

without these difficulties which have come to light in the last few months and which, I think, we all regret.

I hope we can get back to the situation where there is not a great division between country and metropolitan, and not a great division between classes of people. This should not be the position in Western Australia. Surely we have left behind that situation in these enlightened times. Surely we are big enough now to be able to ride through that period. There is no place whatever in Western Australia for those divisions to be emphasised or, in fact to be permitted. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and passed.

House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 6th August, 1974

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

QUESTIONS (38): ON NOTICE

1. GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Education Policies

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

Would he name the persons who advised the Government on the education policies announced by it in the policy speech and indicate their respective qualifications?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The persons concerned are substantially those referred to in the article in the *Daily News* dated 21st March, 1974. In addition, there were many others of experience and competence from a wide cross section who gave evidence.

2. DAYLIGHT SAVING

Government Members: Conscience Vote

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Since *The West Australian* of 1st August, 1974 under the heading "Daylight Saving in Western

Australia this year" says "Liberal and Country Party Members will have a conscience vote on the issue"—

- (a) is this an accurate report;
- (b) if "Yes"—

- (i) since when have Liberal and Country Party Members not voted according to their individual conscience;

- (ii) what are each and every of the special ingredients of the daylight saving question which cause members of Liberal and Country Parties to decide that it is necessary and prudent for them to vote according to their conscience?

- (2) Is it not so that when Liberal and Country Party Members are not free to vote according to their conscience they are not free at all, but they must obey party directions, and decisions, or suffer the adverse consequences of such disobedience?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Reference to a "conscience" vote is the wording of the newspaper.

As announced, the Daylight Saving Bill is to be introduced on a non-Party basis, and Liberal and Country Party members will vote accordingly.

- (b) (i) The Liberal and Country Parties do not work on the caucus system practised by the ALP.

Naturally, it is assumed that all Members will normally vote according to party decisions in matters of basic policy, but the Liberal and Country Party have traditionally allowed greater flexibility than applies in a caucus system.

Mr Davies: Ho, ho, ho!

Mr Jamieson: Three bottles of rum!

Sir CHARLES COURT: To continue—

- (ii) and (iii) See answer to (a).

- (2) See answer to (1) (b) (1).

3. BUSINESS DEALINGS

Government Action

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Will he state each and every corrective step which the Government has taken thus far for the purpose of improving the—

- (a) general efficiency;

- (b) service; and
 - (c) frankness in business dealing,
- in and by private industry in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The import of the Member's question is not fully understood. If he desires to clarify the purpose of the question I will attempt to answer it as fully as practicable.

4. GOODS FROM EASTERN STATES

Delays in Delivery

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it not so that by reason of inefficiency companies and firms in the Eastern States are causing serious delays in delivering goods to both wholesalers and retailers in Western Australia?
- (2) If "Yes" what has his Government done about this?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The Shortages Committee appointed by the Government to assist in expediting supplies to local firms has not found that inefficiency in firms in the Eastern States is an evident contributing cause to the problem.

The reasons are substantially due to industrial strife and consequent loss of productivity and production.

This has been further aggravated by similar problems in the transport system.

- (2) Not applicable.

5. FLOODS

Metropolitan Area: Aerial Photography

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) In view of the extensive local flooding in the metropolitan area at present, has the MWSSD Board taken the opportunity to have an up-to-date aerial photographic coverage of the area for future reference purposes?
- (2) If not, could this be undertaken without delay before some of the areas lose some of the accumulated water?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes: an aerial photographic record is being compiled. In addition, a record of river levels is being maintained for Nerrigen Brook, Southern River, Canning River and Swan River.

6.

POLICE

Election Rally: Demonstration against Prime Minister

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Regarding his answer to question 44 on Wednesday, 31st July, 1974, can it be taken that any member of Parliament can view the police report concerning the Forrest Place demonstration?
- (2) What restrictions will be placed on use of the information so gained?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It would be expected that the members would appreciate the courtesy extended to them and maintain the confidential nature of police reports.

Mr Davies: Big deal!

7. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Synthetic Rutile Plant

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has the Government had discussions with Lennard Oil N.L. and Westralian Sands Ltd. concerning the possible establishment of a synthetic rutile plant near Perth?
- (2) If so, what tangible assistance will the Government extend to these companies to ensure that this proposed industry is established in Western Australia?
- (3) When is it anticipated that the current feasibility study will be completed by Minenco Pty. Ltd.?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Discussions will be held with companies at an appropriate time.
- (3) It is understood the company will be in a position to review feasibility in approximately two months' time.

8. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Line Damage: Woorrie

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Have departmental inquiries determined the cause of the main 33 000 volt power line to Northampton being badly damaged near Woorrie on 19th July, 1974?
- (2) What was the extent of the damage which occurred to property and livestock in the immediate area?
- (3) Has compensation been assessed regarding the affected persons concerned?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes. One pole was affected by dry rot.
- (2) Six head of cattle were killed.
- (3) The owner of the cattle has lodged a claim which is being considered by the State Electricity Commission's insurers.

9.

MINING

Agnew Nickel Prospect

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Reference is made to a report which appeared in the *Sunday Times* dated 7th July, 1974, headed "Huge New W.A. Nickel Complex Forecast", taken from a statement made by the Minister for Labour, Hon. W. Grayden "that the Agnew Nickel Prospect has been in the doldrums for 3 years": would he kindly indicate if there are any departmental records available which would substantiate this statement, as it is believed by some sections of the business community that this is a reflection on the present principals of the Agnew project?
- (2) Did the comments of the Minister for Labour (Mr Grayden) which appeared in the mentioned article, have the approbation of Cabinet?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Ample evidence exists to establish that a number of major mineral projects have been held up because of Government imposed policy and subsequent restrictions.

The Perseverance Nickel project at Agnew is affected. The comments made do not reflect on the principals of the Agnew project.

On the contrary, they have been very active to the extent that Government policies at the time would permit.

- (2) Press comments by Ministers are not subject to prior approval of Cabinet.

10.

POLICE

Beach Buggies: Licensing

Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many accidents involving beach buggies have occurred on local beaches during the years 1972, 1973 and 1974?
- (2) How many fatalities occurred in each year?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Government to fulfil an undertaking of its predecessor to legislate to

provide for the licensing of drivers and control of use of beach buggies particularly on local beaches?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) This information is not available.
- (2) Only one is known; at Lancelin in April, 1974.
- (3) Not at this stage.

11.

IMMIGRATION

Building Company Nomination Scheme

Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Immigration:

What steps has he taken to ensure building companies nominating migrants from the United Kingdom are adhering to conditions set by his department?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

All assisted passage migrants are met on arrival by State Migration Officers.

At that time they are handed a general information brochure and invited to communicate with the State Migration Office if they need advice or have any complaints.

A clause has now been inserted in the conditions relating to the housing companies scheme to the effect that any disputes between the nominating housing companies and migrants may be referred to the Commissioner for Consumer Protection who will act as arbitrator.

12.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Register of Interests

Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the action taken by the House of Commons and the Australian Government, will he legislate to provide for a public register of Members' interests?
- (2) If "Yes" does he agree that a select committee should be appointed to decide what should be declared?
- (3) If not, would he give reasons for the Government's objection to the proposal?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) The Government has not given specific consideration to either the House of Commons or the Commonwealth Government pronouncements in connection with Members' interests.

Full details of the Commonwealth Government's proposals, as well as the decisions of the House of Commons, are being sought for study by the Government.

13.

TRAFFIC

Farm Vehicle Licenses: Concessions

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Is it proposed to alter the license concessions on farm vehicles?
- (2) If so, in what way?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

14.

EYRE HIGHWAY

Sealing

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) When is it expected that the sealing of the Eyre Highway will be completed?
- (2) What is the estimated number of vehicles using the Eyre Highway each day at the present time?
- (3) (a) Are these estimations based on actual vehicle counts and, if so, what are the exact count numbers and at what locality were they taken;
(b) what percentage of these vehicles are towing caravans?
- (4) With the sealing of the Eyre Highway what number of caravans does the Department of Main Roads and Tourist Department estimate will use the highway each day?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Advice from the Highways Department, South Australia indicates early 1976.
- (2) 230.
- (3) (a) This figure was obtained from the Main Roads Department permanent recorder at Balladonia between July 1973 and May 1974.
(b) Approximately 10%.
- (4) Traffic growth rate between 1968-69 and 1973-74 has averaged 6% per annum. Any estimate of usage by caravans subsequent to sealing would be pure conjecture, but a considerable increase in numbers could be expected.

15.

POLICE

Election Rally: Demonstration against Prime Minister

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Referring to question 4 of 1st August, 1974, of the 129 policemen on duty in Forrest Place

on 25th March, how many were in uniform and how many were in plain clothes?

- (2) Does the figure of 129 only include State police?
- (3) If not, how many were from other sources and what were the other sources?
- (4) Will he table a list of names only of State police on duty?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 11 commissioned officers, 31 plain clothes officers and 87 uniformed police.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) No.

16.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Perishables to Manjimup

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the total amount of perishables which private shopkeepers may carry from the Metropolitan Markets to Manjimup in their own vehicles at the present time?
- (2) (a) Is it intended that the present maximum of perishable goods, especially salad vegetables in the summer period, will be increased;
(b) if not, will he give urgent consideration to this being done?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 500 kilograms.
- (2) (a) and (b) This is at present under consideration.

17.

SHOPPING CENTRES

Langford Housing Project

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:

In view of the inconvenience being experienced by tenants living in the Langford area as there is no shopping complex for their convenience—

- (a) have tenders been called for the construction of a shopping complex at Langford;
- (b) if so, when can it be expected development will begin;
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) The commission called tenders for the lease and development of the shopping centre at Langford on the 12th November, 1973.
- (b) No tenders were received.
- (c) Not applicable.

18. POWER STATIONS

*Conversion to Coal Fuel:
Environmental Report*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has an environmental report been made on the likely effects of changeover from oil to coal at power stations?
- (2) If not, what is the reason for not so doing?
- (3) If so, will be table a copy of the report?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The two stations involved were originally designed to burn coal and have operated on that fuel for many years without causing an undue environmental problem.
- (3) See (1) above.

19. ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS

Rate Per Unit

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Why does the SEC not show on accounts the rate per unit of electricity?
- (2) Can this be done in the future?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) It is not practical with the existing accounting machines. Tariff schedules are normally available at all offices of the commission.
- (2) The commission is now doing preliminary work to have its accounts prepared on computer. When this process is completed the appropriate rate will be shown on the account.

20. MUNDARING WEIR

Water Purity Committee

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) In respect of the water catchment area of Mundaring Weir, when was the special committee concerned with water purity of the Mundaring Weir formed?
- (2) Who comprises the committee and what departments or bodies do they each represent?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The Advisory Committee on Purity of Water, comprising the Engineer, Metropolitan Water Supply, the Metropolitan Medical Officer and the Government Analyst, was initially formed in September 1925 to meet once a month to consider any question which might

arise with regard to the quality of the water supply and the means of improving it.

- (2) The committee has been expanded over the years and now comprises representatives of the Metropolitan Water Board, Public Health Department, Government Chemical Laboratories, Forests Department, Department of Agriculture and the Public Works Department.

21. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Oil Prices: Secrecy

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

Because of the change in Government, is it the intention of the Government to direct the SEC to revert back to the "veil of secrecy" attitude which was adopted during the Liberal-Country Party term of office from 1959-1971 regarding oil prices and other associated matters?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The attitude of the Government is to act in the best interests of the State so as not to prejudice any negotiations which might be under way at the time.

22. YUNDERUP CANALS DEVELOPMENT

Government Guarantee

Mr THOMPSON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) With respect to the Yunderup canals project, has the Government or the Rural and Industries Bank been required to accept any financial burden pursuant to the guarantee given by the Tonkin Government?
- (2) If the Government or the Rural and Industries Bank has become financially involved pursuant to the guarantee, to what extent is it involved?
- (3) Is the project still in the hands of the original developer?
- (4) If not, who is now responsible for the development?
- (5) What stage has the development reached?
- (6) How many blocks have been sold?
- (7) How many are still to be sold?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An advance made through the Rural and Industries Bank now stands at \$894 718, of which the sum of \$553 000 was advanced to

redeem commercial bills of exchange. Other bills totalling \$1 197 000 will have to be redeemed in due course.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) I understand site preparation is virtually complete, except for connection of electricity.
- (6) and (7) It is not considered desirable to disclose this information.

23. ROAD TRANSPORT PERMITS

Issuing Centres

Mr WATT, to the Minister for Transport:

In view of the inconvenience and expense caused to country transport operators, will he give consideration to making facilities available in major country towns for the issue of permits for the carriage of goods for which permits are required?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I believe it may be possible to arrange for the single traffic authority (when operative) to issue permits at country centres. Such an arrangement would obviate the necessity to obtain permits from Perth and also the costly telephone calls involved.

I have asked the Commissioner for Transport to inquire into this matter and to bring back a recommendation accordingly.

24. TEACHERS

Tertiary Scholarships and Bonds

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) In relation to the working party established by the Australian Education Council on 13th June, 1973 to study relationships between Commonwealth tertiary scholarships and State teaching studentships—
 - (a) who are its members;
 - (b) on what dates has it met;
 - (c) when is it expected to complete its work;
 - (d) has his department made any submission to the working party and, if so, what were the recommendations of that submission?
- (2) (a) Was a meeting held on 20th October, 1972 between representatives of Commonwealth and State Departments of Education, the purpose of

this meeting being to discuss a possible national scheme of tertiary scholarships;

- (b) if so—
 - (i) who attended from Western Australia;
 - (ii) what conclusions were reached by those in attendance?
- (3) (a) How many non-bonded students attended teachers colleges in Western Australia in each of the years 1973 and 1974;
- (b) in each year, how many of these were—
 - (i) in receipt of an unbonded W.A. studentship;
 - (ii) in receipt of a Commonwealth scholarship or tertiary allowance;
 - (iii) not in receipt of a State or Federal allowance?
- (4) In view of the introduction of the tertiary allowance scheme by the Australian Government, and the subsequent changes in the bonding system in South Australia, does the Government plan any changes to the system of bonding teacher trainees in this State?
- (5) Has the introduction of the tertiary allowance scheme affected the number or the standard of students seeking or receiving State teaching studentships?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) (a) Membership consists of representatives from each State Education Department, the Commonwealth teaching service, the Commonwealth Department of Education, and the Australian Commission on Advanced Education.
Representatives present at the meeting on 16th July, 1974, were—
Mr H. Hughes (Chairman)—Commonwealth Department of Education.
Mr A. Bunker—Director of Teacher Education, Department of Education, N.S.W.
Mr L. Cartwright—Staff Inspector, Department of Education, Queensland.
Mr L. Kloeden—A/Assistant Director, Educational Services and Resources, Department of Education, South Australia.
Mr H. Campbell—Co-ordinator of Planning, Department of Education, Tasmania.

Mr J. Wilson—Assistant Director, Department of Education, Victoria.

Mr E. Styles—Superintendent of Education, Department of Education, Western Australia.

Mr M. Woodward—Secretary, Commonwealth Teaching Service.

Mr E. Rolfe—Commonwealth Department of Education.

Mr H. Grahame—Australian Commission on Advanced Education.

Mr R. Cotton (Secretary)—Commonwealth Department of Education.

(b) 21st November, 1973, and 16th July, 1974.

(c) No decision has been made on when it will complete its work, but a tentative date for its next meeting has been set for early in May 1975.

(d) No submission has been made by either the Western Australian Education Department or any other State Education Department.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Mr N. Traylen, then Director of Teacher Education.

(ii) The meeting suggested that consideration be given to a national scheme of scholarships for all tertiary students based on funds then available from Commonwealth and State sources, and permitting State Education Departments to offer supplementary allowances under bond agreements.

(3) (a) 1973 (at 30th June)—123.
1974 (at 30th June)—660.

(b) (i) 1973 (at 30th June)—20.
1974 (at 30th June)—27.

(ii) 1973—not available as students in teachers' colleges not shown separately from those in other tertiary education institutions.

1974 (at 30th June)—410.

(iii) Not available for same reason as (ii) above.

1974 (at 30th June)—223.

(4) The Education Department is currently reviewing its bonding practices and that of the other State Education Departments but no recommendations have been made to the Minister for Education.

(5) Because other factors such as the abolition of fees in tertiary institutions and the autonomy of teachers' colleges occurred at the same time, it is not possible to determine the exact effect of the tertiary allowance scheme on the State teaching studentships.

Of 1 550 Education Department scholarships for teacher training available for 1974, 1 354 were accepted by applicants.

25. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Effect of Alcohol

Mr BERTRAM to the Minister for Traffic Safety:

Is it a fact that the effect of alcohol is the greatest single cause of motor vehicle accidents on the roads?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Available research does not support this contention although it is believed that excessive use of alcohol is a major contributing factor in a large proportion of road accidents.

26. SOCIALISM

Allegation against Liberal-Country Party Governments

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Does he accept the allegation that Liberal-Country Party Governments—

(a) practise socialism;

(b) acquiesce on the practice of socialism; and/or

(c) introduce socialist legislation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(a) and (b) No.

(c) Certainly not as part of a socialist policy and programme.

27. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cities, Towns, and Authorities: Number

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Local Government:

Would he please advise the number of—

(a) cities;

(b) towns;

(c) local authorities, in Western Australia?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(a) 7.

(b) 13.

(c) Total number of local authorities 138, including those under (a) and (b) and 118 shires.

28. **ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

*Ecologists and Soil
Conservationists*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) How many ecologists and soil conservation experts are employed by the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (2) What are the qualifications of such experts?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Support staff for the Environmental Protection Authority are employed by the Department of Environmental Protection. The department has a small staff of professional officers having wide-ranging knowledge and experience rather than a high degree of specialisation. Disciplines represented in the department at present include physics, engineering, geology, geophysics, zoology, biochemistry, organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, economics and agricultural science.

Where other detailed expertise knowledge is required these officers liaise with specialists in other State and Federal Government departments, universities, Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation or any other area where such knowledge is available. This is in accordance with section 30 (4) (h) of the Environmental Protection Act 1971. This method of operation ensures that the best possible specialist knowledge is brought to bear on problems considered by the Environmental Protection Authority, at a minimum cost to the community.

- (2) Answered by (1).

29. **PREMIER**

*Personal Explanation on 14th
September, 1972: Comments*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Speaker:

- (1) Is it still out of order by reason of the continued existence of an undisposed of Supreme Court writ or for any other reason for questions, motions and/or comments to be made in debate relating to the personal explanation made by the Premier (then the Leader of the Opposition) in this House on 14th September, 1972 and/or any of the related personal explanations or comments subsequently made by him in the House?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" why?
(b) If "No" why?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I advise the member that in referring to the records of this House on this matter over a period of many years there appears to be a continuous constancy in the application of the *sub judice* rule.

30. **MINES DEPARTMENT**

*Ecologists and Soil
Conservationists*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many ecologists and soil conservation experts are employed by the Mines Department?
- (2) What are the qualifications of such experts?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) Answered by (1).

31. **DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

*Ecologists and Soil
Conservationists*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many ecologists and soil conservation experts are employed by the Agricultural Department?
- (2) What are the qualifications of such experts?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) The department employs 35 professional officers in various facets of soil conservation, pastoral area management and general ecological studies.

18 are officers of the Soil Conservation Service, 14 of the Rangeland Management Branch, 1 in Soil Research and Survey Branch (engaged on salt land studies) and 2 in the Botany Branch. (Total strengths of these last two branches are respectively, 6 professional officers and 5 technical officers; and 9 professional officers and 4 technical officers.)

The Soil Conservation Service also has 18 technical officers.

- (2) All professional officers have university bachelor degree qualifications, mainly in agricultural science or science. Some have attained higher degrees at master or Ph.D. level.

Technical officers possess an agricultural diploma or equivalent qualification.

32. AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Meetings and Committees

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) How many meetings of the Australian Environment Council have been held since 1st January, 1973?
- (2) Does the council have any permanent secretariat?
- (3) If so, what form does it take?
- (4) Does the council have any other committees and, if so, what are they?
- (5) What particular subjects have been discussed at the abovementioned meetings?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) There have been two meetings of the Australian Environment Council since 1st January, 1973. They were held in Melbourne on 5th July, 1973 and Hobart on 30th November, 1973.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The permanent secretariat of the Australian Environment Council is provided by the Department of the Environment and Conservation, Canberra. It consists of a permanent Secretary to Council, a permanent Secretary to Standing Committee and supporting staff who service both Council and Standing Committee. Service for the various sub-committees and working groups that have been set up is also provided by the secretariat.
- (4) The Australian Environment Council, which consists of the State and Commonwealth Ministers with environmental responsibilities is assisted by a standing committee comprising the heads of the various Government bodies concerned with the environment. Since 1st January, 1973 the Standing Committee has met six times.

The various sub-committees and working groups that have been set up are as follows—

Packaging Waste and Recycling Sub-Committee.

Monitoring Sub-Committee.

Working Party on Air Monitoring Networks.

Marine Pollution Sub-Committee.

Working Party on Heavy Metals in the Marine Environment.

Emission Standards Sub-Committee.

Environmental Investigations Steering Committee.

Environmental Legislation Sub-Committee.

Public Awareness Sub-Committee.

Working Group on Environmental Impact Statements.

Working Group on Sewage Disposal.

Working Group on Tree Conservation.

Working Group on Infrastructure.

- (5) The subjects that were discussed at the two meetings of the Australian Environment Council mentioned above are as follows—

Melbourne, 5th July, 1973.

Meeting of United Nations Governing Council on environmental programmes.

Waste disposal and sharing of costs.

Fiscal measures to encourage environmental protection and other measures to encourage beneficial installations.

Environmental research.

Functions of council in relation to other ministerial councils.

Packaging Waste Sub-Committee.

Public awareness.

Supersonic transport aircraft.

Monitoring Sub-Committee.

OECD Air Management Sector Group.

Environmental impact statements.

ERTS and environmental monitoring.

Association of the Australian Fauna Authorities Conference with Council.

Polychlorinated biphenyls.

Waste disposal studies.

Australian tree planting scheme.

Lead in petrol.

Visual pollution.

Australian Government activities within State boundaries.

District environment officers.

National pollution monitoring network.

Electric vehicles.

PMG policy on underground power cables.

Automotive emissions.

Distribution of information concerning council.

Collation of Australian environmental legislation.

Marine pollution.

Hobart, 30th November, 1973.

Emission Standards Sub-Committee.

Progress report on matters considered by fourth meeting of council.

Lead in petrol.

Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure Working Party.

Sewage Disposal Working Party.

Electric vehicles.

Remote sensing training course.

Proposed Australian Environment Council Fund.

Proposed programme of projects to be funded from AEC fund.

Governing Council of the United Nations environmental programme.

Feasibility study for an automatic pollution monitoring network for air, water and noise in the Sydney regional area.

33. HEALTH

Heavy Metals in Children's Books

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that some children's books contain heavy metals which could be dangerous to the health of children who might put them into their mouths?
- (2) If the Minister is aware of this, what action is he taking to obviate the danger?
- (3) If he is not aware, will he have investigations made and consider the necessary action?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No. Children's books alleged to be dangerous have been investigated by the Department of Public Health.

In each instance the amount of lead detected was well below the maximum allowable concentrations recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

34.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL

Membership

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Have any appointments been made in 1974 to the Environmental Protection Council?
- (2) If "Yes" what are their names and occupations and which "interests" do they represent (as outlined in section 17 of the Act)?
- (3) Who do such members replace?
- (4) If the answer to (1) is "No" which members are due to retire in 1974 and which "interests" do they represent?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Deputy member—Mr W. C. Pearse, C.B.E., Grazier, representative of persons engaged in primary industry (Section 17 (b) (iv)).
- (3) The late Mr Angus Robinson.
- (4) Answered by (1).

35.

IMMIGRATION

Building Company Nomination Scheme

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Immigration:

Further to the answer to my question 28 on 1st August concerning building company nominations, will he table all relevant papers and files?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

No. However, the Member is welcome to again inspect the file. Such inspection must be made in my office.

36.

POLICE

Exmouth Naval Base: Demonstration

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Can he advise whether an inquiry has been conducted by the Police Department into the participants of the demonstration held at the U.S. Navy base at Exmouth in May 1974?
- (2) If so, would he indicate whether members of any political parties were involved?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what parties were so involved?
- (4) Were there indications of any other particular groups being involved?
- (5) If so, would he name these groups?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (5) No such inquiry has been conducted. Police investigations were made to obtain data relating to individuals who allegedly breached the law and this information indicated participation by a number of members of the Communist Party including executive officers of that party.

The investigation also indicated that a large number of students were involved.

It is worth noting that the above mentioned people were involved in a large number of demonstrations, some individuals participating prominently in as many as 14 demonstrations in W.A.

37.

WELLINGTON DAM

Water Salinity

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) To what extent has the salinity in irrigation areas served by water from the Wellington Dam increased in recent years?
- (2) What investigations into the problem of salinity in the Wellington Dam region are being carried out currently by—
- (a) the Public Works Department;
 - (b) the Department of Agriculture;
 - (c) the Department of Environmental Protection,

and what is the conclusion arrived at by each of these departments as a result of their examination?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The salinity of Wellington Dam has fluctuated since measurements commenced in 1940. The salinity tends to drop in flood years and rise in periods of below average flows.

The salinity of the dam reached a peak of 680 mg/l in August 1971 but has since declined and in July 1974 was 500 mg/l total soluble salts.

Recent statistical analysis of the data, however, shows that the long term trend has been an increase in the total soluble salts of approximately 5 mg/l per annum.

- (2) (a) The Public Works Department is currently undertaking the following investigations—
- (i) Gauging flows and salinities of the five major sub catchments.

- (ii) Carrying out regular salinity sampling at 30 sites within the catchment.

- (iii) Co-operating with CSIRO in a detailed study on five experimental catchments into the mechanisms associated with the salinity problem.

- (iv) Co-operating with the University in a study into reservoir operation techniques.

- (v) A study involving the analysis of all available data on land form, land alienation and clearing, stream flow, stream salinity and groundwater salinity within the catchment with a view to predicting the likely level to which the salinity of the dam will rise.

- (b) Investigations carried out or completed by the Department of Agriculture are—

- (i) The monitoring of salt content of streams in the "Collie West" section of the catchment.

- (ii) Study of salt balance of Wellington Dam.

- (iii) Comparison of pasture yield and composition, and soil salinity using water from Wellington Dam and Stirling Dam. This is a joint project with Public Works Department.

- (iv) Study of salt and water balance using Wellington Dam water for irrigation at Dardanup.

- (v) Salt land survey of Collie irrigation area.

- (vi) Survey of history of land use and salinity in Wellington Dam catchment.

- (c) The Environmental Protection Authority is maintaining a watching brief on the investigations by the other departments directly concerned as provided under section 30 (4) (n) of the Environmental Protection Act, 1971.

From these studies the Public Works Department and the Department of Agriculture have concluded that the salinity of Wellington Dam is slowly increasing due to clearing in the catchment. In recent years the level has been above the threshold at which yield depression of the irrigation pastures may be

expected to commence but it has not yet been possible to measure this experimentally.

1.8% of the soils of the Collier irrigation district are affected by salinity but these appear to be inherently saline soils and not due to the use of irrigation water. No soil salinity increase is occurring under the irrigated areas.

Final conclusions are not yet available from the study to predict the final level to which the salinity will rise as a result of clearing.

38.

HEALTH*Fish: Toxicity Tests*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How often was—
 - (a) wet;
 - (b) canned,
 fish tested for mercury content during 1973 and to date in 1974?
- (2) Who is responsible for conducting the testing?
- (3) How many samples of each type of fish are tested each time?
- (4) What are the results of the testing?
- (5) Has there been any testing during the year for other toxic residues in fish such as arsenic?
- (6) If "Yes" what are the results of such tests, and the details of such testing as indicated above?
- (7) If "No" is it intended that such testing will be instituted?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) 1973—79 occasions.
1974—25 occasions.
- (b) 1973—2 occasions.
1974—2 occasions.
- (2) Public Health Department and Department of Fisheries and Fauna.
- (3) Total number of samples—
1973—762.
1974—125.

I have some further information on this part of the question and I would like your permission to table it, Mr Speaker.

The information was tabled (see paper No. 139).

- (4) The results are part of a pilot survey into levels of heavy metals in fish in W.A. A report is being prepared.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The results are part of the survey described in (4).
- (7) Answered by (6).

QUESTIONS (10): WITHOUT NOTICE

1.

MINING*Agnew Nickel Prospect*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

As the answer he gave to question 9 on today's notice paper implies that major projects have been held up due to Government-imposed policy, will he indicate to which Government he refers, in view of the fact that the present Australian Government has been in office for only 20 months approximately?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I used the term "Government" in its broadest sense. The main deterrent to this project has come from the Commonwealth Government because the policies it has been following have made it almost impossible for the project to get to first base. So my main reference was to the Commonwealth Government, but the Government to which the honourable member belonged must take some of the blame because it was in power at that time and I cannot recall a case where it protested publicly about this particular problem.

2.

SWAN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL*Deferment*

Mr MOILER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister released a Press statement to either the *Daily News* or *The West Australian* newspapers indicating that it is proposed to defer development of the Swan View High School?
- (2) When was the Press release provided to the Press?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), will the Minister agree to receiving a deputation from residents of the area concerned to enable him to put forward a case for re-instatement of the school onto the 1974-75 building programme?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Education, and appreciating the notice given by the honourable member, the reply is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The 2nd August, 1974.
- (3) Yes.

3.

PROSTITUTION*Threats to Members of Parliament*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Have certain members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party been approached by a person known

as Dorrie Flatman of 458 Beaufort Street, Highgate, who is notorious as the keeper of premises for the purposes of prostitution, threatening to publish the names of certain parliamentarians whom she alleges were her clients, if police raids on her premises at 25 Moore Street, East Perth, were continued?

- (2) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, will the Premier investigate the matter to ascertain whether there has been a breach of parliamentary privilege?
- (3) Will the Premier report to the House as a matter of urgency his conclusions as to whether there has been a breach of privilege?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) Quite frankly I cannot answer the first part of the honourable member's question if he is asking me whether certain people have made contact with certain members of the Liberal Party. If he likes I will send a questionnaire asking them about the matter.

As for the rest of the question, I suggest the honourable member places it on the notice paper.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Finance: Representations to Commonwealth

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Did the Minister recently meet councillors and officers from the City of Stirling to discuss the possibility of that local authority sending representatives to Canberra for direct talks with the Australian Government on matters of finance?
- (2) Did the Minister advise the council that he was opposed to any such proposal?
- (3) If "Yes" did he also state that it was necessary to present a united front of opposition in the face of Australian Government policy with regard to local government?
- (4) Have similar meetings been held with other local authorities at which the Minister expressed similar attitudes?
- (5) Does he agree that the attitudes as expressed do little to promote harmony between the Australian, the Western Australian, and local Government?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

In answer to the honourable member, who handed me this question as I sat down this afternoon—

- (1) I have not initiated meetings with councillors and officers from the City of Stirling or any other local authority for the purpose stated. This item has been raised during discussions on a number of occasions.
- (2) to (5) My support for the autonomy of local authorities is well known. To preserve democratic local government I would recommend to councils that they protect their autonomy in every way possible and of course this would include resisting the present regional concept put forward by the Commonwealth Government. I have advised the Commonwealth Minister for Urban and Regional Development (Mr Uren) of this fact as also have associations representing local government in Western Australia.

5.

ROADS

Woodlands Area: Examination

Mr YOUNG, to the Minister for Police:

Can he say whether he will take immediate action to ensure that an urgent re-examination of the Woodlands road system is made with a view to ensuring easier access to the district by its residents and at the same time maintaining safety for the children of the district?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Subsequent to his approach I inspected the area involved. I have also asked the Main Roads Department and the Police and Traffic Departments to report back to me. I believe I will receive their reports either this afternoon or tomorrow and I will forward the information to the honourable member as soon as it is received.

6.

MUJA POWER STATION

Tenders for Boiler

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has the boiler contract for the Muja power house been decided?
- (2) If so, when was the decision made?

- (3) What is the contract price?
- (4) Who were the successful tenderers and what are their business addresses?
- (5) What local content was involved with the contract?
- (6) Is this the largest tender let by the State Electricity Commission?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The 31st July, 1974.
- (3) \$25 740 000.
- (4) International Combustion Aust. Ltd., Rydalmere, New South Wales.
- (5) \$12 414 759.
- (6) Yes.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allocation of \$6.6 Million

Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

With reference to the story in this evening's media under the heading, "Massive boost for councils", can he inform us whether the \$6.6 million referred to is from the fund set up from Commonwealth money or from State money, or whether it is part from each, and can he advise how much it would be from each if it is a combination of the two?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The amount referred to as that part of the moneys that will go to rural local authorities will be predominantly from State-raised moneys and is made possible because of the actions of the Government in announcing that it will make considerable increases in vehicle licenses and drivers' licenses. The amount of State-raised moneys in the \$6.6 million is approximately \$5.7 million. I am speaking from memory, but it would be about \$5.7 million which will probably come from State funds.

Mr Jamieson: In anticipation.

Sir CHARLES COURT: That is not the total amount going to roads from State-raised money, but this is the proportion of the figure announced this morning. By interjection the honourable member said, "In anticipation." It is a fact that the Government, so as to keep employment going in these local authorities, has had to assume it will be able to get the necessary legislation through this Parliament; otherwise people would just be put out of work as

may be possible under the Commonwealth part of the money, until such time as we get the legislation through. I think what we are doing is the practical and sensible way to handle it.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allocation of \$6.6 Million

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

Arising out of the answer that the Premier has given the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I find it difficult to follow him, because I heard it announced over the radio last week that the Australian Minister said that \$4.6 million had been paid to the State of Western Australia.

Mr O'Connor: That has already gone to the local authorities.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It seems that the announcement in tonight's paper gives the impression that the whole of this money comes from the State Government, whereas it now seems to include some part of that \$4.6 million.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Let me make the position clear. First of all the Commonwealth Government has advanced an amount which is approximately one-twelfth of the announced total for road funds. The idea was at least to give the State Government a chance to get some money into the various local authorities and into its own channels to keep some roadworks going; otherwise we would have the crazy set-up whereby we would be into the second, third, or fourth month without being able to get any money because of the inordinate delay taking place in Canberra dealing with these matters. This has been submitted to the Federal Government. So by arrangement made at the administrative level this amount was remitted and we are hopeful that the Commonwealth will continue its programme of remitting approximately \$4 million each month until legislation has been passed by Federal and State Parliaments. More regular arrangements will then have to be entered into so that the proper allocations will be authorised by Statute and the amounts will go to local authorities in accordance with the legislation instead of by an *ad hoc* arrangement at the moment. So it is a fact that of the amount announced this morning and about which local authorities will receive notice either today

or tomorrow, approximately \$5.7 million is from State moneys. If we did not do it this way we would have to cut back considerably, and country local authorities and those on the fringe of the metropolitan area would have to dismiss staff.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: That is further proof that the Treasury was not an empty barrel.

Sir CHARLES COURT: That has nothing to do with it.

9. PROSTITUTION

Immunity from Prosecution

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he inquire as to whether there are certain premises used for the purpose of prostitution given immunity from prosecution while other similar premises are continually being raided?

Mr Hartrey: Unfair competition.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: To continue—

- (2) Will he report the results of his investigations to the House as a matter of urgency?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I suggest the honourable member puts his question on the notice paper.

Point of Order

Mr A. R. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I did direct a three-part question to the Premier who answered the first part but did not answer the second and third parts which related to a possible breach of privilege of the House.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Questions do not have to be answered.

Questions (without notice) Resumed

10. TOWN PLANNING

Small Rural Subdivisions

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Local Government:

I apologise to the Minister for not giving him any notice at all of this question but I have just read the stop press release which concerns the Government's intention to provide for small rural holdings, probably in the foothills region, of about one hectare. I ask what action will the Government take to see there is no profiteering in the development of these very small holdings?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I am pleased the honourable member has asked this question. I would advise him the Government has approved amendments to implement its policy, and the initial action will be implemented by the local authorities having amendments made to their town planning schemes for rural zones. These schemes, of course, and the terms and conditions which apply will be submitted at the time the amendments are presented to the Town Planning Board.

The interesting point is that this will provide for a way of life of a semi-rural nature. The conditions will be minimal and the costs will be kept to a minimum. The carriageways will be the width desired by the local authorities. Of course the waste disposal and the water supply will be the responsibility of the owner.

The direct answer to the honourable member's question is that because of the special zoning required and the conditions that will be applied by the local authorities when submitting amendments of their town planning schemes to the Town Planning Board any speculative content of the announcement which concerned the honourable member will be taken care of.

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Stephens (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 1st August, on the following motion by Mrs Craig—

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

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

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [5.17 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, in my address today I shall probably cause the eyebrows of some of the older members to be raised because I intend to discuss matters which may be regarded as the sacred cows of Parliament.

However, I shall not do so with any irreverence to you, Sir, or to this Parliament.

First of all I would like to extend to you my congratulations on your attaining the position of Speaker of this House of Parliament. I also congratulate the new members. I hope the session ahead of us will give all members of the House the reward they seek as members of Parliament.

I am a person who always likes to demonstrate honesty and sincerity in the things I do, and, as the representative of the electors of Swan, I feel if I did not speak on this occasion about some issues on which I have fairly strong views I would be the type of person I abhor. I do not wish to be a hypocrite in any way and I do not want my performance in this House to reflect such an attitude. For that reason I think I should raise these issues early so that I may get them out of my system, so that I will not be accused at a later date of not raising the issues when I had an opportunity to do so, and so that as the years roll by I will not be complacent and accept these matters as part and parcel of the rules of this House of Parliament.

The issues I wish to raise relate to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. I refer in particular to chapter 8, Standing Order 64, which reads—

Every Member shall be uncovered when in the House, and shall make obeisance to the Chair in passing to or from his seat.

In my ignorance, and with my rather limited sense of humour, I envisaged all sorts of things arising from a person being uncovered in the House. However, I dismissed the possibility that we would see some "streaking" in the House, and decided I should seek advice as to what was meant by the term "covered". I was surprised to find that the dictionary definition of the word "covered" is—

Having one's hat on.

So "uncovered" means having one's hat off.

Mr Hartrey: So one cannot talk through it.

Mr SKIDMORE: I shall ignore the interjections and continue. A person who was uncovered would not have his hat on. I do not speak without due regard for the position you hold in this House of Parliament, Mr Speaker. I want to make it clear that I speak very sincerely when I raise this question in the House. If the Standing Order were carried out to the letter, I would have no quarrel with it; but I do quarrel with a Standing Order which adds nothing to the decorum and dignity of this House.

We should do one of two things. We should either accept the Standing Order or alter it to show where we stand in the

matter of the manner of our coming to this House of Parliament with a degree of decorum and dignity.

Continuing further with the Standing Order, it also says that obeisance shall be made to the Chair. In regard to this matter I referred to *An Encyclopaedia of Parliament*, fourth revised edition, which says, when dealing with the rules of debate in the House of Commons—

A member is allowed to wear a hat when seated but must always rise uncovered.

It appears that in the House of Commons it is acceptable to wear one's hat but one must take it off when rising to address the Chair. If that is all that is considered necessary to show a degree of reverence or deference to the Speaker or to Parliament, a hat does not seem to have much relevance.

The word "obeisance" is perhaps more in keeping with what was considered to be due reverence to the Chair and the Speaker. The definition of the word is—

A respectful salutation, a bow, or a curtsy.

I do not intend to curtsy because I would find it extremely difficult to do so, and I do not imagine the member of the opposite sex in this Chamber would like to curtsy but would prefer to bow. When bowing, a salutation must be made, and "salutation" means—

In all public meetings or private address "He had bowed his head and taken off his hat in salutation."

That piece of worldly knowledge was uttered in 1851.

I consider that when coming into this House of Parliament, in order to show respect for you, Mr Speaker, and ourselves we should obey the Standing Orders, but the gymnastics of some members in doing so are amazing and I have noticed that quite frequently they distract the member who is speaking. I therefore believe something should be done about the manner of showing dignity and decorum. Being a new member, I do not know how we should go about altering the Standing Order, but I think it needs to be expressed in simpler terms.

The next matter I wish to raise is one in which I find myself differing with many people. It may be recalled that during my swearing-in I took an affirmation, not an oath. The newspaper report at that time correctly stated my attitude in the matter. I therefore find myself in difficulty, as a member of Parliament. I do not wish to be a hypocrite, but I do not believe I need anything of a religious nature to make me a better member of Parliament, a better citizen, or a Christian, for that matter.

I find I must remain outside the House during the prayers. I do not wish to upset anybody who has religious convictions, but

I find it difficult to come into the House during prayers because they do not mean very much to me, quite frankly, and I do not wish to be a hypocrite. Again, I do not criticise any member who has a different attitude and wishes to express it by coming into the House and listening to the prayers. That is just what he should do if it is in accordance with his beliefs or religious creed, and I do not quarrel with it but respect him for it. By the same token the rules of this House of Parliament do not allow a person such as myself the right to take his place. I must either be a hypocrite, or I must stand aside, or do as some colleagues have advised me to do; that is, not listen to the prayers because they do not mean anything anyway.

I simply say I am not a hypocrite. I raise this question because I believe it prevents me from being truly representative in some instances. Certainly, I have been a member of Parliament for only a short time, but there are occasions when I find myself unable to be present in the Legislative Assembly as a representative of the electors of Swan. Some people in my electorate may not agree with my attitude, but it is a sincere attitude which I have expressed to this House. I hope members will now understand the man Skidmore and realise he is a man who believes in saying what he thinks he should say in this House of Parliament. I have spoken with due deference to and great admiration of this House and, particularly, the position which you hold, Mr Speaker.

Since becoming a member of Parliament, most of my time has been taken up with the question of housing. No doubt other members deal with housing problems, but to me it was rather a revelation and a very big disappointment to find that so much of my time was being taken up in dealing with what I believe are the basic requirements of human beings—to live in dignity and a reasonable degree of comfort in a house which provides all the necessities and fundamentals of a home.

I find that many of our people—and I refer particularly to those in the Swan electorate—are experiencing extreme difficulty in realising their ambition of achieving a reasonable standard of living. When it comes to State Housing Commission rental homes, we have both the old and the new in my electorate, and quite frankly, neither of them inspires in me a great deal of enthusiasm for the manner in which the State Housing Commission is administered.

Some time ago the Minister for Housing made reference to the fact that it had been necessary to dismiss some men who had been performing work under a supplementary grant for the maintenance of State Housing Commission houses. The men were dismissed on the ground that no funds were available and that, in

order to keep that work going, it was necessary to put them off because subcontractors would be better able to carry out this maintenance work.

A tenant of a State Housing Commission house wrote to me on the 24th July, 1974, stating that on four occasions—on the 9th July, the 25th August, the 1st November, and the 3rd December of last year—he had complained to the State Housing Commission about failure to get any action taken in regard to the painting of his house. I quote what he went on to say as follows—

After my letter to the S.H.C. on 3/12/73 I got some action. Inspectors by the score came out to look at the peeling paint. At last on the 16/4/74 a painter came and again painted over the top of peeling paint.

I felt that surely this would not be so when we have had the assurance of the Minister that he puts off good workers and tradesmen only on the ground that there is no work available for them. But here we have a suggestion from one of my constituents who is renting a State Housing Commission home that he could not get anything done to have his house painted. A remarkable set of circumstances is involved in this situation. We find the problem is that the subcontractor who originally contracted to do the work went into liquidation; he held a meeting of his creditors and placed his affairs in the hands of a receiver. Goodness only knows why the commission was trying to get that contractor again to do the work in a satisfactory manner and one befitting the trade in which he was employed. However, it was unable to do that so it sent out another contractor to do the job.

Mr Speaker, believe it or not, that subcontractor painted over the original chipped and peeling paint, walked away and left it, and I have no doubt probably picked up his cheque for a job well done—in his opinion, but certainly not in the opinion of the tenant concerned. So here we have a case of maintenance being neglected, and this is evident in many instances where a little painting or maintenance work would bring houses up to the standard we should expect them to be in to enable people to live with a certain comfort and dignity.

I also find myself at sixes and sevens with the State Housing Commission when it comes to trying to assess the basis upon which it determines certain issues. I would like to bring before the House the instance of an old-age pensioner whose house abuts a State Housing Commission home. Following an inspection made by an officer of the commission on the 4th September, the pensioner was told that it would be necessary to renew the fence between her property and the Housing Commission home, and that the cost would be \$222.79. She was advised that half of the cost should be met by her.

The woman concerned wrote to the commission and agreed that she would meet half the cost—that is, \$111—and it was also agreed she would meet her share over a 12-month period by weekly or monthly instalments out of her pension. So on the 2nd October one would have felt that the saga of the dividing fence had reached finality and that the matter would be concluded. One would have felt that the old-age pensioner had reached a satisfactory arrangement with the commission and would be able to meet her responsibility; but, Mr Speaker, it is not that easy. On the 6th December a letter was sent to the pensioner advising her that there were some problems. The letter stated—

The Commission's Supervisor has advised me that the renewal of the fence cannot be commenced because of vines and shrubs growing in, around and over the fence.

So the amount involved rose from \$222 to \$350, of which she was expected to pay half. She said that was all right with her because someone had to do it, and she agreed to meet her responsibility, again on the basis of weekly or monthly payments she could afford out of her pension. Then a second quote for the removal of the vines was obtained because the commission felt the first tender was too high. The long and short of the story is that her share of the cost of removing the vines and replacing the fence rose from the original \$111 to \$253.

She made an approach to my predecessor, Mr Brady, saying, "Surely to goodness you will be able to help me and to find out how much longer I am going to be subjected to ever-increasing charges for the sake of a fence which I believe does not need to be replaced in any case." Then the real gem came to light in a letter addressed to Mr Brady on the 12th February as follows—

I would like to inform you that I received a letter from the Housing Commission today in which they said:

As a result of your representation on my behalf they advised me that the commission is prepared to defer the renewal of fence and removal of trees until such time as there is a compelling reason for such work.

So, Mr Speaker, after a period of seven months, after numerous inspections, after tenders had been called, and after the pensioner had been put to so much inconvenience, she was told that the fence did not really need to be replaced. In the first instance the supervisor said the fence ought to be removed, and in the second instance she was told, "Don't worry about it; we will do the work when there is a pressing need for the fence to be renewed."

That brings me now to a fence in West Road, Bassendean, behind four pensioner flats. This fence came down in a heavy wind storm some three months ago, and it is in a very dangerous condition. Living in a State Housing Commission home next to the flats is the mother of four small children, and her husband is working up north. She has endeavoured to have the fence repaired, but has been unsuccessful. So we see that the commission can spend seven months trying to remove a fence that it was not necessary to remove, but it cannot repair a fence that is in a dangerous condition. Does the commission intend to wait until the fence collapses on a child and injures him? That is certainly not my concept of how to look after housing for the working people.

Whilst dealing with West Road, Bassendean, I might say that I am disappointed and appalled that governments—of whichever colour they may be—have failed to recognise that our elderly people are at least entitled to a little respect and to enjoy some benefits from their life's contribution to the welfare and well-being of this nation.

I find that they are expected to live in conditions which, to say the least, are appalling. I am referring to the block of pensioner flats at 119 West Road, Bassendean. These flats have been untouched inside for eight years, except in the case of one bathroom where a small amount of repainting was carried out because the paint was peeling off. The flats have cracks and crevices in the walls into which one could put one's hand. Despite many requests for attention nothing has been done. But let us walk outside these flats and see what we find. Let us see what indignities our aged people must suffer as a result of their contribution to our well-being as a nation.

We find an outside washhouse measuring eight feet by eight feet, constructed of brick, and with a concrete floor which at least is impervious to moisture, but it certainly does not do anything for the dryness of the feet of the pensioners who use it. When heavy rains fall—and remember that my electorate is experiencing flooding at the moment—the pensioners must wade 50 or 60 feet through three or four inches of water to get to a washhouse which is really well equipped! This well-equipped washhouse has a pair of old cement troughs and a wood copper; and it floats on water when it rains.

I have asked not once but on several occasions for the Housing Commission officers to go out and have a look at the condition of these flats. I say again: Please come out and look at it because one of the pensioners recently had to undergo an operation for the removal of the larynx as a result of throat cancer. He suffers distress from asthmatic and bronchial problems which, in turn, aggravate his speech—and those who are better

informed medically than I am will realise that when the larynx has been removed a person must speak from his stomach. It is most distressing for this man even to talk at present, and he asked me to intercede on his behalf to see if he can be shifted to another flat.

I made an approach to the State Housing Commission by way of letter, and I received a reply which said that this gentleman had been placed on a needs basis. I thought that was fair enough and that possibly some officers had gone out to see him; but nobody went near him or bothered to go out and inspect the conditions under which he lives—or suffers, as distinct from living. He is still in the same position today as he was then when I first interceded on his behalf. So it is very difficult to reconcile some of the activities of the State Housing Commission in this regard.

I become really amazed when I see what is taking place. For instance, some members may recall reading in the weekend newspapers an article in connection with Scanlon Way, Lockridge. The article related the difficulties faced by people in that area. After this matter was brought to my notice by publication in the weekend newspapers in the first place, I went to the area to have a look at it. I was ashamed to think that people should be allowed to live under such conditions. I approached the tenants and asked whether they had done anything about the conditions, and I was told that they had not stopped trying for the past three years. In this street there is a group of five or six town houses, with two large drains to take water off the roof. Mr Speaker, if you have a house you will know that it is normal to drain the water away. But not in Lockridge; all that is necessary there is to get the water off the roof and onto the ground, and then let someone else worry about where it goes.

I checked with the commission, and it said that the problem was caused because the shire's drains were blocked. The commission put the blame onto the shire. I contacted the shire, and its workers came out and readily admitted that the drains were partially blocked. They cleared the drains and I said to myself, "That is beaut; next time it rains I will go back there and have a look at it and I will find that all is well."

But, Mr Speaker, you should never fool yourself; and, as a member of Parliament, neither should I; we should not fool ourselves that these problems can be overcome so easily. When I went to the area again I found three or four inches of water still on the ground. I again approached the State Housing Commission and requested it to do something. Sure, it did something! It sent out numerous people and had a load of sand dumped there; and it said, "That has fixed that;

the sand will be spread out and all will be well." All was well all right! The commission did not worry about draining the water away from the ground; it built up the ground and laid slabs so that the tenant at 26 Scanlon Way could get his car off the street. The sum total of this work was that the next time it rained he was battling to keep the water out of his house, let alone out of his garden.

Surely to goodness the State Housing Commission would not require a great degree of engineering skill or a great knowledge of the mechanics of drainage in order to overcome such a simple problem. I suggest with due respect to the officers of the State Housing Commission that they have a look at this area; that they leave their warm offices during a rain storm and see how the other half exists in the suburb of Lockridge. I would be quite prepared at any time to make arrangements for them to do this, and I would be prepared to pick them up and to walk with them—even to hold an umbrella for them so that they would not get wet. However, I suggest that they wear wading boots, for they will need them.

I would like to mention another question of some concern to me. Many members may recall that the matter of the disposal of effluent from septic tanks in the Koongamia area has been a problem for quite some time. It has caused problems to Governments—both Liberal and Labor—since Koongamia has been in existence. I am aware that at present extensive sewerage works are being undertaken in an effort to try to overcome the difficulty.

It was brought to my notice by a tenant in Clanthus Way that a problem existed in respect of raw sewage emanating from his front lawn since the sewerage people had put in a sewer. As a result of bad weather they were unable to finish the job, and so they back-filled; and now this effluent was coming out of his lawn. I thought that was rather grim, so I had a look at the position and I found it was only part of the problem. The homes in question are rented to the RAAF. I do not know who is responsible for them, but I understand it is the Housing Commission. I found raw effluent was oozing out of the ground on the block adjacent to the home of the person concerned. It was running across his back lawn and accumulating in a valley in his patio to a depth of three or four inches. It stunk! It smelled to high heaven, and it had been there for the whole of the winter.

When I said, "Goodness gracious, have you asked for something to be done?" I was told that he had but that nothing could be done. Immediately I made arrangements with the State Housing Commission for a senior officer from the architectural division to come with me to have a look at the problem; and I quote his words "I have never been so appalled

to see such action that has not been taken to rectify this particular problem." That is just about what he said.

We went around to see if we could do something. I said, "Can we do something about the area in which this raw effluent is accumulating at the back doors of the houses?" He said, "Mr Skidmore, what will I do? If I empty it it will run across the carport and into the drains and eventually cause pollution of the Swan River." I replied, "That may be better than causing the houses to be polluted." When we went on a further inspection what did we find? Somewhere along the line a deal had been done by some people whom I do not know, but perhaps by people who may have thought they were conservation-minded, to get rid of everything from the leach drains in these particular homes by draining them and so do away with the bacterial action that takes place in a leach drain. They did this to ensure that any injurious effluent coming from the leach drain would be directed into the gully for the storm water, and they did this not in one house, but in five of them. Any member can go there today and see everything going into the storm water drain eventually to be flushed into the Swan River in the hope, perhaps, that the river, being in flood will help the effluent to disappear, or it will become someone else's problem. Maybe it will be diluted and will not worry us any more. That seems to be the opinion of those who entered into that deal.

However the situation worries me and it worries the people I represent in that they have to live under conditions such as these. Believe me, it is no pleasure to me to harass the Housing Commission officials all the time to get something done.

I would now like to refer to the degree of discomfort suffered by a tenant who has occupied a house in Midland over a period of some 18 months. For 12 months he had been troubled with his sewer continually blocking up, and continually plumbers went there—no doubt they were subcontractors—and cleaned out the pipes and the sewer. For a while everything worked quite well and there was no problem, until three months later when the same thing happened again.

I inspected this sewer, and eventually a hole was dug alongside the pipe and, obviously, there was a break in it. No doubt the pipe could easily have been replaced by the Housing Commission, but this was not done. The last time the tenant complained the pipe was just cleaned out again, but this was not done on his request. I made an approach to the parliamentary liaison officer of the State Housing Commission (Mr Harvey) to have something done for this person. In 12 months three leaks had appeared in his house which he had asked to be rectified. One leak in the lounge room, was so bad it had worn a

hole in the plaster ceiling, and the tenant had placed a bucket on the floor to catch the water which he had to empty outside from time to time. Another leak occurred over his stove, and another appeared in the laundry over the washing machine, but the repairs that were effected appear to have been useless. Some months before he had pointed out to the inspector that his daughter's bedroom was in a dangerous condition. One could see that the ceiling was badly affected, and the inspector said to the tenant, "No problems; we will fix it. All will be well." However nothing was done in regard to that problem.

When one looks at the painting that was done in the main bedroom by one of the subcontractors not more than a month ago one will find the paint peeling off. The job reminded me of my amateurish efforts when painting. I put the paint on and hope that it will stick there for 12 months when I can buy another lot of cheap paint and do the job again. This is the type of job these tenants are getting from the subcontractors concerned. In this instance it was obviously a shoddy painting job, and I pointed this out to the State Housing Commission. I did not get any results, so I wrote another letter in which I suggested a proposition to the General Manager of the State Housing Commission. I quote from this letter—

I would imagine if the Manager of the Housing Commission had to have a bucket in his office to catch water leaking through the roof, it would be repaired smartly.

Within two days all the problems of this tenant were overcome. People were sent out to replace the roof, and the contractor said, "I do not know how it stood up; there would not be more than half a dozen tacks holding the ceiling up." The roof of this house has been fixed, the sewer has been fixed, and everything appears to be okay for this particular tenant, except that nothing was done in regard to the painting outside the house.

I have no desire continually to harass the Housing Commission, but surely there must be a change in its attitude. Surely there must be a realisation that we must expect better than this for our people and, as far as I am concerned, as the member for Swan, I certainly want a little better for the people in the Swan electorate. Other members can look after their own electorates, and I await to see some consciences of the officers of the State Housing Commission being pricked, if they be at fault, so that an endeavour will be made to do something about the terrible conditions under which the people in my electorate are expected to exist. I do not wish to belabour the question any longer, but in the issue of the *Swan Express* of Friday, June, 1974, the following headline appears—

SHC Flats Neglected

I ask members to read the article, because it is truthful. If the Minister for Housing does not think so I will take him to those flats and, in going through this Press report paragraph by paragraph, point out to him the faults that have been mentioned. They do exist. They are not a figment of journalistic imagination. The truth is that people have been asked to suffer indignities in regard to housing and it is time this was stopped.

I am not quite finished with the question of the housing scandal or the saga of lack of maintenance, or whatever it may be called. I can say that at last I have received an acknowledgment from Mr McKenna today regarding some points I raised some time ago, and it was the first acknowledgment I have had. What is the reply? What does it give me in the way of something concrete being done; something which I can expect? It does not give me anything. Instead, it is full of generalities.

All the letter says is: We may do this if we get some money. We may update some of our programmes. The letter is full of these sorts of platitudes and the good things that may happen, so I may be excused if I ask: What is the intention of the Housing Commission regarding the question of housing and the problems that have been besetting the tenants for years?

There was another chap who was allotted a house and who made a complaint to me, and I went down to have a look at his home. One of the gutters was leaking. The plumbers had visited the house and had blocked off one end of the gutter, put a spout at the other end and as a result all of the water was running down at the back door. Maybe if I approached the Housing Commission about the matter it could be said there would be no problem and it would send someone out with a load of sand and do a job similar to that which it had done at Lockridge. Speaking of Lockridge, I find myself unable to understand the attitude that has been adopted by officers of the Housing Commission. They seem to think that housing merely entails the erection of four walls, a ceiling and a floor; that this is sufficient to keep people adequately housed. That is not my attitude and I believe it is not the attitude of most of the members of this House.

All in all, I find that the building of the flats at Lockridge, in which many of my constituents have to live and who have to suffer the indignities imposed upon them by the very nature of the construction of the flats, is the cause of the break-up of many homes because of the disagreements which occur between man and wife. As a result I have taken on the role, in many instances, of a marriage counsellor in trying to do my best to overcome the problem of a home being broken up as a result of the continual interference of neighbours, and the continual sniping

of children in this situation. At Lockridge there is no organisation to provide any sort of facility or any area where children can play and enjoy themselves under strict supervision.

The situation is so bad at Lockridge that if a housewife hangs out her washing she has to stay home from work to watch it otherwise it will disappear. It would have been far better if these flats had never been constructed. They are merely a stop gap. That is the best thing I can say about them. If one were to look at the construction of these flats one would realise that they only encourage the type of activity that prevails there—Peeping Toms who look through the windows at women living there; the type of people who seem to think that every unmarried mother or deserted wife is prey to them. That is not a figment of imagination. Reports have been made to the police and it is in regard to these sorts of cases that we have tried to seek police protection. At least we have been successful in having another policeman appointed to the Lockridge Police Station. The flats are built in such a way that they lend themselves to the activities of these particular people. When one goes onto the first floor of the building there is a ring of balconies and all that one has to do is to go from one flat to another and to knock on the door. If someone answers all one has to say is: "I am looking for flat 35," and so one can gradually work one's way around all the 40 flats and any 10 of the tenants who may be women could be attacked by any Peeping Tom or pervert.

How easy it would have been to avoid such a situation with a little clear thinking and common sense being applied to the construction of these flats. On my recent trip overseas I was able to observe, in four countries—

The **SPEAKER**: The member has five minutes.

Mr **SKIDMORE**: In the limited time available to me I would point out that the flats I inspected were constructed so that the tenants of blocks of six flats had access up one staircase. This meant that each flat had its own private entrance. Therefore no person would have any reason to go around all the flats in that particular block to find the person for whom he was looking. One could easily be challenged on the question of being on the premises, because there was a choice of inquiring at only six flats and not 40. Therefore if such a policy were followed with the construction of flats in our State it may not be the total solution but it would certainly be a help in regard to solving a situation with which the people at Lockridge are faced.

Quite frankly, I do believe—and perhaps it may be an exaggeration—that if I were to cut my toenails in the bathroom of one of those flats the people in the

living room of the next-door flat could hear me. The conditions are shocking. One cannot have a decent argument with one's wife unless one's neighbour gets to hear about it. What happens is that the neighbour takes one over to the pub and as a result one gets into more trouble than when one started! Seriously, the question of housing surely must concern all Governments. Surely there must be a realisation, both by the Federal and State Governments, that something more must be done for our people than has been done up to date.

If there is blame to be laid on anybody I do not lay it at anybody's door in particular. I have certainly criticised the State Housing Commission because I conscientiously believe I should and because I am not satisfied that it is administering to the best of its ability what accommodation it does have. If the commission carried out some maintenance on houses occupied by tenants we would not be in the position we are in today.

In conclusion I might say that when I first came into this House I was greeted with terms such as, "Jack, you are coming into this House as a member of Parliament and you should not interject or heckle until you have made your maiden speech." Mr Speaker, I resume my seat as a professional heckler.

MR WATT (Albany) (6.00 p.m.): I would like to begin my remarks by extending congratulations to you Mr Speaker, upon your election to the high position you hold in this House. It is, of course, a high honour and one which you have well deserved. I am quite sure you will fill the position with both dignity and impartiality. I would like also to congratulate those members who, like myself, are new to this House. I hope they will retain the altruistic motives which prompted them to stand for Parliament. Of course, the same must be said of the old members who were re-elected.

I feel I should comment on my election to this House because it is the first time ever that the seat of Albany has been held by the Liberal Party. I realise that the electors of Albany have placed their faith in me, and I will endeavour to honour my commitment to them during my time in Parliament.

As the representative of a country electorate I believe I would be failing in my duty if I did not use this opportunity to bring to the attention of Parliament, however briefly, some of the difficulties which are faced by people living in the country regions of Western Australia—more especially by those who live in Albany.

It is my opinion that there is an attempt to drive a wedge between city and country dwellers. The wedge is being driven

by many different influences, the greatest of these being the Commonwealth Government.

Since taking office the Commonwealth Government has introduced a series of measures which one can only assume are intended to discourage people from living in the country while, at the same time, it has been wooing the city electorates where the bulk of the electoral strength lies. For example, Western Australia is represented by 10 Federal seats whereas the metropolitan regions of Sydney and its suburbs are represented by almost three times as many members, totalling 27. I am not one of those who believe that the country is the backbone of Australia, nor do I believe that the reverse applies. It is my opinion that we are each dependent on the other, and only by co-operation and a little self-sacrifice can we prosper.

The disadvantages of country life are many. The recently announced removal of the petrol subsidy, which was a vicious blow; the withdrawal of the superphosphate bounty; and the withdrawal of many tax concessions have all had a seriously detrimental effect on country people. I am told by my wife that every item on the family food bill averages 2c more than the price charged in city shops because of the exorbitant freight charges which are applied to commodities of almost every description.

The cost of building an average family home is thousands of dollars higher in the country than it is in the city. Timber prices are higher even though in many cases the timber comes from local mills. In Albany, the price of a yard of concrete is approximately double the Perth price despite the fact that the blue metal is quarried locally.

Most country areas suffer from a severe lack of specialist medical facilities, yet no concessions or facilities are available to mothers who find it necessary to bring children to Perth for treatment. Those people living in the country must bear the considerable additional expense of travel and accommodation, which must be added to the cost of treatment. Of course, the same applies if country people wish to take advantage of any of the arts, culture, entertainment, or sporting events which city people take for granted.

Perhaps the most difficult problem for country people to solve is that of attracting industry to their regions. When looked at from a common-sense point of view, it should readily be seen that the dangers of too great a concentration of urbanisation and industry in any one area could be serious. The old saying of, "Not keeping all your eggs in one basket" was never more true.

In his speech last week the member for Morley referred to the fact that Australia is the most urbanised country in the

world and he advocated limiting the growth of the cities. Of course, he is quite right. When industry and population are concentrated in one area they become terribly vulnerable to a number of possible consequences. I refer to the possible consequences of natural disasters which are quite alarming such as fire, earthquake, and any other similar unforeseen occurrences in areas of great concentration.

In the event of hostilities a foreign aggressor would certainly be attracted by a massive build-up of industry and population, despite the suggestion by the Federal Government that we need not worry about any such event for the next 15 years. There is also the possible consequence of drought, resulting in a shortage of water. This applies equally to the provision of most essential services, including power, transport, and communications.

It is essential that positive steps be taken to provide the major regional centres with adequate facilities so that they can compete with the cities on an equal basis, to attract both industry and people.

The highest priority for the Albany region is an adequate water supply, and I hope this Government will proceed with a minimum of delay with detailed planning and survey work for a scheme of this nature.

The incentives offered to industries which are prepared to decentralise in the Eastern States appear to be most effective. I refer in particular to pay-roll tax relief and the opportunity for local authorities to offer incentives and assistance. I believe we must look at similar schemes in Western Australia as soon as possible, despite the very difficult economic climate. Any industrial success in the Albany region, of necessity, would need to be based on those industries which already exist and are natural to the region. I will mention two industries, the first of which is wool, which is grown in prolific quantities in the region, and secondly, the Port of Albany. It is ludicrous that of approximately 350 000 bales of wool produced in the Albany region, in the last wool selling season, only 110 000 bales were sold through Albany Woolstores Pty. Ltd. That represents less than one-third of the production. Of that 110 000 bales, only 36 500 were shipped through the Port of Albany, representing just over 10 per cent of the wool produced in the region. We must seek to encourage, by incentives or other means, a higher proportion of this business through the port.

One area where, perhaps, more effort could be made is that covered by the private buyers. A great deal of the wool is being sold privately and little, or none, of it is being shipped through the Port of Albany.

Another natural industry which Albany has is tourism. The Albany Town Council has recently taken a bold and unique step in appointing Dr Alfred Kaufmann to the position of full-time promotion officer. I understand this is the first time an appointment of this nature has been made in Western Australia. Dr Kaufmann comes to Albany with a record of highly successful promotional activities, and his appointment is an indication of the desire, at the local level, to develop the Albany region—and I emphasise “the Albany region”.

I wish now to refer to the matter of finance for local authorities and, in particular, the income they might expect to receive by way of road funds from the Commonwealth Government. It is quite unrealistic that shire councils are being kept in the dark concerning the road funds to be allocated to them. Until that information is known they are unable to strike a new budget.

Last year the Albany Town Council had a works programme of \$260 000 of which half could be spent according to its own priorities while the other half had to be spent on works approved by the Main Roads Department. Albany expects to receive the same sum of money this year. However, with increased wages, plant costs, and other known increases, the value of that \$260 000 will be effectively reduced by 40 per cent. If that is to be the case this year, how much worse will it be next year, and the year after, when the shires will be offered less money? In addition, the whole of the works programme this year must be approved not only by the State Minister for Transport, but also by the Federal Minister for Transport.

Now I ask: What would the Federal Minister for Transport know about local conditions? The Governor, in his Speech to Parliament, said—

The road funds offered by the Commonwealth Government are grossly inadequate . . .

That must be the understatement of the year. I find it quite beyond my comprehension that the amounts offered can actually decrease in the present highly inflationary times. I understand that the amount offered by the Commonwealth for country roads, for this year, is \$7.7 million, and for the four years to follow the figures are \$7.3 million, \$6.6 million, \$6.6 million, and \$6.8 million. On the other hand, during the financial year 1972-73 the Commonwealth Government received revenue amounting to \$7 737 million. During 1973-74 it received \$10 739 million, an increase of about 39 per cent.

It is my contention that because local authorities are to administer these funds for their road works programmes, and must therefore bear the effects of this rampant inflation, they ought to be entitled to an increase proportionate to that

received by the Commonwealth. In other words, an increase of over \$3 million each year is required just to keep pace, and the shire councils are actually being offered less. The result is that shires are then forced to increase rates by over 50 per cent in many cases, which is highly inflationary. They are also being forced to retrench staff, many of whom will no doubt join the drift to the cities.

I am not a secessionist but it is little wonder that people think in that direction when we receive such little co-operation from our Federal Government.

The Premier mentioned that a top-level inquiry is to be held into all forms of rates and taxes. Some charges have been equalised, such as electricity which was an excellent move. However, there are vast differences in the rates paid for water, and when the inquiry is conducted I am sure this aspect will be covered.

Bearing in mind my earlier comment that I see city and country as interdependent, each upon the other, I cannot see why an average rate for water charges cannot be implemented over the whole of the State. It is no wonder that country people sometimes feel they are second-class citizens. I acknowledge the high cost of providing water services in country regions, but I do not accept the argument that any one section of the community should be asked to bear a higher cost than another section. The same argument applies with regard to telephone charges in rural areas but, of course, that is a Federal matter.

Before concluding, Mr Speaker, I would like to refer to one other matter. In recent weeks and, indeed, for many years, there has been public criticism of the Police Force. Perhaps it may be more accurate to say that there has been criticism of some sections of the Police Force.

I would not be so naive as to suggest that all members of our Police Force are paragons of virtue, nor would I suggest that there are not areas in which some improvements could be of benefit. However, I would say that on the whole we have a very efficient and dedicated team of men who are charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order in the community, and I believe they do it well. There are a few scoundrels in every profession, and those few who are in the Police Force do themselves and their fellow officers no credit.

Police officers are called on to do a wide variety of jobs which are far less obvious than such things as attending protest rallies and manning traffic patrols. For example, it frequently falls on the shoulders of a policeman to inform the relatives of a deceased person of that fact; a job which requires tact, compassion, and a great deal of sensitivity.

Policemen are called on to do many other jobs, sometimes in appalling weather conditions. They are frequently called on

to search for a child or an elderly person who is missing or, in the area which I represent, search for persons who are lost on the rugged coastline. I am satisfied that the public at large do appreciate the work done by what I believe is a very fine Police Force. As is the case in so many other avenues, it is the noisy minority which attempts to discredit the Police Force and undermine the public confidence in this most essential service.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [7.30 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Speaker; I am sure you will do a wonderful job. I sincerely hope that the Sergeant-at-Arms will not be given any jobs by you as far as I am concerned.

I wish to speak on a few subjects, and particularly about one matter I mentioned last year—the Medical School crisis. I moved a motion last year in regard to the number of medical students who had passed their first year examinations and who were unable to continue into second year because of the rigid quota imposed on the Medical School by the other faculties of the university. We realised this was because of the shortage of money and that each faculty must have its share of the available funds.

At the end of 1972, 51 students had passed four units in the first year of medicine but they were not allowed to continue into second year. It was estimated that by the end of 1973 about 60 students would have passed first year but would not be permitted to continue into second year. In the motion I moved in this House I said that the Government of the day had failed to take any steps to deal with this problem, and that it had failed to negotiate at all with any of the administration of the Medical School. You will remember, Mr Speaker, that eventually the solution to the problem was so simple that it is very difficult to know why no-one had thought of it earlier. Negotiations with the heads of the different departments within the medical faculty encouraged these people to take extra students after the first year.

At the moment our university is turning out 60 doctors a year. In two years' time about 90 doctors will be qualifying each year. Members will know that we import 25 foreign doctors into Western Australia each year, and yet we had this iniquitous situation where plenty of young people who wished to study medicine and who had successfully completed the first year were denied the right to continue.

I felt so strongly about this matter last year that I spoke to my leader about it and he encouraged me to move my motion. I am not at all sorry that I took this action because we showed the Government of the day, now the Opposition, why

it should be the Opposition and we should be the Government. The Government of the day approached the Prime Minister but the problem was only partly remedied by the money supplied from the Federal Government. I felt, and my leader felt, that the money could be made available by the State on a short-term basis to permit the students to continue through Medical School and at the same time to negotiate with the Australian Universities Commission to take the financial responsibility for the extra students for the next triennium. We have been able to achieve this.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: What have you achieved?

Dr DADOUR: I will tell the Leader of the Opposition shortly; we have achieved quite a lot.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Yes, but what?

Dr DADOUR: Let me tell my story in the way I wish to tell it. The Government of the day, the present Opposition—I like saying that, it sounds very nice—approached Mr Whitlam and after some time, 10 extra students were permitted to continue for 1973, and 10 extra for this year. The quota for second year is 90 students at the moment, so this meant 100 students were to go into second year. However, this was to be the end of it—20 more students would be given the privilege to go on to study medicine, but after that no more.

We have been the Government for a very short time, and yet we have achieved quite a deal. The number of students studying second-year medicine will be increased, and bridging finance has been arranged to construct more laboratories for the physiology department.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: How many more?

Dr DADOUR: These laboratories will be necessary for the extra students coming into the clinical years.

In the next few years we will have to find more teaching beds, and it is very fortunate that we have been offered the St. John of God Hospital, Subiaco, as a teaching hospital. The nuns have offered the hospital in this way, and I am sure that we, as a Government, will accept the offer. We will have an additional 400 beds—already existing beds.

In the few months we have been the Government, we have shown what we can do when we really try.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Tell us what you have done. How many more students will be taken?

Dr DADOUR: It is my prediction that beginning in 1975, 120 students will be admitted into second year; that is, another 20 students more than the number accepted into second year in 1974. Members

will see that this is the original 90 students, plus the extra 10 places negotiated by the previous Government, plus another 20 negotiated by our Government. That is no mean feat. We must remember that we need these doctors—we are extremely short of doctors in Western Australia.

It must be borne in mind that whilst our quota was limited to 90 second-year students, we imported 25 foreign doctors each year. And yet successful first-year students were denied their right to study medicine. In some cases students were permitted to repeat the year they had passed in an endeavour to obtain higher marks in the next 12 months. However, they were then penalised in two ways. Firstly, they lost their Commonwealth scholarships for that year, although they had passed their examinations; and secondly, they were further embarrassed because they had to obtain 8 per cent higher marks than the people doing first year for the first time.

I sincerely hope that the extra places in second year will go to these disadvantaged students who were denied the right to continue even though they had passed their examinations. I would not like to see people with a tertiary degree—PhD, DSc, MSc—in another faculty being given precedence over young people who have just left school. Some of the students who have not been able to continue have gone into law, dentistry, or some other field, and we have probably lost some very fine doctors in this way.

I remember the Minister for Health in the previous Government saying quite clearly that many of the youngsters who had passed four units in the first year and who were not permitted to continue into second year were “dicey” students. I cannot get over such a statement because students who passed the first-year examinations have shown that they are of the right material to continue on to become doctors. Students who are getting the very high marks at the examinations probably will not become general practitioners. The student who has to work extremely hard to pass the medical course usually will become the good solid general practitioner. He is not afraid of hard work because he had to work mighty hard to get through the course.

If the decision were in my hands, I would suggest a few “bumper” years. It would be wonderful to accept 200 students for a few years to take up the backlog of students who were denied their right to continue. Against their better judgment, some of these youngsters entered other faculties at the university. If these students still wished to do medicine, I would like to see them given their chance. Perhaps something along these lines would be possible with further negotiation, but we know there is a limit to the amount of money that can be supplied.

With the increased number of students we will need more teaching hospital beds. Members must realise that running a hospital bed is very costly—approximately \$30 000 a year for each bed in Western Australia. It costs \$80 per day for a teaching hospital bed, so members will see that my figure of \$30 000 per annum is justified. We now have this 400-bed hospital offered to us as a teaching hospital at a cost of approximately \$120 000—about the cost of four teaching beds in a Government teaching hospital. We certainly cannot complain about this offer. Of course, a few provisos have been added. The first is that the beds will remain under the jurisdiction of the nuns. This is a good thing because in this way St. John of God will never become a financial embarrassment to us as the other teaching hospitals have done. Here we have been offered 400 extra beds at almost no extra cost.

Yet we find that there has been wrangling about this. There are actually people in the medical and paramedical professions and the administrative areas who have decided they do not want such a scheme. I ask myself, "Why should they not want this?" Surely, from the point of view of economics and of fate dealing us a kind blow by providing this money at the moment we need teaching hospital beds more than ever, we should want this scheme to be put into effect.

Why is there some wrangling going on? The answer is quite obvious to me. These people have an ulterior motive. In May, the medical faculty agreed unanimously to accept St. John of God Hospital at Subiaco as a teaching hospital. St. John of God Hospital at Belmont has also been offered, but we are looking now only at the hospital in Subiaco. This recommendation was then given to the vice-chancellor who, instead of taking it straight to the University Senate for consideration, took it to the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council.

Are members aware that body was established two years ago and has been wallowing around in inertia ever since, meeting only once every three months? I can refer to it only as an abortion of a council, in so far as it is a complete failure. The proposal to establish it is not even worth the paper it is written on. Whoever contrived this council leaves me for dead. I just do not know how we ever accepted it or how it got through this place. This council has been wallowing in inertia.

Unfortunately the vice-chancellor passed the recommendation to use St. John's, Subiaco, as a teaching hospital to the council for its comments. Members should recall that two members from each of the teaching hospitals are on the advisory council and hence we find ourselves dealing with the same old people as they are on the

Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council. It is obvious that a power struggle exists between the Royal Perth Hospital and the Perth Medical Centre. They are vying very hard with each other at the moment to see which can be the most incompetent—and I do not mean "maybe".

Delaying tactics appear to have been adopted by the advisory council. The recommendation was referred to a subcommittee which was to ascertain whether St. John of God could become a teaching hospital. I have an idea that the preliminary report will be presented to the advisory council this Thursday and will refer not only to the question of St. John of God but also to the 10-year programme to which the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Professor Lennon) referred in his report relating to teaching hospital bed requirements in the metropolitan area for the next 10 years.

I can visualise what type of report would be presented. It will be, without a doubt, like this, "St. John of God Subiaco does not have any facilities for students. It has no change rooms for students." What type of units will be required? Will there be midwifery units? Will it be feasible to have a surgical unit? A common room, and this and that for the students will have to be found. This will be the tenor of the report.

But I ask myself the same old question: What happened with St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne when they became teaching hospitals? There was none of this fuss; they both became extremely well-run teaching hospitals as without a doubt St. John's will become. St. John of God, Subiaco, turns out some of the best trained nurses in the State and it will do the same with doctors. For a number of years, St. John's has been training three or four doctors each year in the midwifery unit, and these doctors have come out and made excellent general practitioners. So, that hospital has already had some teaching experience locally. There will be no extra charge on the community by making St. John's a teaching hospital. I can see that in years to come a medical faculty block will need to be incorporated into St. John of God. However, this is something for the future. Surely such a proposal could go before the Universities Commission in years to come and the money could be allocated in that way.

Under present circumstances, St. John's can take the students in 1975, provided we approve this proposal. It should be borne in mind that the recommendation has been approved by the Senate of the University and by the faculty of medicine, and it has only to be approved by the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council, the subcommittee of which will be reporting shortly. However, I pray that common sense will prevail and that the council will not delay any longer, for if it does it

will jeopardise the whole progress this Government has made. The Government has made good progress. The Premier has been excellent in his deliberations, and he has left no stone unturned. Whenever I have called on him with queries relating to this subject, he has been to the fore. As members would know, I am still very interested in this matter as I am in proposals dealt with in some of the other motions and questions I have put before the House in the past and which I also hope to see coming to fruition. Hence, we find ourselves awaiting the next move by the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council.

Let us look at the facts. We need more doctors. More people wish to study to become doctors, and this assertion is borne out by the fact that the medical quota is filled. I think an aspiring medical student must achieve a quota of about 360 or 380 to gain entrance, compared with a normal university entrance quota of only 290. More teaching beds are needed and St. John of God Hospital has made itself available. As I said, I cannot visualise St. John's ever becoming the financial embarrassment that the Royal Perth Hospital, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital, and the King Edward Memorial Hospital have become to the Government. If the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council continues to delay on this matter, the Government must step in fairly quickly and remedy the situation, because the Government could easily get caught up in the great war as to which hospital is to become the bigger and the better teaching hospital. A continual war is being waged about which hospital is to get what money, when and if it is available. True, they are thinking of the patients—of course they are. However, I do not know what priority the patients are given; I should think it is about tenth.

Initially, the teaching hospitals are thinking of themselves and their empires. But these empires must be whittled down. We have to get some rhyme and reason back into the situation. We have been wallowing around for so long. If members looked at the total scene, they would see that we require hundreds of millions of dollars in capital expenditure to build teaching hospitals in the metropolitan area, yet we receive only \$9.2 million or thereabouts each year for hospitals, unless we are given a kindly handout of a little extra from Mr Whitlam. The Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will cost an additional \$100 million in capital expenditure if we are to carry out what has already been approved.

Let us take the Royal Perth Hospital. If that hospital were to build its diagnostic block and back-up facilities, it would cost another \$100 million. My argument is not that we should not build these facilities, but that we should keep in mind the capital expenditure involved. King Ed-

ward Memorial Hospital requires \$13 million in capital expenditure and the Princess Margaret Hospital requires \$14 million. Poor old Fremantle Hospital! As the member for Fremantle would know, the Fremantle Hospital is wallowing around down there with the few million dollars which has been handed to it. Fremantle Hospital always seems to suffer. If we are in Government, we cannot win the seat of Fremantle anyway and we do nothing. If members opposite are in Government, they have won Fremantle and, once again, they give the hospital nothing.

Mr O'Neill: The seat of Fremantle has a reasonably good member.

Dr DADOUR: It has a good member, but nobody listens to him.

Mr Grayden: We all have a great regard for him and listen to him.

Dr DADOUR: Mr Speaker, I am getting sidetracked a little. I impress on all concerned that, in some way or another, we must obtain approval to establish St. John of God, Subiaco, as a teaching hospital so that the authorities have time to gear up for the 1975 intake of extra students.

A number of other problems are associated with our hospitals and our teaching hospitals in particular. We now have a wonderful rapport with most university professors and I believe we can now make some approach as to what way we as a Government would like to see as being the end results to doctor training. We would like to see our teaching hospitals run a little differently. As members know, after a student has completed his final examinations in his sixth year, he becomes a junior medical resident officer at a hospital. Patients are admitted to wards and if the resident is working in a ward situation under one of the honoraries or specialists, he will be in charge of that admission.

He carries out a physical examination of a person being admitted. He takes a full detailed history of that person and he arrives at what we call a differential diagnosis. It may consist of nine different things. He then says, "I should now do some pathological, X-ray and other tests". Unfortunately, because time does not permit more efficient supervision, a whole battery of tests is carried out on these patients. Quite often, just by the stroke of a pen, these tests can cost as much as \$1 000. There is no reason for such a battery of tests to be carried out because if the registrar, who could be a third year resident or higher and who is more experienced does his job properly, he would veto the proposals to carry out so many tests, as was done in my day. Things have not changed materially, except that probably students do not have the same feeling as to whether they should or should not do things.

What should occur is that the resident examines the patient and says, "The positive indications are such and such and in my opinion he has X condition. But I would like to carry out certain tests." The resident may want to do an X-ray test, a barium meal X-ray or some other test which is relevant to the differential diagnosis. He presents this to the registrar who says, "All right, that is feasible. You do those tests." When the results come back, the resident examines them and takes them to the registrar or the honorary medical officer and says, "What do you think of these?" He comes up with a diagnosis, but if he is unable to come up with a diagnosis he may then choose to carry out more tests and take another detailed history or carry out another detailed physical examination of the patient. In this way, he will come up with a diagnosis. But at the moment the situation is fairly unsupervised.

The resident is frightened of making a mistake. He is left to his own devices and rather than be humiliated in front of a bunch of students not far behind him, when he is asked by the honorary or senior physician what the diagnosis is, he orders all the tests so that he can give a diagnosis. He then cannot be asked why he did not do this test or that test. Not only will the resident order these tests which are \$40 or \$50 a pop, but he will order daily tests on the same problems. Consequently if a person is in hospital for 14 days the only way he has of getting out before he is bled to death is by discharge. No-one vets the instructions and the Government is being embarrassed to the order of thousands of dollars.

Sir Charles Court: I think I had better send this speech to the Under-Treasurer.

Dr DADOUR: What I am stating is a fact. All I am asking is that this type of action be vetted. It is being vetted at Sir Charles Gairdner now. However, I would like it to be done at King Edward and at Royal Perth and other teaching hospitals. Each one of these hospitals is as guilty as the other on this score because the methods of teaching have deteriorated. So much blood is being taken from patients now that soon they will need a transfusion.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Why not have a talk to the Premier? He will put things right.

Dr DADOUR: I have spoken to him about this.

Sir Charles Court: He is not doing badly.

Dr DADOUR: If the Leader of the Opposition had listened to my speech a little earlier he would have heard me say that.

Mr B. T. Burke: And he has been very co-operative, too?

Dr DADOUR: He has been.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Why has he not put it right? Why are you still complaining?

Dr DADOUR: We have been in office for only three months. The Labor Government was in office for three years. We are winning the battles.

Mr May: You were in office for 12 years.

Sir Charles Court: What a glorious 12 years.

Dr DADOUR: Someone was in office for 12 years. I was not. I have only just come on the scene. I am in a difficult position in the back benches of the Government getting sniped at.

One way in which we can probably improve the situation is through the doctors. They are good and well trained because our Western Australian faculty turns out doctors equal to the very best in Australia and they are as good as doctors anywhere in the world. However, they are left to their own devices too much and this is costing plenty. We have enough registrars and so on to vet the actions of the doctors. The registrars should be helping rather than ridiculing. When a specialist complains because a certain test has not been carried out, the registrar involved should stand up with the resident and indicate that they did not think the test was necessary.

Are we turning out the complete doctor? Many of the departments in our hospitals are working in isolation as are many of the people in the paramedical fields.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Do you not have to have isolation wards?

Dr DADOUR: Yes, but that is not the kind of isolation I mean. The social workers, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists are not working as a team with the doctor. We find, for instance, that social workers will investigate the social history of every patient who goes through the hospital in both the out-patients and in-patients departments. They are working separately from the doctor. That is what I mean when I refer to isolation. The doctor should refer a patient to the social worker for help with a housing problem, for instance, so that on discharge that patient will have a place to which he can go. In other words these various welfare workers should consult a patient only on instruction from the doctor. The social workers are very expensive to retain and they should be used properly.

During his training a doctor should be taught how to use these people because, as I have said, they are extremely costly. When he is in general practice, a doctor must be his own social worker and he then calls for help only when it is needed. They are there to help him because he is in charge of the patient's total needs—physical, mental, and social. The same applies to doctors in hospitals. If we do not utilise

these workers correctly, we will find we will not have enough to go around. We will find there will be specialities and smaller specialities. This would not do because our health needs must be costed.

I now wish to deal with some problems in my electorate, the first being a Bill introduced last year to amend the Local Government Act. The principle of the Bill was that before any amalgamation or annexation of any local authority could occur, a referendum of the people had to be held. As most members would know, that Bill was defeated by the Government's devastating majority of one. However, I am sure the Bill will come before Parliament this session, and I hope this time it will be passed thus ensuring that before any local authority is amalgamated, or has parts annexed, a referendum will be held. The final details will have to be worked out. This is our policy and I am sure such a Bill will be passed.

I also wish to deal with the problem created by the traffic in the Shenton Park-Subiaco area. This traffic has increased as a result of the growth of the Perth Medical Centre. I spoke on this subject last year and I have already pursued the matter again this year, as has also the Minister for Industrial Development. We have made inquiries of the Minister for Transport who, at the moment, is not present in the House. He has not yet come up with the right answers, but I am sure he will do so.

Bottlenecks are occurring in the subways in the area. At the Nicholson Road subway, and the Hay Street subway, traffic is unable to make a right-hand turn into Railway Road when it is travelling from the north to the south. Such traffic must now continue on, then utilise a few side streets to get back into Railway Road and then go on to Fremantle. Anyone using those subways in the morning or evening will know about the bottlenecks of which I am speaking.

The situation is becoming worse and as a result the road along the lovely lake in Shenton Park is becoming a speedway and the residents are suffering from the noise, vibration, dust, and traffic danger which results. This situation occurs not once, twice, or three times a day, but five times a day. As the traffic is heavy for half an hour before and half an hour after the duty rosters at the centre, the residents suffer for five hours a day.

I have appealed to the Minister to open up the subway and I have asked for an extension to be made of Aberdare Road across the railway line, but I was told that because of the shortage of funds and the uncertain future of the railway line, and many other factors, the Government was unable to proceed with that project.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Dr DADOUR: I promptly wrote back to the Minister and frankly stated that I would have expected such an answer from his predecessor, but not from him, and that I wanted action. We must have action because we cannot ask the people to continue under the present conditions. Many residents who have been in the area for 20 to 50 years have moved away because of the noise and vibration which are becoming worse every day. Cracks are beginning to appear in walls.

The residents first went to live in the area because it was quiet, but now they find they are in one of the rowdiest areas in Perth. Does the Perth Medical Centre do anything? Oh no! When I requested it to establish an internal ring road I was told that it "may" be established, perhaps in three years. I then asked those concerned whether they expected me to help them get money allocated to them before it was allocated to Royal Perth Hospital. They said, "Oh, yes." I told them that if this was the case they had better think again because if they did not co-operate with me I did not see why I should co-operate with them. They could not care less about the traffic problem.

The Government would be very remiss if it did not do something to stem the increasing traffic and to reroute it out of the residential areas. An internal ring road must be established with points of ingress and egress carefully placed near main highways so that the traffic must use those main highways.

Arguments are occurring between residents in parallel streets. The residents in one street demand that a cul-de-sac be established, but then the residents in the other street argue that if that occurred their street would have to cater for twice the present traffic flow.

An overall plan must be established and put into operation as soon as possible. The necessary money must be found and spent. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR CARR (Geraldton) [8.14 p.m.]: At the beginning of my term as the member for Geraldton I wish to pay a brief tribute to my predecessor (Mr Sewell) who held the seat for 24 years from 1950 to 1974. During that time he displayed honesty and loyalty to his electorate, his leaders (Mr Hawke and Mr J. T. Tonkin), and his party. The strongest and main feature of his work in the electorate was done for the individuals in the town of Geraldton.

During the time I spent door-knocking prior to the election, many people were able to quote some particular instance in which Mr Sewell had helped them. This was the case in respect of many problems including pension problems, water supplies, State housing, and the like. He was involved in a number of achievements for the town and was instrumental in the

establishment of improved water supplies, harbour works, and a regional hospital, as well as improved educational facilities for Geraldton. Two examples of this latter are currently in progress. A new high school is to be opened in 1975 and I understand that a proposed technical school will also be constructed in that year.

Perhaps at this point it would be appropriate to mention that the new high school is to be named after another long-serving member for Geraldton. I refer, of course, to John Wilcock who was member for Geraldton from 1917 to 1947 and who was Premier of the State from 1936 to 1945.

Mr Sewell, like everybody else who retires, left some ambitions unfulfilled. His dearest wish was to make Geraldton a centre of education and culture. I may say here that I too am similarly interested in these two fields.

I now wish to turn to my role as the member for Geraldton and to my concern for the electorate. Although the electorate consists entirely of the town of Geraldton, my concern is for more than just the town. I must also be concerned for the surrounding region. Geraldton is a service centre for the regional area and it relies heavily on the regional area as the member for Greenough will appreciate. Geraldton is similarly of tremendous importance to the surrounding district.

Geraldton relies largely on two main industries—farming and crayfishing. The economy of Geraldton can be very seriously affected if these two industries fail together. In 1971 there was a rural slump and a bad season for crayfishing and the economy of Geraldton suffered badly. Another important aspect of Geraldton's economy is the Geraldton Building Company which is the largest building company north of Perth. It is largely responsible for service contracts in the north of the State.

The tourist industry has grown rapidly to become one of Geraldton's main industries. There is an increase both in people holidaying in Geraldton and in through traffic to the north.

There has been some diversification recently of the fishing industry to include prawning operations and wet fishing.

The advent of the mineral sands industry is also important. Mineral sands from Eneabba are transported to Geraldton where they are processed and then exported out of Geraldton. When people talk of the industrial future of Geraldton they frequently centre on the activities of the Northern Mining Company. This involves mining iron ore from the Weld Range and transporting it by a new standard gauge railway to a new port 10 miles north of Geraldton. I would like to spend some time on the Northern Mining proposal and tie it up with the general theme of decentralisation.

There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that up till now decentralisation has been merely a political expression; an empty word, and it is time that it was considered more constructively by all parties. This issue is of concern to all levels of Government; and it is an issue which concerns all residents, both urban and rural. Traditionally decentralisation has been based on small town parochialism—of country towns wanting to grow bigger and nothing very much has happened.

In recent years there has been a new motive for decentralisation and this has been due to urban discomfort; the cities are becoming too large, too polluted, and too uncomfortable. Perth was once affectionately known throughout Australia as the "pretty city", but now it is developing along the lines of a concrete jungle in the city centre with suburban sprawl on the outskirts.

I would like to refer to a Gallup poll survey which was quoted in the *Daily News* of the 20th March, 1974, which showed that over 60 per cent of the people of Australia would prefer to live away from city suburbs. It also showed a distinct demand for large noncapital cities. The particular Gallup poll did not indicate what it regarded as large noncapital cities but I would interpret it as meaning cities of 40 000 to 50 000 people. Hence we have the concept of growth centres; towns with sufficient industrial potential to achieve a fairly rapid growth development. One of the first of such centres in the Eastern States is the Albury-Wodonga area. Geraldton is one of a number of centres in Western Australia which is being considered as a future growth centre. If this takes place a major industry would be crucial and essential, and I believe Northern Mining would fit very well into this concept. The first stage of bringing iron ore from the Weld Range and shipping it out through Geraldton might not perhaps result in rapid industrial growth but the second stage, the establishment of a steelworks at Geraldton, would provide extensive employment opportunities and attract other associated industries.

At this point of time I am basically supporting the Northern Mining proposal, but before I give it my wholehearted support there are two problems which I would like to see overcome. The first of these is the environmental aspect. The project will need to be the subject of an environmental impact survey. However, I am reasonably confident Northern Mining would pass this satisfactorily. From the layman's point of view I feel we would not have the same trouble from the steelworks in relation to pollution as we do from some of the industries at Kwinana.

The second point which we would need to consider and overcome is that of Australian capital. Northern Mining is a small

company with a small paid up capital and requires a considerable amount of capital to enable it to proceed with its developments. I am sufficiently Australian to want to see a considerable degree of Australian ownership—preferably a greater part of the ownership should be Australian. However, I am led to believe the company is going fairly well with negotiations at the moment and these problems should be overcome.

I want to make a couple of general comments on development before leaving the matter. I am not one of those people who support development for development's sake. I am not one who feels that what is bigger need necessarily be better. I have always defined progress and development in human terms. I define progress as that which enables people to live happier, better, and fuller lives of their own choosing. To my mind Western Australia has a fairly poor experience in development. We have had 12 years in which many large and wonderful projects were initiated, but to my mind the 12 years in question did not provide sufficient advances in fields such as education, health, housing, and recreation for all Western Australia's residents.

I now turn away from the economy of Geraldton to the community facilities and what we may perhaps call the "people" issues in Geraldton. These have all been discussed in Geraldton and they are all issues I will be advocating to the best of my ability while I am in Parliament and through any other means which may be available to me.

In regard to the need for a bus service I would point out that Geraldton is a very centralised town. We have heard talk of Canberra's centralism and Perth's centralism, but Geraldton also is centralised. All its shopping facilities—its chemists' shops, banks, and so on are in the main street.

The suburbs of Geraldton are extending further from the centre of the town and we are experiencing an increasing problem with communication. I believe that a Geraldton transport trust should be established and that State, Federal, and local money should be used to provide bus services for Geraldton.

I would now like to refer to the important problem of the transport link from Geraldton to Perth. I understand that at the moment the WAGR road bus service is under a cloud. Together with other people I have made representations to the Minister and a decision on the matter is still forthcoming. We are hopeful that a favourable decision will be reached.

In referring to the community health centre I would point out that Geraldton is quite short of doctors and this, among other things, has led the Geraldton town council and the surrounding shires, together with the managing secretary of

the hospital, to prepare a submission for the establishment of a community health centre at Geraldton to provide accommodation for doctors, dentists, child health, infant health, mental health, and other paramedical facilities such as a family planning clinic.

I understand this submission is in the hands of the Public Health Department and no doubt the proposition will be forwarded to Canberra for consideration.

The second possibility concerning the problem of doctors at Geraldton is the possibility that final-year medical students should spend some time at the Geraldton Regional Hospital in a resident capacity.

I now turn to the proposal for a Moresby Range national park. This was fully discussed last year and I am aware that some of the Ministers in the Tonkin Government took steps towards bringing this to fruition. Geraldton has many scenic breakway hills above the town in which wildflowers are abundant and wildlife exists in its natural state. The area is ideal for a national park. I understand the Australian Government is prepared to purchase a property in the area and that it is still negotiating the purchase of a suitable property.

In dealing with the educational facilities the pre-school facilities have been quite critical in Geraldton and at present there are only two single-unit kindergartens plus one small unit especially for Aboriginal children. This has been to some extent relieved by the Federal Government providing a double-unit kindergarten in the Rangeway area for 1975. It will not completely overcome the problem because there are further facilities required in the Bluff Point and Tarcoola areas, and we hope the Federal Government will restore its pre-school programme when economic conditions permit. The same situation applies to child care facilities. One centre is being established at Wonthella which will reduce but not solve the problem, and here again we will be looking to the Federal Government to restore its child care programme as soon as possible. There are two areas needing new primary schools in Geraldton and we will require the establishment of a new primary school in the near future at the Anderson Street site at Bluff Point. Tarcoola is another growing centre without a school.

The high school and technical school facilities will be largely catered for at the moment provided the John Wilcock high school is opened next year and the technical school is built in 1975.

I now turn to a matter which I know concerns the people of Geraldton and country people generally. I refer to the cost of living and especially to the cost differential between Perth prices and country prices with particular emphasis on the mark-up on country prices as

against Perth prices. The excuse given for this is the freight cost. We are told that the Geraldton prices are so much higher than the Perth prices because of the freight involved. There is no attempt to justify or analyse these mark-ups except to say that the cost of freight must be taken into consideration. I have a strong suspicion that a large number of these mark-ups are excessive.

I would like to give a couple of examples of what is taking place and indicate firstly, that a bottle of beer costs 6c more in Geraldton than it does in Perth. The beer is transported in bulk by rail and I would be astonished if the freight cost was anything like 6c a bottle.

The second example to which I wish to refer concerns the purchase by a constituent of a lounge suite. The difference between the Perth price and the Geraldton price was exactly \$50—said to be the cost of the freight. The constituent eventually bought a four-piece lounge suite in Perth instead of a five-piece suite quoted, and railed it to Geraldton himself. The cost of the freight was \$4.90. So it can be seen that the most urgent need on this question of cost is whether these mark-ups for the cost of freight are justified.

Recently some of my political opponents were quoted as initiating an inquiry into costs to rural producers. I would like to quote from the *Geraldton Guardian* of the 4th July, 1974, which states—

A group of W.A. Government backbenchers will press for a full-scale inquiry into the costs of goods and services vital to primary producers.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Country Party Mr R. C. Old said the party had asked Mr McPharlin, the Deputy Premier, and its Parliamentary Leader, to discuss the matter with the Premier, Sir Charles Court.

Country Party members want a select committee appointed to make the inquiry soon after the new session of State Parliament opens at the end of the month.

I think this is a very good start. However, to my way of thinking, it is far too narrow. I have a wider concern than that expressed; my concern is for all of the country people and not just for the rural producers.

I am concerned with the farmers and fishermen, the wage and salary earners, the small businessmen, the pensioners, and the housewives who live in the country. If the proposal to which I have just referred is brought before Parliament—and I certainly hope it will be—I will be working to try to have it widened, and if it is widened I will certainly be doing all I can to be appointed to the committee to inquire into costs in country areas.

As well as looking at mark-ups, the inquiry would need to look at State charges, one of which was mentioned earlier this evening by the member for Albany; that is, the differential in water rates. The figures I have are \$27.50 per 100 000 gallons of water in Perth, compared with \$45 per 100 000 gallons in the country. I am not one who believes country people have an inherent right to cheaper or better goods and services, but I certainly believe they have a right to obtain things on the most equal basis possible. The committee of inquiry would need to look at rail and shipping charges to country areas, which were recently increased. With the differential between Perth and country prices increasing so rapidly, it is no wonder people in the country are expressing more and more concern about Perth centralists.

I would now like to turn from essentially electorate matters and speak about my wider role in Parliament. I want to spell out now my attitude to issues so that when people seek to judge me later on they will know the aims and attitudes on which I wish to be judged.

My entire political philosophy can be summed up in one word: freedom. I believe the laws should allow a person freedom to do whatever he wishes so long as it does not interfere with anyone else's equal right to live his life without interference. Our opponents in the parties of wealth and privilege understand one form of freedom. They speak about free enterprise. Free enterprise can be described in a number of ways; for example, freedom for the strong to exert their strength, freedom for the rich to make more money, and freedom for industry.

I am more concerned with freedom for individual people. I would like to run through some of the types of freedom to which I believe individual people are entitled. The first one is freedom from exploitation. I refer to the consumer protection legislation and compliment the Tonkin Government on the steps it took in this direction during the last three years. I would like to see further steps taken in price control because I believe the people have a right to be free from excessive marking up of prices. We have the situation that the State Government will not give power over prices to the Federal Government and will not use those powers itself.

I think people are entitled to freedom from injustice and that the system of law should reflect the concept of freedom I have just been outlining. Someone said here this afternoon that he supported law and order. I also support law and order, but not as it is expressed by Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Sir Robert Askin. I believe the rule of law should prevail, and I believe in an orderly society.

I want to refer to victimless crimes—crimes in which there is no victim, and in which a person supposedly commits an

offence, hurts nobody, and is punished severely. Another person might cause damage to people or property but be fined a smaller amount. As an example of this, some weeks ago two young men were convicted in Geraldton and fined \$1 000 each for growing cannabis for themselves. The next day an ABC news bulletin carried the story about a man who smashed the windshield of a motorcar with the barrel of a shotgun, put the shotgun into the car, and threatened to shoot the people in it. He was fined \$145. That is not consistent.

I now turn to the police. I believe the community is entitled to have a strong, impartial, and trusted Police Force. It is unfortunate that in recent times a number of question marks have been raised against our Police Force. The Forrest Place incident and the Exmouth numbers farce are examples. These incidents have created doubt about the Police Force, especially the incident at Exmouth, where a photograph was published in a newspaper showing a senior officer standing next to a man who was allegedly wearing a wrong number. This has affected public confidence in the Police Force. I believe generally we have a good Police Force and the public is entitled to have these doubts cleared up publicly. It is not sufficient for justice to be done. In a democratic community justice must be seen to be done.

We are entitled to freedom from discrimination, and perhaps the main field in which discrimination is exercised in the community at the moment concerns job opportunities. People may be prevented from getting jobs due to considerations of race, sex, religion or politics. Although these are largely community attitudes which must be resolved by the community, we should be framing legislation and turning our attention towards removing these injustices.

We are entitled to have freedom from fear; not just from physical fear but also from fear of financial insecurity. Once again I compliment the Tonkin Government on its work during the last three years in the field of workers' compensation, and its endeavour to relieve workers from the fear of being without work.

People are entitled to be free from want and poverty. This involves a number of rights to which I would like to refer. People have a right to work, and full employment should be the policy of all Governments at all times. I think Mr Billy Snedden, the Treasurer at the time of the 1971 Federal Budget, will be forever remembered for his decision deliberately to create a pool of unemployment. To the people who support that type of policy, I say they should be the first to volunteer to put it into practice.

People have a right to be housed, and I refer again to Geraldton, which is in a serious situation as far as accommodation is concerned. There are, in particular,

long waiting lists for pensioner flats and single accommodation. An updated State housing programme is desperately needed.

People have a right to health, or at least to health services at the cheapest possible cost, and it is great news to me that the national health scheme is at present in the process of being legislated into effect in the Federal Parliament. Another aspect of health is the Friendly Societies Pharmacies, and I return to costs in Perth compared with costs in the country. In the metropolitan area a number of Friendly Societies Pharmacies operate, and people can buy pharmaceutical goods at a lower price than in the country. This is blatant discrimination against people in the country. My greatest disappointment on seeing the Labor Government defeated in this State was that we will not again have legislation in this field introduced.

People have a right to education. In the Federal sphere, the Karmel committee's report to the Federal Government and proposals for the introduction of the recommendations in the Karmel report are a tremendous advance. More money than ever before is being made available, and Geraldton will receive benefits in this area in the form of a training centre for handicapped children, a camp school for outback children, new classrooms to replace prefabs at Allendale, a new high school, a hall-gymnasium for Geraldton High School, and a new technical school. These benefits have been facilitated by Federal money.

I cannot have the same confidence in the State Government's education policy. In fact, I regard it as a disgrace. I believe the Government is guilty of the misuse of children for electoral purposes. I believe the Liberal Party's education policy at the time of the election campaign was introduced with little or no discussion in educational or community circles. As a teacher, I am interested in what goes on in education, but I did not hear any discussion of the Liberal Party's education ideas prior to its policy speech. Perhaps one could ask why at election time the Liberal Party decided to introduce this education policy. I can make some suggestions as to the reason for it.

In January-February, the Karmel committee's report was a major topic of discussion. People were impressed by it and by the Labor Party's performance in education. The leader of the Liberal Party at the time—who is now the Premier—wanted to take people's minds off the Karmel committee report, so he put his hand into the lucky dip barrel of electoral gimmicks and pulled out the fate of Western Australian children. I say that is a matter for shame. What I have said is further borne out by the inability of the Premier and his Ministers to give accurate and specific answers to questions as to how the scheme will work and what it will cost.

We all have the right to recreation and leisure. We now have much more leisure time as society advances, and there is a need for Governments to provide a wide choice of opportunities for recreation. I hope the present Government will carry on the excellent work begun in the last couple of years under the Whitlam and Tonkin Governments.

Many of the points I have mentioned are State issues, at least constitutionally. They are also areas in which the Australian Labor Government is making a major contribution. Let us consider why this has become necessary.

Past State Governments have been financially unable, in many cases, and unwilling, in other cases, to undertake their responsibilities in these fields. Past Federal Governments have not been prepared to help. At last we have a humane Federal Government which has grasped the nettle and is doing something about these problems. Let us co-operate with it and get the best for Western Australia, rather than scream "centralism" every time the Federal Government does anything.

I would like to turn to the role of the ALP and myself in Opposition. I see the role of an Opposition as being to study and critically examine legislation, not to reject everything destructively. We should pick out the best of what is proposed by the Government and support it, and we should oppose what we consider to be undesirable. I hope we will consistently accept this constructive role, and not act as the previous Opposition did in the past three years.

I will give examples of how the previous Opposition was destructive; firstly, in relation to police traffic control. The Labor Government proposed police takeover of traffic control. The Liberal and Country Parties constantly "knocked" it. They have now come up with a plan which is basically similar to that proposed by the Labor Government, except for the higher cost of it. Frankly, I do not care whether we have police control of traffic or highway patrols. Either way, it is a State-wide takeover and represents a blatant switch in the attitude of the Liberal and Country Parties.

The second example is daylight saving. On three occasions a Bill was brought before the House by the Labor Government, proposing a one-year trial period. On each occasion the Bill was rejected. And what is one of the first measures the present Government introduces? A Daylight Saving Bill.

I turn now to what I regard as probably my main concern; that is, my concern for democracy. I do not think anything I have spoken about this evening is more important than the principles of a democratic society. The basic principle of a democratic society is that all people should

have an equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes. Let us have a look at a couple of aspects of democracy.

First of all I refer to electoral democracy, which means that all people should have an equal say in electing a Government. But do they? Let us have a look at the position in this House. The roll for Murchison-Eyre has on it 2 218 people, and there are 21 380 people on the roll for Canning. That means that there are 10 times as many voters needed to elect the member for Canning as there are to elect the member for Murchison-Eyre. To put it another way, each voter in Murchison-Eyre has 10 times the voting strength of a voter in Canning. This malapportionment is working against the Labor Party because we have a situation in which the Labor areas are grouped in large electorates, and those areas which support the Liberal and Country Parties are grouped in small electorates.

Let us consider the facts. We have 51 members in this House: 29 on the other side and 22 on this side. The average number of voters per seat in Western Australia is 12 000, so one would expect that the 29 members on the other side of the House would represent about 80 000 or 90 000 more people than we represent. Now let us look at the figures. Members opposite represent 305 537 people, compared with members on this side of the House who represent 298 685. We represent only 7 000 fewer people than the members opposite represent, but members opposite have seven more seats than we have.

Let us look now at the number of votes each member polled at the State election; that is, the individual final vote for each member added up. The 22 members on this side of the House polled 153 390 votes, whereas 28 members on the other side of the House—bearing in mind that the Deputy Premier was returned unopposed—polled 143 214 votes. Therefore members on this side of the House have the support of 10 000 more voters than members opposite have.

When we turn our attention to the Legislative Council we find that of the 15 electoral provinces the Labor Party won five on the 30th March and the Liberal Party and Country Party won 10. The five provinces that we won have on the rolls between them 328 298 people, whereas the 10 seats won by the Conservatives have on their rolls between them 275 924 people. So the Labor Party with five seats represents 52 000 more people than the Conservative parties represent with 10 seats. It is time we had a little electoral reform to introduce electoral democracy to Western Australia.

I turn now to the second aspect of democracy: participatory democracy. By this I mean democracy at all levels in the community so that decisions are taken in any

group only after all involved have had the opportunity to participate. We can consider here the different situations between the political parties. The Australian Labor Party is much more democratic than other parties because we have State and Federal conferences which make policies. Any member of any branch of the party or any member of a union may initiate policy.

For example, the Geraldton branch last year put forward a resolution at the State conference recommending a retiring age of 65 years for members of Parliament. Other branches had other motions to present. They went before the conference and amendments were made to them. A policy was evolved from this which is binding upon members of the party; and the local people in Geraldton contributed towards that policy. That is a democratic situation.

Once we get to the Parliament the ALP has a democratically elected leader, deputy leader, and Ministry or in the present instance a shadow ministry. However, on the other side we have a leader who has the final choice in everything to do with policy. He chooses his Ministers personally. Hence an autocratic situation prevails.

I would like to spend a moment or two on local government. Our opponents frequently claim that the ALP is opposed to local government. I really do not know why they say this, although perhaps they expect us to follow their line and to oppose those levels of government in which we do not have a majority.

I want to make it quite clear that I regard local government as very important. It has the potential to be closely representative. At present it does not represent everybody, and this is undemocratic. We have multiple voting in local government, which means that some people have more votes than others whilst some do not have a vote at all. At a referendum in Geraldton recently in respect of parking meters those people who did not actually receive an account for rates did not get a vote, although obviously the issue affected them.

I believe that universal franchise is the only democratic system that can be introduced in respect of local government. Even if we do not accept democratic principles and we agree with the idea of giving people a vote only if they pay rates, then consider where the money comes from. Much of the money for local government comes from State and Federal Governments; and that comes out of the pockets of all taxpayers according to their means. If we really want to persist in giving votes only to those people who pay rates, then we must remember that those who rent houses also pay rates indirectly because the rates are taken into account when the rental is assessed; and the Minister for Local Government agreed with that at a

meeting which he and I attended a week or two ago. I think we should give local government the chance to benefit from the inclusion of more people within its scope.

I want now to extend my concern with honesty and justice to comment on members of Parliament who have other incomes. As with the police and the law system which I discussed earlier, justice must not only be done but it must also be seen to be done. I see members of Parliament with shares and other incomes—such as legal practices, medical practices, business enterprises and farms—as an anomaly and an opening for suspicion. We should not allow this scope for suspicion. I might add that I direct these comments to all members of all parties.

In this respect I make two points. Firstly, we are paid as full-time employees of the people of Western Australia and they are entitled to expect us to act as such. I see considerable merit in an idea referred to in the *Sunday Independent* of the 4th August which said—

In Holland the 150 Dutch Lower House MPs are paid a base salary of \$16 700 but from this is deducted any outside earnings down to a minimum of \$10 000.

Perhaps those people who want to be only half-time or part-time members of Parliament should be paid as part-time members.

The second point is, of course, the potential problem of conflict of interest. I have nothing to indicate to me that any member of this Parliament is in any way likely to be influenced in decision making by his private interests; but I return to the old point that justice must be seen to be done.

I would like to be able to stand up here and say that I have no shares, but unfortunately I own one share which I had to take out in a building society in order to be able to buy a house. Whilst that is not likely to influence me in any decision making in which I might be involved, I believe the principle to be so important that I have gone so far as to donate the dividend to charity. Perhaps I am an idealist; but perhaps it is time we had more idealists in this public office.

In conclusion, I point out that I have wandered widely in this speech. I have covered a wide range of subjects; I have done so deliberately and I think for good reasons.

The SPEAKER: The member has five minutes.

Mr CARR: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I will need about 30 seconds. My attitude to all issues arising in Parliament depends largely on two things: Firstly, the benefits I see accruing to people, because I am much more concerned with people than I am with profits; and secondly, I am very

much concerned with justice and honesty in government. I hope that time and experience will not see me waver from these two prime concerns.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [8.54 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment to your high office, and I wish you well in it. I would like also to congratulate the members of this House on being successful at the recent election. I look forward to debating with them because I understand that is what this House is about. I might therefore begin in a way, which I presume is not provocative, by saying that I stand here as the representative of Karrinyup, which has the second most populous electorate in this House; and since in my electorate there would be more than two electors for every one elector in the electorate of the previous speaker, I would suggest to him that probably I gained more votes—over 8 000—than he has total voters in his entire electorate. I presume therefore that he at least will allow me to speak up with some confidence seeing that he based his argument on numbers of people.

It is a very proud moment for me to stand here as the representative of the people of the electorate of Karrinyup. I deliberately say "people" and not "electors" because I particularly wish to include both the young and the unnaturalised people in my electorate who are without a vote, but who still play a major role in community life. I am hopeful that in the future both of these groups will be further encouraged to participate in the affairs of our district.

It is, of course, the electors of Karrinyup that I must thank for my being here. It is my responsibility to serve them well; this I intend to do with all the energy and ability I possess.

James Clarke—I hasten to repeat: James Clarke—an American clergyman and writer asserted that "A politician thinks of the next election, a statesman of the next generation." I see the essence of being a good politician as working and planning primarily for the good of the present generations whilst contemporaneously taking full cognisance of the probable needs and aspirations of future generations. Particularly do I believe that major community projects of a permanent nature should be funded by long-term loans, which would enable the people of tomorrow, who will also use these facilities, to share the cost, whilst also providing for the people of today more amenities than would otherwise be provided.

James Clarke defined what is a statesman. I will look closely during the coming months at the members of this Chamber to observe how statesmen act.

What I wish to discuss particularly tonight is the provision of community facilities in Karrinyup. I have spent some six

years as a councillor in local government. Local authorities—much maligned by some in ignorance—have generally played the prime part in the provision of community amenities in my electorate, and no doubt this has happened generally throughout Australia. This has been the result of people giving their time, without any reward of a financial nature, who often receive in return a great deal of abuse, generally unfounded.

However, in recent years the number of amenities being sought by the public has greatly increased. Due to limitations of finance local authorities have been struggling to match these demands. I aim to make Karrinyup a better place to live in. How can this be done? It has been cryptically stated that life is for living, and most people work hard at their occupations so as to gain an income which will increase their opportunity to enjoy their leisure time. We do not live to work but work to live.

Today the average person is occupationally engaged for fewer hours than ever before, excluding perhaps the self-employed person. The major exception I make to this is the housewife. I would hesitate to say that her duties are lessening. I regard the mother with her family as the cornerstone of our society, yet despite her full-time job as a housewife today more and more women are taking another full-time job in the work force, either by choice or by necessity.

These women's burdens are enormous; yet amazingly they perform both roles successfully. It is the satisfaction that they are serving their families that enables all mothers and housewives to—in the words of a current television advertisement—"wear their fingers to the bone" for their loved ones.

How does a community provide a better environment for its citizens so that they can enjoy life more? My time in local government has brought home to me the urgent need both to upgrade the provision of community services and facilities in my older suburbs and to plan ahead for them in new subdivisions.

I am proud to watch the increase in the provision of community facilities which is currently under way in my electorate. I have been closely associated with some of them. I am also aware of many more improvements which still need to be done.

I would like to describe some of the facilities which are under way at present and then comment on the need to provide land for community facilities in the new areas not yet subdivided in Karrinyup. In particular I commend the Shire of Wanneroo—one of the most dynamic local governing authorities in Western Australia—for the performance it has shown in recent years.

Mr Nanovich: Hear, hear!

Mr CLARKO: It is due, indeed, to the quality and drive of its leaders and its ex-leaders, both elected and appointed, that these facilities have been brought to fruition. In saying that, I include the provision of the new Sorrento-Duncraig Library and Information Centre, the adjacent part-completed hall-gymnasium, and the embryo Sorrento Sporting Association. This, in time—I hope it will be soon—will develop with the help of the shire and others into a first-class sporting complex at the junction of Warwick Road and Marmion Avenue.

I hold the belief that sportsmen's clubs will become the social centres not only for our new suburbs, but also for the old. On our north metropolitan coast dedicated citizens and sportsmen showed the way some 20 years ago—despite many obstacles—in founding the Scarborough Sportsmen's Club, and today its clubhouse is the envy of all on the coast.

More recently the residents at North Beach, including myself, have been associated with the establishment of the North Beach and Districts Sportsmen's Club. This club joined together sports clubs covering bowls, tennis, Australian rules football, rugby, and cricket. Most importantly, this club includes citizens who are not participants in sports, but who join the club in order to belong to an enjoyable community organisation. I hope this group will expand rapidly in our club, for in any suburb there are numerous people who move into new homes who are keen to meet more than just their immediate neighbours in their street—they are people who have something to offer the community or who even need to take something from it in some way.

However, unless they become associated with some large community club, then five or 10 years will slip by before they gain that tremendous feeling of being a real part of their community. I firmly believe that community involvement and pride in one's district adds immeasurably to one's enjoyment of life. District sportsmen's clubs can fill this need and enhance local community pleasure, involvement, and self-development.

Sportmen's clubs and the like can bring together not only people with both similar and dissimilar sporting interests, but also can bring together people of differing ages and backgrounds and thus integrate all cross-sections of our community.

So in 1974 we find a dedicated group of people at Sorrento seeking to provide a community centre which will be of inestimable value for the people of Sorrento and Duncraig. I wish them well and offer them any assistance in this project that they may want from me.

I hope the day is near when the Innaloo Sportmen's Club can also open its doors. Despite tremendous difficulties, the committee of the club has persevered

with this project and surely deserves every assistance now. A committee has been set up just over my electoral boundary in Warwick which is intended to serve the people of Hamersley, whilst in Amelia Heights and the surrounding areas the Balcatta Civic Association is also close to obtaining a home of its own.

Let us not forget also that a first-class sporting complex has been provided by the Yugoslav community through its own energies and efforts in Balcatta. It is known as the Yugoslav Club. I congratulate the members of this organisation for the magnificent club they have and for the great work they do in our community for those who have been a long time in our State or who are recent arrivals, especially those who have not yet gained complete fluency in English.

So it can be appreciated that throughout my whole electorate responsible citizens have provided, or are in the process of doing so, community centres for their local neighbourhood which will help make Karrinyup a better place to live in, and I believe that local government should help as much as possible in the formation of these clubs, not necessarily with cash grants, but with the provision of land and, where necessary, guarantees for their loans when it is obvious that they will become viable propositions.

To conclude my comments on district sportmen's clubs I stress that I see them not as just another tavern, but principally as a community meeting place where a wide range of people of various occupations, interests, and ages meet, in their increasing leisure time, to talk, listen, enjoy, act, and, at the same time, with their neighbours, help each other in friendly surroundings, both for their own individual good and for that of their districts.

Electorates such as mine also have a need for community halls. This is particularly true of the new areas where usually there are no alternative places suitable for meetings such as church halls, RSL clubs, and the like—such as those that often exist in older suburbs—that can substitute as a community meeting place. After some delay it is pleasing to report that a district hall is to be built in Hamersley by the City of Stirling. It will cost over \$100 000. It is due to be opened at the end of October, subject to weather conditions, shortage of materials, and God willing. It will include, apart from a main hall, a number of separate meeting or committee rooms which will be available to local organisations for club purposes. The land was generously donated by the Rural and Industries Bank.

The need to obtain such a gift of land points to a current problem that applies in developing residential areas such as those in my electorate; namely, the provision of land for civic community buildings.

The law requires that 10 per cent of a total area to be subdivided shall be reserved for public open space, but only in some large comprehensive subdivisions have developers been required to set aside land for civic purposes. Whitfords was one of these.

The policy of the Town Planning Board regarding public open space to be provided on the subdivision of land is that it should not be used for community halls, kindergartens, infant health centres, autumn centres, scout halls, sporting clubs, youth centres, or, for what we may describe in today's terms, community recreation centres. These are facilities which the modern person seeks, needs, and, in fact, demands.

Whilst one understands the board's desire to preserve areas for recreation, it has led to active sports such as football being relatively well provided for, whilst the provision of land for specific community buildings has been dependent upon the generosity of developers. Fortunately, in my area these developers have been most generous in providing free land for buildings of this type, particularly for kindergartens.

It is anticipated that in the near future the undeveloped area—known to some as West Hamersley—which is the land west of Everingham Street and between North Beach Road and Beach Road—that is, within the locality of Waterman—is to be subdivided. I am concerned lest this area and, of course, the other unsubdivided areas in my electorate, in Marmion, Hamersley, Duncraig, Hillarys, and Padbury, will not have land set aside for civic community purposes and that the Town Planning Board will not allow the facilities to be located in the 10 per cent of the area allotted for public open space. Some members may have passed this area if they have travelled to the Karrinyup Golf Club.

In May, 1973, the Land Housing Consultative Committee recommended that up to 2½ per cent of a subdivision be used as sites for local community purposes, leaving the remaining 7½ per cent for recreational use, available for sporting activities, although, increasingly, local authorities are setting aside areas for passive, rather than active, recreational uses.

The current policy of the Town Planning Board has been, I understand, to submit any application for subdivision to the Metropolitan Water Board, the Public Health Department, and the relevant local authority for comment. These comments, together with reports from their own officers, are then considered by the Town Planning Board. However, I understand that it has been the practice of the board to approve the subdivision, subject to certain conditions, including the setting aside of 10 per cent of the area for public open space, leaving the local authority to negotiate later with the developer for the ac-

quisition of sites for kindergartens, hall, or other buildings which the community may desire to acquire.

Further, I understand the board does not support—as I have already stated—the location of community buildings on the 10 per cent of land set aside for public open space. I earnestly hope that this policy will be urgently reviewed for the benefit of our metropolitan residents and others in Western Australia.

A much larger community facility is also under way in my electorate; that is, the Karrinyup Cultural Centre. I have been associated with the planning of this centre for some years. The land for this centre, which was donated by the developer free of cost, is located on the north side of the Karrinyup shopping centre, and the first stage is the provision of a library which will be the central library for the City of Stirling. The cost is over \$290 000 and it will be officially opened in September. The area on which the centre is situated comprises some 3½ acres.

The planning includes a cultural hall, with committee rooms for local organisations, suitable for showing films by, say, a local film group. There will also be a stage which will permit various theatrical performances both by local amateur groups as well as by major professional bodies. A Wurlitzer organ has been donated for inclusion in the centre. Nearly \$200 000 remains in a City of Stirling trust fund for this purpose, but unfortunately building costs have escalated so much in recent months that we now find we are \$80 000 short. This is despite the fact that the local authority did put aside approximately \$100 000 a year during each of the last five years and at the time this would have well and truly financed what we planned to do and much more.

In fact, a youth centre has been excluded from the main cultural centre because of the present Federal Government, or whoever else is causing inflation in Australia. I understand, from a talk I heard on economics on a television programme the other day by an American economist, that inflation in the United States is imported, British inflation is imported, West German inflation is imported, so presumably inflation is coming from somewhere out in space! Perhaps we should let it run.

The cultural centre is planned to serve not just adjacent suburbs but also the immediate region with its population of 80 000 residents. We have asked both the State and Federal Governments for assistance in this matter. We see it as a special regional facility and I earnestly hope we receive support for this project.

I would now like to move from the provision of community facilities—to improve our suburban living—to comment on an area which, I believe, should be treated very carefully. I refer to our beaches.

I was born in Cottesloe—which probably will not give me any advantage with you, Mr Speaker, but I am very proud of that fact. I lived for most of my early life in Cottesloe, but in recent years, from the time that I married, I have lived at Trigg, right alongside the beach. Like many Western Australians, I am a beachgoer, although perhaps not as active as I might once have been.

As a child I swam at Cottesloe and at North Cottesloe beaches. We used to walk down the street to the beach—the whole family—and I used to wear one of those woollen bathing costumes right up to my neck. I am sure such a costume would be banned these days! We used to share the clean white beach.

I am not a person who has travelled but I understand that our clean white beaches are the envy of most countries throughout the world. We were able to lie on the beautiful clean sand and swim in the medium-sized surf at Cottesloe. The surf there is not as good as the surf at Trigg!

In those days there were kiosks nearby which provided food and drink. However, today there is a movement in some quarters by people who want to develop our beaches fully. They want to construct vast numbers of shops, and play piped music—with advertisements—to the people on our beaches. There are also those who want to build amusement parks adjacent to our beaches. Some people also believe that the high-priced land in the vicinity of our beaches could be used for high-rise flats. Let me say that I am opposed to all that type of development.

Perhaps my viewpoint is oversimplified but I believe our beaches should be left in as natural a state as possible, and particularly do I believe that the motorcar should not visually predominate on our landscape. Instead, motorcars should be hidden as much as possible from the general view by careful planning, even if it means that some beachgoers will have to walk a little further to their cars.

A number of gentlemen recently approached me with a plan showing how car parking could be provided and covered with a grapevine type of trellis. I do not know whether grapevines would grow on our beaches but the plan did seem to be attractive and would be an improvement on the acres of cars which we see at the present time.

Of course, we also need more shade trees at our popular beaches. The City of Stirling is currently experimenting with suitable trees and to the best of my knowledge to date the only trees which are suitable are the Norfolk Island pine, a Queensland sheoak, and the New Zealand Christmas tree. They, alone, have proved to be capable of standing up to the very high winds and salt on our exposed

western coast. They will provide both shade and a better aesthetic appearance to our coast than is the case at present.

I particularly want to criticise the lolly stick appearance of our beaches where the electric light poles stand up in great ugliness, "No Parking" signs stand high, and many other posts stand erect. The landscape has the appearance of an overcrowded crib board. Various public buildings are located here and there which, perhaps with the exception of those at nearby City Beach, are devoid of any beauty of line.

I hope our beaches can be beautified where they have previously been scarred by man. Where minimal facilities cannot be hidden they should be planned to fit in with the landscape, or camouflaged in some way. In truth, the most beautiful beach I have ever seen was one where there was no trace of man.

I urge that the construction of buildings between the coastal highway and the beach front be kept to the barest minimum, irrespective of whether or not the buildings are for the use of Government departments. I am proud to say I was associated with the rejection of a proposed CSIRO laboratory at Watermans Bay—a \$300 000 building which was planned for the area. Additionally, in association with the City of Stirling, a letter was written to the Minister requesting him not to extend the existing State marine laboratory at Watermans Bay. I would add that we received a reply stating that when the money was available it was intended to extend the laboratory.

I hope the new Minister will listen to the pleas of those of us who live on the coast and not approve the extension because I do not think that such a laboratory should be situated in that area. My plea was not just on behalf of those people who desired a view of the ocean.

I am sure that there are many people like myself who have a love for our beaches and who do not wish to see buildings constructed between the coastal road and the ocean unless they are of the greatest and direst necessity.

Our beaches are a priceless asset and I hope that in future years local authorities, and State Government departments, will take a greater interest in the views of conservation groups and knowledgeable citizens who are interested in the development of our coastline.

I support the member for Toodyay who has indicated in this House that he will attempt to arrange for a land swap so that the housing areas located in the nodes adjacent to the beachfront at Whitfords can be relocated in an area which is not between the coastal highway and the beach.

It has always been a fundamental personal pleasure for me to live by, look at, and bathe in the Indian Ocean. I live

where I do today because I choose to do so. The beach must be retained as near as possible in its natural state so that all my fellow Western Australians can share and enjoy it, particularly the people in the Karrinyup electorate who deserve to live in a community which will enable them—whether they are young or old—to live a happy and fulfilling life.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [9.23 p.m.]: I would like to extend to you, Mr Speaker, the congratulations which I extended to the new members of this House on the last occasion I was on my feet. I have every confidence that the dignity which you have demonstrated will be continued and I look forward to the tolerance you are capable of displaying.

I would like to refer to an incident which occurred in the lower south-west over the last two weeks; that is, the strike by the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union of Workers of Western Australia. The strike terminated yesterday and the 80 unionists who were involved returned to work.

The strike extended over a two-week period from the 22nd July to the 4th August of this year and some comment should be made on its background. It seems strange that one of the most stable and, indeed, most tractable sections of industry should suddenly—it might be termed, rapidly—be placed in a strike situation.

Harmony has long been a part of the timber industry and, indeed, the last measure of industrial strife occurred over 70 years ago. So, there must have been a set of circumstances which contributed to this rare break in the traditional approach and the traditional attitudes of those men employed in that part of the industry.

It was certainly a most worth while and enlightening experience to make some investigations and enter into some discussion with both the members of the union which was involved and the employers who, in this case, are represented by the Forest Products Association. The Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union decision to strike was taken rather suddenly; with a suddenness which was almost surprising.

The members of the union met on Sunday, the 21st July, and the meeting carried a motion which was conveyed to the Forest Products Association on the following morning. The members of the union indicated that unless the conditions laid down by the union—which included an overaward payment of \$30—were met within a period of some 11 hours a stoppage would ensue and would continue until such time as amicable negotiation had resolved the issues.

The response of the employers was that the matter had to go to arbitration. They said they would not enter into any negoti-

ation, particularly and specifically with regard to the \$30 overaward payment, unless the matter went before the Industrial Commission. And so, the impasse was reached.

The strike was called and the 80 members of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union went out on strike. On the surface the action seemed precipitate and that was my first reaction on learning what had transpired. I hasten to add I was soon enlightened by both parties that the genesis of the strike resulted from two conferences which went back some 12 months to the 15th March and the 11th April, 1973. At that time, during the two discussions which were held, the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union and the representatives of the south-west division of the Timber Workers' Union put forward many claims to the Forest Products Association. They were fairly extensive in number and they referred not only to pay conditions in the industry, but also to the facilities and amenities which were required.

I would like to refer briefly to some of the points which were raised 12 months ago. They include the lack of lunch room accommodation for those workers who ate on the job and who did not go home for lunch, and the absence of fly wiring and adequate lunch room facilities. Also, the workers sought the provision of cold drinking water for those who required it; the provision of hot water for lunchtime purposes; the provision of waterproof industrial clothing, and the need for gloves where they were not already issued.

It will also be appreciated that a considerable number of women have now taken up employment in the timber industry and there was a need for rest rooms and facilities for use by the female workers. This has been neglected and it is something for which a remedy has been sought. These people were also seeking the provision of a proper water supply which is not contaminated with chlorine or from a tank which is susceptible to sawdust pollution. It was pointed out in evidence that no service pay provision existed, and the representatives presented the association with the suggestion for a detailed scheme for service pay to apply to the industry. The reaction of the Forest Products Association to these demands was to circulate them to the members of the association. Ultimately the consensus of the members' replies was returned to the union delegates. It covered nine matters in all, but briefly it indicated simply the conditions pertaining to the economics of the timber industry, the marketing trends being experienced, and those which were anticipated. It was pointed out that it was a most inopportune time to discuss overaward payments and the matter was rejected out of hand.

A period of fomentation ensued from then on. Members will appreciate the problems raised at the conference still exist and rankle right throughout the mills of the south-west. The union organiser is probably extremely accurate when he says that an increasing number of complaints were received from members of the union in the various timber towns. Requests were received for meetings to be held, and several tours were organised by the representative of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union. I suppose ultimately, arising from the tours, the meeting of the 21st July at Manjimup was convened. At this meeting it was decided that the men would go out on strike if their demands were not met. It is somewhat surprising that this action was taken by the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union rather than by the Timber Industry Industrial Union of Workers as a whole. It is correct to say that timber workers have been subjected to much harsher conditions than their counterparts in the union which initiated the move.

Mr Speaker, no-one else in this House knows better than you or me the conditions which have prevailed in the timber industry over the years. The industry is synonymous with harsh conditions, isolation, low wages, and a very high industrial hazard rate. Apart from the mining industry, probably no other industry has a higher accident rate than the timber industry has had since its inception. It is very pleasing to note that safety campaigns instituted by the various companies have achieved very marked success. This has gone a long way towards alleviating the economic disadvantages of the industry as well as the accident victim's suffering and the additional hardship on his family.

I referred earlier to the isolation of the workers and their families, and this is probably the most unfortunate aspect of the industry. To a large extent it is unavoidable except with a few of the major complexes. The isolation carries with it great disadvantages and disabilities. As you well know, Sir, the facilities in the small mill towns—and it is perhaps a misnomer to call them towns; timber settlements would be more appropriate—are very meagre. In so many cases these consist of a store with very limited merchandise and application, and a club. Beyond this there is very little else. In these circumstances the necessity for transport becomes most urgent. Without a mode of transport, the social life, and indeed the whole outlook of the individual is affected to a very great degree. Isolation is one of the main reasons for the large turnover in staff in many of the mills in the south-west.

Because of the isolation, medical, hospital, dental, and school facilities are difficult to come by. The women in the settlements feel very strongly about this point.

I would like to tell members of a situation which illustrates this isolation and its disadvantages to a marked degree. The Tone River Mill is 40 miles to the east of Manjimup. It has a small store and club, and virtually nothing else to provide any social amenities for the workers. There is no school at the settlement, and the children must go to Nyamup and Manjimup for their schooling.

The bus takes the primary school children 14 miles into Nyamup, and it then takes the post-primary students to the Manjimup High School. The unfortunate aspect of this is that the primary students—some of them only six years old—leave home at about 7.00 a.m. and arrive at Nyamup at about 8.00 a.m. with an hour's wait before school starts. I am sure members are aware of the fact that this has been a particularly inclement winter, and we can visualise how cold these children must be whilst they wait for the school to open. The reverse process operates in the afternoon—the primary students are picked up after 4.00 p.m. and arrive home after 5.00 p.m. These young children are spending about four hours per day travelling and waiting, to achieve about five hours schooling. It is a most unsatisfactory position.

The matter has been drawn to the attention of the Minister for Education and he has indicated his sympathy with the residents. However, we urgently need a practical solution to the problem. I am sure all members in the House will sympathise with this request.

It is no wonder that the turnover in staff is so high in the mill towns. The manager of the Tone River Mill is a very understanding person and he has a very difficult job to retain an adequate work force to maintain his production schedules. In this case he is completely powerless to rectify the situation.

Another complaint is in regard to housing. Traditionally and historically, housing in the timber industry has been of a very low standard. The houses are virtually cottages, constructed of weatherboard with corrugated iron roofs. No doubt this is an economical move because material which can be produced on site or close to the site is the cheapest to use. Admittedly, the rentals are usually modest, but in keeping with the standard of housing supplied. If the health and local government authorities carried out their operations to the strict letter of the law by which they operate, many of these places would be condemned.

In fairness to the members of the Forest Products Association, this fact is recognised and many companies have made a start to update the houses in at least some of the mill settlements. One company informed me that its budget for upgrading and renovating company-owned houses will exceed \$200 000 in the coming

year and another company expects to pay out more than \$100 000. So the attitude is changing and a concerted and genuine attempt is being made by the management of the various companies to do something about a situation that has been neglected for far too long. A considerable effort will be necessary over a period of years to achieve any success.

It all comes back, of course, to the fact that amenities provide the key to overcoming the employment problem. One fairly sagacious mill manager made the remark to me that he did not have to worry about the men so much as long as he could provide facilities to keep the wives contented. There is a great deal in what he said.

An important factor in the industry is the wage level. Low wages have always been a feature of the timber industry—in fact, the wages paid are only slightly above the minimum wage. In the timber industry there is no industrial allowance, site allowance, or overaward payments. The rates of pay for each category of worker reveal that the wage level is very low indeed. The other evening I referred to the Henderson report which set out the poverty line in Australia. In the interim report of the 1st March, the poverty line was a salary of \$62.70 for a man with a nonworking wife and two children. It must be remembered that wages have increased since then.

From the figures in the report it appears that workers in the timber industry would certainly come into the "rather poor" category, if not in the "very poor". Workers who receive 20 per cent or less above the poverty line are categorised in the "rather poor" class.

This overall situation has continued in the timber industry for a very long time. I do not think it can be countenanced any longer and, indeed, I do not think it will continue. The concessions to which I have referred—cheap housing, firewood, and other such small amenities—do not offset the difficulties of transport, the increased cost of living in remote areas and matters of this kind. It needs a great deal of rethinking to endeavour to raise the timber industry to a level commensurate with modern ideas.

The question of industrial organisation is one upon which it is very difficult to generalise. So it can be said that in this direction, the industry has been very lax and this has had several consequences. In the various mills, it can be shown that union membership varies from nil to a little above 50 per cent of the staff, depending on the activities of the individual shop stewards of the particular industrial institution. The employers recognise that they have no real organisation of the work force with which they can discuss matters and negotiate. One of the superintendents

of the largest company involved in this area of production has told me that this is a disadvantage, as far as they are concerned. It should also be pointed out that where a long-term disadvantaged industrial situation exists, and where there is a lack of amenities, and where there are situations which have rankled over a period of time the sort of predicament will be created which will be utilised by some unscrupulous organisation, for a variety of reasons. I would hope that this would be avoided at all times within the timber industry, where the tradition has been one of harmonious relations and where there has been a high degree of cordiality between management and the ordinary working man.

This situation has manifested itself in many ways. However, because of the lack of industrial organisation, the potential exists for some unfortunate occurrences to arise. We have seen precipitous and unexpected industrial strife take place, and the same could occur again, and it is for this reason that both segments of the industry need to examine their position closely. The Forest Products Association has indicated that it is prepared to rectify the lack of amenities and conditions which were referred to during the conference last year. However, the association is adamant on the question of overaward payments going to arbitration, and this is where the matter remains at present. While any strike action is most unfortunate and regrettable, at times it serves as a warning to an industry and I trust that this will be the situation in this case.

I should like to make reference to one other matter in which I have had a personal interest for several reasons. Probably my main reason for being interested in this area is that it considerably affects a section of my electorate and, secondly, I have had a close association in establishing the mechanism whereby this situation has developed. I refer to the proposition that has been put to the single dairy authority with regard to the negotiability of liquid milk quotas. I recently asked a question of the Minister for Agriculture, seeking to know whether a recommendation on this matter had been received by the Government and the Minister indicated that the question was under consideration. The matter of negotiability of quotas must be resolved if the dairy industry is to be maintained as an expanding industry. At present, the manufacturing milk sector is finding that with rising costs and a fixed price situation, it is unable to continue as an economic proposition and many operators have left and are continuing to leave the industry. It has been shown that, in the interests of the State, the dairy industry should retain the maximum production of manufacturing milk that is possible and, to do this, some incentive must be offered to the disadvantaged manufacturing milk sector.

The recommendation of the industry organisation is that quotas should be negotiable at a price of \$250 per gallon—I understand that figure is subject to some variation—and that when a minimum of 62 gallons is issued, the first 31 gallons will carry a price of \$250 per gallon while the second 31 gallons will be issued free. I understand also that when a quota is sold back to the industry, payment will be made at 90 per cent of the total. If an individual is contemplating going into whole milk production, inevitably he will be saddled with the cost of upgrading his premises which probably will involve increasing his water supply and making provision for irrigation—a considerable capital outlay—before he gets around to the subject of quotas.

If he is compelled to pay an additional \$7 500, or whatever it may be, for a quota he will just not be in a position to get into the liquid-milk industry. I had hoped that other avenues would have been explored and, indeed, given a quicker and more effective coverage than the method proposed by the farmers' organisation in its recommendation to the single dairy authority. I have referred to the economic grounds, but the ethical grounds must also be considered. If in an industry that is developed, we give practising farmers a quota at no cost, and if a value is suddenly given to this intangible commodity, it will be giving them an unfair advantage when the two sectors are contrasted.

Mr McPharlin: Would you agree there is a value on the quota?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I would agree that probate is fixed by the Taxation Department and that a value does emanate from a quota in the sense that it increases the value of a property when it is contrasted with a property which does not carry a quota. The Taxation Department has placed a value on a quota at something of the order of \$200 per gallon. I believe it was said at a meeting of the whole-milk section of the Farmers' Union in one of the southern towns by one of the top officers of that organisation that the purchase price of a quota could be recouped in two years. This is a fairly significant factor to be considered, and leads me to suggest that the next increase in price for whole-milk should be examined closely to establish whether it can carry a loading of \$250 which can be recouped in a couple of years.

The ethical aspect of the situation must be taken into account. When it is envisaged that the trends of milk production show a decline, and if the industry develops in the way the experts predict; namely, that eventually it will be a whole-milk industry with the surplus going into manufacturing, in effect, in another 10 years there will be no need for a quota. If this is to be so, quotas will cease to become effective

and will carry no value. So, somebody who is compelled to buy into the quota situation in a short time will find that the asset he has purchased contains no value. I feel that this must be considered more deeply than it has been to this point of time. A number of facets of the negotiability of quotas also need further consideration. I hope this consideration will take place and that the matter will receive the examination it fully merits. I am glad to have had the opportunity to ventilate those two points, and on that note I resume my seat.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [9.55 p.m.]: I rise to participate in this Address-in-Reply debate. At the outset, may I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this House. I am sure you will follow the tradition and dignity your predecessors have shown.

I also congratulate new members on their election to the Parliament and remind them of their obligations and requirements in their respective electorates. I now represent a new area. Since my last term there has been an extension of boundaries, and my electorate now includes the Capel Shire district. This area has some of the best dry-land dairy farming country in Australia. It has a diversified cattle and fruit-growing industry, and the mineral sands industry is of major importance to the district. It has played an important role in the growth and development of the Bunbury Harbour facilities to the extent that 750 000 tonnes of mineral sands is exported from the port. The product from the mineral sands industry is a major raw product of the Laporte titanium plant, and employs some 600 persons in total.

So, I come back to the House at the commencement of this session of Parliament with a far greater responsibility, and with a wider diversion of activities in my electorate. I am fully aware of the responsibilities with which I have been charged.

I referred earlier to agriculture and the fruit-growing industry which is established in my electorate and I am very much aware of the problems faced by people in this industry. The situation relating to overseas markets, to say the least is nothing short of parlous. During the past season fruit growers have received a State and Commonwealth subsidy, which has assisted them. However, the Commonwealth has advised that 1974 will be the last year in which assistance will be provided and they now look forward to the 1975 year as probably the bleakest in their history. It was only just the other day, when the Deputy Premier and Minister for Agriculture visited the area, that an apple grower, who was not alone in his misfortune, announced that he had been

forced to seek employment outside the fruit industry in order to carry on.

Many people are in that position. They find their properties are no longer viable. They cannot make a living from their farms and are obliged to seek subsistence elsewhere.

I believe assistance would be worth while if the Government were able to make additional areas of land available to these apple producers to enable them to extend their properties. They fully realise the situation they are in and they are not looking for handouts. They are looking for consideration and I will be making representations to the Minister for Forests to ascertain whether areas of forest country can be made available to them to enable them to extend their operations so that they might become competitive and viable in the future. At the moment their holdings are too small and the opportunity to sell them is minimal. However, these producers have the integrity and character to carry on, given some opportunity and, as I said, I will be making representations along these lines to the Minister.

Mr H. D. Evans: You should have thought about this last year and—

Mr BLAIKIE: Representing an agricultural area I become patently aware of the varying policies that have been directed against rural communities. The Commonwealth Government has abandoned the dairy subsidy. It has not all gone yet, but it is going. It is intended that the super subsidy will be abandoned; and we are all very familiar with the policy concerning the petrol freight subsidy in rural areas. A number of taxation concessions have also been taken away.

Mr May: Why did your party not agree to restore them when they adamantly refused before the elections to—

Mr BLAIKIE: No doubt many members in this House will recall that when he was giving his Budget speech, the Federal Treasurer (Mr Crean) said—

And now this will make the Pitt Street farmers squeal.

I doubt whether even today the Federal Government realises that in order to close concessions to what it regards as Pitt Street farmers, it has ensnared every other farmer in the same noose.

Mr Davies: Not at all!

Mr BLAIKIE: The Federal Government showed no concern or compassion whatever.

Mr H. D. Evans: What did your party—

Mr BLAIKIE: I can refer to phone rental. This has been made a flat rate right across Australia. Whether one lives in Minnivale, Perth, or Darwin, a flat rate

of \$60 will be charged irrespective of the cost of calls. This again was said to be in the public interest. Maybe it is in the public interest, but it is certainly to the detriment of all people in rural areas.

Another example of the Commonwealth Government's policies is in relation to the cost of phone connections. In my electorate is the coastal resort of Gracetown which is some seven or eight miles from Margaret River. Prior to the Government's policy change a phone in that area could be connected for a fee of \$70. However, now the situation is quite ludicrous because a next-door neighbour to a householder who had a phone connected for \$70 has applied for a phone and in order to have the cable taken a matter of 66 feet, he must pay \$962. A cost of \$962 is made for a mere 66 feet because the Commonwealth Government has changed the rules of the game completely. Now it depends on how far one resides from the phone centre and the further one is from the phone centre, the more one must pay to the extent that it becomes totally prohibitive. I regard this type of policy as displaying a complete lack of compassion and understanding.

As if all that is not enough for those engaged in agricultural pursuits and persons generally living in rural areas, they are now faced with an even more critical situation as a result of the inflation monster which is galloping out of control day in and day out. Farmers on a reduced income are unable to offset the effect of inflation so one would expect the Federal Government at least to show some compassion for these people and listen to the pleas which have been made on their behalf.

I make these points tonight because members of the Opposition have spoken in the House concerning the Forrest Place incident. I do not agree with violence in any shape or form, but surely, for the reasons I have already given, members opposite, and members of the Federal Government, would realise that these people are concerned. I have never in all my life seen farmers organised. Quite frankly, they were not organised, but they were concerned. That is the difference.

Mr May: Were you there?

Mr Davies: They were organised.

Mr BLAIKIE: To be told that they have never had it so good is only adding insult to injury.

Mr May: Were you there?

Mr BLAIKIE: One of the Ministers of the day told this story at Forrest Place, no doubt in order to achieve a desired result. He said he was walking down St. George's Terrace on the day of the Forrest Place

meeting and he was asked by a man in a magnificent Mercedes Benz, "I'm a farmer from the bush. I have only a \$10 note. Have you any change for a parking meter?"

Mr McPharlin: Who was the Minister?

Mr BLAIKIE: The Minister concerned will recall the story which was told purely and simply for effect.

Mr Davies: Your story is completely wrong.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Opposition has branded these farmers as an organised mob, but they were not.

Mr May: What about the Causeway? That was organised.

Mr BLAIKIE: It was a group of many hundreds of people who were concerned with their livelihood and income. They were vitally concerned.

Mr May: I'll say they were. They were not concerned about anyone else.

Mr BLAIKIE: And of course the very atmosphere on the rostrum—would someone lend a farmer 10c because he did not have change of \$10?—

Mr Davies: You do not have a sense of humour.

Mr BLAIKIE: —was designed to provoke. The farmers were told they had never had it so good by a Government devoid of any compassion whatever. Members opposite can discount all that if they wish, although they cannot as far as I am concerned. The people I represent are very decent people and are vitally concerned about their livelihood and income. The very next day after the Forrest Place meeting, a supposedly responsible Minister referred to them as scum from the bush.

Mr May: How do you know?

Mr BLAIKIE: That is the type of attitude adopted towards these people.

I make the point that the very viability of the properties of so many people is today at stake. Other circumstances since that time have also affected the rural community. A crisis has occurred in the beef industry as a result of a drop in prices. This can be blamed on various other countries in the world as well, but it is affecting not only these producers, but also dairy farmers. Only recently of course we heard the announcement of increased fertiliser charges which will also have a tremendous impact.

All this is of importance not only to the individuals who are concerned, but also to the whole community. I am very familiar with the fate of most dairy farmers, and particularly the butterfat producers who will face an income and cost deficiency of between \$2 000 and \$3 000 this year. How they will make that up, I just do not know; and neither do they. As I have

said, the whole community will suffer because of the effect on the various services including doctors, newsagents, and butchers. All these people will suffer an impact so I sincerely hope that some form of compassion and understanding will beset the Federal Government before it is too late.

Mr B. T. Burke: What sort of concrete suggestions can you make?

Mr BLAIKIE: The taxation concessions should be reviewed as also should the dairy bounty and the superphosphate subsidy. They are some suggestions.

Mr B. T. Burke: That would relieve a lot of the distress, would it?

Mr BLAIKIE: To a degree, yes.

Mr McIver: Is not the super subsidy a full deduction?

Mr BLAIKIE: I wish to move on to another matter which is causing some concern. I am pleased to acknowledge the contribution of the Government in regard to beach erosion as it affects the Vasse electorate. The Public Works Department carried out a survey which was completed only in December, 1973, and the then Leader of the Opposition gave an undertaking that if his party were returned to office the Government would institute a top-level inquiry into this complex problem, seeking the expertise of various world organisations, if required.

It is a problem which will certainly not be easily solved and it will require the expenditure of many millions of dollars. The results to date are that a Cabinet subcommittee has been formed and, subsequently, a top-level Governmental committee has been appointed to assume responsibility for erosion control and dunal control.

As far as I am concerned, the results to date have been quite satisfactory, but I reiterate that it will require the expenditure of many millions of dollars to rectify the serious damage that has already occurred in my electorate and in other electorates.

This debate also provides me with the opportunity to refer again to the medical needs of the electorate, which I have mentioned previously on a number of occasions. I charge the Government with the responsibility for giving urgent priority to the provision of a hospital at Busselton, which is long overdue. Adequate sites have now been provided and I believe that in the interests of the welfare of the community the project should proceed.

While speaking on this subject, I mention the priority that has been given to the provision of medical centres in the State. If the State Government had the opportunity, as it should, to direct finances into various important fields, I think the Government would have directed into hospital facilities the money that has been

spent on medical centres. To my knowledge, medical centres do not provide bed space, yet I understand two medical centres are under construction in Western Australia at the present time, which will cost in excess of \$900 000. As regards the finance required to build a hospital, we are probably talking of a sum in the order of \$3 million, but \$900 000 would have given a tremendous boost to the first stage of the Busselton project. I will have more to say about medical centres at a later stage but I question the priority that has been given to them. We need beds rather than centres of this kind.

One of the few comments of the Prime Minister with which I agree is the one he made in December, 1972, when introducing a recreation Bill. He said that leisure could well prove to be the problem of the 1980s. I believe that will be the case and that we in Western Australia have an opportunity to take the lead in this field.

I refer to the need to co-ordinate resources for the optimum planning of multi-purpose community recreation centres. The point I wish to make is that there is a need for a concerted and co-ordinated effort by all sectors—by State, Federal, and local governments, and the various community organisations which would benefit if these facilities were established.

There is a great deal of duplication of buildings, particularly in country areas, which I believe has led to a wastage of resources and finance. When an organisation becomes a recognised body, one of its first objectives is to establish itself by having a hall or building of some kind which it can call its own and to which it can attach its shingle, whether it be a group of scouts or girl guides or a football or basketball club. There is such a multiplicity of these buildings that they may be used one night a month. Thirty or 40 organisations in a community may each have a building in which it meets one night a month, and for the other 29 or 30 nights of the month the building is not used at all, except for occasional hire.

I have made some inquiries into this matter and I am aware that each of these buildings must have toilet facilities. So one could well find several buildings in close proximity to each other, each with its toilet facilities, although they might be used only one night or one day a month. I suggest this leads us to be probably the most over-toiletted nation in the world.

This situation also applies to school buildings and the Brownies. In country areas one is very much aware of the facilities available or the lack of available facilities. For example, both the local high school and the primary school may have reticulated grounds, which are utilised on, say, five days a week for 40 weeks of the year and not used for the remainder of the year. Right next door we may have

the local government authority doing its best to provide reticulated grounds which will be used on either a Saturday or a Sunday, or both, with the associated buildings such as changerooms, toilets, etc.

The more remote the country area, the more it wants the best it can get for the total resources available to it. If only sense and reason would prevail! If the Education Department, the local government authority, and the local community would co-operate, how much better these facilities would be.

Library resource centres are attached to schools. The schools use the buildings from Monday to Friday, but the local authority will build another library in the vicinity and will probably be able to staff the library on only one or two days a week. I realise there are managerial problems associated with the points I have raised but I believe they can be overcome with a degree of goodwill on the part of all parties concerned. It is essential to seek the co-operation of the Education Department and the principals of the schools. In the past, with a co-operative approach, the grounds have been made freely available to the public. If the principal of a particular school does not see fit to make the grounds available, the public cannot use them. This problem must be overcome.

It would be necessary to amend the local government regulations to enable local authorities to put money into Education Department land, and vice versa; but I emphasise that the resources must be pooled in order to obtain full utilisation of the facilities. This is not a new proposal; it is a rather old one. But we in Australia are lagging far behind. What I have suggested is already accepted practice in France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. We must create recreational centres which cater for the greatest number of activities and for the widest possible range of people in the community. There is no doubt in my mind that the provision of these facilities will encourage their use and, ultimately, public participation. Today, we are far too dependent on television, with the disadvantages which ensue. However, there is time for a change and I believe we must change now or else we will become "mendicant" to the square box.

I believe there is a definite need for a full utilisation of resources and facilities; and as far as I am concerned the need for community recreation centres and the satisfactory utilisation of leisure will prove to be a most important aspect as we approach the 1980s. I support the Address-in-Reply.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr McIver.

House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.