

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 1 September 1992

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE WRIT OF SUMMONS

Report

THE PRESIDENT: I have the honour to present a report from the committee appointed to consider matters arising from the service of a writ on the Clerk by the Aboriginal Legal Service.

On motion by Hon Garry Kelly, resolved -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 362.]

HON GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [3.35 pm] - by leave: I move without notice -

That the report of the Committee be adopted.

It is rather unusual for a Select Committee report to be adopted before members have read it, so I will draw the attention of members to the key points of the report. This matter was referred to the committee to ensure that the Clerk, who was named in the writ by the Aboriginal Legal Service, was represented in this matter. The case will be heard by the court tomorrow so it is important for the House to make a determination on that question today.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: I hope that the judge will not realise that we will adopt the report without seeing it.

Hon GARRY KELLY: That is why I will read excerpts to the House. Paragraph 4 of the report states -

It was further agreed that the Clerk should be represented by Crown Law Counsel on the Committee's understanding, at this stage, that the interest of the State as first defendant and of the Clerk (representing the House) as the second defendant, are identical.

Paragraph 5 states -

The Committee notes that should any divergence between the interests of House and State develop it remains open to appoint separate counsel.

I draw the attention of members also to paragraph 7 of the report -

The Committee noted advice from the Crown Solicitor that an order directed to an officer of the ALS was preferable to one directed to a body corporate.

The Crown Solicitor has advised the committee that there could be some problems in the writ having been served on the body corporate as opposed to a natural person, and the committee wishes to bring that advice to the attention of the House. I commend the motion to the House and ask it to agree that the committee's report be adopted.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.37 pm]: I second the motion moved by Hon Garry Kelly. Members will by now have received a copy of the tabled report. The recommendations of the committee are listed on page 2 of the report as follows -

1. That the Clerk be given leave to defend the action.
2. That the Clerk be represented in the action by Crown Law Counsel.
3. That the Committee continue until such time as a further resolution of the House may determine, to oversee the progress of the action and to make such further decisions as this may require.

As Hon Garry Kelly stated, it is not usual for these matters to be brought forward, a report to be tabled and a motion moved without notice for the adoption of the report. However, members will note that the report contains only eight paragraphs, together with the three recommendations I have just read. As one of the members of that committee I advise the House of the urgent need for it to adopt those recommendations. Hon Garry Kelly has alluded to one reason; that is, Mr Marquet as the Clerk of this House and the person on whom a writ of summons was served must file his defence as the second defendant by 2 September - tomorrow. It is not a case of our wanting to rush the House, but the committee recognises that certain procedures must be followed if this House is to ensure that the Clerk properly files his defence. I believe the House is in a position to agree to the second recommendation of the committee that the Clerk be represented in the action by Crown Law counsel. Two defendants are named in the writ; the first is the Solicitor General for the State of Western Australia, and the second is Mr Marquet as Clerk of this House. The State of Western Australia has already filed its defence, and the committee gave consideration to whether Mr Marquet should be represented by Crown Law or separate counsel. It was decided that, for the time being, it was appropriate that Mr Marquet be represented by Crown Law. However, members will note from the report proper that the committee expressed the view that should the position of both parties diverge at some stage, it would want to reconsider its position about whether Mr Marquet should be separately represented or continue to be represented by Crown Counsel. Again, I argue that the decision in the second recommendation is not a difficult decision for this Legislative Council.

The third recommendation is that the committee take a monitoring role. The committee believes that the substance of the writ is of a serious nature because it involves the powers and privileges of this House, and that rather than the committee just report and that be the end of the committee, it is necessary to maintain the establishment of the committee so that it can continue to take advice on the matter and to monitor the role of Crown Law in its representation of Mr Marquet, and also that the committee should be in a position to make further recommendations to the House should that be required. It is important to ensure that the committee does continue so that it can adopt that monitoring role.

Hon Garry Kelly has suggested that, on the advice of the Crown Solicitor, the House may find favour in agreeing to the order being made on a natural person rather than on an incorporated body. The House can give consideration to that in due course.

While it is fair to say that it may be unusual to move for immediate adoption of the report, I believe that members have been well served by this committee. The committee has met on two separate occasions since it was established last week, and has taken its job seriously. I commend the committee's recommendations to the House and urge their acceptance by the House.

Question put and passed.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE WRIT OF SUMMONS

Report on Contempt by Service of Writ on Clerk - Special Report Seeking Extension of Time - Tabling

THE PRESIDENT: I am directed by the same committee to present a special report seeking an extension of time to 30 October 1992 within which the committee shall report on the issue of contempt by service of the writ on the Clerk.

On motion by Hon Garry Kelly, resolved -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 363.]

STATEMENT - BY THE PRESIDENT

College of Customised Training: Annual Report - Extension Agreement

THE PRESIDENT: I have received a letter from the Minister for Education, addressed to me as the President, which states -

COLLEGE OF CUSTOMISED TRAINING: ANNUAL REPORT

The College of Customised Training was established under provisions of the Colleges Act (1978). The Act requires the college council to present a financial report to the Minister.

Due to the late appointment of the governing Interim Council of the College, I have agreed to grant an extension until October 31 for the presentation of the college's accounts.

This advise is in accordance with the requirements of Section 70 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

The letter is signed Kay Hallahan, MLC, Minister for Education.

[See paper No 364.]

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Attorney General) [3.52 pm]: I move, without notice -

That pursuant to Standing Order No 49(c), the Council take note of tabled paper No 354 (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and related papers), laid upon the Table of the House on 1 September.

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

Once again, this year the Budget has been framed in a subdued economic environment but against a background of emerging signs of national recovery with Western Australia leading the pace of that recovery. To encourage and sustain the recovery, the Budget is aimed at job creation and economic growth.

Employment will be generated by expanding capital works, particularly in the high multiplier housing sector and other labour intensive areas of the economy, together with increased resourcing in the education and training areas. Economic growth also will be encouraged by minimising industry cost pressures through no increases in taxes, increases in charges being kept well below inflation and a tight rein being held on general Government expenditures.

The Budget will also protect the interests of those in need in the community and provide for an equitable sharing of the benefits of economic growth. The initiatives outlined in the Social Advantage statement will be implemented.

Budget initiatives to get the private sector working focus on the following key areas -

- reductions in Government costs on business, through lower electricity charges for small business and no tax increases. Indeed, a number of tax concessions are being provided;

- financial assistance and incentives to strategic industries to encourage industry to invest in downstream processing and value-added manufacturing that will increase export earnings;

- a new research grants program to support and encourage Western Australian ideas and develop innovative products and processes of commercial merit; and

- a 32 per cent increase in our capital works program, targeted to areas such as housing to provide maximum impact on increasing employment.

To enable taxes and charges to be so tightly held, and to enable some high priority policy initiatives to be introduced, it has also been necessary to impose stringent discipline on departmental recurrent expenditures. Overall, and after adjusting for accounting changes relating to Westrail, recurrent expenditure is estimated to increase by an underlying 2.2 per cent with revenue growing by a corresponding two per cent. The Government has, however, been assisted in framing the Budget by the breathing space provided by last year's voluntary severance scheme.

Revenue

The Government has framed this Budget very much with a view to building confidence and ensuring that the recovery is sustainable. Accordingly, the Budget includes no new taxes, no higher tax rates, or any extension of existing tax bases. This is in stark contrast to the position adopted in other States this year. It is also the fourth year that the Government has held firmly to the Family Pledge and kept increases in the major domestic utility and transport charges well below the rate of inflation. The only changes to State taxes this year relate to concessional measures.

In the lead-up to this Budget the Government announced two substantial tax concessions. The first was an increase of almost 10 per cent in payroll tax scale thresholds from 1 June 1992. That concession will benefit around 3 400 employers at a cost of some \$5.1 million in 1992-93. The second concession followed Government consideration of the interim report of the Land Tax Review Committee which led to the freezing of all land tax valuations at 1991-92 levels, except where reductions are applicable. The all-up cost of the concession is an estimated \$20 million in 1992-93.

Members will be aware that this is the second successive year in which major land tax concessions have been provided. In large part, the need for these concessions has resulted from the land valuation cycle being out of phase with economic conditions and property market movements. To provide a more lasting solution, the Government will implement a system of annual valuations from 1993-94, together with an instalment payment option.

The Government also recently announced the provision of land tax rebates to encourage inner city residential developments. The rebates will be equal to the difference between the land tax assessment and the amount which would have been assessed if the land were zoned residential.

Stamp duty reform is a high Government priority and consideration is now being given to the final comprehensive report on the reform of the Stamp Act and its administration. The Government intends to move quickly to implement those recommendations seen as being justified and of highest priority.

During the current session of Parliament, the Government also intends to introduce a range of concessional and other amendments to the Stamp Act and the Trustees Act to facilitate the development of a secondary mortgage market in Western Australia. This is aimed at increasing the supply of funds for housing and will provide a wider choice of investment opportunities for the Western Australian community. The necessarily complex amendments are being prepared in close consultation with the industry.

In addition, the Government has decided to provide further help to the State's racing industry, which has been suffering from the combined impact of the economic downturn and the adverse effect of competition from other forms of gambling. As part of an overall package of assistance measures which will provide an estimated \$6.7 million to the industry this racing year, the rate of the Totalisator Agency Board betting tax will be reduced from six per cent to five per cent of turnover, at a cost to the Government and a benefit to the industry of at least \$4.7 million in a full year. The enabling legislation will apply from 1 July 1993 but the Government will provide a rebate of \$2.7 million to the industry in 1992-93. This is equivalent to the estimated part year cost of the concession had it applied from 1 December 1992.

All 1992-93 collections of oncourse totalisator duty and bookmakers' betting tax will also be rebated to the industry in July 1993. Moreover, the Government will introduce enabling legislation in the autumn session to abolish oncourse totalisator duty from 1 July 1993 to the direct benefit of the clubs and to redirect bookmakers' betting tax to the industry at a reduced rate of two per cent. As a result of this last measure, bookmakers will have their tax payments reduced by \$300 000 annually. The relief will provide a welcome and significant boost to the racing industry, which is a major employer of Western Australians.

The only revenue raising measure that will be introduced in 1992-93 is a charge on loan guarantees of 0.2 per cent, which will initially apply to non-financial State Government agencies. The charge will be reviewed from time to time in line with commercially based assessments of the value of the guarantee. It will be imposed on guarantees applying to outstanding borrowings and will be collected mainly through the Western Australian

Treasury Corporation. Loan guarantee charges are currently applied by New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and the Commonwealth. A fee of 0.2 per cent is estimated to raise additional revenue of \$14 million in 1992-93. Apart from revenue considerations, the charge will encourage agencies to base their investment and pricing decisions more closely on the true cost of capital. It will also reduce the competitive advantage provided to some authorities by a Government guarantee and will provide some compensation to taxpayers for bearing the risk associated with agencies' borrowings.

The liquidation of the assets of the Western Australian Development Corporation, as announced by the Government, is forecast to generate revenue of \$47 million and, in addition, an amount of \$30.5 million is also expected to be available in the revenue equalisation account, largely reflecting the surplus of \$11.3 million transferred at 30 June 1992 and expected interest earnings. Apart from the revenues included in the Budget, members would be aware that the sale of the State Government Insurance Office is to be progressed this year. As announced, the SGIO is to be sold by public float with the net sales proceeds being applied to the State Government Insurance Commission in recognition of its initial investment in the SGIO and to reduce the level of State debt. Similarly, the tax compensation payments by the Commonwealth in respect of the SGIO - which reflect the fact that the Commonwealth tax base will be increased and the State will cease to collect income and sales tax equivalents from the SGIO - is likely to be provided as a reduction in State debt owing to the Commonwealth. Discussions with the Commonwealth are proceeding in respect of these compensation payments. Details on the disposal of the SGIO to maximise the financial benefits to the State are still under consideration; however, enabling legislation will be introduced as soon as practicable so that the matter can be fully debated in Parliament.

Outlays

Tight control has been exercised in holding recurrent expenditures to \$5 061.5 million, an underlying increase of 2.2 per cent after adjusting for changed accounting arrangements for Westrail. Nonetheless, and partly due to the impact of last year's voluntary severance scheme, the Government has been able to introduce a number of new initiatives following a significant reordering of expenditure priorities and a comprehensive review of departmental programs to ensure that essential services are being delivered at least possible cost. Clearly, however, it is through the capital expenditure of departments and authorities that State Governments have the greatest capacity to make an impact on employment and to stimulate growth in the private sector, which fuels the nation's economy.

Indeed, the June Loan Council meeting acknowledged the importance of public sector provision of industrial and social infrastructure for sustained national economic growth. To provide a measured stimulus to the emerging economic recovery, States' basic borrowing allocations were increased by 10 per cent in 1992-93.

Western Australia also received a special \$50 million borrowing supplementation in recognition of its heavy capital works demands. Partly reflecting those decisions, but mainly due to a heavier draw on internal funds and balances to meet growing infrastructure demands, our planned capital works program amounts to \$1 512.2 million, an increase of \$366.6 million or 32 per cent on actual expenditure last year.

Capital Works

Full details of proposed capital outlays are set out in the *General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates of Expenditure* and the *Supplement to the Capital Works Estimates*. Major items of interest are -

Expenditure by Homeswest of \$331 million, representing an increase of \$139 million. The large construction program planned by Homeswest will enable the Government to make further significant inroads into the waiting list for public housing and also to provide valuable assistance to the local home construction industry.

Homeswest estimates that its program, together with other financing initiatives such as Start-a-Home and Keystart, will lead to the commencement of construction of 2 700 new homes, over 3 300 new home loans, and the making available of over 3 500 new building blocks. Either directly or indirectly, Homeswest projects that this will generate some 9 200 new jobs within the Western Australian economy.

Capital outlays of \$171.7 million will be incurred by Westrail, an increase of \$56.4 million on actual expenditure in 1991-92. Work is continuing on the suburban railway electrification and the northern suburbs rail rapid transit system. Electrification of the existing three suburban rail lines to Armadale, Fremantle and Midland has seen a significant improvement in train patronage, and the introduction of the northern suburbs railway in early 1993 is expected to boost patronage by a further 40 per cent during 1992-93.

Major improvements to public transport will occur as a result of the Government's five year plan to acquire 320 buses, with the first being delivered in 1993-94. This long term \$100 million commitment replaces the previous ad hoc arrangements for bus acquisition and will provide the continuity and confidence needed to maintain a viable local bus body building industry.

The capital works program also includes expenditure by the Ministry of Education of \$91 million, an increase of \$6.6 million on actual spending last year. As part of the Government's undertaking to provide a special \$75 million allocation to help overcome a backlog in school maintenance, the program includes estimated spending of \$28.6 million in 1992-93 against a commitment to maintenance works costing \$32.5 million in total. In addition, five new primary schools will be built, as well as additions and major works at 16 other schools throughout the State.

Other features of the Government's capital works program includes -

- project expenditure of \$18 million on the Dawesville Channel, which is estimated to cost \$58 million in total;

- a program of \$17.4 million for the East Perth Redevelopment Authority;

- \$12 million for the construction of TAFE facilities at East Perth and Joondalup;

- \$3.1 million for the first stage construction of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board's training establishment at Forrestfield and a new fire station at Rockingham; and

- \$3.8 million to complete the new Magistrates' Court complex at Joondalup.

State Development

Apart from providing a significant economic stimulus through our capital works program, and an environment of no new taxes or increases in existing taxes, the Budget makes provision for financial incentives to encourage business to invest in strategic export-oriented industries so that investment is encouraged, jobs are created and export earnings are maximised. The initiatives outlined in the WA Advantage formed an important part of the Government's overall commitment to this crucial area which is reflected in a 30 per cent increase in the Department of State Development's capital and recurrent expenditure in 1992-93. A large component of the Government's industry assistance program will be in the form of loans and conditions being tied to the meeting of agreed performance and development targets. Already, assistance packages totalling \$10 million have been earmarked for strategic industries, including aerospace, automotive research, ship building, biotechnology, food processing, recycling, and aquaculture. A further \$4.8 million will be spent to complete the Western Australian Remote Sensing Industry Development and Education Centre and \$1.3 million has been allocated under the Coogee Redevelopment Agreement for the relocation of potentially offensive industry from south of the railway line in the Coogee special industrial area.

Small Business

The Government is committed to assisting small business, which plays a crucial role in job generation and the economic recovery process.

Reducing the impost of Government taxes and charges is, in the Government's view, the most effective contribution that can be made in this regard and, accordingly, the following measures have been taken -

- Electricity prices for the State Energy Commission's industrial and commercial customers will be reduced from 1 November. As a result of adjustments to SECWA's K, L, M and R tariffs, 57 000 small businesses will receive reductions of

at least five per cent to their electricity bills. An additional 24 000 small businesses will receive reductions of up to five per cent.

Increases in water and sewerage charges have been held to one per cent, a reduction in real terms; and in addition to the concessions which have just been outlined, all State taxes have been held to zero increases.

Minerals and Energy

To rationalise service delivery to the industry, and to improve linked working arrangements, a new Department of Minerals and Energy was established from 1 July 1992 with a total recurrent budget of \$48.7 million in 1992-93. The department comprises the former Department of Mines, the Energy Policy and Planning Bureau and the Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia. The Budget includes a planned 50 per cent increase in the funding applied to implement energy efficient practices in Government agencies and to provide for home energy advice.

Major mineral based projects that are proceeding in 1992-93 include -

- preliminary work on Hamersley Iron's \$500 million Marandoo project. The project is expected to begin production in 1994-95;

- expansion of Robe River iron ore production from 20 to 32 million tonnes per annum by 1993-94;

- a \$200 million upgrading of BHP's Port Hedland iron ore loading facility over two years;

- commencement of production of nickel from the Forrestania nickel mine is expected in 1992-93. Western Mining Corporation also plans to expand production from its Leinster nickel mine; and

- the completion of the substantial expansion at Alcoa's Wagerup refinery, which will take the State's combined alumina production to in excess of 7.5 million tonnes per annum.

The Government expects that the \$50 million first stage of the Nifty copper project in the Pilbara will commence in the near future with assistance under the WA Advantage investment attraction program.

Regional development

The Government is acutely aware of the need to support regional development, particularly given the problems caused by the recent economic downturn. Accordingly, the Budget includes the following initiatives to enhance regional planning and development -

- funding for the South West Development Authority has been increased by 5.3 per cent to \$5.698 million to enable the authority to continue with its important role of planning, coordinating and promoting the economic and social development of the south west region. Key activities for 1992-93 include the finalisation of a detailed coastal management plan for Mandurah, implementation of a heritage framework for the south west, and a study of the Mandurah ocean marina including examination of the development of a waste disposal facility;

- the establishment of a Pilbara development commission and funding of \$820 000 for the strategies and initiatives outlined in the Pilbara 21 report;

- an allocation of \$1.2 million, a 56 per cent increase, for the Great Southern Development Authority, including \$480 000 for the Albany foreshore redevelopment project;

- provision within the Goldfields-Esperance Development Authority's budget for expenditure of \$431 000 for a variety of targeted programs designed to promote balanced economic and social development;

- a Budget allocation of \$813 000 for the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority, including funds for coordinating the next stage of the Geraldton foreshore and marina development, the continued fostering of trade links with South East Asian markets, and further investigations of options for the establishment of a regional industrial park and deep water port; and

provision of \$355 000 by the Department of Planning and Urban Development for planning in country areas, including the completion of the draft Bunbury-Wellington regional plan and funding for the Broome planning task force to help resolve planning and land use issues.

Education and Training

Reflecting the Government's policy of ensuring that each school aged child receives a quality education relevant to changing social patterns and technological and labour market demands, spending of \$1 045.8 million is planned by the Ministry of Education, an increase of \$53.8 million or 5.4 per cent.

From 1993 an optional program providing full time preprimary education for five year olds will be introduced. This will be the first year of a three year phase in program. The total program will employ an estimated 1 200 teachers, teaching aides and support staff. The teachers will be trained in early childhood education and will be well qualified to provide quality programs for five year olds.

In this Budget \$7 million has been provided for additional facilities and a further \$7 million for the appointment of an additional 389 teachers and support staff to provide 7 000 places in 1993.

Other features of the education budget include -

- The appointment of an additional 372 teachers and support staff to meet the increasing demands arising from increased enrolments, new schools and school extensions;

- a \$5.4 million increase in per capita grants to non-government schools, including provision for award restructuring; and

- \$1.5 million for expansion of the First Steps project to improve the level of student performance in literacy and numeracy, especially for children experiencing difficulties.

As I have already indicated, a substantial education capital works program will be mounted and, in addition, \$24.2 million has been allocated for low interest loans to non-government schools.

To complement the Government's drive to encourage investment and job creation by the private sector, it is essential that appropriate training initiatives are put in place to ensure the necessary work skills are available.

Features of the \$166.2 million budget of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training include -

- \$129.2 million for vocational education training, including \$3.8 million for pre-vocation education training aimed mainly at the unemployed; and

- an allocation of \$20.6 million for people with special needs, including \$2.8 million for increased access to education and training for Aborigines, \$1.7 million for adult literacy programs, \$5 million for migrant education and \$400 000 for people with disabilities.

In addition, \$5.9 million has been provided for the development of employment skills, including \$2.3 million for the employment equity program assisting 14 000 unemployed people to obtain training and employment opportunities. The budget of the department will also be supplemented as a result of Commonwealth funding injections for vocational training in Australia. Subject to further negotiations with the Commonwealth, Western Australia is likely to receive around \$7.8 million for enhanced training initiatives in 1992-93.

Social Justice and Community Services

The Government is determined to assist the most needy in our community through a fairer sharing of the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. In May we launched the Social Advantage package which detailed a range of initiatives to support families, children and communities. This Budget provides \$24.7 million for Social Advantage programs.

This year, the Office of the Family will merge with the Department of Community Services, excluding juvenile justice programs, to create a new department to provide services to

children, families and communities. These services will focus on early intervention, a range of support programs to meet the varying needs of families and children, programs which encourage the continuing contribution of seniors and provide for their ongoing care and a range of special programs designed to assist individuals and groups most in need.

The new department will be responsible for services for four year old children. They will be able to attend family centres, community preschools, play groups and child care centres. There will be no decrease in the number of places available for four year olds.

This Budget provides for the completion of 14 family centres and three long day child care centres together with the commencement of an additional eight family centres and seven long day child care centres.

Other programs provided by the new department will include -

\$9.1 million to provide assistance to financially disadvantaged people to overcome short term financial emergencies, increase their access to essential goods and services, and to improve their ability to manage on a low income;

\$6.5 million for children's protection;

\$14.3 million for the supported accommodation assistance program to provide a wide range of supported accommodation and related services;

\$714 000 for non-government organisations that assist families in poverty; and

\$208 000 to increase foster care rates.

The Government, under the Social Advantage strategy, will also establish the Youth Justice Bureau as a new department to provide a greater focus for programs to prevent juvenile crime and to develop appropriate prevention and rehabilitation options for young offenders. The total budget for early intervention and prevention, and for rehabilitation and custodial programs associated with young offenders is \$23 million in 1992-93. To reduce the incidence of offending among serious repeat young offenders the Government has allocated \$1.2 million for a serious repeat offender task force, programs for juvenile sex offenders, upgrading of detention centre facilities and additional Aboriginal programs that are consistent with the recommendations of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report.

Health

The Western Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all Western Australians have access to needed health care and, to reflect that commitment, \$1 225 million, or almost 25 per cent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget, has been provided to the Health Department in 1992-93. Despite the funding efforts in this area, there are clearly pressures on public hospitals, largely because of the shortfall in funding from the Commonwealth and increasing demand for publicly funded health services. Those pressures have been compounded in recent times because of demographic factors such as the growth and ageing of our population, the emergence of new disease patterns, and the development of expensive new treatments.

Recent advances in medical technology and medical practice have meant that, with appropriate facilities, equipment and training, surgical treatments which previously required several days in hospital can now be provided on a same day or outpatient basis. These new technologies and advanced medical practices, as well as reducing costs per treatment, offer better outcomes, particularly shorter recovery times for patients. The Government therefore intends to proceed with a major investment program over the next three years to accelerate productivity improvements and to reduce waiting lists in public hospitals. In 1992-93 \$20 million has been provided for this purpose. Other initiatives in the health budget include: \$2.2 million for community mental health services in country areas; \$4.8 million for planning and commencement of the new Bunbury regional hospital; and \$4.5 million towards the redevelopment of the Swan District Hospital.

At the same time, Western Australia is acknowledged as a world leader in health promotion and disease prevention strategies and the Government will continue to promote healthy lifestyles and disease and accident prevention which will assist in bringing about a reduction in the long term growth in the demand for health services. Apart from the measures which have just been described, the Commonwealth's planned \$1.6 billion injection into the

Australian public hospital system over the next six years is a welcome and timely response to improve access to public hospital services on the basis of clinical need and to lift efficiency.

Other Outlays

For these and many other major areas of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget and capital works program, I refer members to the Program Statements, Budget papers and Supplement to the Capital Works Estimates. Among other measures are the following items of interest -

An allocation of \$88 million is planned for the Department of Agriculture. This allocation reflects efficiencies arising from changes to the structure of the department, voluntary severance savings of \$3.5 million, and a \$3.3 million reduction in industry contributions. Emphasis will be placed on identifying opportunities for new industries and processes, and to enhance the market and productivity performance of existing industries. In 1992-93, \$16.3 million will be spent on the development of plant industries and \$10.6 million on the development of animal industries. Included is an allocation of \$2.1 million to continue the successful development of specific varieties of wheat and lupins for premium export markets and provision of \$1.3 million for a research and development program for the Kimberley pastoral industry.

The significant contribution of agriculture to the Western Australian economy will be maintained only if the production systems used by pastoralists and farmers are sustainable. A total of \$32.1 million will be applied in 1992-93 to developing and improving sustainable production systems and to transferring the technology to land users. The maintenance of the production and marketing advantage the State's agricultural industries enjoy by virtue of their relative disease and pest free status is important. In 1992-93, \$14.2 million will be allocated to preventing the entry of exotic pests and diseases into Western Australia and to eradicating diseases such as tuberculosis, footrot, lice, and apple scab.

In recognition of the important role of the Alcohol and Drug Authority, the Budget makes provision of \$11.7 million to the authority, an increase of 8.4 per cent. Included is \$500 000 to develop and deliver education and training for Aboriginal health workers and to provide resources to assist Aboriginal workers implement effective strategies to help combat alcohol and other drug problems.

The Bureau for Disability Services will receive an allocation of \$7.4 million to meet its responsibilities for developing and coordinating policy for disability services across the public sector and monitoring the responsiveness of Government agencies in meeting the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers.

A substantial \$640 000 increase in funding for the Heritage Council will enable the compilation of a State register of places of cultural heritage significance, the accelerated provision of conservation advice on development proposals, and the promotion of the conservation, management and public enjoyment of Western Australia's heritage places. In addition, the proposed creation of an Aboriginal Heritage Authority and funding of about \$2 million will result in the establishment of offices in Port Hedland, Midland and Derby. This regional network will provide a more effective presence and provide an essential link between the authority and Aboriginal communities.

A contribution of \$5 million is planned to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund as part of the Government's triennium commitment of \$15 million to assist the construction of community sporting and recreation centres.

In recognition of the increasing importance of cycling as a mode of transport and the contribution it can make to reducing Perth's dependence on the private motor car, an allocation of \$1.5 million is planned to extend cycleway access to the Perth central business district and new urban developments. Additional Commonwealth funding has also been provided to expand the cycle helmet rebate scheme of \$10 per helmet to the majority of people in families eligible for means-tested benefits.

Since 1988, the Government has provided a 50 per cent subsidy on taxi fares to disabled people for up to 100 trips per year. In 1992-93 about \$1 million has been

allocated for the taxi users' subsidy scheme, an increase of more than 25 per cent on the cost of the scheme in 1991-92.

Pending legislative changes, the Budget includes \$416 000 for the development and implementation of a foreign ownership of land register from 1 October 1992.

Extra funding of \$707 000 is planned for the Victims of Crimes Support Service and an additional \$1 million has been allocated for community policing, and crime prevention and local safety programs.

An amount of \$833 000 has been provided for the Aboriginal Economic Development Office to assist Aboriginal economic and enterprise opportunities. This amount includes \$133 000 for a commitment to the Karijini vision plan which will enable the employment of an enterprise officer and the completion of relevant feasibility studies.

Financial Management Initiatives

The full year impact of the accounting change relating to Westrail represents the major shift in funding arrangements this year and stems from legislative amendment. In addition, and so as to reflect more accurately the true cost of program delivery, rental accommodation costs have been devolved to departments and agencies from 1 July 1992. It is also proposed that this will be the last year separate Budgets will be introduced for the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan and Capital Works Fund. Current legislation requires separation of the two accounts but the Government will introduce amendments into Parliament to establish a Consolidated Fund from 1 July 1993.

[Resolved, that business be continued.]

Hon J.M. BERINSON: In addition, the Government recently released a White Paper, "Managing for Balance", which sets out our management strategies and directions for the public sector in the 1990s. "Managing for Balance" identifies several financial management initiatives which will be the subject of legislation to be brought before the Parliament, including a system of net appropriations which will be introduced to provide greater flexibility, greater accountability and incentives to ensure that services delivered by agencies are both cost-effective and consistent with Government priorities. Provision will also be made for Special Act expenditures to be reported against the division for which the expenditure has been undertaken, thus further facilitating accountability.

Consistent with enhancements that have been made to Budget documentation in previous years, the Government this year has produced a new Budget paper titled *Economic and Financial Overview*. The objective of this document is to provide an improved understanding of the linkages between the Budget and the economy, and the environment in which it is framed. A major component of this paper is an enhanced reporting of the State's public sector financial performance from a whole-of-Government perspective.

To facilitate Government financial planning, Treasury is also currently working on the compilation of three year forward Estimates of Expenditure. This detailed work should be completed towards the end of 1992 and will form the basis of a paper for Government consideration.

Budget Overview, Debt Management and Financing Arrangements

Since attaining office in 1983, Labor Governments have achieved balanced Budgets or small surpluses against the Consolidated Revenue Fund. I am again pleased to table before the House a recurrent Budget which is in balance for the tenth year in succession, with both revenue and expenditure set at \$5 061.5 million. After adjusting for revised Commonwealth-State debt arrangements, the underlying net financing requirement for the general Government sector is \$375 million, a reduction of \$120 million or 24 per cent on the 1991-92 outcome. For the State public sector as a whole, the underlying net financing requirement will increase from \$438 million to \$482 million, reflecting, primarily, an expanded capital works program.

In recent times, there has been much ill-considered comment about State debt. Contrary to the views expressed by others, the Government sees debt as providing clear benefits to Western Australia - both in expanding our resource capacity and in ensuring some equity between taxpayers for long lived capital assets. Nevertheless, the Government, as part of its

overall financial management strategy, has decided to impose further discipline in the use of debt funding. This will involve addressing not only management of existing debt levels, but also measures to reduce the rate of growth of new debt. I would refer members to the Budget speech and the recent Government policy statement for details. In addition, the Government is continuing with innovative approaches for the private sector to play a greater role in providing services and facilities previously seen as the province of Government. This will involve a corresponding transfer of risk and debt to the private sector where this is seen as cost-effective to the Government and the community.

In summary, then, the Western Australian economy is leading the nation out of the recession and it will continue to do so throughout 1992-93. Paradoxically, confidence is lacking and the budgetary initiatives are aimed at providing the boost so necessary for both investment and consumer led economic growth and long term job creation. Together with our increased and targeted capital works program, the Budget will mean that the State emerges with a stronger economy with the continuing prospect of low inflation which is so important for our international competitiveness. I commend the motion to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon George Cash (Leader of the Opposition).

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR UNIFORM LEGISLATION

Assembly's Resolution

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting concurrence in the following resolution, and the appointment of five members of the Legislative Council accordingly -

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee be appointed for the period of the Thirty-third Parliament to inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on matters relating to proposed or current intergovernmental agreements and uniform legislative schemes involving the Commonwealth, States and Territories, or any combination of States and Territories without the participation of the Commonwealth.
- (2) As part of its functions, the Committee may recommend procedures to facilitate parliamentary scrutiny of intergovernmental agreements and uniform legislative schemes.
- (3) The Committee, in considering draft agreements and legislation, shall use its best endeavours to meet any time limits notified to the Committee by the responsible Minister.
- (4) The Committee shall consider and, if the Committee considers a report is required, report on any matter within three months; but if the Committee is unable to report in three months, it shall report its reasons to both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) The Committee shall consist of five members of the Legislative Assembly and five members of the Legislative Council.
- (6) The Committee shall have the power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from time to time and move from place to place and, except as hereinafter provided, to sit on any day and at any time.
- (7) The Committee shall not sit while either House is actually sitting unless leave is granted by that House.
- (8) A quorum for the conduct of business or taking of evidence is four members provided that each House is represented at all times.
- (9) Reports of the Committee shall be presented in writing to each House by a member of the Committee nominated for that purpose. Should a House not be sitting, the Committee may forward its report to the Clerk of the House, which report shall be deemed to be laid upon the Table of the House and shall be treated for all purposes as a proceeding of the House and the Clerk shall, if requested by the Committee, take such steps as are necessary and appropriate to publish the report.

- (10) In respect of any matter not provided for in this resolution, the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly relating to Select Committees shall be followed as far as they can be applied.

RESERVES BILL

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Hon Garry Kelly) in the Chair; Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

Postponed clause 13: Reserves Nos. 36996, 41466, 17495, 26628, 28478, 28479 and 15776 (D'Entrecasteaux National Park) -

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It will be necessary to return to this clause at a later stage because the information required for the Committee to consider the clause will be available later this week, probably Thursday.

Further consideration of the clause postponed, on motion by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education).

Postponed clause 25: Reserve No. 25798 in the Shire of Cranbrook -

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I have an interesting story to tell regarding this clause. The document referred to during previous Committee debate was indeed accurate. The area that is to be taken into the reserve is within the Shire of Manjimup, but the reserve as it now stands is within the Shire of Cranbrook. Therefore, in one sense it could be said that the department has done the right thing, but in a general information sense the department has acknowledged that it should have had discussions on this matter with the Shire of Cranbrook. The reserve to which this land is to be joined is within the Shire of Cranbrook, and the land in question is within the Shire of Manjimup. Therefore, the reference to Manjimup was accurate.

A concern was raised by local residents regarding the use of that reserve and the upgraded facilities they had provided. I am advised that the status quo will be retained regarding recreation at the Lake Unicup nature reserve. Apparently the area was gazetted for recreation activity in 1967, and that arrangement remains in place. Therefore the concerns raised regarding this clause have been adequately covered, and it is accepted that discussions with the Shire of Cranbrook would have been helpful in this matter.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I expressed concern about this clause last week, and I am pleased that the Minister has provided the explanation. I am sure that the Shire of Cranbrook and the Unicup Progress Association will be satisfied with the Minister's explanation to the Chamber.

Postponed clause put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education).

MOTION - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No 72

Adjournment Motions - Matters of Public Importance

Debate resumed from 26 May.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Mining and Pastoral) [4.47 pm]: This matter has been on the Notice Paper since 26 May.

Hon Garry Kelly: That was an auspicious date.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Yes, but for the life of me I cannot work out why the motion to suspend this Standing Order was moved. I can see no advantage in this motion, even though I listened carefully to the speech of its mover.

Hon Garry Kelly: This is not a motion from me; it results from a decision of the Standing Orders Committee.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That decision is a mystery. In my time in this Parliament motions to

debate matters of urgency have been moved no more than a dozen times. I cannot recall the Standing Order being abused, and I cannot understand why the Standing Orders Committee would want to make it almost impossible to move such a motion. Also, the proposed Sessional Order places an unreasonable weight of decision making on the President's shoulders. Paragraph (4) requires that the President should be satisfied that the matter requires the immediate attention of the House, and that he should have regard to when the matter of the motion first arose. With the greatest possible respect for the President, it would be difficult for him to make such decisions in a State this size if a matter pertaining to, say, Halls Creek arose. The President has limited staff and it would be difficult -

Hon Garry Kelly: How would you regard the matter if proposed paragraph (4) were deleted?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The member should let me finish my speech. My advice is that we delete the lot of them! I have carefully studied the current Standing Order which provides for an adjournment motion to enable debate on a matter of urgency, and Standing Order No 72 has served this House very well.

Paragraph (4)(b) of Hon Garry Kelly's motion reads "what prior opportunity to raise the subject matter was available". So what! The matter should not be left to the Presiding Officer to decide. The concerned member may have had very good reason not to introduce it the night before in the adjournment debate. The subject may well have critically changed.

Paragraph (4)(c) reads "what other procedures could be used to debate the subject matter". Perhaps another procedure could have been a Notice of Motion. These days, on a Notice of Motion, from time to time the Leader of the House does not allow us to extend debating time past the hour. Today he was given leave to continue his remarks on the Budget papers. It may be that other matters are important and the Leader of the House may judge that the matter is not sufficiently urgent to warrant its continuing.

Paragraph 4(d) is incredible. It would require the President to decide whether the subject matter was of such importance that it required the immediate attention of the House. Why should the Presiding Officer be saddled with that decision? Hon Sam Piantadosi, or Hon Tom Butler, for example, may wish to debate a matter which they think is of enormous importance to their electorates, but the President may consider it not to be a subject of any great urgency. The judgment about the urgency of the matter should be left to the Parliament. I study Standing Orders quite closely from time to time in case they particularly apply to me.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: I take care of my problems the Lockyer way.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The member does not; he takes care of them the Mafioso way; that is not my way. We use fists; the Mafioso use shotguns.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: I will take a leaf out of your book.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Standing Order No 72 includes a series of safeguards -

The Member so moving shall make, at least 2 hours previous to the meeting of the Council, in writing and hand to the President a statement of the matter of urgency . . .

He will then need the support of at least four of his colleagues in the House. In other words, four people will sit in judgment about the urgency of the matter. The Standing Order also makes it quite clear that "only the matter in respect of which such motion is made shall be debated". The matter will not be able to generate a wide ranging debate. The Standing Order also requires that "not more than one such motion shall be made during a sitting of the Council". That means that during a sitting half a dozen members cannot move an urgency motion. The present Standing Order should not be changed. The Presiding Officer should not be saddled with a long list of matters on which to make a judgment. It is incumbent on members to judge whether a matter warrants urgent debate.

When Hon Garry Kelly sums up his argument I will be interested to hear why he split the amendment into eight parts, given that the present Standing Order is quite short. The judgment on the necessity of urgency motions should not be taken away from members of Parliament. A situation has already arisen where an urgency motion has not been debated to its conclusion for one reason or another. After one hour having expired the motion should be made an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting and should be allowed to be debated for a further hour if necessary. The urgency motions with which I have been involved have

usually been completed in a relatively short time. I cannot remember when a motion has not been supported. On most occasions members have welcomed other member's bringing these matters to their attention. I urge members to reject the motion.

Amendment to Motion

HON B.L. JONES (South West) [4.55 pm]: I move -

That paragraphs (3) and (4) be deleted and the following words substituted -

Such motion shall be supported by four members standing in their places.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Mining and Pastoral) [4.56 pm]: I oppose the amendment. Although Hon Beryl Jones is seeking to delete two parts of the motion to which I have just said I objected, she has taken no notice of the other sections to which I objected. There is no point in trying to alter it.

Hon T.G. Butler: It pleases you.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That is right. There should not be any pleasing Hon Tom Butler because he is one person who may need to use this. This Standing Order has been drafted by people far more intelligent than he or I.

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I urge the House to reject the amendment moved by Hon Beryl Jones to delete paragraphs (3) and (4) of the new Sessional Order proposed in the motion, as in my view her amendment would only make a hash of a recommendation to the House which I believe should be totally rejected. The amendment would do nothing to improve the motion, several paragraphs of which would, at best, reduce the opportunity for members to have their say in this place. I do not like the restriction of freedom of speech and therefore I urge members to reject the amendment.

HON GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [5.38 pm]: I have had some discussions with Hon Beryl Jones, who says she moved the amendment because she had some sympathy with what Hon Philip Lockyer was saying, particularly about paragraphs (3) and (4) of the new Sessional Order proposed in the motion, in regard to the responsibility that would be thrust on the shoulders of the President in deciding whether a motion would meet the criteria for urgency as set out in paragraph (4). I remind the House that this motion calls simply for a new Sessional Order - we are not amending Standing Order No 72 forever, but simply for the balance of the session.

Point of Order

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: With great respect, I understand that we are debating the amendment rather than the motion. If we are able to vote on the amendment it will give the member the opportunity to speak to the motion.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Whether or not the amendment is carried, we are still debating a Sessional Order. It is not a substantive change to the Standing Orders.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: We are debating whether the words to be deleted should be deleted.

Hon GARRY KELLY: That is right.

Debate Resumed

Hon GARRY KELLY: I remind the House that we are debating a Sessional Order, not a permanent change to the Standing Orders - in so far as anything can be permanent in this life. For the information of the House, Standing Order No 72 reads as follows -

Motion for adjournment to debate matter of urgency

72. A motion without notice, that the Council at its rising adjourn to any day or hour other than that fixed for the next ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of debating some matter of urgency, may only be made after those items referred to in SO. 125 (a) to (i) have been dealt with and before the business of the day is proceeded with, and such motion may be made notwithstanding that there be on the paper a motion for adjournment to a time other than that for the next ordinary meeting. The Member so moving shall make, at least 2 hours previous to the meeting of the Council, in writing and

hand to the President a statement of the matter of urgency, and such motion shall be supported by 4 Members rising in their places and indicating their approval thereof. Only the matter in respect of which such motion is made shall be debated. No more than one such motion shall be made during a sitting of the Council.

After discussing the amendment with Hon Beryl Jones I can understand her reason for moving it. The attitude expressed by Hon Phil Lockyer that the amendment should be thrown out is strange. The amendment seeks to delete paragraphs (3) and (4) of the proposed Sessional Order and substitute the words, "Such motion shall be supported by four members standing in their places", as in the existing Standing Order. On the one hand, I can appreciate that Hon Phil Lockyer has some problems with the motion on the Notice Paper, but on the other hand I cannot understand his dog in the manger attitude that he will not support the amendment because it seeks to re-insert the existing provision. It would be a better proposition from Hon Phil Lockyer's point of view for the motion, as amended, to be carried, rather than the motion I moved on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee. Even if Hon Phil Lockyer opposed the motion, as amended, it would be better for him to support the amendment in the interim. If he still disagreed with another aspect of the suggested Sessional Order he could oppose the proposed Standing Order, as amended. In the first instance, the amendment moved by Hon Beryl Jones has much to commend it as it restores the status quo in that the test for urgency is four members standing in their places.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I also object to paragraph (5).

Hon GARRY KELLY: There could be an amendment to paragraph (5) lurking in the background that might be dealt with later.

I commend the amendment to the House.

HON MARK NEVILL (Mining and Pastoral - Parliamentary Secretary) [5.44 pm]: I am not inclined to support paragraphs (3) and (4) of this motion. I prefer the original Standing Order, which requires that four members rise in their places to indicate an urgency motion has support and, therefore, can proceed. I do not see any point in the President's having to make fairly subjective judgments as to when the matter first arose, and whether someone has had some prior opportunity to raise it. How would the President know whether it is suitable for someone to raise the matter? He would have to see into someone else's mind to make such a judgment. They are not objective criteria. The general consensus among members of this House is that matters are not raised in an urgency motion that are not urgent. I am not aware of any urgency motion this year that has gone beyond the pale.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I can't remember one in 12 years, so why has this motion been brought in?

Hon MARK NEVILL: Hon Phil Lockyer is probably one of those members who uses this mechanism more than most.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I cannot understand why a member's time should be restricted to 10 minutes.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I can see no reason either.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Why not toss it out?

Hon MARK NEVILL: We cannot deal with that question unless we deal with this matter.

Hon George Cash: Hon Mark Nevill is getting a signal from several members to wind up.

Hon P.G. Pandal: If he is not, we are prepared to start a movement.

Hon MARK NEVILL: This House has problems that need to be addressed; this is not one of them. It is an order of the House that has worked well with no problems. I cannot recall whether I have ever moved an urgency motion.

Hon N.F. Moore: When the member is on this side of the House next year, he will move a few.

Hon MARK NEVILL: One of these days I will serve up a few - if I am still a member.

Hon P.G. Pandal: We were going to mention that.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Hon Mark Nevill would be pretty old by then.

Hon N.F. Moore: We will all be old by the time he finishes this speech.

Hon John Halden: There is no doubt, Norman, that you are grey over it.

Hon MARK NEVILL: When one is being continually interrupted, it is very hard to keep one's mind on the subject. The paragraph which provides for the President's using his judgment on whether the subject matter is of such importance that it requires the immediate attention of the House is getting into very difficult grounds. Something that might be very important to a member may not be of much concern to other members in the House because it does not impact on their electorates. The majority of members in this place can be trusted to pursue only motions which are urgent. I cannot see the point in indulging in the moving of motions for the sake of occupying the crease in this place. There are plenty of useful things to do without wasting time. I oppose paragraphs (3) and (4) and support the amendment as moved by Hon Beryl Jones.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (14)

Hon J.M. Berinson
Hon T.G. Butler
Hon Kim Chance
Hon Cheryl Davenport
Hon Graham Edwards

Hon Kay Hallahan
Hon Tom Helm
Hon B.L. Jones
Hon Garry Kelly
Hon Mark Nevill

Hon Sam Piantadosi
Hon Tom Stephens
Hon Bob Thomas
Hon Fred McKenzie
(Teller)

Noes (15)

Hon J.N. Caldwell
Hon George Cash
Hon E.J. Charlton
Hon Reg Davies
Hon Max Evans
Hon Barry House

Hon P.H. Lockyer
Hon Murray Montgomery
Hon N.F. Moore
Hon Muriel Patterson
Hon P.G. Pandal
Hon W.N. Stretch

Hon Derrick Tomlinson
Hon D.J. Wordsworth
Hon Margaret McAleer
(Teller)

Pairs

Hon Doug Wenn
Hon John Halden

Hon Peter Foss
Hon R.G. Pike

Amendment thus negatived.

Motion Resumed

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Fred McKenzie.

House adjourned at 5.54 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE - FAMILY MOTOR VEHICLES

Large Increase Reason

474. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister assisting the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that the third party insurance on some family vehicle registrations has risen by approximately 23 per cent in the current financial year?
- (2) Why has such a large increase been imposed in one year?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister assisting the Treasurer has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

Yes, on 20 August 1991 the Government announced a 30 per cent increase in motor vehicle third party insurance premiums effective from 1 October 1991. The 30 per cent increase was required because of the gap between premium income and claims payments. In addition the poor investment return and write down in investments in 1990-91 meant that the third party insurance fund was in deficit. The member will no doubt also be interested to learn that the following increases in third party premiums have occurred since 1976 -

1976	50%	1982	10%
1978	33.3%	1986	10%
1980	50%	1990	12%
1981	25%	1991	30%

MOON ROCK - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Recovery Progress

486. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Arts:

Can the Minister inform the House on any progress in recovering from the United States of America the moon rock taken out of Western Australia?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

My strong representations to the Commonwealth Minister for the Arts and Territories, Hon Wendy Fatin MP, on 28 April 1992 concerning the meteorites illegally exported to America has resulted in the following action -

- (1) Investigations by the Australian Federal Police under the Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act are well advanced.
- (2) The matter has been raised with the relevant United States authorities by the Australian Embassy in Washington with a view to return of the illegally exported material through the UNESCO Convention.

HYDRO-ELECTRICITY - ARGYLE DAM PROPOSAL

Argyle Diamonds Consideration

491. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it correct that a proposal to generate hydro-electricity at Argyle Dam has been made by the Argyle Diamonds organisation?
- (2) If so, what is the current status of that proposal?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Fuel and Energy has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Preliminary engineering and environmental assessment process has been completed. The proposal has been considered by the Argyle

Diamond Mines board of directors. ADM has decided not to proceed at this time.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Two Rocks Professional Fishermen's Association - Draft Dispute Resolution Agreement, Current Status

501. Hon GEORGE CASH to Hon Tom Stephens representing the Minister for State Development:

- (1) What is the current status of the interim arbitration agreement which is being proposed by the Government in discussions with the Two Rocks Professional Fishermen's Association and the lessee of lease No 3116/5595 in respect of the settlement of disputes between the professional fishermen and the lessee?
- (2) What consultation in respect of this proposed agreement has been held with the TRPFA?
- (3) Is it envisaged that this proposed agreement has been held with the TRPFA?
- (4) Will the Minister ensure that no further lease is granted to any lessee in respect of the land and water area the subject of lease No 3116/5595 until such an agreement is agreed to by the TRPFA and other relevant parties?
- (5) Will the Minister ensure that an agreed arbitration process between the users of the Yanchep Marina and the lessee is incorporated in any future lease of the land and water area that is described as the Yanchep Marina area?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for State Development has provided the following reply -

- (1) Both parties to the Dispute Resolution Agreement (Agreement), that is WA Utilities Pty Ltd and the Two Rocks Professional Fishermens Associations, have submitted to the Minister for State Development their proposed amendments to the draft agreement. He will shortly be providing to each party, the other's proposed amendments to determine whether they are mutually acceptable.
- (2) The Minister for State Development sought from the association amendments which they wished to make to the draft agreement.
- (3) The member will need to clarify the specific subject point of his question before I can answer it.
- (4) No.
- (5) While the Minister for State Development supports an arbitration process of the kind referred to in the member's question, the final form and content of any future lease agreement is a matter to be mutually agreed upon by the parties to that agreement.

PRISONS - FREMANTLE

Fire and Riot Expenditure

516. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Will the Minister provide a detailed costing of all public moneys that have been expended as a result of the fire and riot at the Fremantle Prison in January 1988 and ensure that the costings include fire damage, renovations and repairs, departmental overtime, the cost of police operations, legal costs, trial transport costs, workers' compensation costs and other associated costs that flowed to other prisons as a consequence of interprison transfers, including overtime for those other prisons?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

It is not possible to identify individual expenditures on the items requested as these would have been covered as part of the normal operations of the

departments concerned. It is possible to provide details of the cost of work undertaken to renovate Fremantle Prison following the fire and riot in January 1988 and these follow -

	\$
Crash Barriers	18 540
Clean Up	131 989
Building Works	1 375 968
South Gate	43 000
Boiler House Reroof	21 000
Equipment Repair	2 000
Disbursement	1 000
South Gate Security Lights	300
Repair of Fire Damaged Office	9 800
New Division - Power, Paint Rewire	37 700
New Locks	59 000
Protective Clothing	3 800
Scaffolding	60 300
New Hot Water Units	5 600
PA System	7 500
Work to Showers and Assessment	4 000
Security Grilles to Roof	4 000
Special Handling Unit Establishment	44 300
Razor Wire	1 600
Porta Potties	10 000
Relocation of Razor Wire	400
SHU TV antennas	1 100
Secure Notice Boards	2 800
Cell Furniture	15 100
SHU Modifications and Additions	15 000
Hot Water Systems	10 500
Reconstruction Minor Items to Div 3 & 4	20 600
Emergency Door Div 2 & 3	2 200
Access for Fire Fighting Vehicle	300
Cell Locks Div 1 & 2	3 100
TV connections	9 300
New Locks	7 800
Maintenance Items Div 1 & 2	50 000
PA system	3 400
Turnstiles Repairs	1 100
Security Screens B Landing	2 000
Expansion of Visiting Facilities	25 500
Supply Water Coolers	2 200
Hire of Office	1 900
Purchase of Mattresses	8 000

SCHOOLS - RIVERVALE

Tenancy - Sale Negotiations

538. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is Rivervale State School occupied at present?
- (2) If so, by whom and under what conditions?
- (3) Is the Government negotiating to sell that school site?
- (4) If yes, will it be sold by tender, auction or private treaty?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Beechboro Christian School is on a monthly tenancy.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

NULLARBOR PLAIN - WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

Report

541. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Minister received the report or reports advising the Government in relation to the World Heritage listing of the Nullarbor?
- (2) If so, when did he receive this report or reports?
- (3) What are the technical descriptions or proper names of the report or reports he has received?
- (4) Has the Minister conferred with the Federal or South Australian Governments?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) when; and
 - (b) with what result?
- (6) Has there been officer consultation between the Minister's department and the Department of the Federal or South Australian Governments in relation to the report or reports?
- (7) Is there any recommendation before the Minister from -
 - (a) the Federal Government;
 - (b) the South Australian Government; or
 - (c) the Minister's own department,
 in relation to the World Heritage listing of the Nullarbor?
- (8) Will there be consultation undertaken with local people?
- (9) What will be the nature of that consultation?
- (10) When will it be undertaken?
- (11) Will the views of local people influence the outcome?
- (12) Is the Minister aware that no State or Federal member of Parliament has expressed support for World Heritage listing of the Nullarbor other than Hon Ros Kelly, Federal Minister for the Environment?
- (13) Does the Western Australian Government support listing?
- (14) When will the decision be made?
- (15) Is the Minister aware that the Government of the Commonwealth and the State have repeatedly indicated that a decision would have been made before now and, specifically, a decision in July was indicated?
- (16) Is the Government planning to delay a decision until after the Federal and State elections?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

(1)-(16)

I am advised that the Minister for the Environment has recently received a copy of the report on the significance of Karst and other landforms of the Nullarbor region which was prepared by the Commonwealth's consultant. The Minister has yet to consider the report.

TEACHERS - TRADE UNION TRAINING AUTHORITY COURSES
During School Hours Permission - Use of Taxpayers' Funds Justification

545. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that teachers are permitted to undertake courses conducted by the Trade Union Training Authority during school hours?
- (2) Is it correct that relief staff are engaged to cover the absence of teachers attending these courses?
- (3) If (1) and (2) are correct, how does the Government justify the use of taxpayers' funds to train trade union operatives?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

Yes.

- (3) Trade union training leave is an award provision contained in the Government School Teachers' General Conditions Award 1986 and is a common condition for Government employees.

ADOPTION - NEW LEGISLATION

Introduction Date

549. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) What priority, if any, are the amendments to the laws of adoption to be given this session?
- (2) Is it intended to introduce and complete the amendments this session?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The following answer has been supplied by the Minister for Community Services -

(1)-(2)

The Government has listed the new adoption Bill in the current legislative program and it is intended to be introduced this session.

PENGUIN ISLAND - PENGUIN COLONY IN JEOPARDY

People Pressure and Natural Causes - Public Education and Protection Measures

565. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the continued existence of the penguin colony on Penguin Island is in jeopardy owing to encroaching people pressure and natural causes?
- (2) What measures are being taken to -
 - (a) educate the public on the importance and conservation value of Penguin Island;
 - (b) protect the penguin colony; and
 - (c) assist or encourage the provision of facilities to fulfil its tourism potential?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) No. There is no evidence to suggest the penguin colony is in jeopardy due to public pressure or natural causes.
- (2) (a) Department of Conservation and Land Management maintains signage, distributes brochures and - with volunteer assistance - offers guided educational tours and an information facility for visitors to the island.

- (b) CALM provides ongoing public education and supervision and the provision of raised boardwalks, signage and barriers to protect nesting habitat.
- (c) CALM will continue to investigate the potential for installation of penguin viewing facilities appropriate for the island and the penguin colony and to fulfil conservation and tourism objectives.

TAFE - PERTH CAMPUS

Business Management Course Exam Results - Delays

569. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Why was there a delay in advising the students of the two year business management course at TAFE's Perth campus of their first semester exam results?
- (2) Which other subjects or courses suffered a similar delay in the provision of exam results to the students at the Perth TAFE campus, and what was the reason for the delay?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

Due to an administrative computing error within the Ministry of Education, approximately 12 000 DEVET student academic statements were not processed and mailed out in time. As soon as the ministry's information technology staff identified the problem, measures to rectify it were implemented immediately. All students affected have since been issued their statements. However, students not in possession of their results because of the problem were permitted to re-enrol pending receipt of their results.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVELS - 0.05 LEGISLATION

Regulations Introduction Date

354. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

When will regulations be introduced on the 0.05 blood alcohol content legislation, which was passed earlier this year by the Legislative Council?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

As the member would recall, a 12 month lead-in period exists for that legislation.

Hon Murray Montgomery: You mean, there was. The lead-in period is six months now.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: No; the legislation provides for a 12 month lead-in period, and the legislation will not come into effect until next year. I do not have a date for when regulations will be produced, or indeed what those regulations will be. However, I will look into the matter and advise the Leader of the Opposition.

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVELS - 0.05 LEGISLATION

Regulations Introduction Date - Consultations with Leader of the National Party and Leader of the Opposition

355. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

Will the Minister consult with the Leader of the National Party in this House and me before the introduction of the 0.05 blood alcohol content regulations to ascertain whether any agreement can be reached about the number of demerit points that may be proposed and any other matters that may be dealt with by regulation?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I will be happy to have that discussion. I am of the view that as members of Parliament we should have available to us a Joint House Committee that deals with road safety. I will be moving in that way later in the year.

Hon George Cash: We proposed that six years ago to a former Minister for Police, but unfortunately nothing happened.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am the current Minister for Police.

Hon George Cash: You are the sixth.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I have worked hard in an endeavour to deal with issues of road safety on a non-political, bipartisan basis. The 0.05 legislation was probably the last impediment to that bipartisan approach. Now that that legislation is out of the way I am hopeful that we can create a situation in which there will be no gain or no loss for political parties addressing these matters on a bipartisan basis. I am trying to recall exactly what provisions were contained in the legislation. We had proposed the most balanced penalty in perhaps the whole of Australia for driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of 0.05.

Hon George Cash: The number of demerit points and the penalties to be imposed need to be discussed.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Yes. I am very keen to retain that balance, but not to water down the offence. I am happy to hold discussions on the matter with the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party.

EDUCATION - FOUR YEAR OLDS

Preschool Education Proposals - Committee Recommendations

356. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

I remind the Minister of her answer to question 94 that I asked on Wednesday, 8 April about the preschool education of four year olds, in which she stated -

... a committee of learned people is working on the matter to bring recommendations to the Government. When we have those recommendations we can make them available to members and debate them.

Are those recommendations available and is the Government ready to debate them?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The recommendations have been made by that committee and the Government is already acting upon them. Owing to the great amount of support that has been given by the State and Federal Labor Governments there has been an extraordinary increase in family support and early childhood measures. In particular, there has been a great increase in family day care and child care centre programs. A small amount has also been provided for assistance to the playgroup program and a large commitment to the new family centres program. The committee's deliberations highlighted what was, in some ways, a predictable outcome. Five year olds will be included in the provisions made available by the Ministry of Education, and children aged four years and under will be provided for under the new department - a combination of the Office of the Family and the Department for Community Services - which is yet to be announced. That is the outcome of the committee's work and the Government is well down the track of acting on the committee's recommendations. The recommendations will gain widespread support because it is logical to move in that direction.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: For whom?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: For every sensible person in the field, including members of Parliament.

SCHOOLS - COVERED ASSEMBLY AREAS
Mt Barker Primary - Paper Listing Schools Tabling

357. Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister table a paper indicating which schools will receive covered assembly areas? If that is not possible at this time, will the Minister indicate whether Mt Barker Primary School will gain a covered assembly area?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am happy to provide that information about Mt Barker Primary School. The community at Mt Barker must be one of the most prolific letter writing communities in Western Australia, on a continuing and annual basis.

Hon Murray Montgomery: It has been 14 years.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am very pleased today to announce that Mt Barker Primary School will receive a covered assembly area under the appropriate allocation of the State Budget.

Hon Graham Edwards: Hon Bob Thomas has been doing good work down there.

Hon Murray Montgomery: Come on, it's been 14 years.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

EDUCATION - FOUR YEAR OLDS
Preschool Education Proposals - Burke and Dowding Governments' Policies

358. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did the Burke Labor Government in 1986 have a policy to provide all parents with the option of a place in preschool education for their four year olds?
- (2) Did the Dowding Labor Government in 1989 have a policy to provide supervised education and social development programs in a variety of settings for 25 000 four year olds each year?
- (3) Does the announcement just presented by the Attorney General in tabling the Budget papers mark the final retreat of the Government from its 1986 position on the education of four year olds?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(3)

I intend to digress from the rules that apply on answering questions on behalf of other Ministers for one moment. The questions raised by the honourable member are not within my province; however, I can tell him that the Government has a very big commitment towards the building of family centres which cater for four year olds. Hon Derrick Tomlinson would also know that the Government has a commitment for the provision of centres for five year olds. An honourable member has kindly sent me a letter asking about the schools in his electorate, but I cannot read the signature. If the person wishes to write to me again in a way that I can understand, I will respond.

SCHOOLS - HARVEY AGRICULTURAL SENIOR HIGH
Covered Assembly Area Funding

359. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister indicate whether any money has been allocated to the Harvey Agriculture Senior High School for expenditure on its needs under the covered assembly areas allocation of the Budget?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am not sure that that high school has fared as happily as the Mt Barker Primary School, but if the member would like to put the question on notice I will have it thoroughly checked to ascertain whether there is any joy for that very important school.

ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY - NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Biological Impact Study

360. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Some notice of my question has been given. What biological impact study did the Minister rely on in determining the measures announced for the management of the rock lobster industry on 11 August 1992?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I thank the member for prior notice of the question. I have been advised that the Minister for Fisheries has made himself familiar with all the information on the rock lobster fishery which has been made available to the rock lobster industry advisory committee by the Fisheries Department's research division. The Minister also received a detailed briefing on the latest analysis of the status of stocks by research division scientists and the Executive Director of Fisheries shortly before making his decision on a future management package for the industry.

ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY - NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee Recommendations - Biological Impact of Decisions

361. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Some notice of my question has been given.

- (1) Why did the Minister not allow the rock lobster industry advisory committee to consider his proposed options to the advisory committee's recommendations for the future management of the rock lobster industry before the Minister arbitrarily imposed his personal standards on the industry on 11 August 1992?
- (2) Will the Minister advise of the likely biological impact of his decisions announced on 11 August 1992 compared with the recommendations of the rock lobster industry advisory committee?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

I thank the member for prior notice of the question. I have been advised that the Minister for Fisheries discussed the rock lobster industry advisory committee's recommendations with industry at a series of public meetings. It was apparent from those meetings that there was a wide disparity of views as to the most appropriate package of future management measures and that there was not majority support for the committee's recommendations. The Minister subsequently met with the Executive Director of Fisheries, who is chairman of the rock lobster industry advisory committee, together with members from the department's research division to assess the options he was considering prior to determining the package of management measures which he believed would be effective. The measures announced should result in an increase in the number of mature females in the western rock lobster population which contributes to the breeding. The package is aimed at having a more positive effect on the breeding population than that proposed by the rock lobster industry advisory committee.

SCHOOLS - ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE WORK

Building Management Authority or Local Contractors Policy

362. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does all school electrical maintenance have to be done by the Building Management Authority or can it be done by local contractors?

- (2) Is there a difference in the policy applying to country and metropolitan schools?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

My understanding is that there is a difference between the requirements applying to country and metropolitan schools. In general, all electrical work is required to be done by the Building Management Authority. If the member requires an accurate answer, instead of my relying on my memory, I will obtain it for him. We have allowed schools to contract out for minor electrical maintenance work to give them the ability to respond quickly, and to give them added flexibility. Certainly, the electrical area is carefully guarded.

SCHOOLS - PLUMBING AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORK

Building Management Authority Undertaking

363. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education:

Is the plumbing and building maintenance work done at schools required to be undertaken by the Building Management Authority?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

It is true that the Building Management Authority will undertake the assessment, but a large amount of work is being contracted out in order to have the work done quickly. This provides an opportunity for local contractors to have a hand in improving the school environment. If the member puts the question on notice I will obtain an accurate response for him. Allocations to schools have been increased under this year's Budget and this will give principals the ability to organise for the smaller maintenance projects to be undertaken by a local contractor, but the larger maintenance projects will still be handled in a formal way by the Building Management Authority. This system is working well and everyone associated with it thinks it is a worthwhile move away from the rigid system which existed previously.

PRISONS - LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Average Term - Work Release or Parole Consideration

364. Hon MURIEL PATTERSON to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) What is the average term of imprisonment of persons sentenced to life imprisonment over the last 15 years?
- (2) After what period of imprisonment can a person sentenced to life imprisonment apply for work release or parole?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Persons who were sentenced and released in the last 15 years served an average term of six and a half years. Of those sentenced to life imprisonment in that period, 56 have been released, giving the 6.5 year average, and 94 remain in custody. As a result of the amendment to the Offenders Community Corrections Act in June 1988, the minimum period before consideration can be given to parole was increased from five to seven years where the life sentence is imposed for murder and from 10 to 12 years where imposed for wilful murder. I do not have the further breakdown which, in any event, would have to be a projection, but it virtually follows automatically from the 1988 amendment that the average terms actually served will progressively increase from now on.
- (2) No prisoner may be considered for work release or parole until the first statutory review of five, seven, 10, 12 or 20 years depending on the sentence and whether the sentence was imposed before the

commencement date of the 1988 Act. The Act distinguishes between life imprisonment and strict security life imprisonment. The latter sentence is one which may be imposed for wilful murder and in such cases the first review cannot be conducted until after 20 years. As a result of a more recent amendment to the Act, the court may also order that a person convicted of wilful murder is never to be eligible for parole. No prisoner has been sentenced under this last provision to date.

SCHOOLS - FIVE YEAR OLDS

Full Time Schools - Postponement Consideration

365. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Education:

In view of the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations' conference held over the weekend and also the overwhelming decisions of meetings held in both the metropolitan and country areas in their opposition to the implementation of full time education for five year olds, is the Minister prepared to postpone the implementation of this program?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

No-one would expect a Minister for Education who is implementing a program which will expand the opportunities for five year olds to abandon it when a majority of parents want that opportunity for their children. The overwhelming majority opposed to the program, as referred to by Hon Eric Charlton, is not an accurate reflection of the real position. I have attended a number of community meetings and it is true that the people opposed to the program are very forceful in the point of view they put forward.

Hon George Cash: Is it true that they hissed and booed you, as reported in the newspapers?

Hon P.G. Pental: And asked for your resignation; and, if not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Some parents who do not want this program are quite forceful in making their point. However, when I leave a meeting people queue between the door and my car to speak to me and say such things as, "You will not let those people stop us having the program, will you? Thank you very much for the program. Is our school to have the program?" They were the questions being asked up until last Saturday. If members opposite believe they are reading the situation accurately I challenge them to campaign against the program in the schools to which it has been allocated.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: All in Labor seats.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is interesting that a country member asked the original question. Country schools in non-Labor seats across the State have been given the opportunity to introduce this full time program. I turn now to the -

Hon George Cash: Hissing and booing.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: On Sunday the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Minister should answer the question.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: That meeting was the annual conference of the parent body. It was a well conducted forum where there was no hissing.

Hon George Cash: There was a lot of booing then.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: One speaker challenged my credibility when I said that many more parents wanted the program than we would be able to provide it for in 1993. When my credibility was challenged on that matter I told the

gathered delegates that I was in the position of having to challenge their credibility as I did not believe they were accurately reflecting the views of their members. At that stage a mild outbreak or response, one might say, occurred. It was a good natured and well conducted forum. The people told me what they thought and I told them what I thought. I will continue to work in that constructive way with WACSSO.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM - AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
EXHIBITION
*Purchase Price***

366. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for The Arts :

No doubt the Minister has read the June-July copy of *Your Museum*.

- (1) What was the purchase price of the Labor history material, including banners, certificates and other memorabilia acquired recently by the Western Australian Museum?
- (2) To whom was the purchase price, if any, paid?
- (3) What was the cost of similar material in the museum?
- (4) On what basis are such items valued?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(4)

A centenary of the Labor Party exhibition was mounted by the museum which included an exhibition of important material. I understand that material was gathered from various bodies associated with the Labor movement over the period represented by the exhibition. I am unaware of the expenditure to which the member refers. I have no doubt that mounting any exhibition incurs a cost. It is usual for sponsorship to meet some of the cost.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: The article says that the exhibits were purchased on behalf of the Museum by the Trades and Labor Council.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The member should put his question on notice, after which time I will be pleased to ask the Museum for that information for him.

SCHOOLS - FIVE YEAR OLDS

Full Time Schooling - Overwhelming Support; No Agreement, No Funding Reason

367. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Education :

Was the overwhelming support for the new education program for five year olds mentioned by the Minister a consequence of either her or her representatives informing the people at the meetings she or they attended that if the people did not agree to the proposal they would not be eligible for capital funding for their schools in future?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

This is an extraordinary situation. As I said previously, despite the objections at the meetings, overwhelming support was given by the community for this program at community meetings. Hon Eric Charlton seeks to turn that around to imply that I said there was overwhelming support for the program expressed at the meeting. I said that the people who are opposed to the program turn up and speak in an assertive way. I have never said that there is across the board support for this program. At the meetings I have attended people have expressed a divided position. Hon Eric Charlton should go to such meetings as he might then be better informed about what goes on in his community. I have forgotten the rest of the member's question.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members are turning question time into a farce. I ask them to act in a more dignified manner than they are at present. If members wish to receive answers to their questions they should allow the Minister to

reply. I suggest that, in answering, the Minister cease going off on tangents which cause her to forget the original question. If that is done many more questions will be answered.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I thank you for your good advice, Mr President. However, the question implied a misunderstanding which on my part I felt duty bound to clarify. Officers at those meetings did not threaten a lack of capital funding in future. This is a classic example of a member misunderstanding a situation. He probably believes what he says is an absolute truth. This is undoubtedly related to something which was said at a community meeting which was relayed to the member. Last week I went on "The 7.30 Report" with Ross Ainsworth, who is the National Party's spokesman on education matters. Next morning my office in Perth received phone calls from people in that member's electorate saying, "We understand we may not be considered for this program. Please do not let Ross Ainsworth's comments of last night deprive our school of the opportunity for this program." Members should not be complacent in their reading of this situation and what they think are the wishes of the parents in their electorates.

**COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND - PORT
HEDLAND GRANT**
Distribution

368. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation :

- (1) Has any part of the \$2 million allocated to Port Hedland for community sporting and recreation facilities in the previous Budget been distributed?
- (2) If so, how much?
- (3) If the money has not been paid, is it still available.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I believe a question is on notice to deal with this matter.

The PRESIDENT: The question will go on notice.

SCHOOLS - FIVE YEAR OLDS
Full Time Schooling - Part Time Access Guarantee 1993

369. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

With the introduction of full time preschool education for five year olds at select schools as announced last Thursday, and given that waiting lists already exist this year in some parts of the State for part time education for five year olds, will the Minister guarantee access to at least part time education for all five year olds in 1993 and beyond?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

When introducing this program the Government made it quite clear the part time provision would continue. That part time provision is not available to students at all schools now. Many parents have transported their student children to various centres for reasons of travel arrangements, where they work, or because of the area where other family members live. We must keep in mind that this program is not a compulsory program, and that we are moving to provide for it right across the community and also to retain the provision of the part time program. That does not mean that it will be available in all schools, because in the first year of the phase-in it will be a very big logistical exercise. Some schools will have part time and full time programs and some will have only the full time program or the part time program.

PRISONS - CANNING VALE
Pharmacy - Construction Date; Funding

370. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Some notice of this question has been given.

- (1) When was the pharmacy at the Canning Vale Prison constructed?
- (2) How much funding was expended on this project?
- (3) In which Budget was the funding for this project approved by the Parliament?
- (4) Was the specifically approved funding for this project applied to the project; and if not, why not?
- (5) Was any funding previously approved for the Casuarina project used to fund part or all of the costs associated with the pharmacy at Canning Vale; and if so, will the Minister provide details?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some advance notice of this question. Perhaps it is unusual to do so, but I also thank him for the content, because, after a number of questions dealing with the building services division of the Department of Corrective Services in a general way, it is helpful to have attention drawn to specific problems which can then be looked into and responded to specifically.

Hon George Cash: In respect of the building services division, we will become very specific, don't worry.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I think the more specific the better. As we come to know what the particular area of interest or concern is, so will it become easier for me to respond in a directed rather than a generalised way. I prefer not to deal in generalities.

Hon George Cash: If you take two or three recollection pills we will probably get ourselves on the right track.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: It is not a matter of recollection at all. The answer to the question is as follows -

- (1) During 1990.
- (2) \$68 828.62.
- (3)-(5)

Funds approved for the replacement of Fremantle Prison by the Casuarina project were used to construct the pharmacy. The pharmacy was previously located at Fremantle Prison and was relocated to the Canning Vale site rather than Casuarina on the basis of a number of departmental reports.

SCHOOLS - FIVE YEAR OLDS
Full Time Schooling - Part Time Priority Guarantee

371. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

Given that waiting lists for part time education for five year olds existed in Bridgetown and some other areas of the State this year, will the Minister guarantee that, next year and beyond, the provision of part time education for five year olds is given priority over the provision of full time education for five year olds?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

It has been made very clear to members that the Government has made a commitment to a full time program for five year olds which would be phased in over a three year period, with 1993 being the first year. That commitment will go alongside the continuing provision of the part time program.

I do not doubt that there is a waiting list in some centres, but in other centres there is considerable space and four year olds have been taken into programs; so it is very difficult, with changing demographics, to match all those particular needs. We certainly meet them absolutely and totally with regard to compulsory education. We are not talking about compulsory education for five year olds, and if any member brings to my attention a concern he or she has about youngsters missing out on a part time program in his or her electorate we will see what we can do about that, because in the provision of this full time program it may be that a greater provision can be made.

Members will notice from the list published in last Saturday's edition of *The West Australian* that a number of schools will be able to provide both full time and part time programs initially, in 1993. I cannot give an undertaking greater than that which we currently do; that is, the part time program is taken up, I understand, by about 95 per cent of the cohort. It is a very popular program indeed, and the provision of the full day program is proving also to be very popular, although there is no doubt that some parents have concerns about it and, despite the fact that they are free not to enrol their children, they seem intent on depriving other parents of the ability to enrol their children. That is a point of view I cannot understand; neither can I accede to it.

ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY - CLOSURE, NORTHERN SECTOR
Unemployment Effect

372. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Some notice of this question has been given.

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the proposal to close the northern sector to rock lobster fishermen between 1 January and mid-February is likely to cause substantial unemployment in the rock lobster industry, and in particular in the rock lobster processing industry?
- (2) Prior to his announcement on 11 August 1992 to order a closure of the northern sector of the rock lobster industry from 1 January to mid-February, did the Minister take into account the significant increase in unemployment that will be caused in the industry as a result of his recommendations; and if so, from whom did he seek advice?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of concern expressed by the Rock Lobster and Prawning Association about the significant negative effect on regional employment as a result of his recently announced decisions?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for notice of the question. I have been advised -

(1)-(3)

The Minister for Fisheries was aware that a mid-season closure in the northern sector of the western rock lobster fishery would create temporary disruption to the catching and processing sectors. The Minister has received expressions of concern with respect to the impact of a seasonal closure from the Rock Lobster and Prawning Association and subsequently met with the association last week.

It must be realised that the Minister is most concerned with the current state of the rock lobster resource and, in particular, the ever-reducing number of breeding stock. Consequently, responsible management of the actual resource and its long term viability and sustainability takes precedence in any consideration of this very important fishery.