not make that information available. That is disgraceful! It shows the board either made a mistake in the first place in publicising the fact that the net return to producers was \$5 a head, or it is trying to cover up the fact that it is now less. Whichever the case may be, it is time the lamb producer was at least given the opportunity to know the facts about the sale of lamb in Western Australia.

If we could increase consumption to 17 kg a head—almost three times the present consumption of lamb in Western Australia—and if that could be fed in from the local producers it would give them no end of a fillip as far as price is concerned. As my friend from Kojonup has pointed out, the Lamb Marketing Board is taking such a large amount from private operators who are prepared to process the lamb, that it is killing the lamb industry. The Kojonup abattoir which was cited in this instance has processed lamb in the past, but it has been so harassed by Lamb Marketing Board inspectors that it will not now kill lamb. If the abattoir buys hogget, which it does regularly in the saleyards in Katanning, the first thing that is done back at Kojonup is to mouth them and put the lambs separately and advise the board how many lambs are in the abattoir. The abattoir finds it cheaper to buy lamb and put it into its butcher shops in Perth than have the hassle of trying to kill its own lamb and face some of the harassment it has had from local inspectors.

An illuminating fact which I mentioned earlier is that the largest number of lambs in the 12 months up to the end of December—the calendar year 1983—that was imported into Western Australia was 184 921. To 25 August this year we have already imported 195 116 lambs and we still have four months to go. In past years September has been the month in which the highest number of lambs has been imported into this State. In 1983, 71 000 lambs were imported in the month of September. From those figures members can see that the figure of 400 000 potential imports from the Eastern States has not simply been plucked out of the air—it is realistic.

I noted in yesterday's issue of the *Farmers Weekly* an article headed "Evans Hits Back at Government Critics". I have still not been able to find out what he is hitting back at, but it was obviously something to do with the meat industry. I presume it was a reply to the Press release I put out about the Western Australian Meat Commission and the Lamb Marketing Board. However, the interesting observation made by the Minister was as follows—

I have told them—

that is, the commission; to continue—

—that there is to be no cross-subsidisation between lamb and other products . . .

That means that there will be no cross-subsidisation between lamb and mutton or lamb and beef. The article did not make any reference to the cross-subsidisation between the producer

and the consumer which was pointed up in the Treloar report. Let us not forget that one of the members of the Treloar committee was Mr Jack Neil, a very capable gentleman, and he was one of those persons who was completely in accord with the Lamb Marketing Board. It was a unanimous decision and it carries a tremendous amount of weight.

I am sad that the Minister for Fisheries is not present in the Chamber because I want briefly to touch upon a couple of matters regarding fisheries, particularly the tuna industry.

I know that the Minister has received a communication from the remaining tuna cannery operator which is concerned about the shortage of tuna in Western Australia. This has been brought about by the fact that tuna quotas have been sold or leased out of this State. In order to keep its cannery in work West Ocean Canning Pty Ltd now has to import tuna from overseas. In the northern part of this State there is a potential fishery for skip jack tuna. I understand they can be found in reasonable quantities in the north and are of an ideal size for canning. I call upon the Minister for Fisheries to instruct his department to immediately make funds available from its research funds to survey the skip jack tuna industry with a view to bringing those fish into the Western Australian cannery to enable it to continue its operations.

I find it quite sad that the Government has allowed fishermen to sell their tuna off shore to overseas vessels when we have an industry in Western Australia which is most important to the fishing industry.

I refer to a recent advertisement by a firm of solicitors which was headed "Tuna Quota", and which reads as follows—

Thinking of selling or leasing your S.B.T. Quota? We have a client who will pay top price.

Purchase at \$2 250 a tonne lease to be negotiated.

Purchaser/lessee pays all Legal Fees.
Cash on D.P.I. approval. Funds held in our trust account.

The silly thing is that Western Australia will have to lease back quotas from fishermen in the Eastern States. It is ridiculous that this situation has occurred.

Another matter to which I will refer is the issuing of licences for estuarine fisheries. Some time ago I asked questions in this House about the Swan River fisheries and whether any more

licences would be issued and I was told that they would not and that a freeze had been put on the fisheries. Many people would like the opportunity to engage in estuarine fisheries in the Swan River.

I have been told about a lady who was the daughter-in-law of one Mr Cook, who held part of a salmon fishery licence. An application was made to the Department of Fisheries to transfer his part of the licence to Mrs Cook. However, after all the shenanigans it was decided by the department that the licence be withdrawn from Mrs Cook and given to the other two shareholders. The only reason that could be determined for the licence being taken from Mrs Cook was that she was "Mrs Cook" and not "Mr Cook."

I was horrified to learn that Mrs Beryl Miller of Denmark had been granted a licence for an estuarine fishery. I do not deny that lady the right to hold such a licence. If she is able to handle an estuarine fishery, good luck to her. However, I ask the Minister to explain the difference between giving Mrs Beryl Miller a licence for an estuarine fishery and not giving a licence to Mrs Cook who was actively engaged in salmon fishing. Surely she has the right to carry on a fishery which was started by her father-in-law.

MR RUSHTON (Dale) [3.59 p.m.]: I join in the goodwill message to Her Majesty the Queen and I reaffirm my loyalty to her. I also pay tribute to a public servant, Miss Betty Thomas, who worked with me and who has recently passed away. Many members have paid tribute to her and they recognised her loyalty to a number of Ministers who have held the transport portfolio.

It is my belief she was the first female person to be appointed the Minister for Transport's private secretary and I had pleasure in recommending her for that appointment. I make a suggestion to those people involved in public and private transport to give consideration to instituting a special award to be known as the "Betty Thomas Award" as a tribute to her services.

My address today will be directed to the practice and theory of privatisation and I will relate it to a number of activities in this State that have been privatised.

I think everyone who is interested in a reduction in Government costs needs to give full thought to privatisation, and, of course, those parts which are adaptable and applicable should be introduced. The hurdle will be, of

course, in the initial stages to achieve understanding of the system. I would have been delighted had there been better understanding of privatisation at the time I introduced a form of it when I was Minister for Transport. Obviously the Labor Party and Labor Governments will oppose privatisation because the unions, their creators, will oppose it on the basis that it will take away control which the unions seek to retain. The transfer of public service to the private sector is exactly what the unions do not like.

I am pleased to say that without doubt privatisation in its various forms will be accepted and introduced. Any members with some years ahead of them in this House will witness its introduction and acceptance. It is certainly the way to reduce the size and cost of Government. Taxpayers will demand it.

Both the Court and O'Connor Governments introduced a form of privatisation but the Burke Government is now making constant claims of being responsible for those parts which have been successful; I refer to the deregulation of Westrail. It can be called commercialisation, privatisation and deregulation but it was certainly very successful indeed. Great credit is due to the Commissioner for Railways and the employees of Westrail for their successful implementation of the system.

I agree with the comments made by the Minister recently—Westrail is certainly the most efficient railway in Australia. I am delighted with its success and it can be used as an example by any Government to encourage further trials in this area. If people have any doubt about the effectiveness of privatisation they need only consider Westrail and its operation in the last few years. Great care was taken at the time to assess the problems of freight cost, the application of change and its effect on the State. This conditioned the managers of Westrail and the transport industry generally and many changes took place in advance of the reports which came forward. When I took office in 1978 I studied the matter carefully and together with the administrators, transporters and consumers I travelled to 29 centres throughout Western Australia to work out the best method of implementation. In due course the implementation of deregulation commenced and a big step forward was taken when the joint venture was considered to be the best way of limiting the impact on Westrail employees of the introduction of small freight deregulation.

Those introducing privatisation in the future will be faced with some difficulties. At the time we introduced our scheme, without our knowledge Australia Post took the opportunity to rationalise its service and it was easy for the unions and the Opposition of the day to point to problems arising from that decision.

One difficulty with which we were faced was the problem of incorrect reports of the situation at Norseman. The present Minister for Transport and Minister for Lands and Surveys made statements about there being no goods on the shelves of the shops at Norseman. We could not get those statements refuted in the newspapers in Perth but the Kalgoorlie newspapers put the record straight. That demonstrates how difficult it is to introduce such a change when it is necessary to stand up to the false statements deliberately and mischievously made to limit the opportunity of introducing change when it is most desirable to do so.

In the early days trucks were vandalised and the whole experience was very unhappy at the time. However, my conviction at the time that it was the right thing to do and the results that have been achieved since have made it worthwhile. With hindsight very little could have been done differently in order to achieve such success. We dealt with it patiently and slowly and the benefits have flowed through since. In the first year a saving of \$11 million to consumers was achieved. Of course, I still believe that the assessment of the benefits to Westrail is not totally and fairly expressed. When the Transport Commission was preparing its second report Westrail came up with alternative figures which one day will be examined, and I believe it will be found that the gain to Westrail has been far greater than has been stated.

Mr Brian Burke: Are you sure it was the second report?

Mr RUSHTON: It was the first or second report which came out just after the Labor Government came to office and, therefore, I was not privy to what the report contained. When the report was released I questioned the changes and after some delay it was revealed that although the Transport Commission stated that as a direct result of the move the saving was \$11 million, Westrail had quoted a lesser figure. In any event, it broke even. Certainly the gain has been far greater than the figure released.

Also, as a result of that move 3 200 jobs have been saved since 1978.

Mr Brian Burke: Some people will say 3 200 jobs have been lost.

Mr RUSHTON: That is right. Some of my close friends would say that. The Government has set out to demonstrate that it has saved jobs. I cannot get figures from the Government because it will not list them and present them as requested.

Mr Brian Burke: You would be pleased with the way Westrail is going?

Mr RUSHTON: Yes, I am very happy. The commercialisation has been slowed down a little by the Government but despite the actions of the unions and the Minister it is progressing well. However, no positive initiatives have been taken with regard to Westrail that were not in place when I left the Ministry. That fact can be substantiated.

The Premier has said that his Government saved money by reducing the number of public servants, and by far the most had been saved in Westrail. In fact, no reduction has been made in the number of public servants. One can always point to the negative side of figures but certainly no reduction has been made in the total number employed by the Government, despite its claims. Obviously, the benefits of Westrail's economies, commercialisation and privatisation are flowing into the economy of Western Australia and I will be very happy indeed when Westrail breaks even. It was set on that course some four years ago and I expect Westrail to break even in a commercial sense in two years' time subject to the state of the wheat season and its getting a reasonable run in that area.

Mr Brian Burke: It is being well-managed by the present Government.

Mr Clarko: The real credit should go to the man on his feet.

Mr Brian Burke: He is taking the credit.

Mr RUSHTON: I shall return to what I was saying, Mr Acting Speaker. On the simple question of the staff in my old office, 19 people are employed there now. There were nine when I had the responsibility of being Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Emergency Services.

Mr Burkett: You cannot do all these things without more staff.

Mr RUSHTON: The member needs to talk after last night's activities!

Mr Burkett: I shall be very careful. Do not sink to the depths of the member for Gascoyne.

Mr RUSHTON: I would not.

Mr Burkett: His attacks this afternoon in this House were absolutely terrible.

Mr RUSHTON: I fully support the member for Gascoyne in his endeavours to present a very full and factual situation. Now we have the claims of the Government in alleging what has happened in Westrail, about which I am very happy.

The Burke Government supports privatisation in that form because that is what it was; it was a form of privatisation. In Westrail the track-layers or maintenance people were turned over to contract.

Mr Brian Burke: We had to fix a few things up.

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister constantly repeats that Westrail is very efficient, and with that I agree. The interesting thing is that the Minister, under pressure from the unions, was required to investigate deregulation. The study cost in excess of \$50 000, and it was found that what we had done was the right thing to do.

The greatest satisfaction of all is that it highlights the fact that the Labor Government is claiming some credit for what has happened in Westrail, and in so doing it is supporting the case for privatisation. What it will do in the years ahead is not clear because it wants to make this one of the platforms for the next election. I am delighted that the Government has selected privatisation as one of the items on which it will fight the election. We have a good example of what privatisation will do.

Through clever media packaging we would have to believe that the Government, together with the PIA, has introduced a great cost saving of \$4 million. Of course, \$11 million was saved in the first year, so the \$4 million claimed now is 2½ years behind the times. Deregulation of wool would have taken place on 1 July 1983, so it shows the clever packaging of media and what it will do.

We have to live with that. That is something to which the Government pays more attention than actual good administration. The Government is very keen to develop media packaging when it presents and explains its false story relating to cost developments in this State as it did the other night.

I turn now to the MTT and challenge the Premier's claim that the Opposition intended to sell off the MTT. That is totally false. I want to go through some of the comments which have been made concerning the MTT and correct the record.

The public transport segment in this city handles about 10 per cent of commuter traffic. Of this, buses account for about seven per cent, trains two per cent and taxis one per cent.

The point I want to make about the Minister's remarks concerning privatisation is that they were false, yet the next day a fairly stunning headline appeared grilling the Minister. All the statements the Minister made were incorrect. However, that is how things work.

When one has opposing unions, that is what one finds when one introduces privatisation which is totally against their interests but in the best interests of the taxpayers. That is what one must do to bring in any change from a conservative Government.

The Minister's claims about the removal from service of the private bus lines was totally false. It has been documented in books written on transport. At the time the late Herb Graham forced the sale of the private bus lines to the MTT, the private buses were in the predicament of having a diesel tax applied to them. They were also not given an indication of their passenger routes for the following year. They were left in doubt year by year. The trains at that time had such a large fare subsidy the private buses could not compete. Also the private bus companies were not allowed to pick up within so many hundred metres of train stations. The picture is totally different from that presented by the Minister.

I throw out a challenge to the Premier on this basis. Fortunately the decision which we made to have a general manager and a chairman of the trust enabled a greater degree of factual material to be presented relating to the future finances of the MTT. That is why I was interested in the Premier's statement. I understood him to say that the MTT deficit was \$78 million. He said he was talking about something else. The Opposition took it up—

Mr Brian Burke: Why do you not read *Hansard*?

Mr RUSHTON: I do not know what the Premier might have altered.

The finances of the MTT were prepared by the present chairman of the trust and other members, or the finance officer of the trust at the time. I think he is still there. Until the preparation of this report there was no clear indication where we were headed in relation to the cost of running the buses.

Buses and trains represent about nine per cent of the cost of transporting people in the metropolitan area. This is something which should concern the Government and the Premier, and that is why they could not fly off too easily with the thought of making changes to benefit the commuters who use public transport. We had better figures and expected to do better than this, but a number of items have blown out through union pressure since this Government has been in office. The expected deficit will be \$163 million by 1990-91; there will be a \$1 billion deficit to accumulate in the decade. I know this includes the social service aspect of transport. It includes older people and young people. The service must be there, there is no doubt about that; it is a matter of how it can be done most efficiently.

The MTT must be examined very carefully on how changes can be made. After a full examination of the MTT, I have come to the conclusion that the high cost of the operations of the trust is due to a great degree to inflexible employment conditions and awards which currently apply. That is the major reason. Whenever one attempts to change or to make improvements, the union puts pressure on management. Management then does as much as it is able under this union pressure or it backs down. I can only say that this is something that the public—without all the politicking that goes on—should be aware of. We are faced with a deficit of \$163 million.

Mr Brian Burke: How would you privatise the MTT?

Mr RUSHTON: I suggest that it is what I like to call "A good commercial operation". Privatisation is simply a word to identify that in the people's minds. Westrail, for example, has been privatised to that degree.

Mr Brian Burke: Do you mean commercialisation, and do you support the Leader of the Opposition's plans to lease out the night-time services of the MTT?

Mr RUSHTON: I would have the night-time services carefully scrutinised. It could well be that multi-hire taxis could do that job. I was set on introducing taxis but that is only part of the total concept.

Let me describe something that might work. I refer to all the changes and considerations that could be taken into account. The Armadale area is very sparsely populated, as are all the peripheral areas of the city, and it was my suggestion to the previous General Manager of the MTT that the MTT engage, or

call tenders for, the private sector to run the services there. It could have been a garage proprietor or, if it fitted within the timetables, the private bus services run for schools and so on could operate the night-time services. There would need to be buses of an acceptable standard and the study showed that we could have greater services at the same costs. That operation from Armadale could have fitted in with services from that centre to the coast—something which the MTT cannot provide because of the costs involved. Towns such as Forrestdale, Byford, Mundijong and Serpentine would have an improved service at a relatively low cost to the taxpayer. That is the type of thing that I ask to be considered.

Mr Brian Burke: Where do the taxis fit in?

Mr RUSHTON: They would fit into areas which have very little use at night. They could be contracted to provide a service at far less cost than it presently costs to have a bus being driven around at full cost.

Mr Brian Burke: So you want people to wait at bus stops for taxis?

Mr RUSHTON: I would like to refer the House to some of the things that have been considered that could be introduced at a different time.

Mr Brian Burke: I think it is a legitimate point, but the Leader of the Opposition did not talk about taxis. He was going to lease the buses out to private operators.

Mr RUSHTON: One suggestion put to me was that all our buses could be leased to the present operators, who would still be in the union, and these people could then act as private owner-drivers. That could be co-ordinated by the MTT.

Mr Brian Burke: So you would sell all the buses to the drivers?

Mr RUSHTON: They could be the owners of the buses. That is a matter which would have to be thought out, but it is something that has been done in other places.

Among the different types of things that would bring efficiency to the bus services is the option to use different types of buses. A scheme was being prepared by Mr Alec Robinson, the then chief of the MTT, to put such a trial service into South Perth—that is, to service the smaller streets with smaller buses, feeding them out into bigger buses. That relates very closely to the dial-a-bus system which I observed in Germany. I do not think we have the demand in Western Australia for such a system, but it is

something that should be considered. Part-time drivers have been used in Seattle and other places, and I think it would make a big impact on our costs, but the unions will not have a bar of it. That is something that must be faced up to as time goes by.

I just mentioned these things because they are contained in a report which was prepared by the present chief of the MTT. Privatisation is merely a word to me; it is another way of saying "good economic management".

Mr Brian Burke: I think most people presume that by good economic management you mean privatisation.

Mr RUSHTON: The Premier of this State has put the fear of God into people regarding privatisation. This Government will never be able to introduce privatisation because the unions will not allow it to, and the Minister for Transport will never be able to bring in deregulation because the union will not allow him to. The Labor Party must be indeed grateful that the Opposition, when in Government, made so much progress towards deregulation. This Government certainly has taken the credit for what we did. One result of the 3 200 people who have flowed out of Westrail since 1978 is that there has been a saving in the demand of funding from the Government of around \$64 million in rough terms. Of course changes were introduced at the Midland Workshops and in other places. One step-back, of course, was the Perth-Fremantle railway which has added about \$5 million to the cost, but this situation could be retrieved if the Government used initiatives towards introducing a light rail bus that could cut costs. Liberal Government kept this service going by that means. I worked with people who were interested in introducing rail buses that would run on the railway line between Perth and Fremantle. The Liberal Government kept the service from Fremantle running far more efficiently than has the present Government. We gained time to save money on the replacement of heavy plant and equipment which this Government has not done. The Government has made no commitment to replace heavy, uneconomic carriages; that is something which has slipped a year or two behind schedule and which is costing the taxpayers of this State money.

Mr Brian Burke: Part of your downfall was the unfounded rumour that you would close the Fremantle to Perth railway. We find out today that you never did. We are being blamed for reopening it.

Mr RUSHTON: There is a clown sitting opposite and one day the people will see him for what he is. It is obvious that the MTT needs close attention. If it does not receive this attention the taxpayers of this State will be paying at least 50 per cent more than they need to pay in order to keep public transport running. It is not a matter of selling off the MTT; it is a matter of good economic management and it cannot be achieved by this Government because the unions do not want them to do it. As far as I am concerned, I gladly accept the Premier's challenge on privatisation; in fact, I will take it on my front foot. I will endeavour to see that privatisation is clearly understood and is introduced in this State for the benefit of services to taxpayers, and the saving of costs and reductions in Government spending. I would like to see more private enterprise growth and that is one way of doing it.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth) [4.27 p.m.]: In supporting this motion I want to deal with a number of matters which affect my electorate of South Perth. Before doing so, however, I join with previous speakers in conveying my good wishes to His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Reid. I would like to express my admiration for the manner in which they carry out the duties of that demanding office. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in Western Australia in that we have had some outstanding Governors. They have been people who, because of their achievements and the manner in which they have carried out their duties, have had the respect and goodwill of everyone in this State. Our present Governor is very much in that category. I think it would be difficult to find a Western Australian who would be more fitted to this high office, and I think that it is very much to the credit of the Government that it has recognised this by making such a fortuitous choice.

The first matter with which I want to deal concerns the need for a capital subsidy, from some source, whether it be the State Government or the Commonwealth Government, to replace the existing South Perth senior citizens centre at 53 Coode Street, South Perth.

The other aspect I want to touch on is the vacuum in this type of Government funding which has been created by the relatively recent decision by the Federal Government to repeal the States Grants (Home Care) Act under which for some years senior citizens centres and projects of this kind have been funded. The Commonwealth Government has

indicated that it does not intend to proceed with the existing States Grants (Home Care) Act and therefore the vacuum has been created. The Commonwealth Government, however, has indicated that it will replace that Act with the Home and Community Act which, when enacted, will be retrospective to 1 July last. I understand that one of the reasons this Act has not already been introduced is that discussions are under way between the Commonwealth and State Governments in regard to drawing up a satisfactory agreement and that agreement has not yet been signed.

The all-important point however in respect of those negotiations or discussions is that at no stage has any assurance been given by the Commonwealth Government that it is committed to a similar form of funding for senior citizens centres as was applicable under the States Grants (Home Care) Act. These discussions are currently continuing and we will definitely see the new Home and Community Act which will be retrospective to 1 July last. However, no assurances or undertakings have been given that it will provide for the funding of senior citizens centres and projects of that kind.

South Perth has had a senior citizens centre for 25 years, since 1960. I have been the President of that organisation for most of that time. The present centre is merely a converted cottage which has been extended. The club has an active membership of nearly 200 people and it provides in South Perth the facilities for elderly people to engage in bridge nights, outings, bingo, hairdressing, meals and all sorts of social activities. In addition, for 25 years it has been the distribution point for Meals on Wheels throughout South Perth, Kensington, Manning, Karawara and Como. In all we distribute 27 000 to 30 000 meals a year with a voluntary force. We have approximately 80 voluntary drivers and helpers and many other volunteers at the centre itself. We now also have a part-time paid driver and we are able to distribute those meals on that scale. Of course, the meals are greatly appreciated.

The unfortunate thing, however, is that after 25 years we have outgrown our premises. For instance, 100 people usually take part in our Tuesday sit-down meal in the centre, but we now find we have to turn people away. Previously, of course, under the States Grants (Home Care) Act which was in operation until recently, it was possible to make application for funds for new centres. It was never a terribly satisfactory Act inasmuch as the amount that the Commonwealth Government set aside was

always hopelessly inadequate. However, it did offer some hope for senior citizens centres. Provided that they were patient enough they could reasonably rely on ultimately getting the funds required for additional premises.

In the 1983-84 financial year, on an Australia-wide basis, the Commonwealth Government set aside \$7 million for these projects. WA's share of that amount was only 7.5 per cent which amounted to \$525 000, of which \$329 786 was already committed, leaving a mere \$195 000 for distribution. In May of last year the Government had applications outstanding from as long ago as 1976, nine years ago. Requests for grants submitted at that time totalled \$3 017 750, exclusive of the South Perth application.

Despite the Commonwealth Government's announcement that the Act is in limbo and that it will soon be repealed, the South Perth City Council recently made another application to the State Commissioner of Health for a capital grant to replace the existing senior citizens centre. The council did so, knowing that the Commonwealth had made that announcement in respect of the existing Act. In its application the South Perth City Council pointed out that it had anticipated that the South Perth senior citizens centre would soon outgrow the present centre and that it had already purchased two cottages adjacent to that centre at a cost of \$108 000. That was the amount the South Perth City Council submitted to the Government. The council suggested that the \$390 000 required be made up in this way: The council contribution for the land would be \$120 000, the Commonwealth Government \$250 000 and the State Government \$20 000.

I request that the State Government give very serious consideration to the situation which has arisen as a consequence of the Commonwealth Government's indicating that it will repeal the existing Act; also, if the State Government has not been informed or has not received assurances that the new legislation will contain provisions for funding, that the State Government make representations to the Commonwealth in an effort to induce it to assume this form of commitment, or that it make provision from its own resources for adequate funding for this type of development.

It seems hard to believe at a time like this, when huge amounts of money are being spent on social services, that the Commonwealth Government should suddenly create this vacuum in respect of the funding of senior citizen centres throughout Australia. I repeat, there is

a possibility that it will renew the commitment. However, no assurances have been given along those lines. I ask the State Government if assurances have not been given to it—and they have not been published—to make the necessary representations to the Commonwealth Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I point out to the Leader of the Opposition that even though he ducked down while going in front of the person on his feet, it is inappropriate for him to do that. I know he is in a difficult seat in the House and there are occasions when one has to take that action so as not to walk between the speaker and the Chair. When the opportunity is open to him to take another course to his seat, I expect him to take that course.

Mr GRAYDEN: The second matter upon which I wish to touch is again of considerable importance to South Perth. I refer to the state of that portion of the South Perth foreshore commonly known as Sir James Mitchell Park and the need for government funding for the development and beautification of that area. Everybody is aware that we will shortly be staging the America's Cup in Perth and the South Perth foreshore is of great consequence to Perth. Visitors to Perth will look out of their hotel rooms at the South Perth foreshore in many instances. At the moment much of that foreshore is a veritable wasteland and has been that way for a long time.

That area had something of a parallel in Burswood Island. The Government, however, has now decided the wasteland of Burswood Island will be used for the casino.

South Perth residents are most anxious that this area be preserved for passive recreation and are anxious to avoid any type of building development on the foreshore. They, therefore, have been making representations over a long period. The saga has been going on for the last 40 or 50 years.

Mr Brian Burke: I wish you had raised this matter with me before your speech. I signed a letter today that may have made your speech redundant.

Mr GRAYDEN: I am delighted to hear that. However, I will continue making the points that I intended to make. I ask the Premier to accede to a request which was made of him recently and that was to receive a deputation on this matter in order that the South Perth City Council could amplify its case.

In 1956, John Holden, a landscape architect, produced a plan for the development of the foreshore in the precincts of Perth, a plan which provided for a botanical garden stretching from the university eastward on the north shore of Perth water and then coming around on the southern side of the river and including many parts of the South Perth foreshore.

Since that time, the South Perth City Council has made a number of representations to Premiers of the day. I have made a number of representations also as, no doubt, have other members representing electorates south of the river.

In 1982, there was a bit of a breakthrough inasmuch as the State Government made an offer. On 1 November 1982, in a letter by the Premier to the South Perth City Council, the Premier said—

The Government will provide financial assistance to the Council to landscape and improve the fifteen and a half hectares of Crown land on a comparable basis to the arrangement with the City of Perth for Heirisson and Burswood Islands.

On completion of the work, the fifteen and a half hectares will be vested in the City of South Perth in trust for recreation purposes.

Advice and assistance will be given to the Council by the Western Australian Water Authority on the provision of groundwater supplies, including bore sitings and water flow requirements.

Other commitments were made. With respect to the Heirisson and Burswood Island developments, the City of Perth agreed to co-operate with the Government on the following basis—

The Council provided labour, use of its machinery and trees from its nursery at its own cost;

The Council arranged for clean fill from city building sites to be dumped in designated places at no cost to either party;

The Government meet any direct cash outlays required for purchase of topsoil and hire of earthmoving equipment when Council plant was inadequate or unavailable;

The Council agreed to take over and maintain parkland so created.

Those were the assurances that were given.

On 4 June, the present Premier gave another undertaking and we were pleased to receive that. In a letter to the South Perth City Council the Premier said that the Government was prepared to honour the commitment given in 1982.

There have been a couple of other developments since then. That was not entirely satisfactory to the South Perth City Council inasmuch as it applied only to council land. The South Perth City Council, therefore, made an application for funds under the Community Employment Programme. It wrote to the Premier on 25 July 1985 and said—

In the meantime, you are advised that we intend to make a submission under the Community Employment Programme for funding for development of the Park, and a copy of that submission is enclosed for your information.

Although Council will be the sponsor of the C.E.P. submission, this will be based on sharing the sponsor's contribution between Council and the State Government in the ratio 70:30 according to the ratio of the land holdings of the Park. Our submission will be contingent upon this funding arrangement.

That was written on 25 July. More recently, the Council wrote to the Premier and asked that he receive a deputation to discuss this matter. I request the Premier to receive that deputation. He indicated that he had written to the council but he did not disclose the contents of the letter. I hope that he has agreed to the request which would obviate the need for a deputation.

If not, I hope that he will receive the deputation. It intends to discuss solely this matter which the residents within the ward of the South Perth City Council feel is of great significance to Perth generally, not merely to South Perth.

A third matter, again affecting South Perth, which I draw to the attention of members relates to the Zoological Gardens and to the very real and substantial developments or improvements which have been effected there in recent times. Today I had the privilege of attending the opening of the lesser primate precincts at the zoo. On 30 July last I attended the opening of the Animal Hospital. A few weeks before that I attended the opening of the great cats complex. These developments are the culmination of planning which commenced in 1974. The completion of the great cats complex is a clear indication of the regard which people generally

have for our zoo. It is also an indication of the tremendous community support that exists for that institution.

On 25 November 1982 I was appointed chairman of a big cats appeal committee. We set out to raise \$500 000. Actually, Sir Arthur Griffith was the inaugural chairman. He initiated the idea, but unfortunately he died before its realisation. We had a tremendous response from the public. First we went to the State Government, which agreed to match anything we raised on a dollar-for-dollar basis. We were able to raise \$196 093 in cash by a variety of means. We obtained donations in kind of \$76 840. The Government, true to its undertaking, contributed \$250 000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis. It then gave us an additional \$30 000. The total amounted to \$552 933. The support for a venture of that kind was absolutely amazing.

Naturally we had support from members of the appeal committee. There were only a few such members. We had support also from innumerable business organisations. We had support from the general public and zoo patrons. We had enormous support from schools and community groups, from staff of the zoo, from an organisation known as Friends of the Zoo, and from another organisation known as Zoo Kids which contributed \$16 000. We had support from those people who are known as docents, the secretary of our committee and other people. One lady went out and sold 5 000 one-dollar raffle tickets. Another lady, a pensioner, came in and handed over \$500. Shortly after she came back and increased that contribution to \$1 500. In all, the support came from every section of the community. It enabled us to reach that figure of \$552 933.

The great cats complex has now been completed. It is a delight and is a tremendous attraction at the zoo. I point out to members the interest which is displayed in the zoo. Last year 13 378 school children attended on an organised basis. Another 22 858 children attended making a total of 36 236 children who actually visited the zoo. In addition, there were all sorts of programmes. For instance, 60 schools, made up of 108 classes and 1 773 students, participated in organised observation of primates as part of the human biology course.

The zoo, as a consequence of the improvements which have taken place relatively recently, gives a great deal of pleasure to many

people. It is an outstanding tourist attraction. That is obvious from the number of tourists who attend the zoo. The zoo is also an exceptional educational medium and plays a very important role in breeding and perpetuating rare and endangered species. In fact, it has the reputation of being the most outstanding zoo in the world for the breeding of orang-outangs. I assure members that we received a great deal of help from the Minister for Lands and Surveys. We are very appreciative of that help.

Mr Tonkin: A very good Minister.

Mr GRAYDEN: He is a good Minister.

The final matter I touch on will be dealt with briefly as I have only three minutes to complete my speech. I refer to the traffic snarls which unfortunately are now part and parcel of the Mitchell Freeway system. I refer also to the urgent need for the Government to step up the tempo both of short and long-term planning to resolve these difficulties before they get completely out of hand. I asked the Minister for Transport some questions the other day in respect of the widening of the Narrows Bridge. I asked—

Relative to his statement in November 1984 that consulting engineers had been commissioned to investigate the practicality of widening the Narrows Bridge—

- (a) have firm recommendations been received from the consultants in respect of the matter;
- (b) if so, what were the recommendations involved?

The Minister replied—

- (a) and (b) An initial report has been received from the consultant. Further discussions are necessary with the consultant before a firm recommendation can be made by the Main Roads Department. I expect to receive advice from the Commissioner of Main Roads shortly.

I know that a great deal of thought has been given to the trouble which we are experiencing on the Narrows Bridge and the problems it imposes. Those problems, as with those the Mitchell Freeway imposes, are difficult indeed. However, solutions must be found. In the past there has been much speculation about additional bridges over the river. Certainly we have to give absolute priority to the construction of the Burswood Bridge. Quite apart from

that we will not find solutions and avoid more serious congestion unless we step up the tempo of both short and long-term planning. Therefore I ask the Government to make this a most urgent priority.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bradshaw.

[Questions taken.]

House adjourned at 5.29 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ABATTOIRS: MEAT

Inspection Fee

21. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many abattoirs in Western Australia have a dual inspection fee?
- (2) What is the estimated extra cost to these abattoirs to have a dual inspection fee?
- (3) Is the dual inspection system necessary?
- (4) Does he intend to try and abolish the dual inspection fee at abattoirs?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) The State and Commonwealth Governments both charge an inspection fee for meat sold on the local market from the export abattoir at Robb Jetty. At four country export abattoirs, the local government authorities and the Commonwealth both charge an inspection fee for meat sold on the local market.
- (2) For the abattoir where the State Government has control—Robb Jetty—the State meat inspection fee levied for the financial year 1984-85 for meat slaughtered at an export abattoir and sold on the local market amounted to \$69 972.52.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.

275 and 277. *Postponed.*

STOCK: WA LIVESTOCK AND FOOD PTY LTD

Operation

279. Mr OLD, to the Premier:

As \$9.75 million of public funds are invested in Western Australian Livestock Holdings Ltd., are not members of the House entitled to information on the operation of the Company?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Western Australian Livestock Holdings Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Western Australian Exim Corporation Ltd. Its policy of non-disclos-

ure of commercially sensitive information is in accordance with normal commercial practice; but if the member has any specific concern about the operation of the company and provides details, I will consider having further inquiries made.

CHEMICALS: GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORIES

Report

284. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) When did the Public Service Board Functional Review Committee receive the consultant's report on the Government Chemical Laboratories?
- (2) Will the Government release the report and the recommendation of the Public Service Functional Review Committee?
- (3) When is a decision expected on the possible relocation of the Government Chemical Laboratories?
- (4) Which consultant prepared the report on the Government Chemical Laboratories?
- (5) (a) Did the consultant have prior experience in reviewing a chemical laboratory;
(b) if "No", what chemical related qualifications did the consultant possess?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) 11 March 1985.
- (2) Not necessarily.
- (3) The Government Chemical Laboratories are expected to remain in their present location for three to five years.
- (4) C. M. Campbell and Associates.
- (5) (a) and (b). The consultant has a wide experience in laboratories of many different types. The consultant was assisted by Dr Arnold Ewald, who has a scientific and administrative background in the chemical and mineralogical fields.

DECISION MAKERS' LUNCHEONS

Number

298. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) Since 1 May, how many Decision Makers luncheons have been held by the Government?
- (2) Will he list the dates the functions were held and the speakers at each function?
- (3) What has been the total loss and profit arising from those functions, taking into account all costs such as postage, the time of those involved with the function's organisation, etc?
- (4) What Australian Labor Party Members of Parliament attended each of those functions?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Four.
- (2) 5 June, Senator Hon. Peter Walsh—Federal Minister for Finance.
14 June, Hon. Paul Keating, MP—Federal Treasurer.
10 July, Mr Philip Adams—Author-Journalist.
13 August, Mr Colin Marshall—Chief Executive, British Airways.
- (3) Decision Makers' Luncheons are arranged as Government functions for representatives from all business and other areas of management, and the fee charged—\$25—enables the luncheons to be self-supporting.
- (4) Attendance at these functions is a matter for the members concerned.

MOTOR VEHICLES: GOVERNMENT

Tourism Commission

310. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many motor vehicles were owned by the Department of Tourism on 1 March 1983?
- (2) How many motor vehicles were owned by the Western Australian Tourism Commission on—
 - (a) 1 January 1984;
 - (b) 26 August 1985?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) 10.
- (2) (a) 11;
(b) 24.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Consultant: Mr Basil Atkinson

320. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Further to question 3616 of 4 July 1985, will the Minister indicate when Mr Basil Atkinson, through his company, Basil Atkinson and Associates Pty Ltd, ceased to be remunerated as a consultant to the Western Australian Tourism Commission?
- (2) Has his contract been terminated or deferred?
- (3) What is Mr Atkinson's current position with the commission?
- (4) Is he remunerated for holding this position and, if so, would the Minister please provide details of any such remuneration?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) 12 March 1985.
- (2) Terminated.
- (3) Acting Chairman.
- (4) Salary \$30 168; other allowances \$550 per annum.

GAMBLING: TWO-UP

Kalgoorlie: Arrangements

323. Mr COYNE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Are the arrangements that exist between the Government and the franchised proprietors of the legalised two-up operation in Kalgoorlie completely satisfactory?
- (2) Is the Government continuing to monitor the progress of the two-up venture as a tourist attraction and as a viable enterprise?
- (3) What records are being made available to the Government which would provide a cash turnover figure and any other detail from which a balance sheet or profit and loss account could be produced?
- (4) In the light of recent events, is there any likelihood that a more positive and realistic approach will be taken to relocate the two-up ring to a more accessible, comfortable and hygienic arena?

- (5) Is it intended that the Kalgoorlie Race Club will be given the opportunity to tender for the right to manage and promote the "two-up school"?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Arrangements are believed to be completely satisfactory.
- (2) The Western Australian Tourism Commission is monitoring the effect and contribution being made to the region's tourism industry by the two-up game facility.
- (3) The Police Act, Police (Kalgoorlie two-up gaming) Regulations, 1983—regulation 4 (2) provides that returns be submitted to the Commissioner of Police. Provisions of this regulation are being complied with and two returns are submitted monthly.
- (4) Not known.
- (5) No such approach has been received.

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Advertising Campaign: Cost

332. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the planned total cost of the current advertising campaign being undertaken by Westrail in relation to its performance and services?
- (2) How much of that cost has already been incurred and in what ways?
- (3) What media are to be used and over what period?
- (4) What advertising agency has been employed?
- (5) What remuneration (expressed in dollar terms) is to be paid to or received by that agency?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) \$200 000 including production costs, research, and agency fees.
- (2) \$12 800 has been spent to 30 August. Initially, a full-page advertisement was placed in *The West Australian* to launch the campaign. This has been followed by runs of this advertisement in three rural weekly publications.
- (3) The second stage of the Press campaign is to start in the week beginning 2 September. This will consist of two full-page advertisements promoting

Westrail's grain and wool services. This Press campaign is planned to last till the end of October, with a possible reprise in the New Year.

A television campaign on both metropolitan and country TV stations is planned to begin in September.

- (4) Westrail's existing agency, Marketforce, is handling the Press and TV campaigns.
- (5) The agency's fees are expected to be about \$14 000.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Advertising Campaign: Research

333. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

What research was undertaken by or on behalf of the Government in relation to the advertising campaign initiated last year in support of Aboriginal land rights?

Mr WILSON replied:

As part of its brief, the advertising agency obtained some qualitative research material.

337. *Postponed.*

TRANSPORT: METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT TRUST

Deficit

338. Mr RUSHTON, to the Premier:

Will he please explain to me why the deficit he announced for the Metropolitan Transport Trust as at 30 June 1985 was \$78 million and the answer in question 49 of 1985 confirming that the running and social service costs was \$70 million?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I did not announce that the MTT deficit as at 30 June 1985 was \$78 million. I raised an example of the type of future deficits the MTT could incur under private ownership unless there was a massive increase in fares, reduction in services, and elimination of some services.

340. *Postponed.*

FORESTS

Timber Mills: Capacity

341. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) With reference to contract number 173, how many timber milling companies have the capacity to handle 20 000 m³ of timber annually?
- (2) Why was not the commercial thinning programme in the regenerated karri-marri forest offered in a way which would allow small timber milling operators to bid for part of the timber available?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) Not known. That was the reason why applications for registration were advertised. Six companies have been registered as tenderers at present, and a further two applications are being evaluated.
- (2) The advertisement to apply for registration does not preclude small timber milling operators registering. All proposals received will be considered. However, specialised equipment may be necessary to process and season the regrowth material and a minimum log volume is needed to justify the installation of expensive machinery.

AGRICULTURE

Tractors: Don Zanetic and Co

342. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has the Government either directly or through Exim or any statutory authority provided funds or issued guarantees to the Merredin tractor maker Zanetic Manufacturing or any associated company?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the nature and amount of the funds or guarantees provided?
- (3) Has the money owed to the Government by Phillips Acremaster been fully recovered?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The Department of Industrial Development has not provided funds or issued guarantees to Merredin tractor manufacturer, Zanetic Manufacturing, or any associated company.

It is understood that a joint marketing company has been established between Exim and Zanetic Manufacturing.

- (2) The specific details of the joint marketing company are not known to the Department of Industrial Development.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Government financial assistance provided to Phillips-Merredin is expected to be recovered in full in due course. However, the specific financial arrangements between the receiver and the purchasing company are considered to be of a confidential nature between the parties concerned.

ENERGY: POWERLINES

Clearing: Kelmscott

343. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware that the State Energy Commission has directed the removal of long standing gum trees in Canning Mills Road, Kelmscott in the vicinity of house 69?
- (2) Is he aware that the home owner's request to defer the trees' removal was rejected?
- (3) Has the direction been issued that all substantial trees on road reserves are to be removed?
- (4) How can the State Energy Commission's direction be acceptable before formal negotiation with local government has been completed?
- (5) Why has the State Energy Commission proceeded to remove sound scenic trees before policy has been determined and legislation introduced?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes. The commission's practice is to remove fast growing species from the vicinity of power lines to prevent interference that could result in the starting of bush fires in summer.
- (2) The commission can find no record of such a request.
- (3) See answer (1).
- (4) The commission has the responsibility to ensure a safe and reliable supply of energy.

- (5) The commission is responsible for tree control near power lines on public roads. Its prior consideration must be safety of life and property. However, it is aware of its overall responsibility to the community. If the local authority is prepared to take over the role of pruning the trees to safe standards that are acceptable to the SEC, it would be more than happy to let it do so.

EDUCATION: TEACHERS

Transfers: Cost

344. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

What did it cost the Education Department to transfer teachers during the year ended 30 June 1985?

Mr PEARCE replied:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 1984-85 |
| | \$ |
| Insurance—furniture and effects | 113 449 |
| Accelerated depreciation | 503 500 |
| Freight—furniture and effects | 1 707 893 |
| Freight—vehicles | 202 113 |
| | <hr/> 2 526 955 |

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Leeming: Opening

345. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

Will the West Leeming primary school be ready for occupancy at the commencement of the 1986 school year?

Mr PEARCE replied:

It is anticipated that the school will be operating from the commencement of the 1986 school year.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Sir Charles Gairdner: Employee Charges

346. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have charges to employees at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, for meals and parking, recently been increased?

- (2) If, so, what was the nature of that increase?
 (3) Why were these costs increased?
 (4) Do the increases apply to all employees at the hospital?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Charges for some services and facilities utilised by staff at all Government hospitals have been increased—

All Government non-teaching hospitals—

The charge for a three course meal was increased from \$1.31 to \$2.50 from 1 July 1985;

parking charges are not levied at non-teaching hospitals.

All Government teaching hospitals—

Meal charges were increased from \$1.31 to \$2.50 from the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after 12 August 1985;

parking charges were increased to \$1 per week from the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after 12 August 1985.

- (3) The Government decided to phase in increases over a period of time until the charge approximates the economic cost of providing the service or facility.
 (4) The charges will apply to all employees utilising the services or facilities.

347. *Postponed.*

SECONDHAND DEALERS ACT

Review

348. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is the Secondhand Dealers' Act currently under review?
 (2) If so, who is carrying out that review?
 (3) When is it likely the review will be completed?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Commissioner of Police.
- (3) Not known.

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:
SKILLS WEST '85**

Advertising Campaign: Cost

349. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) During the year ended 30 June 1985, how much was spent on the Skills West '85 publicity campaign?
- (2) Would the Minister provide me with breakdowns of this expenditure between—
 - (a) production costs;
 - (b) television costs;
 - (c) newspaper costs;
 - (d) radio costs;
 - (e) other costs?
- (3) How many people are employed within the Department of Employment and Training to arrange and supervise this programme?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (3) This information will take some time to collate and will be forwarded to the member by the Minister for Employment and Training by letter in due course.

TOURISM

Hainault Tourist Mine: Freehold Title

350. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government been approached by the Hainault Tourist Mine with a request to freehold the title to that property to enable a significant investment to be made in the property?
- (2) Is the Government going to agree to that request?
- (3) If so, when?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, subject to certain conditions being agreed to in order to safeguard historical mining material important to the State.
- (3) Negotiations are proceeding.

EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Membership

351. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Who are the current members of the Education Advisory Council?
- (2) What are the objectives of the Council?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) WA Council of State School Organisations.

Association of Independent Schools of WA.

State School Teachers' Union of WA (Inc).

Independent Schools Salaried Officers Association of WA.

Youth Affairs Council of WA.

Interim Guild Management Committee, WA College of Advanced Education.

Guild of Undergraduates, University of WA.

Confederation of WA Industry.

Catholic Education Commission of WA.

Parents and Friends Federation of WA.

Guild of Students, Murdoch University.

Student Guild, WA Institute of Technology.

University Salaried Officers Association of WA.

Trades and Labor Council of WA.

Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union (WA Branch).

Isolated Children's Parents Association.

Civil Service Association of WA.

Academic Staff Association, University of WA.

Academic Staff Association, WA Institute of Technology.

Academic Staff Association, Murdoch University.

Academic Staff Association, WA College of Advanced Education.

Australian Union of Students.

University of WA.

Murdoch University.

College Council of WA College of Advanced Education.

Council of the WA Institute of Technology.

Hedland College Council.

Karratha College Council.

Kalgoorlie College Council.

Education Department of WA.

Community Kindergartens Association.

Community Association for Special Education.

WA Association of Small, Independent and Community Schools.

WA Association for Community Education.

WA Post Secondary Education Commission.

- (2) The objectives of the council are to provide direct advice on a regular basis to the Minister on all aspects of education ranging from early childhood education through to tertiary education.

352. *Postponed.*

WILDLIFE: FLORA

"*Acacia guinetii*": Destruction

354. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Referring to the colony of rare flora called *Acacia guinetii* on the Hemsley property at "Glenfield" Geraldton and further to question 82 of 20 August 1985, if a location of rare flora is disclosed to owners of land only, how can he guarantee protection when land is travelled over by persons of authority carrying out their lawful employment and unable to recognise rare flora?
- (2) Is he aware that rare flora is being unknowingly destroyed by such persons of authority carrying out their lawful employment, because these locations are kept secret?
- (3) Of the 14 locations of *Acacia guinetii* known to the Department, why have only five notices for protection been served—is the *Acacia* on the remaining nine locations considered common?
- (4) Of the five notices served for *Acacia guinetii*, how many applications to "take" have been received?
- (5) Is he aware that samples for cloning as well as seed for propagation have been taken off the Hemsleys' land without their permission?
- (6) Is he aware that cloning of the Hemsleys' rare flora has been carried out without their permission?
- (7) Is he aware that it is claimed that these samples from the Hemsleys' property are successfully thriving outside of Western Australia?
- (8) Is he aware that *Acacia guinetii* is available through the nursery industry?
- (9) In the Hemsleys' compensation case, is he aware that the negotiations with the relevant shire council were finalised in August 1984?
- (10) Is he aware that the terms of settlement in the Hemsleys' case were agreed upon to expedite matters?
- (11) If so, why then are the said terms of settlement of the Hemsleys' acceptance dated 1 August 1984 not finalised?
- (12) Is he aware of the imposition placed on any member of the rural community caused by one year's delay at 19 per cent interest paid?
- (13) Why should this department be seen to cause extra financial difficulty to a member of the already depressed rural community for protection of flora of which rarity is questionable?
- (14) Does he recognise the psychological stress caused to family relations due to his department's inability to carry out the agreed terms of settlement within a reasonable length of time?
- (15) Is he aware that the Premier and the then Minister stated in Geraldton in June 1983 to the Hemsleys that this matter would be finalised in the near future?
- (16) Can he define the term "near future"?

(17) Will he state a specified length of time in which all the terms of settlement of the Hemleys' compensation will be finalised?

(18) If not, why not?

Mr DAVIES replied:

(1) The policy of only disclosing the location of rare flora to the owner of the property on which it occurs is considered to provide greater protection for the rare flora than would be the case if the locations were widely published.

(2) I am not aware of any specific incidents. However, I could envisage that this could occur.

(3) No. A number of these locations are on properties owned by a single landowner.

(4) Four applications have been received. Three of those applications have been made in connection with plans to propagate the species.

(5) to (8) No.

(9) Yes.

(10) I understand the terms of settlement were reached after lengthy negotiations.

(11) Parts of the package have been finalised. However, I understand that a series of unfortunate events have contributed to the delay in finalising the land transfer components of the package.

(12) to (14) I appreciate the implications of the delay in finalising the land transfers. This work is not being handled within my portfolio, but I have asked that every effort be made to finalise the outstanding aspects of the land transfers.

(15) and (16) I am not familiar with those discussions.

(17) No.

(18) Refer to answer to questions (12) to (14).

ENERGY: GAS

Pipeline: Carnarvon

355. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

(1) Where will the take-off point be for the lateral pipeline to be built from the Dampier-Perth natural gas pipeline to serve the town of Carnarvon?

(2) Will the lateral pipeline be served by the Carnarvon-Gascoyne Junction Road during construction?

(3) How many persons are likely to be employed by this project during construction?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1) The take-off point will be located at mainline valve 55, which is 12 kilometres south-east of Gascoyne Junction.

(2) Yes.

(3) Employment is anticipated to peak at approximately 50 workers over the main construction phase of four months.

ENERGY: GAS

Pipeline: Carnarvon

356. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

(1) What diameter pipe is expected to be used for the Carnarvon lateral gas pipeline?

(2) What savings are anticipated in the operation of the Carnarvon power house when it is converted to use natural gas?

(3) Will gas be immediately available for other industrial users in the town?

(4) Is it intended to eventually reticulate natural gas for domestic consumers in the town?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1) The nominal diameter of the gas pipeline is 150 mm.

(2) Approximately \$3 million per annum.

(3) Yes.

(4) Reticulation to domestic customers is being evaluated by the State Energy Commission.

ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Power Station: Carnarvon

357. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) What is the present capacity of the Carnarvon power house?
- (2) Is it intended to increase the generating capacity of the Carnarvon power house prior to it being converted to use natural gas?
- (3) What is the projected increase in demand for power in the town?
- (4) Has consideration been given to shifting the existing power house to a new site and with what result?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) 11.586 megawatts.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) In 1984-85, the peak load was 6.9 MW. The peak load in 1985-86 is expected to be about 8.2 MW.
- (4) Yes. Sites are currently being investigated. It is anticipated a new station will be commissioned in 1988-89.

FISHERIES: OYSTERS

Licences: Denham

358. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Has the Fisheries Department received an application for a commercial oyster licence at Denham?
- (2) How many existing oyster licences have been granted for the Denham area?
- (3) What is the current status of this latest application?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes. An application has been received for a public oyster fisheries licence known as an "oyster picker's licence".
- (2) Public oyster fisheries licence conditions do not limit the operations of licensees to specific areas except that they cannot take oysters in the proximity of townsites. There are four oyster pickers known to operate from Denham.
- (3) A letter was sent to the applicant on 23 August 1985 setting out that a

licence could be issued but seeking further information.

FORESTS: SANDALWOOD

Licence: Revocation

359. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Is he aware that a licence issued last year for the gathering of sandalwood in the Shark Bay area has now been revoked?
- (2) Is he also aware that the operator concerned has no other employment available in this area?
- (3) Is it a fact that sufficient sandalwood exists in the Shark Bay area for the activity to continue in this area for approximately 20 years at 20-30 tonnes per year?
- (4) Will he make available to me a copy of his officer Mr Keally's report on sandalwood gathering in this area?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes, but there may be problems with removing the resource because of potential deleterious environmental effects.
- (4) Yes. A copy will be forwarded to the member.

360. *Postponed.*

HOUSING: LAND

Denham

361. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Does the Lands Department have any plans to provide further residential blocks at Denham?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated that these blocks will be available for purchase?
- (3) How many blocks is it intended to create?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes. Costing of a subdivision of 18 lots is in course.

As there are a number of freehold lots currently on the market and there has been a low demand recorded in the department, early development is un-

likely. The Shire of Shark Bay is in liaison with the department in this regard.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: FIRE BRIGADES

Volunteers: Establishment

362. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) What are the requirements for the establishment of a volunteer fire brigade in a country town?
- (2) Will the Fire Brigades Board provide assistance to establish a volunteer fire brigade at Denham?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Establishment of town fire protection is based on the risk factors in the town. The current general standard which is subject to any special circumstances is—

population of 1 500;
a townsite with adequate water reticulation, that is, minimum main size 100 mm;
availability of adequate manpower to form a volunteer fire brigade.

The current standards are under review, but that review is not expected to significantly alter minimum requirements for smaller towns.

- (2) The Western Australian Fire Brigades Board welcomes the opportunity to discuss with any local authority the fire protection needs of its area, and an approach from the Shark Bay Shire would receive a prompt response.

PLANNING

Mangles Bay Harbour: Deletion

363. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Government requested the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority to delete the Mangles Bay harbour proposal from its planning scheme?
- (2) If "Yes", when will it happen?
- (3) Will rail and road reserves relating to this proposal which exist in Rockingham be lifted?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.

(2) The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is co-ordinating an interdepartmental study to provide a tourism-development plan for Point Peron-Mangles Bay. The port installations reservation will be deleted from Mangles Bay when suitable reserves-zoning to replace it have been agreed as an outcome of the study.

(3) The appropriate rail and road services are being assessed as part of the above study.

SEWERAGE

Mundijong: Policy

364. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Will he detail the Government's sewerage policy within the Mundijong area?

Mr TONKIN replied:

As a result of a query from the Town Planning Department in 1978 a very preliminary study of the sewerage options for the Mundijong area was carried out. Due to the nature of the ground and the generally high groundwater levels, it was apparent that any new urban development would require sewerage.

However, the local disposal of effluent in any quantity would be a problem and the Town Planning Department was advised that the planning of any extension to the South-East Corridor would probably require major works to transport wastewater to the coast.

GAMBLING: LOTTERIES

Instant Lottery: Distributions

365. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Referring to his answer to question 55(2) of 20 August, will he please detail for what purpose the \$51 million was allocated in the 1984-85 Budget from Consolidated Revenue and General Loan Funds?
- (2) How much of the \$51 million was unspent as at 30 June 1985?
- (3) What were the items for which the \$22.6 million of the 1981-82 Budget was allocated?

Mr DAVIES replied:

(1) and (3)

| | 1981-82 | 1984-85 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| WA Arts Council | 2 234 000 | 3 008 000 |
| Instant Lottery Distribution | — | 3 000 000 |
| Regional Cultural Facilities Fund | 400 | 1 505 000 |
| WA Film Council | 241 000 | 308 000 |
| Library Board of WA | 6 925 000 | 15 201 000 |
| WA Museum | 3 803 000 | 5 106 000 |
| Art Gallery of WA | 2 808 000 | 3 392 000 |
| Academy of Performing Arts | 376 000 | 1 763 000 |
| Capital Works—General Loan Fund | 4 573 000 | 16 437 000 |
| Perth Theatre Trust | 144 000 | 433 000 |
| Perth Entertainment Centre | — | 375 000 |
| Perth Concert Hall | 75 000 | — |
| Aboriginal Materials Preservation Committee | 320 000 | 530 000 |
| Heritage Committee | 163 000 | 203 000 |
| National Trust of Australia (WA) | 75 000 | 87 000 |
| Royal Western Australian Historical Society | 5 000 | 5 000 |
| Festival of Perth | 240 000 | 284 000 |
| WA Symphony Orchestra | 130 000 | 172 000 |
| Police Pipe Band Supporters Association | 2 000 | 2 000 |
| Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust | 40 000 | — |
| Australian Ballet Foundation | 35 000 | — |
| | <hr/> \$22 589 000 | <hr/> \$51 356 000 |

- (2) The answer will not be known until the organisations involved submit audited statements in their annual reports. However, it is not expected that a significant amount of the total will remain unspent. It can be seen that Instant Lottery funds account for less than 6 per cent of total arts and culture expenditure. Assistance for the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and Australian Ballet is now channelled through Instant Lottery or Arts Council funds. Since the Court Government acquired the Perth Entertainment Centre, expenditures have varied widely from year to year. For example, in 1979-80 Government expenditure was \$517 000.

Both the Festival of Perth and the WA Symphony Orchestra benefited in 1984-85 from considerable extra support from Instant Lottery funds over and above the base amount shown as the allocation directly from Consolidated Revenue Funds.

MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS: IMMIGRATION

Unemployment: Effect

366. Mr MENSAROS, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the findings of a recent study funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Committee for Economic Development of Australia, viz—
- (a) immigration does not increase unemployment;
 - (b) immigration on average actually improves the chances of unemployed resident workers gaining employment;
 - (c) expenditure by recently arrived migrants partly financed by funds they bring with them can substantially affect the pattern of consumer demand including the demand for houses?
- (2) If so, will he influence the Commonwealth Government and trade union movement generally to review their policy of restricted immigration?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Commonwealth Government is naturally aware of the findings in the report and has adopted a responsible attitude in balancing the economic and social benefits of the immigration programme and the cost to the community.

The Commonwealth Government has reviewed its policy and has increased immigration levels from 70 050 in 1984-85 to 84 000 in 1985-86.

The union movement supports an immigration programme which is planned and tuned to the capacity of the economy to absorb migrants, also having regard to Australia's international obligations in accepting refugees.

PAROLE BOARD

Recommendations: Reversal

367. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Government ever altered or reversed the Parole Board's recommendations in individual cases?

- (2) If so, which were the cases and in which way was the recommendation altered or reversed?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) A preliminary effort to collate relevant material indicates that the resources required would be excessive and could not be justified.

In addition, it would not be possible to provide all the information requested without breaching the confidentiality which generally applies to Parole Board matters.

HEAD OF STATE

Replacement: Elected Governor

368. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

Is he officially supporting as Australian Labor Party policy the Australian Democrats' announced policy of replacing Her Majesty the Queen as head of the Sovereign State of Western Australia with a popularly elected Governor?

Mr TONKIN replied:

No.

WATER RESOURCES

Reservoirs: Capacity

369. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

What is the capacity in aggregate, and detailed according to each reservoir, supplying the metropolitan area?

Mr TONKIN replied:

METROPOLITAN DAM CAPACITIES

| | Cubic Metres |
|----------------------|--------------|
| South Dandalup | 208 211 000 |
| Serpentine Main Dam* | 194 500 000 |
| Serpentine Pipehead | 2 637 000 |
| Wungong | 60 000 000 |
| Canning | 90 500 000 |
| Churchmans | 2 182 000 |
| Victoria | 859 000 |
| Total | 558 889 000 |

*Serpentine was resurveyed and the capacity amended from 184 890 000 to 194 500 000 cubic metres on 1 July 1985.

WATER RESOURCES: UNDERGROUND

Reserves: Study

370. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

What are the terms of reference for the recently announced study by Dr Malcolm Hollick about ground water reserves and their conservation?

Mr TONKIN replied:

The terms of reference for the groundwater management study being undertaken by Dr Malcolm Hollick are contained in the research proposal. I have asked the Chairman of the Western Australian Water Resources Council to send the member a copy of the proposal.

MINERALS: COAL

Collie: Reserves

371. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

What are the latest known coal reserves in the Collie coalfield divided into the presently prevailing and accepted categories, such as proved, probable, etc.?

Mr PARKER replied:

| | Millions tonnes | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| | Measured | Indicated | Total |
| Open cut | 228 | 162 | 390 |
| Underground | 17 | 75 | 92 |
| Total | 245 | 237 | 482 |

372. *Postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Cabinet Discussions

88. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Did Cabinet discuss the Parole Board recommendation that Ronald Joseph Dodd be released?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

As was the policy followed by the previous Government, this Government does not outline in the Parliament or in other forums Cabinet discussions and debates. Whenever the previous Government was asked about a Cabinet discussion it answered that all Cabinet discussions and debates were

confidential. Having said that, we do not intend to depart from the policy the previous Government had in place. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will understand that questions which might be entertained about Cabinet considerations are absolutely endless.

I really do not know whether the matter did come to Cabinet for discussion. I have not checked. The general policy followed is that the Attorney General refers to Cabinet those questions about which he has serious reservations or doubts, and Cabinet discusses them. I do not know whether this matter was referred to Cabinet. As to whether Cabinet agreed to any recommendation from the Attorney General, not only am I unaware of that but also the fact of the matter is that the decision made is a Government decision and stands as a Government decision, not as a decision made individually by any Minister or any officer beneath ministerial level.

PARLIAMENT WEEK

Prizes

89. Mr HUGHES, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article in yesterday's *The West Australian* which said that as a result of a request for ideas for Parliament Week this year, three people have been awarded prizes of \$100?
- (2) Could the Minister explain what projects will be adopted as a result of these ideas and does the Minister endorse these ideas?
- (3) Does the Minister feel the competition was successful in view of the fact that the Opposition spokesman on electoral reform, Mr Mensaros, was reported in *The West Australian* of 20 July as saying that the scheme would lower the dignity of Parliament, and the member for Kalamunda was reported as saying it would attract the wrong type of person and not the thinking people in the community?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) A Mrs Timewell of Merredin suggested commemorating Dame Edith Cowan's role as the first woman parliamentarian in Australia. As a result, a State-wide essay competition entitled "The Dame Edith Cowan Essay Competition" will be conducted by the Education Department, and the winning student will be presented with a book prize during Parliament Week.

Mr Stratton of Canning Vale suggested a tree-planting ceremony to honour Western Australia's 23 Premiers. As a result trees will be planted during Parliament Week near the schools attended by past Premiers.

Mr Neilson of Alfred Cove suggested a quiz, and this will be conducted both for school children and for the general public and will be designed to educate children and the community generally about the parliamentary system.

I do indeed endorse these ideas and congratulate the winners of the awards.

- (3) The member's third question referred to the unfortunate comments made by the member for Floreat who, if he is the Opposition spokesman on electoral reform, is certainly not doing a very wonderful job. After promising a policy for 2½ years it now seems there will be no policy from the Opposition until after the election. His comment that the competition would lower the dignity of Parliament really is a gratuitous insult to the people of WA.

I do not know when Opposition members are going to get it through their thick heads that the Parliament belongs to the people. It is certainly therefore not unreasonable to ask the people how Parliament Week should be celebrated.

Point of Order

Mr MENSAROS: Mr Deputy Speaker, in the interests of the dignity of Parliament I ask you to consider the tone of the Minister's remarks and to consider whether he is offering an opinion or facts.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What precisely is your point of order?

Mr MENSAROS: I ask you to consider whether he is giving facts or opinions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will certainly do that.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

Mr TONKIN: Members opposite should be aware that in questions without notice, from time immemorial, both under conservative Governments and Labor Governments, opinions have always been given in answers. What is unparliamentary—it is a pity members opposite did not glance at Standing Orders—are questions which ask for an opinion.

The fact is that Parliament does not belong to the Opposition or to members of Parliament, and to suggest otherwise is to lower the dignity of Parliament. The Parliament belongs to the people. To suggest that to ask the people how they think Parliament Week should be celebrated is to lower the dignity of Parliament, or as the member for Kalamunda said, to attract the wrong types of people, indicates that members opposite believe Parliament is a private club. That is why for years they have attempted to stop the people taking part in politics; that is why members opposite perverted the electoral laws.

They kept 100 000 people off the rolls. That is the attitude held by members opposite to Parliament. Members opposite do not believe the people should have a right to vote for Parliament. They tried to keep people off the rolls, which was disgraceful.

I am pleased to say that I am a member of a Government which believes that Parliament belongs to the people.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Executive Council Minute

90. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it not correct that the Premier signed the Executive Council minute authorising the release on parole of Ronald Joseph Dodd?
- (2) Does this not contradict his statement yesterday that he was not aware of the paroling of R. J. Dodd?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) Each week I sign perhaps 500 Executive Council minutes, and I do not recall whether I signed such a minute for Dodd's release.

Mr Old: Don't you read them?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Yes, I actually do, but I do not have any recollection of signing individual minutes. It is a bit unreasonable to expect me to recall individual minutes.

Mr Laurance: It is a very important matter.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: In a short time the member will learn how forgetful some people can be, but that is another question.

It is my job as Premier to initial Executive Council minutes, but I do not know whether that one came to me or whether I was fulfilling my duties interstate. I will be happy to check. I normally initial Executive Council minutes after Ministers have signed them. I would have initialled this one, but I cannot recall doing so.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: BOAT HARBOUR

Hillarys: Criticism

91. Mrs BEGGS, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is he aware of a statement made by the Tasmanian Senator Norm Sanders criticising the Hillarys boat harbour?
- (2) Is it a fact that there is no substance or truth in his statement?
- (3) Is it correct that Senator Sanders estimates the maintenance of the harbour to be \$200 000 a year?
- (4) Is the Minister in possession of any information to support this claim?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (4) I appreciate the question from the member for Whitford for a reason that she may not immediately understand. The reason is that while I was flipping through my copy of yesterday evening's *Daily News*, during the relatively dull time that question time has become nowadays because of the poor performance of the Opposition, I was astonished to find my name in a letter

to the editor complaining about my rudeness to a visiting dignitary. I was a bit stunned.

Mr Clarko: You asked: Which one?

Mr PEARCE: Yes, I did. I could not recall insulting anyone; and members will appreciate that I am such a mild and inoffensive person that I probably would not know a rude word, and one certainly would not pass my lips.

The letter also called on the Premier to ensure that I was not rude to visiting dignitaries and guests—

Mr Brian Burke: I thought that letter was reasonable because it said, "An experienced commentator and international traveller like the Premier will obviously correct this situation."

Mr PEARCE: That is right. The letter was very kind about the Premier and a little cruel about me, but the fact of the matter was that the letter was signed by one Brian Jenkins who is, of course, a Democrat of note in the Whitfords area. The distinguished visitor to our shores was none other than his Democrat colleague, Senator Norman Sanders. Senator Sanders is a Tasmanian senator to whom I have not been personally rude at all because I have never met him. He came to Perth during my absence on holiday. While I was relaxing on the beach at Shark Bay, Senator Sanders paid a brief visit to the beach at Hillarys. Casting his scientific eye about, Senator Sanders was able to determine that if a marina were to be built on that site, it would be at a cost of \$200 million a year to the taxpayer; it would be a complete disaster. As I understand it, he looked at the sand and the line of the beach and immediately recognised that it was precisely the same as a marina that had been built in the south-western region of the United States 40 years ago. Therefore, he was able to predict that in 40 years the same results would occur at Whitfords.

Senator Sanders is obviously a very experienced scientist to be able to make these kinds of predictions. In fact, it reminded me of the gentleman who deciphered the Egyptian hieroglyphs in the seventeenth cen-

tury. When this gentleman published his decipherment he was able to say that he had deciphered them at a glance and thereby had been able to avoid the errors which undoubtedly would have crept in had he gone about it in a more systematic way. Senator Sanders obviously falls into the scientific tradition.

What particularly concerns me about Senator Sanders is that he claimed that the Government was keeping secret the kind of information that people would need if they were to make a proper judgment of that site. As we had gone to considerable effort to make publicly available all of the information, including calling a public meeting so that the Government's experts could answer any questions that people might have, I thought it was a bit unfair that someone who was on a casual visit from Tasmania, in order to address the Democrat conference here, could say these kinds of things without knowing what the Government had done. It became worse because when we offered him access to the material, it was already too late because he had returned to Tasmania—gone off to cause trouble somewhere else.

Senator Sanders sent along one of his colleagues from Perth, Mr Graham Major, who, I understand, also describes himself as a scientist. Mr Major, at a meeting with senior officers of the departments of Marine and Harbours and Conservation and Environment admitted that Senator Sanders had not even read the ERMP report. This report contained all the information that Senator Sanders said the Government was keeping secret. This fellow wandered across to attend a Democrat conference, wandered down the beach at Whitfords, and made a statement about Government secrecy in support of a policy position which was taken by the Democrats before he ever came to Perth. That seems to me to be a most unscientific thing to do.

The Government has shown the courtesy of sending Mr Majors, for passing on to Senator Sanders, the document which had been available for months

before he came to Perth and of which he was in complete ignorance. It may be that the Democrats in their future careers will tend to go to scientists, but my advice to them would be to send their scientists the information which the Government makes available to the public as a matter of course in Western Australia, so that when the scientists shoot their mouths off, they will not sound as silly as Senator Sanders did.

PRISONERS: PAROLE

Executive Council Minutes

92. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Bearing in mind the answer he gave to the previous question and the widespread public concern at the imminent release of Ronald Joseph Dodd, will he ensure in future that—

- (1) He puts in place some system to ensure that those prisoners coming up for parole are given more attention by himself as Premier when signing Executive Council minutes; and
- (2) That he ensures that by doing so, he isolates these minutes from the humdrum and mundane ones which we know have to be signed—land transfers, et cetera—and make sure that he, as Premier, takes the time to do his job correctly in the interests of law and order in Western Australia.

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

If I had the recollective powers of the Leader of the Opposition, I do not suppose that I would have to do any of these things because I am sure that this would never have slipped past the Leader of the Opposition who has made it perfectly clear in the past few days that this prisoner, Dodd, should not be free to walk the streets. I think everyone is agreed on that. That is the position of the Leader of the Opposition. Having said that the Leader of the Opposition has clearly made out his ground, I would add that this Executive Council minute was one of five or six hundred, which, as a matter of course, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, is included among

more mundane matters. Had I the recollective powers of the Leader of the Opposition, I would never authorise this man's release. Certainly that would extend to Executive Council minutes, let alone specific requests.

Having said that, I have taken note of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's request and I will consider the point that he has raised. I do try to be as attentive as possible and to discharge my responsibilities as assiduously as possible. I work very hard but, nevertheless, I will take his question on board and consider it and make any changes that are appropriate.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Facilities

93. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Community Services:

Can the Minister advise the House of the Government's plans to establish child care facilities for Willetton, Subiaco, and Armadale residents?

Mr WILSON replied:

Yes. I am happy to inform the member that work has begun on the construction of new child care centres which will be able to care for up to 40 pre-school age children in the Willetton, Subiaco, and Armadale districts. The land for each of these centres has been provided by the Canning City Council, the Education Department, and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority respectively.

The centres are being built under an agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide additional child care places on a needs basis. The State Government has contributed \$1.4 million and the Commonwealth \$1.5 million for the construction of each of these centres. These will provide a badly needed boost to child care services in the respective areas. Willetton, Subiaco and Armadale have been identified in a review of child care needs throughout the State as amongst the areas most in need of expanded services.

The review, conducted by the Child Care Planning Committee, considered such factors as the numbers of pre-

school age children, the numbers of working parents, special needs, and available facilities in different localities. Each of the new child care centres has been designed to blend in with the suburban environment as a larger-than-average family home.

When completed they each will provide high quality amenities for up to 40 children in a home-like environment. A coffee room will be available for parents to meet informally at the centre.

The new centres are expected to be ready to start taking children before the end of the year.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Daily Release

94. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons:

- (1) Is it correct that Ronald Joseph Dodd is already on daily release from prison?
- (2) If so, what are the details of his release; where did, or does, he go to undertake his release, and what supervision is there of his activities?

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call on the Minister for Transport, as he has been asked in his capacity as the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons, has notice been given for this question?

Mr MENSAROS: Yes.

Mr GRILL replied:

I have been given notice of two questions and I presume there is another one coming. The answer is as follows—

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

ROAD GRANTS

Pilbara

95. Mrs BUCHANAN, to the Minister for Transport:

Can the Minister give details of State Government grants for road works in the east and west Pilbara?

Mr GRILL replied:

Yes. The State Government has allocated funds totalling \$168 000 for repairs to roads in the east and west Pilbara. The money will be used for corrective roadworks following damage caused by cyclone "Gertie" early this year.

In the West Pilbara Shire, the Main Roads Department has estimated the cost of damage to unclassified roads at \$87 000. The Government will provide \$57 000 in the 1985-86 MRD works programme. The amount comprises \$47 000 as a special grant and \$10 000 for the council's normal specific grant. The council had already spent \$30 000 from its funds to repair the roads.

In the East Pilbara, road damage caused by cyclone "Gertie" has been estimated at \$140 000, and another \$40 000 was needed for the Ethel Creek-Jigalong Road. An amount of \$40 000 would be made available for the Ethel Creek-Jigalong Road, with \$30 000 being a special grant and \$10 000 from the council's normal specific grant.

To compensate the council for the \$100 000 it has already spent towards the other \$140 000 needed, the Government has provided \$71 000 in the 1985-86 works programme. This comprises \$51 000 as a special grant and \$20 000 from the council's normal specific grant.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Releases

96. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Bearing in mind that under section 86 of the Prisons Act 1981 a prisoner undergoing life imprisonment is not to be permitted to be released on permit under section 83, and that under section 89 of the Prisons Act 1981 a prisoner may not be granted work release except, in each case, with the approval of the Governor, will the Minister advise the House—

- (a) on what occasions Ronald Joseph Dodd has been released from prison;

- (b) when in each case the Governor's approval was obtained; and
- (c) when in each case that approval was published in the *Government Gazette*?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (a) and (b) Ronald Joseph Dodd was released on 29 June 1982 to attend his mother's funeral, and it was authorised by the Minister for Prisons. He was released on 8 June 1984 for a period of three hours to visit in Royal Perth Hospital his brother who was seriously injured. Dodd was escorted by two prison officers and was handcuffed at all times.
- (c) Publication in the *Government Gazette* is not required by the Prisons Act.

I would add that on the occasion when the prisoner was first released the Minister for Prisons at that time was none other than the present Leader of the Opposition. It just goes to show that the words I used yesterday when I indicated that the Opposition was sensationalising this particular case for its own particular and narrow political motives were absolutely true. It was indicated yesterday and again today that it was not safe to allow this prisoner to walk the streets and that it was unsafe to allow him to mingle with the public. We heard all those epithets yesterday; they were presented to us *ad nauseum*. Today, by way of interjection, two or three members opposite indicated quite clearly—

Several members interjected.

Mr Brian Burke: The member for Katanning-Roe confirmed it was his view that Dodd should not be released at any time. He did it again today; and you are accusing me of forgetting to sign a minute.

Mr GRILL: It is quite clear that when the Leader of the Opposition heaped opprobrium on this Government and the Attorney General about this man's release, and when he framed the question—because it comes from the Leader of the Opposition, not from the member for Floreat—he had forgotten that he was the Minister who

authorised the release of this prisoner on 29 June 1982. What sheer hypocrisy!

Yesterday I indicated clearly from the record that the Opposition had consistently treated similar offenders more leniently in terms of probation and parole than this Government. Today's question which comes about because of a lapse of memory by the Leader of the Opposition highlights his hypocrisy and that of the Opposition in general.

WATER AUTHORITY

Corporate Planning

- 97. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

How has the Premier's recently stated proposal to introduce the corporate planning process into Government departments and agencies progressed in the newly created Water Authority of Western Australia?

Mr TONKIN replied:

The first corporate plan for the new Water Authority of Western Australia was produced in July 1985, as stated by Mr Bob Hillman, Chairman of the Board, in the foreword to the corporate plan document, as follows—

A corporate style of management is being developed to promote organisational effectiveness and efficiency.

This corporate approach is strengthened by the production of this Plan which clearly states objectives and targets, discusses management issues, and explains strategies to achieve objectives over the next five years. It will be reviewed each year to allow for changing conditions and priorities. The publication of this Plan assists staff in the Water Authority to act in a unified way in serving the public, and enables the public to be aware of the organisation's objective and policies.

It is firmly believed that the adoption of this plan will align closely with the major recommendations of the sixth report of the Standing Committee on

Government Agencies produced in July 1985. In particular (i) the use of performance indicators to demonstrate the extent to which objectives are being achieved; (ii) publishing of short term performance targets; and (iii) the provision of a comprehensive corporate development plan are all positive steps to introduce the corporate planning process into the Water Authority of Western Australia.

Once again it indicates the Water Authority of Western Australia is a very fine organisation, officered by very fine personnel.

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

Wedding: Best Man

98. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is it a fact that Mr Jenkins, who was recently appointed as head of the De-

partment of Marine and Harbours, acted as best man at the Minister's wedding?

Mr GRILL replied:

No, that is totally incorrect.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Termination

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Not only was that question incorrect but it was an abuse of question time. As a consequence of that and the treatment by the Opposition of the privilege afforded to them by the Speaker to ask questions without notice, I intend now to terminate questions without notice.