

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, 16 May 1990

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

## JOINT SITTING - SENATOR ELECTION

**THE PRESIDENT:** It is my intention to apply Standing Orders so that the time taken for the forthcoming joint sitting of Parliament will not affect the one hour rule. I adopt the view that the joint sitting effectively freezes the clock; therefore when the Council resumes after the joint sitting I shall invoke Standing Order No 166 at the expiration of one hour from 2.30 pm, plus the time of the duration of the joint sitting.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE INVESTMENTS RELATING TO PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD, ROTHWELLS LTD

### *Interim Report*

**HON R.G. PIKE** (North Metropolitan) [2.31 pm]: I present the first interim report of the Select Committee on State Investments relating to Petrochemical Industries Ltd, WA Government Holdings Ltd and Rothwells Ltd.

[See paper No 272.]

Consideration of the report made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by Hon J.M. Brown.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS - LETTER

### *Telecommunications (Interception) (Western Australia) Bill*

**THE PRESIDENT:** I have a letter from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, which is addressed to me and is in respect of the Telecommunications (Interception) (Western Australia) Bill which was introduced into Parliament yesterday. I wish to table that letter for the benefit of members.

[See paper No 271.]

## MOTION - SELECT COMMITTEE ON STATE INVESTMENTS RELATING TO PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD, ROTHWELLS LTD

### *Reappointment*

Debate resumed from 15 May.

**HON FRED McKENZIE** (East Metropolitan) [2.39 pm]: The time allowed for the introduction of motions expired yesterday while I was in the process of informing members that I was not sure whether the Select Committee on State Investments should be reappointed.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: You have had 24 hours to think about it.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I previously decided that I would support the motion, and I indicated this in my opening remarks. However, I was not sure prior to the Government's making a decision whether it should be reappointed.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It was the member's persuasive argument which helped the Government to decide.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: The Government decided that the committee should be reappointed and I went along with that. This raises the question of whether we should have a Royal Commission, and that question helped me arrive at my position.

Hon P.G. Pandal: An honest man like you should support a Royal Commission.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I do not support a Royal Commission, Mr Pandal, and the reason is simple: A Royal Commission would cost millions of dollars.

Hon W.N. Stretch: The Government has already lost millions of dollars!

Hon FRED McKENZIE: That is no excuse to waste further money. Everybody is aware of what has taken place. The reason for my support of the re-establishment of this committee is that it is the lesser of two evils. I do not agree that we need to have any, but the campaign of members opposite is to encourage public support for more and more inquiries.

Hon N.F. Moore: They would have worked it out for themselves.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: The Select Committee is the better way to go. Even though the committee has been sitting for some time and we have released a report that was tabled today - I do not want to debate that report as the President will not allow it - I wish to give the reasons for my reservations about its reappointment. These reasons weighed heavily on my mind when determining whether I should support the re-establishment of the committee. The main concern is its cost. I have been on a number of committees and this is the first one in which a QC and an accountant have been appointed to the committee. I do not know how much this has cost, but Mr Brown indicated in the debate that thousands of dollars were involved.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member should refer to Hon Jim Brown as "the honourable".

Hon FRED McKENZIE: Hon Jim Brown is certainly a very honourable gentleman and I apologise to him for not stating so. I have been here long enough to know that that title should be accorded the member; there is no excuse for calling him Mr Brown.

This is the first committee on which I have worked which has appointed a QC and an accountant.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Would it be the most complex committee you have worked on?

Hon FRED McKENZIE: No, it is not the most complex; it is an exercise that has been difficult because the Opposition members have had an agenda to get rid of the Government.

Hon P.G. Pandal: That, and to find the truth!

Hon FRED McKENZIE: The Opposition is trying to grab power, and that makes it difficult for the committee. Given that scenario, and being aware of the Opposition's tactics, it is my responsibility as a member of the committee to ensure that fair play is achieved. I believed that could be done without the necessity of appointing a QC or an accountant because we have the services of the Clerk who is a very able person when it comes to points of order. I appreciate his unbiased assistance to members of that committee. We did not need to go the expense of employing a Queen's Counsel, and at the end of the day it will be interesting to find out how much that will cost. In addition, Hon Peter Foss serves on that committee and he is another lawyer of note. I say that respectfully, although it does not require a lawyer to make a committee operate effectively. The committee is capable of doing the job without becoming involved in the strict terms of the law.

Hon W.N. Stretch: What did the CALM Royal Commission cost, for argument's sake?

Hon FRED McKENZIE: The CALM Royal Commission did not appoint a QC and an accountant.

Hon W.N. Stretch: It cost more than this one has so far.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I do not know what it cost, and I do not know what this committee has cost so far. However, members must remember that the CALM Royal Commission went around the world.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let us concentrate on the committee in question.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: Looking at the outcome, the CALM Royal Commission arrived at a good decision which was harmoniously received. The legislation was accepted by this Parliament, yet we did not need a QC and an accountant to guide us.

Although that is one of the reasons why I had some opposition to the reappointment of the committee, it is preferable to have a QC and an accountant appointed to the committee than

to have a Royal Commission. Even though the committee was burdened with the costs, debate took place about the appointment of these gentlemen. I did not favour their appointment, although I am not saying that the people appointed are not very good persons.

Hon W.N. Stretch: That sounds like a Bob Menzies' quickstep.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: However, one has to go along with these decisions. I hope that this is not a pattern which will be followed in the future because it sets a dangerous precedent. If such people are attached to a number of committees, we will need to examine the costs involved and question the value received from the costs involved.

Hon W.N. Stretch: You are investigating an unprecedented situation!

Hon FRED McKENZIE: It is not an unprecedented situation. We have never had a Select Committee of this nature in the past when the Labor Party has been in Government. However, I would have liked to see a Royal Commission into the North West Shelf gas project.

Several members interjected.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: This State would be broke if the project had not been renegotiated. This Government saved \$5 billion for the State Energy Commission.

Hon P.G. Pental: Nonsense!

Hon FRED McKENZIE: The agreement was written in such a form that we could not get details released. Hon David Parker wrote to the management of the joint venture in 1985 and asked for the details to be released. This was denied. I can show members the telex and the reply from the joint venture partners, yet we did not have a Royal Commission into that. However difficult this Select Committee may be, it is important to note that we can save this State millions of dollars by continuing with the committee rather than appointing a Royal Commission - even though I am convinced that it will find nothing.

Several members interjected.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: However, we should let it ride its course and at the end of the day we will see how much evidence is forthcoming. If the committee is appointed, the committee must be careful when releasing its report. We worked very hard as a committee to come up with a unanimous report and we almost achieved that. As difficult as I was on this committee -

Hon J.M. Berinson: No, we will not have that, Mr McKenzie.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I was very difficult regarding the committee's report, Mr Leader.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is most uncharacteristic of you.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I accused my colleague, Hon Jim Brown, of being an old softie during a meeting of that committee. I am sorry I did that, because he is a tough nut, which he proved yesterday. At one stage I believed I would be the only member issuing a minority report, due to my stubbornness. However, Hon Jim Brown took me into his confidence, consulted with and consoled me, and the stubbornness inherent in my nature was watered down.

In spite of the difficulties experienced we were within an ace of achieving a unanimous report. It was only at the last minute that we put forward our minority report because of certain facts disclosed in the Press by the Attorney General. Despite our differences, we can work together as committee members. At times I become irate, but we are all human. Hon Robert Pike does his best to be a fair chairman. I did not want him appointed, initially.

Hon J.M. Brown: Neither did I.

Hon Tom Stephens: If the truth is known, neither did half of the members opposite.

Hon P.G. Pental: He did the job, though.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I hope that the people from this side will be given a fair go in relation to some of our unresolved questions when the committee reconvenes, because I think we can work together. I wish that we had not appointed a QC and an accountant to help the committee, although they are good people. Mr Steggall is a fine, upstanding man and a wonderful choice. We could not have a better choice and I am impressed by him.

Hon P.G. Pental: Can't you instruct him not to be so diligent?

Hon FRED McKENZIE: He is extremely diligent. We put him under great pressure during the last few days the committee sat because of the imminent prorogation of Parliament, I acknowledge that. He certainly helped the committee, but at a great cost. I am a lay person with a background in the back blocks and the trade union movement, so it is difficult for me to match a lawyer; but I can give them a run for their money in other ways; what one cannot achieve through intellectual debate can be achieved by fairness and logical debate.

Hon P.G. Pental: Watch him, he will be charging for this advice.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I have to be careful that I do not treat professional people unfairly, and I understand that. The Leader of the House is a professional person.

Hon Max Evans: Hon Joe Berinson is a QC and could have been on the committee. He would have been completely unbiased and given the same advice as Mr Pringle QC.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I tried to save the State money by seeking to use people employed by the Parliament, such as the Crown Solicitor who is not an employee of the Government. He is the sort of appointee I would have preferred, or the Auditor General or one of his staff. I think we could have saved money by doing that.

Hon Max Evans: The Government did not worry about the \$100 million that went into PICL, but now Hon Fred McKenzie is worrying about a few thousand dollars.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: I did worry about that.

Hon P.G. Pental: Hon Fred McKenzie said that it was only paper money, which surprised us because he is a sensible man, apart from that comment.

Hon FRED McKENZIE: Hon Phillip Pental has said that about 25 times and he will keep reminding me about it and also probably drag something out of what I am saying now to remind me about. When Hon Mick Gayfer was here he used to remind me about the Country Party, as it then was, being the only party endeavouring to save the trains. I support the reappointment of the committee, but wished to explain the difficulties we had coming to a decision to support it. I support the motion.

The PRESIDENT: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells in order that we may proceed to the joint sitting to elect a senator.

*Sitting suspended from 2.55 to 3.12 pm*

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan) [3.12 pm]: I wish to reply very briefly to the query raised by Hon Fred McKenzie as to whether the committee required the assistance of consultants to carry out its work. I certainly endorse his remarks that the people chosen by the committee are extremely competent. Having observed the work of those two consultants, the committee could not have been better served by any other people it could have chosen. More importantly, it illustrates a point that applies to all committees of this House, whether Select Committees or Standing Committees, that if we are to do adequate work as members of Parliament we need to be assisted by people who are appropriately qualified and able to turn their minds to the particular issue the committee is investigating. We, as members of Parliament, have a multitude of other concerns. When we leave this Chamber we must prepare for other debates on parliamentary matters, and deal with electorate concerns, party matters, and civic responsibilities in our electorates. With all those things it is difficult to give the appropriate personal application that is required to inquiries of this nature. Most of those things require a fairly consistent mind approaching the task in order to carry out the investigation. There are not many members in this Chamber and a large amount of legislation will be introduced. To be able to deal with that we need all the assistance we can get from officers such as those who have helped the Select Committee. It is obviously far more cost effective to have that assistance rather than to expand the number of people in this Chamber and to elect more members to committees.

In terms of effectiveness, one has only to consider the United States Senate. It is true that those senators represent far more voters than do members of this House, but they are able to carry out a tremendous amount of research and to seek information. They have departments of State to carry out the work of the Congress in making sure that the Executive is held accountable, that legislation is properly investigated before it is passed and that the job of

Parliament is properly done. It is a very small contribution for two well qualified people to help a committee of this House. That is speaking in general terms, but it applies even more so to this committee. As the President said, there is an astonishingly large amount of information to be inquired into, and with the resources of only the committee members it would not be possible to undertake that task in tens of years. We need assistance of this nature if the committee is to be effective. I understand that members opposite may find it a little unusual to have that type of assistance, but it is the only practical way of doing it. In the circumstances, I am sure it will be acknowledged that the people who assisted the committee gave help not only to the committee as a whole, but also to individual members. Hon Fred McKenzie and Hon Jim Brown were, as much as anybody else, able to avail themselves of the services provided and to see how effective these people were. I support the motion, particularly that part which allows the committee to engage consultants.

**HON J.M. BERINSON** (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [3.18 pm]: I had intended to speak at somewhat greater length than I shall now do, as the motion passed earlier allowing for consideration of the report subsequently provides a better opportunity to canvass a number of matters that should be considered.

I restrict my comments at this stage, therefore, to the following matters. Firstly, as has already been indicated, the Government supports the reinstatement of the committee, as it supported its establishment in the first instance. In reinstating both the committee membership and the terms of reference, it is in order to emphasise to the committee the importance of all its terms of reference, which include item 5 providing that -

In presenting any report, the committee may annex any papers, evidence or transcripts or other documents if it is satisfied, after consulting the Special Investigator (Mr McCusker, QC) and the Solicitor General or counsel representing the Solicitor General, that nothing in a report or annexure would have a prejudicial effect on . . .

It is true and I do not question for a moment, that the committee is fully entitled, after consideration of the views of Mr McCusker and the Solicitor General or his nominee, to accept or decline to accept their advice. On the other hand, I believe it is relevant to stress to the committee about to be reappointed that the fifth term of reference is not a pro-forma term; that is, it is to be taken seriously. Having had the benefit of an outline of the advice provided by Mr McCusker and the Crown Solicitor, it is extraordinarily difficult to understand how the committee declined to accept that advice. I therefore emphasise that its responsibilities in this respect are clear and if that advice is worth having, as the House has clearly indicated it is, then it should not be ignored in the way that appears to have been the case in this instance. The result of that is that the report is deficient in a number of respects. I will address that in the debate on the report.

Suffice to say for the moment that I will list the features of the report to which the advice of Mr McCusker and the Crown Solicitor were directed. In the first place, the report is filled with selective extracts from witnesses' statements. Secondly, on the committee's advice, those statements have not been tested by any opportunity for comment by persons named in them. Thirdly, as the committee notes, as a result it does not endorse any of the extracts which it has published. This makes it all the more difficult to understand why the publication was made. Finally, the committee indicates that on the basis of this inadequate material it is unable to make any recommendations. Given the inadequacy of this material, why was it necessary to publish a report in this form? During earlier discussion, Hon George Cash or Hon Bob Pike said that defence of it would be attempted.

**Hon R.G. Pike:** Hon Bob Pike hasn't spoken on the matter yet.

**Hon J.M. BERINSON:** I will give the credit to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon George Cash:** I don't want to disappoint the Leader of the House, but I haven't spoken about it, either. I will accept responsibility.

**Hon J.M. BERINSON:** I may be referring to statements made outside. Whatever the case, the only defence of the report having been presented in this form has been on the basis that the terms of reference themselves require a report by 5 May 1990.

**Hon Max Evans:** That's right.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Of course that is right, and I am pleased to have Hon Max Evans' agreement. No doubt he will agree with what I say next. While there was a requirement for this report to be presented by 5 May 1990, there was certainly no requirement to present an inadequate or improper report by then.

Hon George Cash: Had it been presented in some other form, would it have been acceptable?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I remind the House that on innumerable occasions committees have presented reports by the due date which simply indicated that they saw some witnesses and made inquiries into such and such areas; however, they were unable to reach a conclusion and therefore sought an extension of time. That is a very common form of report and would have been preferable in this case.

Hon George Cash: Are you saying that had the report been published in a different form you may have endorsed it?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Certainly, if it had all the objectionable parts out of it.

Hon Max Evans: A whitewash!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.M. Brown): Order! Members are reminded not to discuss the report.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The Deputy President is in a very good position to make a ruling of that manner and I take the point.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Give him a chance to interject.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I will comply with his requirement. Of course, a report in that abbreviated form, without the unfair, incomplete approach which the report followed, would have been preferable and would have found a basis for further action by this reinstated committee which, I understand, will proceed on the basis of support from all parties.

HON R.G. PIKE (North Metropolitan) [3.27 pm]: Mr Deputy President -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.M. Brown): Order! The honourable member has already spoken. This is a procedural motion, as he would understand.

Hon R.G. PIKE: I seek leave to reply to the matters raised in this debate as did the Leader of the House recently when he was prevented by Standing Orders from replying.

Leave granted.

Hon R.G. PIKE: I categorically disagree with the words expressed by Hon Fred McKenzie about the professionalism of the Queen's Counsel and the accountant who were made available to the committee. Prospectively, the Standing Committee system in this House must work. If he thinks that parliamentarians are instant experts and can pick and shovel for themselves with the degree of professionalism necessary to match the professionalism that is available to the Executive, he is wrong.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Why have a committee in the first place? You are saying committees are useless.

Hon R.G. PIKE: The member should think with his brain instead of with his mouth.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I will not accept that cross-Chamber chatter while I am presiding. The honourable member should address his remarks to the Chair so that we can proceed with the closing of the motion.

Hon R.G. PIKE: Without that professionalism, the committee system in this House will go nowhere because it will be mismatched in competing with the professionalism of the Executive, whether it is the Labor Party Executive and its staff or a Liberal/National Party Government. If we are to uphold the principle of the powerful upper House, we need that professionalism. The Leader of the Opposition raised a number of points with regard to the opinions formed.

Hon George Cash: You mean the Leader of the House.

Hon R.G. PIKE: I beg your pardon, the Leader of the House. Beware almost the ides of March.

Hon P.G. Pental: You are thinking about the future.

Hon R.G. PIKE: It is what I call a proper Freudian slip. Nobody has raised the point, least of all the Leader of the House, that the committee was advised by a QC. Hon Jim Brown and Hon Fred McKenzie waxed eloquent regarding the competence of that QC. One of the findings already referred to in paragraph 4 on page 2 of the report illustrates that any matter that refers to litigation has properly not been reported on. We are looking at an opinion of some of the servants of the Attorney General and the opinion of an equally highly qualified Queen's Counsel who advised the committee and indeed on instruction was party to the preparation of the report. He was carefully told by myself - given my responsibility for the drafting of the report - that in no way was the report to impinge upon order of reference No 5. I am not about to debate with the Attorney General the merits of that QC's advice compared to the other evidence to which he has referred. I have the further opinion that those letters were improperly tabled in this place, but that is for another time and another place.

Hon Fred McKenzie: On the basis of doubt, it should go either way.

Hon R.G. PIKE: The great principle at stake today is the principle of the rights of Parliament. Somehow members of the legal profession in this State wear blinkers when it comes to the undoubted rights of Parliament.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Mr Foss does that all the time; it is surprising given his seniority in the profession.

Hon R.G. PIKE: The Attorney has had his turn; I will be quick.

I want to make the point that if Mr Berinson were to go before a magistrate for pinching a box of apples, on day one the defendant and/or the plaintiff's case may be heard; the case will be publicised in the paper. A day's or a week's delay, or maybe a greater delay will occur before you hear the other side - or, as we have experienced, more than two weeks' delay.

Hon Fred McKenzie: That is your own fault!

Hon J.M. Berinson: The member is looking at a delay of 12 months.

Hon R.G. PIKE: These are unnecessary delays. They have created the situation where it will be impossible for the committee to meet, and constitute itself, in time to look at some of the vital evidence which has come in since, and report perhaps - this would have been possible if this matter had been considered prior to the by-elections.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Nonsense.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Honourable members, two things come to mind. First, the member sought leave to make some comment on this matter. Having received leave to do so, it is incumbent on the member, firstly, to treat very carefully the leave which has been granted. Similarly, the other members should remember the only reason the member is speaking is because the House gave him leave to do so. Having given the member leave, while he keeps a moderate tone members should listen to him.

Hon R.G. PIKE: Thank you for your direction, Mr President.

The legal fraternity generally needs to be reminded of the undoubted powers of the House. I have suggested that in a normal court case, a recording may occur on one day of a point of view of the plaintiff; a day or a week later, depending on the delay, further hearings for the other side will occur. This has been unfortunate in our case. President Nixon would never have been impeached if the sort of gag that lawyers generally try to impose upon the right of this House to publish evidence had been imposed at that time. Every member will receive his fair and proper chance for the other side of the evidence to be published.

The Attorney General also said as part of his comments that he was unable to make sense of any of the committee's recommendations, as I recall his words. The fact is that the committee made no recommendations at all. I ask the Attorney General to read page one of the report.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is what I said.

Hon R.G. PIKE: I must have misheard the Attorney.

Thereupon I conclude my comments.

Question put and passed.

## MOTION - COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

### *Operations Commencement*

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [3.36 pm]: I move -  
That -

- (a) the Legislation Committee commence operations from the day on which its members are appointed;
- (b) the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee and the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee commence operations on 1 July 1990.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.37 pm]: In giving guarded support to the motion, the Opposition is pleased that the Legislation Committee will be able to operate as soon as members are appointed. I understand that will be within the next day or so. As to the commencement of the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee and the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee on 1 July 1990, it is important that I make a point. My understanding is that the reason these committees are not able to come into operation immediately is because of insufficient funding and resources. That distresses me, given that the Leader of the House during debate on the formation of the three committees gave the House the commitment that he would use his best endeavours to see that they were properly resourced.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I said that would follow the period when there were across-Government decisions against increasing any establishments - which goes to 30 June.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not remember the Leader of the House saying that; perhaps he intended to do so.

Hon J.M. Berinson: If the Leader of the Opposition consults *Hansard*, he will see that I did say that.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Perhaps the Leader can show me where this appears in *Hansard*. Had I recalled that statement I would not be on my feet being somewhat critical about the Government's not providing the necessary resources for these committees. If these committees are not properly resourced the functions and operations of the Legislative Council will grind to a halt. The onus rests on the Government to provide the necessary funding to ensure adequate professional advice and assistance and other resources are made available to these committees if they are to function efficiently and effectively.

I say on behalf of members of the Opposition that when we moved that these committees be established our intention was that they would be properly financed and resourced. I serve a warning on the Leader of the House that if he fails to provide adequate resources, the Government will suffer the consequences as a result of the committees' not being able to do their jobs as required. If these committees are not able to deal with legislation, or other matters referred to them, and considerable delays occur as a result of inadequate resourcing all fault will rest at the feet of the Government.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Is the Leader of the Opposition looking for an excuse for a blockade?

Hon GEORGE CASH: Not at all.

Question put and passed.

## COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION - APPOINTMENT

On motion without notice by Hon R.G. Pike, resolved -

That the following members be appointed to the committees described -

- (a) Legislation Committee: Hons J.N. Caldwell, Cheryl Davenport, Peter Foss, Garry Kelly and Derrick Tomlinson;



- (b) Estimates and Financial Operations Committee: Hons E.J. Charlton, Reg Davies, Max Evans, Sam Piantadosi and Bob Thomas;
- (c) Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee: Hons J.N. Caldwell, Mark Nevill and R.G. Pike.

### BILLS (6) - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Criminal Law Amendment Bill
2. Director of Public Prosecutions Bill  
Bills introduced, on motions by Hon J.M. Berinson (Attorney General), and read a first time.
3. Criminal Code Amendment (Incitement to racial hatred) Bill
4. Mines Regulation Amendment Bill
5. Mining Amendment Bill
6. State Planning Commission (Amendment and Validation) Bill  
Bills introduced, on motions by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

[Resolved, that motions be continued.]

*Sitting suspended from 3.46 to 4.00 pm*

### MOTION - COMPANIES AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION

#### *Federal Proposal - Opposition*

**HON R.G. PIKE** (North Metropolitan) [4.00 pm]: I seek leave to alter the words of the motion in the first line by deleting "the compromise he has entered into" and substituting "the proposal being discussed".

[Leave granted.]

**Hon R.G. PIKE:** I move -

That this House resolves -

- (1) To inform the Attorney General that it does not support the proposal being discussed as it constitutes in substance and effect a breach of the principles set out in the motion adopted by this House on Thursday, 3 May 1990 which said in part -

**BUT SUBJECT ALWAYS** to the following conditions precedent -

- (3) That this Parliament should not be asked to approve any law that transfers constitutional power or authority to the Commonwealth.
- (4) That the State should retain the full benefit of and rights under the High Court decision.
- (5) That the State should not concede the benefit of any undecided constitutional doubt in favour of the Commonwealth.
- (6) That there should be real and substantial political, constitutional and administrative power retained by the State.
- (2) To warn the Attorney General that the House is unlikely to adopt any legislation which gives effect to the deal done and the consequences of rejection of any such legislation will rest with the Attorney General and the Government.
- (3) To suggest to the Attorney General that the records of the Corporate Affairs office or any related State office should not be made available to the Australian Securities Commission or any other agency of the Commonwealth.

In communication with the Leader of the House it has been suggested that, given the pressure

of other work, debate on this motion will be limited. Should members agree to that limitation I shall speak for a very brief period of time, as also will the Leader of the House. I make it very clear that this is a motion which sets down in absolute terms the desire of the upper House and of the Parliament of Western Australia to set their face against any legislation which will have the effect of transferring corporate affairs powers to Canberra, and will also have the effect of preventing the transfer of any details and records of the Corporate Affairs Department to Canberra or to any agency of the Commonwealth Government. I have altered the words of the motion because the Leader of the House has made it clear to me - and he has been very fair and forthright - that no decision has been reached, so the substance of the motion directs itself to the proposals being discussed.

Speaking generally, the actions of the Attorney General in taking the matter to the High Court and pursuing it as diligently as he has done should be commended. I stand steadfastly by that proposition. The Attorney General is overwhelmed by the pressure of other States and the Commonwealth, and I reluctantly go on record as saying that the Liberal Party in Queensland, more particularly Mr Moore, the former President of the Liberal Party there, and some of the other Liberal States, are embracing in part or in whole the propositions which have been put. This is to the massive detriment of the States in this great Commonwealth of ours.

A quid pro quo will no doubt be established which will result in significant funds being passed from the Commonwealth to the States in the form of a buy off. But the important thing is that, just as John Curtin removed the taxation powers from the States during the second World War, and just as that singular act resulted in a massive reduction in the powers, rights, prerogatives and authority of the States, so also this act, should it come about, of transferring corporate affairs powers to Canberra will be the next most significant transfer of power from the State Governments in the history of this country since self-Government. So much so that the very functions of State Government and of this Parliament, the very functions of the Attorney and of those responsible for the administration of partnerships, business registrations, deals - and I say this with some hesitation - into which the Government may wish to enter in regard to corporate control, and the power of the Government to exercise control over its relevant Acts, will all disappear. We will have a diminished State and a massively centralised Commonwealth.

This is the most tremendous transfer of power and authority we have looked at for a significant time. The Attorney General needs to have this very clear in his mind, as I know he has because the motion was moved by our leader on 3 May. We made it very clear that this Parliament should not be asked to approve of any law which transfers constitutional power or authority to the Commonwealth; that the State should retain the full benefit of and rights under the High Court decision that the State should not concede the benefit of any undecided constitutional doubt in favour of the Commonwealth; that there should be real and substantial political, constitutional and administrative power retained by the State. This House has already determined that. The Attorney will go to a meeting tomorrow night, and he must negotiate on behalf of the Cabinet, so it is proper that this House should declare its determination on the matter.

When the High Court, for example, ruled that Commonwealth laws under a foreign treaty were valid, the construction of the dam in Tasmania stopped. But when the High Court ruled that the substance of Canberra's move to take over companies and securities law was invalid, the Commonwealth simply proceeded.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Unfortunately that is not quite correct. The decision was much more limited.

Hon R.G. PIKE: Whatever the decision was, the Attorney General will agree that when it was made the Commonwealth was on its back foot and it was necessary for it to renegotiate with the States. I am sure the Attorney General will admit that much.

What happened then was that the Commonwealth simply proceeded down the takeover path it had set itself, and some States - and, as I said before, some sections of the Federal Liberal Party - seemed to be making it very easy, and to be intent on making it easy, for that to take place. I must say that we steadfastly set our face against that. I point out to this House that, should this become law, with the effluxion of time we will see a massive transfer of the lawyers and accountants from Western Australia, and the very properties in this State that

lawyers and accountants and their various staff occupy, to Canberra, Victoria and New South Wales. I understand that, as I speak, 6.25 per cent of the totality of business in Australia is transacted in Canberra. I point out how fatuous it is for the Federal Attorney General to be saying billions will be lost on the Stock Exchange, but that had control of companies law and the administration of corporate affairs been in Canberra that would not happen. That is just a facile argument.

Talking about the Federal Police, to give the House an example, the assistant commissioner was recently murdered in Canberra and they cannot find out who did it. We are in a situation now - and I venture to suggest that the Attorney General would agree with me - of having this illogic imposed upon us that somehow or other, by some wave of a magic wand, Canberra administration will prevent companies from going broke or there will be some really great control exercised which hitherto was not the case. The dismal record of administration in Canberra, which is at once removed from the source of action, by comparison has been worse than that of the States. However, I add to that very quickly that, retrospectively, the administration of corporate affairs in this State has not been good and massive areas of criticism can be levelled against those problems; but I say without apology in this House that if one has rats in the house one does not burn the house down, one gets rid of the rats. That may seem to be rather an extreme comment to make, but I think in the context of what has happened in this State it ought to be made. Certainly, as I understand it, never would the National Party or the Liberal Party support a proposition that, willy-nilly, the corporate affairs power of this State, the administration of it in this State, and the records of it that prevail and are kept in this State ought suddenly to be transferred to control by Canberra.

I conclude by saying that the Attorney General has my sympathy. I think he is negotiating in a very difficult circumstance. I repeat that I think he has already done a splendid job so far, but he is now in the process of being overwhelmed and of getting what he can for the State; that is, firstly, a payment of money; and secondly, a regional administration office. However, in the end he knows in his heart that it is no different from Braddon's block at the time of the Commonwealth Constitution establishment, and that we will find in a very short period of time that the mass of administration and control will be centralised in Canberra and we will be going there cap in hand once again. The predication upon which this comment is made is that if one has the money control one has the actual control. Therefore it is important that the Attorney General has the message of this House when he negotiates tomorrow night; that is, that it is very clear that the Parliament of this State will not support any Bill that enacts rules such that these powers can be transferred to Canberra. We all steadfastly set our face against that.

**HON J.M. BERINSON** (North Metropolitan - Attorney General) [4.14 pm]: The first thing I want to say is that I am conscious of the fact that, having declined to extend the period for discussion of motions yesterday, and having copped some flak for it, I know I run a risk in agreeing to an extension of time for discussion of motions today, and no doubt someone will think of a basis on which flak can fly on that account as well.

**Hon George Cash:** I think you have probably recognised the error of your ways yesterday.

**Hon J.M. BERINSON:** No, I have not.

**Hon George Cash:** Let us get on with this one now.

**Hon J.M. BERINSON:** The reason I agreed today to an extension of time in advance of our completion of the Address-in-Reply, which is my main concern, is that this is for effective purposes the last opportunity we will have to discuss this matter before I attend the ministerial meeting to which Mr Pike refers, and there really would not be much point to attempting to give me riding instructions, so to speak, after the race has been run. The second thing I want to say is that what has happened on this motion is really another indication of the difficulty of mending one's ways on the run, so to speak. The original motion was deficient in that it sought to inform me that the House -

... does not support the compromise he has entered into ...

The problem with that statement, as I indicated to Mr Pike and as he accepted, is that no compromise has been entered into. The situation is still fluid and the subject of further negotiations. Some people are optimistic enough to believe that those negotiations can be

completed at the meeting this week. For my own part I must say frankly that I would be surprised if we went the whole way this week, because there are such substantial issues still to be resolved.

Having said that, and having indicated to Mr Pike over the short break that his proposed new wording was preferable, I am in the position of saying it is preferable to the original wording but it is really not a satisfactory basis on which to proceed. It now reads -

. . . that this House resolves -

- (1) To inform the Attorney General that it does not support the proposal being discussed as it constitutes in substance and effect a breach of the principles set out in the motion adopted by this House on Thursday, 3 May 1990 . . .

The reason we have a continuing difficulty is that the proposals being discussed are quite fundamental proposals and the fact is that they are still being discussed. There are really four main questions that have effectively been left open. First, and I would say the most important of them, is the requirement led by this State's submissions that the level of regional services must be preserved. The second is that we require, although some other States do not, the continued coordination of the Australia-wide legislation with the regulatory measures which are still wholly a matter of State authority in the company area. The third question relates to the financial arrangements that we require to be made by any substantial change. The fourth requirement - and though it is last it is certainly not least - relates to the quite difficult questions of staff displacement and rearrangements which have to be made.

At this stage we really have not gone beyond listing those as four main issues that have to be addressed, and that is what will be addressed at the meeting I will be leaving for tomorrow afternoon. I think it is fair to say that throughout the discussion there really has been general agreement, not only between the political parties but also between the political parties and the commercial and professional representative groups in Western Australia, about the path which ought to be pursued.

I think, again being practical about it, Hon Bob Pike is correct in saying that the more conceded by the other States - particularly by Victoria and New South Wales - the more difficult the negotiations become because between them those States account for something like 85 per cent of companies and securities business in Australia. As a result, when they combine with the Commonwealth on a particular issue it is very difficult on a practical basis to continue to insist on an entirely different direction. In this case, however, although New South Wales has moved quite a long way from the position it earlier indicated - a position which was certainly much closer to the Western Australian position than it is now - the fact remains that we are in the position to argue for substantial modifications of the existing Commonwealth pattern, and that is the way we will go.

I think I am right in saying that when I reported to the House following the meeting of the Ministerial Council two weeks ago, I made the point - which was taken up by others - that whereas everyone agreed that any decisions arrived at that or subsequent meetings were naturally subject to approval by the respective Cabinets, it had to be understood it was subject also to the approval of the respective Parliaments, given especially that Western Australia is not the only State in which the Government does not have a majority in the upper House. As a result, we will continue to press for the basic elements which the business and professional community have agreed with us should constitute the basic minimum framework, if one likes, of any agreement; but we will be going further in every respect that is practicably open to us, especially in areas where a reasonable degree of support can be mustered in other States.

I am reluctant to vote against this amendment because I largely accept the sentiments Hon Bob Pike expressed in moving it. However, the problem is that the motion itself does not reflect Hon Bob Pike's sentiments. It goes beyond that and does not in the end recognise the state of the negotiations we are at. That is my problem. I have put the position as clearly as I can. Given our limitations of time - this is our last opportunity to deal with this matter - I do not think we have the luxury of being able to go away for further fancy drafting. Although I do not believe the motion in this form is appropriate to have our support, nonetheless, whatever the result of this motion, I will go away with a very clear indication of

where the House is at. I suggest that we adjourn debate rather than move to a vote because that will give us the opportunity to further amend the motion in the light of the outcome of the meeting this week. Again, we will be in a position at that meeting to resolve the position of Cabinet and Parliament and I think nothing would be lost. Having aired the view of the House and accepted the general approach, nothing would be lost by refraining from a vote now and by taking an opportunity, when the position is clearer, to move to an expression of views which better reflects the position that will then prevail. If Hon Bob Pike is amenable to that, I will be happy to have one of my members or one of the Opposition's members move to adjourn debate.

**HON GEORGE CASH** (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [4.25 pm]: I indicate my support for the motion moved by Hon Bob Pike. It is important we deal with this matter today. In fact, in his opening comments the Attorney General suggested it was opportune that this matter be brought on for discussion today for the very reason that he leaves tomorrow to attend a meeting in the Eastern States to discuss matters which are the subject of this motion.

For the House to adjourn debate on this motion would in effect be to say that we as a House are unable to make up our minds about our position in respect of this important issue. That would allow other Ministers from around Australia to put that point to the Attorney General. The Attorney General should be able to go to the Eastern States clear in his own mind and fully equipped with a resolution of this House about just where this House stands on this matter. It is more than clear, after having listened to the first ministerial statement of the Attorney General some two weeks ago and to his second ministerial statement presented to this House a week ago following his most recent visit to the Eastern States to discuss this matter, that it is a grab for power by Canberra. In this respect we are really talking now about Western Australia's State's rights. It goes far wider than just the question of the securities commission in Western Australia. It really comes down to a constitutional question and a question of sovereignty. That in itself is good reason to sort this matter out today.

In respect of the actions taken by Victoria and New South Wales, it is my view, on the information presented to me, that they have sold out the balance of the States. However, in saying that I recognise that at present about 85 per cent of business transacted in Australia goes through the various head offices of large accounting and legal firms based in Victoria and New South Wales. Those States probably think it will be in their general interests because they command the major amount of business in Australia; if they do not think it will be in their interest it is possible that being relatively close to Canberra they believe they will be able to exercise the necessary pressure on Canberra to listen to their views. Western Australia is not in the position in which New South Wales and Victoria find themselves. Apart from not transacting anywhere near that sort of business - we are left with a very small amount of business transacted in this State on a national scale - Western Australia is about 4 000 kilometres away from Canberra and it is very difficult for this State to have its views heard at times. The mere fact that the Attorney General will be flying for three or four hours to get to his meeting is an indication of the difficulties faced by Western Australia when it tries to deal, not just with its Eastern States counterparts, but also with the Federal Government.

I will recap for the House the situation as I see it today. Firstly, there is already a national corporate Federal scheme for the control of companies and securities. The current law is sound.

Some changes are argued from time to time, but these can be argued quite properly between the States and the Commonwealth. The last thing we want to see is a monopoly in which Canberra ends up owning and holding the ball while not being prepared to pass it on to the States. If there is some criticism of the existing scheme, it may be that it is based on a lack of resources provided to various State agencies. That criticism can fairly be directed to both the State and the Commonwealth. That can be overcome if both the State and the Commonwealth wish to recognise the current resourcing inadequacies.

As far as Canberra is concerned, there are probably no more than three essential elements which need to be recognised; these are the three ambitions which the Commonwealth is determined to see placed in its courts. The first one is that the law should be generated by

Canberra rather than by the States. That is a matter we recognise in this Parliament as having been the intention of Canberra for many years. With the complexion of the present membership in the High Court, we see many of its decisions weighted in favour of the Commonwealth. It is the Commonwealth's intention that the States should no longer control their companies and securities law, either collectively or individually; that is to say that the Federal Parliament will be the sovereign lawmaker in this country which may allow the States to only make comments regarding those laws.

The Attorney General said, if I understood him correctly, that the Ministerial Council will still exert a certain amount of control. We have heard those promises, those good intentions, before from Canberra. The history of Australia is clear regarding where the States finish up when dealing with Canberra; that is, they finish up with nothing and at the bottom of the heap. Liberal, National and Labor Federal parliamentarians have much to answer for in this regard. I direct my comments to my Federal parliamentary colleagues, whichever party they belong to. It is interesting that as soon as a member is elected to the Federal Parliament he often seems to forget his State origins and tends to believe that he should bat for the Canberra team alone. We have seen Ian Campbell elected to the Senate today and I hope that he will give us another voice in Canberra representing Western Australia. I know that Ian Campbell is very much a State-righter.

The second point which needs to be made regarding Canberra's ambitions is that the Federal Attorney General wants to have sole control of administration in this field. He wants to be at the top of the pyramid and to gain absolute control of the Australian Securities Commission to the exclusion of the States. As much as it may be suggested that the State Ministers have some input and that they are able to make recommendations to the Federal Attorney General, they will only be recommendations, and, as history has shown, as soon as a little water has flowed under the bridge the States will not be listened to.

The third point is that the general argument expressed when the law is in the hands of the Federal Attorney General, as is the administration of companies and securities law, is that he will be able to make recommendations to the Federal Parliament. In that case he will be able to adopt the peculiar stance seen in Canberra of forgetting about the States. Once again, that will be detrimental to Western Australia. In simple terms, if the legislation succeeds, we will see the complete takeover of our sovereignty. The legislative, Executive and administrative power in relation to companies and securities legislation will be based in Canberra to the detriment to this State.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Actually the plan is to share it between Melbourne and Sydney, would you believe?

Hon P.G. Pendl: We believe it!

Hon GEORGE CASH: That might be the plan for the time being, Mr Attorney General, but the point I make, along with the point you made, is that the plan being hatched in the Eastern States will be to the detriment of Western Australia. As I read the articles published regarding comments made by the Attorney General at meetings he has attended, he has, to his credit, recognised the need to, and has attempted to, stand up for Western Australia. I join Hon Bob Pike in recognising that fact. However, with all the good intentions the Attorney may have, and with all the talk about sharing the cake around, we must make sure that we are represented at the shop front in Western Australia. If that is through legislation enacted in due course, that will be no more than window dressing as far as business in Western Australia is concerned.

In conclusion, this House should consider the essential issues as they effect Western Australia. We have to guard and retain our constitutional sovereignty; we must retain our legislative power; and we must retain our ministerial power, and we must retain the administrative power over our own Corporate Affairs Department. If we, as a Parliament, are not prepared to ensure that those essential elements are retained in this State, we may as well pack up and head to Canberra because in the end all real power will reside there. That is totally against the original Constitution set down in 1901 when the Australia nation first became federated.

I support the motion.

HON R.G. PIKE (North Metropolitan) [4.37 pm]: I am a little concerned about a couple of

comments made by the Attorney General regarding regional services and their preservation. In this debate we are talking about attitude. I hope that when the Attorney goes to the East he will not talk about regional services or express the view that Australian financial rearrangements need to be put in place, because our view is that we want no part of this arrangement at all.

Hon J.M. Berinson: We are already part of it!

Hon R.G. PIKE: It is my understanding that the Confederation of Western Australian Industry and the Chamber of Commerce did not support the proposal at first, but the point was steadfastly argued by members of the Liberal and National Parties in this State. The point was also argued by stating that, if these powers went to Canberra and then to Sydney and Melbourne, we would see a mass migration of lawyers and accountants.

I thank the Attorney for the points he raised on this matter. He should gird his loins when heading East, and it is appropriate that the House carry this motion so that people involved will know the position adopted by this House.

Question put and passed.

### SENATE - VACANCY

*Joint Sitting Election - Campbell, Mr Ian Gordon*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, I have to report that at the joint sitting of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, Ian Gordon Campbell was duly elected to fill the vacancy as Senator of the Commonwealth Parliament in the place of Senator Frederick Michael Chaney, resigned.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - FIFTH DAY

*Motion*

Debate resumed from 15 May.

**HON REG DAVIES** (North Metropolitan) [4.42 pm]: It is a pleasure to participate in this debate. In supporting the motion I offer my congratulations to His Excellency, Sir Francis Burt, on his appointment as Governor of Western Australia and wish His Excellency and Lady Burt every success during their term of office.

I also record my staunch support for the Police Force in Western Australia, which is obviously plagued by manpower and resource shortages which are complicated by a lack of funds.

Hon Graham Edwards: Here we go. Show your support properly!

Hon REG DAVIES: In the face of these severe drawbacks the Police Force continues to maintain law and order in this State.

Hon Mark Nevill: How many staff should they have?

Hon REG DAVIES: An important issue in modern society is -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon REG DAVIES: Growth in the crime rate seems to be a fact of life in the late twentieth century. Our society has reached the stage of seeming to accept petty crime as a part of life in the developed world. This is not a country where we chop off a person's hands to punish them for stealing. No apparent stigma is attached to those who pinch what belongs to someone else. Members will be well aware that petty crime festers in the suburbs and is unreported principally because it is considered humdrum or commonplace for household objects to be stolen. A few residents may telephone the police and ask them to come to their home to point out the place where possessions previously adorned their premises, but police officers are busy attending more pressing events such as family disputes or motor vehicle accidents. Local police tell me that people rarely go to police stations to report petty crime. They are used to the hose being stolen from the front lawn or the wheelbarrow from the back yard. It is interesting that such objects are not terribly difficult to get rid of and reappear in profusion at local swap meets, garage sales, and so on. The result is that the police do not

have information to act upon because people are reluctant to attend the police station and report petty crime.

Hon Graham Edwards: A lot of swap meets are run by charities.

Hon REG DAVIES: It is a fact of life. I use the term "swap meet" because the economy is in such a state that people now go to Friday swap meets and so on to flog off goods they no longer need and so that they can buy mincemeat to feed the family for the rest of the week and to make ends meet. When I referred to swap meets I was not referring to the traditional ones which do good for the community and which raise funds for such things as Telethon.

Hon Fred McKenzie: We still do not have beggars on the streets.

Hon REG DAVIES: It is a matter of time. My office is situated in the heart of a low socioeconomic area and I have people coming to it asking for funds to see them through until their next pension or dole day. Petty crime is escalating in our community because law enforcement agencies have insufficient resources to curtail this activity. However, I have a relatively simple solution to help reduce the petty crime rate which threatens every household in Western Australia. I have had discussions with people at the heart of law enforcement - the cops out there in the front line, those who meet with petty crime on a daily basis - about how they believe the problem should be tackled. Clearly they believe the answer is the return of the policeman and policewoman to the community, and to offer a consumer service in the form of shopfront police stations.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Hon Reg Davies would prefer them tied up behind counters rather than out in the community, would he?

Hon REG DAVIES: I would like to see all the police officers the Government has promised at every election and will no doubt promise again during the coming by-election period.

Hon Graham Edwards: Demonstrate where that promise has not been met.

Hon REG DAVIES: The Minister for Police should do his job and change things in the community, as he has a responsibility to the community.

Hon Kay Hallahan: If the member -

The PRESIDENT: Order! I want Ministers to stop interjecting. They ought to set an example. The member on his feet should be addressing the Chair and not be entering into arguments with them. If they interject, he should ignore them.

Hon REG DAVIES: Thank you, Mr President, I will attempt to do that, although it is difficult at times because this is a subject dear to my heart and I live with it daily in my area. The Minister for Police represents the same constituency and should see the same things. I am sure he does his best to represent them, being as busy as he claims he is.

Shopfront police stations would make police officers more accessible to the public. Placing them in shopping centres would result in their being in a position to address a multitude of complaints which are presently unreported. Shopping complexes, too, would benefit from a police presence. I am told that the rental for some premises would be nominal and in some cases free. If police stations were located at shopping centres store security would improve, and shoplifting would be less attractive because of the police presence.

Consumers presently pay for the crime of shoplifting as the stores build their loss into the price of goods we purchase. If police were located in shopfronts of major shopping centres they would be much more visible and able to handle many more problems. People would be able to report petty crimes. As I said previously, rental of such premises is minimal, therefore it would impose no real penalty on our bankrupt Government. The public need educating about their role and the contribution they can make through vigilant observation. I suggest that unless we take up the cudgel and do something about making the law accessible to the public and getting the public to report snippets of information which might lead to apprehension of petty criminals we face a grim future indeed for the preservation of our property and possessions.

Crime is endemic within a small, yet contentious, section of our community - a group over represented in the annals of car theft in Western Australia - concerns members of the Aboriginal community. This group constitutes about two per cent of our population. Last year, a subgroup of its members was accredited with responsibility for about 35 per cent of



our State's car thefts, or approximately 5 600 of the motor vehicles which were stolen in Western Australia. The Aboriginal community has been sectioned off by the European population for special attention since white men first settled the shores of this country.

We acknowledge that the first couple of hundred years of contact between blacks and whites is seen as negative as far as the Aboriginal community is concerned. Aborigines were dispossessed of their land, ridiculed for their religious practices and had their children taken from them. They were allowed to exist in squalor while being offered the lowest rung of the socioeconomic ladder. We cannot dispute that they were wronged, but I believe they were wronged more through ignorance than through any form of purposeful malice. I believe, equally, that eventually these people, too, must stand up and be counted for their actions.

Judge Jackson delivered a speech to the Press Club of Western Australia during Law Week a short time ago. Recently, he was welcomed as the new President of the Children's Court of Western Australia. During his speech, the Judge referred to the words of Sir Walter Campbell, the Governor of Queensland and a former Chief Justice of that State, who said that ours is an increasingly complex society in which dwells an underprivileged sector which will always exist as a result of a variety of perennial human causes. I have not referred to that statement for us to merely shrug our shoulders at the state in which Aborigines exist in our midst. I seek to present a realistic appraisal of the status quo at this point in our history. Over the last 20 years or so, we have witnessed a change in attitude towards this group with academics, social workers and other concerned parties joining forces in an attempt to improve the lot of our Aboriginal population. With what sort of a yardstick can we measure the benefits that have been brought to our society overall? Despite any benefits that have been bestowed on the Aboriginal community, whether we view them as enough or not, a strong and negative element still exists. Therefore, we now need to examine whether the well meaning policies, which were intended to assist Aborigines towards a decent standard of living and a relatively harmonious life within the predominant culture, are having the desired effect. Is the direction that has been taken the correct one? The visible evidence to that part of the population which has had its cars stolen is surely otherwise. Perhaps a quiet element exists within the Aboriginal population which has benefited from the good intentions of the whites. However, the fact still remains that the number of cars which are stolen by Aboriginal youths is disproportionate to their overall representation within the total population. Whether the group which commits the crime of car theft is great or whether it is small, the actual proportion is irrelevant because it constitutes a dangerous and unacceptable element which the public of Western Australia should no longer be forced to tolerate. This is a rebellious group imposing itself upon society. It is our responsibility to attempt to change behaviour. This is necessary if we are to coexist within this increasingly complex society.

For the most part, I agree with Judge Jackson's reflections about the rights of underprivileged members of society and the inappropriate disciplinary measures dished out by the courts. The judge advocates community-based programs which are both appropriate and effective in assisting young offenders to learn to live within the community. They are programs which represent a movement away from the current process of institutionalising them which has the effect of being criminogenic rather than being rehabilitative. These programs have been adopted in Tasmania and have virtually emptied institutions which formerly brimmed with juvenile offenders. Members should be wary though; the types of crime to which Judge Jackson was referring were the victimless crimes like glue and petrol sniffing. He was not addressing the more serious offences which we are witnessing in Western Australia where victims' and offenders' lives have been lost, where property has been damaged and where the middle 60 per cent of the community is under siege from the new found tyranny of this small group of youthful offenders.

We need to take stock of crime and punishment of youths because we are witnessing an increase in statistics relating to car thefts; we are not witnessing any improvement in the statistics. The discipline currently being handed out is proving to be counter productive. The deprived and disadvantaged groups like Aborigines who come to the courts merely view these chambers of law as just another part of an oppressive and excluding society. They will not be convinced to change their behaviour while this society chooses to perpetuate its long-arm-of-the-law attitude. We need to adopt a positive form of correction for new offenders and a rehabilitation program for recidivists instead of meting out the punishment currently used which results in imprisonment. This merely reinforces resentment and antagonism

towards authority. It can result only in increased hostility and is manifested as more entrenched anti-establishment behaviour.

At the same time, I do not subscribe to the euphemism of a slap on the wrist as an effective way to manage deviant behaviour. The procedure which Judge Jackson believes may be effective is family counselling which would include all members of the offender's family and sometimes the victim. This may assist in steering youth away from the hard core of further criminal activity, which is often the upshot of being sent to an institution. Judge Jackson's informed opinion is that the police must adopt diversionary processes and use their discretion with young offenders. He says that these will operate as a preventive tool and may make significant headway in the battle against juvenile crime. I bow to the judge's superior experience in the field of juvenile crime, but concomitant with this type of strategy is the need to remove youthful recidivist car thieves from their environment or from the suburban supermarket of other people's vehicles.

No longer do only two races inhabit these shores. There are people in Australia from Cambodia and Vietnam, for example, who have suffered shocking atrocities imposed through political activity and lifelong war in their homelands. Generally these newcomers do not choose to mercilessly taunt the system because they feel deprived. These people appreciate the Australian scenario immensely and generally attempt to make an active contribution. Why should we choose to mollicoddle one race and not another?

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon REG DAVIES: I do not understand why society continues to mollicoddle one race and not another. We are all Australians and we all have a responsibility - a word that is fast disappearing from our vocabulary - to uphold the values of this country and the society to which we belong. Western Australians are no longer prepared to tolerate youthful pranks which endanger their lives or through which their possessions are stolen. It is time for every Australian to stand up and be counted. The wrist slapping and incarceration of youthful offenders has failed. A new direction is needed. A more appropriate punishment to deter antisocial activity has to be meted out to help reduce the rate of car thefts. Conventional methods of punishment, such as policing, holding offenders within institutions and fines are not appropriate.

In my former career as a regular Army regimental sergeant major with an extensive Special Air Service background, I was responsible for implementing an Army training program for Aborigines. I hope members will not regard me as too immodest when I say that the operation was successful. It was no small achievement that the young men in the group ultimately became dedicated and worthwhile young men and were proud to be soldiers, proud to be Aboriginal and proud to serve their country. One of those young men is now a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, another is a local councillor in the Northern Territory and many more are successful in other areas. These former Army personnel owe their success to the fact that they were offered a chance, they were offered credibility, and they were given direction in areas where they could achieve. They were not thrust into an unviable environment in which they were treated as outcasts.

A solution to the problem of car theft would be to place offenders in a training program where inherent or learned Aboriginal skills can be employed. This would have a twofold effect: The offenders would be removed from corrupt elements in the city and from the area where cars are available to be stolen. Young people could patrol our shores as a form of Coastwatch to observe illegal fishermen and illegal immigrants, or to report on drug dealers or anyone attempting to enter Australia illegally. These Aboriginal offenders could also make a worthwhile contribution to the State by being part of Ernie Bridge's vision of pumping water from the Ord River to Perth. They would be well paid and they would learn something new. They could be doing something worthwhile in a joint Aboriginal project.

Offenders would make a worthwhile contribution to the community and would achieve a sense of self respect. Society has been very slow to solve the white man's problem of attempting to right the wrongs of the past. In the long term these problems will be resolved by positive action and not mollicoddling, handouts or relegating people to untenable or worthless positions in society.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Why do you refer to Aborigines alone?

Hon REG DAVIES: The Aboriginal population represents two per cent of the State's population, but 35 per cent of car thefts in Western Australia last year were carried out by a part of that two per cent of the population. I am offering a solution: We should not as a society relegate these young people to the lowest rung of our socioeconomic ladder and incarcerate them where they feel even more suppressed. Rather, they should be given a worthwhile activity or training scheme so they can achieve something worthwhile through discipline and training. Why not remove them from the supermarket of other people's cars?

Hon Fred McKenzie: Good point.

Hon REG DAVIES: We need a coordinated program of training which could turn their lives around and transform their behaviour from corruptive to contributive. Judge Jackson, in his speech, opened the way for a change in corrective procedures in juvenile crime. The only criticism I have in relation to Judge Jackson's speech is the comparison he drew between Western Australia and Tasmania. I do not believe that the relationship between the Aboriginal populations of the two States can be compared. Historically, Tasmania cannot be too proud of its early record.

Looking to a different concern within my constituency, I would like to say that I grew up in an area of New South Wales which boasts the most beautiful natural coastline in Australia, if not the world, and for that reason I have a developed interest in the protection and preservation of our coastal areas. I am currently examining several studies which look at the impact of humans on the ecosystem of the Australian coastline. I hope to bring my findings before the House in the near future to promote some discussion with members of the Western Australian Parliament.

In the early part of this year I sent out a survey to test local feelings on a proposed development in the Quinns Rock area. I received an incredible response to this survey which I believe would rival any previous voluntary survey. The overwhelming response from residents of Quinns Rock demonstrated the height of their feelings about the proposed development on their formerly tranquil semi-rural environment. The question which accrued greatest dissent was the proposal for a tip to be located near Mindarie Keys.

Sanitary landfill, which is the type of rubbish tip currently proposed for the Tamala Park area, may in the short term represent a sound economic position but the only people who will benefit from this method of waste disposal are those few people who stand to make some financial gain. The residents of the Quinns Rock area believe this is an unacceptable proposition. Very few of the people who live there want to see this tip come into operation. Experts are now aware that the light sandy soil of our coastal plain allows pollutants to seep through into the valuable ground water supply. This supply of natural and pure water is a resource which we have all come to value. If the sanitary landfill tip goes ahead we will eventually witness the contamination of that natural resource and the loss of a natural asset which is at such a premium in our State.

This sort of planning is very near-sighted in an area which will soon have to confront the crisis of having a shortfall of clean water that is suitable for household use. Governments at all levels are required to devise special policies and guidelines for coastal plain management. The proposal to establish a tip at Tamala Park is nothing short of ludicrous, particularly when we consider that other more suitable locations exist.

Hon Mark Nevill: Where are the other suitable sites?

Hon REG DAVIES: I will get to that shortly. There are other more suitable sites if we want to persist with the sanitary landfill mentality. This idea, which was presented some 10 years ago to the Wanneroo City Council, was ill-conceived and made at a time when we were not widely informed about the need to preserve our environment and did not realise the importance of preserving anything.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Who presented it to the City of Wanneroo?

Hon REG DAVIES: I have no idea, but it was before my time on local government. I was probably serving my country in another sphere. The proposal was made at a time when we were not aware of the need to protect our environment.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: That is not true.

Hon REG DAVIES: A lot of us were not really worried about preserving anything, other

than the dollars that were mounting up in our bank accounts. However, that is now in the past. I am talking about the future. I do not want to see this tip go ahead in that area. I am sure Hon Sam Piantadosi would be only too willing to back me up on that stand; I have learnt much from him since I have been here about water and water resources, and I thank him for that. I am sure that in the long term we can all learn from one another if we show a preparedness to sit back, listen, and take a bipartisan approach.

Hon Kay Hallahan: We look forward with interest to your doing that.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Ministers should not interject.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: She is offering assistance.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Interjections are improper.

Hon REG DAVIES: Sanitary landfill may be the most economically viable method of waste disposal currently practised in Western Australia, but in view of the increasing awareness of the need to protect our environment the financial gain must be weighed up against long term environmental considerations. The inevitable destruction of the ecosystem, where economics alone are being allowed to dictate relevant decision-making, will result in the destruction of a valuable resource, perhaps forever. It is our children and grandchildren who will be left to pick up the tab for the mistakes of this generation. Any advantages to be gained from sanitary landfill can only be regarded as ephemeral. A few people will make some money out of the project; thousands will suffer later because of the lack of considered planning and the selfishness of a few, most of whom do not even live in the area and do not appear to care for the environment. They just want to make money at any cost.

The residents of the Quinns Rock area want us to step in and show them that we care and are prepared to fight for their rights. The Liberal Party environmental care committee recently produced a Green Paper No 1 on the issue of waste management. I commend that to members. That paper was produced two weeks after the Federal election.

Hon P.G. Pental: It is an excellent paper.

Hon REG DAVIES: Yes. When I read it I learnt that not only are there numerous alternative solutions to sanitary landfill but also that a little inventiveness on the part of councils, with the support of other tiers of Government, could turn around a problem to the benefit of all. The area north of Perth is the fastest growing area in Western Australia. I am sure the members of North Metropolitan Region would acknowledge that. We agree that rubbish disposal presents councils with a problem, but that is one of the purposes of our giving to local government the right to look after the interests of local people, to be close to the people, and at the same time to plan for long term benefits for the community.

If we want to perpetuate the landfill mentality, an alternative site would be the tip at Bagerup. The cost involved in relocating the tip is estimated to be \$50 million. That is a lot of money, but how much is the environment worth? That cost needs to be regarded as a necessary cost in order to make an alternative and positive contribution to the Western Australian environment while at the same time benefiting the economy. The way to go is to educate people about recycling and precycling. I do not know whether members are familiar with the term "precycling" but I will quote from the Liberal Green Paper, which is a great source of information to me. It was prepared by a caring group of people within the community who want to address the problems we are facing. Hon Sam Piantadosi and I are getting on a bit now and we probably will not be around to suffer the consequences of our actions, but we have to think of our children and their children. Precycling involves the making of considered purchasing decisions, where people are required to think before they buy so as to choose products which can be recycled or used for other purposes. Precycling involves education about what to look for prior to purchasing products.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Can we have a copy of that document?

Hon REG DAVIES: Yes. The committee was chaired by Mr MacKinnon. Will Governments in Australia be prepared to stand up and be counted on their concerns for the environment and for the constituents who voted for them? Will funds be allocated to retain our precious and non-replenishable natural resources, or does the Government intend to allow the Wanneroo, Perth and Stirling City Councils to pursue the establishment of a sanitary landfill tip at Tamala Park? I am sure that finance is not the only consideration. If

we are serious about our environmental concerns we will put our money where our mouths are.

This was not the only concern that my survey addressed. The residents of the Quinns Rocks area appear to be the forgotten few in other spheres as well. Respondents to my survey listed other concerns such as the disgraceful state and inherent dangers of some of the roads in the area. They discussed the appalling lack of footpaths and the urgent need for the extension of Marmion Avenue. I understand that was promised to them several times over several years, but it is still urgently needed to go all the way to Quinns Rocks. It stops short now by only a few kilometres.

Overwhelmingly, though, the majority of the Quinns Rocks residents see the wanton destruction of the natural bushland by developers as their principal concern. They are quick to acknowledge the requirement for some residential development - after all, they live there too - but they demand that policies sensitive to environmental concerns be put in place to ensure that developers are selective in their clearing of land, and that they are required by law to retain corridors of bushland, and not to feign regard for the welfare of future generations by the retention of isolated pockets of bush.

Before I conclude my remarks I draw the attention of members to the fact that the facilities within our Parliamentary Library are particularly limited. This is no reflection on the staff of the library, for whom I have the utmost admiration. They work under appalling conditions and yet provide a thoroughly professional, cheerful and useful service, and they do not complain about the problems they face. Nevertheless, even the best will in the world cannot produce a decent service when resources are simply not available. It is obvious that the library lacks space for appropriate offices for the staff, and storage for all of the books and other materials that must be kept is, at the very best, cramped.

It is also obvious that severe financial restraints manifest themselves in the limited development of essential services to members. In particular, I would certainly appreciate having access to an impartial research service. Most electorate officers have little time and no facilities to provide such a specialised service to their members, yet members are expected to keep up to date with a wide range of increasingly complex issues. The expanded committee system in this House requires us to become more familiar with a variety of matters. I believe it would be more cost effective to expand the research facilities of the library rather than to supply research staff to each committee. Library staff have mentioned to me that they have been trying to get funding to provide a fast and efficient way of searching for quotes in *Hansard* but Treasury has not come up with the money for such an essential service. Even the service intended to provide members with access to recent news and current affairs is furnished on a shoestring. There is no way we can be provided with written transcripts or facilities to play back recorded programs in our own offices. It appears that the Government will continue to keep members of Parliament in the dark by refusing to provide adequate library and research facilities within the precincts of this building.

Hon Fred McKenzie: They are the best they have ever been - do you know that?

Hon REG DAVIES: Yes, I understand that although the facilities are very limited and inadequate a lot of work has been done recently to try to rectify the problem. It is interesting that the Parliamentary Library in the National Parliament has one staff member for every two of the 178 members of Parliament. That is incredible.

Hon P.G. Pental: I think you will find, too, that Government members have access to those transcripts you referred to, but somehow or other Opposition members do not.

Hon REG DAVIES: Another advantage Government members have - and we will be there very shortly, I hope - is that they have access to their colleagues, the Ministers, and the Ministers' staff as well.

In conclusion, now that the point about Government members has been brought to my attention, I certainly support a Fitzgerald-style Royal Commission into the Government's financial dealings. I support the motion.

HON J.N. CALDWELL (Agricultural) [5.55 pm]: I support the motion. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Governor, His Excellency Sir Francis Burt, and Lady Burt, on their appointment to vice regal office in Western Australia, and I hope their term of service to the State is happy and memorable.

I will bring to the attention of this House several points which have dismayed members on this side of the House, but before doing so I have something more pleasant to say; that is, the walls of Parliament House will soon be graced by a new painting from the Shire of Katanning. Some months ago it was decided that the Shire of Katanning would upgrade its painting which is displayed on the walls of this place.

Hon Garry Kelly: Is it here in the Chamber?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: No, it is on one of the walls within Parliament House. I congratulate Ross Anderson, a former Shire President of Katanning, who organised an art competition which drew over 100 entries from all over Western Australia. The competition stipulated that the paintings must depict something from the Katanning Shire. The competition was also held in memory of families who had come into the Katanning Shire over a number of years and had left their mark in some way. It was a tribute to those families that a prize of some \$3 000 was contributed and awarded for the winning painting. Unfortunately, that was not the painting which will grace the walls of Parliament House, because it was quite a large painting and the Shire of Katanning deemed it should be hung at the shire offices.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Are you sure you are telling us all we need to know about this, Mr Caldwell?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: However, the painting that has been selected to hang in this building is magnificent and is truly representative of the town of Katanning as its subject is one of the main streets. The beauty of it is that it depicts that street after a shower of rain, when the road and all the shops were wet. It does rain in the Katanning area sometimes; I do not know whether the artist was there when it rained, but he recreated that scene perfectly. I am sure members of this place will be absolutely thrilled to have that painting in this building. The painting from the Katanning Shire which is presently in this building is hanging outside my office and I will be disappointed to see it disappear. I do not know whether it will go into the archives of Parliament House, but I believe it will probably be returned to the Shire of Katanning, where it will hang on the walls of the council chambers.

Earlier today it was mentioned I had resigned from the Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. It was with deep regret that I found it necessary to resign from that committee, because I enjoyed being a member of it. I enjoyed the company of the other members of that committee and I enjoyed the social side of it as well. I well remember that when Hon Bob Hetherington became the first chairman of the committee he said we should look forward, and that is what I did. I am very disappointed that I have to resign from the committee.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Before the tea suspension I was commenting on a couple of the more pleasant aspects of this motion. One dealt with the opportunity I had to serve on the Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation; I am disappointed that I have to resign from that committee. I well remember Hon Bob Hetherington suggesting that I would enjoy being on that committee, and indeed I did. I only hope Hon Reg Davies, who succeeds me as a member of that committee, enjoys serving on that committee and has the input I had to it. Someone asked me the other day whether the chairman of that committee exercises his right to vote. I said that to my knowledge the Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation had never voted on anything. That goes to show how well its members cooperate and reach conclusions. I believe that members of that committee can have input for the betterment of this State.

The major point of my speech tonight deals with a subject which is on everyone's lips and occupies a major proportion of local newspapers, especially rural newspapers; that is, the problems and the possible demise of the wool industry. It concerns the reserve price scheme. Next week a conference is to be held in Roma, Queensland, where the Wool Council and the Wool Corporation will discuss what is to happen to the reserve price scheme and the future of the wool industry. I remind members of the importance of the wool industry to this nation's economy. The other day Hon Tom Helm espoused the virtues of the mining industry; I have no quarrel with that. However, when one compares the mining industry with a single entity export such as wool, one sees how terribly important wool is. Wool provides 30 per cent of the national export income. One can say that mining provides more than that,

but mining involves the export of a lot of different metals. One might say, for example, that iron ore is a big export earner, but I do not think it is anywhere near as large an export earner as wool. Wool is terribly important to this nation and the decision made next week at Roma will be of vital importance to everyone concerned.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: You are trying to pull the wool over our eyes.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Well, it will have a terrific impact on how Australia proceeds to cope with the national debt. The Wool Corporation and the Wool Council are adamant that they want a 25 per cent levy on the present reserve price scheme of \$8.70. They have taken these things into consideration and I think they have been backed by most farmer representative bodies. Yesterday I had the pleasure of attending a meeting at Newdegate. Unfortunately, the meeting, which was very important, went on for so long that we did not see the vote as we had to catch our plane. However, 92 growers attended that meeting and I believe that is an indication of the importance of the wool industry to people in the rural community. Those farmers were prepared to give up driving their tractors that afternoon to attend a meeting to discuss the problems facing the wool industry. That indicates that they hold the wool industry in the highest possible regard. From what I gathered yesterday, the people who attended that meeting were almost unanimous in their support of the decision of the Wool Council and the Wool Corporation to hold the reserve price scheme at 870¢.

Hon Garry Kelly: For how long?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: That is something which is yet to be discussed but no doubt it will have to be reconsidered every year. The *Farmers Weekly* reported that an enormous crowd is expected at the Roma meeting to make this monumental decision. I do not say that the meeting will have to make that recommendation, but it is something which has to be considered. I guess it is almost a calculated gamble whether the farmers accept the decision of the Wool Council or whether they go the way Mr Kerin, the Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, has suggested. Mr Kerin cannot direct the Wool Council or the Wool Corporation on that decision, but he can make it so awkward for them that they are obliged to go along with what he says. Undoubtedly he will have a say in how much the corporation is allowed to borrow and that will have a major bearing on the floor price scheme.

Hon J.M. Brown: What does Mr Lloyd think?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Mr Lloyd has found himself in a Catch 22 situation. He was given a few days to make up his mind and from what I have read he had to go along with what Mr Kerin said. He has copped a bit of flak from various members of his own party for that. I am sure he will cop a lot of flak from members of the farming community. He did not come out strongly in favour of what the growers' representatives and the growers themselves have suggested. The Wool Corporation, which is actually owned by woolgrowers and controlled by the woolgrowers' organisations or people put there by the growers, at present owns two thirds of the Australian stockpile of wool. That is almost \$2.5 billion-worth of wool.

If the reserve price scheme were to reduce the price from 870¢ down to 700¢, that would be a 20 per cent reduction which would represent a \$0.5 billion devaluation. It is possible that that value would be completely lost if we were to accept the 700¢ price. It is interesting to note that the taxpayer is not asked to foot any of the bill. The growers contribute eight per cent per kilo to that fund which has caused the fund to evolve to this stage. However, it will not evolve further for many years as much of that fund has already disappeared.

The options facing the woolgrowers are these: The first option is to retain the 870¢ floor price with a 25 per cent tax; the second option is to retain the 870¢ floor price with a 20 per cent tax; the third option is a lowering of the floor price to 700¢ with a 20 per cent tax. The third option is the one favoured by Mr Kerin and the one he has suggested that the Australian Wool Corporation should adopt. These choices are such that a reduction in the price of wool to growers in the first year would result in a reduction of 19 per cent with the first option, 13 per cent in the second option and 30 per cent with the third. Therefore, Mr Kerin is suggesting to the Wool Corporation that it lower the floor price to 700¢ and impose a tax of 20 per cent, and in so doing the growers would lose 30 per cent of their income in the coming year.

Not only would growers' returns be reduced by 30 per cent, but it would also be detrimental

to the price of the animal from which the wool comes. It is likely that the price of sheep would come down by at least \$5 a head. Export animals have already come down by \$5 a head, but that is not totally due to the instability of the wool market as it is partly due to the problems experienced with the export of merino wethers. Minister Kerin has stated that a 30 per cent reduction in income is not insignificant. Bearing in mind that most woolgrowers have an average income of \$100 000 - that is a fair estimate - Mr Kerin is suggesting that the grower will have a reduction in income of \$30 000. Also, the reduction in the price of sheep would have to be taken into account and that could lose the grower another \$5 000 or \$10 000 for the year. It is clear that we are facing an enormous problem which presents a bleak future for the forthcoming year.

If the plan as suggested by the Australian Wool Corporation is accepted, the Federal Government is most concerned, as is the responsible Minister, that the corporation will have to borrow \$3.5 billion this year. The Government is extremely worried about the foreign debt. This borrowing will push up the national debt by an estimated 2.4 per cent.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Mr Caldwell, are you referring to the reserve price per kilo clean?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Yes, that is for clean wool. The reserve price is the average price for all wool that is shorn in Australia. The reserve price for some of the finest micron wool is up to 4 000¢; this ranges down to the dirtiest, daggiest wool swept off the floor which is around 100¢; this averages the price out to 870¢. The woolgrower will lose up to 30¢ in the dollar with the Kerin suggestion and that is approximated through the calculation that the grower will lose \$1.70 per kilo on the farm. When a farmer shears about 20 000 kilos in a year, and that is multiplied by \$1.70, it is a considerable sum of money. The fear of lowering the price from 870¢ down to 700¢ is understandable in that all stock held by the Wool Corporation would be devalued. Also, this would create a great deal of instability and a lack of confidence in the buying fraternity.

Today an article in *The Australian Financial Review* referred to some supporters of the retention of the 870¢ price. Those supporters were from the Australian Wool Processors Council, which represents the country's scouring, carbonising, topmaking, spinning and weaving industries. The article states -

In a letter to the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Dr Hewson, the council said it was of great concern that a drop in the floor was being considered. Such a move would:

Drop the value of their stock, affecting viability in some cases.

Prompt demands for price re-negotiation or contract claims, causing "massive disruption" to the trade.

Possibly prompt legal action against the wool corporation.

Members can see the problem. When something is devalued undoubtedly many people will be upset. It will upset many processors, buyers and undoubtedly many farmers. If somebody who had 10 blocks of land valued at \$10 000 decided to sell them and managed to sell half of them at \$10 000 but suddenly was not able to sell the others, the pressure would be on him to reduce his price. For example, he might reduce the price of the blocks by 30 per cent to try to return his money on which he was paying interest. So, he would probably start to advertise his blocks for \$7 000. Certainly, this would cause a great deal of resentment and bitterness among people who bought those first blocks for \$10 000 when two years later they found the blocks devalued. I recall one case in which a certain company dealing in property trusts advertised its guaranteed buy-back price in a particular trust at 92¢ per unit. The company was not attracting sufficient customers and all of a sudden, to encourage investment in that property trust, it decided to increase the guaranteed buy-back price to 98¢ per unit. This caused a tremendous amount of resentment among those people who had already bought those units.

Members can imagine the enormous problems confronting the wool industry. The headline on one article in this morning's *The West Australian* read "Cut wool price or suffer - Kerin". It really was not the correct heading because it should have read "Cut the wool price and suffer". It is probably a play on words, but the wool industry will suffer regardless of what happens and the extent to which it suffers will be crucial to everyone concerned. As I mentioned earlier, the meeting to be held at Roma next week is crucial to the wool industry.

I refer members to an article in this morning's *Financial Review* which refers to comments



by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics. Top economists from that bureau predicted last year that the wool stockpile at the end of this year's season would be 150 000 bales. I am not sure how much the economists were paid to make that prediction, but it is obvious they were not paid enough because they made an enormous mistake. The discrepancy is unbelievable because the stockpile is not 150 000 bales but over 2.5 million bales. The article to which I have referred states -

The report by ABARE . . . analysed several scenarios based on the existing floor, two lower settings, 600¢ and 700¢, and a range of wool-tax options from the existing 8 per cent to either 20 per cent or 25 per cent.

If the floor was maintained and growers levied 25 per cent next season - the preferred option of the Wool Corporation and the Wool Council - it said it was conceivable the stockpile could climb to 6 million bales within two years -

The bureau could possibly be two million or three million out in its estimate because, after all, it was way out this year. Further on the article states -

Further, the grower tax would need to blow out to 32 per cent in 1991-92 if corporation borrowings were to stay below the \$2.5 billion level now approved by the Federal Government. Borrowings would still be at \$1.1 billion in five years.

In contrast, a 700¢ floor and 15 per cent tax would have the market support fund back in the black by 1994-95 and stocks declining after a maximum 4.3 million in 1991-92.

The bureau's assumptions included a modest growth in the demand for wool over the medium term and a drop in the Australian dollar of 14 per cent.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics has suggested that the Australian dollar should be devalued by 14 per cent. Many suggestions have been made in the Press that this should be the case. Only this week bankers forecast that the value of the Australian dollar would drop to 65¢ or 62¢ of the American dollar. That would be one of the best things that could happen for woolgrowers. It would make an enormous difference to the value of our wool and, undoubtedly, wool buyers would be able to buy our wool at a reduced price.

It is unfortunate the Federal Treasurer does not see it that way. He seems to be of the opinion that by keeping the value of the Australian dollar high the situation will change, but for the life of me I cannot understand him. I know I am only a bush economist.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: A wool economist.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I am a bush economist and I know that if the value of the dollar were reduced our export products would be worth more to this country and would be saleable on the world market and, naturally, the price of imports would be higher. If imported goods cost more it is logical that there will not be a demand for them. The Federal Treasurer seems to think that by keeping interest rates high there will be no demand for goods - it does not seem to work that way. For the life of me I cannot understand the reason he does not float the Australian dollar on the world market. It should be permitted to find its level on the world market in order that the commodities produced in this country can be sold overseas. The sale of imported products would slow down and the production of value-added products in this country would increase and, as a result, more opportunities for employment would be available. I am a fairly simple minded politician and to me it is the correct way to go. I cannot understand why we have not gone down that path.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: You are a good farmer.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Not now.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: You like all forms of farming.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: It appears to me that, unfortunately, the Australian dollar will not be devalued and interest rates will remain high. I hope I am wrong in both cases, but if the floor price of wool is decreased to 700¢ and woolgrowers have to pay a 20¢ levy, many hundreds of growers will be faced with difficulties and then the Government will have to step in and do something to support them. I guess farmers can be employed to do all sorts of things, but I am sure they would not be as happy as they are farming sheep and producing wool. The farmers must be encouraged in every way. The decision which will be made next week is

critical and I hope everyone concerned makes the correct decision. It really is like a lottery, and no matter what decision is made the economy will suffer. The farmers will suffer and they will find themselves in an unfortunate situation.

Another matter about which I feel very strongly is the lack of demand for our wool overseas. The Government could do something about this immediately. I refer now to the export of merino rams. The best technology in the world has gone into producing sheep. Australia is leading the world in wool growing technology and I cannot understand why Australia is exporting all of its technology overseas. Many years of experience have gone into creating that technology.

Hon J.M. Brown: It has not been successful in China.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: It has not been a success in China for the simple reason that not only do we export rams but also we give rams to China. The Chinese have received the best technology that Australia has to offer and it is not buying one kilogram of our wool. That is irresponsible and a form of sabotage. A lot of producers, including many of my friends, have sold rams overseas. I am a stud breeder and I am not guilty of sending any semen or rams overseas because I do not believe in giving away expertise that has been gained over the years.

Hon J.M. Brown: Many producers do.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Australia has controlled the wool industry until recently. If Australia exports its rams and other countries benefit from our knowledge in that field, this nation will lose out. It has lost nothing yet because it takes years to change a mediocre or poor flock into a good flock. The impact on our industry of exporting merino rams is not yet apparent.

Australia has approximately 180 million sheep which means that there are about 18 sheep per person in this country. I wonder what Hon Sam Piantadosi does with his 18 sheep?

Hon Sam Piantadosi: I can only account for 10.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: The Chinese have approximately 100 million sheep of all types and they sometimes crossbreed them with goats. I am not sure what they call them. However, these sheep grow a type of wool which is possibly very rough but could also be of good quality. The climate in China is terribly hard on animals and it is difficult to grow decent wool. Most of the wool producers are cutting only two kilos of wool per annum which is way down on the Australian cut. However, if China improves its technology, the sheep could produce up to 18 kilos. That is as good as any of our stud rams are cutting. The Chinese have the knowledge and the technology to do this. If Australia exports its best technology and its best rams to China and if the Chinese use this expertise to improve the cut from their flock, the impact on Australia's industry will be enormous. We have also sold our best rams and our best technology to the Chinese. Our sheep experts have helped them to expand their industry and shown them how to weave better cloth. Australia did not barter for this assistance and it did not receive anything in return. China is a country with millions of people which is not importing one kilo of our wool at present.

I was present at ram sales last year at which Russia bought a few hundred rams. Russia has done nothing to help Australia and it has defaulted on \$100 million-worth of payments for our wool. Why should we export these magnificent animals to Russia? Australia has bred them and taxpayers have paid for the scientists to develop them into a super-quality animal. An animal breeding institute was established in my home town after the Western Australian Government suggested some years ago that such a centre be built. Millions of dollars of taxpayers' money has been paid into it. It is a magnificent establishment and the best geneticists from New Zealand were brought here to help improve our wool and the size of our sheep to withstand the Australian environment. What are we doing with these animals? We are exporting them while the wool industry is in a dilemma. I am not suggesting that exporting these animals has caused the wool industry's problems. However, everybody is asking whether it was a good thing to export the commodity that has contributed so much to Australia's economy over the past 200 years.

Romania, next door to Russia, has 23 million sheep. Not only does it produce a lot of wool, but I believe also that it competes with Australia in the live sheep export market. Many live sheep are exported from Romania to the Arab countries and that is probably assisting in the

reduction of our exports. I have always had great doubts about exporting our sheep, particularly the merino rams. The delegates at the conference in Roma should decide to cease exporting Australia's rams immediately. By doing this, the Government could help alleviate some of the present problems. Until China comes into the market for our wool, and Russia starts to honour its debt, I see absolutely no reason for selling those countries some of our rams this year, and perhaps helping them to bring the producers of wool in this State to their knees. That does not refer to all producers, but to a large percentage who will have financial difficulties in the next couple of years.

Hon J.M. Brown: The Hagley stud does not think there is a crisis.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I know that the Collingswood stud, which is also one of the best in this country, is sending its sheep overseas. Many stud breeders, to their credit, refuse to sell rams overseas. They put a notice on their sale signs indicating that the sheep are not for export. The day may come when we shall admire those breeders and despise those who exported their sheep. I am not saying that will happen because this is a free enterprise country and everyone has the right to do as they wish. However, such actions could put the economy of the country at risk, and we should be aware that these sales may sabotage our export income from wool.

Hon Graham Edwards: I hope you will give an update on the koonacs.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: No I will not. But I have just learned that the name has been changed to yabbies.

Hon Graham Edwards: I was referring to the band.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: That has not changed its name.

Hon Graham Edwards: Is it still going strong?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Yes.

Hon Graham Edwards: I am pleased to hear that.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I wish to add to Hon Tom Helm's recent comments about juvenile detention centres. I raised this matter a couple of years ago when I said it would be a good idea if these places could train the juvenile offenders to do something constructive when they finish their term. Another member has referred to his thoughts on juvenile offenders and what they should do while in prison. I am referring to the future of detention centres, and I suggest they should be built further out in the country areas in locations where the wool industry operates. Attached to the institutions could be shearing sheds in which those young offenders could be taught to shear sheep. It may be said that it is not possible and that the offenders do not have an incentive to learn. However, they would have the initiative if they knew how much money they could earn each day. It is not necessary for people to spend years to learn this trade; a person can learn to be a reasonable shearer in eight to 10 weeks.

Many years ago I held a shearing school for Aborigines in my shearing shed. Initially 24 young male Aborigines were interested and they were looking forward to attending. On the first day of the school only six turned up, and it was necessary to race around and find others to participate because we wanted a minimum of eight young trainees. By the end of the shearing school four Aborigines had gone through the school in two weeks and they could shear approximately 50 sheep a day. I point out that that was a voluntary school which the young men could attend if they wanted to. It appeared that most were keen on the idea, but they did not want to be confined for 10 days' instruction; they would attend for a couple of days and then not arrive for the rest of the week, and in the following week would attend on perhaps one or two days. In the meantime, as is their custom, they would go walkabout. In a detention centre, the juveniles could not go walkabout; they would be confined to the centre and they could be taught to shear sheep which would be a useful occupation for them. I suggest that at the end of eight weeks those lads could shear 100 sheep a day if they had any initiative at all.

Hon J.M. Brown: Is there not an institution at Gnowangerup that operates in a way similar to your proposal?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: It is not a detention centre but a school at which they are taught. Some Aborigines attend but not many. The last time I visited the Aboriginal students

numbered two from a total of 24. Students are placed at that centre because they are having difficulty coping with the regular school system. It is an excellent program and more such farm schools should be established to teach lads how to be of some use to the farming industry.

Hon John Halden: How many could you train as shearers before the market became saturated?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: That is a good point. At the moment shearers are in short supply, and I am not sure how many could be trained before the market was saturated. The Longmore institution has between 34 and 40 inmates, according to Hon Tom Helm. I understand that the maximum number of inmates should be 34, but not all those juveniles would want to learn to shear sheep. Perhaps only a half or a quarter would be interested, and eight is a good number of students to teach at the one time. I am sure the market would not be saturated. However, I am not sure what would be done with the wool after it was taken off the sheep! I am not too sure either what would happen to the sheep. However, it would teach the juveniles something constructive. Once a lad had learned to shear 100 sheep a day - and he could probably learn that in eight to 10 weeks - he could earn approximately \$130 a day. I understand that juveniles in detention centres receive some remuneration and by the time they left the institution they could probably have saved to buy their own shearing gear. Most shearers own their combs and cutters, and once they have that asset they can immediately earn a wage. Just imagine if these young lads could earn \$500 a week; that is more than they could get on the dole. People must be trained to earn their living, and be given a trade from which they can earn a reasonable wage and they may also enjoy the job. It is a man's job, although a couple of women around the traps are doing a marvellous job of shearing sheep. It is amazing what a young lady can do in a shearing shed. One such lady at the Wagin woolarama demonstrated her ability to shear sheep and her record was 300 sheep a day. That was a phenomenal achievement and she can probably earn \$400 a day. That is more than members of Parliament are paid.

I am spokesman for the National Party on tourism, and I have raised the matter to which I am about to refer with the manager of the Perth International Airport. I visited the airport to see what facilities are available for tourists, and I was rather dismayed to find that most of the items for sale at the airport are not made in Australia. That is the very place where we should be promoting products made in Australia. For instance, there were koala bears, which I know are almost sanctified in Australia, which were made in Korea. They were a bit cheaper than the ones made in Australia. I do not think that anybody who visits this country, especially a Korean, would wish to take home a koala made in his own country. However, perhaps he would be patriotic enough to do that. A Japanese tourist would not like to buy a koala bear made in Korea when he visits Australia.

I looked around for other products manufactured in Australia and could not find, for instance, any nice, woollen ties. I am not wearing one tonight, but I wear one occasionally. Woollen ties are scarce in Perth. If members look through a Myer's store they will not find one. A salesman there said he had not seen a woollen tie for three years. It is a disgrace that such a big store does not have woollen ties. Members might say that they are too expensive, but they are not. I purchased three beautiful woollen ties in Cairns, of all places, for about \$16 each and they are absolutely magnificent. They are home woven ties. If they can be sold in Cairns, I am sure that they could be placed in any of Australia's international airports for sale.

Members may ask why I have raised this matter. I have done so because Governments invariably support the tourism industry and anything involved with it. I am told that the cost of renting an area in an international airport is prohibitive. However, I am not sure of that. We should investigate this matter. An ideal place to sell these ties and promote our products - not only rural, but industrial ones - would be near the waiting lounge of an international hotel. It would be marvellous to have a prototype of the Sarich motor on show near a waiting lounge or departure lounge of an international airport. On many occasions people have to spend an hour or more waiting for a flight to leave and if there is an industrial dispute they may have a couple of days to spend at an airport. To have our products on display in such an area would be a marvellous thing which would help Australia on its way. I am disappointed that this has not happened already. I believe that my intervention and the suggestion I made to the controller of the Perth International Airport may have some impact. I hope it will; I will be following up on this matter.

I turn now to the remarks made by the Minister for South-West about removing the right of private land-holders to veto mining on their land. It appears from his comments, which were reported in the Press, that he is a junior and inexperienced Minister who knows little about the mining industry except about sand mining in his own area. One of the things people must come to grips with is the fact that all mining land is not reclaimed and is not returned to a better state than before mining started. However, after some of the sand mining in the south west finished and the minerals were removed the paddocks finished up better than they were before the mining. They seem to be well drained, well fenced, well grassed and the pasture is growing well.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Is that the case in relation to gold mining?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Gold mining is different, as are other forms of mining.

Hon Barry House: It is amazing how the Minister changed his mind after he lost his rural constituents.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: That may be so. I have not seen anything about this in the papers in recent times. With most other types of mining the miner does not have to repair damage he does to the land and leaves it in a terrible state. They sometimes contour it or plant a few trees, but the hole is still there.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I thank honourable members for this extension. I liken the removal of the right of veto of private land holders to open slather with duck shooting. Members can imagine what would happen to duck numbers if everybody was allowed to shoot as many ducks as they wished whenever they wished and with no restriction. Before long the duck population would dwindle and we would not see many ducks around. At the moment, because of strict controls on shooting, the duck population seems to be increasing. We have had great, wet winters over the past two or three years and it is marvellous to see the duck population on the lakes. I am not saying the number of farmers will dwindle if we do not place restrictions on miners, but parts of their land would be in disrepair, as we have already seen in some places.

An article appeared recently in the *Sunday Times* in relation to this matter. There are literally hundreds of mining companies in Australia which I call "\$2 companies" which one can see quoted in the Press as having a share value of 1¢ or 2¢. Those companies are in limbo just waiting, I suggest, for the private land holder's power of veto to be removed so that they can pounce and begin digging and churning up the land as fast as they can go. The land holder's veto is the only thing preventing the destruction of his land. It is not only that some of the viable farming areas of Western Australia might be destroyed, but also that miners are liable to cause considerable degradation in certain areas.

The fact that we should take care of our land is on everyone's lips at the moment. The Minister for South-West raised the subject more in an attempt to appease some of his mining mates - and I guess he has some down there - than for any other reason. However, he fell foul of some of the pastoralists and agriculturalists around the State. The private land holder's right of veto must continue as it is the only thing stopping mining enterprises getting out of hand. Mining is undoubtedly great for the country but it must operate under some type of control. Mining companies must negotiate with private land holders, who in almost every case have been receptive to negotiations, to the benefit of both parties. I support the motion.

HON DOUG WENN (South West) [8.31 pm]: I support the motion and take this opportunity - because when we first sat I had to go back home for a family commitment - to congratulate Sir Francis Burt on his appointment as Governor of Western Australia. The accolades of other members have already been passed on to him.

I extend my condolences to the members of those families who have recently lost their loved ones; in particular to the family of Emm Jamieson for the tragic loss of Colin. I got to know Colin very briefly when we went to a bowling carnival in the Eastern States, and I learnt to appreciate the worthwhile things that he was able to convey to the younger members of Parliament. He was full of knowledge, and will be sadly missed, but his wife Emm is a very strong lady and I know she will be able to cope with her family. My wife and I extend our condolences to her.

I convey congratulations to the three new Parliamentary Secretaries, Hon John Halden, Hon Mark Nevill and Hon Tom Stephens. Members will be aware that recently I went to Zimbabwe, on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. That visit enlightened me about how deputy Ministers can be used in the Parliament.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: I wondered where you got the idea from.

Hon DOUG WENN: I have had that idea in mind for a long time but I did not know how to implement it. The Parliament of Zimbabwe has many deputy Ministers who are able to handle matters when a Minister is tied up with other matters. That is a new innovation for this State and I hope it will work well. I am absolutely sure it will work well with the three members who have been appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries. We have yet to see what portfolios they will be assisting in but I congratulate those three members and the Government for taking this initiative. In the past we have seen how Ministers can get tied down with work and the legislation which is debated in this place.

I hope we will take a close look at the results of the trial being conducted in the other House in respect of sitting hours, and that in the near future we will take a leaf out of its book and look at our sitting times. There have been occasions when we have sat right through until the early hours of the morning. That is not good for any member. We cannot act properly on behalf of our constituents at 3.00 am or 4.00 am when our eyes are hanging down around our navels. All I want to do is get out of the place, and particularly at the end of the year, when we are getting towards Christmas, we all want to get home to our constituents and to all the things that are happening. As Hon Barry House will be aware, we can be invited to as many as 30 school wind-ups, but because this place is in session and because of the hours we keep it is not always possible to get there.

Hon George Cash: You realise that the extension of debate past 11.00 pm is always at the request of the Government.

Hon DOUG WENN: That is right, because the workload is there and we must get on with it. Perhaps we could sit for an extra day. It would not bother me, as a country member, if we sat on Mondays.

Hon George Cash: It would not bother me if we started in February or March.

Hon Barry House: How many days have we sat this year?

Hon DOUG WENN: The member should know; he is a former school teacher. That is something that is totally negotiable, and always has been. Members opposite have got the numbers and they can dictate the times they wish to sit. If they wish to accept the Leader of the House's proposition in respect of sitting times they can do so; if they do not, they can reject it, as does happen in this place.

The three Parliamentary Secretaries will be a great asset to this place, and I wish them well. We are always here to back them up if they need our support because we are fiercely proud of our three Ministers and our three Parliamentary Secretaries.

Hon George Cash: I was a bit disappointed that you did not get one of the jobs, and that is a fact.

Hon Tom Stephens: Too much talent on our side of the House.

Hon DOUG WENN: I thank the member for that comment, and I will put that away in my little memory bank.

Hon George Cash: Perhaps "honorary Minister" may have been more appropriate than "Parliamentary Secretary" because of some of the problems you may find yourselves running into, but that is something you will have to address in due course.

Hon DOUG WENN: Time will tell but I am sure that as time goes by we will adjust to whatever we have to do to make it a workable proposition.

Hon Barry House: You should take the workload off Ministers like Hon Graham Edwards so they can actually answer a question.

Hon Graham Edwards: I have given good answers; it is the questions that are dreadful.

Hon DOUG WENN: The value of the answer to a question must be determined by the value of the question, and not much comes from that side that is worth much anyway.

In respect of being fiercely proud I tucked that in for the reason that I am fiercely proud of a young man who has come from this State and is now a national idol in the eyes of many. I am talking about Dean Capobianco.

Hon Graham Edwards: Hear, hear! He is a real champion.

Hon DOUG WENN: Only two years ago Dean's whole life existed around football, until a young chap by the name of Peter O'Dwyer, who was also interested in football but who had a big input in foot racing, particularly in the sprinting areas, noticed that Dean could really put on a spurt of speed. He invited Dean to meet a chap by the name of Matt Barber. The whole Barber family is renowned in the field of athletics, not only in Western Australia but Australia. Matt took Dean under his wing and was able to direct the talent that Dean had into the fantastic effort which we all saw culminate on Easter Monday when Dean won the Stawell Gift. It has not been an easy road for Dean, as most members who follow athletics would be aware. Dean has been recognised as one of the best 200 metre hurdle sprinters in Australia. Unfortunately he had a leg problem and had his leg in plaster for eight weeks, which pushed him out of competing in track and field events for that time. It was another two months before he was able to recover sufficiently to take on sprinting. I have been involved in professional sprinting in Western Australia, and I have watched people like Dean, Peter O'Dwyer, and a few of the other sprinters we have in this State, who will bring a lot of talent and expert people to Western Australia to see what we have to offer. Dean was second in his heat, and ran the 120 metre distance in 12.29 seconds. The ironic part is that Dean started at 66:1. I read that in one of the papers that was sent to me, and I automatically tried to find old Matt Barber to put a few dollars on that race, but unfortunately he had gone underground. I am not sure whether he put any money on it. A story was circulated that Dean had been out on the town the night before the race. He was out all Saturday night, and he played up something shocking; he was boozed. Dean was out for dinner on the night he won his heat, which was Saturday, and he had about four squashes. Imagine what it was like when the Press got on to that story!

Hon Barry House: This is a change from ballroom dancing.

Hon DOUG WENN: I have not heard the honourable member speak yet, so he should be careful. This is an opportunity for members to speak about anything they wish. The member might not have liked what I said when I spoke about ballroom dancing, but the ballroom dancing fraternity was quite happy about it.

Hon Graham Edwards: They are a fine body of people.

Hon DOUG WENN: Absolutely. That shows how interested I am in sport. That is all part of it. The fact is that at that time he went out at 66-1, and he firmed later at 40-1, and 8-1 after his heat on the Saturday. The news got around that he had been boozing and so forth, but that turned out not to be true, as Dean soon proved. He started out as favourite at 9-4.

We should look not only at Dean's efforts. He was so determined when he went over that he told his father as he got on the plane, "This one's for me." That is how determined he was, and he proved it by coming off a back marker and setting this record. He is the first Western Australian since Dave Strickland in 1900 to win the Stawell Gift. Strickland was the father of the Olympic gold medallist, Shirley de la Hunty, and was the youngest sprinter to win the classic. The previous youngest was the Victorian, John Denham, who won at the age of 20 in 1980. This was the tightest handicap for an Australian to win with after starting from the back marker at 2.25 metres. The previous best was William Millard, who won from three yards in 1978. Dean will go back to scratch next year at the Stawell Gift, and he is confident that by the time he gets back from Europe he will have the ability and the will to win off scratch. That shows what a magnificent sportsperson he is. He is the first amateur to win the world famous race - amateur is a bit of a misnomer, because there is no such thing as a professional or amateur in athletics any more.

We are very proud of Dean; this State is very proud of him. We got him down to Bunbury, where we started professional footracing. It took us three weeks to get him down there because he was booked out for functions around this State every night. He was on radio and television, and *The West Australian* ran his story for three days in a row on the front and back pages, which is unheard of.

Hon Barry House: It is a great shame that so few people turned up to see him.

Hon DOUG WENN: There were actually 30 people there. At the civic reception the turnout was very good -

Hon Barry House: I was not invited.

Hon DOUG WENN: This had nothing to do with politics; it was for the running and athletic fraternity of Bunbury that the show was put on.

Hon Barry House: You just happened to be there.

Hon DOUG WENN: As the Managing Director of the West Coast Athletic League it seemed that I should have received an invitation. Mr Smith, the member for Bunbury, was not there, nor was the MLA for Mitchell, the other Mr Smith. Perhaps that may make the member feel a little better.

The point I make is that another article published soon after the accolades were laid on Dean dealt with the Olympics cash incentive. I agree that we have to look after our Olympians; we have not done enough for them. However, I feel very strongly about the way the Government has gone about it. There is talk of an Olympic team organisation which is preparing a \$500 000 project which has already raised \$200 000. Silver medallists will receive up to \$40 000, and there is a maximum of \$20 000 for bronze medallists. Surplus funds will be distributed to Olympic finalists up to a maximum of \$10 000 each.

I am concerned that we will create a group of elite sportspeople to the detriment of young people who possibly do not have the ability at the right time to be able to compete with them. I partly agree that these athletes should be able to better themselves at their sports, but I am concerned about situations such as Dean's. He could not go to the Olympics, where he was guaranteed a spot, and I believe he would have picked up a medal. He had to run a professional event to earn enough money in Australia to be able to continue his future within the athletic world. Dean's future is pretty well guaranteed now because he has been invited to go to Europe. He left yesterday, and he will be running in some major events. He will also be able to take advantage of instruction from some of the top coaches in the world. Ironically, one of the best athletic coaches is here in Western Australia in Matt Barber. Matt has proved that he is one of the best, because the stable he runs at the moment is a top stable, and it has some of the best runners in this country. We can look forward to a great future in athletics. Those dollars are being paid to people to go and win a medal for this country; the money is not just given to them. We must encourage all our athletes to do their utmost, and if that is the incentive we have to offer, so be it. We wish Dean all the best in his efforts overseas. We will not see him here until the end of the year, when the West Coast Athletic League circuit starts again in Mullewa in August. Our best wishes go to Matt Barber when he travels to Europe, and I am sure that the experience he and Dean gain there will be of great benefit to Western Australia.

Changing topics, as most members would be aware I have now located my base office in Collie. One of the major issues in Collie now is the proposed power station. It is a big subject. Recently the EPA produced an environmental review and management program on the proposed Collie power station, and most of us have had a chance to look at the document. It looks as if the Collie power station should get the go-ahead from the State Government, and I shall personally work very strongly towards that end. I hope to be able to convince the Minister that Collie is where the power station should be.

One of the first things we consider when we receive these ERMPs is the environmental impact on the district. Collie is renowned for having set aside certain areas for this power house. Approximately 388 hectares have been set aside to be cleared for the building, and 15 000 hectares surrounding it will be set aside to provide a buffer. This area will continue to support pasture, jarrah and wetland vegetation. If we go ahead with the Mt Lesueur proposal, or some of the other places suggested, a large amount of land will have to be cleared to run the powerlines to connect into the grid, but in Collie that has already been done; no more clearing is required. When we look at the hundreds of acres which would have to be cleared, it might look like a thin strip, but if they are amalgamated an area of thousands of hectares of land will have to be cleared of vegetation of all sorts, and we will not know what has been destroyed.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Is the current strip wide enough to put in another line?

Hon DOUG WENN: The environmental review and management program booklet is only a



listing of recommendations and it is wide open for people to make their own input. Quite a large range of studies has been included in the ERMP booklet. For instance, it covers the impacts that will arise from the operation, and says -

The environmental impacts that will arise from operation of the proposed power station can be categorized as below and are reviewed accordingly.

- (i) Atmospheric Emissions
- (ii) Water Supply Impacts
- (iii) Ash Disposal
- (iv) Wastewater Disposal
- (v) Electric and Magnetic Fields.

Further, the ERMP states that the atmospheric emissions -

... are all within the guidelines recommended by the NHMRC. However, this does not in itself guarantee that the quality of air at ground level, surrounding the power station, will remain within acceptable limits.

That is of great concern to many people, but with the engineering abilities in the world today many engineers say that could be totally controlled. In fact, the listings include the PFBCs, or pressurised fluidised bed combustion power stations, and many of us already know about those. I am sure many members on both sides of the House have met a gentleman here in Western Australia by the name of Walter Cohn. He is a very interesting man with good ideas and I support him because he could be of great benefit to our State. Mr Cohn has given me a great deal of information. When one asks him to give a rundown of some of the information that is available about PFBCs and so on, one invariably ends up with a truckload of information and must sift through it, as I have done in the last couple of days. However, we must consider the PFBC type of power station very seriously. One has been installed in Sweden, smack in the centre of a city; but the people there are fortunate in that they are able to take advantage of many of the by-products of that factory. One of those by-products is steam, which the Swedes pipe throughout the city to provide internal heating for their homes, so they are able to put absolutely everything to use.

Let us consider the types of fuel and energy that can be generated in this State. Studies have been done around the world, and are continuing, into solar energy. We are talking about putting wind farms at Geraldton and we already have some at Esperance. There is gas, which presents one of the biggest challenges to the coal industry in Western Australia. We have methanol, and waste sugar cane is something that must be addressed by the people of Queensland. That sugar industry produces a lot of waste and the Queensland producers are not sure what to do with it, but after my trip to Zimbabwe with my fellow delegates, where we saw the way the Triangle company handled all the sugar cane over there, I feel that perhaps the Queensland producers could examine that operation. Another option is one I totally oppose; that is, nuclear power; then there is wave power.

A pamphlet called "Technology for our Third Century" was issued following Chemeca 89, a conference run by the College of Chemical Engineers. The paper I have here was presented by Associate Professor Terry Wall, of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Newcastle, as a plenary lecture at Chemeca 89. He gives a rundown on the seminar that was held. One point he makes is that -

There have been many predictions made of Australian energy usage since the oil crisis and if we compare these predictions with the actual use we find that the projected primary energy use has been over estimated. The reasons for this are emphasis on energy conservation, higher energy prices, particularly prices for oil, and greater efficiency in use.

It alarmed me that Associate Professor Wall said also -

Let us now look at Australia's position on the world energy stage. ... Our energy usage at present is 4500kg oil-equivalent per capita compared to a world average of 1300.

It is incredible that we are using power at that rate, and we must become very concerned about that.

Returning for a moment to the types of power available, we have natural gas, and Associate Professor Wall talks about the availability of gas, stating that he feels it could be better used in other means, albeit as a backup system in power generation. As to liquid fuels - oils and so forth - Associate Professor Wall states -

But even so it seems certain that in 30 to 50 years oil will become a scarce resource, for indigenous crude this time could occur earlier.

So oil will not always be available and it may be needed for functions other than firing power stations. In relation to coal, the source of energy in which I am most interested, Associate Professor Wall says -

Considering the international use of coal for power, coal is often the cheapest fuel for generation of power, for coal either found locally or imported. . . . Due to cost factors and the greater security of coal supply from the many international suppliers . . . many countries have turned to coal for power generation. This is particularly so for developed countries. . . .

The use of a premium fuel such as gas for electricity generation when there is abundant coal, is open to criticism. This, you will recall, was one of the reasons for the rejection of the Newport Power Station project in Melbourne a decade ago. However, the use of gas for peak loads, and in periods between the installation of the huge plants using coal is certainly warranted.

The third item they talk about is nuclear fission energy. It is something everyone is talking about because we are all concerned about the greenhouse effect, and I will come to that in a moment. All around the world countries are closing down nuclear power stations. The Three Mile Island station has been closed, and we have seen the disastrous effect of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Hon Barry House: But don't the greens say coal fired power stations are more harmful in terms of the greenhouse effect than any other kind?

Hon DOUG WENN: Is the member comparing coal with nuclear fission? I said I would come to the greenhouse effect in a moment.

Hon Barry House: Get it right and make sure it is not the ozone layer you are talking about.

Hon DOUG WENN: I will talk about them both. The effects of Chernobyl are still being felt today all over Europe. They are still trying to work out exactly what happened, and apparently it took over six months before they were able to do something about the reactor core which burned through.

Hon Graham Edwards: Is Mr House advocating one for Bunbury?

Hon Barry House: One what?

Hon Graham Edwards: You are not listening, obviously.

Hon DOUG WENN: I oppose nuclear power plants, and all around the world they are being closed down. Only places like India are opening them, and I believe that country has problems but I could stand corrected on that. Synfuels are available, but only in small quantities. Associate Professor Wall had this to say about synfuels -

Today the production of synfuels is limited to the operation of only a few enterprises. The best known operation is that of Sasol in South Africa where gasoline, diesel oil and other chemical products are produced from coal using the Fischer-Tropsch process.

I am willing to make this document available to anyone who wants to read it. It is well worth reading as Associate Professor Wall knows what he is talking about.

One energy source I did not mention was wind power, and I have some information about that in another booklet. Mr Cohn did not leave a name on it, but the heading is "Power Generation - Windpower not yet viable, study finds". It sounds as though I am putting things other than coal down. However, I will not stand here and say that we should not investigate these things. I think it is important to investigate all other methods of power generation, to look closely at them and to eliminate each one as it is found to be not feasible. In respect of Hon Barry House's comment the Green movement is saying "Yes, coal is a bad

burner." There are different types of coal; some are dirtier and burn worse than others. Pressurised fluidised bed combustion has a guaranteed burn of around 75 per cent, but the use of precipitators cuts down that figure even further, so the percentage of emissions into the atmosphere decreases.

An article in *The West Australian* of 26 August dealing with the WA Energy Conference reads as follows -

One of WA's Collie coal miners yesterday moved to clean up the fuel's recently tarnished environmental image.

That is, one of the coal companies. The article continues as follows -

The burning of coal has been cited as a major cause of increased concentrations of carbon dioxide, one of the main contributors to the Greenhouse Effect.

But Griffin Coal managing director Andrew Carter told the conference coal was responsible for only a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions in WA.

This was less than motor-spirit and distillate (33 per cent) and natural gas (28 per cent).

Hon David Wordsworth told the House that it is now possible to pop pills into animals to stop them giving off natural gases. I read an article in *The West Australian* some months ago which reported that New Zealand has asked Australia to send over so many thousands of packets of those pills.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: That is correct. They are taking it very seriously over there.

Hon DOUG WENN: Obviously they believe they have a problem. The coal companies themselves are concerned to the extent that - as we saw with companies manufacturing CFCs - they are taking action themselves. The State Energy Commission is keeping tabs on the PFBC technology. Mr Kelly and Commissioner Norm White from Western Australia visited the PFBC plant in Sweden this year. The 200 megawatt PFBC unit is being tested at the Varton plant, which is on a small site in the heart of Stockholm. It is a very compact plant which burns coal, and supplies steam for district heating and cleaner power to the Stockholm energy grid. All around the world people are continuing to look at better burning of coal. Obviously the better the coal burns, the higher the productivity and the more we will get out of it.

In *The Australian Financial Review* of 11 October 1989 an article titled, "Coal nations to slash carbon dioxide output" reads as follows -

Leading coal producing nations are planning to introduce new technology to reduce carbon dioxide output from the burning of coal by up to 50 per cent as the debate about the greenhouse effect warms up.

In respect of the greenhouse effect I would like to quote from an article in the *New Scientist* of 20 January 1990. The article is headed, "Climate and History: the Westvikings' saga" and it deals in part with history of the Vikings who settled Greenland. The subheading of that article reads as follows

Greenland was once greener, and Iceland was once surrounded by ice. As the Viking settlers found out, the price of failing to adapt to a small shift in climate can be high

That is what the Green movement is saying today. If we do not watch the change in our climate - particularly in Australia - we could have big problems.

Hon Barry House: I do not dispute that. In fact I saw first hand evidence of it in Switzerland where, as a result of global warming, glaciers are retreating.

Hon DOUG WENN: I do not dispute that. I think there is a problem; as the member is aware, my record shows that I have advocated CFC control as well as control of other emissions into the atmosphere. However, when I talk to people like Walter Cohn, I am given information which points out both sides of the argument, not just one side. If the member listens to what I am about to say I will provide a number of points which indicate why we should listen to what they say. The article in the *New Scientist* reads in part as follows -

Historical records and data such as the remains of pollen from the variety of plant species trapped in layers of mud in beds of lakes, tell us, for example, that the great

spread of Roman culture after about 500 BC coincided with a warming of the European part of the world, out of a period of severe cold. The slight improvement and warmth persisted until about AD 400, giving the Roman Empire a climate that was distinctly milder than Western Europe enjoys today.

The subsequent deterioration in climate was followed, roughly a thousand years ago, by a period of warmth sufficiently pronounced that it has become known to historians of climate as the "little climatic optimum". The name reflects the fact that the warmth lasted for only a few centuries and that European climatologists often regard a slightly warmer world than we have been used to as a good thing. The greenhouse effect may yet prove them wrong, but the name has stuck.

My point is that evidence shows that a mini greenhouse effect occurred in 500 BC. In those days there were no coal fired power houses nor did we have cars putting out emissions. The evidence does not give any idea of how bad the temperature was at that stage. In fact we do not today know how bad the temperature will get. The final paragraph of that article reads as follows -

So does that absolve the vagaries of the climate from blame for the extinction of these colonies?

That is, the Norse settlers on Greenland. The article continues -

The answer is both yes and no; conservatism would not have led to disaster if the climate had not shifted. The lesson is that human society has to be flexible enough to adapt to changing climactic conditions. That is an important lesson, since the climate did not stop changing in the 16th century: climactic fluctuations are happening today and include some that result from human activities.

In many parts of the world, people are even now faced, for different reasons, with the same choice that confronted the Norse in Greenland 700 years ago: adapt or die.

Let us keep that in mind. We are told continually that because of coal fired power houses we are putting emissions into the atmosphere. However, we really need only look at the stupidity of what we have not only in this city but in every city of this country. An incredible number of cars carrying only the driver are driven into this city every day. That is something we must look at seriously in the future.

Hon Barry House: What is your Government doing about it?

Hon DOUG WENN: We must all think about that. This Government at the moment is putting more public transport into action. In fact this Government is utilising more public transport than has been seen in this State for many years. A few years ago - before Hon Barry House's time here and before my time here - the Government of Sir Charles Court closed down the Fremantle railway. The wishes of the people got that train running again and kept that rail link going. That rail link is important because it brings thousands of people on a daily basis into this city. It is better to run a diesel train than to run a thousand cars because that is what happens. I will not get into an argument with members opposite about that.

Hon Barry House: Does your Government favour the introduction of a road tax?

Hon DOUG WENN: When was that mentioned?

Hon Barry House: Well, you are talking about the flow of traffic.

Hon DOUG WENN: Hon Barry House has asked me to take this matter seriously, and that is what I am doing in respect of emissions contributing to the greenhouse effect throughout the world. It is something we have to take very seriously. The fact is that we are allowing one person per car to come into the city and that is creating havoc. How often have members been caught on the freeway because it is chockers with other cars?

Hon N.F. Moore: It takes me half an hour a day. Maybe 20 minutes on a bad day one way.

Hon DOUG WENN: The honourable member has been caught in a traffic jam for half an hour?

Hon N.F. Moore: No, that is the time it takes me to get into Parliament House.

Hon DOUG WENN: Perhaps the honourable member has been lucky; I have been caught a couple of times.

An article entitled "A Brief History of Climatic Doom" appears in *The Spectator* of 3 March 1990. Lewis Bessemer refuses to be worried by the weather and writes -

A year ago, in the middle of a winter that has been recorded as the warmest for at least 300 years, there appeared on the correspondence page of the *Independent*, a one-lined letter: 'Sir, I rather like the greenhouse effect.'

This obviously affected Mr Bessemer because he continued further on -

By the consensual standards of the time the one-lined correspondent was therefore one not to be trusted with the stewardship of our planet. Whatever will be, he was announcing his intention to enjoy it. Moreover, he was probably remembering that 15 years ago he was being warned of his fate not in a forthcoming flood but in an imminent ice age.

Further on, he states -

In 1975 Professor Hubert Lamb of the University of East Anglia warned that a cold period would continue into the middle of next century, citing justification from statistics which showed that the Arctic was already several degrees colder than a few years ago.

I make the point that we have a problem in this world called the greenhouse effect, as well as a problem with the ozone layer. However, we cannot get our scientists who are continually investigating the problem to agree. All these quotations make that point. Further on, Mr Bessemer writes -

In 1975 ... in the September of that year Wallace Broecker of Columbia University became the first doubting Thomas to question six years or so of scientific consensus by suggesting that the earth was about to warm up rather than to cool.

The document goes on to point out -

Above all else, theories are affected by the availability of data. Much of the recent climatic doom-mongering has been shaped by the analysis of two quantities: global temperature and the thickness of the ozone layer over the Antarctic. With regard to these, two leading statistics have been produced over the past 10 years: one is that, taking the globe as a whole, six out of the ten warmest years since 1850 occurred during the 1980s, the other is that a hole has appeared in the ozone layer above Antarctica every spring since 1982 - something that did not happen in the preceding years.

I refer now to the Books and Ideas section of *The Independent Monthly* of February 1990. The article is headed "The Hole In The Future". The book under review is *The Greenhouse Trap* by John Daly, and sells for \$16.95. The article reads, in part -

John Daly is an electronic engineer who teaches at Launceston College in Tasmania and has made a study of the Greenhouse Effect. Fred Pearce warns us of what the future may hold on the basis that the evidence about the Greenhouse Effect is more or less conclusive. John Daly argues that those who support the Greenhouse theory have got it all wrong and that the whole controversy is a beat-up on the part of self-interested scientists and an uninformed media addicted to apocalyptic sensationalism.

If ever an industry has been created around the greenhouse effect and the atmospheric problems associated with it, it is called "novels". Members should consider the three books sent to me by Walter Cohn. The first book is *The Greenhouse Effect - Living in a Warmer Australia* - just what we need to let Australians do something positive. Another book is entitled *The Greenhouse Trap* which outlines why the greenhouse effect will not end life on earth. Then we have *Facts, Myths and Politics* by John L. Daly, together with *The Imminent Ice Age - and How We Can Stop It*.

Hon Barry House: Is the member saying that these publications are beating up the issues? Does the member say there is no problem?

Hon DOUG WENN: I am outlining what scientists are saying to each other. Does the member have a problem with that?

Hon Barry House: No, but the member might be contradicting what he said a few minutes ago.

Hon DOUG WENN: No. I am quoting what scientists are saying. I say that confusion abounds. At the moment confusion reigns supreme in the scientific world. The only winners are the people who write these books. I remember years ago Dr Spock wrote books about children. Ten years ago he stated that he had been wrong for 40 years, so he then wrote books which gave advice to the contrary. Maybe Dr Spock thought he could make a few more dollars with a few more books.

In *The Independent Monthly* referred to earlier John Merson continues -

We have been warned many times since the beginning of the industrial revolution that the global environment and its resources are finite and cannot cope with unlimited growth. The much-maligned authors of the Club of Rome Report in the 1960s may have got some things wrong, but they did touch on issues which we are only now beginning to confront seriously. For despite the Green consumer movement's assurances that all is well as long as we keep wiping our bums on recycled paper and buying ecologically sound products, most of us have a nagging suspicion that we are living on credit, that we are hocking our natural heritage for short-term gains. In the brief period of European settlement we have lost half this country's limited topsoil and removed two-thirds of its tree cover. In northern Europe lakes and forests are being poisoned by acid rain.

These people have different theories and are determined to push those theories. The article continues further on -

We can only hope that the scientific predictions are wrong, as Mr Daly suggests, but if they are not, we had better have some strategies worked out. The effect of a major rise in sea level could wipe out not only entire nations such as Bangladesh, Kiribati and the Maldives, but inundate much of the rich rice-growing regions of Asia and many of the world's major centres of civilization. The global political and economic consequences would be horrendous. Pearce's book does not pull any punches.

Neither of these books could be described as light reading, but if you want to deepen your knowledge of the global environmental crisis, I'd recommend *Turning Up The Heat*.

Again, that is argument against argument. An article entitled "A haze of doubt - predictions of" appeared in *The Australian* on 20 February 1990. In part the article reads -

At the 59th annual congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) in Hobart last week, scientists were cautious about the predictions which, a few years ago, were promoted almost as fact.

Even scientists are becoming wary of these theories. The Sunday Living section of the *Sunday Times* of 13 May 1990 ran an article entitled "The Doomsday Sages are Wrong!". Burke's Backyard by Don Burke - a gardener who is always concerned about these matters - says that the Doomsday people are wrong. The scientists seem to be presuming they are totally right for their own reasons. Are they serious? For the past eight or 10 years we have been sprouting about the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect and so on when we should have been looking behind us at the creeping ice age.

*The West Australian* of 13 January 1990 ran an article entitled "The Greenhouse debate warms up" and asks -

How real is the threat of the Greenhouse Effect? Alex Harris looks at a new book that explodes some of the scientific facts, myths and politics.

In fact Alex Harris is talking about John Daly's book referred to earlier. The article reads -

Some leading lights in the Greenhouse debate are veterans of previous scientific scares and science generally has a poor track record when it comes to predicting disasters that never happened.

So these people are berating each other; they are not happy just to say a person is wrong. These people are going for the jugular. The article in part reads -

CFCs were thought to be the origin of the destructive chlorine, but recently a group of US scientists challenged this assumption by pointing out that since 1982 the volcano Mt Erebus has been pouring 1000 tonnes of chlorine a day into the atmosphere directly beneath the ozone hole.

Daly says the nuclear power industry stands to benefit most from the Greenhouse Effect and raises the question: is it a coincidence that most people began to come aware of the Greenhouse Effect soon after the Chernobyl disaster severely shook public confidence in the nuclear power industry?

These people are accusing each other for the benefit of the almighty dollar, or are they promoting uranium mining to obtain nuclear power for power stations?

I refer now to *The West Australian* of 6 January which ran an article entitled "Icy Blast for backers of global warming theory" as follows -

It looks as though the game is up for the Greenhouse Effect. Nobody seriously doubts its existence, but even enlightened opinion is likely soon to see it for what it has become: a weapon used by opponents of capitalism to frustrate industrial growth.

A new report predicts that the next century will be colder than this one and the Greenhouse Effect, far from warming the Earth, is more likely to have the benign effect of halting the onset of a mini Ice Age.

The *Sunday Times* of 18 April 1990 referred to Professor David Suzuki, whom I am sure all members have heard of as he was here prior to the Federal election and received considerable media coverage. The article is headed "Think global, act local" and states the following -

There can be no doubting the world's leading Greenie, Dr David Suzuki, when he warns us about the priority of life. His message is simple - protect the air, soil, water and bio-diversity.

Obviously the journalist who wrote this article was a fan of Dr Suzuki.

In *The Australian* on Monday, 9 April an article by David Divine headed "Doomsday reports - fact or sci-fi?" stated the following -

... Suzuki had a new book out in Australia, ...

ABC Shops also have on their shelves an audio-cassette package of a four-hour radio program about the environment called *It's a Matter of Survival*, which Suzuki put together and narrated for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation last year and which the ABC Science Program put to air, no doubt coincidentally, just before the Federal election.

Having listened to the radio program, large chunks of it twice, and read the book carefully, I am forced to the opinion that as cute-looking, highly esteemed, and well intentioned he may be, Dr Suzuki is a crank and, even if inadvertently so, a dangerous one.

Here is another example of someone who thought that this scientist was jumping on the bandwagon with his "magnificent" new book and radio tapes. Here is another chap who believes it is gobbledygook, to use Hon Mark Nevill's phrase.

I began by referring to the coal industry, which is trying to clean up its act by reducing the emissions it puts into the air. The industry will succeed. The coal is there. We know that it exists and that it will be available for up to 100 years. We are not sure about gas. Even though we have it in quantity, we are not sure how long it will last. It is said that oil will last for maybe 30 to 50 years. An alternative is nuclear power and this will last for a long time, but so will the damage it causes; the effects of a Chernobyl disaster will remain for centuries for they cannot be wiped up or chucked into a hole and forgotten about - we are stuck with them. The coal industry will make a fair go and try to do the job right.

I refer now to the construction stage of the proposed power station in which the work force is expected to reach 820 workers in six years' time. That is a large number of people who will be brought into the town of Collie and who will make a financial contribution to the town. That can only be for the good of Collie. I strongly believe that the only place for the next power house in Western Australia is Collie. This power house should use coal, as the industry already exists. The grid is there and it is only a short step to lock into it. The environmental issues are already solved and to move the power house to another area may destroy that area.

In closing, I refer to an article in the *Daily News* of Friday, 11 August which refers to the

**Mt Lesueur option.** I totally oppose this option for many reasons - environmental and others. The article states -

Cheaper electricity and changes to union work practices would result from approval of the controversial Mt Lesueur coal mine and power station project, the State Government has been told.

The company is saying, "Let us build the power house and we will break the unions. We will find better ways of producing the electricity." However, that does not mean that it will be cheaper electricity; it will simply find a cheaper work force. I recently spoke to the Coal Miners' Industrial Union of Workers of Western Australia Secretary, Gary Wood, in Collie, and asked him what the coal mining industry in Collie had done to help itself. In September of last year the union went through a debatable court case and through arbitration the situation was reached in which the industry at Muja is now working 24 hours a day, six days a week. Of course, the question can be asked, why are they not working for seven days a week? The answer is that insufficient buyers of coal are available to warrant it. The Collie coal industry is saying that it will double its output in the next two years, so the work practices are in place. The coalmining companies and the unions involved in the coal industry are working well together to achieve this goal. Western Collieries is working 16-hour underground shifts which is the limit permitted under section 27 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act - an agreement between all parties is required for this to occur. I believe that a Bill to extend these hours will be coming before the Parliament soon - I am afraid that I have just done what Mr Cash did the other day and have not checked what I am talking about.

**Hon George Cash:** That is a little uncharitable from somebody I just said would make a good Minister.

**Hon DOUG WENN:** I had to insult somebody and the member looked like he was nodding off.

**Hon W.N. Stretch:** Have a shot at your own foot.

**Hon DOUG WENN:** The left one or the right one? It does not matter as I can still dance whatever I do.

Western Collieries will have cost reductions of between 25 per cent and 50 per cent following the extended hours in the proposed legislation. Gary Wood advised me that should there be a smelter, or a development of that nature, in the area, this could lead to the situation in which the mine was working for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The industry's working output has become so much better, and if it were not for the fact that buyers are not available it could move onto the increased working hours already.

Referring again to the greenhouse effect, Hon Barry House challenged me to state where I stand on the issue. I state my position by quoting an article in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 13 January -

Greenhouse supporters say if time proves them wrong, no harm will be done; just think of the benefits if everybody was to switch to practices and products which, in the current jargon, are certified to be environmentally friendly.

We may believe that an ice age is coming. We may believe strongly that the ozone hole will increase in size and that we will suffer if we do not "slip, slop and slap", and it may be that the greenhouse effect will affect every one of us severely.

**Hon Reg Davies:** Not you and I. We are talking about the next century when discussing the problems of the greenhouse effect.

**Hon DOUG WENN:** No, the scientists are saying that it will happen in our lifetime.

**Hon Tom Stephens:** It will happen before your water pipeline does.

**Hon Reg Davies:** I was talking about Ernie Bridge's pipeline.

**Hon DOUG WENN:** Listen here, ducky, do you want to know what I have to say? The scientists are talking about the effects occurring within the next 50 years.

**Hon Reg Davies:** They are not talking about your lifetime.

**Hon DOUG WENN:** The member should speak for himself! I will live until I am 100.



The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon DOUG WENN: I strongly support a coal fired power house in Collie. I urge the Government to look at a PFBC power house - as I know it is - as one has been built in Stockholm, one is under construction in America, one is almost completed in Canada and the groundwork is under way for one in Spain - I am sure the Germans will not be happy about that because they pump electricity down to Spain. I support the proposal strongly and I hope that as time goes by these efforts will prove fruitful.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Mark Nevill.

### MOTION - BURSWOOD CASINO

#### *Cost Overruns Inquiry - Files and Documents Evidence*

Debate resumed from 10 May.

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [9.30 pm]: I move -

To delete all words after "That the House" and substitute -

in answer to the petition tabled on Tuesday, 8 May from Famel Pty Ltd -

- (a) directs the Clerk to deliver to the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs those files and other documents produced by the commissioner to the Select Committee inquiring into cost overruns for the construction of the Burswood Casino;
- (b) grants leave to the commissioner on and after that delivery, to disclose, publish and otherwise deal with those files and documents according to law;
- (c) declares that nothing in this resolution shall be read or construed so as to confer on any person any power, privilege, right or immunity in relation to the files and documents that was not held or possessed by that person prior to their production to the Select Committee.

During an early stage of the proceedings related to this motion I indicated that the Government had no objection to the purpose of the motion, but that I was concerned to ensure that its terminology met the position that it was designed to meet. The amendment which I have moved follows discussion between the Crown Solicitor and the Clerk and I understand has been provided previously and agreed to by Hon Norman Moore. It is designed to meet a situation which has probably often arisen without our recognising it; namely, in a situation where the provision of documents to one of our committees affects its availability in other proceedings.

This motion and certainly my amendment are designed to ensure that the fact that these documents have been presented to one of our committees does not act as a barrier in any way to the rights or proceedings which parties to litigation could have taken in the absence of such presentation to our committee. That, as I understand it, was the purpose that Mr Moore was pursuing and I urge the House to accept this amendment as meeting the point of his concern.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral) [9.35 pm]: I am prepared to accept the amendment moved by the Leader of the House; it does clarify the situation to some extent. I am advised that it does not change the intent of the original motion in any way. The petitioners have, through their solicitors, looked at the amendment and I am advised they are prepared to accept it. It simply removes the privilege attached to those documents, but the petitioners in their court action will need to go through the normal processes to obtain access to those documents; that is, they will have to subpoena the documents from the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. That is how it should be.

The process we are going through this evening is to remove the privilege attached to the documents by virtue of the fact that they were presented as evidence to a committee of this House. I thank the Government for agreeing to this course of action which will enable the

persons involved in this court case to have access to certain information which is vital to their court hearing. I urge the House to agree to the amendment and, ultimately, to the motion.

Amendment put and passed.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

## SELECT COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

### *Appointment - Assembly's Resolution*

Message from the Assembly acquainting the Council that it had agreed to the following motion and requesting its concurrence and the appointment of three members accordingly, now considered -

- (1) A Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council be appointed -
  - (a) to create opportunities for community discussion concerning possible areas of constitutional reform and to provide the Parliament with a reasoned summary of proposals for reform;
  - (b) to give consideration to consolidating the law, practice and Statutes comprising the Constitution of Western Australia; and
  - (c) to make recommendations concerning making this body of law and practice more readily accessible by the citizens of this State.
- (2) The committee consist of six members of whom three shall be appointed by the Legislative Assembly and three by the Legislative Council.
- (3) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from time to time and from place to place, and, except as hereinafter provided, to sit on any day and at any time.
- (4) The committee shall not sit while either House is actually sitting unless leave is granted by that House.
- (5) The committee shall report by 21 October 1990.
- (6) A quorum for a meeting is four, provided that each House is represented at all times.
- (7) A report of the committee shall be presented in writing to each House by a member of the committee nominated for that purpose.
- (8) That in respect of matters 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.

### *Motion to Concur*

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [9.37 pm]: I move -

That the request contained in this message be agreed to.

The point has been made in many contexts that we are now in the centenary of the establishment of our State Constitution and that makes it even more appropriate than it would otherwise be to have a comprehensive review of the Constitution with a view to bringing it up to date. The anachronisms that are still littered through the Constitution Act, in particular, are probably the least of the considerations which support a review. More important is the way in which the provisions are scattered over the Constitution Act and the Constitution Acts Amendment Act and other legislation as well. There are other considerations which should at least be taken into some sort of comprehensive account and these relate to questions of the desirability of retaining some of the present substantive provisions and the introduction, perhaps, of new substantive provisions.

I would not want in any way to anticipate the outcome of the sort of comprehensive consideration of our Constitution which the Assembly is suggesting we should join it in. I simply say for present purposes that the proposal for a joint committee on this question by

the Assembly is timely. It does lend itself well to the consideration of a joint parliamentary committee and there are practical considerations as well that should encourage us to accept the invitation which the Assembly has offered. It is on that basis that I support the request by the Assembly that we should join it in this joint committee and I commend that to the House.

**HON GEORGE CASH** (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [9.40 pm]: Members will be aware that in December last year a message was received from the Legislative Assembly relating to the creation of the same committee to which we are agreeing tonight. It was interesting to note that the terms of reference detailed in the Legislative Assembly on 7 December 1989 when it was discussed are the same as the terms of reference contained in message No 3 before us tonight. At the time in December 1989 when this was discussed in the Legislative Council, Hon Phillip Pental, who spoke on behalf of the Opposition, pointed out that the Opposition would support the establishment of a Joint Select Committee, although certainly it did not accept all the comments made by Government speakers at the time, either in this place or in the Legislative Assembly. Recognising that the committee was established in 1989, and that the terms of reference remain the same, clearly the Opposition is still prepared to support the appointment of a Joint Select Committee. As has been stated, 1990 is the centenary year of responsible Government in Western Australia and I note that term of reference (5) requires the committee to report by 21 October 1990. In fact, on that day in 1890 the Constitution Act was given Royal Assent and proclaimed.

It would be remiss of me not to point out to the House that, although the Government appeared anxious to establish this Joint Select Committee in December 1989, I understand that the committee has not yet met. I question whether the Government is fair dinkum about the various matters it raised when it proposed the establishment of the committee in December last year. No doubt Hon Phillip Pental will wish to pursue this matter at greater length at some future date, and I regret that he is not able to respond on behalf of the Opposition to advise of his disappointment that the committee has not met to date because he is attending a meeting in this House. I look forward with interest to the deliberations of the committee. Many matters will be discussed by the committee in this centenary year of responsible Government in Western Australia, and it will be of great interest to read the recommendations made to this House in due course.

With those comments I indicate the Opposition's support for the motion, and I look forward to my colleague, Hon Phillip Pental, contributing further in respect of the Joint Select Committee as soon as is practicable.

**HON GARRY KELLY** (South Metropolitan) [9.44 pm]: I support the motion, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support of the motion. I was not present in the Chamber when this matter was before the House in December last year. Some discussion took place about whether the committee should be formed from members of one House or whether it should be a Joint Select Committee. I can think of no other subject which would be better considered by a Joint Select Committee than the Constitution of this State which establishes the relationship between the two Houses of Parliament.

A curious situation exists in this State whereby the Constitution Act which came into effect on 21 October 1819 was amended 18 times during the 1890s. In 1900 it was decided to introduce a new Act, the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, rather than amend the original Constitution Act. The Constitution Acts Amendment Act has been amended 50 times since 1900. Therefore, two documents together form the Constitution of Western Australia. A lecturer in politics at the University of Western Australia, Mr Campbell Sharman, has said that those two documents are a jumble of looseleaf pages which do not resemble a document purporting to represent the basic law of the State. If the committee can codify and consolidate the constitutional provisions in this State into one document which will be easily understood and referenced, it will provide an inspiration to Western Australians. It will be a job well done.

When Dr Gallop, the member for Victoria Park, moved his motion in the Legislative Assembly in December last year he referred to a number of American States which have adopted a model draft for State Constitutions. I understand that 20 or 30 American States use this model draft, which is only eight pages long. All the items covered in the Constitution Act and the Constitution Acts Amendment Act are contained in this model draft,

and some matters are dealt with in more depth than they are in the jumble of pages which comprise the Constitution in this State. This is an appropriate year in which to carry out the task. I take on board the comment by the Leader of the Opposition that the committee was not convened during the recess. However, I assure him that the committee will be reconvened as soon as it is reconstituted by the passing of this motion, and that it will work assiduously to produce a report for tabling in this House on 21 October of this year.

Hon George Cash: I should mention that my comments should not be construed as my supporting any change whatsoever to the Constitution. In fact, I am a very reluctant supporter of the Joint Select Committee, but it was agreed to at an earlier stage.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Even accepting the statement by the Leader of the Opposition about not wanting change, it is possible to consolidate the Constitution in one document without changing the sense or content of it. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will agree that some provisions in the two documents are outmoded and they can be discarded without having any effect on the Constitution. If nothing else is achieved but agreement by all parties represented on the committee that the Constitution should be contained in one document, it will be a great advance in this centenary year of responsible Government.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Assembly.

*House adjourned at 9.49 pm*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PALM BEETLE - KIMBERLEY  
*Eradication Program*

62. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What steps are being taken to eradicate the palm beetle in the Kimberley region and more particularly in Broome?
- (2) How much has the program cost so far?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following reply -

- (1) Dr T. Fenner, the expert on palm leaf beetle (PLB), employed as a consultant to review the PLB problem in Broome, advised that eradication was not possible. However, a degree of control should be possible using biological agents. The first of a number of biocontrol agents was introduced to Broome in March. To prevent further spread of PLB until such time as the fungal parasite became established, a limited insecticide spraying program for younger palms was undertaken in early April.
- (2) Approximately \$12 000.

EDUCATION MINISTRY - TEACHER WASTAGE SURVEY  
*Labour Market Research Centre, Curtin University*

75. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Why has the WA Ministry of Education commissioned the Labour Market Research Centre at Curtin University to carry out a survey of recently departed teachers - called a teacher wastage survey?
- (2) What is the cost of this survey to the ministry?
- (3) Will the results of the survey be made available to the public?
- (4) When will the report containing the results of the survey be issued?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The Ministry of Education commissioned the Labour Market Research Centre to undertake a survey of recently departed teachers to determine the range of factors involved in teachers' decisions to leave teaching. This information is not readily available on the ministry's records. The information will be used to assist the ministry in developing an "exit interview" procedure which will not only obtain similar information to this survey, but also provide an opportunity to officially and more appropriately recognise the contribution of individual teachers to Government education in Western Australia. The information collected will be used to monitor and enhance existing human resources policies and practices, as well as develop new ones which will better meet the needs of teachers.
- (2) \$13 046.
- (3) The information provided by the survey will be available to interested persons.
- (4) The scheduled completion date of the survey is the end of May and it is expected that the results would become available towards the end of June.

SCHOOLS - DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS  
*Deputy Primary Principal Positions*

98. Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that at the end of the next school year, persons holding the

positions of deputy primary principal at district high schools will be required to apply for their own jobs?

- (2) Are these positions going to be declared vacant?
- (3) How many persons are to be affected?
- (4) What plans have been made for relocating those persons who are currently deputy primary principals at district high schools whose job is given to somebody else under this new plan?
- (5) Can the Minister assure the House that no current deputy primary principal at a district high school will suffer a loss in salary, classification or career prospects if he/she should lose his/her position under this plan?
- (6) Where the position of deputy primary principal at a district high school is given to a new person under this plan, will the person currently holding that position continue as deputy primary principal until the ministry relocates him/her into an acceptable alternative position?
- (7) Can the Minister assure the House that the wishes of the parents will override any other consideration, including formal qualifications or seniority, in any decision to replace a current deputy primary principal who is willing to carry on in that position?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No. A new classification of Deputy Principal (Primary) in a district high school with a primary enrolment greater than 200 students has been created in the memorandum of agreement between the Ministry of Education and the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia.
- (2) The new positions, which will confer transfer rights to level 4 principals' positions in the new salary structure, will be advertised in 1991 for appointment in 1992. Deputy Principals (Primary) currently in district high schools with a primary enrolment greater than 200 students will receive a higher duties allowance until such time as the new classified position is filled substantively.
- (3) The positions to be included in the new levels are currently being determined by the School Reclassification Committee, for recommendation to the chief executive officer, and will be published in the June 1990 *Education Circular*.
- (4) Only those people - District High School Primary Deputy Principal, Primary School Class III Principal and Primary School Class IA Deputy Principal - eligible to hold the current position in district high schools as at the date of transfer to the new structure - expected to be 1 July 1990 - will be eligible to apply for the new position for 1992. Unsuccessful applicants will be eligible to transfer to any vacant position within their present classification or its equivalent.
- (5) Yes. People will only lose their positions in the sense that they may have to transfer to equivalent positions at other schools if they are unsuccessful in promoting to a new classification within their present schools.
- (6) See (2).
- (7) The Ministry of Education will continue to consult with parents and the community on a wide range of educational issues, but there is no intention of allowing parents to determine promotions of teaching staff.

#### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES - REGISTRAR *Report Requirements*

102. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Attorney General:

- (1) What model forms of accounts, balance sheets and valuation were necessary for friendly societies to provide to the registrar in -
  - (a) 1987; and
  - (b) 1990?

- (2) How often do these statistics have to be forwarded to the registrar?
- (3) How many societies are registered?
- (4) Are all registered societies complying with these requirements?
- (5) Has the registrar found it necessary to call for further information from any of these societies?
- (6) If so, which and when?
- (7) What additional actions are being taken to ensure that no society experiences financial difficulties in today's difficult economic climate?
- (8) What additional instructions has the Attorney issued in carrying out his duties as responsible Minister?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Forms 54, 57 and 62 - Income and expenditure account and balance sheet - annual.  
Circular issued -  
Single Premium Assurance Reconciliation, 15 August 1986 - Annual.
- (b) Forms 54, 57 and 62 - Income and expenditure account and balance sheet - annual.  
Circular issued -  
Quarterly operating report, 12 April 1989 - quarterly.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Fifteen societies are registered.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(6) From time to time the registrar may require societies to provide additional information or to report more frequently on various aspects of their operations. In most instances, information is sought for the purpose of clarification. In some instances detailed information is requested to assist in the assessment of information previously provided. Correspondence between the registrar and the institution is confidential and for that reason it would not be appropriate to specifically identify the parties involved.
- (7) Registry staff undertake on-site inspections of societies and monitor any areas that may be of concern.
- (8) It has not been necessary to issue additional instructions.

**CREDIT UNIONS - REGISTRAR**  
*Report Requirements*

103. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Attorney General:

- (1) What model forms of accounts, balance sheets and valuation were necessary for credit unions to provide to the registrar in -
  - (a) 1987; and
  - (b) 1990?
- (2) How often do these statistics have to be forwarded to the registrar?
- (3) How many unions are registered?
- (4) Are all registered unions complying with these requirements?
- (5) Has the registrar found it necessary to call for further information from any of these unions?
- (6) If so, which and when?
- (7) What additional actions are being taken to ensure that no society experiences financial difficulties in today's difficult economic climate?

- (8) What additional instructions has the Attorney issued in carrying out his duties as responsible Minister?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Form 27 balance sheet - annual.  
Form 28 income and expenditure account - quarterly.  
Circulars issued -  
No.  
3. Liquidity and investment return - monthly, 25 May 1982.  
10. Income and expenditure account, delinquencies - quarterly,  
11 November 1983.  
17. Income and expenditure account - monthly, 16 May 1985.  
23. Loan and contingent liability exposure - six monthly, 20 May 1987.
- (b) Form 27 balance sheet - annual.  
Form 28 income and expenditure account - quarterly.  
Circulars issued -  
No.  
24. Maximum loan and credit limits issued pursuant to section 55 of the Act at registrar's discretion, 27 July 1987.  
25. Outstanding loans secured by equities and unit trusts issued pursuant to regulation 37 registrar's discretion 29 October 1987.  
27. Liquidity and investment return - monthly, 17 February 1988.  
29. Loan and contingent liability exposures - quarterly, 14 April 1988.  
31. Operating report disclosing: Income and expenditure accounts, loan delinquency, loan portfolio analysis - quarterly, 30 September 1988.  
34. Revised operating report - quarterly, 12 April 1989.  
36. Financial Corporations Act form B1 - monthly, 4 April 1990.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Twenty-three credit unions are registered.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(6) From time to time the registrar may require credit unions to provide additional information or to report more frequently on various aspects of their operations. In most instances information is sought for the purpose of clarification. In some instances detailed information is requested to assist in the assessment of information previously provided. Correspondence between the registrar and the institution is confidential and for that reason it would not be appropriate to specifically identify the parties involved.
- (7) Registry staff undertake on-site inspections of credit unions and monitor any areas that may be of concern.
- (8) It has not been necessary to issue any further instructions.

**COOPERATIVE AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES - REGISTRAR**  
*Report Requirements*

104. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Attorney General:

- (1) What model forms of accounts, balance sheets and valuation were necessary for cooperative and provident societies to provide to the registrar in -  
(a) 1987; and  
(b) 1990?
- (2) How often do these statistics have to be forwarded to the registrar?



- (3) How many cooperative and provident societies are registered?
- (4) Are all registered societies complying with these requirements?
- (5) Has the registrar found it necessary to call for further information from any of these societies?
- (6) If so, which and when?
- (7) What additional actions are being taken to ensure that no society experiences financial difficulties in today's difficult economic climate?
- (8) What additional instructions has the Attorney issued in carrying out his duties as responsible Minister?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Form 17 trading account, profit and loss account and balance sheet - annual.  
(b) Form 17 trading account, profit and loss account and balance sheet - annual.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Five societies are registered.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)-(6) From time to time the registrar may require societies to provide additional information or to report more frequently on various aspects of their operations. In most instances information is sought for the purpose of clarification. In some instances detailed information is requested to assist in the assessment of information previously provided. Correspondence between the registrar and the institution is confidential and for that reason it would not be appropriate to specifically identify the parties involved.
- (7) These societies are trading concerns and not financial institutions. Registry staff liaise with societies when necessary. The Co-operative Federation of Western Australia and the Corporate Affairs Department are currently negotiating to have the registration of the societies transferred to the Companies Co-operative Act 1943. When this has been accomplished it is intended to repeal the Co-operative and Provident Societies Act 1903.
- (8) It has not been necessary to issue any additional instructions.

#### BUILDING SOCIETIES - REGISTRAR

##### *Report Requirements*

105. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Attorney General:

- (1) What model forms of accounts, balance sheets and valuation were necessary for building societies to provide to the registrar in -  
(a) 1987; and  
(b) 1990?
- (2) How often do these statistics have to be forwarded to the registrar?
- (3) How many building societies are registered?
- (4) Are all building societies complying with these requirements?
- (5) Has the registrar found it necessary to call for further information from any of these societies?
- (6) If so, which and when?
- (7) What additional actions are being taken to ensure that no society experiences financial difficulties in today's difficult economic climate?
- (8) What additional instructions has the Attorney issued in carrying out his duties as responsible Minister?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Form 27 balance sheet - annual.  
Form 28 income and expenditure account - quarterly.  
Circulars issued -  
No.  
7. Liquidity and investment return - monthly, 31 May 1974.  
12. Revised liquidity and investment return - monthly, 1 April 1977.  
16. Revenue and appropriation account - quarterly, 24 June 1977.  
65. Revenue and appropriation account - monthly, 30 August 1982.  
84. Revised liquidity and investment return - monthly, 27 May 1985.  
94. Net worth assessment - monthly, 19 August 1986.
- (b) Form 17 balance sheet - annual.  
Form 18 revenue and appropriation account - annual.  
Housing finance Australian Bureau of Statistics - monthly.  
Circulars issued -  
No.  
96. Loan limitations issued pursuant to sections 31 and 32 of the Act at registrar's discretion, 12 January 1988.  
102. Revised net worth assessment - monthly, 30 May 1989.  
104. Terms and conditions of financial accommodations, issued pursuant to sections 31 and 32 of the Act at registrar's discretion, 6 December 1989.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Five permanent building societies are registered.
- (4) The three permanent building societies presently receiving funds from the public are complying with these requirements.
- (5)-(6) From time to time the registrar may require building societies to provide additional information or to report more frequently on various aspects of their operations. In most instances information is sought for the purpose of clarification. In some instances detailed information is requested to assist in the assessment of information previously provided. Correspondence between the registrar and the institution is confidential and for that reason it would not be appropriate to specifically identify the parties involved.
- (7) Registry staff undertake on-site inspections of credit unions and monitor any areas that may be of concern.
- (8) It has not been necessary to issue any further instructions.

#### SCHOOLS - IRIS LITIS

##### *Closure - Alternative*

106. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

In considering the possible closure of the Iris Litis School at Kellerberrin following the department's review of each child's needs, would the Minister state -

- (1) What kind of establishment would be considered as an appropriate alternative?
- (2) Would the alternative provide accommodation?
- (3) Would the alternative offer the same facilities for children with special needs as the Iris Litis School in Kellerberrin?
- (4) In which areas/districts would the Minister be considering the provision of the alternatives?

- (5) How does the Minister propose to deal with the transport and relocation problems associated with relocating a handicapped child to the alternative if accommodation is not provided?
- (6) Would serious difficulties be experienced by parents whose handicapped child is relocated to an alternative with accommodation, but which is located in an area/district away from their home?
- (7) If the Minister decides, after this review, to allow the Iris Litis School to remain open, will he give an undertaking that it will remain open for a minimum period - of, say, three years - to remove the constant uncertainty of its future for parents, children and staff?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Education has provided the following reply -

- (1) An appropriate alternative would be negotiated between the Ministry of Education and the parents of the children concerned.
- (2) As the Ministry of Education does not provide residential accommodation for children with disabilities, alternative accommodation would be negotiated with the relevant Government departments and non-Government organisations.
- (3) The facilities offered will be comparable.
- (4) In a location as close as possible to the students' homes.
- (5) Most educational support facilities have access to contractor buses which bring children to school and if problems were to arise they would be dealt with on a case by case basis, as occurs presently.
- (6) Since most children attending the Iris Litis School do not live near the school, the difficulties would be no greater than they are now.
- (7) No.

#### **SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - PAPARO, MR V.**

##### *Premier's Department - Secondment*

110. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for South-West:

- (1) Has the Director of the South West Development Authority, Mr V. Paparo, been seconded to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet?
- (2) If so, what for and for how long?
- (3) Are any other staff from the South West Development Authority seconded to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet or other Government departments?
- (4) If so, what for and for how long?
- (5) Have extra staff been taken on at the SWDA to do the jobs of these people while they on secondment?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

Mr V. Paparo was seconded to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet for the period 22 January to 20 July 1990 initially to work on regional and subregional policy development and implementation. He is presently acting in the position of Executive Director of the Policy Division.

(3) Yes.

(4) Ms C. Chandler to Office of the Cabinet for a period of three months commencing from 2 April 1990 to work on community development policy and implementation.

Mr C. Purcell to the Department of Trade and Economic Development as Manager Investment & Development - Regions, from 1 January to 30 June

1990. Mr Purcell's secondment will become permanent as from 1 July 1990. His position at the authority has not been replaced.

- (5) Yes, as is normal Public Service practice, temporary staff have been appointed to replace Mr Paparo and Ms Chandler. The authority is not responsible for the salaries and other associated costs of the three staff members who have been seconded.

**SCHOOLS - CARSON STREET SPECIAL SCHOOL**  
*Multi Handicapped Students - Air Conditioned Buses*

127. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the request, from the Carson Street Special School council, that air-conditioning be installed in the buses which transport its multi-handicapped students to and from the school?
- (2) Is it correct that this request was refused?
- (3) If so, what reasons were forwarded for the refusal?
- (4) Is it envisaged that the buses could be air-conditioned in the future?
- (5) If so, when?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Education has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

Yes.

- (3) Government policy with regard to air-conditioning of school buses was aligned in 1988 to the high priority zone applying to the air-conditioning of school buildings and in effect gives priority only to those contract school buses operating above the 26<sup>o</sup> parallel.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Given (3), then dependent upon the availability of funding.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**POLICE FORCE - GOVERNMENT FUNDING**  
*Community Safety Failure*

100. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the strong sentiments expressed on "The Howard Santler Show" on radio 6PR this morning that the Government had failed in its role to ensure the safety of citizens in the community, and had failed to adequately fund and resource the Police Force?
- (2) If so, could he advise the House of what steps he, as Minister, will take to reassure the community that people are safe in their own homes?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

I am aware of some sentiments that were expressed this morning; some, for instance, from a person who claimed to be a police officer. I say "claimed" with some emphasis because I doubt very much that that person was a police officer. Certainly the points of view that person expressed are views that are not shared by any other police officer with whom I have spoken.

It seems to me that the Opposition still is hell-bent on trying to convince this community -

Hon P.G. Pendal: That you are not doing your job.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: - that the Government is not adequately resourcing

the police. I am quite concerned with a number of incidents that are occurring, and quite horrified at some situations. However, let us be quite clear: I spoke to senior police today and put to them the question of whether they had sufficient manpower and resources to combat the current crime wave. Their answer, quite simply and strongly, was yes.

Notwithstanding that, it is my view that the community, as well as the media and the Opposition, have a very strong role to play in assisting the police as they go about their difficult and onerous task. The Government is providing the resources that the police need and, as I said yesterday, it really is time that the Opposition stopped trying to convince the community that the police are not being adequately resourced; it is time the Opposition stopped trying to bring down the morale of the Police Force; it is time the Opposition got behind the Government and the Police Force and lent its weight to tackling this problem.

#### POLICE FORCE - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

##### 101. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

Supplementary to the previous question, I note the Opposition's support for the Police Force in Western Australia and ask whether the Minister will confirm that the Government is providing adequate funding to the Police Force to enable police officers to carry out their important duties in an efficient and effective manner.

##### Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

It is comforting that the Opposition Leader in this place is prepared to stand up and talk about his own and the Opposition's support for the Police Force, but I suggest that instead of just talking about it he should start to demonstrate it, not only to the community but also to the police.

Hon George Cash: Are you saying they do not have enough resources? Is the answer no?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition does not want to listen to the answer. It is not my view alone that the Government is adequately resourcing the police; it is also the view of those senior police officers to whom I spoke today. They included, for instance, Assistant Commissioner Zanetti, to whom I put the question quite clearly. His answer was yes.

#### POLICE VEHICLES - SUFFICIENCY

##### 102. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

Supplementary to my two previous questions, am I to assume that sufficient police vehicles are on the road during the hours of darkness in the metropolitan area to allow the police to carry out their important duties in an efficient and effective manner?

##### Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I will reiterate the answer I have given; indeed, I am happy to expand upon some of the information. I think we should reflect on the commitment this Government has made to the police. In monetary terms alone, when we came to Government the budget for the Police Force was in the vicinity of \$103 million; it is now in the vicinity of \$240 million. As I have often said in this House, the most important resource the Police Force has is the individual police officer out there on the job. We have increased that force in the last two years alone by 500. That is one half of the commitment we gave, which was for 1 000 additional police officers.

It is no longer appropriate - and I wish I could get this through to the Opposition - for members opposite or the community to suggest that policing is something that should be left to the police alone. The police deserve and need the support of the broader community. The police do have adequate vehicles to do the job they are expected to do.

**PERTH HOSTEL - FIRE RISK**

103. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Lands:

Could the Minister clarify the situation with the Perth Hostel, which is the subject of a report in the *Daily News* today under the heading "City hostel 'a fire trap'"?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for his question because the report in the *Daily News* today may have led members to be rather concerned about the situation. However, I can advise members that there has been very full consultation between the City of Perth and the Department of Land Administration, which has recently negotiated to buy out the lessees of the Perth Hostel. The lessees were proposing to close the hostel due to the works required to bring that accommodation up to standard, so arrangements have been made by the Department of Land Administration, with the support of council, to have that property leased at a peppercorn rental from the State by the Perth Inner City Housing Association, known as PICHA. Some very fine, community-minded people head that organisation and they will undertake to manage those premises on the basis that the rental received from it will be turned back into repairs to the building and that the tenants who are currently there will not be dislocated or left without inner city housing. The legal action that was proposed against the former lessees has been dropped on the express understanding that the necessary works would be undertaken by PICHA. Those actions have all been taken with the aim of maintaining the continuity of accommodation for the tenants and upgrading the standard of accommodation to overcome the concerns about the safety of the present building.

**SHEEP - LIVE SHEEP TRADE**

*Animal Liberationists - Court Charges Dismissal*

104. Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY to the Attorney General:

I preface this question by informing the Attorney General that last week seven animal liberationists pleaded guilty to a charge of preventing and obstructing lawful activity on the live sheep carrier *Al-Khaleej*. They were alleged to have said they would continue to obstruct loading activities on live sheep carriers.

(1) Is the Attorney General aware of the published comments of the Fremantle magistrate in dismissing the charges under the first offenders' provision, that he would do so because of the philosophical grounds on which the offenders acted?

(2) Are the Government's views consistent with that of the court?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

I am not aware of the comments referred to and in any event I would not seek to put my views in the place of those of any member of the judiciary. The judiciary has an entirely independent function to perform, and to the extent judicial decisions go astray there is a well established appeal process to accommodate that.

**LAND - CARNARVON BLOCK**

*Unanswered Questions and Letters*

105. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Lands:

The Minister would be well aware of letters and questions over a long period of time concerning a block of land on the corner of North West Coastal Highway and North River Road at Carnarvon.

(1) Can the Minister explain why, even after persistent letters, questions

on notice and approaches over a 12-month period, no solution to this problem has come to light?

- (2) When can I expect an answer on this matter?
- (3) Can the Minister give an undertaking that an answer is imminent or is she prepared to answer a question without notice tomorrow?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(3)

I think that is a wonderful question. Which block of land are we talking about?

Hon George Cash: The location was given.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is true it is very rare that there might be 12 months' activity without a resolution being found. I can think of one issue about which Hon Philip Lockyer feels very strongly. He has a personal commitment to a particular constituent and wants to see a resolution of the problem. If it is that block of land, while I was sitting here last night I signed a letter to the honourable member regarding that matter. I looked across the Chamber to see whether he was here, but he was not -

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is in the mail.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I would have handed the letter to him personally had he been here. I had hoped the honourable member would have that letter in his possession today; no doubt he will have it tomorrow. If by any chance that letter does not refer to the block of land to which Hon Phil Lockyer is referring, I would like him to bring the matter to my attention again and I shall pursue it with all vigour.

#### CRIME - MOTHERS' DAY MIDLAND PICNICKERS *Break and Enter House Offence - White/Aboriginal Offenders*

106. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Police:

This question refers to an incident which took place on Mother's Day last Sunday when people picnicking in Midland observed a break and enter offence taking place in a nearby house. They immediately rang the Midland Police Station to report the incident and were asked whether the suspected offenders were white or Aboriginal. The officers seemed reluctant to attend but they eventually turned up 20 minutes later. Apparently they did very little and three Aboriginal offenders were observed emerging from the house a short time after they had left.

- (1) Are police officers instructed to determine whether suspected offenders are Aboriginal or white before attending the scene of a crime?
- (2) Is there a different policy for police officers attending the scene of a crime if the offenders are Aboriginal rather than of another ethnic origin?
- (3) Will the Minister initiate an investigation of this incident?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I welcome this latest display by the Opposition of support for the police. I guess that is what the Leader of the Opposition talked about. There is a well established and laid down procedure for complaints against police. If the member feels he wants to pursue this matter, he should do so in a responsible and reasonable manner.

#### PERTH HOSTEL - FIRE RISK

107. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Why has the Minister allowed the Perth Hostel, which is managed by her

department, to be rented when it is considered to be a fire risk and given that 55 aged and infirm men live on the premises?

- (2) Is the Minister aware that the same hostel has been operating illegally as an unregistered lodging house since August 1989?
- (3) What action has she taken to protect residents living in such an unregistered and blatantly unsafe lodging house?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(3)

I find it very difficult to differentiate between (1), (2) and (3) in questions without notice.

Hon P.G. Pental: I will go through them again slowly.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon P.G. Pental can put the questions on notice, if he wishes.

Hon P.G. Pental: No, we want them without notice.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Well, make them simpler. If members go into complexity, they will not receive a complex answer.

I am not aware that the hostel has been operating illegally. I do not think that has come to my attention. However, under the health regulations of the Perth City Council legal action was taken against the lessees. That has now been withdrawn on the basis that changes will be made very rapidly to the management and moves will be made to upgrade the building.

#### POLICE - KING AIR AIRCRAFT CONTRACT

108. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Police:

Some notice has been given of this question without notice.

- (1) On how many missions has the Government's leased King Air aircraft flown on police operational duties in each year since the lease was negotiated and how many hours were used -
  - (i) in total;
  - (ii) on each mission?
- (2) On how many occasions has the aircraft flown police to emergency situations in Western Australia or elsewhere?
- (3) Is the Police Department debited for the use of the aircraft on -
  - (i) an hourly basis;
  - (ii) a departmental block allocation of time and cost;
  - (iii) if not, which department meets the cost of the aircraft's operation on behalf of the Minister's department?
- (4) If the Police Department has been charged for the use of this or other aircraft, what has it cost that department in each year since the lease was negotiated?
- (5) Has a request for the use of the Government-leased aircraft ever been refused because it was being used for other purposes?
- (6) If so, will the Minister please give details and dates of those other purposes?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(6)

I thank the member for prior notice of this question. Unfortunately the information he is seeking is not yet available. If he puts that question on notice he will receive a full answer.

Hon W.N. Stretch: If notice has now been given of a question, is it necessary to again put it on notice if it has already gone to the Minister?



The PRESIDENT: The procedure that I take it is adopted, and if it is not it ought to be, is that if an honourable member asks a question without notice and the Minister suggests that question be placed on notice, the Clerks automatically put it on notice. If they do not, they ought to. If they have not been, they will.

#### PERTH HOSTEL - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

109. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Can the Minister explain why she intervened in the legal proceedings instituted against the former keepers of the Perth Hostel, as indicated on page 1 of today's *Daily News*?
- (2) Can the Minister say whether it is normal for a Minister to intervene in legal proceedings when the lives of 55 aged people may be at peril?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

Negotiations were set in place between the Department of Land Administration and the Perth City Council because of concern about the conditions in the building and its continued availability to people in the inner city. Part of the agreement is the immediate upgrading and removal of hazards for those people so they can continue to have accommodation in a safe way. There will be a need to further upgrade the building in the future but action to meet the immediate matters of concern to the health inspectors are either in train or about to be put in train, and that was part of the agreement. I reiterate for the information of members that very good negotiations took place with cooperation between the Department of Land Administration and local government. The Perth City Council had the responsibility of ensuring the relevant health standards were met.

#### PRISONS - BUNBURY REGIONAL PRISON

##### *Six Escapes - Security Review*

110. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there have been six escapes, four in the last fortnight, from the Bunbury Regional Prison, and that two of these escapees are still at large?
- (2) Will the Minister initiate an immediate review of security at the Bunbury Regional Prison?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I indicate that a review is already under way directed at two main areas. The first area is the security arrangements, both physically and in terms of staff placement; the second area involves the selection process for the allocation of prisoners to that prison. I believe that a statement to that effect has been issued by the Executive Director of the Department of Corrective Services. I know that this matter is being actively pursued.

#### PRISONS - BUNBURY REGIONAL PRISON

##### *Manning Levels - Funding Guarantee*

111. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Supplementary to the previous question, I ask -

- (1) Will the manning levels at Bunbury Regional Prison be increased at this stage to match the proposed \$10 million expansion program?
- (2) Will the Minister guarantee funding for this expansion in the 1990-91 Budget?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Of course. It is out of the question that Bunbury Regional Prison should have

an increase in the number of prisoners allocated to it, and an upgrading in its security status, without the substantial increase in staffing levels. That is unavoidable and has been provided for.

(2) I cannot give guarantees about the next Budget, but what I can say -

Hon George Cash: Given the cost overruns at Casuarina I would not give any guarantees at all!

Hon P.G. Pendal: The fence cost \$11 million.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I do not see the relevance of those interjections. In fact, I would have thought that they supported what I had to say. If members go to Casuarina, they will find a basic commitment to the provision of a prison with the highest security level in Australia. It is true that the cost has increased significantly over the original estimates, and the reasons for that have been detailed in answers to questions which either have been given, or will be available.

Hon George Cash: They have been given.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Included among those reasons was the increase in the size of the prison from, in round terms, 370 beds to 440 beds, if my memory is correct. So, an increase in the accommodation took place which was naturally reflected in the cost. However, the commitment remains to provide the prison and this is being met in spite of the increased costs which have emerged along the way. Now, the same can be said about Bunbury. A firm commitment exists to upgrade the level of its security, and, at the same time, it has the capacity to increase. The original planning funds - from memory - have already been approved and I am confident that funds will be found in the 1991 Capital Works Budget. However, I am not in a position to guarantee that any more than any Minister is in a position to guarantee works ahead of the Budget process.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I was intrigued to see *Hansard* recording the questions and answers regarding that question because Hon Barry House asked a question to which the Minister provided an answer, and by interjection another question was asked which the Minister proceeded to answer prior to answering the second part of the initial question. I will be interested to see what *Hansard* does with it.

#### PERTH HOSTEL - FIRE RISK

##### *Land Administration Department - Accommodation Allowance*

112. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

Is she aware - her department is the manager - that the Perth Hostel has allowed 55 males to live in its premises for months while a fire danger existed in the accommodation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Department of Land Administration has never been a manager of this hostel.

#### FIREARMS - AMNESTY

113. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Police:

(1) When does the current firearm amnesty expire? As a preamble I advise the House that a friend of mine found an old burnt and disabled rifle which he took to the local police station. However, he had to almost prove his innocence to be let out!

Hon J.M. Berinson: He must have said that he was a friend of yours.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: He was a stalwart, upright person; the Leader of the House would expect a friend of mine to be such a person.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Of course!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: So my second question is -

- (2) Has the Minister considered making the amnesty an ongoing thing; that is, allowing anybody at any stage to present used and old firearms on a semi-permanent basis?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) I am not sure when the amnesty expires, but I will find out the date and let the member know.
- (2) The amnesty has been well received by the public and by the police, and has been quite successful. The suggestion made by the member is interesting and coincides with a recommendation made by the National Committee on Violence which recently reported, as members are aware, some recommendations regarding the tightening of gun control. This report mainly referred to the Eastern States but some parts of it were relevant to Western Australia. One of the interesting recommendations it made, for exactly the same reason as explained by the honourable member, is that there should be a continuous amnesty so that if any person comes across a firearm he should be able to feel confident when taking it to the police station.

If the member would like to give me the details of the situation to which he referred, I will be happy to pursue it. Also, I would be happy to discuss the member's views on the continuous amnesty as it is something to which we should give serious consideration, especially if we find that any State in the Commonwealth moves to have a continuous amnesty.

#### PERTH HOSTEL - AGED MEN'S ACCOMMODATION

114. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Aged:

- (1) Will he institute an urgent investigation into why 55 aged men needed to live in the Government owned accommodation known as the Perth Hostel which has been condemned as a fire risk?
- (2) In view of the dangers to these 55 aged men, will he urgently arrange for these people to be removed and allocated to safer accommodation?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am not aware that the accommodation to which the member referred has been condemned. However, if he addresses the question to me I will refer it to the appropriate Minister to make sure that it is addressed.

Hon P.G. Pendal: You don't care that they live there.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

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