

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 21st March, 1978

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

SEXUAL ACTS BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS

Amending Legislation: Petition

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [4.32 p.m.]: I have a petition from 2 499 citizens of Western Australia which reads as follows—

We, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia, petition the Western Australian Legislative Assembly to delete all reference to all sexual acts (both homosexual and heterosexual) between consenting adults in private, from the laws relating to "offences against morality". In so doing, we believe that the laws, at present, are an unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy, and that the government has no mandate to control a person's sexual preference.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

This petition bears 2 499 signatures and I certify it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 2).

SEWERAGE BACKLOG

Metropolitan Area: Petition

MR WILSON (Dianella) [4.33 p.m.]: I present a petition from 100 residents of the Dianella electorate requesting the Government—

to set aside funds to continue the sewerage backlog programme in the metropolitan area with special attention to older established areas such as the southern part of Dianella.

The petition conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 3)

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

High Road-Metcalf Road Junction: Petition

MR MACKINNON (Murdoch) [4.34 p.m.]: I have a petition bearing 2 484 signatures from residents in the Lynwood area, which reads as follows—

The honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, do fervently, as a matter of public safety, request that traffic lights be installed at the junction of New High Road and Metcalf Road in the locality of Lynwood.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 4).

ENERGY

Nuclear Fuel and Waste: Petition

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [4.35 p.m.]: I present a petition from 60 residents of Western Australia as follows—

We, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia, call upon the State Government to abandon any plans or proposals to make provision for the "re-processing of nuclear fuel and associated dumping of nuclear waste material in Western Australia". Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 5).

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Security Agents Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

2. Cemeteries Act Amendment Bill.
3. Local Government Grants Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Rushton (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

4. Small Claims Tribunals Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Grayden (Minister for Labour and Industry), and read a first time.

LIMITATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to protect the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the extent that, where an impost is held to be beyond the legislative competence of the State, all actions for recovery against the Crown will be limited to 12 months after payment of the impost.

Under the current provisions of the Limitation Act the normal limitation period for recovery action in relation to State imposts is six years. The Bill proposes to reduce this period to 12 months.

In principle, the Bill follows similar legislation introduced by Victoria and New South Wales in the early 1960s as a guard against the consequences of constitutional attacks on the fiscal laws of those States.

As our legislation now stands, successful constitutional challenges to the validity of many of the taxes, fees or other charges imposed by the State Government would place the State's finances in a most vulnerable position.

A challenge of this nature, if upheld by the High Court or Privy Council, could leave the State facing huge payments by way of refunds in respect of imposts collected over a six-year period.

Refunds of the magnitude that would be called for in such circumstances could not be met from the ordinary revenue of the State, unless at the expense of the Government's ability to function at the level reasonably demanded by the people of Western Australia.

The result would be a lower level of services to cater for growth and the postponement of expenditure on many new urgent areas of need.

Reduction of expenditure in this regard would not be a "one off" occurrence. The effect would be felt over a number of years, at the end of which time the Government, having met its liability for refunds, would then face a serious backlog of demands.

This would be an untenable position for any Government and I see it as a serious responsibility to the people of this State to ensure that our financial resources are not exposed to so great a risk.

The measures proposed by this Bill will limit the potential impact of constitutional challenges on our revenue from imposts and enable the Government in the future to plan the provision of services with greater confidence in its fiscal capacity.

It is important to recognise another issue which would flow from successful challenges and the subsequent repayment of imposts previously collected.

Many of the State's major revenue yielding imposts are consumer oriented and, in the event of their being declared invalid, the ensuing refunds could not in practice be passed back to the consumer who originally paid the tax.

Clear examples of this type are our tobacco and liquor taxes.

In these cases refunds would represent a windfall gain to persons other than the taxpayer; namely, the provider of the goods or service on which the impost was levied.

Apart from the obvious lack of merit on the side of those who might gain from the refunds, it is important to consider the true position of the consumer/taxpayer in such circumstances.

Having paid the impost in the first place, the consumer is unable to benefit from refunds that are made. However, these same refunds can be made only from the revenue of the State; that is, at the expense of the taxpayer. In fact we would be calling on the consumer/taxpayer to pay twice. This situation is patently unfair and inequitable to the taxpayer.

It is therefore worth noting that the provisions of the Bill before the House will ensure that the burden on taxpayers in these circumstances is greatly reduced.

I will now turn to the contents of the Bill.

The Bill provides for an amendment to the Limitation Act by the addition of a new section, section 37A.

It is not a lengthy addition, and in brief, provides that all actions to recover from the Crown imposts paid under the authority of any

Act, shall be commenced within a prescribed date, which is related to the date the Bill becomes law.

In the case of imposts paid after the proposed legislation comes into operation, all actions for recovery would be limited to 12 months after payment.

In respect of imposts paid prior to the legislation coming into operation recovery action would be limited to either the period within which action would otherwise have been brought under the current provisions of the Limitation Act, or 12 months after the legislation comes into operation, whichever period expires first.

The amendment proposed by this Bill is a sound administrative measure, aimed to secure the revenue resources of the State, whether they be existing imposts or new collections which may need to be introduced in the future.

It is essential that the Government is able to plan with confidence, particularly when under pressure to provide the services demanded by growth.

To this end, income flows must be safeguarded to every extent possible and not subject to the uncertainty engendered by the threat of challenges under constitutional law.

This Bill provides a measure of greater protection to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and, in doing so, allows for sounder financial management in the years ahead.

Those who are students of Government finance and constitutional matters related thereto will find this Bill full of interest, and I commend it to them.

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

CENSORSHIP OF FILMS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary) [5.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

There is an agreement in effect for the function of censorship of films in this State, and for the hearing of any appeals against such censorship, to be discharged by the Commonwealth Film Censor on behalf of the Government of Western Australia.

Under the Act the censor may require any film to be exhibited before him at the expense of the applicant for approval.

Fees are charged on submission of any film for

approval, or on application for permission to reconstruct or alter a film already approved and also on appeal for every film or advertisement.

At an officers' meeting in Adelaide in March last year, it was recommended that the proposal be made to the respective Ministers in each State for an increase in fees with the hope of achieving uniformity.

New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania have already done so and Queensland is expected to do so shortly, with Victorian legislation uncertain at present.

The proposed increases are, firstly, from 50c to \$5 for every reel of film submitted for approval or for permission to reconstruct or alter a film already approved with a minimum of \$10 per film; and, secondly, from \$1 to \$50 for every film or advertisement submitted on appeal.

The fees in this State have not been increased since 1949 and, to obviate the likely necessity to amend the Act from time to time in order to increase the fees, the Bill proposes power under the censorship of films regulations.

A number of metric conversion amendments have also been dealt with in the Bill.

I commend the measure to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr B. T. Burke.

RURAL HOUSING (ASSISTANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Housing) [5.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

A need has arisen to cover a situation which has become evident in respect of persons requiring suitable housing on their farming properties where the land is under perpetual lease conditions.

Following the Second World War, perpetual leases were allotted to farmers under the War Service Lands Settlement Scheme Act, 1954. At the time of allocation, the scheme included the provision of a suitable dwelling on the property. Many of these dwellings were erected by the War Service Land Settlement Board, but in many other instances, the farms allotted had existing dwellings which, at that time, could have been up to 20 years old but were still considered suitable. The older dwellings, in some instances, are now in a poor state of repair, uneconomical to renovate, and require replacement. Many of the dwellings erected by the War Service Land Settlement

Board, which have not been previously replaced, are also in need of repair and require either complete replacement, suitable modernisation, or extensive renovations.

During its first 12 months of operation, the Rural Housing Authority has received applications from farmers holding land under perpetual lease conditions, but has been unable to assist them under the Rural Housing (Assistance) Act, 1976. In addition, during its tours of country areas, the authority's attention has been drawn on numerous occasions to the unsatisfactory condition of many dwellings on perpetual lease holdings.

Members will notice that the Rural Housing (Assistance) Act, 1976, at present limits eligibility for assistance to only those farmers holding land under freehold title, conditional purchase lease or pastoral lease, and omits to include perpetual lease holdings.

The object of this amendment is to rectify this anomaly and to enable the holders of land under perpetual lease conditions to be eligible for assistance under the Rural Housing (Assistance) Act, 1976, thereby satisfying a real need for improved housing within the farming community.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr B. T. Burke.

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

INVENTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [5.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before us is intended to amend the Inventions Act, 1975, so that assistance may be given to facilitate the commercial production in this State of products which are not patentable under the Patents Act, 1952, but which can be registered under the Designs Act, 1906.

It will be recalled that the Inventions Act, 1975, sought to provide assistance in the form of finance by way of a grant or loan, or other practical assistance as appropriate which could lead to the establishment of an industry in this State, be of significant benefit to industry already established or be of advantage to the State in any other way.

An Inventions Advisory Committee was established in April, 1976, and since then I have approved financial assistance for six projects recommended by the committee and other practical assistance has been given to inventors. New applications for assistance are being received at an increasing rate.

The existing legislation requires that assistance be provided to only those new developments for which a patent under the Commonwealth Patents Act, 1952, has been granted or for which a patent application has been lodged.

The Government recognises there are circumstances where the definition of "invention" limits the commercial development of concepts not qualifying for the granting of a patent. It has been decided to substitute a definition to include designs which are registered under the Commonwealth's Designs Act, 1906, as subsequently amended, to enable a broader range of inventions to be eligible for assistance under the Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 16th March, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

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

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

MR TAYLOR (Cockburn) [5.55 p.m.]: Four or five days ago I had to postpone the completion of my remarks. I will not take up much of the time of the House tonight. For the third time in three days I should like to repeat—and this will take only one minute—the plight of the unemployed in Kwinana. I mentioned earlier that over the past 12 months there had been a 1 per cent national increase in the number of unemployed, but in Kwinana the figure was 15 per cent for adults and 30 per cent for young people. I have quoted those statistics three times in three days and I hope I do not need to continue to repeat them without some action being taken by the Government. Industry in Kwinana will not expand and jobs will not be

provided for people, particularly young people, unless something is done about the situation.

The second point I should like to return to is that of the problems being experienced by residents at Naval Base. These people live on land leased from the State Government and have received notices to quit. I am not sure whether the Premier has been able to convey to the Minister three queries which I directed to the Minister for Lands who was absent at the time. I should like now to mention those matters once again in order that the Minister may indicate the answers. The three points I raised were: Some persons including pensioners have been able to obtain alternative accommodation with family or friends, but they do not have the \$200 or \$300 required to have their houses demolished. These houses will be abandoned as at the 31st March. As a result of inquiries made it has been alleged that a member of the Lands Department has said that the houses in which these people have been residing may be removed by the department free of charge to the occupier. I should like the Minister to confirm this point, if possible.

Mrs Craig: As I understand it, the leasing agreement indicates that the department will accept the expense of demolition on vacation by the leaseholder.

Mr TAYLOR: I thank the Minister for her answer, which is the same answer as that which I received from the department. It will be helpful for the people concerned to know the true situation as they are very worried at the moment.

The second query relates to five or six people who are making efforts to have their houses transported elsewhere. Some of these people wish to move their houses to the Shire of Murray, but at least one wishes to move his house to Kwinana. At the present time efforts are being made to gain approval from the local authorities concerned so that the houses can be moved on jinkers to the respective areas. For one reason or another the plans have been rejected or postponed or are being considered by a local committee. I should like an assurance from the Minister that those people will not be forced out of their houses on the 31st March and that their houses will not be demolished forthwith if they are able to show that they are making concrete efforts to arrange for the transportation of the houses to another location. I believe five or six owners are involved.

Mrs Craig: I suggest those persons contact the department and let it know exactly what arrangements are being made. I am sure the department will be happy to help them.

Mr TAYLOR: I thank the Minister for her

answer. I am not sure whether the Minister will be able to answer the third query, because it is outside her purview. It relates to residents, including pensioners, who have applied to the State Housing Commission for assistance and who have not yet been able to obtain satisfaction from the department. They have been told by the department that they are adequately housed. These people have been endeavouring to obtain permanent accommodation at a rental which is within their means, but they have not been able to do so. They are presently waiting for their houses to be bulldozed around them. I should like the Minister to indicate whether these people will be able to obtain alternative accommodation from the State Housing Commission prior to the 31st March.

Mrs Craig: I have been in touch with the Housing Commission and have been told that the unfortunate aspect of the situation is that many of these people have waited until the last couple of weeks before making an application to the commission. In fact, four weeks ago the State Housing Commission had only one concrete application for assistance before it. In the last three weeks I am aware that another three applicants have been satisfactorily housed by the State Housing Commission. I suggest that people who are experiencing specific difficulties of that nature, who can indicate that they are making an effort to be rehoused, and are on State Housing Commission lists should contact the department and we will consider each case on its merits.

Mr TAYLOR: I should not have asked the Minister that question. Obviously the information conveyed to me by my constituents was not a true indication of the present position.

The next item to which I should like to refer concerns the matter of a bus terminal at Kwinana. I spoke about this matter last year, not last week.

Mr Jamieson: It is becoming rather proverbial, is it not?

Mr TAYLOR: It is becoming rather proverbial. As I understand the situation, this bus terminal is the only one in the metropolitan area which is not adjacent to a built-up area. It is situated in bushland some 1½ to two kilometres from the nearest house. It is situated in a wilderness and it suffers—

Mr O'Neil: In a verdant setting.

Mr TAYLOR: In a verdant setting, as the Chief Secretary said. This bus station suffers from two major deficiencies. The first deficiency is that it has no toilets. This makes it tremendously difficult for patrons. It is said that

it is not the function of the MTT to provide toilets; but I should like to mention that there are toilets at the Perth depot; there are toilets at the shopping centre at Booragoon; there are toilets at Midland Junction, once again in an adjacent establishment. To my knowledge, toilets are available in the vicinity of all bus shelters. Possibly they are not provided by the MTT, but nonetheless, as with the TAB, toilets are situated in the vicinity.

There are no toilet facilities provided at the bus terminal at Kwinana. It does not seem appropriate for the Minister for Transport to say that it is not the policy of the MTT to provide toilets. Kwinana has a residential population of approximately 15 000 people and everyone who travels by bus must pass through that terminal. No toilets are provided. If any reply is to be made to the Address-in-Reply debate, I ask that the Minister take up this matter with his department to see whether, in this instance, an exception can be made.

The second deficiency is that the bus terminal has no telephone. Although the provision of a telephone does not fall within the area of the Minister for Transport and the MTT, I feel there is some obligation on the MTT to provide a telephone at the bus terminal at Kwinana. I am holding two or three letters from constituents who use this terminal. They indicate that quite frequently young and elderly people are left waiting at the terminus for a considerable period of time, up to three-quarters of an hour. If they were able to contact their homes, members of the family could collect them within two minutes. However, they are unable to contact their homes and as a result are left waiting either in the rain or heat. They are unable to advise their families that the bus is running late, for one reason or another, and they have been left stranded in this "verdant" setting or wilderness, depending upon which side of the House one is on. As the Department of Post and Telecommunications will not provide a telephone service—and it has made this point clear not only to myself but also to the Town of Kwinana, Dr Richardson, who was a former member for Tangney and a member of the Liberal Party who made another choice, and Senator Walsh—on the ground that "such a service would not be economically justified", I should like to make the point that something must be done to assist these people.

The elderly and the young are left waiting early in the morning and late in the evening, and they are unable to contact their friends or relatives to advise them that the bus service is running late and that they have lost their connections. Those

people are left waiting under some duress and strain.

I would now like to make a brief reference to another matter associated with the Minister for Transport. It concerns the erection of advertising signs in Cockburn. Towards the end of last year two major hoardings were erected on railway land in the area. Over the years the Cockburn and Kwinana local authorities have been able to limit this sort of advertising hoarding along the main thoroughfares. The Main Roads Department certainly limited signs on its major roads. The market garden region has been kept in very good order.

Towards the end of last year two very large signs were erected, one in Kwinana and one in Cockburn on railway land. In one instance the sign which was erected was the subject of question 1157 asked by me on Wednesday, the 26th October, 1977. That sign was just 5.5 metres from the road verge. It is, in fact, only three metres from the edge of the traffic bridge. Though the road verge may not be considered to be a bridge approach, nevertheless, cars can travel to within three metres of the sign. It is located in a position which would never have been permitted by the Main Roads Department or the local authority. However, as a result of questions I have asked it appears that as long as the signs are on railway land the Railways Department can do whatever it wishes with regard to placing them.

I asked the Minister what return was received from the hoardings, but I was unable to get an answer. It seems that the advertising accounts system of the Railways Department is confidential. The department has an arrangement with a company which apparently can erect the signs wherever it wishes. I suggest to the Minister that the old argument which used to apply with respect to the value received for these railway hoardings no longer does so. The old argument was that the Railways Department, because it was running at a loss, had to take advantage of every avenue to raise revenue.

On the face of it, the old argument seemed to be reasonable, but when it is appreciated that the Treasury is contributing something like \$11 million—a very large sum of money—to railway revenue it can be seen that the taxpayers collectively are paying for the deficit of the Railways Department. Therefore, if the Railways Department finds it necessary to erect hoardings because of its loss of revenue, then to spread the cost right back through the community—all sections of it, the extra revenue should be found by Treasury. I make the point that revenue is paid to the Main Roads Department when that

department has no income coming in, yet that department is not required to have any advertising material on road verges in order to reduce its dependence on the Treasury.

Mr O'Connor: The Railways Department receives revenue.

Mr TAYLOR: It does. However, other departments which receive revenue do not have to advertise on their premises in order to raise revenue. The Fremantle Port Authority would be one example, and, of course, it would be silly to have advertising hoardings on the Metropolitan Water Board depots and our schools! On this question of Government departments receiving money from the Treasury, it seems a little unreasonable that just one section feels compelled to put up hoardings which are very often irritating to local residents and motorists. I instance the case of someone who was prepared to cut down the hoardings on railway property in Mosman Park.

In the two instances I have mentioned the hoardings have been erected close to highways in positions where the Main Roads Department would never allow them to be. I ask the Minister to look into the question because it does not seem to be right.

Mr Skidmore: If the Minister looks at the position at Midland he will see hundreds of them. They are going up like telephone poles. There are more and more of them every day.

Mr TAYLOR: The second last point to which I wish to refer briefly is a Commonwealth matter but I hope the Minister for Labour and Industry will be able to use some influence to assist with the problem. I refer to the Commonwealth Youth Service Scheme. The scheme allows the Commonwealth Employment Service to refer young people to centres where they can receive some training and experience in preparation for employment. This scheme has been very well received in most areas, and certainly was well received in Kwinana early in the piece. Some young people carried out work on National Trust buildings, a childminding centre, and other similar works. However, because of the continuation of the unemployment situation over a period of time, the scheme seems to have fallen into disrepute with young people. When the scheme was first mooted the young people were prepared to co-operate. They learnt a lot from the scheme which included some tuition on how to dress and how to present oneself for employment on the one hand, and on the other hand they were working on community projects.

The problem is that as time has gone by, young

people have found that the experience gained has not really helped them. They have remained unemployed, for three months, six months, or nine months and longer. Now, young people are not so prepared to enter the scheme and the numbers have fallen away. It seems to be just a way of filling in time from which they receive no tangible gain.

I wonder whether the Minister for Labour and Industry could approach his Federal counterpart to see whether some funds can be made available—possibly through the State Government, thence through local authorities—so that the young people who would be prepared to take advantage of these schemes can receive some additional incentive, by way of equipment or materials or even an incentive by way of some small payment. The experience has been that a number of young people, on being referred to the Commonwealth Employment Service, have been prepared to do work for the community. However, that work has not led to anything and as a result the young people have turned down the scheme. They feel there is nothing there for them.

The local authorities and the young people are looking to the Government to provide that little extra spark to make the scheme a little more attractive. I hope the Minister for Labour and Industry will be able to take up the matter with his Federal counterpart.

Finally, I will make brief reference to legislation introduced by the Minister for Health during the last parliamentary session. The Health Act Amendment Bill, if passed at that time, would have given local authorities power to guarantee loans to build medical facilities in their regions. The tenor of that legislation was desirable, particularly in country areas, to encourage local medicos.

I know it is proposed to bring forward this legislation again this year, either in the same form as it was last year, or in an amended form. I wonder whether the Minister is aware that the Town of Kwinana has, in fact, already moved to avail itself of this condition should the amendment be passed. In this instance it may be suggested that the Town of Kwinana has taken action outside that area intended by the Minister. The Minister, when introducing the previous amendment, said that it was primarily to assist non-metropolitan councils to establish medical centre facilities if they felt the doctors themselves were not able to provide them.

I am choosing my words carefully; I am not at this stage trying to influence the Minister with respect to the legislation being prepared. It is

quite an intense issue in Kwinana, the council being divided by one vote. As the legislation is still to be introduced I feel I should let the Minister know in this way so that he can look carefully at the legislation and his second reading speech when he introduced the previous amendment, with respect to the purpose of the amendment, because the way the matter has already been interpreted does not seem to be in line with the Minister's second reading speech.

Mr Ridge: I am aware of the situation and I can assure the honourable member I am looking at the matter very carefully.

Mr TAYLOR: Thank you. Certain groups in Kwinana are very keen to have a medical centre of some type established. By whom, and in what manner, they are of two opinions. One section of the trade union movement, supported by the Trades and Labor Council, is pressing, as far as it is able, for a medical centre to be established which would, while having general practitioners, have practitioners who are conscious of industrial medicine.

The work force at Kwinana is becoming more and more conscious of the current Press reports with respect to asbestosis, as in the past they have been with pneumoconiosis problems. There is current debate, one way and another, on the health effects of such factors as acids, and radioactivity emanating from industry at Kwinana. There could be some long-term problems for the work force and the local residents. Whether these are real or imaginary is not the point: There seems to be enough experience—particularly with the latest reports on asbestosis—to give the Government sufficient reason to take an active interest. Unfortunately, it is a problem to find medical practitioners who have some background in industrial medicine and, therefore, who are able and prepared to keep long-term records to be able to look at that extra factor in the costs involved in long-standing complaints which workers may have.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

MR LAURANCE (Gascoyne) [6.11 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion moved so ably by the member for Murdoch. He gave us a concise rundown on the economy of the State and the nation.

I wish to direct my remarks to one area of the economy. First I will make a brief comment on the Governor's Speech. I believe the Governor gave an excellent account of all the areas—very brief, necessarily—in which the Government is at work.

I think the Governor's Speech also demonstrated the complexity of all modern societies; there are so many areas of burden at the one time. Despite the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, the Governor's Speech showed the Government was far from being self-satisfied with its performance. It has not run away from problems and, in particular, it has not run away from unemployment. I quote part of the Governor's Speech as follows—

...the unemployment level remains unacceptable.

Since then a great deal has been said in this House about the unemployment level and I too have spoken previously about this problem. On the last occasion I spoke I mentioned a new definition of "full employment" which I considered would be workable in this country. I will not go into that matter again but I still believe it is relevant.

Traditionally, the overall employment level includes something around 1 per cent of unemployed. We had a little structural unemployment, but that represented a full employment situation. However, because of the magnitude of the changes which have taken place the former figure is no longer relevant. I will not go into the systems outlined by the member for Mundaring; he instanced a great number of them. However, I repeat: Because of inflation and the escalation in wages, particularly in the 1972-75 period, and a number of other factors which constantly change the whole structure of the work force—including the number of married women and so on—

Mr Skidmore: That has been going on over the years.

Mr LAURANCE: —the situation has accelerated to where we have had a tremendous increase in the number of unemployed. We have reached the stage where I believe what we should define as a full employment situation is one approaching something like 4 per cent of the work force unemployed, rather than 1 per cent as the situation was previously.

I do not agree with that; I think it is a very sad reflection on the recent years of great change. However, that is the situation which pertains.

One of the elements of the unemployment level that has come in for some consideration is the number of young people unemployed. It is a national problem and great concern has already been expressed, particularly because of the flow on from its effect. This is becoming—and it has been for some time—entrenched in our society, and that is a very sad situation.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr LAURANCE: Prior to the tea suspension I had mentioned the serious situation this country finds itself in with regard to youth unemployment and I wish now to quote some figures about unemployment generally. At the end of 1977, the level of youth unemployment was 40 per cent of the total number of unemployed workers. I have been told by those who should know that in Australia, as in many western countries, we can apply a rough rule of thumb to determine the percentage of unemployed youth. Simply by multiplying the unemployment rate by three, we have a fairly good guide to the youth unemployment rate in this country, and apparently in a number of other western countries. So if the country has an unemployment level of over 6 per cent of the work force, then the youth unemployment will be something in excess of 18 per cent. There are some notable exceptions to this rule of thumb, and I will refer to these later.

I have discussed already the causal factors for the high rate of youth unemployment. With the increased number of married women in the work force, there has been a corresponding decline in the number of places of employment for young people. Also, the relatively high wages for juniors combined with the fact that mostly these young people are completely inexperienced, militates against their obtaining jobs. Many of these factors have been touched on by previous speakers in the debate and I will not refer to them further. I wish to concentrate tonight on the education system that produces these school leavers and young people who cannot find jobs.

The first point I would like to make is that our education system seems to be geared completely the wrong way. Since the Second World War we have been going through a period referred to by some as "a revolution of rising expectations". Parents have encouraged all the brighter children to tertiary and university education, and this has produced a stigma in regard to technical education and trade training. This would have resulted in a loss of technical expertise, but our migration policy has filled this gap. We were able to cope and to support all these factors in our community because we had an expanding economy; we went through the 1950s and the 1960s with a steadily expanding economy. We could place these people with technical qualifications, and we could provide technical expertise in the work place because of the migration policies. However, in the 1970s a totally different economic situation confronts us

and tertiary education no longer guarantees young Australians a place in the work force.

The second point I want to make is that there is an urgent need to gear our system to the economy. I compliment our Minister for Education on his attempts to do this, and I know that on his recent overseas tour he apprised himself of a number of initiatives which could be implemented here to good effect.

We should be endeavouring to mould our system along the lines of the best overseas examples. Through the research I have undertaken, I have found that one of the best countries in this regard is Switzerland. The Swiss have a system where apprentices are educated full time for three years at the higher technical colleges. In this way the Swiss Government decides on the numbers of apprentices to be educated because it accepts total responsibility for educating them. Such a decision is not left to industry in Switzerland, although the Government receives advice on it. The Government's decision is made on advice received from tripartite advisory councils. I am told that this system is one we could well emulate.

West Germany operates with another system, and our Minister for Education visited this country a few days ago. Apparently there is a more comprehensive approach to trade training in that country, and craftsmen are held in very high regard. A much wider range of apprenticeships is available to the young people, for example I am told that even shop assistants are required to undertake an apprenticeship for such positions. The West German figures in regard to a breakup of labour in the work place are most impressive; 65 to 70 per cent enter into some form of trade training, about 20 per cent follow an academic career, and 10 to 15 per cent take up unskilled positions.

The West German Government accepts the overall responsibility for this trade training, and it vests this responsibility in the chambers of commerce to ensure satisfactory results.

The third point I wish to make is that responsibility for trade training in this country should be lifted from small employers. I would like to quote from an address I heard a few days ago. This address was given by Mr Ralph Clark, who is the Director in Western Australia of the Federal Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Mr Clark had this to say—

Most Australian firms are small. Our future is thus, as far as technical education is concerned, in the hands of scores of thousands of small employers who are now

being subject to difficult trading conditions as well as faced with very great expense of employing staff, not merely from wages but from such things as Workers' Compensation insurance. The German experience, where the big corporations still undertake their excellent training programmes, could be continued in Australia, but something should be done to take away overall responsibility of education from the small employer. No other section of the Australian community is asked to assume responsibility for a part of the educational process.

Mr Clark says that is a very outdated method and one that we should change urgently.

Mr Skidmore: It places the small employer in a difficult position.

Mr LAURANCE: The small employer needs to be supported; we are asking him to carry a burden, and it is probably unfair of us to do this.

The fourth point is the criticism of the education system that is levelled by industry and commerce, and particularly by parents, at the products turned out by this system. This is something we should take note of, and in this regard I want to refer briefly to a survey undertaken by *The Weekend Australian* recently. This newspaper surveyed leaders in industry and commerce, and amongst other things it had this to say—

Young people are leaving school, particularly high school, totally ill-equipped to face the real world where people have to use whatever it takes to claw their way through life.

Everyone spoken to in the commercial and industrial world says the same thing; school leavers are generally badly educated, poorly motivated and over expectant.

Too many of them haven't even a reasonable working grasp of the "Three Rs", (reading, writing and arithmetic), their heads are filled with ideas that they shouldn't be expected to work too hard and they can coast along until an executive job falls into their laps.

That was the general result of the survey.

Mr Jamieson: They get the "three Rs" at drive-in movies these days.

Mr LAURANCE: That is all they do get there, I am told. The report of the survey continued—

Some of the hostility went even further, to condemning a particular group of politically-motivated teachers who deliberately set out to poison the minds of their classes.

The criticism in the survey reflects the complaints I hear from people in commerce and from parents. Such people say that many teachers are nonconformists and the students think this is an acceptable form of behaviour, only to find to their disappointment, when they get into the work place, that this is not so. In many ways our education system is noncompetitive and sloppy.

I would like to quote from a letter which appeared recently in *The Bulletin*. I believe this letter expresses the feelings of many in our community generally. The writer had this to say—

The real cause of this is the egalitarian policy of the State school system, determined to have no "elitist" element, determined to eliminate the concept of failure.

The letter concludes as follows—

Incentive and desire for personal excellence have been killed by the State schools' policy of non-competitiveness and non-attainment.

Mr Pearce: Which school did he go to? These are just generalisations.

Mr LAURANCE: What I am saying is that he has expressed the feelings of many people in the community who have to try to find jobs for the products of the system.

Mr Pearce: Don't you feel you have a responsibility to dispel these stupid feelings?

Mr LAURANCE: The honourable member will have his opportunity to speak. I would like to make my points now.

The community generally has met the demands in recent years of greatly increased funding for the education system, and it is my belief that the community generally is disappointed with the return on its investment. I believe also that greater demands should be placed on the system to produce students with skills required by employers, students better motivated towards the work place, and students better presented when they first attempt to get into the work place.

I believe we should look very closely at the philosophy of our education. I was concerned to hear last year the remarks of an eminent British academic and Labor politician, Dr Stephen Haseler, who was here to give the Menzies Lecture in Perth a few months ago.

Mr Bryce: Why do you think a Labor MP was invited to give the Menzies Lecture?

Mr Pearce: He was not a Labor MP but a member of the council.

Mr LAURANCE: He classifies himself as a Labor MP.

Mr Pearce: You could classify yourself as a Labor MP.

Mr LAURANCE: The honourable member should not worry himself too much about that! I would like to quote briefly from Dr Haseler's address on that occasion. His address was entitled "The British Experience—a Model for Decline". He said the socialist generation in Britain's Labour Party led not only to the decline of the country generally, but particularly the decline in its education system, and that we would do well to study this decline. In his address he said—

In making education 'easy' and 'enjoyable' they have destroyed the very basic skills which all children, deprived or not need to advance themselves in the modern world. Consequently, in Britain today, children are leaving our primary and even secondary schools without being able to read, write or add up. Discipline, grammar and simple arithmetic are considered bourgeois and oppressive.

Mr Bryce: The British never got to the stage where they spent enough money on education. They realise they did the wrong thing by their own people.

Mr LAURANCE: Dr Haseler continued—

Indeed the working class child is positively hindered because he or she does not have the help at home available to the middle-class child which can offset the sloppiness at school.

A comment he made a little later in his address is very interesting. He said that socialist politicians and academics in Britain had not looked for equality of opportunity but for something they called total equality. He likened the political system to a race where the loser would get a pep pill and no doubt the winners would be tripped up by track officials.

Mr Pearce: You ought to tell the Teachers' Union about this!

Mr LAURANCE: Looking at his address, it is amazing to see that his conclusions are exactly the same as those shown by the survey I spoke of earlier which appeared in *The Weekend Australian*. Obviously there is a parallel here. Dr Haseler is talking of a model for decline in Britain; surely we should be looking at the warning signs here so that we can ensure the same thing does not happen in this country.

Mr Bryce: Is there a subtle ideological message to come?

Mr LAURANCE: It is coming. Paradoxically, if we look at the situation in Communist China, rather than the situation in democratic Britain, we find that the system there has turned a full circle, and Communist China is again adopting an elitist system of education.

Mr Pearce: Are you saying we should follow the Chinese?

Mr LAURANCE: I must admit I have not done a great deal of research on this, but I would like to quote an article which appeared recently in *The West Australian*. I will quote only one paragraph of this article because it shows the contrast between what is happening in Britain and what seems to be happening in Australia, with what is happening in Communist China. The paragraph reads as follows—

After a decade of the world's most radical exam-free education system, China has reverted to a tough, competitive and highly elitist education system which will select the talented and clever in the name of rapid economic and technological development.

So there we have it.

Mr Pearce: Are you suggesting something different or do you think communism is the answer?

Mr LAURANCE: Perhaps we should be following their system rather than following the system we have at the moment in respect of elitist education. I believe the message is very clear for us. We should reject a sloppy, uncompetitive education system, and we should reject the British experience told to us by Dr Stephen Haseler, and instead place greater emphasis on the pursuit of excellence, greater discipline in our schools, and higher standards.

How can we achieve this? I would like to make a few suggestions in the time available to me. First of all, in respect of examinations I believe we should quickly get back to a simple form of assessment for school leavers. The present system is very complex and confusing. We have a system of scaling tests and averaging out results, and so on. I have even had a confession made to me by the principal of a metropolitan secondary school. That principal confessed that the system was confusing, and probably a number of principals are in a similar position. If that is the case, and I believe it to be so, then we urgently need a simple scheme which can be understood by the students, by their parents, and by employers. It must be understood by employers if we expect them to be able to judge and gauge prospective employees when they come before them.

Mr Pearce: If employers cannot understand the system, perhaps they need more education.

Mr LAURANCE: I would like to make that part of my second point. Secondly, high school principals control large institutions and I believe they should have much greater training as managers and administrators to fit them for this task. They should be given more independence and more authority on the one hand, but on the other hand along with that extra independence and authority we should demand a great deal more responsibility from them for achieving results, setting standards, and maintaining discipline with both staff and students alike.

I am surprised at the number of people in educational institutions—particularly secondary schools—in this State who tell me that the decision-making process within high schools is very difficult and that principals do not really have the control they should have, but have to defer to staff councils and sub-school councils. The whole process seems to get bogged down because of the number of people involved who have a say. The system is not streamlined towards having an effective unit managed by a person who is highly qualified and trained for the job.

Mr Bryce: Would you prefer to see individual principals exercise complete control?

Mr LAURANCE: I have heard it said that on many occasions principals have had their decisions overruled by the staff on a council. I think this is terribly bad for the system, and when we look at the results we find we have a real problem in respect of school leavers.

Mr Bryce: Some senior staff are more competent than the principals.

Mr LAURANCE: If that is so the system is wrong; that is the point I am making. Let me continue with my theme.

My third point concerns teachers themselves. I believe teachers should be required to produce results. They should be promoted on merit—this is the point raised a moment ago by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—and to promote them on merit we must have some form of assessment of their merit. To achieve this I believe we should return to some form of individual assessment of teachers.

Teachers are highly paid, and people in any other sphere who earn the sort of income teachers earn are required to produce results and to undergo some form of assessment. Certainly this happens in private enterprise and in most other institutions. Under our current system we have moved away from the idea of individual

assessment of teachers, and teachers do not have to perform to the satisfaction of anyone else.

Mr Bryce: Do you want to go back to the position of 10 years ago?

Mr LAURANCE: No, I am not saying that. I am saying a form of individual assessment of teachers should be introduced.

In addition, I believe teachers should be requested to set high personal standards. I refer to such things as dress and behaviour. In a situation where we have an oversupply of teachers, there will never be a better time than the present to indicate to those teachers who do not wish to conform to a high personal standard that they should be requested to relocate to an area in which people are not sensitive and in which they can be nonconformist without affecting the future of our children.

Mr Bryce: What would you do with principals who have gone to sleep at the wheel and perhaps should be promoted sideways?

Mr LAURANCE: I really cannot follow the point of that interjection, and I do not intend to endeavour to reply to it.

A matter which interested me when I was preparing this speech was that a couple of weeks ago one of my colleagues was in New Zealand and he brought back several newspapers from that country. The newspapers contained fairly topical items, and one which caught my interest referred to a move towards a teachers' strike in that country. The newspaper contained a full-page advertisement which stated, "Ask yourself: 'What makes responsible people strike?'"

From that, one can quickly work out just how the advertisement continues; but the point that struck me is that the teachers who were promoting the advertisement—and I am aware I am talking about another country, but I think we could learn a lesson from it—were showing themselves as highly dedicated and responsible, with high personal standards. They were all wearing ties and mortar boards, with academic gowns.

Mr Blaikie: They don't fit in with the typical Western Australian teacher.

Mr LAURANCE: That is the image school teachers would like to promote for themselves to the public; and, conversely, that is what the public would like to think our school teachers are like. There is another point to this advertisement. At the bottom two students are shown—a young man and a young woman—both of whom are very well dressed in school uniforms. This is another sad reflection on the teachers who are promoting

themselves, because they know this is an ideal they do not insist upon, and that our standards have dropped.

Mr Pearce: That is only an advertisement.

Mr LAURANCE: Yes, and I am using it merely to provide a description of the sort of thing members of the public say to me they would like to see in the teaching profession.

Mr Pearce: Strikes. Is that what you are saying?

Mr LAURANCE: The member for Gosnells is a terribly facetious person.

In the three ways I have outlined, I believe we can ensure our education system will better reflect the standards our community desires, and will better prepare our young school leavers for their life ahead. Also, they may help in some way to overcome a problem that has become entrenched in our society in respect of young unemployed persons.

I would like to conclude my remarks by turning to another subject much closer to home for me. I refer to the drought situation in the Gascoyne electorate and other remote areas of the State, generally. The drought in the Gascoyne region has been the worst since the late 1930s. We have a situation in which the Gascoyne River started flowing a few days ago, following a nonflow period of 23 months, one of the longest in recorded history.

I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my commendation of the Premier and the Government for the quick action that was taken—and I want to emphasise this as much as possible—to provide an amount of \$400 000 from drought relief funds to enable additions to be made quickly to the groundwater supply scheme of the Gascoyne River. That \$400 000 was in addition to an amount that had already been allocated in last year's Budget, amounting to almost \$1 million. Therefore, an amount of approximately \$1.5 million has gone into the scheme during the past year to enable it to be almost completed.

However, the important point is that the amount of \$400 000 was used quickly to bring into production a number of bores further up the river bed, some 40 to 50 kilometres from Carnarvon. Amazingly enough, we had a small flow of the river, and this enabled those bores to be brought into production quickly. We did not call it a flow, because it did not reach the plantation area, but nevertheless some inland rain did cause a small flow of the river upstream, and that recharged the area around the bores. This was a miracle because it occurred just after the

funds were made available and they were quickly used to bring the bores into production. It was that which really gave the plantation owners the stability they have experienced during the severe drought.

Mr Bateman: Doesn't it strike you as strange how the Premier can get this sort of money out of the hat when he wants to? That is only one of dozens of drought areas.

Mr LAURANCE: A capable Treasurer obviously must plan for this sort of thing to occur in a number of areas.

Mr Bateman: This wasn't planned for.

Mr LAURANCE: No, but half the State is subject to cyclones and much of the pastoral area is subject to drought; therefore, if the money is not needed in one area it will be needed in some other area. Next year there may be funds set aside which are not required in my area but are required somewhere else. A prudent Treasurer must allow for this.

Mr Bateman: He is like a magician, pulling money out of the hat.

Mr LAURANCE: I am surprised to hear that from the member for Canning, because I have a high regard for him. I remind him that there are a number of minor areas and small disasters for which we have to allocate funds, and if they are more serious than we can handle then we apply to the Commonwealth for natural disaster funds. I expect the member would know that.

Mr Bateman: Those funds were not used for the Gascoyne.

Mr LAURANCE: No; Federal funds were not required in this instance—the State was able to make them available.

I want to emphasise how much it meant to my area that we were able to get through a two-year drought. This has never been done before, and if it were not for the groundwater supply scheme being extended, thereby stabilising the water supply in the area, a great number of growers would have been out of business and Perth would have felt the effect of a great decrease in production in the area. A large increase in the price of vegetables and some fruits would have followed.

Some 80 per cent of growers are now connected to the scheme, and I would like to place on record that a great number of growers who at the beginning of the season were very seriously concerned about their future—and in fact believed they did not have a future—were able to get through the season as a result of the allocation of those funds.

I want to place on record my thanks to the Minister for Water Supplies and his department for their efforts in connection with this. It is significant that the value of production—and this figure has only just come to hand—for the plantation industry in Carnarvon in the 1977 season was \$7 million, the produce from most of which was sold in the metropolitan area, and a great proportion of it through the Perth markets.

So the Gascoyne region was able to supply produce in about the normal quantity and no hikes in prices occurred in the metropolitan area as a result of loss of production due to drought in the area.

I would like to say also that I commend the Government on a number of pastoral initiatives it has taken to help the pastoral industry fight the drought. The rivers are flowing again, and it is wonderful to see them flow. This is the result of rain which fell heavily in fairly small patches but did not cover the general pastoral areas and bring relief from the drought. However, the Government has taken initiatives to provide rent relief, freight subsidies, and new drought loans. Vermin rates have been held down for another two years. The drought loans have been provided as a result of representations to the Federal Government. These allow a pastoralist to obtain up to \$40 000 at 4 per cent—on very reasonable terms. These measures will assist a great deal in the short term to overcome the very drastic problem in the industry. In the longer term we look to the Government-established committee which is now at work to come up with some longer-term solutions to help that industry.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [8.01 p.m.]: I was inspired by the erudite discourse from such an eminent authority as the last speaker to make some references to the sphere of education, in particular the technical side. I am glad the Minister is here and I want to point out to members the procedures involved with certain students in having to wait all night outside enrolling offices. I would like to elaborate on this point because many students have had to involve themselves in the trouble of queuing all night to be able to enrol for certain subjects at 10 o'clock the following morning.

Mr P. V. Jones: At which institution?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I would like to elaborate on this. What I have said is certainly the case; it occurred outside the Claremont Technical College and involved students wishing to enrol in the Diploma of Fine Arts course. The Claremont tech is the specialist school in fine arts and the diploma is accorded equality and parity with a university

degree for the purposes of promotion in the Education Department. This is the particular institution and the particular course to which I am referring. The enrolment requirements for that course are for a satisfactory academic result on the part of the students, a submission of a folio of work by the student that must meet the approval of the arts tutor, and there is to be a satisfactory interview with the principal art teacher. These are three prerequisites before enrolment can take place. Having met these requirements the student must still enrol.

All students who have been approved have to enrol on the same day. This has been the practice in the past. They knew that enrolment day in this case was the 14th February and the stipulation as indicated in the brochure handed to students stated, "Students are enrolled in order of arrival on enrolment day." So there have been upward of 120 acceptable inquiries and as there are only 51 places in the technical college the first 51 who arrive are accorded the places irrespective of the student's capacity, capability, or anything else. Those who arrive after that just cannot enrol. What a magnificent system when one looks at the drawbacks involved!

It seems that as long as one has a good alarm clock one can get prior enrolment over other students.

Mr Davies: Just when does the queue start?

Sir Charles Court: That is as old as the hills. The early bird catches the worm.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The staff of the college do not approve of the system but this method of enrolment is required of them; it has been laid down to the staff. What a system! To cite my own personal experience, I arrived at 3.30 a.m. with my daughter, an early bird. At that stage she was number 20 in the record book. She was not prepared to take a chance and so we arrived at 3.30 a.m. When I departed at 5.00 a.m. there were 37 students in line. The first had arrived at 4.30 p.m. the day before. That is the system that has been evolved by the specialist fine arts college in 1978.

There was an assortment of sleeping bags to be seen, and fortunately the weather was fine. The queue was spread over a small quadrangle as well as a verandah. I understand, too, that this has occurred at another institution in connection with a survey course. When that charade was found there was a revaluation of the course and additional facilities were finally provided to cater for the students.

If there is a demand for a particular course then surely it should be met in the proper manner.

If the demand is great then facilities have to be found and the finances met accordingly. It does not matter whether it is fine arts or bricklaying, a new principle in technical education has to be evolved; it cannot operate as it is at the moment.

I draw this problem to the attention of the House in the hope that the Minister pays full regard to the need for further facilities. It is not a question of duplicating classrooms in a particular area; that is not always the answer. Sometimes facilities can be made too large, in the physical sense, to the detriment of the quality of the tuition given. It would be a shame if that occurred, but a duplication in another area should not be disregarded.

Mr P. V. Jones: The courses should be provided regardless of which discipline?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I am referring to technical education. If a demand is there, as it obviously is, then there are good grounds for the education authorities, of which the Minister is in charge, taking a very close look at this problem and doing something about it.

Mr P. V. Jones: Those enrolment procedures will not be occurring again.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I would appreciate that but I would not like it to happen to the detriment of the course in other ways and there should be an opportunity of enrolment for every one of the students who has the capacity to undertake the course. That is the point I wish to make very clearly and sincerely.

This being the Address-in-Reply, the opportunity is given to members to raise matters which may seem a little parochial but which are of great importance in the areas the member represents. I would like to speak of one such parochial matter before I have words about the National Country Party which you will appreciate, Mr Speaker.

Mr Bertram: They have a new name; the Hancock National Party.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The first question deals with the Pemberton water supply and I would like to preface my remarks with a resume of what had transpired in an effort to have something done about this town water scheme. I have asked questions on this matter in this House on nine occasions and have received answers, none of which has been very satisfactory. A petition was presented by residents of Pemberton as long ago as January, 1975. There was a visitation by the Minister who saw the situation at firsthand.

There has been an evaluation by engineers of the PWD which lasted over a period in excess of

12 months which gave a fair sort of opportunity for surveillance of the problem. There has been an approach to the Government by the Manjimup Shire Council with some results. Finally, there was a letter to the Premier from myself as a consequence of the announcement of the five-year programme which appeared in the Press. I did receive a detailed reply but it would seem the Premier is not at all conversant with the situation as it exists.

I would like to make a number of points in connection with this problem of the Pemberton town water supply. The quality and quantity of water available to the people of the town has been deteriorating over recent years and there are several reasons for this. Quantity-wise, the draw by farmers in the upper reaches of the catchment area has increased for irrigation purposes. This will continue because trends in agriculture and the need to improve yields to offset costs are fairly universal in all fields of horticulture. We can expect them to continue.

The catchment dam itself was never intended as a water supply. It was constructed in 1936 as a hydro-electric scheme, or part thereof. As a consequence its construction does not allow it to be flushed to clean it of silt. Over the years rotting vegetation has not had a chance to clear as the water has risen. Because of the rotting vegetation and the siltation, the area is an unpleasant place in the summertime. The water coming through the reticulation pipes in the town is very dark in colour. As a matter of fact, one cannot see the bottom of the bath when it is filled and those people who use water for freezing to put in Eskys see sediment in the bottom of the Esky which has been frozen almost to a solid muck. That is the condition of the water supply at Pemberton.

There is a chlorination plant which makes the water fit for human consumption but it does not do away with the smell which is part and parcel of the water supply. To augment the Pemberton weir it has been the practice of the Public Works Department over recent years to release water from Scally Gully. There has been a release of water down the stream to augment the Pemberton supply. No doubt it is a very useful method in terms of new water. However, the loss through the filling of holes and evaporation as the water comes down accounts for a considerable amount of the water released.

Everyone knows the last two years have been dry. In 1976 the Scally Gully dam level just reached the dam wall. In 1977 water did not flow; no water was released last year.

The last point which should not be lost sight of is that the water is not only for the town but also for the trout hatchery. On three occasions the hatchery's breeding stock has been lost through ineffective supplies of water. This may not sound much until one understands what it means. The inadequacy of water supplies has been of serious concern to the Trout Acclimatisation Society and, latterly, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife which has taken charge of the hatchery.

As I have said, the breeding stock has been lost on occasions and much time is needed to breed back the numbers. The importance of the trout hatchery to Pemberton should not be underestimated. Just for the record, the figures revealed by the Pemberton-Northcliffe Tourist Bureau are quite interesting. The finances of the bureau were \$14 000 in total. This was made up of a grant of \$1 250 which was matched by the Tourist Development Authority. It had a further \$8 000 of income earned. The bulk of this income earned was from the trout hatchery; that is, the contributions of visitors who passed through. This in itself earned another \$3 000 subsidy from the TDA which was the maximum it could receive from earnings. Finally a straightout grant of \$3 000 made a total of \$14 000.

I might add that wages accounted for \$4 500. Without the trout hatchery the total income for that tourist bureau would be a \$1 250 grant from the shire with a matching grant from the TDA, and a further \$1 000, making \$3 000. Therefore the Pemberton-Northcliffe Tourist Bureau in effect derives \$10 500 from the trout hatchery.

The number of people who have been through the hatchery since it opened on Boxing Day is 17 000, which is a staggering number in such a short period and in such a small town. The hatchery was closed from May until Boxing Day, but since that time—in less than half a year—17 000 people have visited it. This is a tremendous effort and shows the part the trout hatchery plays in tourism in the lower south-west. It is one of the unique features and has a perennial attraction to young and old alike. Without it the tourist bureau would be virtually bankrupt. It would cease to be the progressive and innovating type of bureau we would all like to have in country areas. Without the assistance of the hatchery the bureau would be virtually defunct. Probably it would be able to maintain just the barest of information centres, and nothing else, whereas at present it fulfils a very useful and real function.

In his reply the Premier went to some pains to stress the points which were raised and he answered the five of them in some detail, but with

a lack of understanding which is regrettable because, as Treasurer, he is a figure of some importance when it comes to a consideration of matters of this kind.

He went on to say that the present sources supplying Manjimup should be adequate until about 1984 and that the water available to the trout hatchery from Manjimup will gradually reduce as the Manjimup consumption increases. However, it cannot reduce any further because it has not had any. This last year it had to embark on a recycling programme, therefore that part of the answer becomes redundant at present under the existing conditions.

Mr O'Connor: It has been a most difficult year.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It has been, and so was last year and the year before. As I pointed out, on three occasions the breeding stock has been lost. It takes some years to build up a breeding stock once it is lost, and this is the unfortunate part. A storage dam is the answer.

Mr O'Connor: I think the pump broke down, did it not?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The foot valve stuck during the night on one occasion and resulted in the total loss of all the fish, but there were two other occasions when a loss occurred. What the Minister says is perfectly correct.

The Premier went on to say that it should be possible to maintain adequate supplies to the trout hatchery until 1980 or 1981, except in exceedingly dry years. We have had a couple of those already. He said that Pemberton can be supplied if the amount for the trout hatchery is reduced. But that is only half the story. The supply to the town is the other half. Recently a new motel was opened and the demands on the town of Pemberton are increasing. Therefore during the stress months—the summer months—the worst aspects of the water supply manifest themselves because of the visitors. I have already indicated that 17 000 people visited the hatchery. So I place these points on record because they certainly justify a further urgent re-examination. The problem goes far beyond the supply of a country town in that sense. Virtually the whole of the tourist industry in the lower south-west is involved as well. The Government needs to further examine this problem urgently.

I would now like to turn to several other matters, as the Address-in-Reply motion affords me the opportunity to do so.

It demonstrates the poor cohesion within the present Government when a committee of Government back-benchers is unable to convince the Government of the need for some re-

evaluation of the SEC connection fees in country areas. I understand that the committee in its entirety was composed of country members and it expressed its concern—unfortunately the Minister involved is not here—that as from August last year the connection fees charged by the SEC increased by 100 per cent. The committee members were not informed of that action prior to its taking place. Those on this side of the House are fairly immune and used to that sort of cavalier treatment, but we thought country members opposite at least would merit a little more courtesy than they received. We have developed a certain degree of tolerance in these matters.

I notice that you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), were a member of that committee and therefore you would be interested in what I am saying. The strong criticism of the committee was that charges were increased 100 per cent as from August last year. I could ascertain the grounds of objection only from *The West Australian* of the 16th March, this year, because a copy of the report of the committee was not tabled, nor was it made available to members of the Opposition. It could have been very useful reading, and so we regret very much that we were not able to examine it in some detail.

According to the newspaper the grounds of the objection were that the charges were based wholly and solely on economics, with no regard for the capacity of the potential customer to pay. That is not a bad sort of ground, and it should be examined thoroughly.

The committee recommended that the Government should consider other ways of achieving a more equitable method of providing power to potential rural customers. The implication is that the metropolitan users should contribute more. That is my interpretation of the feature article. Whether or not the committee did really imply that is, to some extent, conjecture. However, the committee did recommend that other more equitable methods should be examined. It pointed out, too, that in July, 1976, a decision was reversed. According to the article the Government made a political decision not to allow the commission to increase its tariff by 20 per cent although the SEC argument was economically sound. It was economically sound in this case, too, and the committee suggested that a similar decision should be made on political grounds.

However, there is not much chance of that as we well know, because in July 1976, there was an election fairly close in the offing; but here we are in March, 1978, and something like 24 months

will elapse before another election, unless something very untoward happens in Government circles. All things being equal, and there being no great turmoil, we can expect very little in the way of a re-evaluation of this matter on political grounds.

The cost of connection is one of concern and at present, under the contributory scheme, the total project is costed and the apportionment of that cost is determined for the individual by discussion between the members of the contributory scheme and representatives of the SEC. I might add that the officers of the SEC with whom I have been associated on this matter have certainly been helpful and obliging. They have attended meetings and have given direction and guidance on the various schemes and have gone beyond the call of their normal duties in some instances. There is no complaint on the efficacy of the staff members of the SEC.

Payment is made in advance with quarterly instalments to cover annual operating costs or, alternatively, the total payment of the base capital cost times 1.7 can be paid initially with no further quarterly costs. The total amount, of course, is recouped after 30 years by the contributor without interest. Whether or not this is a fair basis, when we have regard for the compounding effect that the base capital cost would have if invested, is open to question. I would suggest that the SEC could be on a fairly reasonable wicket. The members of the scheme may not contribute the full cost, but by the method of financing, with regard for inflation and the compounding interest as it applies, I think the consumer would come out on the worst end and that the SEC has itself quite a reasonably good business deal on the whole thing.

Mr McPharlin: What would be the average cost of connection?

Mr H. D. EVANS: Two fairly urgent questions arise, and they are questions the Minister could well study. Why does the scheme have a limit of \$3 000? If the contribution required from an individual exceeds \$3 000, the scheme is not considered. The person becomes ineligible. There must be a reason for that. What would be the position if the cost were \$3 200? These are the people who would have the greatest need and I cannot understand why they should be debarred from a facility for which they are prepared to pay.

Mr Mensaros: I can tell you in two sentences if you want to listen. I do not want to take up your time. The simple reason is that you have to draw the line somewhere. It is not only the cost of the connection, but also the cost of additional

transformers and upgrading the transmission lines. The further you connect it the more it costs. If we were to connect all the people in Western Australia who wanted to be connected, it would cost about \$30 million in capital expenditure. That is the reason.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The line has been drawn at \$3 000.

Mr Mensaros: It is an arbitrary line.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The explanation does not ring true when the Minister talks in terms of transformers and so on.

Mr Mensaros: It does.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The initial free amount by the SEC is not great. Transformers are necessary whether short or great distances are involved.

Mr Mensaros: But the further you go the more you have to add. It is the same with water supplies. If you want to go further you must have pumps.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The method of computing the cost is open to question. The amount will be recouped over 30 years and having regard for the compounding interest over those years, I am of the opinion that the SEC comes out on the right side of the ledger.

Mr Mensaros: You talk to them. I will be happy to make officers available to you to discuss the matter. If you have any sense of accounting you must see that I am right.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It would be up to the Minister to supply the exact figures. As it is the situation is anomalous. I am not saying it is defrauding, but the SEC is on the better side of the deal. Country members opposite should have a closer look at the situation.

Mr McPharlin: What would it cost for connections down there?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The 100 per cent increase in the fee last August far exceeds the cost of inflation over that period.

Mr Mensaros: Since 1972?

Mr H. D. EVANS: It exceeds greatly the CPI increase.

Mr Mensaros: Your Government started the scheme.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Not 100 per cent in one hit.

Mr Mensaros: You did not raise the fees for political reasons.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Let us consider the past five years. Increases were not 100 per cent. It is obvious the Government is using even the connection fee as a taxing measure.

The committee raised an objection about the Government's heavy hand. We have grown used to discourtesy. It serves country members right that they are getting a taste of it. It is a pity the committee did not pay similar regard to State Housing Commission charges and matters of that nature. Had it done so, the National Country Party would not have finished up with 4 per cent of the vote at the last election; it would have had considerably greater appeal.

I am disappointed in the extreme that the Minister for Agriculture is not present.

Mr Bryce: He is out checking the numbers.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I want to refer to the political notes in *The West Australian* last week. As a man of discernment with an understanding of rural matters, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), you must have had difficulty in suppressing a smile. In his political notes the Minister listed the achievements of the present Federal Government and the Government of this State. I was impressed. He cited 11 items in respect of the State Government.

I must admit the Opposition agrees with and would have expected the first few items mentioned; namely, the extension of the limits of concessional drought relief loans to \$40 000 for areas affected by drought, and assistance to country businesses and local government in drought areas. No-one would cavil at those measures. We recognise the need for them and would have done likewise had we been in a similar position.

The extension of the area to which the water supply loans scheme will apply is also commendable. It is similar to action the Tonkin Government took. I might add that prior to the Tonkin Government coming to office the previous coalition Government would not amend the Rural and Industries Bank Act to enable relief loans to be given to the settlers on the south coast in the Jerramungup and new land areas. That situation changed only when the Tonkin Government came to office. So our bona fides are established when we acknowledge the need for and greet with some approbation the measures taken in that direction.

The abolition of probate duty and the extension of criteria for loans to new land farmers are for the future. Market intelligence and reporting from the Department of Agriculture was commenced some five years ago.

The Minister's political notes also mention the meat marketing referendum; and what a referendum it was. The dice were never more loaded and the result never more predictable. When that is included as an achievement of this

Government, one wonders at the Government's motives and approach when it comes to fairness and equality.

Mr Blaikie: You are not suggesting the referendum was loaded, are you?

Mr Skidmore: It was loaded, all right.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister also mentioned the accelerated development of Middle East markets and the remodelling of the Department of Agriculture. I would like to point out that when I asked during the Budget debate last year what this implied, the Minister could not tell me. I hope he has brought himself up to date with his department since then.

As far as the development of Middle East markets is concerned, marketing is very urgent. It is the crux of the survival of many farmers today, and without major reform many of them will go to the wall. The Minister did not say how it will be achieved. The rural committee is a forum for discussion. The Government says, "We will refer these matters to a committee. We have a major committee and we can shovel them all into the committee." But what about the recommendations that emerge? There has not been a single piece of initiative from the Government parties in the history of rural legislation, and we well know why: the Liberal Party is not game and the National Country Party cannot bring itself to take any initiative.

Mr Blaikie: What about market reporting? You must agree that was an innovation.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Bureau of Agricultural Economics tells us that farmers' incomes will decrease by 14 per cent. To alleviate the situation some positive action is required, not the setting up of a conference and the introduction of loaded meat referendums. We need some action to get down to the real problem; that is, to retain as many as possible of the traditional farming units. This can be achieved only by market reform, which will not be done by the Government.

Mrs Craig: It certainly will not be done by you.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Minister also made reference to the achievements in the Federal sphere and castigated the Whitlam Government. I would like to point out some of the shortcomings of and the very noticeable omissions from the Minister's statement. He very carefully did not draw attention to the fact that it was the Whitlam Government which established the floor price scheme for wool. The Whitlam Government committed \$2 million to that, and it was the biggest single initiative since the last war. It was the Whitlam Government that introduced the scheme, as it introduced wheat stabilisation and

increased the first payment for the first time in 16 years. The Liberal and National Country Parties had 23 years to do something about it and did not do a thing.

Probably the most significant reform of the Whitlam era was the establishment of the Industries Assistance Commission, as a result of which no longer does the assistance to rural industries have to remain hidden. It is laid on the Table of the House, which has led to a far greater appreciation of rural problems than was hitherto the case. It was very one-sided when people could not refer to the various types of assistance by the Government, but it was very difficult to get through in Federal rural policy the fact that rural industries were hard pressed. The IAC has assisted very considerably in that regard.

I intended to make a list of some of the things which had been introduced by the Tonkin Labor Government for the benefit of rural industries.

Mr Blaikie: That would not take long.

Mr H. D. EVANS: There were such things as the establishment of the Lamb Marketing Board, which has received two awards this year. Once again we see the Government trying to pooh-pooh that. If the Government gets rid of the Lamb Marketing Board it will lose something which is worth while. One of the first actions of the Government when it took office four years ago was an attempt to do just that as the member for Vasse knows.

The Tonkin Government also established the Dairy Industry Authority, which is the vehicle by which the industry was restructured and which has certainly offered far greater hope for the Vasse electorate than was ever envisaged by the farmers in that district.

Mr B. T. Burke: He does not deny that, I notice.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Tonkin Government also instituted certain innovations in abattoirs because of the wreckage it inherited, and it took action to maintain the cotton growers in the Ord River area. These matters were studiously omitted by the Minister.

Those are some of the matters I felt should be raised in view of the very one-sided political notes which the Minister for Agriculture saw fit to publish in *The West Australian* last week. His own shortcomings are so great that they do not bear thinking about. He had the temerity to say in essence that his party notes the requirements of rural dwellers. He may know what they want but they will never get what they want from the coalition Government. The sooner the farmers get

back to a Labor Government, the greater will be their prospects of salvation.

Government members interjected.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The Liberal Party will not buck the vested interests and the Country Party does not dare to.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [8.41 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply which was moved by my colleague the member for Murdoch. It gives me great pleasure to join with others in congratulating the member for Murdoch on the comments he made when moving the motion on the opening night of this session.

Mr Bryce: They were very provocative on such a ceremonial occasion.

Mr HASSELL: I will take the opportunity of the latitude afforded by the Address-in-Reply debate to discuss the subject of industrial relations. I want to put forward some ideas about the system of industrial relations which exists here under the industrial arbitration legislation of the Commonwealth and the State. I will use some current examples but my real objective is to suggest that these examples indicate the need for a review of the system. I am aware that the Industrial Arbitration Act of Western Australia is at present under review by Senior Commissioner Kelly. My comments are generalised and tentative rather than directly relevant to his work. Therefore I do not think I am cutting across that work.

The December, 1977-January, 1978 edition of the magazine *Facts*, which I think we were all sent and which is a publication of the Institute of Public Affairs in Victoria, contains a very interesting quotation from one George Meany, the President of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organisations, which is the United States equivalent of the ACTU. Mr Meany is at the head of the joint secretariat.

Mr Meany started his working life as a plumber's apprentice at the age of 10. This is what he had to say, as quoted in the magazine—

I stand for the profit system; I believe it's a wonderful incentive.

I believe in the free enterprise system completely.

I believe in return on capital investment.

I believe in Management's right to manage.

And believing in all these things, as a

representative of free labour, what is there left for us to disagree about?

It is merely for us to disagree, if you please, as to what share the worker gets from the wealth produced by the particular enterprise.

In the final analysis, no union can gain anything—I am speaking now of American Unions, not a Communist controlled union—no union can gain anything by putting the fellow out of business who fills the pay envelope.

The interest of the worker and the employer must be identical in an industry because they both have to get their livelihood from whatever is produced by the industry.

I wonder whether any member of this House can imagine that the President of the ACTU would ever say anything like that, or ever represent that point of view and that attitude in respect of industrial relations. It is because, of course, he would not do that, that our system of industrial relations is so differently based.

The United States system is based on private contract after a process of collective bargaining. Our system is based on State intervention through a legally structured arbitration system. The historically different attitude of the labour movement in Australia is no doubt the background to our entirely different system, which is different both in form and in practice.

I am not saying here that the United States system is better. I have no doubt it has great deficiencies; and, of course, at certain points in industrial dispute it becomes an interventionist system as well. My concern is with the interventionist system of industrial relations in Australia.

Mr Skidmore: Then why draw the comparison between the two?

Mr HASSELL: I was simply drawing a comparison with the attitude towards the system, and I believe our system probably is interventionist because of the different historical attitude; but that is really by the way in a sense.

Mr B. T. Burke: The Taft Hartley Act has been invoked 32 times there, hasn't it?

Mr HASSELL: I do not know the number of times it has been invoked. I have just said that at a certain point in industrial dispute intervention comes in, but in many cases there is no intervention. It is basically a different system.

I believe this subject of industrial relations is one of the most important political and social subjects in Australia at present. It is a subject

which affects us all and at least to some extent it transcends the differences of party politics.

Industrial power is now of such magnitude that it is a challenge to the authority of elected Governments; it is a challenge to the state itself—I am not talking about the State of Western Australia, but about the state structure—and it is also a challenge to the whole community and their representatives in Parliament who reflect the will of the people.

Organised industrial power—exercised by unions and groups of unions and employers and groups of employers—is something from which none of us, whether involved in industry or not, can escape. My concern is as to how far the state can protect us from the detrimental effects of the exercise of industrial power.

There are many laws on the subject, but some are not enforceable and are therefore totally ineffective.

Mr Skidmore: When you speak of industrial power, you are referring to the side of the unions, the side of the employers, and so on?

Mr HASSELL: Indeed I am. I am speaking of the exercise of industrial power by the people engaged in industrial combat from time to time.

If ever two Governments had a mandate to do anything, it is my belief that the present State Government and the present Federal Government have a mandate to curb the abuse of industrial power. If ever two Governments were elected for anything, they were elected by the fear which exists in our community of the abuse of industrial power.

Mr Tonkin: By whom?

Mr HASSELL: I want to leave it on the basis of the abuse of industrial power and develop the point later.

Mr Skidmore interjected.

Mr HASSELL: It is not my endeavour tonight necessarily to adopt a totally partisan stand, although I will necessarily be partisan to some extent. I am trying to put forward some thoughts which may be impracticable or impossible, but I am trying to put them forward in the hope that what I see as a major political and social problem will receive more attention in a general way—not attention in today's dispute or tomorrow's dispute, but attention in a general way.

What I question, and what I am concerned about, is what will occur if Governments under the pressure and under the encouragement of a very disgruntled public are pushed too far in their endeavour to enforce the industrial laws and to

carry out punishments which are presently prescribed.

The system of industrial arbitration under the Acts provides representation for the combatants in industrial conflict. Employees with a grievance are represented by unions, and employers if they are large enough or if they are corporate bodies represent themselves or they get together into groups and are represented by employer organisations. Both are entitled to a hearing before the industrial courts and commissions, and so is the State in certain cases, representing the community.

However, affected individuals—third parties—have no right to representation and have no right to put their point of view or their problem, or their economic damage to the courts and commissions, although those problems might arise from the dispute.

I want to use two recent examples. The first is the oil tanker drivers' dispute of a few months ago. That was a dispute about union power; it was not a dispute about pay and conditions, because they were not an issue in it.

Mr Skidmore: They were, you know.

Mr HASSELL: The fuel agents have traditionally carted their own fuel from the oil company depots to their dumps. The Transport Workers' Union sought—and I understand continues to seek—to exclude agents from collecting their own fuel.

Mr Jamieson: The agents were going further than that; they were then starting to cart it to other depots.

Mr HASSELL: The agents were exercising their right to carry on their business: what a dreadful thing to do! The union was really seeking to extend its position. It wanted to wrap up the industry and ensure that only employees compulsorily unionised would be moving fuel. It wanted to be sure that when there was a strike there would be no-one left who could defy the union. That is what the dispute was about; the union was not trying to protect its members; there was no question of anyone being put out of work, and there were guarantees of continuation of employment.

The dispute resulted in some form of a strike with the usual thing we have seen over the last couple of weeks: pickets. The fuel agents were forcibly excluded from collecting their fuel and were denied access to the oil companies.

The matter ended up in the Commonwealth Industrial Commission. What happened? The fuel agents sat in the corridor outside because they

were not represented and could not be represented in that commission. Their point of view, their rights, their livelihood, and their economic interests were ignored while the commission sat in its ivory tower of isolation and fought a battle between a couple of organisations which were not directly affected and did not lose much from their own pockets.

My second example refers to the situation in the north of the State. In more than one mining town in the north, the dominant mining company has made agreements with all unions involved in the area. These agreements contain provisions to create closed towns—not closed shops, because they extend far beyond the mining company sites themselves.

The mining companies have voluntarily bound themselves to use union labour to keep their sites free of anyone but union labour and to force their subcontractors and contractors to use unionist labour, which the unions in the town want.

Mr Tonkin: Do you say the mining companies did this voluntarily?

Mr HASSELL: Yes, under pressure from unions when entering into industrial agreements.

Mr Tonkin: Conscripted voluntarily.

Mr HASSELL: I do not want to be technical about this point. I will continue on to comment about the irresponsibility of mining companies in making these agreements. I will now quote a clause included in the order form of a major mining company in this State, as follows—

Important Industrial Relations Advice.

This order is only offered on the basis that the Contractor comply to the following conditions.

- (a) All employees of the Contractor are financial members of an appropriate union prior to work commencing at any (mining company) site.
- (b) The Contractor shall provide the names and proof of union membership of each employee to the respective site industrial officer.
- (c) Allows the principal (mining company) to inspect at any time a register maintained by the Contractor on the work site showing name, engagement, date and union membership of his labour force.
- (d) The Contractor agrees to advise the site industrial officer of any changes in employees during such work being carried out.

It is not hard to imagine the impact that such

provisions have on a mining company town, or a town in the north of the State which is dominated by a major mining company.

Mr Skidmore: What a lot of garbage.

Mr HASSELL: It is not difficult to imagine the impact this has on individual people in such towns. One wonders what place is left for the individual who seeks to exercise his undoubted democratic right not to belong to a union and not to be unionised in that way. One wonders where he will get employment.

Mr Skidmore: The assumption you make is not valid. You assume that everyone who goes to the north is forced to become a unionist when he goes there. That is the assumption to be drawn from your argument.

Mr Sodeman: You are saying that the subcontract labour force in the area—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cottesloe has indicated he is not interested in answering interjections, and should be given the opportunity to continue his speech. The two members having a conversation across the Chamber will desist.

Mr Skidmore: It is the first time it has happened in four years, and it won't happen again.

Mr HASSELL: It is known that these provisions have destroyed some small businessmen in northern towns, and have driven them out. Their businesses were destroyed because they were not prepared to comply with those provisions.

Members should bear in mind that those provisions are not simply used to make those businesses comply; they are used also as a backup to the total union objective of totally unionised towns where their intimidatory tactics cannot be challenged by anyone and where, when they embark on a course of industrial unrest, everyone is forced to co-operate.

Under the industrial arbitration system as it presently exists, the individuals affected—the small businessmen—are not represented in the Industrial Commissions when in reality they are affected by industrial issues. The oil companies and the mining companies, as is their right, follow blatant self-interest and blatant financial interest when they deal with these matters. Oil companies do not really care whether the fuel is carted in tankers owned by them and driven by employee-drivers, and in the case of mining companies it is simply a matter of what is cheaper—the industrial action which occurs if they do not fall in with these agreements or the compliance with

the agreements. They comply; they have complied and they stand condemned by their compliance.

I refer to the existing remedies at law available for people who are affected—third parties affected by industrial disputation. Those remedies exist in law and in theory; they are far from effective in practice. In reality it is not possible to get damages from unions and union officials, and they thump their noses at the courts.

Secondly, damages are not always the solution. The small businessmen in the north do not necessarily want to pack up and leave town, even if they get substantial damages for the breach of some contract they have with a mining company, the breach having occurred under the direction of a union, or the industrial agreement. They do not want to leave the place where they have made their lives and their livelihood, their friends and their families. They do not want to be driven out because they refuse to comply with industrial arrangements made in a conspiracy between the mining companies and the unions.

Thirdly, existing remedies are inadequate in terms of civil action because it is often too late in a court far removed from the industrial heat that created the problem and in a court without real power to give a real remedy.

I suggest there is a real problem for individuals and that the existing system is inadequate to protect people who are damaged. It is desperately urgent that some new solutions be found, some new methods of enforcement be evolved. It should be remembered that the essence of industrial arbitration law is the establishment of legally enforceable minimum—not fixed, or maximum—wages and working conditions.

The whole community, through the operation of the law, provides for the protection of employed people. I do not question this principle.

Mr Skidmore: All award wages are minimum.

Mr HASSELL: That is the point I am making; they are not maximum awards, they are minimum awards, protected by the operation of the law and enforced by the courts.

The whole community protects the employed man, and as the price of that protection I suggest it is not unreasonable for the community to expect a guaranteed level of compliance with the industrial law and recognition of the interests of all groups which are affected by the industrial disputation.

There is a great need for more enforcement of the law, and not just more law. There is a need for new ways to enforce industrial law. It is simply of no value to continue to fill up the

Statute book with more and more laws, forbidding this and outlawing that, unless in the course of doing so we incorporate an effective, workable system whereby those laws are recognised and enforced.

Mr Skidmore: Surely the penalty of gaol for a union official who breaks the industrial law is enough.

Mr HASSELL: It is very easy for the member for Swan to talk like that, but he would be one of the loudest to complain if one of his colleagues in the union movement was put in gaol for breach of industrial laws. I am suggesting that it is too divisive of the community to continue with the present system. In fact, the course suggested by the member for Swan is not followed, and we must arrive at some new methods of enforcement, some new means of bringing people to a recognition of their responsibilities under the law.

I suggest that consideration should be given to three things: Firstly, less legal recognition of industrial combatants. Perhaps we could even abolish under a precise system and in certain cases guaranteed minimum wages. What a remarkable effect that would have in increasing employment, because market forces would operate and more people would get jobs.

If the arbitration system continues to be treated with utter contempt, as it is by some groups, perhaps the system itself should be reconsidered. The community might not want to continue to extend that legal structure to people who do not want to recognise it and give it due deference and obedience.

Secondly, I suggest we give to all affected persons a right to be heard in the industrial arbitration courts and commissions, so that people like the fuel agents would not be left in the corridors and so that people who are put out of business by conspiratorial agreements in the north-west can have a place where they can have their grievance aired in the heat of the moment. I emphasise I am putting forward these suggestions merely for consideration; I am not suggesting that they be carried out tomorrow as a matter of Government policy.

Thirdly, we could consider requiring registered unions to give substantial bonds as a condition of continued registration. Again, I recognise it would have to vary between unions, depending on their size and capacity. The bonds would be a guarantee of compliance with awards and agreements and would provide a source of payment of damages to civil litigants.

The present system exists to solve the conflict between employers and employees. However, the

situation today is that the structure of large unions and groups of unions and large employers and groups of employers is more complex and other people are adversely affected. The examples I have given of the fuel agents and the people in the north of our State are just two which indicate that the public, generally, are in a position where they need some protection, but at the moment they are not part of the dispute-solving system.

Mr Skidmore: I take it you are suggesting there should be a change in the application of the common rule part of arbitration.

Mr HASSELL: Well, I think that is off the point.

Mr Skidmore: No, because it allows flexibility. Then, the question of responsiveness would be dependent on a roping-in clause being inserted in State awards.

Mr HASSELL: I must say I have not studied the matter fully but I am not very satisfied in my mind that the common rule is a just system of making people become bound by awards.

Mr Skidmore: It creates greater industrial harmony than the roping-in system.

Mr HASSELL: I do not want to go off the point, because I have gone longer than I intended. I am suggesting that simply creating industrial harmony, as has been achieved to some extent in the north by these agreements, is not enough because there are people who have rights and interests which the State has a duty to protect but which are not protected when conspiratorial agreements which create industrial harmony are entered into. When the hard bargaining is done, the employers and employees, whether as individuals or as unions, leave well behind the interests of these third parties.

I am not attacking the fact, but these people are governed purely by their own pockets and their own economic self-interest. I am not suggesting that is wrong except that I think in an interventionist system we have to build in some protection for other people.

Employers are just as tough and ruthless in many cases as unions, in dealing with rebels. There is nothing a big employer likes less than the rebel in the ranks who does not want to join the union, who does not want to conform and who creates problems for his employer. He is always quite happy to see that employee go.

Compulsory union membership in all its forms should be outlawed. I am not simply suggesting the provision which allows it to be created by preference or otherwise should be removed; I am suggesting that the institution of compulsory

unionism as it comes to exist in fact should be illegal.

Mr Skidmore: That means anybody who is 100 per cent union should be dealt with as being completely outside the law.

Mr HASSELL: I am afraid the member for Swan is completely misunderstanding the point I am making by that remark.

It should be an offence to replace compulsory unions with a closed-shop situation.

I also suggest we should give consideration to having some positive arbitration laws. At present, technically, strikes are illegal but those provisions in the legislation are quite ineffective and unenforceable. I put forward the proposition that perhaps they should be repealed and the so-called "right to strike" should be recognised, but on conditions. Perhaps those conditions might be that there need be a proper democratic vote of the people concerned. Perhaps the conditions in the law should be that strikes are allowed in all but essential service industries. The point is that I think it is worth while to consider whether these ineffective provisions might be replaced.

Secondly, I put the point of the possibility of incorporating a right to picket, but again on condition that it be done peacefully and that those who picket do not interfere with the lawful movement of any person and do not attempt to stop people from crossing the so-called picket lines. In some countries, the right to picket has been written into legislation, with conditions.

Mr Tonkin: Picketing is defined!

Mr HASSELL: I believe it is in the United Kingdom and Canada.

My purpose has been to put forward these suggestions—I emphasise the word "suggestions"—and to point out what I see as some weaknesses in the present system. Industrial power in our community is a reality; it is having a detrimental effect on some people. It is being abused by some people. Some unions are going too far. Some employers are so irresponsible as to accept too much. I suggest that in an interventionist system such as we have there is a proper role for the Government to examine the position and to say that it has gone too far.

I believe that the abuse of industrial power which now occurs has gone too far and is a danger to the individual people in this State and in Australia. Unless some method can be found by which it is restrained, brought under control and put under the law as it should be and as all people in the State should be, there is a danger that our system will—if not immediately, then in the

foreseeable future—break down. We see the North-West Shelf development coming up. I would hope to see the situation in the north of the State cleaned up before more major industry is established there.

Mr Jamieson: Do you not think there is going to be some industrial strife on that? There has been in the North Sea.

Mr HASSELL: I am not talking about industrial strife as such. I am talking about the situation where the objective of the union movement appears to be to create a gigantic closed shop throughout the north of the State. I am sorry to say it appears to have the support—tacit, bludgeoned, or whatever—of certain companies. I think that situation and other situations which we see, are a danger to our liberty and to the rights of the individuals in our community and that they ought to be examined.

MR HODGE (Melville) [9.16 p.m.]: The field of public health is usually one in which most Governments take a close interest. Governments usually take an interest in every aspect of it. And so Governments should. It is my intention tonight to bring to the attention of Parliament and of the Government an aspect of public health in this State which I believe has been badly neglected. I am talking about the regulation and control of the practice of chiropractic.

The Chiropractors Act was passed through the State Parliament 14 years ago amid great controversy and only after a Select Committee and a Royal Commission had deliberated and reported in detail to the Government and to Parliament on the matter.

In 1964 the Act was described as a "trail blazer". In the past 14 years the trail has grown rather cold. Parliament and successive Governments have completely ignored the legislation, perhaps because of apathy, or complacency, or for some other reason. This neglect has had seriously detrimental effects on the regulation and control of the profession in this State in respect of both the public and the chiropractors themselves.

In order to expose what is happening in this State today, I need to go back to 1959 and relate the background to the Chiropractors Act. On Wednesday, the 9th September, 1959, John Tonkin, the member for Melville and Deputy Leader of the Opposition at that time, introduced a Bill into the Legislative Assembly to provide for the training, qualification, and registration of persons as natural therapists and the practice of natural therapies.

The Bill was debated and the second reading

was passed. It was then referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee had two meetings and then applied for the status of an Honorary Royal Commission because of the adjournment of the House.

The Royal Commission sat for 29 days and interviewed 48 witnesses. The report of the Royal Commission was presented to Parliament on the 23rd August, 1961. An Act known as the Chiropractors Act, 1964, finally came into operation on the 1st July, 1966.

The Act created the Chiropractors Registration Board. The board was granted wide powers to regulate and control the practice of chiropractors in this State. The board, with the approval of the Governor, had the power to make regulations prescribing the course of study and training, including practical experience to be undertaken and examinations to be passed by persons desiring to be registered as chiropractors under the Act. It was given the power to regulate the holding of examinations, to appoint examiners, and to issue diplomas and certificates.

The board was authorised also to conduct examinations. Board members were allowed to be appointed as examiners and to be paid if they performed that work. In addition, the board was given responsibility for issuing licences, registering chiropractors, and maintaining professional ethics and standards, and many other associated matters.

Although the Act was reasonably specific in the areas I have mentioned, it was not satisfactory overall. It failed to come to grips with some of the most serious problems facing the profession. That fact was acknowledged by the then Minister for Health (Mr Ross Hutchinson) when introducing the Bill.

On the 27th August, 1964, at page 649 of *Hansard* Mr Hutchinson, as he then was, said—

I suggest that this legislation before members will probably fall far short of perfection, but I ask them to appreciate that it tends to blaze the way, here in this State anyway; and to try to view it as a beginning. From this, perhaps, better things can arise as the legislation is implemented and the board works under it.

Towards the conclusion of his introductory remarks Mr Hutchinson issued another warning, as follows—

I do not for a moment—and I said so earlier—think the Bill will be found to be perfect; it will probably be far from it.

Not only did the Minister for Health think the

Bill was unsatisfactory, but the person who had been responsible for initiating the action and who had sat on the Royal Commission—that is, John Tonkin—also criticised the Bill and said it was far from satisfactory.

When debating the measure on Thursday, the 3rd September, 1964, John Tonkin pointed out and highlighted the deficiencies and injustices built into the legislation. These remarks can be found in *Hansard* at pages 739 to 745.

I will return to the reservations Mr Tonkin had about the legislation a little further on in my remarks when we shall be able to see how accurate his predictions turned out to be.

Why was the Bill so unsatisfactory if it was based on the expert findings of a Royal Commission? The Royal Commission's recommendations could be summarised into five major points. They were as follows—

1. that chiropractors should be registered;
2. that unlicensed chiropractors should be prohibited;
3. that there should be a grandfather clause in favour of existing practitioners;
4. that a board be established to administer the profession, consisting of a Queen's Counsel as chairman, two medical practitioners, and two chiropractors; and
5. that there should be an avenue of appeal against any unfavourable decision of the board concerning a chiropractor to a judge of the Supreme Court.

Only two of those five recommendations were included in the legislation. Three major recommendations of the Royal Commission were ignored. Is it any wonder that today, 14 years later, an Act that was unsatisfactory when introduced is far from satisfactory now and is leaving a lot to be desired?

A study of the debate in both Houses in the relevant pages of *Hansard* revealed that there were reservations held by several members about the operation of the board. Some members mentioned that there would be a need to review the Act after it had been operating for a time.

For the past 14 years that Act has remained unamended. There has not been a single amendment to the Chiropractors Act since it passed through this House in 1964.

Once it had disposed of this controversial and troublesome piece of legislation Parliament forgot about it. The board has been left to run itself and impose its will by the use of its wide regulation-making powers. Today in Western Australia we have a Chiropractors Registration Board which appears to be more concerned with maintaining a

monopoly for American-trained chiropractors practising in this State than with policing standards or protecting the public. The board is dominated by overseas-trained chiropractors who appear to grant almost automatic registration to any applicant trained overseas while steadfastly refusing registration to any person trained in Australia.

It appears to me that the board has been run in a most dictatorial and discriminatory manner and seems most unprofessional in its operations. I mentioned earlier that Mr John Tonkin, the man responsible for the initial legislation, predicted several undesirable situations arising as a result of inadequacies in the Act. Mr Tonkin was correct on almost every point. In *Hansard*, on the 3rd September, 1964, at page 744, Mr Tonkin said—

Another important weakness in my view is the fact that we are going to leave it to the board to make its own arrangements with regard to the requirements for admission for registration. I think Parliament ought to declare what it thinks about this. If we do not know, then we should not be passing the legislation; if we cannot make up our minds about the basic requirements for registration we have no right to pass the Bill. So in my view it should be set out in the Act. We should say to the board, "Those are the principles upon which you can admit persons"...

Mr Tonkin's warning was completely ignored and the board was given the total right to decide who would be registered and who would be refused registration without Parliament imposing any safeguards or restrictions. This has resulted in a ludicrous situation in this State, in respect of the registration of chiropractors.

The board adopted rules which specified that applicants for registration, holding qualifications from three overseas colleges would be accepted as being qualified here in Western Australia. The colleges are—

The Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, USA.

The National College of Chiropractic, 633 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, 4 Indiana, USA.

The Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, 252 Bloor Street, West Toronto, Canada.

A subsection of that rule does state that any applicant who was trained at a college with similar standards and curriculums as those colleges would also be acceptable. That rule appears to have been interpreted to mean that

graduates from colleges all over the USA are acceptable but graduates from any Australian college are unacceptable. Since the board came into operation approximately 14 years ago, not a single Australian-trained chiropractor has been registered in this State, with the exception of those chiropractors who were granted automatic registration under the so-called grandfather provision in the Act.

The board has stated in the media, and in reply to questions I have asked in Parliament, that to grant registration to Australian-trained chiropractors would mean sacrificing standards and jeopardising the public health. The professed concern for standards and safety by the board is just so much window dressing to cover up the real motives which appear to be the maintenance of the lucrative monopoly which overseas-trained chiropractors enjoy in Western Australia.

Some members may have noticed that during the last session of Parliament I directed a series of questions to the Minister for Health on the operations of the board. The answers supplied by the Minister—but no doubt written by the board—I believe substantiate the claims I have made.

On the 10th November, 1977, in question 1307 I asked whether the Australian-trained chiropractors who were granted registration under the grandfather provision had lowered the standards or endangered the health of the public. The board's reply was an emphatic "No".

I have been informed that certain chiropractors who were granted registration under that provision were not graduates of any American college or any Australian college, but were, in fact, self-taught or taught by friends and relatives. Those men today are amongst the most respected and successful chiropractors in the State.

On the 10th November I asked a further question—No. 1308—concerning what appeared to me to be the almost automatic registration of overseas-trained chiropractors. The board's reply admitted that persons from a number of American colleges which were not amongst the three named in the regulations had been registered. The board admitted that some persons were registered whilst resident overseas. It admitted that persons had been granted registration without appearing before the board or being examined by the board, but it was not known how many were registered in that manner or how many were resident overseas. How convenient!

The board did supply information stating that

there were 88 chiropractors registered with the board in Western Australia, but only 46 were currently practising in Western Australia. Members can draw their own conclusions from those facts.

I refer back again now to another point raised by Mr Tonkin during the second reading debate. It concerned the lack of provision of an avenue of appeal against the board's decisions. In *Hansard*, on the 3rd September, 1964, at page 741, Mr Tonkin said—

As far as I can see, there is no provision in the Bill for anyone to make an appeal if he is refused registration. I think that is a definite weakness and it should be remedied. I do not like this stand-and-deliver attitude without the right of appeal.

On page 743 Mr Tonkin again referred to the matter, and said—

I think we ought to put in a provision for an appeal. Even though it may never be used, it is a very good safeguard. It keeps boards on the rails to know that if they do not do the right thing the avenue is there for an appeal against what they do. It is an admirable provision to have in all legislation; otherwise we breed dictators, such as we have in the T.A.B., where they can tell anybody what they like and get away with it because there is no appeal.

Well, the prediction has come true. The Western Australian board has granted registration over the years to American and overseas-trained chiropractors without adequate inquiries or checks being made, but has deferred, fobbed off, or rejected applications from Australian-trained chiropractors. The board has done this in a most arbitrary way without conducting examinations or making adequate checks.

Australian-trained chiropractors are permitted to practise in every State of Australia except Western Australia. The reason for this remarkable state of affairs is that ever since its inception the board has had as members a majority of overseas chiropractors. This was another problem seen by Mr Tonkin in 1964. During the debate he pointed out the steps the New Zealand Government had taken to prevent the New Zealand board being taken over by any one group. The New Zealand Act prohibited more than two chiropractors from any one school being on the board at any time. Mr Tonkin said—

It could be one college or it could be several colleges following the same curriculum. Obviously the New Zealand Government did not want one group of

chiropractors to obtain control of the board, because it must have been felt that if that happened the other people—to use the vernacular—would not get “a guernsey”.

That is precisely the position as it is today in Western Australia. The board has been totally ignored by Parliament for 14 years. The board does not even have to make an annual report to Parliament. The board has wide-sweeping powers, and has become a law unto itself. Its word on registration is final; there is no avenue of appeal except back to the board.

The board has decreed that Australian-trained chiropractors *en bloc* are not acceptable to it. What an incredible situation! An Australian citizen, educated and trained in this country, is refused permission to practise his chosen profession in this State, while other persons, born and educated in a foreign country, are granted registration and the right to practise—sometimes without ever setting foot in Australia, much less Western Australia.

An examination of the replies to my questions on the operations of the board substantiate the allegations I have made concerning the board's unprofessional partisan approach to the question of registration. On Wednesday, the 14th September, 1977, I asked question 705 as follows—

What measures does the Chiropractors Registration Board take to ensure that the standards at the overseas colleges named in Chiropractors Registration Board rules 7 (a) (i), (ii), (iii) are still adequate and suitable for use as a criterion for registration in Western Australia?

The reply was—

By advice from individual members of the profession who are in contact with those colleges, reports from members of the board and published reports such as the Webb report.

I am sure that any member who studies the question I asked, and the board's reply, would feel most concerned and alarmed at the answer. The reply gives the strong impression that the board is running a “magic circle club”—a closed shop.

American-trained chiropractor members of the board asked other American-trained chiropractors registered with the board, and working under licence from the board, whether the American colleges teaching chiropractic were up to scratch. What sort of an answer would be expected?

To make certain there had not been a

misunderstanding, I asked a follow-up question as follows—

What checks are made to ensure that the curriculums and standards of certain other American colleges from which graduates have been registered are suitable and adequate for Western Australia?

The answer was that appropriate inquiries were made of members of the profession who had been overseas, and from published reports. Again, a most unsatisfactory answer and a most unsatisfactory situation. A further question related to the same point. I asked whether the board itself kept copies of the curriculums and standards from the three overseas colleges named in the rules as the State standard by which registration would be judged. The board admitted that it did not.

When the Minister for Health was asked, in questions 862 and 1041, whether he would see that the board obtained and kept up-to-date information of this type, he refused. In support of my allegation that no adequate measures are taken to evaluate applications by Australian-trained chiropractors, I draw the attention of any interested member to questions 707, 860, and 1043. The replies to those questions revealed that no graduates from any Australian colleges had ever been registered in Western Australia. The board stated it considered that no Australian college had a satisfactory standard of instruction.

The replies to my questions did reveal that one college, in Melbourne, was inspected in 1970 by three board members. Also, in June, 1977—seven years later—the deputy registrar of the board (Mr Walsh) inspected a college in South Australia. Later, acting on the strength of a confidential report on the South Australian college, submitted by Mr Walsh to the chairman of the board of the South Australian college, the board was prepared to declare that the South Australian college was unsatisfactory. It later refused an application from a chiropractor trained in that college. By the way, the deputy registrar is not a chiropractor; he is an accountant.

A recent Federal Government inquiry into chiropractic and other related fields, known as the Webb report, reveals that there are approximately 900 chiropractors practising in Australia today. It is conservatively estimated that they treat one-and-a-quarter million patients each year. Two-thirds of those chiropractors working in Australia have been trained in Australia. Australian-trained chiropractors are permitted to work in every State of Australia except Western Australia.

I have made a careful study of three major

reports on the subject of chiropractic: They are, the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Chiropractic, Osteopathy, Homoeopathy, and Naturopathy by a Federal Government committee chaired by Professor Edwin Webb; the report of a Select Committee of the Victorian Parliament; and the report of the Western Australian Honorary Royal Commission into the provisions of the Natural Therapists Bill. In addition to studying the reports I have corresponded with the chairman of the Federal committee of inquiry (Professor Webb) in order to clarify certain points contained in his report. I have also corresponded with the principals of many of Australia's leading chiropractic colleges.

The Webb report strongly recommends that all chiropractors possessing certain educational qualifications and professional experience should be registered, and that unlicensed chiropractors should then be prohibited from practising. The report, at pages 38 and 39, criticises the Western Australian Chiropractors Act and describes part of it as too restrictive. The report also states that the committee was strongly of the view that registration of practitioners in Australia ought not to be linked to foreign accreditation over which there is no Australian control. That is precisely the position that exists in Western Australia at present.

The Webb report makes it quite clear that the standard of the Australian colleges teaching chiropractic needs to be improved. In a letter to me, dated the 22nd July, 1977, Professor Webb made the point that although the standard at the Australian colleges varies considerably it should not be assumed automatically that every American-trained chiropractor is properly trained. Professor Webb stated that registration boards should look at the qualifications of individuals. He agreed with me that applicants for registration should be examined and assessed on their personal ability and knowledge, rather than be granted or refused registration on the grounds of the college they attended. Professor Webb has also stated in writing that it is his belief that at least six of the American colleges which the Western Australian board has recognised are not up to the standard of the three colleges named in the regulations.

The Victorian committee of inquiry also recommended that all chiropractors be registered. It believed there should be two grades of chiropractor, one to deal with the public direct and another to whom referral must be made by a medical practitioner. The Victorian committee strongly recommended, as did the Webb report, that the possession of an overseas chiropractic

degree should not be an automatic qualification for entitlement to practice.

The Western Australian Royal Commission which sat in 1959 and 1960 stated that Australia's training facilities in those days were clearly inadequate. On the other hand, it was not prepared to commit itself as to a definite opinion on the American colleges. In section 11 on page 12 of the report the commission said—

In any event, it is difficult for the Commission to form a satisfactory opinion as to the adequacy of most of these training institutions. It would only be possible to present any reliable expression of opinion on this point if some properly qualified person were able to visit America and make an on the spot examination of the colleges and the type of institution.

The Western Australian Royal Commission correctly assessed the position. There is no doubt that in those days, 20 years ago, Australia's chiropractic training colleges were inadequate. The Webb report points out that there have been vast improvements in the Australian colleges during those 20 years, but of course there is still room for further improvement.

Australia's top three or four colleges are now all working in conjunction with universities, colleges of advanced education, or other tertiary institutions in an endeavour to reach the highest possible standard. While the experts agree that the Australian colleges are improving and are in need of further improvement, they also agree that graduates from American colleges should not be accepted at face value because the standards vary considerably.

The three expert reports all state that there is little or no evidence of damage being caused by chiropractors to the health of people in Australia. In fact, the opposite is true. All three reports state that there is a strong demand for chiropractic in Australia. It is estimated that 1.25 million Australians visit chiropractors every year. There is hardly a complaint about chiropractors on record in any Public Health Department in Australia. That is a record of which I believe many other professions would be jealous. We must bear in mind that most of those 900 chiropractors treating over one million Australians every year are Australian trained.

These facts expose the artificial situation existing in Western Australia, where all but a handful of chiropractors are American trained. The Western Australian board has unfairly and unjustly refused Australian-trained chiropractors

the right to work in this State at their chosen profession.

The expert reports to which I have referred recommend that both the Federal and the State Governments should make funds available to enable the chiropractic colleges in Australia to be placed on a sound footing both financially and academically, and I strongly support that view. On page 13 of the Western Australian Royal Commission's report it is stated—

The possibility of suitable training facilities being provided at the Perth Technical College should be explored.

On page 18 the report says—

On the question of the desirability and practicability of training chiropractors, osteopaths and naturopaths in Western Australia or elsewhere in Australia, the Commission is of the opinion that no case has been made out for the need to train naturopaths, but it is of the opinion that provision should be made for the training of chiropractors. The Commission feels that if legislation is introduced relating to chiropractors as recommended, investigations should be made regarding setting up training schools.

The State Government must have envisaged establishing training schools because it went to considerable lengths to spell out in the Act the board's powers to conduct examinations and issue diplomas and certificates. It is a great pity nothing has been done. In the 14 years the Act has been in operation not a single amendment has been made to it and no interest has been shown in it. It is almost 20 years since the Royal Commission's inquiry and no action has been taken to establish a training college in Western Australia.

For the ultimate welfare of both the Western Australian public and the chiropractic profession, a training college must be established in this State as quickly as possible, either as part of a tertiary institution or attached to the Perth Technical College, or any other technical college for that matter. There is no reason why this State should not take the lead in the field of training chiropractors. We should end this demeaning dependence on foreign training schools.

Action must be initiated now to ensure the Act is brought into line with the major recommendations in the Webb report, hopefully in unison with the other State Governments, which I believe are currently looking at this matter.

Mr Williams: Do you know there is now a college of very high standard in Victoria?

Mr HODGE: Yes. There are two colleges of high standing in Victoria. I have corresponded with both of them.

I believe action must now be taken to reconstitute the Chiropractors Registration Board. It must be more representative and must be required to answer more directly to this Parliament. It must also be assured of adequate funds to enable it to do its job properly.

Every expert committee which has looked at this field has acknowledged the good done by chiropractors. They have acknowledged that there is a strong public demand for the services of chiropractors. The Western Australian Government cannot continue to tolerate the unsatisfactory situation that exists in the State today. The present monopoly must be broken in the best interests of the State, the public, and the chiropractic profession.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [9.47 p.m.]: In supporting the motion moved by the member for Murdoch I wish to refer to several matters mentioned in His Excellency's Speech.

In referring to the economy, His Excellency mentioned the North-West Shelf and other mineral deposits and went on to speak about proposed future investment. I think we all endorse his remarks relating to the development of our State.

His Excellency also said—

The Commonwealth has acknowledged in principle the merits of the Western Australian Government's proposals to update Loan Council procedures to enable the States to provide support facilities for major resource projects—

Nobody would argue that that is not very commendable. His Excellency continued—

—and to expand essential services such as water and electricity.

Water and electricity are the two matters to which I wish to refer this evening.

The first point I wish to make is one touched on this evening by the member for Warren; that is, the increased costs for the contributory extension scheme in country areas. For some time I have been involved with a couple of schemes which have been proposed for the wheatbelt in my electorate, one in the area north of Koorda and one in the area east of Dalwallinu. The member for Warren spoke about the new proposals which were recommended by the State Energy Commission and accepted by the Government in

July of last year, the charges for which have increased by 100 per cent. It is rather drastic for a charge of any description to be increased by 100 per cent.

Mr H. D. Evans: What are you going to do about it?

Mr McPHARLIN: Wait a minute. Firstly, I consider the increase is unjustified.

Mr H. D. Evans: So do we.

Mr McPHARLIN: Secondly, it could be argued on economic grounds that it is necessary. The case could be argued—

Mr H. D. Evans: What—100 per cent?

Mr McPHARLIN: This is the way the commission envisages it should operate because of its losses. However, to increase it by 100 per cent and then to apply this increase in areas that have suffered a drought for the second year—

Mr H. D. Evans: Shame!

Mr McPHARLIN: The member for Warren would not understand.

Mr H. D. Evans: I am agreeing with you; it is a scandal and they are forced to accept it.

Mr McPHARLIN: The honourable member has never been in a position where droughts have affected him very much.

Mr H. D. Evans: I am agreeing with you.

Mr McPHARLIN: Like others in this House, I own a farming property that has been affected by the drought. I can speak from my own personal experience. I know the harsh adverse effect of the drought in this area.

Mr H. D. Evans: We are on side—steady on!

Mr B. T. Burke: My grandfather had to walk off his farm in the depression.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is that lot on your side that you should get stuck into.

Mr McPHARLIN: I listened with interest to the member for Warren. While he was speaking I asked him the average cost of a connection to the SEC contributory scheme in his area and he did not answer.

Mr H. D. Evans: I did not hear you.

Mr McPHARLIN: I thought the honourable member would have heard me. Two or more schemes are now proposed in my electorate. In one scheme the cost of connection is \$4 277, plus \$75-odd a quarter for 30 years.

Mr Skidmore: What is the length of the run?

Mr McPHARLIN: It is a fairly extensive distance and originally it was envisaged that there would be 40 connections to the scheme. However, approximately nine people have now dropped out

of the scheme because of the cost, and there are about 31 left in it.

The shire councils concerned—Koorda and Dalwallinu—have raised some money, and approximately 22 people in one scheme and a number in the other intend to borrow from the council to pay for the connection. They will then pay 10½ per cent interest on their borrowings over 10 years. The other people who can afford it have already paid their \$4 277 and \$3 700 respectively into a fund to pay to the SEC.

I find it very difficult to understand why people who live in these areas should be forced to pay such sums of money for an SEC connection. Through no fault of their own, they have suffered the effects of a drought for the second year in succession. In some cases the farmers have suffered a drought for three years and yet they are being asked to contribute this large sum of money.

Mr H. D. Evans: This is the Government you support.

Mr McPHARLIN: I am not supporting this charge; I do not think it is right. It is an imposition on the people in these areas, and I know similar charges apply in other areas. It is quite possible that other extensions will not be proceeded with because of the high costs involved.

I have spoken to other people who are hoping that extensions could be carried further than the ones proposed at the present time, but it is envisaged that the costs would be far greater than those presently applying.

I realise that long distances are involved in these schemes, but I query the need to impose such costs at a time when the farming industry is suffering from the effects of two severe droughts. Something like four million hectares of land in the north-eastern sector of the wheatbelt has been affected by the drought.

When I have discussed this matter with the local people, I have listened to various criticisms, and I hope the Minister will take note of these.

I attended a meeting recently and I was asked why the Government sees fit to impose these increases at a time when it proposes also to spend something like \$5 million upgrading, renovating, and improving His Majesty's Theatre in Hay Street. For many years this theatre was owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling—the farming community—and the Government now intends to spend a great deal of money on it.

Mr Pearce: It would be a great wheat bin!

Mr McPHARLIN: I have been asked why the Government intends to spend so much money on

one building in Perth when large areas in the State have suffered from severe drought conditions. I have been asked why the Government cannot give more consideration to the farming people by way of assistance towards the cost of SEC connections.

Another complaint put to me is that the Government intends to spend something like \$3 million on the State's 150th anniversary celebrations. Nobody is saying that it is unnecessary and undesirable to have well-planned celebrations next year, but the farming people are concerned that so much money can be spent on these celebrations when some small part of it would ease the burden placed on them by the SEC extensions to their properties. These people suffer from their isolation, they put up with the climatic conditions and the lack of facilities, and yet they are to pay these large sums of money for an SEC connection.

I hope the Minister will note my comments and that he will look into the matter. One has to experience a drought to realise its effects. Many farmers have insufficient feed to keep their stock, their water supplies are diminished, the dams have dried up, and they must pay for water to be carted. The banks become very worried about repayments on farming properties. I must thank the Government for its quick action in assisting the rural community with drought relief loans. The scheme is implemented quickly, and the money was allocated wisely. Although a few of my constituents have come to me for assistance with their problems, I have no real complaints about the Government's action. In fact, I commend the Government because I know that many people have been assisted by the scheme.

Last year the wheat payments came through quite quickly, and to some degree these offset the effects of the drought. However, this has not happened this year. Wheat payments are few and far between, and wheat producers in the drought areas did not receive a very good return from their harvests. The next payment for the wheat harvest of 1976 is in January of next year. However, for any farmer who wished to do so, payment could be made in April of this year by using the discount system as long as the farmer is prepared to sacrifice 80c a tonne. These payments are not coming through as quickly as they were before, and many wheat producers will be in serious difficulties.

Another matter of concern to the farming community—and one which probably has an impact on other industries—is the very high cost of machinery, spare parts, equipment, and appliances. I have here with me some parts which

I purchased the other day for a diesel motor. Although we sometimes have nice stands of oats and similar things here, we do not usually bring machinery parts into the House.

Mr Jamieson: We brought chickens in at one time and put them on the Table of the House. They chirped all day.

Mr McPHARLIN: I have here a flat washer, a tapered washer and a stud to fit in the end of a crankshaft of a diesel motor. I will not mention the name of the manufacturer of the motor. Although it would be possible for a farmer to make the stud on his farm, these few parts cost \$21.

Mr Bateman: Good grief!

Mr McPHARLIN: This one part alone cost \$17.

Mr B. T. Burke: That is armed robbery.

Mr McPHARLIN: When I saw the price of these articles I questioned it. However, the price was correct, and a farmer must pay these prices if he wishes to fix his machine.

This is only a small item; however, the cost of such parts has escalated from 300 to 500 per cent over the last few years, and farmers are faced with extra costs in so many areas. On top of that we have the drought situation and we see farmers with no income still having to face high costs.

Mr Davies: Are those parts made locally, or imported?

Mr McPHARLIN: In this case they are imported. This is only a small item, and others such as small steel shafts for different machinery can cost something ridiculous, such as \$150. These are the things which have an impact upon the farming community.

Mr Pearce: Do connections to the SEC cost money too? Do you want to mention that?

Mr McPHARLIN: Another matter to which I wish to refer is of great importance to this State. I refer to the matter of salt encroachment. Not enough people fully realise just how urgent and large this problem is.

Salt is spreading in this State to a degree of which many people are unaware, and those of us engaged in the farming industry in areas where salt is increasing know just how damaging it is.

In the last week or so we have read criticism in the Press of bauxite mining, and we have read what it is supposed to be doing to our water supplies. I obtained today the 1975 annual report of the Mines Department in order to see just what it is doing in connection with the analyses of groundwater hydrology carried out before bauxite

mining commenced. It was reported in the Press recently that the President of the National Country Party (Mr Fletcher) said in respect of bauxite mining that the National Country Party believes in the mining of natural resources, provided it is done responsibly and without damage to the environment. Mr Fletcher is also a member of the Soil Conservation Committee, and is well aware of the impact of salt encroachment.

Farmers have been criticised in some quarters for clearing land in some catchment areas, which is supposed to have increased the salinity of the water supply. There is no question that clearing land does increase the salinity of water; this has been demonstrated in the Wellington catchment area—a matter to which I will return later.

If farmers are to be criticised for clearing land and increasing salinity in certain streams, they should not criticise the mining industry in this respect. People in the mining industry are responsible persons, just as farmers are, and they carry out research in an endeavour to preserve the environment. The Environmental Protection Authority is there to insist that they do.

I have in front of me the report of the Mines Department, and I refer to a section headed, "The Effects of Bauxite Mining at Del Park on Groundwater Hydrology". I will not read all the report, because it is far too long. I wish to take a few short extracts to demonstrate the point I am making. One paragraph states—

The study indicates that bauxite mining in the Del Park area has benefitted the groundwater regime by increasing the volume being discharged and by reducing salinities. It is estimated that the present salt imbalance within the mine pit is expected to return to balance in between 24 and 48 years.

I think that period is rather too long to contemplate, but the point I am making is that when the land was cleared the water flowed very quickly into the water table and decreased the salinity of the water table because the same amount of salt was present with a greater volume of water. In the conclusion of the report, the following is stated—

1. The infiltration of rainfall to the water table below the mine pit has been estimated by salt balance to average 34 per cent higher than below the forest area. This would be reduced by between 4 and 13 per cent if leaching of salt from the unsaturated zone were still occurring in the forest.

The report goes on to say that the greater volume of water reaching the water table reduces the salinity in the water table.

As I said previously, there is no doubt that over the years salinity of streams has increased, and it has also increased in catchment areas. In the *Journal of Agriculture*, Vol. 18, No. 4 of 1977, an officer of the Soil Research and Survey Branch of the Department of Agriculture said in an interesting article on salt land and what to do about it—

How saltland occurs

Salts in the soil are similar in composition to seawater, being about 75 per cent common salt (sodium chloride). The salt in the soils of the south-west is believed to have come mainly from rainfall and accumulated over thousands of years. On the west coast 100 to 300 kg of salt per hectare may be deposited each year by rainfall, but only about 15 kg per hectare are deposited 250 kilometres inland.

So from that we see the principal source of salt reaching our land comes from the rainfall. The figures I have been able to obtain show that over the last 30 years we have lost something like two million acres of production through salt encroachment. That is a great deal of land that was once productive but is not now producing.

Mr Davies: Is that in any particular area?

Mr McPHARLIN: No, it is scattered over a wide area from north of Geraldton right down to Lake Grace, Lake King, and through to the Wellington Dam.

Mr Pearce: Is that caused by bad farm management?

Mr McPHARLIN: No, let me finish what I am saying and I will explain the matter.

Mr B. T. Burke: They want to stop cutting in the Murray catchment area before it goes completely haywire. It was left too long in the Wellington area.

Mr McPHARLIN: The Department of Agriculture has been endeavouring to show the way to control salt encroachment. I have attended a number of field days, the most recent of which was at Tammin on Friday, the 10th March, at which officers of the department were present. They issued a booklet which provides a detailed explanation of what the department considers to be the methods whereby salt encroachment may be held or controlled, and what plants and grasses should be used. This is the sort of thing farmers have been practising for many years.

I know those officers are genuine in their endeavours, and they believe what they are putting forward is the right thing to do. However, these things have been done over the years.

Farmers have been getting grasses, salt bush and blue bush to grow, but the salt still spreads. We must stop it spreading, and it is not an easy matter to do so.

I was invited last week on the 15th March to attend a meeting of farmers at Quairading. The meeting was attended by between 150 and 200 farmers, although I think the number would have been nearer 200. The Farmers' Union branch had called the meeting. A farmer who had been engaged in reclaiming salt lands and adopting measures which he has proved to be effective was asked to address the meeting. I refer to Mr Harry Whittington of Brookton. He addressed the meeting because the majority of those farmers present had been putting into application the system he advocates. His methods have been proved and many farmers in many areas are adopting them.

During the meeting they formed a committee which was given the task of drawing up guidelines to proceed with Mr Whittington's measures. It is a rather different system from the one advocated by the Department of Agriculture. In fact, there has been some difference of opinion between him and the various officers who are engaged in this area of research.

Mr B. T. Burke: What does he advocate?

Mr McPHARLIN: The main aspect of his system is to construct what he calls interceptor banks. They must not be installed in an *ad hoc* way; there is a lot of drilling and testing before one can put them in, and bulldozers must be used. The committee is called WISALTS; in fact, it intends to register itself as such. The initials mean the Whittington Interceptor Salt Affected Land Treatment Society.

Mr B. T. Burke: What—another F 111 controversy?

Mr Jamieson: Is it going to cost very much?

Mr McPHARLIN: This is a farmers' organisation, and this is what they call it.

Mr B. T. Burke: It sounds like an aeroplane.

Mr Davies: You had better repeat it again for the benefit of *Hansard*.

Mr McPHARLIN: Members opposite can laugh about this matter, but if they had a property, half of which was salt-affected, they would not be laughing. I had nothing to do with the naming of the committee.

The committee's objective is to discuss and incorporate the best methods of reclaiming salt lands—I stress the word "reclaiming"—and conserving water in a useful, potable condition. The membership fee will be \$10 and the

committee proposes to make a submission to the Government for some financial assistance in their salt land reclaiming work. They have yet to place a submission before Government, but it is hoped the Government will provide assistance to those farmers who consider they cannot meet the cost of reclamation work. This is a very serious problem which is getting worse every year.

During my overseas tour last year, this was one of the matters at which I looked. I saw the problems being experienced with water salinity and brackish water in Israel and in California. They do have problems, but they do not appear to be of the same nature or magnitude as the problem we experience.

A recent publication of the *Journal of Agriculture* which I received only today is almost entirely devoted to water supplies on wheatbelt farms. It mentions quite a few matters which are of concern to the farming community, especially after drought periods when water supplies are so scarce. Water is a precious commodity to the farming community. It is quite a useful publication but it contains nothing new to those who have been studying these matters at first hand over a number of years.

I also had a letter from that newly established body, the Water Resources Council, which has invited comments and submissions from people to whom it has written. I suppose most members would have a copy of this letter. The council suggests that expenditure on water conservation projects on farms should be accepted as a full income tax deduction in the year of expenditure. This is a very sensible suggestion. I believe that money spent on reclaiming salt land should be another area where full tax deduction is allowed, because it does cost money to carry out this work. It can cost up to \$8 to \$10 an acre, depending on the type of country, the depth of trench and so on. It can run into \$600 to \$800 a mile. I understand the Premier has written to the Prime Minister regarding a tax concession for water conservation expenditure. I believe that is the right step to take, and it is an action we should endorse.

Mr Bertram: When did he do that?

Mr McPHARLIN: I do not know, but the letter states that the Premier, on the recommendation of the council, wrote to the Prime Minister in this regard. I hope that is the case, because such a concession will assist farmers who are spending large amounts of money on water conservation.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is the present Government policy of closing single officer police stations. Unfortunately the Minister

for Police is not in the House tonight; I have spoken with him about this matter. Some publicity has been given to a town in my electorate where this policy has been put into effect, and I believe the policy is wrong. The Government should not take away a Government employee from a small town. In most cases, the police officer becomes part of the community; often, his children go to school in the town and generally speaking he is regarded as one of the community, and fits in very well with the local residents. The fact that there is a policeman only five minutes away from any disturbance in the town can have an effect on people who might otherwise create a disturbance or break the law.

I repeat that this policy is wrong. If the Government is arguing its case on economic grounds, it will have difficulty in convincing me. I do not think it is more economic to service that town with an officer from another, larger town. The distance is the same, whichever way one travels between the two towns and it would be just as simple for the officer in the smaller town to co-operate with the bigger town, rather than the other way around. I understand that efficiency of service is the criterion which is used, but that has yet to be proved in the case of the town to which I refer.

I intend to have further discussions, through the Minister, with officers of the Police Department in order to thrash this matter out in detail. The Government's policy has not proved to be effective in the case of Tammin which, of course, is the town concerned. The people of the town are still incensed at the Government's action. The police officer was quite happy with his posting; he did not want to leave the district and the whole district certainly did not want to lose him.

Mr Jamieson: Were the people of Tammin in favour of the establishment of the RTA?

Mr McPHARLIN: I do not know whether they were in favour; I cannot remember. They used to run the traffic control themselves and, being on the highway, a lot of offences were committed, and a lot of convictions obtained, although I do not know whether they are proud of that.

Mr Jamieson: It would have brought them a lot of money.

Mr McPHARLIN: I cannot remember whether or not they were in favour of the RTA. This policy is something the Government ought to reconsider.

Mr H. D. Evans: Greenbushes is another Tammin.

Mr McPHARLIN: I am not convinced that

this is the right move and it has not proved to be in this case. I have given to the Minister a list of instances which illustrate that service has not been given and I hope that the matter can be thrashed out to the satisfaction of the Tammin people. The Government could make a gesture by reversing its policy and re-establishing a policeman in the town of Tammin. As the town is on the highway, traffic is coming and going all the time and disturbances have occurred frequently; and the service which was promised just has not eventuated.

One other matter I wish to refer to was mentioned briefly by the member for Warren; that is, the Industries Assistance Commission. Recently I had the experience of listening to the Chairman of the Industries Assistance Commission when he performed the opening of the Farmers' Union Conference. His explanation of the operation of the Industries Assistance Commission was quite enlightening. He explained the degree of research the commission goes into when it inquires into an industry which has applied for assistance. The commission exploded a myth on which so many people have been hanging their hats for many years by revealing that the farming industry is not the industry which obtains the greatest assistance.

Mr H. D. Evans: I said this was one of the biggest benefits to rural industries that had been achieved.

Mr McPHARLIN: The commission exploded that myth and it changed my opinion of the IAC. The chairman, Mr MacKinnon, explained the situation well and answered questions. Of course, the commission's role is only to make recommendations to the Government; it does not make final decisions. So, it appears it may be working far more favourably than I anticipated it was going to work.

Mr H. D. Evans: I seem to remember you were critical of it.

Mr McPHARLIN: I was opposed to it at the time. I have spoken to some members of the Farmers' Union from Western Australia who have made submissions to the commission and they have favourable opinions of it. So, it appears it might be working quite favourably.

I said I would come back to the subject of the Wellington Dam before I finished and because the Minister for Water Supplies is present in the chamber I shall refer briefly to it now. About 12 months ago I took Mr Whittington to see the Minister for Water Supplies with a proposal that Mr Whittington should have a look at the Wellington Dam catchment area because of the

increasing salinity of that reservoir, which is one of our biggest. I asked whether the Minister would give him a chance to try out his methods in that area. To his credit, the Minister agreed.

Then Mr Whittington and I talked to several other officers and he was given the go-ahead to select a site where he thought his system could work. After prolonged negotiations with officers and several visits to the area—and I accompanied him on one occasion—he picked a site with an established monitoring unit at the lower end of it. I understand the Public Works Department intends to put a small unit in one of the trenches. In January of this year the banks were put in at the site near Darkan in the upper reaches, I think about 17 miles from Collie. The farmers there are quite happy about the situation and Mr Whittington is confident that it will work.

The technique he is using is slightly different from the technique he applied to prevent the spread of salt. I cannot explain it to the House tonight because there is no time, but anybody who is interested should have a look. We will all be watching with great interest to see how it works. It is a very minor project compared with the large catchment area, but if it works successfully it can be enlarged. If it improves the salinity of the water we will have achieved something which has not been achieved previously.

That dam will go out of production if something is not done. The problem has been getting worse and worse for many years and all our weirs could be threatened. In a State such as this water is a very precious commodity and it is being threatened by increasing salinity because of the peculiar problems we have.

Mr Speaker, I could continue but it is getting late, so I shall finish with those comments. I hope that the members who have listened tonight—and there are always some who do not, of course—will pay attention to this problem of salt land encroachment because, believe me, it is really serious. Those who are not affected do not care very much, but when one is affected it is a very serious matter.

Mr H. D. Evans: The decisions must come from your side of the House.

Mr McPHARLIN: I give full support to all those people engaged in trying to do something about it. I am not denigrating any officer or any section of a department who are trying to achieve a satisfactory result. They have done so in good faith and in a dedicated manner, but when they have not been successful surely any other method that has been proved to work is worthy of support. The sceptics will say that Mr Whittington's

system works in one area but not in another. That is not true, but salt encroachment does not happen overnight. It takes many years to develop and it takes many years to reverse the process. If it can be halted we will have achieved something.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr B. T. Burke.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)
[10.27]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.15 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, the 22nd March.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER SUPPLIES

Federal Government's Water Resources Programme

60. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has the State Government yet replied to the Prime Minister's request for the States to name projects they want included in the Federal Government's \$200 million national water resources programme?
- (2) Has the State Government agreed to contribute equally with the programme?
- (3) What financial amount is Western Australia seeking from the Federal Government?
- (4) Will he list the projects the State Government has asked to be included in the national water resources programme?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Consideration is still being given to the question of what proportion of the total cost the State will agree to contribute to the programme.
- (4) (i) Completion of the DeGrey Scheme for augmentation of the water supply to Port Hedland.
- (ii) Augmentation of water supply to West Pilbara.
- (iii) Wellington Reservoir salinity problem.
- (iv) Flood protection for the town of Carnarvon.

- (v) Pilot studies by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board aimed at recycling and re-using waste waters and recharging underground aquifers.
- (vi) New Harvey Dam.
- (vii) Extension of farmland reticulation.

POLICE AND ABORIGINES

Improving Relations

106. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

How many, and which, of the Laverton study group's recommendations for improving relations between Aborigines and the police have been implemented?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

The report of the Laverton Joint Study Group was made in general terms covering some aspects of the Aboriginal community at Laverton. The report did not make specific reference to police-Aboriginal relations but it did draw attention to some of the social problems in the area.

The police are mindful of these problems and the following action has been taken by the Police Department in the interest of Aborigines throughout the State—

Police Aides:

Aboriginal police aides have been appointed to Kalgoorlie, Laverton, Wiluna, Meekatharra, Nullagine, Marble Bar, Carnarvon, Onslow, Roebourne, Port Hedland, Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, and Kununurra.

To date a total of 25 have been appointed, with a request for two additional police aides.

The aims and objectives of the police aide scheme are to—

- (1) Provide training and basic law enforcement activities for people of Aboriginal descent;
- (2) encourage self-reliance and experience in communication and act as interpreters;
- (3) show the importance of civil detente;
- (4) illustrate the need for racial harmony;

- (5) assist aborigines in police custody and, when under interrogation, to ensure they fully understand the nature of the charge;
- (6) assist Aborigines to approach police officers for advice;
- (7) carry out other duties in connection with the objects of this scheme as directed by the officer in charge of the police station.

Police Recruit and In-Service Training Courses:

A scheme on police-Aboriginal relations in four parts has been introduced—

- (1) Traditional life and culture of the Aboriginal.
- (2) Aborigines and their environment.
- (3) Social changes and urban problems of Aborigines.
- (4) The role of police in respect of Aborigines.

These measures are designed to create a better understanding and to overcome problems between the police and Aborigines.

Police Liaison Officer for Aboriginal Affairs:

A Police Liaison Officer, Superintendent Weaver, who has had many years' experience with Aborigines and their related problems associated with police and law enforcement has been appointed and supervises all police aides within the State.

He is also the Commissioner's representative on—

- (1) Special cabinet committee on Police-Aboriginal Relations, and
- (2) Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinating Committee.

Other States are observing the police aide scheme which originated in Western Australia, with the possibility of instituting similar arrangements.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Constitution and Reports

113. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Will the Minister give consideration to enlarging the Environmental Protection Authority and making it directly responsible to Parliament?
- (2) Will the Minister also give consideration to making all reports of the authority public documents with the proviso that material can be deleted from the publication if it is a breach of confidence?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Publication of Environmental Protection Authority reports is a matter for EPA decision; however, the authority as a matter of policy makes available as many of its reports as it can for public information.

APPRENTICES

Suspension of Indentures

114. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many apprentices have, in the past year, had their indentures suspended?
- (2) How many of these have subsequently been indentured to other masters?
- (3) In what trades did the suspensions occur?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The information is being obtained and the member will be advised as soon as it is available.

APPRENTICES

Government Departments

115. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many vacancies for apprentices have been filled in the Government's service in the past nine months?
- (2) How many applicants were there for these vacancies?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Inquiries are being made and the member will be provided with the required details as soon as possible.

MORTGAGE BANK AND MARKET

Establishment

116. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Will the State Government establish a mortgage bank and mortgage market in co-operation with building societies?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Representatives from all State Governments have had discussions with representatives of the Australian Permanent Building Societies Association on the subject of a national mortgage market. At this stage a number of difficulties have become apparent, such as a lack of uniformity in mortgage documents and differences in State legislation. However, the matter is still under consideration and further meetings are to be held with the association.

HOUSING

Federal Funds

117. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will he urge the Federal Government to make an immediate increase in the funds made available for housing?
- (2) Is he aware that unless more money is made available for housing soon, the industry will be almost incapable of meeting existing demands, let alone coping with an eventual increase in demand?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Representations have been made consistently to the Commonwealth Government for additional funds for housing and will continue to be made.
- (2) I am aware of the shortage of housing finance at the present time and this has been the reason for recent Government action in this area as well as the approaches to the Commonwealth Government on the availability of credit generally.

HOUSING

Interest Rates

118. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that officers of the State Housing Commission have been directing purchase home applicants to finance companies in order for them to obtain finance for second mortgages necessary to pay deposits required by the commission?
- (2) Is he aware that applicants have obtained second mortgages referred to at rates of up to 17 per cent?
- (3) How many applicants have been forced to obtain such second mortgages?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Officers of the Housing Commission have not directed purchase applicants to finance companies, either particularly or generally. However, by way of helpful information applicants have been advised of potential sources of supplementary finance.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Since 1st July, 1976, when the present scheme of referring purchase applicants to terminating building societies commenced, 54 out of a total 257 applicants have obtained second mortgages at varying interest rates.

PURCHASE HOMES

Number Sold, Price, and Deposits

119. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many homes have been sold by the State Housing Commission to applicants on the waiting list during the past year?
- (2) What was the average purchase price of the homes sold?
- (3) What was the average deposit applicants were required to find?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 263—during financial year 1st July, 1977, to date.
- (2) \$29 000.
- (3) Purchasers are required to provide a cash deposit of 5 per cent of sale price, and the balance required to reduce the loan to a current maximum of \$24 500 may be provided from personal resources or secondary finance.

PURCHASE HOMES

Deposits

120. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware that many applicants for State Housing Commission purchase homes are unable to purchase homes offered to them because of the size of the deposits they are required to find?
- (2) In how many instances were offers made to people on the purchase list rejected?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Offers are made only after applicants have indicated their ability to raise the necessary finance.
- (2) Offers have been deferred in 205 cases at the request of applicants.

MONKEYS

Licences to Purchase from Interstate

121. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Would the Minister indicate whether his department has issued any licences over the past three years for the importation of monkeys from interstate?
- (2) If licences have been issued, would the Minister indicate—
 - (a) the species of monkey;
 - (b) the number;
 - (c) to whom the licences were issued; and
 - (d) when?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) A check reveals that in the three years ended 21st March, 1978, the only licence issued under regulation 20 was one dated 17th June, 1976. It authorised Bullens African Lion Park to introduce four *rhesus macaques*.

GOLDEN AGOUTIS

Licences to Purchase from Interstate

122. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Would the Minister indicate whether any interstate import licences have been issued by his department over the past three years for the entry of golden agoutis into the State?
- (2) If "Yes", would the Minister indicate when the licences were issued and to whom?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) A check reveals that in the three years ended 21st March, 1978, the only such licence issued was one dated 12th January, 1977. It authorised the Perth Zoo to introduce two golden agoutis.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Synchronisation in City Block

123. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister investigate and if possible implement a synchronised traffic light system in the city block to reduce city traffic congestion and end the snails-pace crawl through the city to which motorists have become accustomed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Investigations along the lines suggested have been undertaken by the Main Roads Department and are continuing. At this stage city block linking of traffic control signals is being considered on a limited basis only.

The advantages of synchronisation must be carefully assessed against the high cost of the system and the disadvantage to pedestrians. It should be recognised that speeding up of traffic on one route can only be brought about at the expense of increased delays and congestion on other routes.

TRANSPORT

Bus Station at Fremantle

124. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will consideration be given to the construction of a modern bus station at Fremantle for patrons travelling on from Fremantle, as this would be of particular

assistance to people living south of Fremantle?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

A bus terminal in accordance with requirements is being planned at the Fremantle railway station. This will provide for services which proceed south.

TRANSPORT

Federal Specific Purpose Grants

125. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

Is the inadequacy in the Federal Government's recent specific purpose grants for urban public transport for Western Australia typical of what Western Australia has received in the past as a result of the co-operative new federalism of which the Premier was an architect?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Specific purpose grants for urban public transport were introduced by the Whitlam Government. It was that Government which, on realising belatedly that it had over-committed the nation's resources in many areas, discontinued funding for new projects.

Despite the severe budgetary problem it inherited, the present Commonwealth Government has reintroduced grants for new projects and Western Australia will receive \$10 million for new works over the next five years, plus an as yet undetermined share of \$100 million which is still to be allocated. We are not happy with the share we have been allocated from the base amount of \$200 million and are pressing for a higher proportion of the unallocated amount. I am confident that our claim will be considered in a spirit of sensible Federal co-operation.

Mr H. D. Evans: That Whitlam bit is growing a little thin, is it not?

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS

Report by Forbes and Fitzhardinge

126. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Has the Government yet given consideration to the report on the protection and use of the Swan and Canning Rivers prepared by Forbes and Fitzhardinge?
- (2) If so, which of the recommendations have been accepted?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when does the Government expect to consider the report?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) Responses to the report have been received from a number of departments and agencies and are currently being collated.

PORTS

Development Co-ordination Committee

127. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Who are the members of the committee established to co-ordinate the development of Western Australian regional ports?
- (2) When were they appointed and for how long are they appointed?
- (3) Are the committee members paid any form of remuneration?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I presume the member is referring to the Port Investment Committee which was recently established:

Director General of Transport
(Chairman);

Engineer, Harbour and Rivers
Branch, Public Works
Department;

General Manager, State Shipping
Service;

Manager, Harbour and Light
Department;

General Manager, Fremantle Port
Authority.

- (2) These gentlemen were asked to serve on such a committee during January this year. There is no fixed term of appointment.
- (3) No.

ROAD

Kwinana Freeway

128. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is freeway construction for the Kwinana Freeway from Canning Highway to Leach Highway expected to be completed?
- (2) What is the total overall estimated cost of this project?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Completion is expected late in 1981.
- (2) The current estimated total cost is \$30 million, excluding land.

O.D. TRANSPORT COMPANY

Directors

129. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Who are the directors of the O.D. Transport Company?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

This information is available on search at the Corporate Affairs Office.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Federal Funds

130. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) If, as the Minister for Transport states, "the Commonwealth intends to increase road grants to the States next year by an amount that would reflect cost escalations over the past year", will the Minister estimate the size of next year's programme in financial amounts, compared to last year?
- (2) Is it intended that Western Australia will have to increase fees for motor vehicle licences, motor drivers' licences or third party insurance fees to cover the Federal Government's refusal to adequately fund Western Australia for roads and for urban public transport?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) It is understood the Commonwealth intends to use the implicit price deflator prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician as a basis

for determining increases in road funds to the States. Until the release of the information by the statistician it is not possible to give an accurate estimate. Based on existing rates motor vehicle and driver's licence fees are expected to bring some additional revenue by natural increase so it should be possible to maintain the road programme at about the same level. It should be noted that third party insurance fees are not a source of revenue for road purposes or urban public transport.

TRANSPORT

Federal Funds

131. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he ask the Prime Minister why Western Australia received only 5 per cent of the Commonwealth allocation for improvements to urban public transport in the next five years?
- (2) As \$200 million of the \$300 million allocation has been granted, when is it proposed to allocate the other \$100 million?
- (3) Will he protest in the strongest terms to his Federal Liberal colleagues concerning the treatment shown for Western Australia's transport needs?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Strong representations have already been made to the Prime Minister on this matter.
- (2) The remaining \$100 million is to be allocated at the rate of \$20 million each year for five years, and we are pressing for this State to receive a higher proportion of these additional funds so that our overall share is higher than 5 per cent.
- (3) I have already made a strong protest and the member for Avon can be assured that the matter will be pursued.

TAXIS

Bucket Seats

132. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister outline the reasons behind the Taxi Control Board's decision to compel taxi drivers to replace

bucket seats with bench seats in their vehicles?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I am advised that the Road Traffic Authority will not approve of any vehicle suitable for carrying five passengers where the vehicle has bucket seats only, or bucket seats and an additional squab seat fitted with a seatbelt unless the fitment is a manufacturer's option which conforms with the appropriate Australian Vehicle Design Rules.

The Taxi Control Board compels taxi drivers to conform accordingly.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Job Creation: Rate

133. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Will he explain the method he used to calculate that the Western Australian Government had created new jobs at the rate of 1 250 a month over the past 12 months?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The calculation was made by applying the most recent annual percentage increase in wage and salary earners in civilian employment, as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to the February, 1977, employed labour force. The result was used as an indication of the likely February, 1978, employed labour force in Western Australia because the official statistics for that month are unlikely to be published for some time.

BOOKS

Payment from Consolidated Revenue Fund

134. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it correct that the Western Australian Government will provide about \$13 800 for each 2 000 copy first edition of each of 14 volumes of books?
- (2) What is the total outlay expected to be?
- (3) From which division of the Consolidated Revenue Fund will the money be forthcoming?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, but it expected that the outlay will be recouped to some extent from the proceeds of sales.
- (2) In the order of \$200 000 initially, but the final figure could be less than this sum.
- (3) The cost will be met from the 150th anniversary celebrations trust account.

FILMS

Financial Assistance

135. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) How much has the Western Australian Government invested this financial year for the purpose of commercial feature films made in this State?
- (2) From which division of Consolidated Revenue Funds will the investment moneys be forthcoming?
- (3) If the Government's investment in any film venture will be 25 per cent of the total production budget up to \$100 000, is it assumed that films produced will generally be below a total production budget of \$400 000, unless the State Government's commitment is less than 25 per cent?
- (4) Why were actors, technicians, musicians and other people employed in the film industry not considered for membership of the Western Australian Film Council?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No moneys have been invested in commercial feature films this year. It is not expected that funds will be required for investment until the 1978-79 year.
- (2) It is intended that appropriation will be included in the Department of Industrial Development vote and will be included in 1978-79 Estimates.
- (3) The State has agreed to finance films on the basis of 25 per cent of total production costs or \$100 000, whichever is the lesser amount.
Some film budgets will exceed \$400 000 and will be financed through the Australian Film Commission, the State's contribution and private investment.
- (4) It is considered that a small professional committee with the ability to co-opt specialist services when required will ensure better liaison with the industry.

STATE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY CENTRE

After Hours Telephone Number

136. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the State Government Inquiry Centre have an after-hours telephone service number?
- (2) If "No", will he move to establish such a service?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The State Government Information and Inquiry Centre does not have an after hours telephone service.

To provide such a service would not only mean employing additional staff at the centre after hours—as all the information records carried by the centre are kept at the centre—but would have little practical value having regard for the functions and purpose of the centre.

- (2) Not at the centre because adequate emergency numbers are already provided in the telephone directory and, in any case, information not available at the centre could not be obtained by referral as Government departments and agencies would be closed.

RSPCA

Financial Assistance

137. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is he aware that the South Australian Government provided \$40 000 in 1975-76 and \$57 000 in 1976-77 to their RSPCA?
- (2) Is he also aware that the annual grant to the RSPCA in this State was increased from \$5 000 to only \$7 000 for the 1977-78 financial year?
- (3) Why is the Western Australian Government's allocation so small in comparison with the South Australian Government's allocation to the RSPCA?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

- (3) The Western Australian Government's allocation is considered appropriate in the light of the association's steadily improving financial position over a number of years. I fail to see that the grant to the South Australian branch of the association is of any particular relevance in assessing the need in Western Australia. If the RSPCA has approached the member on the matter, I suggest he tells them to make representations to the Government, setting out any changed circumstances since their case was last under review.

EDUCATION

Handicapped Children

138. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to my inquiries to him by letter of 30th November, 1977, regarding amendments to section 20 of the Education Act and subsequent initiatives in regard to education of handicapped children, can he now advise whether the Council for Special Education has given consideration and made recommendations on this matter?

- (2) If so, will he table their report?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The Council for Special Education has been engaged in the completion of a major report on another topic. It is my understanding that, as their next task, they will consider the education of the mentally handicapped and make recommendations in regard to the education of these children.
- (2) Not applicable.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Fremantle Area

139. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many people are registered as unemployed in the Fremantle area?
- (2) What is the age and sex components of the total number of unemployed in this area?
- (3) How many jobs have been created in the area in the past 12 months?
- (4) How many jobs have disappeared in this area in the past 12 months?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Total registered with the Fremantle Commonwealth Employment Service Office is 2 270.

	Male	Female
(2) School leavers	141	185
Non school leavers (18 years and under)	152	194
Non school leavers (19 years and 20 years)	157	131
Adults	956	354

- (3) and (4) Not known

(Source: Department of Employment and Industrial Relations).

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

System 6 Report

140. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Can the Minister advise when the System 6 Report will be finalised?
- (2) Will an interim report be made public?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) It is expected to be finalised by July, 1978. However, in the interests of ensuring that various conflicts are resolved as completely as possible, the several groups working in the study are not being pressed to present their findings within any time constraints.
- (2) The final report of the System 6 Study will be made public. The Environmental Protection Authority will then consider public submissions before making recommendations to the Government.

RESEARCH STATION

Fitzroy

141. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has/or will the Fitzroy Agricultural Research Station been/be closed?
- (2) If "Yes", for what reason was the closure action taken?
- (3) What research work was being carried out on the Fitzroy Station?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes. On the 30th September, 1978.

- (2) (a) On the basis of a recommendation of an experienced consultant from the NSW Department of Agriculture, who made an independent assessment of current and future beef cattle research needs in the Kimberleys.
- (b) Following a recommendation by the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association.
- (c) In the interest of economy and of rationalising research effort by utilising larger, station-scale facilities at Ord River.
- (3) Both short and long term animal-pasture studies involving Kimberley short-horn cattle under controlled grazing and mating conditions—measuring the effects of seasonal utilisation of pastures at varying grazing pressures in terms of daily weight gains, reproductive performance and response to the mineral supplementation of breeders.

MIDLAND AND ROBB JETTY ABATTOIRS

Goats

142. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

How many goats for slaughter have been received at Midland and Robb Jetty abattoirs in each of the past five years from—

- (a) Eastern Goldfields;
(b) Gascoyne; and
(c) Murchison districts?

Mr OLD replied:

Goats received for slaughter at Midland and Robb Jetty abattoirs for each of the past five years are as follows:

1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
49 139	62 621	45 243	76 089	38 934

Although the exact numbers for each of the areas concerned are not available, the approximate percentages are as follows:

	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
(a) Eastern Goldfields	14	34	21	14	12
(b) Gascoyne	29	25	14	37	39
(c) Murchison	55	39	64	49	48

Note: In years other than 1975-76 a small number of goats were consigned from the Pilbara.

PASTORAL LEASES

Eastern Goldfields, Gascoyne and Murchison

143. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) (a) How many pastoral stations have been actively operated in each of the past five years in each of the following areas—
(i) Eastern Goldfields;
(ii) Gascoyne; and
(iii) Murchison;
- (b) what has been the total number of sheep carried in each of these three regions in each of the past five years;
- (c) what has been the value of wool produced in each of these three regions in each of the past five years?
- (2) (a) What has been the cost to the Western Australian Government in—
(i) Eastern Goldfields;
(ii) Gascoyne; and
(iii) Murchison,
for—
(a) vermin control; and
(b) drought relief measures,
in each of the past five years;
- (b) over the past 30 years, how many have been declared drought years in each of the areas referred to?

Mr OLD replied:

This question should have been directed to the Minister for Lands. However, I am able to provide an answer, which is as follows—

- (1) (a) This precise information is not available but records from Department of Agriculture district offices indicate the following:

	No. of properties actively operating	No. on a care and maintenance basis
	1967	1977
Kalgoorlie.....	92	80
Meekatharra.....	183	169
Carnarvon.....	149	103
Totals.....	424	352

About 17 per cent of properties in operation in 1967 are now being worked in conjunction with other properties or are on a care and maintenance basis.

(b) Sheep numbers:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
(i) Eastern Goldfields	476 378	544 873	583 100	667 511	593 634

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
(ii) Gascoyne	970 988	936 768	883 256	961 783	902 485
(iii) Murchison	1 030 023	1 009 348	1 045 232	1 107 038	1 031 596

Totals 2 477 389 2 490 989 2 511 588 2 736 332 2 527 715

Source: Aust. Bureau Statistics.

(c) Value of wool production (\$):

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
(i) Eastern Goldfields	3 605 848	4 099 507	3 469 937	4 252 543	4 749 027
(ii) Gascoyne	6 683 923	6 994 321	5 205 055	6 374 770	7 480 080
(iii) Murchison	7 467 427	7 619 242	5 906 612	7 551 744	8 014 116

Totals 17 757 198 18 713 070 14 581 604 18 179 057 20 243 223

Average price cents/kilo greasy

160 c kilo 181 c 127 c 139 c 179 c

Source: ABS and WA Dept. Agriculture.

(2) (a) Vermin control costs (\$):

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
(i) Eastern Goldfields	115 000	125 000	144 000	151 000	194 000
(ii) Gascoyne	88 000	97 000	103 000	125 000	138 000
(iii) Murchison	79 000	87 000	97 000	115 000	85 000
Totals	282 000	309 000	344 000	391 000	417 000

Drought relief measure costs are not readily available on the regional basis sought but will be provided to the member in due course by the Lands Department.

(b) Only twice in the past 30 years has drought been declared on an area basis:

1969-72—Eastern Goldfields area;

1977-78—Current declaration taking in parts of the three listed regions.

Past declarations have invariably been on an individual station basis.

LAND

Undivided Shares

144. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Attorney-General:

- (1) Has the State Government yet considered a report recommending legislative action for further control on the sales of undivided shares in Western Australian land?
- (2) If "No", when is it expected to consider and to make a decision on the report?
- (3) If (1) is "Yes", will legislative action be forthcoming in the present session?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The report is at present under consideration by a number of Ministers whose portfolios are affected.

- (3) The need for legislation will be looked at when the deliberations in (1) have been completed.

SEX AND MARITAL DISCRIMINATION

Legislation

145. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

- (1) Which Ministers and their departments are considering detailed submissions on whether legislation is needed to ban discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status?
- (2) Will the same Ministers and departments be involved in studying anti-discrimination legislation and practices in other States and overseas?
- (3) When does the Government expect legislation to be introduced?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) All Ministers have been asked to examine their own portfolios on this matter, but the primary areas which the Government sees as requiring detailed examination are those covered by the Ministers for Labour and Industry, Chief Secretary, Health and Community Welfare, Education, Transport, and Local Government.
- (2) Only to the extent that it is relevant to submissions each Minister involved will be making. A considerable amount of research has already been done on existing legislation in other States and certain overseas countries.
- (3) This aspect will be determined when all relevant submissions have been considered by the Government.

CYCLES

Geelong Plan

146. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Has he yet studied the recommendations contained in the Geelong bike plan?
- (2) Will he obtain a copy of the report for the use of members of the House?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Both the methodology and the recommendations of the report are currently being examined.
- (2) Yes.

CYCLEWAYS

Report, Government Funds, and Use of Footpaths

147. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Is it correct that if local authorities put forward ideas for construction of cycleways or other ideas to encourage cycling these will be considered by the Government?
- (2) If "Yes" why did the Government reject the proposal put up by the cycleways committee—a group representing councils between Nedlands and Fremantle—for some footpaths to be set aside for bicycles?
- (3) In view of the statement by the Minister for Labour and Industry as Acting Minister for Recreation in *The West Australian* of 3rd March, 1978, "that the Western Australian Government acted quickly enough when it was first seen that bicycles were beginning to proliferate", will he outline—
 - (a) the amount of funds spent on cycleways for the past three financial years; and
 - (b) how they were spent?
- (4) What action has been taken on an MRPA report on the need for cycleways in Perth, which was commissioned by the Government and was produced three years ago?
- (5) Is it correct that no action has been taken on a plan for cycleways drawn up by the MRPA, which included a route around Perth to the University of Western Australia and to South Perth?
- (6) Will the State Government reconsider its decision not to give local government councils power to designate certain footpaths as cycleways?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This was not the proposal. The Committee referred to was a local one which recommended to the councils which formed it, the sharing of some footpaths by pedestrians and cyclists. The National Safety Council rejected this proposal and the Government concurred.
- (3) No State Government funds have been spent on the construction of cycleways in Western Australia over the previous three financial years.

- (4) to (6) The Town Planning Department report of August, 1975, was an interim document. Various options specific to Western Australia are under consideration by local government and Government departments.

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

Names, Addresses, and Ages of Children

148. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of a recent direction to pre-school centres (community kindergartens) requiring teachers to provide the names, addresses and ages of all children enrolled, to the early childhood branch of the Education Department?
- (2) Is it true that these details have previously been regarded as confidential?
- (3) Why was it necessary to require the names of the children?
- (4) To what purpose will these names be put?
- (5) Has any objection, to, or concern about the direction been drawn to the Education Department's attention?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Early Childhood branch advisers have been requested to seek information about enrolments from pre-school and pre-primary centres. No direction has been issued to pre-school teachers.
- (2) Yes, and confidentiality will be maintained.
- (3) and (4) The Early Childhood branch is conducting a State-wide survey of five-year-old and younger children attending pre-primary and pre-school centres. Names are not essential but useful when children of a different age group are attending from the same address.
- (5) Several teachers have queried the request.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Extensions

149. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the present estimated cost of the extensions to this Parliament House?
- (2) Who is performing the work?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Estimated total cost of \$500 000.
- (2) Public Works Department, Day Labour Construction organisation.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Cost of Increased Numbers

150. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What is the present total cost per annum to the people of Western Australia of his increase of the membership of this Parliament from 81 to 87?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The member is wrong in referring to "his increase of the membership of this Parliament from 81 to 87".

If he means the increased membership of the Parliament made by the Parliament, then the cost of the increase is \$211 663.

INTEREST RATES

Building Societies

151. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it the Government's policy that building societies should reduce their mortgage interest rate?
- (2) If "Yes", what has he done to have the mortgage interest rate reduced?
- (3) What is the result?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Government's policy is to reduce building societies' interest costs progressively in the minimum of time without creating economic anomalies, and with out damaging the flow of funds for home financing.
- (2) Early in February, 1978 the Premier asked building societies to examine the possibilities of interest rate reductions.

- (3) Within a few days the WA Permanent Building Societies' Association recommended to member societies that a 0.5 per cent reduction in interest rates for future owner/occupier loans be made, and that a flow on 0.5 per cent reduction to owner/occupiers with existing loans be arranged by each society in accordance with its own internal requirements. Member societies accepted the recommendation.

INTEREST RATES

Money Lenders

152. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

What is the maximum rate of interest now charged by money lenders?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Money Lenders Act prescribes that no money lender shall lend any money at a rate of interest exceeding 20 per cent per annum.

FINGERPRINTING

Government's Intention

153. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Is it the Government's intention to permit indiscriminate fingerprinting of the public?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

No.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Security

154. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he upgraded the security arrangements to a level equal to those of other State Parliaments?
- (2) If "No", why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Whilst not being aware specifically of the level of security of other State Parliaments, I am satisfied with the arrangements which have been maintained by the presiding officers. I have no intention of intruding into their responsibilities or those of the Joint House Committee.

In any case, over-reaction in such matters can be self-defeating.

POLICE*Riot Gear*

155. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Has any further riot gear been purchased by the Government since the shipment which arrived in April, 1977?
- (2) If so, will he give details of the equipment which has been purchased?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

SKILLED TRADESMEN*Shortfall*

156. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) What is the composition of the manpower committee he referred to in debate on the Ides of March, what "interests" do they represent and when was the committee formed?
- (2) What are the committee's prognoses for the need and shortfall of skilled tradesmen, category by category for—
 - (a) the next three years; and
 - (b) the next five years?
- (3) What is the nature of the submissions made on this subject to the Commonwealth Government?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Manpower planning panels have been established in the three centres of Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, and Bunbury. These work in close association with the local regional administrator and are composed generally of local residents drawn from industry, commerce, trade unions, government, and local authorities. The first manpower planning panel, Kalgoorlie, was formed at the beginning of 1977. These are additional to the State manpower planning unit which formed in April, 1977, and to State representation on the Commonwealth/State working party on manpower planning.

- (2) (a) and (b) Neither the regional panels nor the State unit have undertaken category by category studies of the skilled trades. To date work has concentrated on investigation of specific industries and regions, as well as in establishing research methodologies.

- (3) No direct submissions to the Commonwealth Government have been made by either the regional planning panels or the State unit. However a report on the progress of the unit and on the extent of manpower planning in a number of Government departments has been presented to the Commonwealth/State working party. The Government has made submissions on this subject to the Commonwealth and has urged increased assistance for training.

F. R. TULK & CO.*Operators and Apprentices*

157. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) In February did F. R. Tulk & Co of 23 King Edward Road, Osborne Park, sack 15 adult operators?
- (2) Did that same company employ a group of apprentices in December last?
- (3) If so, how many, and what was the order of subsidy obtained in respect of each of those apprentices and from what source?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) I am advised that the company dismissed 21 operators during February.
- (2) and (3) Nineteen apprentices were employed as at 31st December 1977. If eligible, the employer would be entitled to the National Apprenticeship Assistance Scheme subsidy for apprentices who commenced prior to January, 1977. The company will be entitled to claim the Commonwealth rebate for apprentices full time training in respect to those apprentices who commenced after 15th January, 1977. These subsidy schemes are payable by the Commonwealth Government. In addition, two first-year apprentices were trained under the group partial training scheme last year.

COMPANIES, AND SECURITIES INDUSTRY

Legislation

158. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Attorney-General:

- (1) Has progress been made towards the establishment of national legislation for company regulations and for the regulation of the securities industry?
- (2) What is the present state of play?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A rough draft of the proposed formal agreement between the Commonwealth and all States is presently under consideration at Ministerial level. Other papers prepared by officers dealing with a number of other matters, including possible amendments to the substantive legislation, are also under consideration.

ANTIQUE DEALERS

Trading Hours and Practices

159. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has there recently been any alteration to the hours of business and to other requisites for trading in antiques?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) Have there been complaints that other articles are being sold at the same time?
- (4) What are the details of such complaints?
- (5) What policing is carried out to see to it that the regulations are observed?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Amendments to the Shops (Exempted Goods) Regulations 1974 made under the Factories and Shops Act and published in the *Government Gazette* of 10th December, 1976, provided for antiques to be exempted goods which may be sold at any hour on any day.
- (2) The amendment constituted the addition of the following paragraph—
 - (p) Antiques:—
 - (i) Any article that has qualified for duty exemption under the Customs Tariff Act, 1966 (as amended from time to time) of the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or

(ii) Any other article made more than one hundred years ago.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) The definition of "sell" in the Act includes the expression "expose for sale" and the complaints are that goods which are not antiques are not removed or effectively screened from access by the public outside normal trading hours.
- (5) Complaints are investigated and inspection patrols are maintained by the inspectors. Any instance of trading in blatant breach of the law is dealt with accordingly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Lights on Commercial Buildings

160. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Does a local government authority have the power to ensure that commercial enterprises, such as shops, do not cause a nuisance by their harsh lights shining into nearby residences?
- (2) If not, what relief is available to residents?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Section 222A of the Local Government Act provides—

222A. A council may so make by-laws generally for prohibiting, regulating and abating nuisances caused by floodlighting or other bright lighting and, in particular, for regulating the erection and use of floodlights or other exterior lights used to illuminate land or buildings or signs on or over land or buildings.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Unsafe Products

161. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has the consumer products committee advised him to ban unsafe products?
- (2) If so, will he table the report?
- (3) What action is contemplated?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Commissioner for Consumer

Affairs, having received the views of the committee and having examined the activities in this field in other States, is now preparing recommendations for me.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Standard of Dress

162. Mr CARR, to the Speaker:

- (1) What are the presently accepted standards of dress in this Chamber?
- (2) Where can members find these standards set out in writing so that they can advise themselves of the standard?
- (3) Who sets the standards and how did they come to be accepted at present?
- (4) What sanctions are available to the House against members who offend against the presently accepted standards of dress?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) The accepted dress for male members in this House includes the wearing of a shirt, tie and coat. The coat may be removed when weather conditions are so oppressive that members feel distressed.
- (2) I would refer the member to the following passages in *Hansard*:

- (a) 15th March, 1972, page 36, where Speaker Norton said *inter alia*—

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

- (b) 20th March, 1973, page 37, where Speaker Norton again said, *inter alia*—

... Following on numerous requests from members and the difficulty in reducing the temperature in this Chamber during the early and latter parts of the session, I am prepared to allow members to remove their coats when temperatures are high or conditions humid.

This does not mean that members can enter the Chamber without ties and I would expect members to replace their coats as soon as the temperature in the Chamber becomes reasonable.

- (c) 18th September, 1974, page 1586, where Speaker Hutchinson said, *inter alia*—

My immediate predecessor, Mr Daniel Norton, did permit members to take their coats off, provided they wore long-sleeved shirts and ties, and provided that the conditions were oppressive and difficult to cope with—

- (d) 14th April, 1976, page 598, where Speaker Hutchinson again said, *inter alia*—

I have followed the rather tolerant views expressed and the procedure followed by the previous Speaker of this House, I believe members should wear coats and ties on normal occasions, and during hot weather they may take off their coats.

- (3) Upon reading the references I have given, the member will become aware that, in practice, the Speaker's guidance has been sought on a number of occasions. When he has given a direction in the matter it must be taken to be the attitude of the House unless the House otherwise decides.
- (4) One would hope that a matter such as this would never become an issue involving sanctions. However, should a serious difference arise on any matter which involves the authority of the Chair, the provisions of Standing Order 70(e) would apply.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Lump Sum Payments

163. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware that many workers' compensation lump sums are being paid to injured workers who are permanently or partially incapacitated, and then these people are being denied social security benefits, either sick benefit or invalid pension?
- (2) Is he also aware that these benefits are denied for a period determined by dividing the worker's former weekly pay rate into the lump sum to determine the number of weeks before eligibility?

- (3) In view of the tragedies caused under this practice by beneficiaries of lump sums using the available cash to pay off house mortgages, etc., will he have the State Government Insurance Office warn people receiving lump sums of the Social Security Department's attitude so as to avoid them becoming destitute?
- (4) Has he received any complaints through his department of the above practice?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) So called "lump sum" payments under the Workers' Compensation Act are of two types. The most numerous are with regard to second schedule payments and the practice described by the member is not applicable to them. In the case of redemption of weekly payments the practice is applicable in the case of applicants for sickness benefits, but not in the case of applicants for invalid pensions when the lump sum is treated as property only, and not as income. As sickness benefits are payable in cases of temporary illness only, and not concurrently with Workers' Compensation, the practice does not appear to be unreasonable, and it is not within our power to control.
- (3) All lump sums, from all insurers, are dealt with by the Workers' Compensation Board. I have arranged that care be taken to warn intending recipients in all relevant cases.
- (4) No.

WESTERN MINING CORPORATION

Retrenchments at Laverton

164. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it the State Government's intention to offer financial assistance to the Laverton region for a works programme to employ retrenched Western Mining Corporation workers from the Windarra Mine at Laverton?
- (2) What other action has been taken or is proposed to assist the 250 workers who have been laid off?
- (3) Is the State Government prepared to offer assistance or compensation to relocate workers in other areas?
- (4) Will it urge Western Mining Corporation to provide assistance for the same purpose?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has kept in touch with the situation at Laverton and at this stage it does not appear likely that a local works programme will be necessary or serve any longer term purpose. Production at the Windarra mine and mill is scheduled to cease in late May or June this year although underground development will continue and key miners will be kept employed.

The company expects that part of the proposed reduction of 250 in the work force will be realised by natural wastage as mine workers take up employment opportunities elsewhere and, as a result, the problem on the actual mill closure date may not be as great as the initial figures indicate. The company is working also with the Commonwealth Employment Service in the region in an effort to reduce dislocation.

The employees concerned are in rental accommodation and therefore more free to move than if tied to the town by ownership of a home. In the circumstances, many would prefer to leave Laverton where there are few alternative job opportunities to be in a better position to take advantage of job opportunities elsewhere as they arise.

In the circumstances, a local works programme aimed at retaining some workers for a short period in Laverton would serve little purpose and may not be in the best interests of the workers concerned.

Nevertheless the Government will monitor the situation and will stand ready to discuss a possible works programme with the shire if it becomes apparent that any real purpose is to be served by this action.

- (3) and (4) The Government has been advised that Western Mining Corporation proposes to provide financial assistance to retrenched householders to enable them to move household effects from Laverton and therefore assistance from the Government for this purpose is not required.

HOUSING

Rebate System

165. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he please inform the House of progress made so far in the review of the rebate system which was announced last year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The review is still in progress.

A comparative study with other States has been completed. A random sample survey of applicants has been commissioned from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Consultative Services, and is to be field-collected during April, with tabulated results expected in early June.

HOUSING: RENTAL AND PURCHASE
ACCOMMODATION*Government Policy*

166. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Is the Government's policy one that includes the view that State Housing authorities should construct accommodation for both rental and purchase purposes?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Government takes the view that State Housing authorities can be involved in construction of houses for both rental and purchase, but it is not essential for them so to do. Neither is it essential they be involved in the provision of long-term vendor finance for purchase.

HOUSING: RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Purchase

167. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (a) How many tenants-in-occupation were permitted to purchase their homes from the State Housing Commission for the period 1974-1976; and

- (b) is it true that some applicants on the State Housing Commission purchase waiting list who were considered to be eligible by the commission have subsequently been ruled ineligible on the basis of credit worthiness by one or more terminating building societies?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) 956.
(b) I understand that this has been the position in about five instances.

HOUSING

Applicants: Questionnaire

168. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission recently written to all applicants for assistance asking each whether assistance is still required?
(2) Has a similar survey or questionnaire been sent to all applicants in previous years?
(3) If not, why not?
(4) If (2) is "Yes", will he table the document as circulated in each case, including the most recent?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) A letter has been sent to all applicants except those who had applied within the previous three months.
(2) A similar survey was conducted in April, 1969.
(3) The commission, as part of its planning related to programmes and funding, adjusts crude application lists for withdrawals and wastage. Details are published in each annual report. While withdrawal and wastage rates are based on experience, it is advisable periodically to check the formula being used by direct approach survey to ensure a realistic basis is being employed for forward planning.

The timing of these surveys may also be related to other factors. For example, the current survey was instituted so as to have a more reliable list from which to select a sample for an income survey related to the current review of the rebate code, as well as to revise the estimates of housing need indicated by existing waiting lists.

- (4) 1969 and 1978 survey questionnaires are tabled now.

The documents were tabled (see paper No. 103).

HOUSING

Applicants: Literacy

169. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the commission establish which of its applicants are literate in order to avoid issuing documents and letters to people who cannot read?
- (2) If "Yes", how is this literacy established?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

HOUSING

Applicants: Financial Assistance

170. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

What actions are the Government taking to provide assistance to home seekers who earn too much to be eligible for low interest housing loans from Government funds but who cannot afford to save much each week towards a deposit because they pay high weekly rent for a flat or house?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Housing loans are made available from terminating building societies under the Housing Loans Guarantee Act for families with incomes marginally in excess of income eligibility for Government funds.

In co-operation with permanent building societies, the Government has introduced the low income borrowers' scheme which allows a flexible repayment system more closely related to income and repayment capacity.

PRISON

Canning Vale

171. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the expected completion date for Stage 1 of the Canning Vale maximum security prison?

- (2) What is the expected completion date and estimated cost of Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the same prison?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) I am unable to answer this question until tenders have been called and a contract let.
- (2) It is not possible to give either expected completion dates or a more accurate estimate of costs until working drawings and specifications have been completed and tenders called, than that contained in the news release supplied to the member in answer to question 82 of Thursday, 16th March, 1978.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Travel Agencies

172. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he aware that the Commonwealth Government is to legislate in the area of travel agencies and their activities?
- (2) If so, is complementary State legislation necessary and when is action by the Commonwealth contemplated?
- (3) Are there sufficient safeguards in the State scene for consumers of travel agencies' services?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Commonwealth Government is believed to be finalising its draft legislation in this field. When the Bill is tabled it will be examined by my officers and by officers of the Department of Tourism in order to determine whether or not complementary State legislation is necessary.

HEALTH

Snake Bite Kits

173. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there concern at the inadequacy of "snake-bite" kits?
- (2) If so, what action is contemplated to prevent the continued sale of useless and/or dangerous kits?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) Useless and/or dangerous kits have been removed from sale and Public Health Department officers will monitor normal outlets to ensure that unsatisfactory kits are not offered for sale.

TEACHERS

Leave for Military Training

174. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What provision, if any, is made for leave for teachers attending courses and camps in connection with citizen military training?
- (2) Is there any provision for leave for special courses as distinct from camps?
- (3) Is it a fact that leave for special courses was proposed in the past in the Education Department circular?
- (4) If there is no such allowance for leave, can he say why the proposal has not been written into departmental regulations?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Leave with pay is granted to teachers to attend the annual two week citizen military training camps.
- (2) Leave to attend special courses may be granted if taken in lieu of the annual camp. Some special courses have been arranged in school vacations and the department has requested that this provision be made to reduce disruption to school programmes.
- (3) The circular referred to indicated that leave for the annual camp would be with pay, that leave for special courses would be without pay, but that in all cases leave will be subject to departmental convenience and approval.
- (4) It is neither practicable nor desirable to have every departmental procedure formalised in regulations.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Cool Rooms

175. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that cool rooms have been installed in some school canteens by the Education Department?

- (2) If "Yes" what are the schools that have been provided with cool rooms in canteens and in which year were they installed?
- (3) What is the Education Department's policy relating to the necessity for and installation of such a facility, especially in canteens in large metropolitan high schools?
- (4) What consideration is being given to the installation of a cool room in the canteen at the Mirrabooka Senior High School?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Wanneroo and Willetton, which opened as new schools in 1977. Safety Bay and Maddington, which opened in 1978.
- (3) Canteen cool rooms are installed as a part of the Stage 1 contract for new high schools. Consideration is given to providing a cool room, as funds permit, in older high schools from which applications have been received.
- (4) Mirrabooka Senior High School has received consideration in terms of the above policy. The parents and citizens' association has recently presented quotes in order to have a cool room built under subsidy as funds are not at present available from normal departmental sources.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HOUSING

Interest Rates

I. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Treasurer:

My question follows on question 118 which I asked today of the Minister for Housing. In his reply to that question, the Minister for Housing confirmed that some applicants for State Housing Commission assistance are having to find second mortgage finance at rates of up to 17 per cent in order to purchase homes for which they have been waiting for up to six years. Will the Treasurer assure the House that he will investigate means by which the State Housing Commission itself may be allowed to finance second mortgages at more reasonable rates of interest, bearing in mind that the State Housing Commission's prime function is to provide homes for people on lower incomes, and certainly not to facilitate

the provision of those homes through finance at rates of up to 17 per cent?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I assure the honourable member I will have the question he has raised investigated, but not on the basis of only the State Housing Commission providing the facilities, because there might be a better way.

GOVERNMENT AGENT IN JAPAN

Achievements, Qualifications, and Cost

2. Mr BARNETT, to the Treasurer:

I have given the Treasurer notice of my question, because it is in five parts and I realise that otherwise, it would be impossible for him to answer.

Sir Charles Court: I have had no notice.

Mr BARNETT: I rang it through to the Treasurer's office this morning. My question is—

- (1) What was achieved by Mr Slade whilst he was the agent of the Western Australian Government in Japan?
- (2) What was the total length of time and total cost of his appointment?
- (3) Why has it been necessary for the Premier and Ministers to make so many trips to that area when it has a representative purported to be capable of handling this Government's affairs in that country?
- (4) Who has replaced Mr Slade, and what are his qualifications?
- (5) What are the qualifications held by Mr Slade that equip him for appointment as Agent-General in London?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I apologise to the honourable member; I find the papers in response to his question are on my desk. The answer is as follows—

- (1) A very effective representation of Western Australian Government views and support to Western Australian industry and commerce in Japan.
If the honourable member wants any verification of this, I suggest he contacts the many, many, business people from this State who have used Mr Slade's good offices up there to assist them in their representations.

(2) From the 9th May, 1968, until the 27th February, 1978. The cost of his appointment is contained in the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

(3) Mr Slade gave outstanding service and very capably handled the many tasks required of him both by government and by industry and commerce. However, there are occasions when circumstances demanded either my presence or that of the Minister for Industrial Development at the conference table in Japan to press our claims for a satisfactory resolution of a resource supply issue. Also, according to Japanese custom and expectation, it is important that Government members occasionally pay goodwill visits as indeed the former Premier (Mr Tonkin) and his Ministers have done.

(4) Mr John O'Brien, a businessman from Perth, with considerable experience in trade with Japan.

(5) A forceful personality with a sound basic knowledge and experience of commercial business and trading coupled with a very full understanding of what the Government and industry and commerce seeks from the Agent-General's role in Europe.

The honourable member sniggers; he should be ashamed of himself.

Mr Barnett: You would not know what I was doing.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG AUTHORITY

Premises

3. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

Is it a fact that the Alcohol and Drug Authority currently is seeking premises in the East Perth-West Perth area to serve as a refuge or night shelter for alcoholics and drug addicts?

Mr RIDGE replied:

I think the simple answer to the question would be "No", because I am not aware of the Alcohol and Drug Authority seeking premises for that particular purpose. I believe the authority is seeking premises in the near Perth metropolitan area for a facility for making methadone available to drug addicts; but I do not believe it is for the purpose to which the honourable member particularly referred. If he requires more specific information he

can either discuss the matter with me or put his question on notice, and I will be happy to provide that information.

EXPORTS

Sheep

4. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Although my question really is without notice, it is one that the Minister will have no difficulty in answering.

- (1) Is it correct that the Government has called a conference for tomorrow on the live sheep export dispute?
- (2) Who will attend the conference?
- (3) Will the Government be represented, and if so, by whom?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) No, the Government has not called a conference for tomorrow. However, in explanation, I have offered under certain circumstances to call a meeting for Thursday. It would be a meeting of representatives of the farming industry, the shippers unions, and the Ministers concerned.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Community Kindergartens Association

5. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Mrs Lefroy who is a subcommittee member of the Community Kindergartens Association, the same person who was previously Chairman of the Pre-School Board?
- (2) Is it a fact that he stated last year that Mrs Lefroy supported the Government's plans for restructuring pre-school education?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1) and (2), why is he now refusing to meet with representatives of the Community Kindergartens Association for which Mrs Lefroy is a leading spokeswoman and with which he has aligned himself?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) The honourable member's informant is either misinformed or out of date. In answer to the first part of his question, I would not be sure whether Mrs Lefroy is an office bearer of the new association. She has given it her support, and I commend her for it. In

regard to the question relating to the parent bodies, and my relationship with the Community Kindergartens Association, if the honourable member catches up with his informant and obtains some information he will find I met with some of them last evening, including Mrs Scott and the senior vice-president (Mr Gladstones) and one or two others, who happened to be present at a meeting I attended at Churchlands Senior High School. If the honourable member cares to research the matter he will find the answer I gave in introducing this seminar in which I took part last night and, it is this: The association knows that other bodies associated in the pre-school and kindergarten area of activity all will be seen by me at the conclusion of the seminars, as they have been told already.

By then, the total number of parents who have participated in all the seminars—there were a further 125 or 130 there last night—will have filled in the fairly comprehensive questionnaire we are encouraging them to complete, and which they are completing very freely, so that we will be able to obtain from them an idea of the sort of involvement they are seeking. The association is aware of this; in fact, I discussed it with them last night and reassured them we will be pursuing the discussions I started with them last night directly the seminars are finished.

PREMIER

Television Advertisement

6. Mr PEARCE, to the Premier:

On what basis does he appear in a television advertisement for a commercial product; namely, a solar hot water unit? Does he believe it is desirable for members of the Government to be seen to be directly or indirectly sponsoring commercial products?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I am sorry to disappoint the member for Gosnells, but I appear in no commercials for a private company. If the honourable member refers to the particular advertisement which he has queried, he will find I have made an appearance on television in support of the Australian

Design Council, with special reference to the Western Australian section of the council, and particularly because a Western Australian product manufactured by Solarhart Pty. Ltd. has won the Australian Design Council award in a very commendable fashion; in fact, it is a product which now is being successfully marketed internationally. If the honourable member checks his facts he will find that under no circumstances have I appeared in the commercial advertisement; I appeared for the Australian Design Council and for no-one else, and I understand that appearance has been shown a number of times.

The SPEAKER: Might I just say at this stage I am attempting to call those members who have not already asked a question. We must limit the time taken on questions without notice and to be fair, I should call members who have not asked a question before I call an honourable member for a second question.

IMMIGRATION

Skilled Tradesmen

7. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

In view of the Minister's favourable comments made last Thursday on the proposals to import Filipino miners to work in the Fimiston goldmines shortly prior to their closure, and his favourable comments concerning the importation of skilled workers, at present, is the House to understand that he would not be opposed to the immigration of similar workers in the event that the said mines are able to reopen in the future?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I am at a loss to understand what the honourable member is talking about. Quite obviously, he is attempting to put words into my mouth. At one stage some years ago there was a proposal to investigate the possibility of bringing in Filipino miners, but it did not go beyond the suggestion. Therefore, I do not know to what the honourable member is alluding. If he really wants to obtain information I suggest he puts his question on the notice paper.

INTEREST RATES

Building Societies

8. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Housing:

My question is further to the Minister's answer to part (3) of question 151 today, which had to do with building societies and the reduction of interest by them, in which he concluded by stating—

Member societies accepted the recommendation.

My question is: Have each of the member societies which have accepted the recommendation in fact implemented it?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

If the honourable member looks at the total answer he will notice a part which refers to the fact that some societies must fit into the economic circumstances of their societies. In other words, what it meant was that a number of societies have borrowed money at a higher rate and accordingly found difficulty in agreeing to lend at a lower rate. However, I believe most of the societies have already introduced part of the reduction and the remainder with which I have had discussions have indicated they intend to follow suit.

HOUSING APPLICANTS

Literacy

9. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

My question follows on the Minister's reply to question 169 on today's notice paper which was a question dealing with the practice the State Housing Commission might or might not implement to determine whether applicants are literate. As there are presently no practices to determine whether applicants for assistance are literate and that applicants who receive documents and letters from the commission are able to read those documents and letters, will the Minister please assure the House that he will investigate whether a suitable establishment process can be set up, particularly in view of the number of Aboriginal families and applicants now seeking assistance?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The member is obviously alluding to the fact that some people cannot understand the documents. We will certainly look into that. I imagine that in most cases people who receive letters also know someone who will explain them, but if there are difficulties we will look into the matter.

**ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
PLANNING AUTHORITY ACT**

Regulation 8

10. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

When does the Minister propose to

present to Parliament the amended regulation 8 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The Government has undertaken to have discussions with the Aboriginal Lands Trust before it proceeds with the proposed amendment to the regulation. I anticipate that the Government or the Premier, and certainly I and other Ministers who are involved, will be speaking with members of the trust in the comparatively near future, but at this stage I am unable to give the member an exact date as to when the proposal might be brought to the House.

