

The only alteration we have not yet made concerns the age of a member eligible to be elected to this place. If I remember correctly the age, according to the Constitution, is still 21. This is something that has not yet been altered. We have altered the voting age but not the age for entering this Chamber. The age limit previously was lowered from 30 to 21 years but it has not been changed since then. I have an open mind as to whether or not it should be changed. I do not think one can necessarily put old heads on young shoulders; maybe some seniority in age of a person who is a representative in this Chamber could be a good thing.

I sincerely hope what I have said will be accepted in the spirit in which it is intended and we will get on with the affairs of Parliament. It may be asked what the Legislative Council actually did to the Government's legislation last session. I know it was the first time for 12 years that the Labor Party had been in office. I say quite seriously that whilst we rejected some of the Government's legislation we certainly improved much of it. In fact we rejected a couple of Bills, but how many did we pass? The number was 79, 80, or even more. Of these, we amended some and improved them. It is our task to have a second look at legislation which is introduced into the Legislative Assembly. When legislation originates here it is the task of the Legislative Assembly to have a second look at it and, if members there do not like it or have some reservations, to send it back to us.

I hope what I have said may have a quietening effect on people who would like to be rabble rousers over the approach of the Legislative Council to a Labor Government. For that matter it can be said that in my time here the Legislative Council has also amended or rejected legislation introduced by a Liberal Government, but I do not think that is terribly important. The current attack is simply because the Legislative Council took some action; it does not matter what happened in another place—every time it is what the Council does. I content myself with those remarks and I hope they will be accepted in the spirit in which they are intended.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. W. Berry.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 6.12 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 15th March, 1972

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

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton): I wish to announce that I have appointed the member for Mirrabooka (Mr. A. R. Tonkin), the member for Bunbury (Mr. Williams), and the member for Roe (Mr. W. G. Young) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report: Receipt

On motion by Mr. Harman, the second report of the Public Accounts Committee was received.

QUESTIONS (31): ON NOTICE

1. SYNTHETIC MEAT

Use of Term

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister for Agriculture:

With respect to the new synthetic food reported as "synthetic meat" can he say—

- (a) What is the position regarding the use of such a name for a substance which is not "meat" as we know it?
- (b) May such words as "steak", "lamb chops", "pork", be used for any imitation which might be manufactured?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) In relation to foods, legislation under the Health Act provides for control over inadequate, misleading or incorrect labelling.
- (b) No.

2. FIREARMS AND GUNS ACT

Anomalies

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has he received complaints regarding what has been termed "the restrictive and overbearing attitudes" of the Western Australian Police Department in both their interpretation and administration of the Firearms and Guns Act, 1931, and further that in fact anomalies or differences exist in the matter of the requirements of the Act and the actions of the Department?
- (2) If these anomalies do exist, will he list them?

- (3) Is it intended to introduce an amending Bill to overcome such alleged anomalies and, if not, will he give reasons or make a statement on the alleged anomalies?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) (a) A series of complaints have been received from the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (W.A.) which include a reference to "oppressive conglomeration of contradictory mandates", but the term "restrictive and overbearing attitudes" has not been used.
 (b) Claims of anomalies have been put forward by the association.
 (2) There are no known anomalies or differences between requirements of the Act and administration by the department.
 (3) (a) No amending Bill is at present contemplated.
 (b) No. Answered by (2).

3. WOOL

Rail Transport and Shipments: Albany and Fremantle

Mr. REID, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Since the commencement of the subsidy scheme for wool railed to Albany, what is the total amount—
 (a) received in stores in Albany;
 (b) received into stores by rail in Albany;
 (c) shipped via Port of Albany;
 (d) railed to Perth or Fremantle for shipment;
 (e) remaining in stores at Albany on latest figures?

Workers	....	....	....	....	....
Apprentices	....	....	....	....	....

- (3) Apprentices—358.

5. TRAFFIC

Overhead Bridge at West Midland

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Are plans being prepared for an overhead bridge opposite Harper Street, West Midland, to overcome delays to vehicular traffic coming from and going to the south side of the railway line?
 (2) Is he aware the delays are becoming more frequent and of greater length of time?

- (2) What have been the per bale freight costs Albany-Fremantle?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) (a) 183,965 bales.
 (b) 72,978 bales.
 (c) 58,540 bales.
 (d) To 29th February, 1972, equal to 61,166 bales of wool have been railed from Albany to the metropolitan area but the proportion subsequently shipped is not known.
 (e) 73,648 bales at wool stores including 51,953 bales sold and 21,695 bales unsold (of the 51,953 approximately 13,000 bales are commission owned). In addition to that at wool stores, another 18,275 bales of commission-owned wool is held in outside storage.
 (2) \$2.75.

4. RAILWAYS

Midland Workshops: Employees and Apprentices

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What number of employees are now engaged at Midland Government railway workshops?
 (2) What number of workers were employed at 30th June for the years 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971?
 (3) What number of apprentices are now engaged at Midland Government railway workshops?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) 2,038 including 358 apprentices.
 (2) At 30th June—

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1,907	1,830	1,851	1,792	1,718
339	325	324	306	316

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No.
 (2) No. Traffic counts indicate a reduced usage of the level crossing.

6. TRAFFIC

Accidents: Walter Road-Sixth Avenue, Bassendean

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware numerous accidents have taken place on the intersection of Walter Road and Sixth Avenue, Bassendean due to merging traffic from Eden Hill and traffic proceeding east and west in Walter Road?

- (2) Are any plans being made for diverting traffic over the new bridge via Swan Street, Guildford and Swan River?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Yes. The Main Roads Department will arrange for a survey to be carried out with a view to improving the situation.
- (2) No. The Main Roads Department does not have any plans for a bridge over the Swan River on the alignment of Swan Street.

- (2) If the danger to people is substantiated, what action would he contemplate to remedy the situation?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) The dangers of hexachlorophene are being investigated by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee.
- (2) The recommendations of that committee will be considered at the next State Poisons Advisory Committee.

7. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES PHARMACY

Mirraboopa Electorate

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

- (1) Is he aware of the growing desire of people in the Morley-Dianella area for the opportunity to buy goods from a friendly society pharmacy?
- (2) Will he investigate the possibility of allowing a friendly society pharmaceutical shop to open within the boundaries of the Mirraboopa electorate?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Any extension of shops is precluded by Act of Parliament.

8. NAVAL BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND

Use of Nuclear Vessels

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Environmental Protection:

What safeguards will be implemented to protect the people of Western Australia from the dangers inherent in the use of the Cockburn Sound naval base by nuclear vessels?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

In the past when nuclear powered ships have visited Western Australia a conference has taken place between various State and Commonwealth authorities and suitable precautionary measures and monitoring have been arranged. It is expected that similar arrangements would be arrived at for Cockburn Sound naval base should the need arise.

9. HEXACHLOROPHENE

Investigation of Danger

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

- (1) What steps are being taken to investigate the danger of hexachlorophene?

10. ALUMINA REFINERY AT UPPER SWAN

Environmental Protection Report

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he release to the public the report of the Department of Environmental Protection on the Upper Swan Alumina Refinery proposal?
- (2) If "Yes" when?
- (3) Has the Government considered the refinery proposal?
- (4) When can an announcement be expected on the Government's decision?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (4) The report has been tabled and the Government's decision made known.

11. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Fines

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Are there any fines imposed by the Industrial Commission against unions or individuals in this State which remain unpaid?
- (2) If so, what are the details and what action is proposed by the Industrial Commission and/or the State Government in respect of these matters?
- (3) If none are unpaid at present, were there any at 31st December, 1971, and, if, so, when were they paid?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) The Industrial Commission has no power to impose fines against unions or individuals. Breaches of the W.A. Industrial Arbitration Act are punishable on summary conviction before an industrial magistrate, or on conviction before the W.A. Industrial Appeal Court.
- (2) Cases are being continuously brought before industrial magistrates for minor breaches of the Act in respect to individuals, and some fines remain unpaid, for

example, failure to register as a member of a union, or failure to maintain financial membership of a union. Action is continuing in an endeavour to have the outstanding fines paid.

- (3) It appears that the intention of the question is to seek information relating to breaches of the Act involving strike action, in which case the following instance may be what the Member seeks. Fines were imposed by an industrial magistrate in the Industrial Court on 19th April and 29th May 1971 on nineteen shop stewards for disobeying an order of the commission in connection with their employment with Forwood Down W.A. Pty. Ltd and Structural Engineering Co. of W.A. Pty. Ltd. of Welshpool.

The Government, by Cabinet direction on 26th July, 1971, waived the payment of these fines.

12. STATE FINANCE

Commonwealth Grants and Loans

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Since our last State budget, what sums of money have been received or promised to Western Australia by the Commonwealth Government in—
 - (a) grants;
 - (b) loans?
- (2) On what date—
 - (a) was the Treasury aware these funds were being provided;
 - (b) were these funds allocated?
- (3) Will he state, in each allocation—
 - (i) the purpose;
 - (ii) through what agency (department, shire, etc.);
 - (iii) the date the work commenced, or is to be commenced;
 - (iv) how many jobs were created for persons out of work;
 - (v) how many persons were retained in work who would otherwise be unemployed?
- (4) What balance of the total has not been allocated?
- (5) When will it be allocated and for what purpose?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) In respect of the current financial year—
 - (a) \$5,210,000.
 - (b) \$2,568,000 including \$448,000 additional semi-governmental borrowing authority.

- (2) (a) and (b) Grants for the relief of unemployment in non-metropolitan areas—Advice of amount available in 1971-72 received on 13th December, 1971. Additional grant advised on 14th February, 1972. The first allocation of funds under this scheme was approved on 20th December, 1971, and further allocations have been made progressively since that time as proposals have been received from local authorities and State departments.

Capital grant for expenditure on primary and secondary schools—Amount available in 1971-72 advised 28th January, 1972. Approval for expenditure to be incurred given 17th February, 1972.

Addition to works and housing programme advised 14th February, 1972. Programme of expenditure approved 1st March, 1972.

Additional revenue grant for budgetary purposes advised 14th February, 1972.

- (3) The information requested is too voluminous to be provided in the manner sought. For example, grants for the relief of unemployment in non-metropolitan areas have been distributed to more than 80 local authorities and 6 Government departments, embracing 210 separate projects and employing 1,579 men. Total employment generated by the additional capital works programme put in hand in the metropolitan area is not known.
- (4) \$460,957.
- (5) Further proposals from State and local authorities are being assessed now and it is expected that the remainder of the sum available will be allocated within a few days.

13.

NURSES

Pay Increases, and Board and Lodging Charges

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What was the amount of the increase of the latest pay awards granted to nursing aides, nurses, sisters and matrons, etc., shown in each grade or seniority?
- (2) How much additional charge has been made against each grade or seniority of nursing aides, nurses, sisters and matrons, etc., where it is applicable for board and lodging?

- (3) Is there any maximum set for these charges for board and lodging?
- (4) Does this mean additional moneys are attracted from the Commonwealth Government?
- (5) What was the cost to our State of these latest awards?
- (6) How much is received or reimbursed from the Commonwealth Government?
- (7) Is he aware of any other Government employees who have their rent or board and lodging increased when their salary or wages are increased?
- (8) If "Yes" to (7), what department's employees?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

I seek permission to table the answer to this question.

The SPEAKER: Permission granted.

The answer was tabled.

14. ROYAL PERTH AND FREMANTLE HOSPITALS

Land Acquisitions

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much land is available to—
 - (a) Royal Perth Hospital;
 - (b) Fremantle Hospital, for buildings, parking, etc.?
- (2) Has any land been acquired for these hospitals in the last 12 months?
- (3) If "Yes" will he identify each parcel of land acquired (giving area, description, etc.) and the price paid?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) (a) Royal Perth Hospital—20 acres 34 perches.
Royal Perth (Rehabilitation) Hospital—54 acres 15 perches.
Mt. Lawley annexe—2 roods 35 perches.
- (b) Fremantle Hospital—Almost 11 acres.
Land bounded by Alma Street, Hampton Road, Attfield Street and Fothergill Street—Approximately 10 acres.

(2) Yes.

- (3) Royal Perth Hospital—
Portion of Perth town lot 01, being lot 14 Hill Street, Perth, comprising 39.6 perches. Purchase price \$55,000.
151 Wellington Street, Perth, comprising 17.6 perches. Purchase price \$25,000.
Mt. Lawley annexe, Field Street,

Mt. Lawley—

- (i) Portion of Swan location Z being Lot 482 on L.T.O. Plan 2342 (Certificate of title volume 321 folio 147A). Area 36.1 perches.
- (ii) Portion of Swan location Z being lot 481 on L.T.O. plan 2342 (Certificate of title volume 290 folio 117). Area 38.3 perches.
- (iii) Portion of Swan location Z being Lot 480 on L.T.O. plan 2342 (Certificate of title volume 321 folio 84A). Area 1 rood 0.6 perches. Purchase price \$625,000.

Fremantle Hospital—

Portion of Fremantle town lots 834 and 835 and being lots 2, 3 and 4 on plan 415, comprising 43½ perches. Purchase price \$18,000.

Portion of Fremantle town lot 731 and being lot 6 on plan 4335, comprising 16 perches. Purchase price \$13,200.

15. GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORIES

Fire Insurance

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) For what amount were the buildings of the Government Chemical Laboratories recently lost through fire insured and with which company?
- (2) Has the claim for loss through fire already been settled?
- (3) What was the amount of settlement?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The Government Chemical Laboratories were covered for fire risk by the Public Buildings Insurance Account, a Governmental trust account.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The total cost of the damages will be met by the insurance account. The estimated cost of replacement is \$400,400.

16. DAYLIGHT SAVING

Rural and Industries Bank; Losses

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Premier:

Would he inform the House in detail of the losses (if any) which occurred to the Rural and Industries Bank and its subsidiaries as a proven direct result of daylight saving in the Eastern States?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

There is no way of obtaining the information requested.

17. **DAYLIGHT SAVING**

Treasury: Losses

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Treasurer:

Would he inform the House in detail of the losses (if any) which occurred to the Treasury as a proven direct result of the daylight saving in the Eastern States?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

There is no way of obtaining the information requested.

18. **RAILWAYS**

Works Programmes: Number Employed

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

- (1) How many men were employed on W.A.G.R. works programmes at the end of 1971?
- (2) How many men are now employed on such works?
- (3) What requests had been put forward and by whom asking that additional men be employed by the W.A.G.R. on works projects?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The total number of men employed by the W.A.G.R. at the end of 1971 was 9,982.
- (2) The total number of men now employed is 10,180.
- (3) No request has been submitted to the Minister for Railways but correspondence has been exchanged between the Railway Employees' Union and the department concerning the staff at Midland workshops and the union indicated that it "intended to approach the Government and ask if they will review the position now that the Commonwealth has made additional money available".

19. **RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME**

Finances Expended or Committed

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What amount of finance has been spent or committed to farmers out of the rural reconstruction grant made available by the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

\$7,600,053 to 9th March, 1972.

20. **MINING**

Mineral Sands at Eneabba

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Can he report any progress in finalising an agreement with the companies concerned for the mining of mineral sands at Eneabba?

- (2) Has any decision been made on the siting of the townsite or the areas on which the proposed employees' houses would be built?

- (3) As it is understood that the alignment of the coastal highway through the Eneabba district has been affected by mining leases, what action is proposed to resolve this problem so that the highway can be completed?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) The companies concerned are proceeding with their project planning. Discussions on a number of aspects of the proposed mining and processing development are continuing, and it could be anticipated that these will lead to agreements with the companies concerned.

- (2) No.

- (3) The realignment of the highway near Eneabba has been basically resolved and it is understood that survey and construction may now proceed.

21. **MANJIMUP SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Visit by Liberal Candidate for Forrest

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he correctly reported in *The West Australian*, 2nd March, 1972, as having written a letter seeking to rebuke the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science (Hon. Malcolm Fraser) for allegedly taking the endorsed Liberal candidate for Forrest Electorate (Mr. Peter Drummond) when he visited Manjimup Senior High School on 17th February, 1972?

- (2) If "Yes" did he or any other Minister of whom he is aware write a similar letter to the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Hon. Gough Whitlam) when Mr. Whitlam took an endorsed Labor candidate with him when he visited Kwinana High School?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) My letter, to which *The West Australian* of 2nd March, 1972 makes reference, expresses concern at the action of the Commonwealth Minister for Education in promoting the Liberal candidate for the Forrest Electorate in a high school, not for merely "taking" him as the question states.

- (2) No knowledge of the incident prior to receipt of this question.

22. KWINANA HIGH SCHOOL

Visit by Endorsed Labor Candidate

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did he make a complaint to the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Hon. Gough Whitlam) because he took an endorsed Labor candidate into the Kwinana High School?
- (2) What is the Government's current policy in respect of Members of Parliament—State and Federal—visiting State schools?—
 - (a) if unaccompanied;
 - (b) if accompanied by others who are not specifically endorsed as candidates for any particular political party but who might be identified with party political activities;
 - (c) accompanied by a person or persons endorsed for an election campaign by a political party?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) to (c) The Government endorses Education regulation 54 (1) which states:—

"A person not being a teacher of the school may during the hours of secular instruction visit a school maintained or subsidised by the Government to observe how the school is conducted, but such person shall not take part in the work of the school."

A Member of Parliament accompanied by any of the persons referred to in the question, may thus visit a school.

The department cannot agree, however, to the suspension or interruption of the school timetable for any meeting or address of a sectarian, denominational or party political propaganda purpose.

If it is the wish of the staff or of a student council, visitors may be invited as guest speakers at meetings arranged out of school hours. Mr. Whitlam was invited to be the guest of the staff of the Kwinana High School at a lunch time meeting held on 22nd October, 1971.

23. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Charges

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have there been any changes since 3rd March, 1971 in charges made by his Department and boards and instrumentalities that come under his portfolios?

(2) If so—

- (a) what are they;
- (b) what is the total effect of each on individual primary producers where charges are recurring and/or apply to a particular quantity or area, etc., and a producer has to pay on more than one of such quantities or areas (e.g., what inspection fees for specific numbers or packages of strawberry plants are payable and what is the total impact of such charges on professional growers of varying sizes)?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The scale of charges under the fourth schedule of regulations of the Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act were altered with effect from 17th March, 1971.

Egg Board permit fees were altered in July, September and December, 1971 and in January 1972 for the periodical adjustments.

The scale of charges under regulation 9 of the schedule to the Plant Diseases Act were altered with effect from September, 1971.

Under the Dairy Herd Improvement and Pure Bred Dairy Cattle Accreditation Scheme, herd recording fees were increased with effect from 1st March, 1972.

The Co-operative Bulk Handling Act handling and delivery charges were increased from the commencement of 1971-72 season.

Under the Metropolitan Market Trust, commission to agents rose from 10% to 11-1/9% except where one particular firm was concerned.

Midland Junction Abattoir Board raised internal charges for handling sheep/lamb carcasses for domestic consumption.

- (b) Increases of this nature must add to overall costs faced by primary producers. The effect on individuals will vary depending on production.

In relation to strawberry plants, the increase in inspection fee charged was from 20c per 1,000 plants to 30c per 1,000 plants.

24. **TIMBER***Price Increase by Government*

Mr. NALDER, to the Premier:

- (1) Did he make an announcement recently that he had decided to increase the price of timber that came under the Government's control?
- (2) If "Yes" when did he make the announcement?
- (3) What timbers were involved?
- (4) What was the percentage increase?
- (5) Did he discuss the proposed increase with the private sector; if so, when and what was the result?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The decision was made by the Forests Department in the normal manner.
- (2) The announcement was made by circulation of new price schedules to the Forests Department's fifteen merchant buyers on the 28th January, 1972.
- (3) W.A. Pine (*Pinus radiata*, *Pinus pinaster*).
- (4) Generally 7½%, with provision, subsequently advised to merchants, for a 2½% discount for settlement within 30 days. To most buyers, in most sizes, the nett increase is 5%.
- (5) The Forests Department had forewarned buyers in the private sector of an impending increase in price.

Week ending 8th January (4 days)	95	62	37,111	20,417
15th January	95	61	39,284	24,929
22nd January	111	61	44,003	25,614
29th January	111	67	42,398	24,972
5th February (4 days)	95	68	36,716	21,338
12th February	116	63	46,109	23,841
19th February	100	67	40,048	24,701
26th February	116	67	45,662	25,464
4th March	115	68	47,228	25,596
11th March (4 days)	100	67	39,345	20,278

A learner chain, with 65 learner slaughtermen, was commenced at Midland three weeks ago.

- (2) Midland—150.
Robb Jetty—75.
- (4) Midland—60,000 for a 5 day week.
Robb Jetty—28,500 for a 5 day week.
There has been no pressure on killing facilities from industry since mid-December, 1971.

25. **MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIR BOARD***Purchases of Mutton and Lamb*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When was the Abattoirs Act Amendment Act proclaimed?
- (2) Has the Midland Junction Abattoir Board proceeded to purchase mutton and/or lamb?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes" how many head of stock have been purchased—
 - (a) at the weekly market at Midland;
 - (b) privately?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 1st December, 1971.
- (2) Yes—mutton.
- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) 1,000 to date.

26. **ABATTOIRS***Midland Junction and Robb Jetty: Slaughtermen and Killing Capacity*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the total number of slaughtermen working on all mutton and lamb chains at Midland and Robb Jetty for each week beginning from 1st January until the week ended 11th March, 1972?
- (2) What would be the number of slaughtermen operating if all chains are working to capacity?
- (3) What was the total number of sheep and lambs slaughtered for each week for the same period?
- (4) What would the total have been if both works had been working to full capacity?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (3)—

Number slaughtermen		Total sheep/lambs	
Midland	Robb	Midland	Robb
95	62	37,111	20,417
95	61	39,284	24,929
111	61	44,003	25,614
111	67	42,398	24,972
95	68	36,716	21,338
116	63	46,109	23,841
100	67	40,048	24,701
116	67	45,662	25,464
115	68	47,228	25,596
100	67	39,345	20,278

27. **WOOL***Road Transport and Shipments: Albany*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many permits were granted to transport wool by road from Albany to the metropolitan area from 1st July, 1971 to 29th February, 1972?

- (2) What was the total number of bales carted from Albany to the metropolitan area from 1st July, 1971 to 29th February, 1972? 29.
- (3) How many bales of wool were—
- transported from Albany to the metropolitan area by rail;
 - marketed at Albany;
 - shipped from Albany to overseas destinations;
 - shipped from Albany that were not sold by auction but sold privately;
 - shipped from Albany to be sold overseas?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- Nil.
- Nil.
- 61,166 bales of wool have been railed from Albany to the metropolitan area during the period 1st July, 1971 to 29th February, 1972.
 - 144,928 bales.
 - 58,540 bales.
 - 730 bales. This figure is an estimate only and is the difference between Albany Port Authority and Albany Wool Stores shipping figures.
 - 8,273 bales of commission-owned wool shipped.

28. SWIMMING POOLS

Amendment of By-laws

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- Have by-laws relating to private swimming pools been amended in accordance with the Bill which passed both Houses last year?
- If not, when will they be amended?
- Does he not agree that the increase in the number of fatalities involving private pools in recent times dictates that more should be done in enforcing laws related to such pools?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- and (2) Yes. The amendment appeared in the *Government Gazette* of 9th March, 1972.
- Councils are bound to enforce the provisions of uniform general by-laws and arrangements have been made to circularise all councils drawing their attention to their responsibilities of enforcing the Swimming Pool By-laws.

RAILWAYS

"Prospector" Service

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

- What has been the total passenger capacity of all services by the *Prospector* to and from Kalgoorlie since the service started?
- How many passengers have in fact been transported on the *Prospector*?
- Is the service economic?

Mr. MAY replied:

- 12,146 seats in each direction.
- The total number of passengers carried from 29th November, 1971 to 12th March, 1972 is as follows:
Perth-Kalgoorlie—7,522.
Kalgoorlie-Perth—7,087.
- The service has not been running long enough for an economic assessment to be made.

30. BUILDING BLOCKS

Adequacy and Price

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- Is he satisfied that sufficient building blocks are coming onto the market to satisfy home builders?
- Does the increase in the price being paid for blocks in some areas indicate that a boom in land prices is imminent?
- How many serviced blocks are now available in the metropolitan area, and what was the number of vacant serviced blocks two years ago?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- Yes. I say that, Sir, since I have no evidence to the contrary.
- No, but if reference is being made to a recent land sale in Daglish it is considered that the prices paid point to the diminishing number of lots available for development in the almost entirely built-up inner areas of the region. Recent prices in the outer suburban areas have not shown any significant increase. In some cases, such as in Hamersley, a slight fall in prices has been noted.
- A survey of the available serviced lots in the region is currently being carried out by the Town Planning Department but its details will not be available before May.

31.

**COMMONWEALTH
CONSTITUTION***Discussions on Amendment*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Did he participate as reported in talks with State Ministers to discuss the proposed convention to amend the Commonwealth Constitution?
- (2) If so, what were the results of the discussions and what decisions have been taken?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Certain recommendations were made for consideration by all Australian Governments including the Commonwealth Government, details of which were published on my return from the meeting which was held in Melbourne on 25th February last.

State Cabinet has adopted the said recommendations and a further press release is expected to be made within a few days. A copy of the proceedings of the Melbourne meeting will be made available to the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party and the Premier will confer with each of these leaders subsequent to his return from Japan.

QUESTIONS (8): WITHOUT NOTICE**1. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT***Pairs*

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

I understand that today in a bulletin issued by the A.B.C. there was an indication that the Premier and the Minister for Mines were experiencing some difficulty in obtaining pairs while on their trip to Japan. The Premier well knows there has been no difficulty whatever. I am interested to know who issued the information, and would the Premier make some inquiries in this regard?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

For some days now the suggestion has been made to me that there would be difficulty in obtaining pairs. Each time I have replied this is pure speculation and I could not imagine that the Opposition would raise the slightest objection to granting pairs.

When I returned today from Kambalda I was asked by my public relations officer to make a public statement on the situation. I have now issued a statement indicating that arrangements have

been satisfactorily concluded for pairs to be granted by the Opposition to the Minister for Mines and myself for the purpose of the visit to Japan.

**2. ALUMINA REFINERY AT UPPER
SWAN***Environmental Protection Report*

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to make a detailed commentary on the Environmental Protection Authority report and findings on the Pacminex project?
- (2) Will it be possible to determine from this report and other information made available to the Government by the authority, the criteria on which both the Government and industry can base future approaches to the establishment of industry of this kind?
- (3) Would he please advise—

- (a) The points on which the Environmental Protection Authority are at variance with the advice given by technical people to the previous and present Governments on matters related to the Pacminex project; and
- (b) The technical and other advice on which the Environmental Protection Authority has formed its opinions?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) It is not the intention of the Government to make a detailed commentary on the report of the Environmental Protection Authority, which has been tabled. Currently, officers of the Department of Development and Decentralisation are studying the detailed implications of the report, following which it is likely that talks will be held with the authority.

3. COLLIE COAL CONTRACTS*Election Promise*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Government given consideration to honouring its election promise of extended coal contracts for the Collie coal industry?
- (2) If so, what is the decision and the reasons for that decision?
- (3) If consideration has not been given to that election promise, when will the matter be considered?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is currently under consideration.

4. INLAND SUPERPHOSPHATE WORKS

Feasibility Study

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) When did he receive the report of the feasibility study on inland superphosphate works?
 - (2) Will he table the report?
 - (3) If not, why not?
- Mr. GRAHAM replied:
- (1) A single copy of the report was posted on the 4th February, 1972. Additional copies, delayed by the Victorian power strike, were received in mid-February.
 - (2) Yes.
 - (3) See answer to (2).

The report was tabled.

5. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Fines

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Labour:

I would like to ask a question arising out of the answer to question 11.

Would the Minister for Labour indicate whether the public was informed of the decision made by Cabinet on the 26th July, 1971, to waive the fines? Also, would the Minister indicate the manner in which representations were made to him or by him to have these fines waived?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

I cannot recall whether the information was made public at the time. The court was certainly informed and it is the only body entitled to be told.

The decision to put this matter before Cabinet was made by me. The matter of the disputation was the subject of a debate before this House and all members would be aware that there were many problems as a very delicate situation had arisen at the time of the determination. There were two major areas of concern to my department—one in the metropolitan area and one at Pinjarra. It was my decision to ask Cabinet to review the fines, and I believe if this course had not been followed many more problems would have resulted.

6. POULTRY FARMING

Licensed Hens: Reduction

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Minister made a decision regarding the percentage reduction in the number of licensed laying hens to take place from the 30th June, 1972?

- (2) If "Yes," what is the decision?

- (3) If "No," when will it be made and what is holding up his decision?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) A final decision has not been made but an announcement is expected in the near future.

7. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Fines

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Labour:

I would like to ask a further question arising out of the answer to question 11.

Can we assume from the fact that the Government initiated action to waive the fines in these particular cases that it will take similar action in connection with fines imposed on people who failed to become union members or who are not financial members of unions?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

The question raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is quite a fair and relevant one in view of the answers I have given. I can only briefly say "No."

8. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Dress Decorum

Mr. NALDER, to The Speaker:

As we are likely to have very hot and humid conditions during the sitting hours of this Parliament, would you, Sir, have any objection to members coming into the House without coats?

The SPEAKER replied:

It is usual to submit questions to The Speaker beforehand in writing. However, I will answer the question.

I consider we should uphold the dignity of the House. I do not say that taking off our coats will lower its dignity, but once we recant any regulation it can start the ball rolling. I do not want this House to fall into line with another State Parliament where members are entering the Chamber in all types of garb.

I would also point out to members that a poll was taken of members on this question before air-conditioning was installed in the dining room. The results of this were overwhelmingly in favour of coats being worn. Air-conditioning of the House is being considered at the present time.

I wish all members to enter the House with their coats on. It would be sensible to wear a tropical-type coat which is lighter and cooler than our usual suits. Therefore, I refuse the application.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE*Days and Hours*

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier)
[5.09 p.m.]: I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m., and on Thursdays at 11.00 a.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

Question put and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS*Precedence on Tuesdays and Thursdays*

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier)
[5.10 p.m.]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION*Appointment*

The following sessional committees were appointed on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier):—

Library.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fletcher, and Dr. Dadour.

Standing Orders.—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. McIver, Mr. Mensaros, and Mr. W. A. Manning.

House.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jamieson, Mr. Bickerton, Mr. O'Neill, and Mr. Gayfer.

Printing.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. A. R. Tonkin, and Mr. I. W. Manning.

Public Accounts.—Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Lapham, Mr. Harman, Mr. O'Neill, and Mr. W. A. Manning.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 14th March, on the following motion by Mr. Brown:—

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.

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Leader of the Opposition) [5.11 p.m.]: Yesterday we again heard a very long Governor's Speech. On many occasions I have commented that the general programme outlined by the Government of the day might well be cut a little. However, there is always the tendency to use the document, often referred to by the present Premier as a colourless document—

Mr. Graham: There was plenty of colour at that time.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I thought this was yet another colourless document. It is almost a trial to sit and listen to a long speech under the conditions of Opening Day and our climate. I trust that on the next occasion the Premier will endeavour to bovrilise—if I might use that word—the general outline of the Government's programme.

Mr. May: We left Gnowangerup out of it.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I noticed that, and perhaps with some relief. Nevertheless, it can be said that many of our names are difficult to pronounce even with prior notice.

An outstanding point about the Speech was the vindication of the policies we had implemented over the last 12 years. No-one reading the document could come to any other conclusion.

Mr. Nalder: Even the rural policy.

Sir DAVID BRAND: It vindicated all the policies we had instituted—policies criticised at great length by the present Premier.

As we read such documents and listen to the speeches of the various Ministers, and indeed of the Premier himself, there appears to be some recognition of the very sound policy laid down by our own State Government. In my opinion there is also a vindication of decisions in the Federal sphere. It is common sense for a new Government to utilise work undertaken by a previous Government in the interests of the State generally.

However, when we look back over the 12 years of our Administration and recall the bitter criticism of the general policy we followed—a policy for the development of the State, generally, and for the development of the north in particular—and the criticism of the way in which we went about planning the use of our natural resources in the interests of the State, I do not think any Government could have been criticised more by an Opposition. I will recall the first attempt by my Government to establish an industry in Western Australia. One would have thought that the end of the world had come when we made a decision and put forward plans for the loan of a substantial sum of money to a company involved in the manufacture of paper.

But it is quite obvious that the present Government, in spite of what it has said, realises that in a State such as ours, with a population of 1,000,000, and with many growth problems, it is necessary to have a great development programme; and it is necessary to encourage and initiate by way of some incentive the financing of such projects. If I read the situation correctly, it seems that the Government has accepted the policy of guaranteeing large sums of money for projects which have been put forward. We adopted that policy, and I think it is a sound one in respect of the smaller, isolated industries. Our Government found itself in a very real predicament with regard to meeting some of the losses of the Canterbury Court project as a result of a guarantee given by the previous Government.

Therefore, as I read the Governor's Speech, it gave me a great deal of satisfaction to learn that the present Government has seen fit to carry forward and to headline and publicise our policies. There is a tendency to have the Speech so worded that it does not leave very much credit for the Government's predecessor; that is why I am making the point today. Perhaps I could go further and say that I hope the attitude and the outlook which seems evident in the main part of the Governor's Speech is continued in the interests of Western Australia and its people; because only through a policy of encouraging private enterprise and overseas interest and investment can this country go forward as I believe it should.

Before I proceed further I want to say we were pleased that the Premier saw fit to extend for one year the term of our Governor. I believe in all the circumstances it was a wise and fair decision in view of his record. Sir Douglas Kendrew is a man of great sincerity with a very real interest in furthering the growth and development of this State. We were pleased to see that the right thing was done, if only for reasons of security, and we wish him and Lady Kendrew well.

It is only just a little over 12 months since the present Government took office. I would like to emphasise that the Government has already had one-third of the time available to it to carry out the long list of promises and undertakings which were outlined in the document read by the then Leader of the Opposition when he made his general policy speech for the election campaign. Much has been said in the meantime of broken promises and of the deferment of many of the undertakings given by the Premier. I realise—and I want to be fair about this—that the promises made by the leaders of political parties are intended to be implemented over a period of three years. However, it would seem to me that a number of the

undertakings were given in an atmosphere of calling for an immediate change of the Government of the day.

It is not necessary for me to remind the House of the comment that was made again and again by Ministers of the present Government: that the Treasury was in a bad way; that there were financial problems applying to this State. But what must be realised is that the problems we faced, and were ultimately faced by the Tonkin Government, were problems which every State Government throughout the Commonwealth had to face. We had the problem of finding huge sums of money to meet the sharp increases in wages and salaries, and the same problems were faced by the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and all the other States. In the financial management of this State, we as a Government acted on the advice given by our Treasury officials—in the main, the very same people who are advising the present Government.

In any case, the impression given was that the position of the Treasury resulted from bad management. It was nothing of the sort. One has only to look at the position at the present time, and at the last Budget introduced by the then Treasurer and now Minister for Education which predicted a deficit of, I think, up to \$4,000,000. To my way of thinking, having regard for the great cost involved in meeting increases in salaries and wages, only a State which had been well managed financially could have come out with that result.

When I, as the Treasurer of this State, went to Canberra along with other State Treasurers to seek financial aid, we were told by the Prime Minister of the time that there was nothing at all. We had to return home and do the best we could.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Jealousy is a curse!

Sir DAVID BRAND: That is quite right; but I might add that it always has been.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: I did not direct that remark to the Leader of the Opposition.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I am sorry. I did not think the Treasurer could be jealous of anything the Minister for Works is doing at the present time. I am sorry I intruded. I was about to make the point that when the present Treasurer went to Canberra he came back with a special grant of, I think, \$5,600,000.

Mr. Gayfer: And most likely an Easter egg with it!

Sir DAVID BRAND: That was a tremendous sum of money with which to meet some of the problems he was facing. From that time on there has been evidence of a change of heart by the Commonwealth in respect of the special difficulties of the States. The Commonwealth has provided substantial and generous grants. There have been some loans, but in the main they were grants. The Treasurer in reply

to a question I asked yesterday told me that something over \$7,000,000 had been made available to Western Australia since the last Premiers' Conference. That, of course, does not include the decision made recently to meet the cost of the purchase of a ship for the State Shipping Service.

I must say that although the general economy has had its ups and downs we are in difficult times at present as a result of international considerations and currency difficulties throughout the world.

The Treasurer has been most fortunate in being able to take advantage of the money which has been made available, and will be made available in the future. However, I am sure it was most disappointing to read the headlines following the release of the latest statement of the Minister for Labour and National Service which indicated that Western Australia had the highest percentage of unemployment; and this in spite of the money which has been made available. I realise that, owing to world conditions, certain of the projects which were planned for the north have not gone forward; but we cannot always rely on the hope that something will turn up to take their place. We must plan for the future.

As a result of my 12 years as Premier and Treasurer of this State, I feel it is very easy indeed to blame the Commonwealth for the shortcomings which develop from time to time. I know it is easy to say that the management of the national economy is in the hands of the national Government and is the responsibility of that Government. It is easy to say that achievements and failures are the result of decisions made by the Federal Government—decisions which are very difficult to make. But, surely, if the State Government is worth its salt it will accept some of the responsibility and make a special effort as only a State Government—a domestic Government—can make in respect of the development of the State and the introduction of industry.

I think it is fair to say that since the change of Government a build-up of unemployment has occurred. It would seem to me that as the unemployment grew no special effort was made by the Government, or by any Minister in particular, in an endeavour to ensure that another agreement would be signed or that another development would take place in time to absorb the unemployment which was becoming so evident. When the Robe River company finishes the great work it is presently carrying out I anticipate thousands of men will be looking for work. It is only fair that we, and the other citizens of this country, should ask what is being done to absorb those people into other employment so that they may have the security they are entitled to enjoy, and they have enjoyed for many years up to the present time.

I do not care to make sweeping statements, but it would seem to me that the Government will have to stir itself to greater effort if it is to resolve the problem of the ever-increasing unemployment. I do not mean this should be resolved by stopping the flow of migrants coming into Western Australia. This would be a very simple exercise, but if put into effect its repercussions would be felt all down the way when the day comes—as surely it will come—that Western Australia is back on its feet. We would then face the difficulty of having insufficient people. Whilst the Commonwealth has taken some action to cut down the rate of migrants coming into this State, I hope it will weigh and weigh well in the balance the repercussions so as to ensure that we are not solving this problem on a short-term basis. A State of the size of Western Australia with 1,000,000 square miles will require more and more people as time goes on, and I hope we will continue to bring into this State people of the right attitude and the correct general approach to life; I hope they can be found employment and will find happiness in this country of ours.

However, I must say that with the unemployment problem which exists at the present time, and with the number of the unemployed being almost 3 per cent. in Western Australia, one wonders why some effort has not been made by trade union leaders and by influential people in the industrial world to ensure there were fewer strikes. One also wonders why they are doing what they appear to be doing—irresponsibly pressing for decisions and if their claims are not met calling the workers out on strike. This results in immediate insecurity and unhappiness for hundreds and hundreds of people; not only that, but strike action has repercussions right down the line.

The effects of the electricity strike in Victoria are being felt in this State, because of the loss of production of the motorcars the orders for which are given here. One might well ask: What does that mean? To some it may not mean a great deal, but it does represent work for some people selling motorcars. There will not be any work for them if the cars on order are not forthcoming. One can go on and on in dealing with this matter.

Whilst upholding the arbitration system with all the backing one can give by adopting a sensible approach, I am hopeful that less industrial strife will result from the selfish attitude adopted by some trade union leaders who seem beholden to making sure that production in this State falls below a certain level. In these days people do not have to work hard to meet the demands for the products of our primary and secondary industries.

One can go further and say that if this state of affairs continues not only will we find ourselves involved in a problem of not being able to sell our minerals—processed

or otherwise—but we will find also that as an island continent Australia is absolutely dependent upon exports; and we have to export in order to live. Unless we can compete in price, in quality, and in quantity with the rest of the world, and meet the right delivery dates, then little by little the great future which we and no doubt you, Mr. Speaker, foresee will generally diminish. Whilst I know that to some extent this is like crying or whistling into thunder, I hope we will be able to get together to work for the best interests of the State.

The present Government has given an undertaking to introduce legislation which will create one great happy family in Western Australia. To say the least, this family has not been happier under this Government than it was when we on this side were in Government; at least not in the last 12 months. I am not blaming the Minister for Labour for this.

Mr. Taylor: The industrial position in this State has been better this year than in the previous 12 months.

Sir DAVID BRAND: The Minister might have picked out some particular dates or some particular strikes. He should wait another week to see whether he has another one on his hands. The fact remains, the legislation which the present Government promised and the action which it has taken have not resulted in the delivery of the goods. There might have been one strike fewer, but we do not seem to be any nearer a solution of the problem which exists.

Mr. Taylor: We have not as many strikes throughout the metropolitan area.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I have not counted them, but I do know that one or two are on now. They are on all the time. Strikes have a great impact and involve a great many people. I do not believe that strike action is necessarily right in order to obtain a solution of a problem. It appears that as a result of some union meeting pinpricking reasons are given to pull out a lot of folk from work. In fact, I am sure they could have continued to work quite happily.

On this occasion I do not propose to speak at any great length. I suppose one could go through His Excellency's Speech and deal with it item by item, but I am sure all members of the Opposition and the Government will be examining it in detail. No doubt they will have plenty to say in this debate. I was very interested in a question raised by the member for Collie, and there might be another speech in this debate during which we will hear criticism of the Government!

Mr. Jones: I am sorry I was not in my seat.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I am also sorry the honourable member was not, but I know it will be a good speech when he makes it.

Mr. Court: It has something to do with coal.

Mr. O'Connor: It will be a black speech!

Sir DAVID BRAND: That is right. To deal with another matter, I am sure we are all interested in the decision which has been made by the Environmental Protection Authority. In saying what I have to say I hope I am not stealing the thunder of any other member. I am sure anyone who has read the decision must have felt very concerned about the situation. My mind goes back immediately to the final stages of the last session of Parliament when our party was in Government. We were making great efforts to ensure that we had legislation on the Statute book to deal with this question. I have read in *Hansard* many of the comments which were made by the then Leader of the Opposition, who is now the Premier, and by other members then in Opposition who are now Ministers of the Crown, regarding the type of legislation which we as a Government were bringing forward.

We introduced that legislation because we knew there was a very real difficulty in trying to strike a happy medium between the need to proceed with more and more development of our natural resources, and the need to recognise the dangers and the problems of pollution as well as the need to keep the environment pure and clean. We brought forward what I thought and what we all thought was a reasonable piece of legislation, but the then Leader of the Opposition said it must have more teeth and bigger teeth. As you, Mr. Speaker, have seen it has big teeth.

I am not critical of the decision which has been made in respect of the Pacminex alumina refinery, because when we read the names of the people who make up the authority we cannot help but conclude it is loaded with responsibility which it will have to honour to the best of its ability. I would expect the members of the authority to do that; therefore I think it was with a great deal of courage that they declared the site of the proposed refinery was not recommended. If the legislation of our Government had been implemented and we had remained the Government I do not know whether there would have been any different result. I do not think there would have been anything different, because we gave an undertaking that the whole project would be placed before that authority and also before the local authorities concerned before it was sanctioned.

Dr. O'Brien was our appointee, and I have no doubt that he and his colleagues on the authority would have come down with the same sort of recommendation as the one that has been made to the present Government. However, no-one can deny that a grave decision has been made. This decision has presented a problem in that

one could ask: How are we to find employment for the people if such decisions are to be made? Yet, on the other hand, there is a need for these decisions to be made for the future happiness and security, as well as the well-being, of the people of this country; and in the interests of maintaining the beauty and the aesthetics of this land.

I am at a loss to suggest what should be done. No doubt another site, which is satisfactory to all concerned, is the answer. However, I only want to make the point that the legislation which our Government brought down—and the present Government was anxious to toss out but failed to replace with any other legislation until almost 12 months had elapsed—was the sort of legislation that aimed at bringing about a happy medium. I simply hope that those who comprise the Environmental Protection Authority will continue to discharge their duties as they think fit, but maybe some guidance could be given, and perhaps some prior discussions with all the people concerned and with the authority could take place before a site was chosen.

The leader writer of *The West Australian* was critical of our Government, and I think also of the present Labor Government, for not having investigated the situation before. I hold no guilt in respect of this, because we had given an undertaking that, irrespective of where the site was to be located, the whole project would be thoroughly examined by the authority concerned with environmental protection. No doubt we as a Government would have stuck by the decision that would have been made.

I want to say this whilst the Premier is still in the State: I understand he is going to Japan in the morning. I hope that he is successful in strengthening further the general understanding and the good associations that were established by our Government. I am bound to say that not always has there been this good understanding—anyhow not by some of the Ministers of the present Government. I would also point out that we believe in the long run our two countries have to live side by side, each dependent upon the other.

Whilst I do not think the Premier will be able to do anything about the agreements that have been made between our two countries, I hope he can satisfy our trading partners and those who purchase the products of this State that the policy of Western Australia is to encourage the markets which exist here and elsewhere on the one hand for the Japanese, and on the other hand for us.

It is very important, because of our close association with the Japanese, that they understand something of the personal nature of the approaches which are made

by the Premier and Treasurer. I hope that in the short time available to the Premier—not only in Japan but in other areas, too—a closer liaison can be established between the peoples of Asia and the people of this State.

We have to accept the responsibility of grasping every opportunity which presents itself from time to time, irrespective of what personal sacrifice may be necessary. Unless the Government is fully aware of the personalities involved, and the reasons, it will never be able to arrange for the establishment of more industry to encourage greater growth and greater activity in the field of commerce with people who are only just across the sea.

At the present time our economy is said to be more or less sitting in the balance. I am sure we are all glad that His Excellency the Governor outlined a brighter horizon for those involved in primary industries. I am sure that whatever scheme is envisaged to ensure a guaranteed price for wool will be welcomed. The future of the wheat-growers appears to be brighter, not only because of a guaranteed price, but also because a greater quantity of wheat will be produced. I am sure the wheatgrowers are very happy to learn of the increase. It appears the Minister for Agriculture got into a little hot water by not discussing the contents of a report submitted to him by a committee.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Did the Leader of the Opposition not receive his copy of the report? It was forwarded to him.

Sir DAVID BRAND: In any case, it would not have mattered. I believe the report should have been made public for the same reason as that argued by those who now sit on the other side of the House when we were urged to make reports public. I refer particularly to the arguments raised by the then Leader of the Opposition.

I have found, as you will have noticed, Mr. Speaker, that attitudes change considerably from time to time. However, I think it is important that the report of the committee should have been made public because the matter of quotas is a very controversial one. The report was of personal interest to individual farmers and if it contained a ready solution of the problem of quotas it should have been made available. The Farmers' Union protested and that is all the more reason that the report should have been made available to the public.

The milk producers and the fruit producers are not quite as happy as other primary producers. Generally, primary producers are looking forward to greater security and greater prosperity. When they can enjoy greater security and greater prosperity the backbone of the economy

will be strong and firm. As a State we should ensure that the primary producers are encouraged in every direction.

The arrangements for the ceremonial opening of Parliament proved to be a little unfair to members of the Opposition. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, Parliament usually opens on a Thursday and we have the advantage of a few days to study the Governor's Speech and then commence the debate on the Tuesday. However, no such consideration was given on this occasion. It will be recalled that the Government stated there was to be no ceremony. I do not recall whether it was because of cost or for any other reason, but it was to be a frugal opening. At short notice we were told there would be a ceremonial opening. I do not know how the mind of the Government was changed but it must have been done by someone with a great deal of influence. I believe the staff experienced some difficulty because of the problem of providing refreshments on one day and having to clean up the House ready for the continuation of the session on the next day. I know that is not a very important matter but we are all mindful of the need to consider other people in this regard.

I hope I have not been too controversial in my contribution to this debate. I have listened to 27 Governor's Speeches, and I do not know how many more I will listen to.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: The Leader of the Opposition has a long way to go before he has listened to as many Governor's Speeches as I have.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I understand the Premier has listened to 38 Speeches. Nevertheless, 27 seems to be a large number. All those speeches have followed the same pattern, and have all claimed achievements and credits. I only hope the Premier's policy speech will prove of interest if in a few months' time it is compared with the Governor's Speech. I think such a comparison might be interesting.

The Premier has a long way to go to fulfill the undertakings given to the people of this State. I see very little evidence in the Governor's Speech of any great progress.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Sir DAVID BRAND: That is right; I am quite sure the same could be said of the Premier time and time again because not only would he not see but he kept saying that black was white.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Surely not.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I will not mention here today the subjects involved because they are all well known.

I support the motion.

MR. MCPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [5.54 p.m.]: In contributing to the debate on the Address-in-Reply I endorse the comments of the Leader of the Opposition when he referred to the conditions which existed in the other place during the ceremonial opening of Parliament. I think we all noticed the obvious discomfort experienced by His Excellency the Governor. His ceremonial dress caused the perspiration to run freely from him, and the atmosphere appeared to be rather oppressive. Consideration should be given to this matter before the next ceremonial opening takes place.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the development of the State and the policies of the previous Government, and he indicated that many of the matters referred to in His Excellency's Speech were an endorsement of the policies outlined by the previous Government.

One matter referred to—which was debated last year—was the promise made by the present Premier in his policy speech to increase the living-away-from-home allowance for school children. The Governor said that the living-away-from-home allowance had been substantially increased. However, the increased assistance came 12 months after the Government took office and the people who were affected by the high cost of children living away from home had been looking for the increased allowance some time during that period and not 12 months after the Government took office. Little satisfaction can be gained from claiming that a substantial increase has now been paid when for a considerable time the people concerned had to continue without that increase.

Another matter referred to by His Excellency the Governor was stage 2 of the comprehensive agricultural areas water supply scheme which was nearing completion west of Kokardine and east of Narrogin. The Minister for Water Supplies is well aware of the submissions constantly being made from areas within my electorate—and from other areas—for an approach to the Federal Government to see what assistance can be obtained for the continuation or extension of the water supply scheme. The people living in those areas are in dire need of assistance.

We are all aware of the value of water in providing facilities to keep people living in country areas. Water is necessary to provide some comfort and those amenities which are so much desired in the hot inland areas of Western Australia. Those who experienced the recent high temperatures which occurred in many areas of the State—over-century temperatures—know only too well how trying the conditions can be, and how necessary it is to have an efficient water supply scheme. Water is necessary to keep people satisfied so that

they will stay on their properties. The country towns require a supply of water so that amenities can be provided for the people.

The Governor also said that the rural communities have responded to trying times with their traditional courage and resilience, but that it will be some time before the situation can be expected to stabilise. I think we all appreciate that the rural community does display courage and resilience. The period from which we have just emerged—the recession in the country areas, the low prices being obtained for produce, and the hot trying conditions through which we have just passed—exemplifies and demonstrates beyond question that the statement in the Governor's Speech is very true indeed. Those people do display courage and resilience, and it is up to the Government to provide better educational facilities, better water supplies, and further extensions to the power lines so that those people will remain on their farms and continue to conduct their businesses in the country towns where they wish to live.

In the last 12 months or so we have constantly been hearing criticism of the actions of the Federal Government—criticism which has been levelled by members on the Government side, in particular. It has been claimed that a deficiency existed somewhere, that the Federal Government was to blame, and that we must go to the Federal Government for rectification of many of the deficiencies and ills that prevail. I want to draw the attention of the House to several actions taken by the Federal Government in recent times which I think have brought about the buoyancy and brighter outlook referred to by the Leader of the Opposition.

In the first place, I mention the action of the Federal Government in agreeing to a recommendation by the Australian Wool Commission for a price support scheme, in which the commission agreed to make a deficiency payment to the wool industry when the average price fell below 36c a pound. I think this action on the part of the Federal Government is very commendable, especially when it is realised that during that time overseas buyers kept right out of the market in an endeavour to force the Australian Wool Commission to abandon its plan. However, with courage and foresight the commission stuck to its guns and before very long there was a definite improvement in wool prices. The Wool Commission purchased and stored large quantities of wool. Many people were critical and claimed that the taxpayers' money was being used to subsidise the woolgrowers. That claim was not entirely true because the percentage of taxpayers' money used was very small. Most of the money was borrowed through banking institutions.

The Wool Commission stood firm and continued to purchase wool. Many people said the commission could not go on doing so because it would fill the storage spaces and there would not be enough money to buy the wool. All sorts of objections were raised. It was not long before the market recovered. In recent times the Wool Commission's buying has been very low, and in fact it has been feeding wool back into the market. It was recently stated that a profit on sales had been shown. This is an instance which clearly indicates that the Federal Government did something very constructive and gave considerable assistance to the rural industries.

Mr. Nalder: The Federal Government might not be out of pocket at all as a result of the resale of the wool purchased by the Wool Commission.

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is so. It was indicated in the Press recently that the wool could be sold at a considerable profit; a figure of \$3,000,000 profit has been mentioned.

Another action taken by the Federal Government was the controversial matter of devaluation of the dollar. No doubt those of us who are not experts in the money market have our own ideas about what should and should not have been done, but the experts and the economists have since claimed that in view of the monetary situation throughout the world the decision made by the Federal Government was the best possible decision. The Federal Government guaranteed to make up the difference resulting in any falling-off in returns to primary producers because of the devaluation. I have mentioned two instances of the Federal Government coming to the party to assist rural industries right throughout the country; not in any particular State but right throughout the country.

Another matter which has come to notice recently is the increased price of steel from B.H.P. Many protests and much criticism have been levelled against this company, and also at the Federal Government for agreeing to the price increase of 5.3 per cent. by B.H.P.

Today, my leader asked questions of the Premier regarding the increase in the price of timber. The first part of the question was—

Did he make an announcement recently that he had decided to increase the price of timber that came under the Government's control?

The answer was—

The decision was made by the Forests Department in the normal manner.

The fourth part of the question was—

What was the percentage increase?

The answer was—

Generally $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with provision, subsequently advised to merchants, for a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount for settlement within 30 days. To most buyers, in most sizes, the nett increase is 5 per cent.

The Government must have consented to that increase in the price of timber.

We therefore see that on the one hand the Federal Government has been criticised for agreeing to an increase in the price of steel, while on the other hand the Government of this State has agreed to an increase in the price of timber. I suggest this is a little inconsistent.

Mr. Nalder: It is more than a little inconsistent.

Mr. McPHARLIN: In regard to the price of B.H.P. steel, I am indebted to Senator Prowse, of the Country Party, for supplying me with some figures which were quoted during a debate on primary and secondary industry and trade in the Senate on the 8th March this year when this matter was discussed. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read what Senator Webster had to say. He said—

I make the point again that the 2 greatest cost factors involved in each dollar of sales by BHP are raw materials and employment costs. I repeat that raw materials represent 22.3 cents in the dollar and employment costs represent 22.7 cents in the dollar. The other costs include stores and materials which represent 12.4 cents in the dollar; outward freight, 8.1 cents in the dollar; and fixed assets utilisation, 11.2 in the dollar. The final one is factory profit before debenture interest and head office expenditure, which represents 4.4 cents in the dollar.

Those figures clearly illustrate that the profit margin is the lowest factor of all. Later in his speech Senator Webster said—

During the 10 years from 1959-1960 to 1969-1970 the annual rate of increase in employees' earnings within the BHP group was 6.4 per cent. During that period the consumer price index rose by 3 per cent. and BHP steel prices rose by 1.4 per cent. I would challenge anybody to say that a company that can put forward a record such as that is not one which is to be admired.

There was considerable criticism of the Leader of the Country Party in the Federal Parliament—who is the Deputy Prime Minister—when he announced that he agreed to the increase in steel prices by B.H.P. The figures I have just quoted were given to support his action. Many members of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament opposed the increases and criticised the Federal Government very strongly.

Further information was gathered in order to illustrate what any company or organisation does when it reaches a point where it needs more money to meet its costs. The information was obtained from the Legislative Research Service of the Federal Parliamentary Library and it was gathered from the New South Wales branches of the unions selected for the exercise. Senator Webster continued—

In 1962 the annual dues paid to the Amalgamated Engineering Union were \$9.97. In 1972 the dues payable were \$16, which represents an increase of 60.5 per cent. The dues payable to the Australian Workers Union in 1962 were \$6 and in 1972 they were \$14, a rise of 133.3 per cent.

On the one hand we have criticism of the increased prices which B.H.P. claimed were necessary in order to provide finance to keep the business going and to carry out its expansion programmes. On the other hand, we see the great extent to which those organisations have increased their fees in order to meet their commitments.

Mr. Jamieson: But they are not showing a profit. The others are.

Mr. McPHARLIN: They are not making that much profit.

Mr. Court: The S.E.C. was making a profit.

Mr. Jamieson: You keep quiet on this.

Mr. Court: Your leader was complaining that it was making too much profit.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mt. Marshall will continue.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The figures I have quoted indicate that when any organisation needs more funds in order to carry out its programme it must look to increasing its fees. As I understand it, this has happened recently in this State. Somebody asked, "What about the Farmers' Union?" I believe the Farmers' Union recently agreed to an increase in fees.

Mr. Nalder: That is their own business. It is their own decision.

Mr. Jamieson: That also applies to the unions.

Mr. McPHARLIN: It is the decision of the unions within their own organisation, but the principle is that when there is a need for finance fees must be increased.

Mr. Jamieson: But the others are still making record profits. How do you reconcile it?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The amount of profit made on capital invested at the market value of B.H.P. shares today reflects approximately 3 per cent. on investment.

Mr. Jamieson: You are not fooling anybody. Chase the share duplication back and see how much was originally invested. *Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.44 p.m.*

Mr. McPHARLIN: I do not intend to take up a great deal of time. However, in conclusion I would like to make reference to industrial unrest. The company I referred to was forced into the position of increasing its charges mainly because of claims made by the industrial unions. As a result of this we now have an increase in the price of steel. Let us hope we do not see a great deal of industrial unrest in the forthcoming year.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Let us hope we do not see more increased prices.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let us hope we see some conciliation, arbitration, and compromise on both sides. We must attempt to flatten this spiral of wages and costs chasing each other. Everyone would like some stability.

In many quarters alarm is being expressed about the cost spiral. Many people in my electorate are asking me where will it end. Let us hope that industry and the unions can come to an agreement so that there is less industrial unrest and more co-operation between all concerned.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

House adjourned at 7.45 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 16th March, 1972

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the present session—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Election

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37, the following members be elected for the present Session:—

Standing Orders.—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

Library.—The Hon. V. J. Ferry and The Hon. L. D. Elliott.

House.—The Hon. J. Heitman, The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, The Hon. J. L. Hunt, and The Hon. D. K. Dans.

Printing.—The Hon. R. T. Leeson and The Hon. F. R. White.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th March, on the following motion by The Hon. D. K. Dans:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [2.41 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion. At the same time, I draw the attention of the House to a few matters which concern this Parliament—particularly matters relating to the province I represent.

When I rose to support the Address-in-Reply last year, I said that before I had to get on my feet again to speak on the Address-in-Reply during the next session of Parliament I hoped I would have received better news than I received that night in regard to the damming of the Gascoyne River, or about some scheme that would give me hope that we had found a solution to the problem existing in the area.

When I made that statement last year the river had flooded and for that year the position was reasonably secure. This year, unfortunately, the river has not flowed up to date, but Parliament has assembled earlier this year than it did last year. However, the position at this time last year was much brighter than it is now. When I spoke on the Address-in-Reply last August the river had been flowing for some considerable time, but this year it is a grim picture. Most of the rain seems to have fallen on the eastern seaboard of Australia in the State of Queensland and in the Northern Territory.

I view with trepidation the position that will obtain in the town of Carnarvon and surrounding areas in the months and years ahead. The irrigated areas are entirely dependent upon the flowing of the Gascoyne River each year. We are now entering the 13th year in which we have been hoping that somehow some of the water that pours out to sea could be conserved. As I have said before, only a very small area is at present under cultivation. In an area of about 10 square miles, 2,000 acres are cultivated, which represents between