

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 9th April, 1975

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

BILLS (8): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Wespely (Dardanup) Agreement Authorization Bill.
2. Fruit-growing Reconstruction Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
3. Registration of Identity of Persons Bill.
4. Education Act Amendment Bill.
5. Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill.
6. Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act Amendment Bill.

Messages from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

7. Superannation and Family Benefits Act Amendment Bill.
8. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Bill (2nd).

QUESTIONS (83): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Transport of School Children: Subsidy

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Under the Treasury Department scheme for subsidising the bus fares of school children utilising MTT services, what is the maximum fare payable by a child for a single journey from home to school?
- (2) Does the Treasury Department subsidise public transport services in any country centres in the case of children travelling between home and school and return?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2) above, in what centres?
- (4) If "No" to (2) above, why?
- (5) Again if "Yes" to (2) above, what is the maximum fare payable by a child for a single journey?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) 5c.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Albany and Busselton.
- (4) Answered by (2).
- (5) 5c.

2.

SEWERAGE

Swan View

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it intended to extend the sewerage system at present installed in Swan View, into the areas of Kingsfield Avenue, Chartwell Way, Churchill Drive and Bladon Way, in the near future?
- (2) If "Yes" would he outline the proposed works and timetabling for the work?
- (3) If "No" to (1) will he study the need for sewerage installation in the areas mentioned, and indicate when such work may be anticipated?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. No firm date can be given for construction of this work as it will be controlled by availability of funds and the priorities of other works.

3. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Export of Hardwood

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is he aware of comment on page 109 of the 21st March, 1975, issue of *Overseas Trading* journal, which makes reference to "Italian Furniture Industry seeks additional Hardwood Supplies"?
- (2) Is he further aware that the demand for timber will continue?
- (3) Does this State export any indigenous hardwood to Italy for the purpose mentioned?
- (4) If not, will he have his department explore prospects of exporting any variety of our hardwoods to Italy to satisfy the demand mentioned?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) to (3) No.
- (4) Yes.

4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Exports to Ecuador and Venezuela

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is he aware of comment on pages 105 and 110 of the 21st March, 1975, issue of *Overseas Trading* journal wherein reference is made to the import needs of Ecuador and Venezuela?
- (2) Is he also aware—
(a) that tenders are called in national papers for goods and services; and

- (b) that tractors, agricultural machinery, cattle and sheep are mentioned among items required?
- (3) Is advantage being taken by the Minister's department of this potential export market through any agent in the States mentioned?
- (4) If not, will early action be taken to this end?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) Not at this time.
- (4) Inquiries will be made through appropriate Australian Trade Commissioners.

5. SALINITY PROBLEMS

Engagement of Specialist

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government currently advertising for a specialist in water salinity problems?
- (2) If so, for which department is he required, and upon what particular projects will he be employed?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Department of Environmental Protection recently advertised for a research officer whose duties would fall in this category, although not specifically referred to as such.

The successful applicant will work with a Forests Department research team with the prime objective of minimising possible adverse influences in surface and ground water hydrology.

This would be part of an existing and continuing programme.

In more recent years, a committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr H. E. Hunt, Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water Board, was formed and comprised representatives of the University, C.S.I.R.O., Public Works, Forests, Agriculture, Mines and Industrial Development Departments. This committee has been examining the whole matter in detail and has included field work in its activities.

6. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Vehicles from Southern Suburbs, and Traffic Flow

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

- (1) With reference to the answers to the questions 44 part (2) on the 26th March, 1975, and 9 on the 27th March, 1975, would he

explain how, in the absence of information on the origin of the traffic coming onto the Kwinana Freeway, the Main Roads Department has been able to predict the reduction in traffic volumes through residential streets in Melville and Manning, and the traffic flow on the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway?

- (2) With reference to question 46 part (3) on the 26th March, 1975, what is the capacity (i) in vehicles per hour, and (ii) in vehicles per day, bearing in mind the usual distribution of traffic between peak and off-peak hours, and the inequality in north-bound and southbound flows at peak hours of the interchange between the Kwinana Freeway and the Mitchell Freeway?
- (3) What is the capacity in vehicles per hour of the proposed interchange between the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway and Leach Highway?
- (4) What is the expected peak traffic flow in vehicles per hour in 1980 at the interchange referred to in (3), and how was this calculated, in the light of the answer to question 44 part (2) on the 26th March, 1975?
- (5) What is the capacity in vehicles per hour of the proposed interchange between the on and off ramps at Cranford Avenue on the proposed southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway?
- (6) What is the expected peak traffic flow in vehicles per hour in 1980 at the on ramp referred to in (3) and how was this calculated in the light of the answer to question 9 on the 27th March, 1975?
- (7) What is the capacity in vehicles per hour of the road which allows traffic moving south on the Kwinana Freeway to turn east onto Canning Highway in the proposed interchange between the Kwinana Freeway and the Canning Highway?
- (8) What is the capacity in vehicles per hour on the road which allows traffic moving south on the Kwinana Freeway to turn west onto Canning Highway in the interchange referred to in (7)?
- (9) Why is it not possible to use grade separation for the connecting roads described in (7) and (8)?
- (10) How has it been predicted that only 900 vehicles per day extra would travel on the major north-south spine as a consequence

of the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway, given figures 2.2 and 8.1 of the Main Roads Department booklet on the proposed southern extension dated May, 1974, which shows that the total traffic in 1979 on Manning Road, Canning Highway just west of the Kwinana Freeway, and the proposed southern extension would only be 900 per day more than on Manning Road and Canning Highway (west) if the southern extension were not constructed?

- (11) With reference to the figures described in the previous question, the traffic forecast for the Kwinana Freeway is 6 900 vehicles per day less when the southern extension is completed, and as the traffic originating from or destined to the south will increase by 900 vehicles per day the 6 900 vehicles per day reduction must arise from elimination of the Bickley Street/Kwinana Freeway interchange, why was the Kwinana Freeway/Canning Highway interchange not designed to permit the movement of this traffic onto the freeway?
- (12) Why does the benefit cost analysis for the proposed southern extension not include a debit for the increased travel time and higher accident exposure rate for the 6 900 vehicles per day referred to in (11)?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The information required by the Member will take some time to collate.

I will forward this information when it is available.

7. *This question was postponed.*

8. SOLAR ENERGY

Exchange of Information

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware of a recently signed international agreement which will arrange for Australia to exchange information on solar energy systems with other countries?
- (2) Has the Government been approached by the Australian Government or by CSIRO for its co-operation in the project?
- (3) What resources and/or information does the State have which would be of value to the CSIRO in implementing the agreement?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) There is excellent co-operation between the relevant departments and instrumentalities of the Government of Western Australia and other groups conducting or having interests in solar research. Frequent contact is maintained. A recent report on domestic solar hot water heaters prepared by the Fuel and Power Commission has been made available to the CSIRO. Further work is continuing.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL

Filling of Vacancies

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

- (1) When is it expected that the two vacancies on the Environmental Protection Council will be filled?
- (2) What steps will be taken by him to ensure that new members will be acceptable to the environmental interests in Western Australia?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) At the earliest possible date, after all factors have been considered in depth.
- (2) The opinions of the present Environmental Protection Council members will be taken into account at its meeting on 10th April.

10. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Alternative Proposals: MRPA Report

Mr A. R. TONKIN to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

With reference to question 57 part (2) on 27th March, 1975, why were those who provided detailed submissions on alternative proposals to the Main Roads Department Preferred Plan not provided with copies of the reports on their proposals in time to comment to the MRPA before the reports were tabled in Parliament?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Discussions were held by the Main Roads Department with the objectors who submitted detailed proposals. The events leading to the tabling of the Report in Parliament were in accordance with the provisions of the legislation.

11. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Select Committee Report on Road Safety

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

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department aware of the recommendations of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety's report on Roads and their Environment?
- (2) Is the Main Roads Department substantially in agreement with these recommendations?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No" would he please detail which of the recommendations are considered to be invalid and why?
- (4) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", would he please explain why the relevant recommendations are not considered in the various documents supporting the case for a southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) The recommendations of the committee cover a wide range of activities. However, the recommendations do not introduce any new aspects that have not already been taken into account in the freeway proposal before this Parliament.

concrete structures on soil foundations, is often less than that to similar structures on rock foundations?

- (4) Does the Minister agree with the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation that combating risks in a tunnel construction would be very difficult and very costly?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is in the affirmative, how does the Minister reconcile the fact that the Limfjord Tunnel in Denmark only costs marginally more than the estimate for an equivalent bridge upon a base which is essentially similar to the base underlying the proposed Canning tunnel?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Paragraph 8.4 refers to one of the environmental effects which would require further study; it is not a quantified result relating to a particular design.
- (2) Not necessarily, as more detailed study would be required. However, I believe the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation has presented a responsible report for the level of investigation undertaken.
- (3) Refer to question 50, 26th March, Part (2).
- (4) See (2).
- (5) The Limfjord situation is not comparable with the situation reported in appendix III of the MRPA report.

12. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Tunnel Design

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

- (1) With reference to question 5 on 27th March, 1975 and paragraph 8.4 of the Main Roads Department document "Possible Use of Tunnel", if the answer to question 5 is unknown, how has the Main Roads Department been able to make the assertion in paragraph 8.4?
- (2) Does he agree with the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation when it states that it is technically desirable to replace soil foundations with rockfill for a reinforced concrete tunnel and dewatering costs for a tunnel for the proposed extension of the Kwinana Freeway?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is in the affirmative, how does he reconcile this answer with reports by the Architectural Institute of Japan that in earthquakes of moderate intensity, damage to reinforced

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RED Scheme: Commonwealth Funds

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Would he list the local authorities in the metropolitan area that have received grants from the Australian Government for RED scheme projects?
- (2) Would he also list the number of projects per authority and the amounts of each project?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) This information will take some time to compile and I will make it available to the Member as soon as possible.

14. COMMISSIONER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Appointment

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Government appointed a new Commissioner for Consumer Affairs?

- (2) If so, when will the new appointee commence duties?
- (3) If not, when will the appointment be made?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Not yet.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The appointment is close to finalisation.

15. RETAIL TRADE ADVISORY AND CONTROL COMMITTEE

Membership and Meetings

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Who are the present members of the Retail Trade Advisory and Control Committee?
- (2) How many meetings has this committee held since the 1st April, 1974?
- (3) When was the representative of the consumers appointed, and when did that person first attend a meeting?
- (4) Did the committee examine the question of shops trading at night on the 24th April, or any other night near that date, and closing on Saturday, the 26th April?
- (5) If so, what recommendation did the committee make to the Minister?
- (6) What action does he propose against shops that closed on Easter Saturday last?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Mr H. A. Jones, Under Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry—Chairman, Mr E. C. Benness—to represent the occupiers of shops, Mrs P. Silver—to represent the purchasers of goods from shops.
- (2) Six.
- (3) Appointed in Executive Council 12th December, 1974, attended first meeting on 12th February, 1975.
- (4) No. The committee was not approached to consider the matter.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) None. Shops other than service stations on roster are not required by law to remain open.

16. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

Points of Disagreement

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is Western Australia one of the three non-Labor States reported in last Saturday's *The West Australian* which will demand an increase of at least \$190 million in

hospital funds promised by the Australian Government as a major condition of joining Medibank?

- (2) Is it true as reported that "The need for more funds would be one of the main points in negotiations on Medibank" when State Ministers and the Australian Minister for Social Security meet in Sydney this week?
- (3) Is it true as reported that the four non-Labor States would raise eight main points that were vital?
- (4) If this is so will he state what these eight main points are?
- (5) If the demand for more funds is one of the main points being put forward by Western Australia in conjunction with the other non-Labor States as a condition does this not show up the hollowness of his statement in relation to Medibank that, "There are times when other matters, including the vital principles of personal freedom of choice transcend dollars and cents"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes—but I emphasise it is only one amongst other main points of great importance.
- (3) Yes. There are also many detailed administrative points to be resolved if the main issues are agreed upon.
- (4) Not at this stage of discussions.
- (5) No.

17. *This question was postponed until Tuesday, the 15th April.*

18. ALLENDALE SCHOOL

Classrooms

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

With reference to question 71 of Thursday, 27th March, and as the answer to part (5) appears to be in conflict with the answer to part (2), will the Minister please clarify how many of the prefabs are being used as classrooms at Allendale school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The school is at present using all three Bristol classrooms. One of these is used for the special class comprising 14 students. The other two are being used as classrooms but need not be so. If the school were staffed with its normal entitlement there would be no classes for these rooms. The

school has been given two additional teachers and has elected to organise the school with two more classes rather than use the additional staff on a withdrawal type of school organisation.

expense where necessary. Such installations in primary school canteens will be subsidised on a \$ for \$ basis in accordance with policy.

19. TRAFFIC

School Crosswalk Attendants

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Traffic:

What is the body at present responsible for appointment and administration of school crossing attendants—

- (a) in the metropolitan area;
- (b) in country areas?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Commissioner of Police.
- (b) (i) Appointment — Commissioner of Police.
- (ii) Administration — local authority or Commissioner of Police according to who exercises traffic control.

20. EDUCATION

Dental Clinics

Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Which schools are equipped with dental clinics—

- (a) in the metropolitan area;
- (b) in the country areas?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Anzac Terrace primary school.
- Balga primary school.
- Brentwood primary school.
- Camboon primary school.
- Kewdale primary school.
- Marmion primary school.
- Newborough primary school.
- Nollamara primary school.
- Palmyra primary school.
- Willetton primary school.
- Yokine primary school.
- (b) Newman primary school.

21. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Fans

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

Will the Minister advise whether departmental funds are available to install cooler fans or exhaust fans in school canteen buildings?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Departmental funds are not available for providing cooler fans in school canteens. Exhaust fans will be installed in high school canteens at departmental

22. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Goods: Marking of Quantity

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Does his department have the power to require the quantity of contents to be marked on, for example, a packet of soap?
- (2) If yes—
 - (a) is he aware that a number of products give no written indication of the quantity of contents, and also are often packaged in a misleading manner;
 - (b) what action is contemplated?
- (3) If "No" to (1), has he considered or will he consider amendments to strengthen his department's hand?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Provisions under the Weights and Measures Act require a statement of net weight, measure or number to be marked on pre-packed articles.
- (2) A number of articles are exempt from the above provisions. The matter of deceptive packaging is currently under consideration by all States.
- (3) Answered by (1).

23. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES

Concessions

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Will he detail provisions relating to free or part concessions for motor vehicle licenses?
- (2) What currently is the figure referred to as the basic wage against which income is compared?
- (3) When was this figure last reviewed?
- (4) When will it next be reviewed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Section 11 of the Traffic Act outlines the provisions generally but to itemise these provisions would be a very lengthy procedure. If the Member wishes some specific information, I would be pleased to supply same. However, if the full detailed provisions are required, it would be preferable that same be submitted to the Member by way of correspondence.

- (2) \$48.50 per week.
- (3) May 31, 1974.
- (4) Currently under review.

24. SERVICE STATIONS

Night Service Fee

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Are service stations which operate on major highways on a 24 hour basis permitted to charge an extra fee for being awakened during the night?
- (2) If "Yes", will the Minister please provide details?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) There is no legislation in this State which controls the prices of requisites or fees for services which are normally available from service stations.
- (2) Answered by (1).

25. GERALDTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Tenders

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

- (1) When is it anticipated that tenders will be called for the construction of the Geraldton technical school?
- (2) When is it anticipated the school will be in operation?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) December 1975.
- (2) May 1977.

26. HOUSING

Geraldton

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many of the applications listed in each category of State Housing Commission accommodation in Geraldton have been approved for emergency housing?
- (2) What is the length of waiting time in each case since it was approved as being an emergency?
- (3) Is it a fact that some cases which under normal circumstances of supply and demand would be approved for emergency housing are being declined because of the pressure for those houses available?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) There are currently two families with emergency priority and awaiting housing assistance listed in the following classification—
 - (a) one two-bedroom family;
 - (b) one three-bedroom family.

- (2) (a) Two-bedroom family approved 8/4/75.
- (b) Three-bedroom family approved 2/4/75.
- (3) No.

27.

HOUSING

Geraldton

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

Further to his answer to part (4) of question 70 of Thursday, the 27th March, 1975, in which he said that subject to local authority approvals, construction can be arranged for 12 single detached dwellings for Aboriginal families in Geraldton—

- (a) is it correct to interpret this as meaning that the Commission is going to proceed to build these houses if local authority approval is forthcoming; and
- (b) if so, what is the projected time schedule for this work?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Commencement is expected before 30th June, 1975.

28.

TEACHERS

Recruits from America

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

- (1) How many American secondary teachers have been brought to Western Australia in recent years?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of how many were brought out each year?
- (3) How many are presently employed by the Education Department?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) 78 teachers.
- (2) 1974—70 teachers.
1975—8 teachers.
- (3) 71 teachers.

29.

TOWN PLANNING

Geraldton Region Planning Committee

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) When was the Geraldton Region Planning Committee established?
- (2) What are the responsibilities charged to the committee?
- (3) What is the basis on which its membership is comprised?
- (4) Who are the persons presently serving on the committee?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) A committee which became known as the Geraldton District Regional Planning Committee was established in March 1963.
- (2) The committee was charged with the preparation of town planning proposals covering the Town of Geraldton and surrounding areas.
- (3) Membership comprises representatives of local authorities and Government departments involved in planning of urban growth in and around the Town of Geraldton.
- (4) Persons serving on the committee at the time of its most recent meeting were:

Messrs C. Mildwaters (chairman), J. Trevaskis, P. Cooper, D. Shepherd, representing Geraldton Town.

Messrs E. Sewell, G. Garratt, K. Foskew, D. Lowe, representing Greenough Shire.

Messrs J. Batten, O. Reynolds, L. Shervington, representing Chapman Valley Shire.

Messrs J. Fitzhardinge, J. Pickering, representing Irwin Shire.

Mr D. Smith, representing Department of Lands and Surveys.

Messrs G. Burvill, G. Gorham, K. Lynch, representing Public Works Department.

Mr J. Moore, representing Main Roads Department.

Mr D. Martin, representing State Electricity Commission.

Mr C. Pearson, representing Railways Administrator.

Mr R. Neesham, representing Department of Industrial Development.

Mr J. Griffiths, representing Town Planning Department.

Mr P. Kent, representing PMG Department.

30. *This question was postponed.*

31. CHILD CARE CENTRES

Assistance to Play-group Type

Mr CARR, to the Treasurer:

Will he please provide details of any assistance available to groups operating a play-group type of child care centre?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Department for Community Welfare is able to offer assistance in two ways:—

Firstly, limited financial assistance to meet establishment costs where the group

is community based and unable to raise alternative finance by self-help and other means.

Secondly, through professional services available from the newly established early childhood development unit of the Department for Community Welfare.

In addition, help is available through the State Consultative Committee of the Interim Committee of the Children's Commission.

32.

SEWERAGE

Country Towns

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What country towns are served by sewerage schemes?
- (2) Which of these come under the control of the Public Works Department?
- (3) What are the respective rate charges for each scheme under PWD control?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2).

Administered by Public Works Department:

Albany
Bunbury
Collie
Corrigin
Denmark
Eneabba
Exmouth
Geraldton
Gnowangerup
Karratha
Katanning
Kellerberrin
Kojonup
Kununurra
Laverton
Mandurah
Meckering
Merredin
Mount Barker
Narrogin
Northam
Pingelly
Pinjarra
Port Hedland
Roebourne
Three Springs
Wagin
Wickham
Wongan Hills
Wundowie
Wyalkatchem
Wyndham

Administered by local authority:

Boulder
Cunderdin
Dumbleyung
Kalgoorlie
Manjimup
Morgantown
Nyabing
Rottne

Administered by private enterprise:

Dampier
Finucane Island
Goldsworthy
Kambalda
Koolyanobbing
Mount Newman
Pannawonica
Paraburdoo
Shay Gap
Tom Price

- (3) Bunbury—14c in the dollar on estimated net annual value.
Geraldton—6.5c in the dollar on estimated net annual value.
Northam—11c in the dollar on estimated net annual value.
All other schemes—15c in the dollar on estimated net annual value.

33. WATER SKIING *Public Meeting*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that on Wednesday, the 2nd April, 1975 a public meeting was held by the Town of Canning to discuss water ski activities in the Canning River and proposals for the location and development of facilities?
- (2) Is he further aware that invitations were extended to the Harbour and Light Department and the Swan River Conservation Board?
- (3) As no representatives from these Government instrumentalities attended this important meeting, can he indicate the reason for non-attendance?
- (4) Is he aware of the concern of residents living close to the foreshore of the Canning River in regard to water skiing?
- (5) Although many breaches of the conditions governing water skiing have been reported to the department, is he aware that no action has been taken against the people concerned?
- (6) In view of the increased water skiing activity in the Canning River, will he ensure that there is an increase in the patrolling of these areas by the Harbour and Light Department?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) In the main the matters which were to be discussed were not within the jurisdiction of the Harbour and Light Department or Swan River Conservation Board, namely road congestion, noise and public misbehaviour.

However, the Harbour and Light Department did by letter to the Canning Town Council dated 19th March, 1975, decline the invitation to attend the public meeting of ratepayers but offered to discuss any matter concerning water ski areas with council either before or after the meeting. There was no response from the council regarding the offer by the department.

(4) and (5) No.

(6) Yes.

34. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Particle Board Project, Dardanup

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

In connection with the proposed particle board project at Dardanup—

- (a) has he received any advice from the State Electricity Commission of possible restrictions in the supply of electricity to this project;
- (b) if so, would he advise the extent of the restrictions and whether they will have any adverse effect on the establishment of this industry?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.

35. WILLETTON SCHOOL

New Structure and Classrooms

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the urgency for a new school for the Willetton area to be ready for the beginning of the 1975 school year?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm that a new school will be built?
- (3) If (2) is "No", is the Minister aware that an estimated six demountables would be required for Willetton primary school in February 1976?

- (4) If six demountables are required, is the Minister aware that this represents one complete cluster which surely should be built as the beginning of the South Willetton primary school?
- (5) As the Willetton primary school is in its 6th year and has had a continued history of using demountable classrooms, will the Minister agree that a new school should have the highest priority?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that the development of Burrendah Estate is not proceeding in the vicinity of the Portcullis Drive site at present?
- (7) Is the Minister aware of the urgent need for the purchase of the combined primary/secondary school site in Burrendah Boulevard to relieve the over-crowding at
- (a) Willetton primary school, and
- (b) Rossmoyne Senior High School?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The new South Willetton primary school has been listed on the 1975/76 School Building Programme.
- (4) Yes, see (2).
- (5) The new school has been listed at a high priority.
- (6) The planning branch of the Education Department is kept informed of developments.
- (7) Yes, but a subdivisional plan for this area has not been finalised and approved by the Town Planning Board and until this has been done the site cannot readily be acquired.

36. EAST MADDINGTON SCHOOL

Extension

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

- (1) Is he aware that the East Maddington primary school enrolments are continuing to increase at an extremely high rate?
- (2) If "Yes", will he advise when the third cluster at the East Maddington primary school will be built?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the third cluster will be built.

37. MUTTON AND BEEF

Exports

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Are we exporting mutton and beef to south-east Asian countries?
- (2) If "Yes", to what countries and by whom?
- (3) If "No", what export capacity have we in Western Australia to export beef and mutton?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) During the period 1st July, 1974 to 28th February, 1975, exports were made to—
- Malaysia
Singapore
Japan
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Taiwan.

Information concerning the exporters involved is not available to my department.

- (3) Not applicable.

38. POULTRY FARMING

Legislation Governing Industry

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In view of the increased numbers of broiler poultry growers in Western Australia is he contemplating legislation to protect the industry?
- (2) If "Yes", when will the legislation be introduced?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) and (2) The number of broiler growers in Western Australia has decreased from an estimated 63 in 1973 to 48 in 1975.

The need for legislation in the general interests of the broiler industry is currently under consideration.

In this respect the broiler industry legislation which is proposed in South Australia, and a Bill now before the Victorian Parliament, are being examined.

39. POLICE

Gosnells: Breaking and Entering, and Vandalism

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he advise,
- (a) the number of homes broken into,

(b) the number of arrests for homes broken into,

(c) the number of reported incidents of vandalism,

for the past six months in the Gosnells municipality?

- (2) Will he give full details of what action his department is taking to safeguard the interest and property of that area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) 145.
(b) 25.
(c) 104.

NOTE: These figures do not include arrests carried out in other districts or charges still pending.

A total of 38 charges were laid against the 25 persons arrested.

- (2) Patrols are carried out by the Criminal Investigation Branch and uniformed Police within the district.

40. COMMUNITY WELFARE

Senior Citizen Centres: Subsidy

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is it now Government policy not to pay an annual subsidy to senior citizen centres unless they run "meals on wheels"?
- (2) If so, does such a policy apply if separate "meals on wheels" organisation and senior citizens' centre already exist in a town or district?
- (3) Have any senior citizens' organisations been advised their subsidy will be conditional on running a "meals on wheels" organisation, or on taking over an existing organisation?
- (4) What is the reason for any change in general policy or particular instance if such change exists?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) There is no change in policy. Eligibility for a subsidy does not depend on the supply of a meals on wheels service, but the service of a hot meal at the centre on five days per week is actively encouraged.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by (1).

41. WEST COAST HIGHWAY

Swanbourne: Planning

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

What is the present position regarding planning for the West Coast Highway in the Swanbourne area?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Arrangements are being finalised for consultants to commence an environmental and planning study.

42. NOLLAMARA POLICE STATION

Residence of Sergeant

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

Is the residence previously occupied in Nollamara Avenue by the former Sergeant in charge of the Nollamara police station, to be used by the newly created traffic authority?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:
No.

43. WESTMINSTER SCHOOL *Repairs and Renovations*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

When will repairs and renovations be carried out at the Westminster primary school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

A contract has been let and work should commence within a few days.

44. TOWN PLANNING

Rural Holdings: Subdivision

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Has the Government any plans to alter the regulations governing the subdivision of rural lots into farmlets?
- (2) Has the Government received any representations requesting changes in the law to enable rural holdings within 100 miles of Perth to be split into farmlets?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The Government has with the Town Planning Board investigated the policies of the board in relation to rural subdivision. As a result of those investigations the board has proposed that the outer metropolitan local councils should look at their rural zones with a view to selecting certain

areas which would in their opinion be suitable not only for farmlets but for other semi-rural activities. Having selected the areas, councils were requested to submit amendments to their Town Planning Schemes to create special rural zones.

- (2) Local councils outside the Metropolitan Region have also been asked to look at areas suitable for farmlets. There is no need for any change in the law for this to be done. Re-examination of the board's policies in relation to rural subdivision was prompted by the Government as well as representations received from local councils and land owners.

45. IMMIGRATION

Miss M. G. Danker

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

- (1) Was a Miss M. G. Danker nominated to enter Australia from Malaysia during 1974 under the department's "Bring out a Friend" scheme?
- (2) On what date did the department receive a completed newspaper coupon in favour of Miss Danker?
- (3) On what date were the necessary papers forwarded to Miss Danker's sponsor or nominator for completion?
- (4) When were the completed papers received by the department?
- (5) When were the completed papers forwarded to the Commonwealth Department of Immigration?
- (6) When was a final decision reached in this case?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Miss M. G. Danker was nominated but not under the "Bring out a Friend" invitation. Miss Lorna Danker was nominated under the invitation scheme.
- (2) 9th July, 1974 for Miss M. G. Danker. A coupon was received on behalf of Miss Lorna Danker in December, 1973.
- (3) July 1974 for Miss M. G. Danker. January 1974 for Miss Lorna Danker.
- (4) and (5) July 1974 for Miss M. G. Danker. February, 1974 for Miss Lorna Danker.
- (6) The nominator of Miss M. G. Danker was advised on 10th December, 1974 and on 15th February, 1975 on behalf of Miss Lorna Danker to the effect that due to temporary restrictions by the Commonwealth Government on

the admittance of migrants because of economic conditions, no further actions on the nominations could be taken at the present time.

46. *This question was postponed.*

47.

HOUSING

Separated, Divorced, and Widowed Females

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that the State Housing Commission has advanced as a reason for refusing certain types of housing to separated, divorced and widowed women, the belief that these women would be unable to maintain the grounds?
- (2) Does the Minister have any information supporting the belief that separated, divorced or widowed men are better able to maintain the grounds of homes allocated to them?
- (3) If so, what information has the Minister?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

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

48.

HOUSING

Balga: Single-parent Families

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission apartments in Balga are occupied by single parent families?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

This information is not available from the records maintained by the commission.

49.

HOUSING

Single Unit Accommodation: Applicants

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are presently seeking single unit assistance north of the river?
- (2) What was the corresponding figure in April 1974 and April 1973?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 381.
- (2) April 1974—357.
April 1973—(estimated) 325.

50. HOUSING

Balga and Nollamara: Maintenance

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the SHC maintain information showing the average time taken to attend to maintenance problems for any given period of time?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the average time taken to attend to those maintenance problems reported during the first three months of 1975 by residents living in the maintenance zone that includes Balga and Nollamara?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

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

51. HOUSING

Septic Toilets: Repairs

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has any SHC tenant waited for more than one week from the date of first report to have a malfunctioning septic toilet system repaired?
- (2) If "Yes" what were the detail/s of the case/s?
- (3) What is the SHC's general policy with regard to the type of maintenance referred to in (1) above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) The Member should appreciate that to undertake the considerable research required to answer this question is unwarranted.

If he has a particular case in mind I suggest he bring it to my attention by way of correspondence.

52. HOUSING

Balga and Nollamara: Black Australian Families

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many black Australian families are accommodated by the SHC in Balga and Nollamara?
- (2) About how many of these families have complaints been received from white Australian families?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Balga 37, Nollamara 20. Total 57.
- (2) Balga 8, Nollamara 6. Total 14.

53.

HOUSING

Prediction of Needs

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the Minister agree that accurate and up-to-date information is essential in predicting and satisfying housing problems?
- (2) Does the SHC maintain any compilation system whereby the average time taken to satisfy applicants placed in the—
 - (a) needs;
 - (b) emergency,
 categories can be ascertained?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If "Yes" to (2), what is the average time referred to for each category in the past six months?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Waiting lists are regarded to be a sufficient guide to current demand situation.
- (4) Answered by (2).

54.

HOUSING

Flats: Resistance

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does he concede that there is an increasing resistance to flat life evident in the attitudes expressed by applicants offered flats by the SHC?
- (2) Does he believe Government policy should be altered to allow for this "increased resistance"?

Mr O'NEIL replied

- (1) and (2) No.

55.

HOUSING

Flats: Rejection by Applicants

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants, classed as emergency by the State Housing Commission, have been offered flats by the Commission and have rejected them in the past 12 months?
- (2) Of that number, how many applicants were made a second offer?
- (3) In each case, what was the time which lapsed between the rejection and the second offer being made?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 216.
- (2) This information is not available.
- (3) Answered by (2).

56. HOUSING

Balga: Mrs P. Woods

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that the State Housing Commission notified the Member for Balga by letter on the 20th March, 1975, that an applicant for rental assistance, Mrs P. Woods of 27 Wardlow Way, Balga, had been classed as a 'needs' case and that it was impossible to indicate when she would be assisted?
- (2) Is it also true that in late February or early March, many days before the letter referred to in (1) above was written, Mrs Woods had been telegraphed by the State Housing Commission to the effect that she could collect the keys to her new home?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), how did this happen?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) The occurrence is regretted.

57. HOUSING

Balga: Vacant Unit

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that a single detached rental property owned by the State Housing Commission at Dallington Crescent in Balga, stood empty for several months during 1973?
- (2) Is it also true that the State Housing Commission was unaware that the house was empty until notified by a member of Parliament?
- (3) If "Yes" why was the State Housing Commission unaware of the fact that the property had been vacated?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The State Housing Commission advises that there is no record of this fact.
- (3) See answer to (2).

58. HOUSING

Flats: Policy on Construction

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that the State Housing Commission's policy is to continue the construction of flats?
- (2) If "Yes" how many flats will be built by the Commission in the next two years?
- (3) Where will they be located?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes, but in fewer numbers than undertaken by the previous Government both for families and pensioner applicants.
- (2) As many as appear to be warranted by the demand upon the State Housing Commission.
- (3) Where appropriate.

59. BUILDING BLOCKS

State Housing Commission Holdings

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many serviced residential home sites does the State Housing Commission now hold?
- (2) Where are these lots?
- (3) How did the stock of serviced lots vary in each month since January 1974 to the present time?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) North West (above the 26th parallel)—approximately 450 sites.
Country areas—approximately 1 200 sites.
Metropolitan area—approximately 2 100 sites.
- (3) This information is not available.

60. BUILDING BLOCKS

State Housing Commission Holdings

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many acres of land are now held by the State Housing Commission and earmarked for future residential use?
- (2) What was the stock of land outlined in (1) above in each year from 1959 to 1972 inclusive?
- (3) What percentage of the commission's budget was allocated to the purchase of land (as described in (1) above) in each year referred to in (2) above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Approximately 3 396 hectares.
- (2) A detailed break-up is not available.
- (3) Generally 5% per annum.

61. HOUSING

Balga and Nollamara: Rental Units

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many—
(a) single detached 2 bedroom homes
(b) single detached 3 bedroom homes

- (c) single detached 4 bedroom homes
- (d) town houses
- (e) terrace houses
- (f) 2 bedroom flats
- (g) 3 bedroom flats
- (h) 2 bedroom duplexes
- (i) 3 bedroom duplexes

are rented by the State Housing Commission to residents in the suburbs of Balga and Nollamara?

- (2) How many, in each category, are at present vacant?
- (3) For how long has each been vacant?
- (4) What is the reason for the vacancy in each instance?
- (5) How many requests for transfer have been received from tenants in each category referred to in (1) above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) to (i)—

	Balga	Nollamara
Single detached—		
2 B/r	46	268
3 B/r	345	61
4 B/r	61	7
5 B/r	7	
Town Houses—		
3 B/r	210	
Apartments—		
Single Unit	87	6
1 B/r	6	244
2 B/r	244	72
3 B/r	72	
Duplex and Quadruplex—		
Single Unit	12	78
1 B/r	118	20
2 B/r	130	6
3 B/r	80	
	1 381	428

The above figures exclude 255 units for armed services at Balga, and 81 units at Nollamara.

- (2) to (4)—

	Number vacant	Days vacant (under maintenance)
Balga—		
Single detached house	1	3
Duplex—		
2 B/r	1	10
3 B/r	1	4
3 B/r	1	61
Town House—		
3 B/r	1	20
2 B/r	1	33
2 B/r	1	20
2 B/r	1	50
Apartments—		
2 B/r	1	13
2 B/r	1	13
3 B/r	1	13
Duplex—		
2 B/r	1	6
1 B/r	1	14

Some delays have been due to inadequate performance by a maintenance contractor and remedial action is in train.

- (5) This information is not available.

62.

HOUSING

Mirraboopa Town Centre

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) At what stage are the State Housing Commission's plans to construct the Mirraboopa town centre?
- (2) When was the proposed centre first mooted?
- (3) Is it true that since the proposal was first considered, the development of major shopping facilities in Dianella, Balga (Northlands) and Warwick have seriously inhibited the viability of the proposed Mirraboopa centre?
- (4) Is the State Housing Commission considering abandoning the project or significantly reducing it in size?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Approval to proceed with the planning of the centre has been given by the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority and the City of Stirling.
- (2) 1952.
- (3) Not substantially.
- (4) No decision has been made to abandon the project.

63.

HOUSING

Flats: Policy on Tenancy

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that the State Housing Commission's policy provides for flats to be considered as suitable permanent accommodation for some tenants?
- (2) What factors are taken into account when deciding which family units are suited to for ever living in a flat?
- (3) Has the SHC considered using flats as a transitional home for those applicants who are seeking purchase as well as rental assistance?
- (4) Would he concede that a policy as set out in (3) above would ensure that the duration of tenancy in flats would be restricted in time and in ambit only to those people possessing the promise of a home of their own?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The Housing Commission's view is that its rental accommodation provides an initial but not necessarily final solution of an applicant's housing need.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) It is a fact that many tenants in all types of accommodation will also be purchase applicants who will be satisfied in the ordinary "wait turn" policy.
- (4) This question is supposititious.

64. WEST COAST HIGHWAY

Swanbourne: Environmental Study

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

What progress has been made regarding the environmental study of a route for the West Coast Highway through the Swanbourne area?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

Arrangements are being made for consultants to commence the study.

65. CHILD WELFARE

Vietnamese Orphans: Adoption

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Will Vietnamese waifs/orphans coming to this State be available for legal adoption?
- (2) Is there likely to be any impediment to necessary legal formalities?
- (3) Will he list the criteria for adoption as far as applicants are concerned?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. It is the stated intention of the Vietnam Government that war orphans should not be expatriated to other countries unless it is to families approved for adoption.
- (2) No, provided sufficient documentation is available.
- (3) (a) Husband and wife must be under 40 years of age.
(b) Applicants must be married for two years at the time of application.
(c) Applicants must have at least one other child, preferably where a minimum of 15 months exists between the child to be adopted and children already in the home.
(d) Applicants will be accepted if they have been resident in Australia for two years.

- (e) Applicants must be Australian citizens or else prove their intention to remain permanently in Australia.
- (f) Applicants must intend to remain in W.A. until the adoption order is granted unless their employment demands that they move within Australia.

Each application will be considered on its merits and the above criteria may be varied in exceptional circumstances. All other criteria normally applied to prospective adoptive parents will be enforced, however provision has been made to expedite certain of the procedures in the light of the urgency of the current situation. Earlier this State indicated that it would be able to take approximately 150 children. Recent information indicates that a much smaller number of children is likely to come to W.A. and my department is confident it will have sufficient prospective adoptive parents for the number of children for adoption.

Point of Order

Mr A. R. TONKIN: On a Point of Order, Mr Speaker, the Minister seems to be racing through the answer so quickly and, as he is mumbling so much, it is difficult to hear the reply.

Mr O'Neill: Can't you read?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Certainly I can read, but if we are to accept that we could dispose of the answers being read out to the House.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the answers to questions are to be read and not handed in, they should be read so that members can hear and understand them. However, I found no problem in this instance. The Minister may have been speaking a little too quickly, but he could have handed the answer in.

Mr O'CONNOR: In the future I will do that with answers of a similar length.

Questions on Notice Resumed

66.

POLICE

Aboriginal Girl: Allegation of Beating

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has any inquiry been made as to whether the recent reporting of the Kalgoorlie court case relating to the strapping of an Aboriginal

girl broke the law relating to newspaper reporting of juvenile cases?

(2) If so, what action is proposed?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

The matter is one which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Community Welfare, and he has advised that his department is currently seeking legal advice regarding the matter referred to, and will take appropriate action on receipt of such advice.

67. MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIR

Cattle: Sales under Minimum Price Scheme

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

- (1) What is the number of cattle sold at Midland since the initiation of the voluntary minimum price scheme which have been sold for the minimum price or above?
- (2) What is the total number of cattle yarded for sale at Midland in that same period?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) and (2) I am informed by the Chairman of the Beef Industry Committee that 45 257 cattle were yarded for sale at Midland between 6th January and 4th April, 1975.

6 736 (14.9%) of these were classified as eligible under the categories of cattle to which the scheme applies. Of this number, 6 628 (98.4%) were sold at or in excess of the reserve price.

68. BEEF

Minimum Price Scheme: Country Sales

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

- (1) Who are the members of the voluntary minimum beef price scheme committee and what organisations does each one represent?
- (2) Have any of these members examined operations at country sales since the formation of the committee?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2) will he indicate the names of the committeemen and the dates of visits?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Mr C. C. Bennett (Chairman)—Appointed by the Minister.

Mr J. E. Gardiner, Mr M. A. J. Cameron—Representing beef producers.

Mr M. T. Locke—Representing Meat & Allied Trades Federation.

Mr C. Maisey—Representing W.A. Livestock Salesmen's Association.

Mr R. Trevaskis—Representing the proprietors of privately-owned abattoirs.

Mr E. T. Russell—Acting in the office of Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

(2) Yes.

- (3) Mr J. E. Gardiner—Albany, 23rd February; Boyanup, 25th March. I am advised by the chairman of the committee that, since the inception of the scheme, an adjudicator acting for the committee attends all Midland sales and another adjudicator attends all country sales. Reports from these adjudicators are discussed at committee meetings.

69. MR LEONARD CASLEY *Citizenship Status*

Mr YOUNG, to the Premier:

- (1) Does he consider that the State Government has normal jurisdiction over the property occupied by a Mr Leonard Casley and his family at or near Northampton?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1) is there any special right, privilege or title accorded by the State to Mr Casley and his family that would not be accorded any other citizen of Western Australia?
- (3) Within the jurisdiction of the Government, do Mr Casley and his family have any status whatsoever differing from that of any other citizen of Western Australia?
- (4) (a) Does he agree that the continued use of assumed royal titles by Mr Casley and the inability of the Government to lawfully prevent such abuses could lead to a situation where the public at large and overseas visitors accept the absurdity that Mr Casley is the head of a "royal family"; and
(b) has any action been considered to prevent a continuation of the Casley type of misrepresentation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. The State's jurisdiction is beyond question, and Mr Casley's pretension to the contrary is manifest nonsense.

- (2) No, the State accords no special right, privilege or title to Mr Casley, or any member of his family.
- (3) No, Mr Casley and his family are all ordinary citizens of Western Australia in every sense. They have no special status of any kind.
- (4) (a) I think some people are misled. Whilst the average citizen of this State would be fully aware of the stupidity of Mr Casley's claims, people in, and from other places have less cause to realise that they are being duped.
- (b) As certain elements of the media seem intent on sustaining this hoax, it may become necessary to consider what special action can be taken, if only to save visitors to this State, and people in other places, from being misled and commercially exploited.
- (4) The question of restriction of clearing is a complex one. The Environmental Protection Authority is currently collating information necessary to enable a decision to be made as to whether a restriction of clearing offers the best possible solution.
- (5) There is evidence that yield reduction has occurred on some pasture in some areas. Good rains last winter reduced the salinity of the water at least for the time being. It is believed that on the whole salinity would tend to increase for some period even if clearing is completely halted now.
- (6) Because of the complexities of ground water movements accurate predictions of salinity increase are not possible at this stage. However, preliminary predictions indicate that if all the alienated land is cleared the salinity would be above the recognised limits for domestic use.

70. *This question was postponed.*

71. WELLINGTON DAM

Catchment Area and Salinity Level

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What is the total area of the catchment of the Wellington Dam?
- (2) Of the total catchment area of the Wellington Dam what area is held as freehold land?
- (3) What area of land in the Wellington Dam catchment area has been cleared for agricultural and other purposes?
- (4) Is it proposed to curtail or restrict clearing of land in the Wellington Dam catchment area, and if so, at what stage is it proposed to do so?
- (5) Has the salinity level of waters from the Wellington Dam reached a stage where it is damaging to some pastures, and will this level increase further even if clearing is halted now?
- (6) What percentage of the Wellington Dam catchment area will need to be cleared before the waters of the dam are unsuitable for domestic use?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) 2 830 square kilometres.
- (2) 1 000 square kilometres.
- (3) 580 square kilometres as at 1973.

72. COSTS IN COUNTRY AREAS

Inquiry

Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received representations seeking a Government inquiry into costs in country areas?
- (2) If "Yes", whom have representations been received from?
- (3) Will he agree to conduct such an inquiry, especially as a survey conducted by the ABC programme TDT and discussed on last Friday's edition, appears to suggest that unfair mark-ups or other unfair practices may be occurring?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No representations were received seeking a Government inquiry into the costs in country areas other than for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

The Pilbara report has already been released.

The report on a survey into factors affecting the cost of living in the Kimberley is in the final stages of preparation by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The Commissioner for Consumer Protection has no statutory power to examine prices. However, preliminary research of available statistics on the retail price of food in country areas indicates that a similar inquiry to those carried out in the Pilbara and Kimberley, is not justified.

The matter will be kept under review. 75.

If the Hon. Member has specific cases that he feels call for study, he should advise details to the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

73. RECREATION

Geraldton Facilities: Survey

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Recreation:

With reference to an examination of the need for community recreation facilities in the Range-way area of Geraldton, which was conducted during the time of the Tonkin Government, will the Minister please table a copy of the report?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

Yes. Copy of report referred to, tabled herewith.

Copy of the report was tabled (see paper No. 138).

74. COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS

Cautions for Minor Offences

Mr HARTREY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

(1) Has he read the decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, delivered at Perth on 3rd April, 1975, that the practice of Courts of Petty Sessions (in cases of minor offences committed in mitigating circumstances) administering a caution in place of imposing a pecuniary or other penalty, was not authorised by Statute or common law, and was therefore *ultra vires*?

(2) If "Yes" to (1), has he also noted the opinion expressed by the Full Court that to follow such a course "may well be a very sensible and just thing to do in appropriate cases"?

(3) If "Yes" to (1) and (2), will he as soon as possible take all necessary steps to have the Justices Act 1902-1973 amended so as to legalise this time-honoured practice?

(4) If "No" to any of the above questions, why not?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) and (2) Yes.

(3) The law is currently being examined to finally determine the need for discretionary provisions to enable the courts to impose no penalty, and the form such provisions should take.

(4) Answered by (3).

POULTRY FARMING

Hen Licenses, and Quotas

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) How many poultry farmers hold licenses for—

- (a) 0-5 thousand birds;
- (b) 5-10 thousand birds;
- (c) 10-15 thousand birds;
- (d) 15-20 thousand birds;
- (e) 20-30 thousand birds?

(2) (a) How many purchases of quotas have been made in the last 12 months; and

(b) what number of birds does this involve?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

(1) The Western Australian Egg Marketing Board has advised as follows:—

- (a) 250.
- (b) 56.
- (c) 14.
- (d) 3.
- (e) 5.

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(2) (a) During the 12 months March, 1974 to February, 1975, 45 transfers of licenses were approved by the board.

(b) 128 975 fowls, based on 1974-75 licenses.

76. POULTRY FARMING

Egg Board Charges, and Quotas

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is it true that poultry farmers have had a recent increase in egg board charges of 41%?

(2) Is it true that many of the State's poultry farmers are in financial difficulty?

(3) Will not this increase in fees tend to aggravate the problem?

(4) Is legislation proposed for this session designed to allow for quota cuts to be made at alternative times during the year than are currently allowed?

(5) If "Yes" will he give consideration to introducing this legislation as soon as possible in an endeavour to have quota cuts made before July of this year?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

(1) The Western Australian Egg Marketing Board has advised that charges covering the handling,

candling, grading and selling of eggs and also administration costs were last changed on 26th August, 1974, from 11c to 13c per dozen.

However, a special Pool scheme charge of 6c per dozen to offset losses on the export surplus due to current over-production was imposed on producers on 23rd December, 1974. This charge was raised by 2c on 27th January, by 4c on 24th February, and by a further 5c—the 41% to which the Member apparently refers—on 31st March.

- (2) Yes, to varying degrees.
- (3) Yes, but the increase was inevitable in the present circumstances.
- (4) and (5) Yes.

77. LAND EROSION

Kimberley

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

- (1) Further to his reply of the 19th November, 1974, in which he indicated that a decision regarding the Government action to be taken on the report of the Pastoral Appraisal Board on the river catchments of the West Kimberley region would be taken shortly, will he indicate action the Government proposes to take?
- (2) What are the details regarding soil erosion in this area to which the report makes reference?
- (3) Will he table a copy of the report?

Mr O'Connor (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Following submissions and recommendations made to me by the Pastoral Appraisal Board, I propose to communicate with the executive of the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association with a view to joint discussions and the ultimate formation of an examining committee for each station prior to any firm remedial measures being adopted.
- (2) and (3) The report has indicated the existence of areas subject to severe erosion as compared with the areas in fair and good range condition.

It is not intended to release the report, or statistics contained in the report, until each station has been examined by the inspection committee.

78. TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Kwinana

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

With respect to his answers to question 19 of Thursday, the 27th March, 1975, is he able to answer either "Yes" or "No" to the question as to whether the Government intends to proceed with the construction of a technical education centre at Kwinana during the next, say, three years?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

A technical education centre will be built at Kwinana in the next three years if the finance is available.

79. HILLMAN SCHOOL

Electricity Connection, and Reticulation Bore

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that whilst Hillman school has been occupied since the beginning of the school year, there is still no electricity connected?
- (2) When can the children and teaching staff expect the electricity to be connected?
- (3) Is he aware that the reticulation bore that was promised some months ago has still not been sunk?
- (4) Is he able to provide a date when this will be supplied?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes. However, essential lighting has been arranged by installing a portable generator pending completion of the electrical contract.
- (2) Within three weeks.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) As soon as funds are available in the 1975-76 financial year.

80. ELECTION PROMISES

Implementation

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Following his statement in the *Daily News* of the 8th April, 1975, page 16, that his Government has implemented 112 of the 275 election promises he made will he list for the benefit of this House the 112 promises so implemented?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Yes.

For easy reference, I am arranging for a copy of the Liberal Policy document published for the 30th March, 1974 State General

Election, to be appropriately marked to identify the items. It should be practicable to table this early next week, and I hope the Member finds it interesting.

81. SCHOOL OF THE AIR

Service to Pre-Primary Children

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

Can he advise of any developments which will benefit pre-primary students in remote areas served by the School of the Air?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Interim Children's Commission is currently considering an application from the Education Department which seeks funds to establish a Pre-Primary Centre at South Kalgoorlie primary school. From this centre it is proposed to establish on a pilot basis, via the Eastern Goldfields School of the Air, a pre-school service for isolated children. If successful, when more funds become available, a similar service will be extended to other isolated regions.

82. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Science Facilities

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

- (1) What science facilities are currently available at the Rockingham high school?
- (2) How do these compare with facilities in schools with similar circumstances?
- (3) Are the available facilities sufficient for current needs?
- (4) If "No" to (3) what is the programme for provision of these facilities, and what are the details of these facilities?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Five science laboratories were provided the year the school opened and two additional temporary science laboratories were set up this year and fitted out with appropriate facilities.
- (2) Normally the five science facilities which are provided the year the school opens are sufficient for the needs of the school and no further science facilities are required. The enrolment at Rockingham and the demand for science has brought with it the need for the two additional science rooms.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.

83. *This question was withdrawn.*

QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. UNEMPLOYMENT

Kwinana and Rockingham Areas

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Will he please indicate the number of people registered as unemployed in the Kwinana area on March, 1974, and March, 1975?
- (2) Will he please advise if figures are available for Rockingham for the same dates and, if so, what they are?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Registered unemployed—Kwinana unemployment district:
End of March, 1974: 441 persons
End of March, 1975: 842 persons
- (2) Registered unemployed—Rockingham Shire:
End of March, 1974: not available
End of March, 1975: 327 persons
It should be noted that the Rockingham Shire figure of 327 persons is included in the Kwinana district unemployment figure of 842 persons.

2. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Management Structure: Report

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

In view of the fact that I have received no acknowledgement or reply to my letter dated the 21st February, 1975, together with the fact that the matter was raised in Parliament on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1975, regarding a request to make available a copy of the study conducted into the State Electricity Commission by Cresap, McCormick and Paget, will he—

- (a) advise whether the letter was received;
- (b) advise when a copy of the report will be made available; and
- (c) if not, will he indicate the reason for declining the request?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) to (c) I cannot be expected to give an answer to the honourable member's question off the cuff. I will have the matter researched; and if the honourable member likes to renew the question tomorrow I will be pleased to answer it.

3. HEALTH

Fish: Heavy Metals Contamination

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

With reference to part (3) of my question without notice of the 8th April—

- (1) When were the results of tests on Western Australian fish tabled; where was the paper tabled and what is the number?
- (2) Was the report referred to in (1) above made public in any other way than by tabling in the Parliament?
- (3) Did the said paper indicate the amount of mercury in the fish tested?
- (4) When will the results not included in the report referred to in (1) above be tabled as indicated in part (3) of the question without notice of the 8th April?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Today. Not tabled yesterday as indicated in error.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Today.

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

4. SCHOOL AT MANDURAH

Additional Structure

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

In view of an article in the edition of the *Western Teacher* dated the 3rd April, 1975, regarding consideration being given by the Government to an immediate start of works required for 1976, will the Minister advise whether—

- (a) tenders have been called for the construction of another primary school in Mandurah;
- (b) if not, when will tenders for this building be called?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) and (b) Documentation is proceeding and every endeavour is being made to achieve the high priority accorded to this project.

5. SMALL BUSINESSES

Closure

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Does the Minister recall that on the 26th March a Press report attributed to him a statement to the effect that each day many

small businesses were being forced to close down because they could not make a profit?

- (2) Does he recall the answer to a question on notice I asked him yesterday which indicated that his department maintains that the occupiers of factories, shops, and warehouses are not required to disclose the reasons for the closure of businesses?
- (3) Can the Minister inform the House the source from which he obtained the information that businesses in Western Australia are closing down every day because they cannot make a profit?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) I refer the honourable member to *The Bulletin* of the 26th October, 1974. On the front page the following appears—

Small Business

The forgotten people in the big squeeze

It deals with the situation, for instance, in New South Wales. In the body of the magazine the following appears—

But in these times small businesses make up a fair proportion of the rising number of bankruptcies. In the year ended June 30, in New South Wales alone, the number of company failures rose by 27 per cent to 1091. And to the end of September, the rate of company failures increased further; 287 closed down.

The situation that obtains in New South Wales also obtains in Western Australia.

The reply to the question referred to by the honourable member indicated that the reason for closure is not designated when the Companies Office is notified. If the honourable member is in doubt that small businesses throughout Western Australia are in a dire position as a consequence of the economic policies of the Commonwealth Government, I suggest he consult some of the people concerned. If he does that he will be able to ascertain the facts.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The Premier said in his election promises that he would put things right!

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Marketing of Eggs Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr McPharlin (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

2. Pyramid Sales Schemes Act Amendment Bill.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 8th April, on the following motion by Mr Old—

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 T. H. JONES (Collie) [5.25 p.m.]: I take this opportunity in the debate on the Address-in-Reply motion to deal with several matters to which I wish to draw attention. It will be recalled that the State has experienced just over 12 months of office of the present Liberal-Country Party Government. No doubt, many of us also recall that the Government came to office on the slogan, "Let's put things right". However, the average person in Western Australia will realise that things have not been put right by the Government.

In the brief time that is available to me it is my intention to spell out clearly the impositions and the additional tax burdens that the Government has placed on the people of Western Australia; this is the action of the "put right" Court-McPharlin Government.

In *The Sunday Times* of the 6th April appeared a report under the heading—

Slow moving first year for Court's coalition

The report referred to the fact that not only State Governments, but the Federal Government and municipal councils experienced difficult times in the last 12 months.

More importantly, the report set out a number of specific items which I shall deal with. Further on in the report the following appears—

Even those things the government claims as its most notable achievements come under some shadow of doubt.

Biggest of these, the Emergency Fuel Act Powers was claimed by the government and its supporters as a major breakthrough.

However, it was not passed without major controversy which threatened to divide the community . . . and could still do so if the powers are ever used.

That is precisely the statement which we on this side of the House made during the passage of the Bill in question. The report continues—

Legislation setting up the Highway Patrol, promised during the elections not to be part of the police force, has provisions which smack of being palliatives to garner Country Party support.

I believe the meaning of the word "palliate" is "to soothe or gloss over". That is precisely what has happened.

The Liberal Party went to the people with a policy that it would establish a highway patrol, separate from the Police Department. We now know the consequences; the control of that authority will come under the Police Department. To continue with the report—

Motives behind the government's amendments to death duties legislation re-introducing provisions for governing director shares in family companies are still suspect in some quarters.

The report contains several other references, the most important being the following—

While the coalition policies are divergent on the Highway Patrol and education, it has been the Lamb Marketing Board where there is most evidence of open disagreement.

The Country Party—with a strong lobby from the Farmers' Union—has stated plainly it wants the board's powers extended to cover mutton and hogget.

The Liberals have stated just as plainly they don't.

That part of the newspaper report spells out to some degree the situation regarding the highway patrol, and the extension of the powers of the Lamb Marketing Board to cover mutton and hogget. It indicates that all is not well in the coalition Government. This is what members on this side and the people generally in Western Australia are saying.

It is quite clear that the Leaders of the Liberal Party and the Country Party have been concerned, because the Premier himself went down to the south-west recently. I understand he took his trumpet along, and as usual he blamed the Australian Government for the position in which the State Government now finds itself. Not to be outdone, within a very short time the Leader of the Country Party conducted a similar exercise.

Sir Charles Court: Why should he not?

MR T. H. JONES: The Country Party was concerned and had to try to get its story over because the image of the Government was rapidly declining. Every Press

report I see blames the Australian Government. On the Leslie Anderson show yesterday the Premier again blamed the Australian Government. I have a copy of his remarks and on every page there is mention of blame being attachable to the Australian Government. People are getting sick and tired of this sort of thing. It is wearing thin and it is now a question of how long can the Government continue and how long will the people of Western Australia accept the blame being placed on the Australian Government?

An article appeared in *The Sunday Times* in which Sir Charles Court claimed that we were a success State. He said the Government had achieved 112 of the promises made. The Premier spent taxpayers' money on a trip overseas and a very good statement appeared in *The Age* on Friday, the 31st January, 1975, criticising the visit to the United Kingdom by the Western Australian Premier (Sir Charles Court) and the Queensland Premier (Mr Bjelke-Petersen). I will quote briefly from the article, as follows—

As Mr. Wilson has been occupied with more important affairs (it would be difficult to think of anything less important), the two Premiers had to be content with lodging their protests with the fourth-ranking Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who, being a peer, nobly obliged.

And so it goes on. The protests were lodged with the fourth-ranking Minister and Lord Goronwy-Roberts politely told them what they could have discovered quite simply without leaving Australia.

The article points out that the visit was a waste of taxpayers' money, and the States would have been better served had the Premiers stayed at home. The Premier of Western Australia and the Premier of Queensland were politely told they could have obtained all the information they required without leaving Australia.

Sir Charles Court: That was not said at all.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is what was said in England.

Sir Charles Court: The Deputy Premier did a good job while he was away.

Mr May: Who made the statement?

Mr T. H. JONES: Lord Goronwy-Roberts.

Sir Charles Court: He did not say that at all.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier went to Japan and made certain statements but when he returned to Australia he denied making those statements.

Sir Charles Court: What did I deny? I did not deny that statement.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is the role adopted by the Government in this Parliament.

Sir Charles Court: I was told I was on the right track.

Mr T. H. JONES: The article which appeared in *The Age* said that the visit by Sir Charles Court and Mr Bjelke-Petersen was a complete waste of time and the same object could have been achieved had the two Premiers stayed in their own States. As I have already said, Sir Charles Court was interviewed on the Leslie Anderson show yesterday. I have a copy of the questions asked and the Premier's remarks, and I have noted that on each page—and there are 10 pages—the Premier blames the Australian Government for the present situation.

Sir Charles Court: Tell me of one instance where the statement was wrong.

Mr T. H. JONES: This has been the role adopted by the Premier all along and in answer to a question from Leslie Anderson he said that Canberra was responsible for inflation and unemployment. When our leader was Premier of this State the present Premier challenged him and said he would overcome unemployment within three months.

Sir Charles Court: Six months.

Mr T. H. JONES: On that occasion the present Premier said unemployment was a State matter. However, on the Leslie Anderson show he blamed the Australian Government for the unemployment situation in this State. Why should the Premier not accept the responsibility? It is no good claiming, while sitting on this side of the House, that unemployment is a State matter and then, on taking over the Government the present Premier changing his Swan song and saying it is not a State matter but has become the responsibility of the Australian Government.

Sir Charles Court: Mr Cameron took full responsibility for the position on behalf of the Government.

Mr Jamieson: Just pass the buck onto anybody.

Sir Charles Court: He volunteered the information on behalf of the Australian Government.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Collie.

Mr May: The Premier volunteered the information about putting the position right.

Sir Charles Court: We will, too. Members opposite are afraid that we will.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier made the statement I have referred to and he cannot deny it. He made it from this side of the House.

Sir Charles Court: Which statement is that?

Mr T. H. JONES: That unemployment was a State responsibility.

Sir Charles Court: I did not deny making that statement at all.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier made the statement and it is no good denying it.

Sir Charles Court: If we received some help from Canberra it would be of some help to us.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier said he would fix everything overnight.

Sir Charles Court: Send the Federal Government away for six months, and we will fix everything.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier said that the tourist field is moving strongly. I do not know where the strength is and I feel sure the Tourist Bureau would like to know.

Sir Charles Court: It is moving strongly, as the Minister will tell you.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier claims that great progress is being made in the industrial field. Can he give me one instance of something having been done to assist the trade unionists in the industrial sector of Western Australia?

Sir Charles Court: The Minister and I will tell the honourable member of a whole host of things.

Mr Jamieson: Just tell us one.

Sir Charles Court: How about the Machinery Safety Act?

Mr T. H. JONES: I know of no moves by the Minister for Labour and Industry, or by the Government, that have been of benefit to unionists, except the opening of a labour office in Port Hedland. What is there to support this contention by the Premier?

Sir Charles Court: What about the additional conciliation commissioner, and the assistance given to apprentices?

Mr T. H. JONES: They are machinery matters. Judges have to be appointed and the Government cannot take credit for that. It is necessary to appoint additional judges to the courts.

Mr May: I hope that was not one of the 112 promises.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier referred to the Fraser episode and said—

I am happy that it has been resolved because I think it has been brewing for a long time...

It has been more than brewing. We have observed the disposal of Mr Gorton, Mr McMahon, Mr Snedden, and now we ask how long it will be before we see the disposal of Mr Fraser.

Mr May: It must be effluent disposal.

Sir Charles Court: Tell us about the betrayal of Mr Crean and Mr Barnard.

Mr T. H. JONES: It is obvious that the wounds of the Government have been opened. The Premier said he would put

things right when in Government. I ask: What has been put right for the pensioners, the low wage earners, and the average citizens in Western Australia? No-one can tell me of one piece of legislation introduced by the present Government that has assisted the average person in Western Australia. The contrary is the situation.

We are aware of the additional burdens which the Government has placed on the people of Western Australia in the short time it has been in office. I will list them, and they cannot be denied. Some of the impositions placed on the people, generally, are: increased fares and freight charges, 30 per cent; cartage rates, 34.9 per cent; water rates, 11.1 per cent; sewerage rates, 25.8 per cent; interstate rail fares, 13.5 per cent; gun licenses increased from \$2 to \$3, 50 per cent; increased State Housing Commission rents from between \$1 and \$3.45 per week; electricity charges, 42 per cent; gas charges, up 10 per cent; manufactured gas, 17 per cent; pay-roll tax up from 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent, which will provide additional revenue amounting to \$4.5 million; motor vehicle insurance premiums, 25 per cent; drivers' licenses, increased from \$3 to \$5; vehicle license fees increased on an average of 65 per cent, the license for the Fairlane being the highest went up 113 per cent. We argued from this side of the House for some consideration to be given to pensioners.

Mr Grayden: What do you think is happening in South Australia and Tasmania?

Mr T. H. JONES: Other increases include stamp duty on cheques, a rise of 33½ per cent; liquor licenses for hotels and licensed clubs up by 27.3 per cent; tavern and store licenses up 6.7 per cent; and water rates have been increased. We also know that the State Electricity Commission, the Metropolitan Water Board, and the Fremantle Port Authority will have to pay 3 per cent of their gross revenue into the Treasury. The Rural and Industries Bank will have to pay 50 per cent of its net profit to Government sources.

Abattoir slaughtering fees have been increased considerably, but I will not go into that aspect at this stage because I do not want to weary the House. I am pointing out the huge taxation burden which has been applied by this so-called, "put right" Government which the people voted into power last year. Hospital charges have been increased by 50 per cent; meat inspection fees have increased, rail freights have increased, and so I could go on. This is the Government which the people of Western Australia were waiting for to put things right! I wonder what the average citizen and the average pensioner now thinks about the Government.

When the impositions were placed on the people we argued and asked for something to be done for the pensioners but

the Government answered that it intended to appoint another committee to look into the problems associated with pensioners. I wonder when we will see some action because the pensioners in Western Australia are finding it very difficult to live at a reasonable standard in the present economic situation.

Of course, it is possible that more increases are to come. We have had only the first session of this Parliament. When Sir Charles Court introduced the Budget last year he was reported in *The West Australian* of Friday, the 4th October, 1974, under the heading, "More taxes ahead, Sir Charles hints". I am wondering what increased taxes will be included in the forthcoming Budget and what it will mean to the people of Western Australia.

Far from having put things right, the Government has placed many people in financial difficulties, particularly the pensioners and the people on low incomes. It is time the Government took some initiative and introduced measures to aid those to whom I have referred.

All that the Government has done since it has been in office is to criticise the Australian Government at every opportunity. This line has also been adopted by the present Government's counterparts in eastern Australia.

I will quote from an article which appeared in the *Daily News* of Thursday, the 27th February, 1975, under the heading, "Steele Hall hits at Opposition". The article, in part, reads—

The Liberal Movement leader, Senator Steele Hall, last night accused the Opposition of defeating Bills merely because they were introduced by a Labor Government.

That is precisely the role adopted by the Opposition in the Australian Parliament, or the Federal Parliament. I wonder about the relationship between the Country Party and the Liberal Party. We know that the situation has not been too happy in the party rooms or in the Cabinet room.

Sir Charles Court: Who said that?

Mr T. H. JONES: We know it to be a fact, from information available to us. The Liberal Party was forced to accept pressure applied by the Country Party in respect of the new traffic authority. Nobody can deny that.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk such nonsense.

Mr T. H. JONES: We are aware of the fate of the Lamb Marketing Board. The Liberal Party had to look after big business. If the activities of the Lamb Marketing Board could have been expanded, it should have been into the handling of hogget and mutton.

The Country Party leaders themselves have said that the coalition is not all that happy. An article appeared in the *Daily News* of the 16th January, 1975, under

the heading, "Two C.P. men say: 'Libs out to kill party'". That statement was reported in the Press and accompanying the article in the *Daily News* was a picture of the Leader of the Country Party sporting his new moustache to which we have become accustomed since Parliament has been in session.

An article appeared in *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 16th January, 1975, under the heading, "CP ready to take on Libs". The article, in part, stated—

The Country Party in WA is preparing for a major showdown with the Liberal Party over its role in the Government coalition.

So, what can the people of Western Australia expect?

Mr Harman: They went to water.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have indicated quite clearly the taxing measures that have been introduced, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds in regard to the relationship between the Country Party and the Liberal Party.

I was surprised to read last Thursday week that the Premier announced an inquiry would be set up into the Laverton fiasco. All requests in this House for such an inquiry fell on deaf ears. I do not know why the Premier made the announcement—I thought it should have been made by the Minister for Police. However, suddenly from nowhere we see that the Government is prepared to support a Royal Commission into the Laverton dispute. I wonder why the State Government changed its attitude. Was it because the Australian Government moved in and said it would initiate a Royal Commission, and the State Government saw itself out on a limb? It has certainly changed its policy on this matter.

Unfortunately the Minister for Police is not in the Chamber at the moment. I would like to know the true facts about the recruiting of policemen. If the new Road Traffic Authority is to operate efficiently, we must find more policemen. I would like to ask the Minister whether he was correctly reported in *The West Australian* of the 13th March. The article states that the Minister said the recruiting of police would stop because no finance was available and that the officials of the Police Department were concerned about the number of officers required to man the new traffic authority when it comes into operation.

I wonder about the delay in the setting up of this new authority. The legislation was introduced into this House as a matter of urgency last year, and yet we see that the new authority will not be in operation until the 1st June, 1975. I would like to know the reason for the delay. If it is the intention of the coalition Government to take over traffic control in this State, why is it waiting until June of this year when it had the approval of Parliament

to do so last year? Legislation was passed to provide for the setting up of this independent traffic authority in Western Australia.

Mr Harman: They cannot get anyone to accept the payments for the registration of cars.

Mr T. H. JONES: I do not know the reason for the delay, or the reason for the discontinuance of the intake of recruits. Perhaps it is that no decision can be reached on the colour of the uniforms for the officers.

Mr O'Connor: By the way, the Minister has been here for most of your speech.

Mr T. H. JONES: I did not make my comment in critical vein. I said it was a pity that the Minister for Police was not here. I am aware that the Minister must answer the telephone or attend to other tasks. However, I would like to know the position in regard to the recruitment of trainees following the statement which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 13th March. Concern was expressed by police officials regarding the availability of officers who wish to transfer to the authority, and I said I would like to know what is the position.

I was rather concerned about the attitude adopted by the Minister for Police in regard to amendments to regulations. I fail to understand why he does not make such amendments public. I refer to the matter of demerit points which have been increased for the offence of exceeding the speed limit. On Thursday, the 27th March, I asked him whether the public had been notified of the Government's intention, as set out in the *Government Gazette* of the 14th March, to increase the demerit points for this offence. The Minister replied that the public had not been informed because further amendments were being considered. I do not believe this is good enough. The motorists in Western Australia should be advised of any alteration in regard to the loss of points for driving offences. The Minister has made numerous statements about Moora, Laverton, and other matters. Surely in the interests of the motoring public of Western Australia, when regulations are altered the Minister should carry out a similar process and advise motorists. I raise this question in the hope that something similar will not happen again. Not all motorists have access to the *Government Gazette*, but they should be aware of the requirements of the regulations regarding demerit points.

Mr Harman: Secret government!

Mr T. H. JONES: I want to turn now to the manning of polling booths when the recent referendum was held. Apparently the State Government decided to reduce the number of staff in the polling booths, but I believe it is a very bad practice to have a polling booth manned by one person alone. This is precisely what happened

when the recent referendum was held to determine the question of daylight saving.

I do not know who was responsible for this decision, but I do know that 12 booths in the Collie electorate were each manned by one individual. To say the least, this practice may lead to corruption.

Mr Sibson: Collie people are not like that.

Mr T. H. JONES: Here again we have the Bunbury wonder!

I am aware that such a practice could not be followed for elections under the provisions of the Electoral Act, but surely we do not go along with this principle. Many of my constituents rang me or wrote to me about this matter. I hope this practice will not be adopted when other referendums are held.

Mr Nanovich: Have you figures to show it had any bearing on the result?

Mr T. H. JONES: Surely the honourable member with his experience in local government would not suggest that to have one person manning a polling booth is a good practice. Would the honourable member go along with such a proposition when councillors are being elected?

Mr Nanovich: No.

Mr T. H. JONES: Of course he would not go along with it.

Sir Charles Court: How many booths did you say were manned by one person only?

Mr T. H. JONES: There were 12 such polling booths in the Collie area, and from my inquiries, I understand it was general policy.

I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Transport to the urgency for a decision in regard to passenger services to Geraldton, Bunbury, and Albany.

As the Minister knows, I have written to him, and he has also been contacted by the Railway Employees Union on quite a number of occasions. The last report I had from the Minister was that the matter is being investigated. The problem is exercising the minds of the people of Albany, Bunbury, and Geraldton. I hope that on this occasion the member for Bunbury will agree with me, although he usually disagrees with everything I say. I have also made a submission to the Minister on behalf of the Railway Officers Union of Western Australia, suggesting that a service similar to that of the *Prospector* service operating between Perth and Kalgoorlie should be provided. The *Prospector* is providing an efficient service. I hope the Minister will give this matter some priority because it is of concern to the people in these particular areas.

I am also concerned about the road transport industry in Western Australia. I do not think the Minister for Transport will disagree with me when I say that the industry is sick. Operators are undercutting

each other, indulging in questionable tactics, and many of them are being bankrupted. I realise that the State Government is not to blame for this set of circumstances, but it does call for some firm action and the drawing up of guidelines. At the moment the industry is chaotic; the owner-drivers do not know where they are going, and the commission does not know how to guide the industry.

The opinion is held that the number of operators entering the industry should be limited so that there is no overloading. When we have too many operators, price cutting occurs with the inevitable resultant bankruptcy for some of the operators. So there is an urgent need for the Government to try to limit the number of people entering the industry. It should also endeavour to stabilise the rates applicable. Most other industries operate on a general rate. If the undercutting ceases, the owner-drivers will remain solvent and the industry will become more viable. Some of the companies which have gone into liquidation may be able to re-enter the business. The union has asked me to bring this matter to the attention of the Minister.

On Wednesday, the 19th March, 1975, I asked the Minister what the Government intended to do in regard to the requirements for operators in Western Australia. He replied that the matter was receiving attention. This is an urgent matter, and the Minister knows as well as I do that every week more owner-drivers are bankrupted. Unless some positive action is taken to limit the number of new operators in the industry, Parliament is not carrying out its duty to the people.

Mr O'Connor: I think most people would agree that some sort of limit on the number in the industry is desirable.

Mr T. H. JONES: Could the Minister indicate whether the Government intends to do anything about it? I do not intend to be critical, and I am sure the Minister agrees that some action is overdue.

Mr O'Connor: There are submissions before the Government now, and the matter will be considered in the near future.

Mr T. H. JONES: Can we then expect some action in the near future?

Mr O'Connor: The background work has already been done.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am also concerned about the number of train derailments in Western Australia. Recently the Minister addressed the Railway Employees Union when he opened its annual conference. He called on the union for support to overcome the problems within the Western Australian railway system. His comments were reported in *The West Australian* the next day. Of course, it does not matter what the union members do or what the officials of the union do. Certainly co-operation will help, but the real problem

is outside the reach of the union—the union cannot overcome the annual deficit in the operations of the Railways Department. I am more concerned about the number of derailments. We have been very lucky so far because only goods trains have been involved, but the time will come when a passenger train is derailed. That would be a tragic event in the history of the WAGR, and our railway operations generally.

Recently I asked the Minister a question about the number of derailments since this Government has been in office. The answer was that there have been over 60 derailments in that 12-month period. The Minister gave speed and the length of the trains as the causes of the derailments. These factors may account for some of the derailments, but since the ballasting operations or track maintenance has been taken over by contractors, the standard has fallen. I know all about the snake charmers and fettlers on the railways, but I am sure the Minister will agree that since we introduced the new hydraulic system of track installation and maintenance, the standard has declined. I appeal to the Minister to initiate a top-line inquiry to see whether something can be done to reduce the number of derailments. This problem must be exercising the mind of the Minister—I am sure he does not like to have to stand up in Parliament to tell us that there have been 60 derailments in Western Australia in one year. I hope the Minister will take some positive action in regard to this situation.

The member for Bunbury was very vocal the week before last when he spoke to the Address-in-Reply after I had spoken on the amendment which dealt with the State Electricity Commission. His remarks are reported in *Hansard* of Thursday, the 27th March. He said that when I was Secretary of the Colliery coalminers' union I supported the Liberal Government. The Premier knows that this is not true—I had many conferences with him when I was secretary of the union. In fact, he was sick of the sight of the executive in his office. I think the same comment would apply to his colleague, the present President of the Legislative Council. I cannot remember supporting the Liberal Government in 1960 when it put 600 men out of work.

Mr Sibson: It was earlier than that.

Mr T. H. JONES: The member for Bunbury went on to say that when the cost-plus system was discontinued, the coal-mining industry got on its feet. He forgot to tell us who had introduced the cost-plus system. If he had done his job, he would have found that the cost-plus system was introduced by the Liberal McLarty-Watts Government and not by a Labor Government. We strongly opposed the cost-plus system.

As a result of that legislation, coalmining companies in Collie were allowing men to work on Sundays and paying them double time, rather than working them on Saturdays, when the penalties were less. I could say a lot about the cost-plus system. Machinery was traded between one company and the other company, all at the expense of the industry and the people of this State.

May I remind the member for Bunbury that a cost-plus system was introduced by a Government of the same colour as the one he now supports. I am pleased to see that he agrees with the doing away of that system.

It is all very well for the honourable member to be critical of me, but I point out to the House that his own town council supported me when I addressed it on behalf of the coalminers' union in opposition to extending the Kwinana power house. The council did not go along with the views expressed by the member for Bunbury.

Rather than criticise me for raising what he calls the "swan song"—of course it is a swan song, because I have tried to make it so on behalf of the coal industry at Collie—he should support the coalmining industry. This Parliament is the proper place to raise such matters, and if the matter had not been raised here, I doubt whether anything would have been done. The member for Bunbury would have served his electorate better had he supported me in my efforts to have the Bunbury power house upgraded.

The member for Bunbury has not raised these issues; however, I have raised them at every opportunity. Members will recall the figures relating to the total coal burn at the Bunbury power house. At one stage it was running at 100 000 tons a year, but it is expected to burn 400 000 tonnes this year. Had the member for Bunbury supported me in my submissions relating to the upgrading of the power house, his electorate would have been better served.

I appeal to the Minister for Police to rectify a situation which I have discussed with him previously. I refer to the condition of the courthouse, police station and sergeant's quarters at Donnybrook. This matter has been of concern to the Association of Justices of Western Australia, which has raised the matter with the Minister.

Recently, I directed a question to the Minister seeking to ascertain when the Government intended to construct the new buildings and I was told that the matter would be considered in the next Estimates, subject to finance. These premises are in a shocking condition. The cells are riddled with white ants. When the magistrate wants to consider his decision, everyone must leave the court and sit out in the open. The floor in the sergeant's quarters undulates so much that he cannot lay a carpet. Surely we should not tolerate these

conditions in the year 1975. The Government should give these additions top priority.

Mr Sibson: It was in a similar condition in 1971, 1972, and 1973, when your Government was in office.

Mr O'Connor: There are several other police stations in a similar condition, and we must allocate our priorities as we see them.

Mr T. H. JONES: I raise the following matter on behalf of Donnybrook residents to try to get some action. I refer to the proposed widening of the Donnybrook-Mumballup Road, a matter which has been under consideration for a number of years. I admit that the previous Labor Government did not go ahead with this proposal, and I do not criticise this Government. However, one has only to travel along the road to see the traffic hazards experienced there. Trucks hauling logs and stock pose a constant danger and it is only luck that has prevented serious accidents from occurring.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has six minutes remaining.

Mr T. H. JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appeal to the Minister to give this matter top priority with a view to widening this very important section of road.

In the short time available to me, I have clearly outlined the activities of this "put right" Government. I wonder when the people of Western Australia will wake up to this Government. The strategy of blaming the Australian Government on every occasion is getting thinner and thinner. People are getting sick and tired of hearing the Premier say, "Due to the Australian Government, we find ourselves in this position." I suggest to the Premier and his Government that they take some positive action. He talks about doing something for the workers. What has this Government done for the workers since it has been in office?

Sir Charles Court: How do you get on if your friends in Canberra refuse us the right to do something? What would you do if they refused you the right to carry out your own developmental programmes? You should be screaming at them, not us.

Mr T. H. JONES: This Government has done nothing about sick leave or workers' compensation legislation—legislation which is quite within its power to implement. How much workers' legislation has this Government introduced? Not one piece!

Mr Nanovich: Who are the workers?

Mr T. H. JONES: The member for Toodyay certainly is not one of them; he has made no more than three speeches since he has been here.

Mr Nanovich: I probably worked harder when I was 10 years old than you did when you were 30.

Mr Jamieson: Self praise!

Mr Nanovich: I would not expect any praise in any direction from the member for Welshpool. He would not give a bit of praise to anyone.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have never heard such rubbish. The member for Toodyay is always on this tack, but I think we all know the true situation. I worked just as hard as the honourable member did. At one stage, I was a coalminer working underground on contract. I do not know whether he knows anything about that. He should not cast aspersions at me; I used to work in the mines.

Mr Coyne: I thought you were a union secretary.

Mr T. H. JONES: I started my working life as a call boy on the railways, at 3s. 8d. a day. I did not inherit what many members opposite inherited. I have been a worker all my life and I am proud to have come from the coalmines to this House of Parliament.

Mr Coyne: How long were you the secretary of the union?

Mr T. H. JONES: As usual, we hear back-benchers opposite making their speeches sitting down. Very rarely do we see them standing to make a speech to the benefit of Western Australia.

Mr Nanovich: I cannot see what contribution you have made over the last half hour or so.

Mr T. H. JONES: Will members opposite be as silent when they sit on this side of the House? Only time will tell. Perhaps they will not be directed to keep silent by their leader.

Mr Sibson: I did say I supported the member for Collie in his previous statement.

Mr Jamieson: Whatever his previous statement was.

Mr O'Connor: That he was a call boy on the railways.

Mr T. H. JONES: Members opposite can say what they like; it is the Collie electors who determine my destiny, not—thank God—members opposite.

I have brought several matters to the attention of Government Ministers and I hope I have brought some important issues to the attention of the people of Western Australia. This "put right" Government has certainly put things right—right up! It has imposed taxes on the people of Western Australia, including the pensioners in our community. I am interested to see the report on what it intends to do to assist pensioners in Western Australia.

MRS CRAIG (Wellington) [6.08 p.m.]: This is the second time I have spoken in an Address-in-Reply debate in this House; I wish I could do so with as much gusto as the member for Collie, and look as relaxed about it as he does.

Sir Charles Court: Do not try too hard. It is better to say what you say, and nicely, than to say nothing like he does in a loud voice.

Mrs CRAIG: It is a privilege to be able to speak on behalf of the people in one's electorate during the Address-in-Reply debate. However, conscious of the clock to my right, before I start to discuss problems in my electorate I should like to bring three significant matters to the attention of members.

Firstly, I refer to International Women's Year. As the year 1975 has been designated by the United Nations as the year in which women will be recognised, I felt I might be forgiven on this occasion for being not just a member but a woman member of this House. I hope members all know that the theme of this year is peace, equality and development. Whilst it seems to be causing some amusement on the Opposition benches, I am quite sure if we could concentrate a little more on peace, equality and development we would probably have a far better world in which to live.

Mr Jamieson: You will never have peace in this world while you have a Premier like the present Premier sitting in front of you.

Mrs CRAIG: A lot of men are afraid that once International Women's Year is announced, women will rise up in a band, become militant and demand their rights.

Mr Skidmore: I must admit that it had me a little worried.

Mrs CRAIG: That is not the idea at all. Women want only the chance to be equal.

Mr T. J. Burke: You are more than equal.

Mrs CRAIG: Women do not want to be dependent. I believe I have been given rather a wonderful opportunity. I have been allowed to enter this House and I hope that not too many years pass before others of my sex are sitting here to show that we can in fact make a greater contribution to the State which heretofore we have not been given the chance to do.

Whilst coping with the problems members encounter concerning people, one particular matter has come to my attention. We are all in politics because we are interested in people, yet we have existing today in Government departments officers who are dealing with many people under stress. It is not the officers' fault that they deal with these people in a fairly unfeeling and impersonal way; such people are churning through their offices one after the other, every day.

However, this treatment causes distress to the people concerned. I am quite sure that every member in this House has had people come to him upset by something that has been said to them by a

person in the Department of Social Security, the Department for Community Welfare or the Repatriation Department.

Mr Taylor: Could you mention State departments as well as departments of the Australian Government?

Mr CRAIG: I did mention the Department for Community Welfare.

Mr Jamieson: You must remember that these people are only human.

Mr CRAIG: I am not singling out any department or person for criticism. All members probably have had forwarded to them letters received from these departments by people under stress. An example of this sort of letter was the one received by the next of kin of a person who died only the previous day saying, "Please return the little red card in your possession. If you do not know what it is like, it is two inches by five inches. We would appreciate your getting it into the mail as soon as possible."

This means nothing unless one is in a stress situation. Surely more thought could be put into writing these letters. They could even be roneoed instead of being written individually; at least then we would be sure that people would not receive the sort of letter which would upset them.

Another case, again dealing with a repatriation patient, concerns a woman who travelled all the way to Perth to find out what the situation was on the death of her husband, who had been in receipt of a service pension. She was told that his death was not due to war causes and that she would go on receiving the pension she had been receiving previously, an amount of some \$51.50 a week.

I do not doubt that the officer told her she was entitled to apply to the Department of Social Security in order to receive a widow's pension and that the pension would be higher than the one she was then receiving. However, for eight weeks after that meeting she continued to receive her pension at the old rate. She came to me and said, "When will I hear from the Department of Social Security that I am going to get this increased pension?" I said, "Have you applied for it?" and she replied, "No, I do not have to. The Repatriation Department will do it for me." Obviously, there is a breakdown in communication which is causing an enormous amount of confusion in the community today.

The difficulty in citing many cases is that privacy must be protected. I have noticed that it is fashionable to bring into this Chamber a sheaf of papers and letters received from people within one's electorate and quote from them and from the replies sent to those people. However, I do not intend to bore the House with that sort of thing tonight.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr CRAIG: A matter of great importance in my electorate is that of market milk, and I think it may be of interest to the House to know just how much milk is produced in this State. For the year ended the 30th June, 1974, the total production of market milk was 53 049 000 gallons of which 25 281 000 gallons of contract milk was supplied by licensed producers who also supplied 14 487 000 gallons of surplus milk used for manufacture. This means that suppliers of market milk are producing 39 768 000 gallons or 75 per cent of the total production of milk in Western Australia today.

How many suppliers produce this milk? In April of this year there were 565 people producing market milk and there were 307 manufacturing milk producers apart from which 196 producers were supplying cream. This comprises a total of 1 068 suppliers who are very well looked after by the Department of Agriculture, because there is slightly better than one officer employed in the dairy division of the Department of Agriculture to every 10 suppliers.

This situation has been brought about largely because when the Dairy Industry Authority came into being the Department of Agriculture absorbed some of the employees of the Milk Board of Western Australia.

It would be difficult to enter into a discussion on milk without mentioning the solids-not-fat content of milk. For those members who may not be aware of what this is I would point out that it comprises the protein, milk, sugars, minerals, and most of the vitamins in the milk. The term "solids-not-fat" seems to have gained increasing prominence in the last few years, due to the fact that there has been an introduction of incentive and penalty payments to producers. The incentive payments for milk with a solids-not-fat content above 8.6 per cent supplied between December and April range from 0.5c per gallon to 2.5c per gallon, according to the test.

Penalty payments operate throughout the whole year when milk falls below 8.5 per cent. A test above 8.4 per cent and below 8.5 per cent is penalised at the rate of 5c per gallon. One above 8.3 per cent and below 8.4 per cent is penalised at 10c per gallon, and below 8.3 per cent at manufacturing milk prices.

Members may immediately ask why is 8.5 per cent the standard set for solids-not-fat. I asked the same question and I decided to seek my information from the Department of Agriculture. When I asked why this standard was insisted upon the Department of Agriculture said it had nothing to do with the matter; it was something that was enforced by the Public Health Department and, accordingly, I thought it would be a good idea to ask this question of the Public Health Department. I did so and I was told that the

standard had nothing to do with that department—it merely enforced it; it was a standard adopted by the Food Standards Committee, and the department suggested that I contact the Secretary of the Food Standards Committee in Canberra. When I contacted the secretary he said, "We did not set the standard; I wonder whether you are discussing the paper that is at present circulating in Canberra suggesting that the solids-not-fat requirement be raised to 8.7 per cent." I assured him that I was not, and I returned to my original source, which was the Public Health Department.

I asked that department whether it could produce a paper which would show why 8.5 per cent was the standard we found it necessary to adopt. The department informed me that this was done to protect the consumer, to which I replied, "Do you believe that every consumer who swallows a glass of milk believes it is doing him good because it has a solids-not-fat content of 8.5 per cent; and would it make any difference if we adopted the 11.7 total solids which is applied in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom?" The Public Health Department merely reiterated what it had said in the first place. I have not been able to get a copy of the paper in question—and I am sure officers have delved in the archives—nor could any reason be advanced for accepting the standard of 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat. Why is it that farmers should produce a solids-not-fat content of 8.5 per cent from cows that are milked over a full year and milked during the incentive payment months in a stress situation? When this happens year after year we get a drop in standards.

Environment and temperature play a large part, and to prove this I would like to read a few extracts from a paper put out by the Department of Agriculture. The paper entitled, "Temperature and Composition of Milk—Environmental Temperature and the Composition and Yield of Milk of Jersey Cows" and it dates back to 1938. I quote—

Espe (1946) states that during 1941 at Iowa Experimental Station, the total production of the herd dropped 23% when the external temperature changed from 29° to 37° C. At another time production dropped 34% for temperature increase from 27° to 34° C. There were no changes in feeding and management.

Then in 1954 Hancock reports on high temperatures as follows—

At temperatures above 21° C, milk yield of European cattle decreases slowly at first, but after 27° C there is a sudden drop.

Management, of course, also enters into this, but when one is trying to manage a large herd of cows in the middle of a heatwave it is difficult to provide optimum

requirements to produce milk of a set standard. I continue to quote from the paper to which I have just referred to show that—

Shades have been found beneficial and Rusoff et al found that sprinkling plus shade was correlated with greater milk production than was observed under shade alone. The production of Holstein cows with shade plus sprinkling ranged from .4 to 2.5 kg/day more than with shade only.

All sorts of experiments have been conducted on feeding cows and also on improving the conditions under which they are milked, but the problem still persists. We were all told when the producers in Albany began to produce market milk that because of the climate there they would not encounter this situation; but this, of course, has not been so.

From this I hope it is clear that there is a case for a critical examination of the requirement for an 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat content at present imposed on farmers.

The rural economics and marketing section of the Department of Agriculture has been conducting a survey into the costs and income structure of the dairy industry in Western Australia. This survey is a complete study of one year's physical and financial results; but by the time these results are collated many changes will have taken place. At this point I would like to refer to the change in the price of super alone. To analyse these costs in relation to super we find that in a survey conducted of 13 farms producing quota milk the average usage of super/potash is 91.41 tonnes which costs \$2 726; and 5.20 tonnes of nitrogen which costs \$421, making a total of \$3 147. The current market price for the same usage of super/potash and nitrogen is \$6 939 which gives a total increase of 120.5 per cent.

This increase alone has the effect on quota milk of raising the cost of production by 4.23c a gallon of quota.

No discussion on market milk could exclude some comments on the negotiability of quotas. It is no secret that debate on this aspect has been raging for some time. If members would look at the Dairy Industry Act, they would find that section 30 (4) states—

(4) Any person who holds a quota may apply in writing to the Authority in a form approved by the Authority—

- (a) for the approval of the Authority to the transfer of the whole or part of that quota to another person specified in the application;
- (b) for the consent of the Authority for the surrender of it of the whole or part of that quota subject to the payment by the Authority to him of an

amount of compensation to be agreed between the Authority and him.

Surely this is tantamount to saying there will be negotiability! I think there is little argument about this; however the Dairy Industry Authority has experienced considerable difficulty in framing the conditions under which negotiability of quotas will operate; or rather in framing conditions which are within the terms of the Act. For this reason progress has been slow and considerable hardship is being experienced by many people. There are some market milk producers who have been hanging on, producing their quota of milk, and waiting for the day on which they could negotiate their quotas. I have an actual case of an old couple in my electorate—the man is aged 68 years and the woman 64 years—who are milking their cows every day until such time as they can sell their quota. The sale of the quota would enable them to stay on their farm and finish their days there. They will probably graze a few beef cattle in the hope that they may derive some small income. I see no reason why these people should be denied this privilege when they have put a lifetime of work into their small property.

Also considerable discussion has been raging about amalgamation. This was a requirement I read of in the Press, and my information has come from the Press, that in the event of a producer of market milk deciding to buy a farm next door, or if he wants to amalgamate, it would be necessary for the milk to be produced in two separate dairies.

Surely this is absolute nonsense! If one is going to get bigger and expand from a 60-gallon quota by taking in a 60-gallon quota next door one would not milk the 60-gallon quota in the one dairy and then scurry across and do the same in the dairy next door, and possibly also employ labour for this purpose.

I am pleased to say that at a meeting of farmers held in Harvey last week the chairman of the authority assured the producers he would review the situation. I hope the authority does eventually review the situation, because what exists at the moment is a retrograde step and it is taking us back at least 10 years.

There are some people who argue that a quota should not have a value. It is true that initially certain people were given quotas. If I had milked cows twice a day for 25 years with no time-and-a-half on Saturdays and double time on Sundays, I would jolly well think I had earned myself an asset, and this negotiability question should be settled as quickly as possible. There are many people in the butterfat industry who are looking forward to being able to buy quotas, and there are others in the market areas who are looking forward

to selling their quotas. Accordingly I hope this question of negotiability can be settled at an early date.

Much has been heard of the plight of the beef producer, and I do not wish to reiterate previous remarks that have been made except to say that beef does have a serious side effect for people who are producing market milk. They are getting a minimal price for their cows and nothing for the calves they sell; indeed the whole structure on which they were able to purchase their farms has been eroded.

For those people and for others who are in total beef enterprises it is imperative that somehow or other this beef scheme reduce the iniquitous interest rate of 11.5 per cent to something which is reasonable for people in trouble. They must be allowed a forgiveness of the payment for a period of at least two years, and the requirement that 85 per cent of the income be derived from beef must be removed. Unless this is done there will be no hope for the farmer.

I would like now to move on to the subject of the rise in the rate of salinity in the Wellington Dam. It was perhaps pertinent that tonight the member for Warren asked yet another question on this topic. Firstly I thought I would like to quote from a paper of The Australian Water Resources Council. It is technical paper No. 7 and indicates the effect salinity has on plants. It reads as follows—

The salinity or total soluble salt concentration of an irrigation water is an extremely important water quality consideration. An increase in the water salinity causes an increase in the osmotic pressure of the soil solution resulting in a reduced availability of this water for consumption by the plant. Consequently plant growth may be severely retarded.

The Wellington Dam was constructed in 1933 primarily to enable farmers in the Brunswick, Waterloo and Dardanup districts to produce perennial pastures so that milk might be produced all the year round.

I hope members will forgive me for not having converted the figures I have here to metric. If anyone is sufficiently interested I can supply a table for this purpose.

The safe draw of the Wellington Dam equals 75 000 acre feet. Of this, irrigation accounts for 55 000 acre feet, country water supplies, 6 000 acre feet, and industry, 14 000 acre feet. However, in reply to a question asked by the member for Warren in this House in September last year, we were told it is no longer considered necessary to reserve any specific quantity of Wellington Dam water for these purposes. The Public Works Department has agreed with the Bunbury Town Council to keep the Bunbury Water Board's needs under review.

The 55 000 acre feet for irrigation is designed to irrigate one-third of each farm with three-acre feet of water per rated acre, and 12 200 acres is the maximum area which can be irrigated. From the early 1940s there has been apparent a long-term trend for the salt content of the dam to rise by 4.3 mg per litre total soluble salts per annum. By the late 1960s it was in the 400s and in 1973 it had reached a peak of 630 mg per litre total soluble salts.

On the 1st August last year in this House I asked what level of salinity would make agriculture of the type presently being pursued in the area unsuitable. The reply was—

Irrigation pastures are likely to suffer some yield reduction when irrigated with water containing more than 500 mg per litre total dissolved salts.

Yet we realise that we have already reached a peak of 630 mg per litre total soluble salts. The question is not just as simple as the leakage into the dam of water with increased soluble salts.

Many departments have been working on this problem and the CSIRO was asked in May, 1974, if it would comment on some of the problems occurring in the Wellington Dam catchment area. It said—

For areas where the average rainfall exceeds 40 inches (1 000 mm) per year, the quantity of salt in the soil is about 70 tons per acre (170 tonnes per hectare). However, for areas receiving less than 30 inches (800 mm) per year, the soil salt is about 350 tons per acre (880 tonnes per hectare). These quantities of salt are held in soil which has an average depth of 70 feet (21 metres) to bedrock. This shows that there is a huge reservoir of salt in the soils of the Darling Range irrespective of whether it is forested or farmed.

Further on, the CSIRO stated—

The most important issue being faced at the moment is related to the continuation of clearing. Solutions to the salinity problem need research which takes time to be carried out.

"Time to be carried out." We already know that these investigations have been in progress since 1940.

Another point to be considered when we are talking about the increasing salinity content of the Wellington Dam is the number of towns supplied with water from the dam. There are some 25 towns which embrace a wide area and if this water becomes too saline for the stock to drink and unsuitable for household purposes we will have a problem of enormous magnitude. We know that the salinity is increasing. We know that some pasture species are affected once the total soluble

salts reach 500 mg per litre, and we know that water is one of the most vital resources in Australia.

We are aware that very few areas can be irrigated successfully. This is due to soil types, rainfall, and a lack of suitable areas for catchment. However, what we do not know is how soon some action is likely to be forthcoming to halt the rise in salinity levels in the Wellington Dam, and what recommendations have been made by various authorities to overcome the problem before the farmers in the area are forced to change their farming methods with a consequent reduction in productivity.

There may have to be a total ban on clearing or a reforestation programme embarked upon. There may have to be a system where the most saline waters are piped perhaps separately to sea or to a dam below the present one. I hope I will be a member of the Government when some such plan is announced and implemented.

Whatever the scheme decided upon, there will be an uproar. There will certainly be an uproar in my electorate and in other electorates, too. However, failure to take action will seriously reduce the productivity of our State and we cannot afford to let that occur.

All parties which are studying this problem should hasten to correlate their findings and announce a plan to reduce the escalation of salinity in the Wellington Dam. I do not consider that we can be dependent for a solution on the vagaries of the weather. We do know that, in the wet winters, the salinity drops and when we have a low rainfall winter, we are faced with a higher salinity level at the beginning of the irrigation season.

MR T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [7.53 p.m.] : We have been agreeably reminded, if this is necessary, that this is International Women's Year, by the comments of the member who has just resumed her seat. I say "agreeably" because I was personally quite impressed with her degree of human compassion in some of those instances where she knows things are not right and, indeed, have not been put right. I hope that her concern for human values and relations will rub off on the Premier and his team as time goes by in the remaining two years of the life of this Government.

Mr Harman: You are hoping for a bit too much.

Mr T. D. EVANS: I have here a copy of yesterday's *Daily News* in which it is indicated that the Premier has paused from his frequent long-playing and, indeed, constant and tedious exercise of maligning the Australian Government. This pause would be noted widely. It is not a pause from getting on with the job and making Western Australia a greater and better

place in which its citizens can live, but is a pause from that other exercise in which he indulges and which is becoming quite a humbug to the people of Western Australia. The article is headed, "We're a success, says Sir Charles". No doubt he means, "We have put things right", because that was the slogan used to launch the election campaign of the Liberal Party section of the Government. He claims that they are a success, so no doubt he has put things right.

I was amazed this afternoon to find in answer to a question asked by the member for Ascot that the Premier has accepted a challenge. I regret he was not able to deliver the bacon this afternoon when answering a question. Nevertheless he has accepted a challenge to itemise the 112 promises which have so far been honoured out of a total of 275.

The newspaper quoted the Premier as saying that this constituted a 72 per cent achievement. The Premier indicated that some promises had been carried out and others were being done. One could be excused for believing that perhaps the Premier was confusing people with promises. We know who is being done, and many of the people have been done.

The article went on, in referring to the Premier's assessment of his alleged success, to say that he had achieved a 72 per cent success, and it was stated that the Premier had had a background in accountancy. No doubt he has also become familiar with mystics and the fantasy world or he would not have made such a claim and thus proclaimed himself as being some sort of Wizard of Odds.

I look forward to seeing the marked copy of the Liberal Party manifesto in which he intends to indicate the 112 undertakings he has honoured out of a total of 275 which he made to the people.

The article went on to state that the Government has demonstrated that it places a high priority on people. Already one of his own supporters—and I refer to the member for Wellington—has indicated that things have not been put right in her electorate and that some of the people there have been given a very low priority by this Government.

Sir Charles Court: They have not. A lot has been done for them, as the honourable member herself would acknowledge. That is one thing we are trying to put right.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The Premier had better have a talk with the member for Wellington.

I make the point that already in this debate evidence has been produced by members on this side of the House to show that in fact the Government has failed—and failed dismally—to carry out some of the undertakings it made. It will be enlightening to see the policy booklet and to ascertain the undertakings which have not been honoured.

Mr Sodeman: Did you do everything you promised in the first 12 months?

Mr T. D. EVANS: The member for Pilbara can get up and make his own speech.

The Government has not only failed to honour some of its undertakings but it has betrayed the people of Western Australia by taking certain actions which it did not have the intestinal fortitude to announce at the hustings it would do if it were returned to office. I refer to some of the charges and increased taxation which have become a burden on the people of Western Australia. I will content myself by referring to one, and one only, of these; that is, increased water charges in country districts.

We all recall that when announcing the 1974-75 State Budget the Premier alluded to increased charges to country water consumers, and also to an increase in the rate by restoring the rate which existed from early 1960 till 1972 when it was reduced by the Labor Government. I do not want to speak about the rate; I concern myself only with the increased charges.

We on this side of the House strongly criticised the Government in the debate which followed the introduction of the Budget, and we drew attention to this state of affairs. We did not hear one comment from any country member supporting the Government side at that time, but as the weeks went by and the sad news filtered through to the people no doubt they were prodded into some form of action, because the Premier announced that due to representations from his own supporters he would conduct a review into the impact of the charges on country residents; and he did so.

In March *The West Australian* announced for him, "Reduction in water rate for country residents". The headline was confusing because it referred to the water rate, not to water charges. However, after this misleading heading the article went on to say that country residents, generally, could expect a reduction, although it was only a small reduction, which would apply to residents north of the 26th parallel of latitude.

This announcement had a very hollow ring for those residents living south of the 26th parallel of latitude, and we do not need to be reminded that the majority of country residents in Western Australia live south of the 26th parallel. Not only south of that latitude but everywhere in Western Australia beyond the metropolitan area where the country areas water supply scheme operates, domestic consumers, non-Government schools, local authorities, and industrial and commercial consumers face greatly increased charges this year.

I remind members that the review stopped short of commercial and industrial consumption of water. There was no reduction, either north or south of the 26th

parallel, in those two categories. The impact on decentralised industry must therefore be frightening.

I will give an example from my own electorate but what I state as being apposite to Kalgoorlie would be apposite right throughout the country districts of Western Australia where water is drawn from the scheme. In Kalgoorlie the average annual consumption of water for industrial purposes is 3 268 kl. Applying the charges which existed prior to the introduction of the last State Budget, the annual charge for that quantity of water would have been \$287.58. Applying the charges now prevailing under the new scale, the same consumption of water will cost \$618.97, an increase of 110 per cent on that volume alone. If that volume is exceeded the increase is proportionately greater in terms of percentage.

The result is even more staggering for users who are classified as commercial. Again I give a local example. The average annual consumption in Kalgoorlie for commercial use is 394 kl. Applying the new scale of charges the cost for this volume will increase from \$18.64 to \$43.34, a percentage increase of 130.

Mr Sodeman: When was the last increase?

Mr T. D. EVANS: The position of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club is interesting, and I would think this example would be representative of all country districts which have a grassed racecourse. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club, which has eight hectares of grassed land, was previously categorised as a general purpose consumer, in the same category as non-Government schools, local authorities, and other recognised non-profit organisations. With the introduction of the last Budget, the race club found itself classed as a commercial enterprise, and as a result, if it consumes this year the same quantity of water as it consumed in recent years, it is expected that the cost of water to the race club will be 293 per cent higher.

Mr Blaikie: Do you think the charges should be the same as in the city?

Mr T. D. EVANS: The Secretary of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club complained to the Minister. I might add that for many years the secretary of the club was the Chief Clerk of the Water Supply Department in Kalgoorlie, and he knew what he was writing about. The Minister asked him whether the club could exercise better water management. He indicated that the club had been exercising proper and adequate water management for many years and pointed out to the Minister that the action in transposing the club from the general purposes category to the commercial category was a serious blow to decentralisation if the same thing occurred in other parts of the State, because country racecourses provide very favourable amenities for country people which help to at-

tract and hold residents in country districts. Be that as it may, the argument about decentralisation did not seem to hold much water as far as the Minister was concerned, and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club now faces an impost of a 293 per cent increase in water charges this year.

The same Budget which heralded those savage increase gave the Premier an opportunity—and no doubt he will claim credit for this—to introduce his much publicised refund of pay-roll tax to a very few of those decentralised industries. Forms have already gone out to decentralised industries, and I imagine the number of claims received is causing some embarrassment to the Government because it provided the sum of \$50 000 only to service all the country districts of Western Australia. However, one does not need to have recourse to a calculator or even to a slide rule to realise that any benefits which might have been expected to flow from this refund of pay-roll tax would be more than eroded by the savage increase in the cost of industrial water—which I mentioned, using the example from my own electorate, was an increase of 110 per cent.

So for the Premier to claim this as one of his achievements means nothing, and it is derogated into the class of a gimmick. I do not think it was intended to be a gimmick but the savage increases in water charges have made it so.

Domestic consumers in country areas south of the 26th parallel, who constitute the majority of country residents in Western Australia, face an increase of 45 per cent on their previous charges, allowing that consumption remains consistent with that of last year or any other base year.

In the general purposes category, to which I referred earlier when I mentioned the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Race Club, we find non-Government schools and local authorities which have the responsibility to provide and maintain swimming pools, parks, and gardens for their citizens. How do they fare? Previously the charge was a flat 5.5c per kl. Under the new scale the charges are 7c a kl for the first 450 kl—or 100 000 gallons under the old imperial measures—11c a kl for the next 1818 kl, and 22c a kl thereafter. One does not need a great deal of imagination to realise that the local authorities which maintain swimming pools and adequate parks and gardens for their citizens will be seriously disadvantaged by these savage increases, which amount to a hike in charges of 30 per cent on a minimum consumption. The Government is playing this down. At the same time it is increasing the local government assistance fund which the Tonkin Government established. It will have to increase the fund because many more claims will be generated by the savage increases in water charges.

Because I think it is apposite, I will link up with this the procrastination of the Government in making up its mind

whether to join the Medibank scheme as far as the hospitalisation section of the scheme is concerned. It has been said that the country areas water supply scheme stood to lose approximately \$15 million this year, so this was put forward as justification for the savage increases to country residents. But we have also been told by the Treasurer of the Australian Government—and no-one has challenged it—

Mr Blaikie: Which one?

Mr T. D. EVANS: Dr Cairns is the Treasurer. I would have said "the former Treasurer" had I been referring to anybody else.

Mr Blaikie: There is a bit of confusion.

Mr T. D. EVANS: There is no confusion at all. The Liberal Party might have confusion in its leadership stakes. We have no confusion at all.

Dr Cairns has indicated that Western Australia would be deprived of some \$20 million if it did not enter the scheme this year. Here is the Government procrastinating about \$20 million but it has no hesitation at all in trying to recoup \$15 million by imposing savage increases on country consumers of water, and at the same time it raises its flag and mounts a crusade or masquerade, alleging it is the Government to sponsor decentralisation.

Sir Charles Court: When in Government, did you not try to get a better deal for your State? Your Deputy Leader of the Opposition fought like fury to try to get a better deal on road funds. Why should we not try to get a better deal on health?

Mr T. D. EVANS: I wish to cover several matters and I do not intend to lose time by listening to interjections.

I refer to the undertaking the Premier gave to the people of Western Australia: "We will give people a high priority." Let me give a very mundane example. Early in December last, two TAB agencies in Kalgoorlie were closed as a result of a strike by agents in that centre. When I say they were closed after the strike, I mean the Totalisator Agency Board refused to open two of the agencies and they have remained closed ever since.

In the case of one agency a petition was taken up. I think it included in excess of 380 names, but I am relying on memory because I gave the petition to the Minister for Police on the morning of Christmas Eve. The petition asked that the agency be reopened. However, it still remains closed.

I would like to deal with the other agency, which is situated in Boulder Road, Kalgoorlie. I would think the TAB shop nearest to the agency in question would be something like 1½ or 1¼ miles away. The member for Murchison would know the agency to which I refer. It is next door to a certain hotel, but I do not wish to mention the name of the hotel for reasons

which might become apparent. I asked certain questions of the Minister in respect of this agency. On Wednesday, the 19th March, I asked the following question—

- (1) Is the Totalisator Agency Board the registered proprietor of premises formerly used as a T.A.B. agency (No. 104) in Boulder Road, Kalgoorlie?

The Minister answered, "No." So we have established that the Totalisator Agency Board does not own this new building. I then asked—

- (2) If not, did the board rent or lease the said premises?

The answer was, "Yes." The next part of my question was as follows—

- (3) Is the board still paying a rental or lease fee, and if so, how much per given period of time?

The Minister replied that the board is paying \$250 per annum rental. My next question was—

- (4) For what period of time is the board committed to pay such a fee for the said premises, notwithstanding that such premises are not being used?

I found the board is committed to pay this rental for 25 years from the signing of the lease. I believe the lease was signed only last year, so the board must continue to pay the rental of \$250 a year for the next 24 years.

Mr Coyne: They would not miss \$250 a year.

Mr O'Connor: They are saving by keeping the agency closed.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The next part of my question was—

- (5) How does the board justify paying such lease or rental fee and maintaining the building on a non-remunerative basis?

The answer of the Minister was—

- (5) As a result of the sudden termination of their contracts by 3 agents in Kalgoorlie and Boulder a review was carried out.

That is how the board justifies that closure. I suppose we can assume that the review indicated that it is not an economical proposition to continue the shop in operation. Let us assume that is correct. The next part of my question was as follows—

- (6) If the answer to (5) is of the essence that the operation of a T.A.B. agency at the said premises at the present time cannot be economically justified, has the operation of an agency at the said premises ever been justified?

Bear in mind that the board has in fact paid for the building and is still paying rent on it. I point out that the building cost \$22 393.66, and it was opened on the 9th September, 1974. At present the board

owns the improvements, but under the terms of the lease the improvements become the property of the freeholder at the end of the lease period in 24 years time; and, furthermore, under the terms of the lease the premises cannot be used for any purpose other than a TAB agency.

We now have the situation where people in Kalgoorlie who live south of the Maritana Street bridge have only one TAB shop, situated in Hannan Street. Heaven knows, the TAB seems to be operating nearly every day of the week in recent times. There is one other agency in Kalgoorlie which operates on a weekly basis in Lower Hannan Street, but there is only one agency to service the bulk of the town during the whole of the week.

I advise the Minister that patrons are complaining because they must queue up now for five or 10 minutes, even on week days on some occasions, to be served at the sole agency operating south of the Maritana Street bridge. I have asked the Minister if he would ask the Totalisator Agency Board to review its decision, and he replied that he would. I would hope the board will meet soon and that its review will prove to be favourable.

At present I think it is a scandalous situation that the board has spent over \$22 000 on the improvements, and it is paying \$250 a year rental for the premises. It is committed to pay that rental for another 24 years, and under the terms of the lease the premises cannot be used for any purpose other than a TAB agency. The premises may be retained on the basis of not being used at all; that would not offend the lease. However, I feel it is scandalous that money is being spent in that manner when obviously the premises must have been justified last year for the TAB to spend such a great amount of money on the building and to operate the agency.

I asked a final question of the Minister. It was to the effect that if the two agencies to which I referred are not justified now, were they ever justified? The Minister replied that they were justified during the time they were operating. If they were justified in the past, then they are justified now because Kalgoorlie is more buoyant today than it has been for many years. The situation is simply ridiculous. I hope the Minister will have another look at his answers and give the interests of people some priority.

Sir Charles Court: What is the rent?

Mr T. D. EVANS: It is \$250 per annum.

Sir Charles Court: Oh, I thought you meant it was \$250 a week.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The TAB built the improvements, costing over \$22 000, but these must pass to the freeholder at the expiration of the lease. I repeat that under the terms of the lease the building cannot be used for any purpose other than a TAB agency.

Mr Coyne: The freeholder has a pretty good investment, hasn't he?

Mr T. D. EVANS: Perhaps the Minister for Transport—if he likes to put on his other hat now—will be glad to hear that I have only one more comment to make in respect of him, and then I will pass to other Ministers. Following complaints I received in Kalgoorlie from patrons and their friends who travelled on the *Prospector* from Perth to Kalgoorlie on Good Friday, I asked the Minister—

Would he please advise the nature of the main course of meals served on *Prospector* rail car services between Perth and Kalgoorlie and Kalgoorlie and Perth on Good Friday (28th March last), a day traditionally observed by many people as a "non meat" day?

I point out that there were two trains each way on that day. The Minister informed me that breakfast was served on both trains, and it consisted of leg ham with scrambled egg and tomato. The main course in the evening meal consisted of roast lamb or veal cutlets. The answer of the Minister went on to indicate that fish was deleted from the menu in December, 1974, after tests disclosed that it was not reconstituting satisfactorily. He said that when the menus for Good Friday were being prepared fish was considered, but in the light of past experience was not included.

I fail to see why those who prepared the answers for the Minister should equate the exclusion of meat with the substitution of fish. That was not what I asked at all. But even if that were what I asked, I feel the main course of the evening meal could have offered something other than meat. I realise that two varieties of meat were offered, but there could have been another option for those who traditionally regard Good Friday as a nonmeat day. Then there is the other side of the question: Perhaps the freezing equipment on the *Prospector* needs to be examined if fish cannot be carried for 400 miles in such a manner that it can be reconstituted when called for.

Heavens above, the Commonwealth Railways for years and years have been providing meals on the trains across the Nullarbor—even in the era when it took days to make a journey that we now make in one day; and it has always served fish. Here we have a train built in the late 20th century to be used into the 21st century which is not able to serve fish for the satisfaction of patrons. This may be a little thing, but if we concern ourselves with people we find that people are concerned with little things, too.

Mr Speaker, how much time have I, please?

The SPEAKER: You have until 8.37 p.m.

Mr T. D. EVANS: Thank you, Sir; I must speed along.

In 1973 the present Minister for Labour and Industry raised the subject of a gold find in the Paterson Range. I am sure the member for Pilbara will be interested in what I have to say on this matter. I take the opportunity, in the absence of the Minister for Mines, to indicate that I intend to pursue this matter further. However, as time is running out I do not intend to go deeply into it tonight. I believe there is sufficient evidence to indicate—I refer to the masses of information collected by one prospector, Jean-Paul Turcaud, and answers to questions I have asked in this House—that perhaps all is not well in the State of Denmark in the matter of resources of the Crown having been alienated not in the lifetime of the present Government, but in the lifetime of our Government. However, this evidence has come to light in the lifetime of the present Government and it strongly suggests that perhaps all is not well.

I sound a warning—it is not a threat—to the Minister for Mines that I intend to pursue this matter. On two occasions I have asked whether the Government will consider holding an inquiry into the matter. I would have been satisfied had the Government said, "Produce some evidence and we will give the matter every consideration"; but on both occasions I was given a flat, "No." I suggest again that all is not well in the State of Denmark, and I intend to pursue this matter. I regret that the Minister for Mines is not present at the moment, but I will take the opportunity to refer to the matter on another occasion.

I think members might be disappointed if I did not have something to say about the situation that seems to be prevailing in the pre-primary and pre-school centre world. In recent times we have seen headlines such as that in *The Sunday Times* of the 23rd March, 1975, which stated, "Pre-school trouble—Money wrangle irks minister". I refer to other headlines such as that in the *Daily News* of the 18th March, "Board to decide schools move"; that in *The West Australian* of the 19th March, "Kindergarten talk wrong—MacKinnon"; and that in the *Daily News* of the 19th March, "Pre-School Board sit tight". To cap it all off, in the *Weekend News* of the 22nd March reference is made to the President of the Country Party in Western Australia (Mr Reid)—a former member of this House. The headline is, "Reid in row over school board role". He was in a row with the Minister.

Prior to that statement appearing in the *Weekend News* the Minister for Education made a statement in another place on the 18th March. I regret very much that he said—and I am referring to page 2 of the printed notes that were made available to me—he was surprised that a member of the board has apparently broken the

confidentiality of the meeting to which he was referring. I feel it is unfortunate that the Minister should single out a member of the board and leave that member unnamed, thereby casting a general aspersion on all members of the board.

But what is wrong with the pre-school and the pre-primary centre world as we know it? When two Bills came before this Parliament last year to implement the Government's pre-primary centre scheme—one to amend the Education Act, and the other to amend the Pre-School Education Act—Opposition members indicated that they saw the pre-primary concept as one which would expedite the day when all children aged five years, whose parents desired it, would receive a free education and on that basis we supported the passage of those two measures. However, we did not believe the Government, by its action in the months that have since passed, would show a deliberate bias in favour of the pre-primary scheme. In saying this I would point out that it is only in the infant stage because there are only a few pre-primary centres operating at the moment, with others being planned, but a deliberate bias is being shown by the Government in that, obviously, the pre-primary centres have an advantage over the orthodox pre-school centres. So we find that all is not well in this field.

I have before me a letter which was forwarded to a colleague of mine in another place. This honourable member, in his own province, has made himself well known in the kindergarten world. The letter is from the North Perth Kindergarten and is dated the 18th March, 1975. It indicates the disquiet that is being expressed in the community generally, because it reads—

We thank you for your correspondence dated Jan. 15th, 1975 re the conflicting policies of the previous Tonkin Labor government and the present government concerning pre-school education in this State.

We, the members of the North Perth Kindergarten Association wish to register a strong protest against the establishment of the new Pre-Primary centres.

Here let me make the point that the Opposition does not join in any condemnation of the pre-primary centres, as we believe, and as we originally believed, that these centres could have a salutary effect in expediting the time when all five-year-olds will have access to kindergarten-type education, but we do not support any discrimination being practised in favour of one to the disadvantage of the other. I am referring to the pre-school concept.

The letter I was quoting to the House continues as follows—

The reasons for our opposition to these centres being:

- (1) the inequalities created between the children paying for

the privilege of attending the old pre-school centre, and those attending the new centres free of charge.

There is another form of discrimination; that is, that children who attend a pre-primary centre in the metropolitan area will enjoy—

The **SPEAKER**: The honourable member has four minutes.

Mr T. D. EVANS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Children who attend a pre-primary centre will enjoy the same travel concessions as children attending any other school, whereas children attending an orthodox kindergarten will not enjoy any travel concessions. In the country districts where a regular school bus run operates, pre-school children have been accommodated if there has been room for them. I believe this practice is to continue, but in places where pre-primary centres will operate in country districts and the children attending will require to travel, they will have transport provided for them; not only if there is room on the bus for them.

Here we have obvious examples of discrimination being displayed by the Government, so is it any wonder that we hear of unrest among the parents over the system now, without giving any consideration as to what will happen in the future? Here the Government has a golden opportunity to put right those things which the Government itself has made wrong. Things were right before it entered this field, but now they are in an unholy mess.

I conclude by drawing the attention of the Premier to the words of an early American Governor. I would remind the Premier, as he now enters his second, and his second last, year as Premier of the State, that he would do well to ponder upon these words. When this Governor was asked about his failure to honour his undertakings made during his election campaign, he said—

Those promises I can keep I will keep, and those I cannot I will renew.

Mr Young: The member for Boulder-Dundas has said that about your Government.

MR WATT (Albany) [8.36 p.m.]: I neither wish to be drawn into a controversy nor to enter it willingly, but having been a member of this Parliament for 12 months I would like to make a brief comment on the remarks made by the member for Avon last night and the member for Gascoyne. In saying this I am referring to a number of Parliaments and not just one. If I may be permitted to use a cliché which is heard quite often in this Chamber, it struck me as passing strange—

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: What does it mean?

Mr WATT: I do not know, but it sounds good! It struck me as passing strange that in the first few days of the first session of this Parliament many experienced members came up to me and other new members and asked, "Have you been suitably disillusioned?" It struck me as being odd that if experienced members could see that there was reason for a new member to be disillusioned the solution should be in their hands and they should do something about it.

The standard of behaviour in this Parliament, I think, leaves a great deal to be desired. I want to make it clear at this point that I am not aiming my broadsides at the Opposition, but to those who think the cap fits—they can wear it.

Mr Jamieson: How many other Parliaments have you observed in session?

Mr WATT: I saw a joint sitting of the Federal Parliament on TV and I have listened to radio broadcasts of the same Parliament.

Mr Jamieson: You would be an authority, man!

Mr WATT: The honourable member may be one of those who is wearing the cap if he thinks it fits; he may be one of those to whom I was referring.

Mr Jamieson: At least I have a little experience and background.

Mr WATT: The charge I am making applies to members on both sides of the House if they think the cap fits.

Mr Jamieson: Another conceited conservative!

Mr WATT: I do not think one needs a great deal of experience in observing how other Parliaments behave to have some understanding of the sort of respect that should be shown towards the dignity of the House, the authority of the Speaker, and the institution of the Parliament itself. Whilst I have not become disillusioned, because I had a fair idea of what it would be like to be a member of Parliament, I have, nevertheless, been quite disappointed.

Mr Bertram: You have been disappointed?

Mr WATT: Yes, disappointed about situations that arise during sessions of Parliament.

Mr Bertram: Could you give us some particulars?

Mr Jamieson: You ought to see the South Australian Parliament.

Mr WATT: Two wrongs do not make a right.

Mr Jamieson: You are trying to tell us that this Parliament is the worst.

Mr WATT: I did not say that at all. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition puts that interpretation on my remarks that is up to him.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The member for Albany.

Mr **WATT**: Anyway, I would like to suggest that those members who wish to interject—and as you, Mr Speaker, have observed from time to time, interjections have some value in debate—should show a lot more intelligence in their interjections. I can recall on one occasion when I was endeavouring to ask the member for Kalgoorlie what, in my opinion, was a legitimate question, and that honourable member turned on me quite savagely and told me to get back in my cage. He may have thought that his reply was smart or funny but I was not impressed and I think it was uncalled for. However, it is just one of those remarks that some people can make during a debate. I admit that an interjection can be used or misused; it can be very effective or very ineffective; it can be constructive or destructive. In making that remark, however, I admit that it is not beyond the realms of possibility that I could be guilty of the same thing in the future. However, I hope not.

The performances of the Federal Government that have been broadcast for many years have probably given the people some idea of the disarray into which Parliament gets on occasions, and the televising of the joint sitting of that Parliament following the double dissolution did little to improve the situation.

There is another brief comment I want to make on that question. It is in relation to the frequent references made by members of the Opposition to the Australian Government, as they call it, or Federal Government, as I prefer to call it, making grants to Western Australia for various projects.

Mr **B. T. Burke**: Don't tell us you are going to talk about the strings that are attached!

Mr **WATT**: That is precisely the point. For many years we have been receiving Grants from the Federal Government and, generally speaking, all the State Parliaments have had the right, within certain bounds, to decide how those grants shall be spent. However, the States now find themselves in a situation where most of the money that is allocated to them has strings attached, so this State is not in any position to show any discretion in directing money to be spent on more urgent projects where it is required from time to time.

Whether or not Opposition members agree with me, the fact remains that the money that is granted by the Federal Government is rightfully ours, because it has been contributed by the people of this State in the form of taxation, both direct and indirect, and it is our entitlement to spend the money in the manner we think fit. Therefore the sooner we return to the

sensible arrangement that we had with the Commonwealth previously the better it will be for all parties.

Mr **Bertram**: We do not want to return to the old system; we would go bankrupt.

Mr **WATT**: I now wish to make a few comments about my own electorate, which is the town of Albany. For some years now Albany's growth and progress has been somewhat slow as compared with other towns such as Bunbury, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and the north-west towns. I believe the reason for this has been its inability to attract industry of any real consequence. For an industry to establish itself in any area it must be able to use the natural advantages that are available so that they will be of benefit to it. A Government just cannot tell an industry where to go. The best it can hope to do is to point out the natural advantages in any particular area which could be enjoyed by an industry that wished to establish itself in that area and encourage it to do so by offering various inducements and incentives.

Bunbury has progressed at a faster rate than Albany largely because it is closer to Perth, and because of the mineral activity in the near vicinity. It has also enjoyed stimulus from a number of other activities such as the timber industry and associated industries which have required further port development.

The Kalgoorlie region has prospered markedly in recent years due largely to the nickel boom a few years ago and, more recently, to the increase in the price of gold. I think this has given the gold-mining industry a new lease of life. The pastoral areas, too, which surround the Kalgoorlie region are of some benefit to it, and the fact that the town of Kalgoorlie is on the main east-west road and rail links would also bring to it a number of advantages which would stimulate the growth of that centre.

The town of Geraldton has also benefited from mineral activity in the surrounding areas both in regard to port development and the development of associated industries which, in turn, have created further employment opportunities. The addition of all these new projects to the existing industries at Geraldton, such as crayfishing and so on, constitutes a great factor in the growth of the Geraldton centre. Further, the fact that Geraldton is on the main road to the north-west must be of some benefit to it. This would accelerate its growth rate, because there is a tremendous amount of tourist traffic passing through Geraldton to the north. It is only reasonable to assume that Geraldton must get a fair amount of spin-off from tourist traffic that is passing through on its way to north-west towns which, in recent years, have experienced tremendous growth due almost entirely to mining activity and perhaps, to a lesser extent, to tourism.

By contrast, Albany has not enjoyed benefits from mineral development, and as a consequence it has not experienced the same rate of growth as some of the towns I have mentioned. Any growth must be designed to benefit from the natural advantages in the region. Albany has been a service centre to an extremely productive rural hinterland. It produces mainly beef, wool, fat lambs, and grain. With low wool prices and disastrous beef prices the farmers of the Albany region are passing through extremely difficult times, and that has had an effect on the employment situation in the town and the region.

The member for Ascot, who is not in the Chamber at the moment, recently made reference to unemployment figures for the town of Albany. What he was actually referring to were the unemployment figures for the Albany unemployment district which is much larger in area than the town, and takes in four local government districts including centres like Katanning, Wagin, and considerable areas east and west of the great southern line. The figures mentioned by the honourable member do not reflect the true position in the town of Albany.

It is interesting to make some comparisons, because the member for Ascot was endeavouring to show how much the employment situation in Albany had deteriorated since the present State Government assumed office. At the end of February, 1974, the unemployment rate for the town of Albany represented 49 per cent of the district figure, but 12 months later the rate was reduced to 45 per cent; so, the employment position improved slightly.

The comparison is made more interesting when we take into account the unemployment figures for Western Australia and the nation as a whole. During the period I mentioned the Albany unemployment figure deteriorated by 173 per cent; the Western Australian figure deteriorated by 199 per cent; and the national figure deteriorated by 205 per cent. Whilst I find no real joy in the fact that there is any unemployment at all in Albany, it can be seen that the unemployment situation in Albany is not as bad as it is in some other regions.

In a report which appeared in the Press on the 7th April, figures of unemployment up to the end of March were included. These revealed a drop of 20 per cent in the unemployment figure, and the number of 723 unemployed people in the district fell by 146 to 577. From that we can see that in the last 12 months the unemployment position worsened by only 149 per cent, and that is a long way below the national figure.

Some of the industries at Albany which have been affected include Thomas Borthwick and Sons. This firm has experienced its ups and downs, and one of its most

serious setbacks was caused by an industrial problem which lasted nearly three months. The workers at the abattoir in Albany wanted to work, but because they belonged to a Federal union, and because the majority of its members were in the Eastern States and wanted to go out on strike, the workers at Albany had no choice but to go out on strike also. Of course, the firm has been affected by other problems which affected other abattoirs also, and these were brought about by international conditions and the need to obtain satisfactory markets for their products.

Albany Woolstores have also experienced some problems, and the situation is a little uncertain. They are not receiving as much support from the farmers and woolgrowers in the region as I would like to see. I think the difficulties arise mainly from the private selling of wool by farmers. I do not blame the farmers for selling wool privately, because I know their reason for so doing. Nevertheless their action affects the Albany Woolstores and the town of Albany. A chain reaction results, as all wool privately sold is sent to Fremantle. None of it goes through Albany. This causes Albany to lose the opportunity to handle, sell, and ship the wool.

The Albany Superphosphate Company is facing a very uncertain future. The price of superphosphate has approximately doubled since last season. When we take into account the fact that farm incomes have been reduced dramatically in that period, we realise that the farmers cannot now afford to purchase superphosphate for their land. I personally know a number of farmers who previously were quite liberal users of superphosphate, but this year they have not applied any to their land. Anyone who knows the region will be aware that this is the type of country which requires superphosphate; but the farmers have not been able to afford it.

No doubt the lack of superphosphate on the land will affect productivity, and in future it will mean a reduction in the incomes of farmers, and as a consequence there will be less employment at the superphosphate works.

The Port of Albany, like most regional ports, continues its battle for survival. It battles for cargoes in imports and exports. I think all regional ports are experiencing the same problem. The Albany Port Authority, the promotion committee, the town council, the zone development committee, the industrial advisory committee, the Waterside Workers' Federation, and a number of other community groups have combined and are co-operating very well to pursue every opportunity to increase trade through the Port of Albany. However, they have been frustrated, mainly by the shipowners who dictate policy. The shipowners are centralising cargoes in the major ports, and this is achieved largely at the expense of regional ports.

An interesting event took place in Albany in January when the roll-on roll-off vessel, *Barranduna*, called at the port. It loaded a cargo comprising 10 000 bales of wool and 107 bales of sheep skins in the net time of 15 hours; yet the vessel was in port for only 25 hours. This is a record.

The Albany waterside workers can be justifiably proud of their performance; it was a most creditable one. We in Albany hope that more of this type of shipping can be attracted to the port, as the waterside workers have shown that they are quite capable of handling cargoes and matching the performance of their counterparts in other ports.

One topic which I have not mentioned concerns tourism. It appears that this is the industry through which Albany is most likely to expand and develop. Albany has a magnificent climate, and unlimited scenic attractions within a radius of 100 kilometres. A great deal of local enthusiasm and energy is being applied to provide an extension of all tourist facilities. The tourist season is definitely being extended as a result of the significant increase in tourist traffic, particularly tourist buses, which now pass through the region in what used to be the off season. Where once the accommodation business used to talk of a six-month off period, it is now only a two to three-month off period. This is largely brought about by the fact that tourist buses are bringing vast numbers of visitors mainly from the Eastern States to the region.

The Federal Government's decision to withdraw support for the operation of small airports has proved to be a bitter blow not only to Albany but to other airports and towns. An opportunity exists to induce many thousands of visitors, who come to Western Australia, to include Albany in their itinerary. This can be achieved by introducing a method of transport to fly some visitors from Perth to Albany, and to return by bus; and for another group to be taken to Albany by bus and to return by air. However, what the Federal Government has done in respect of the small airports has yet to be resolved.

If the airport at Albany is required to be closed it will be a very bitter blow to the region, as the airport is a very vital link not only in promoting tourism, but in providing a quick means of transport. The decision of the Federal Government to withdraw support is very much regretted by the people.

With the sealing of most of Eyre Highway, the number of vehicles from the Eastern States—especially tourist buses and caravans—has increased dramatically in the last couple of years. When the highway is sealed completely the number of vehicles from the Eastern States can be expected to increase even more dramatically.

I was extremely pleased recently to receive a reply from the Minister for Transport who advised that a little over \$500 000 had been allocated for the maintenance and upgrading of the Norseman-Esperance section of Highway No. 1. Whilst some people may say that should be of no real concern to me, the upgrading of the road does in fact play a very big part in increasing tourist traffic to Albany. I hope the Government will continue to spend money in increasing amounts on that very vital road. In the past that section of road has caused many problems to motorists, especially in broken windscreens. I hope that once this stretch of road is completed it will turn out to be very serviceable. It would then be open for tourists to travel via the Leeuwin way and back through Kalgoorlie; or in the reverse direction.

In my view the tourist bureau in the southern part of the State have done an excellent job in promoting the Leeuwin way tourist route. Undoubtedly this has been instrumental in increasing the amount of traffic using that section of road. It has become imperative for the road between Norseman and Esperance to be upgraded to a higher standard.

One problem which confronts the tourist industry is caused by financial difficulties. Outside of the metropolitan area, Albany has the largest tourist bureau. It provides a first-class service and does an excellent job, but it is hampered by limited finance. It is not possible for that bureau to remain open to provide a service after the normal business hours, except perhaps at Easter or at long weekends when special features are held and many people are attracted to the town. Exorbitant overheads, such as time-and-a-half for overtime wages after normal working hours, represent a heavy burden. Very often the services of a tourist bureau are needed most after normal business hours. I appeal to the Treasurer who, I regret, is not in the Chamber at the moment to find some way to assist to a greater degree tourist bureaux which are trying to help themselves.

I have obtained some figures from the Tourist Development Authority and they present an interesting picture. Tourist bureaux receive a base grant of \$500; they receive a dollar-for-dollar subsidy on donations made by local authorities, with a limit of \$3 500; and they also receive a dollar-for-two-dollars subsidy on other income, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1 500. If a tourist bureau qualifies for the maximum grant it receives \$5 500.

In the last financial year the amount raised by the Albany Tourist Bureau was \$19 489, for which it received an additional subsidy of \$5 500. The subsidy in the case of Albany amounts to nearly 28 per cent of the money it raised.

If we take Bunbury, we find that the tourist bureau raised \$14 884, and it received a grant of \$5 500. This represented 37 per cent of the amount it raised.

The Esperance Tourist Bureau raised \$13 160, but it received only \$4 800 in grants, and this represented 36 per cent of the amount it raised. In this case the grants were lower because the local authority was a little mean in contributing only \$2 800, which was \$700 short of the amount required to attract the maximum subsidy.

Geraldton raised a total of \$10 857 and attracted an additional \$5 500 in grants, representing 51 per cent. Mandurah raised \$6 959 and attracted an additional \$3 750, representing 54 per cent. Exmouth raised \$5 818 and attracted an additional \$5 159 in grants, which represented 89 per cent.

It can be seen that the bureaux which are most active are, in fact, penalised by the present system. The present method of subsidy penalises them to the extent to which they endeavour to help themselves and I believe the minimum should be raised to a realistic level, or the method of subsidising should be revised to remove the limit so that all bureaux in addition to the base grant of \$500, will receive a subsidy on all income which they derive for themselves.

Albany benefits very little from the Western Australian Government Tourist Bureau or, as it is now called, the Western Australian Travel Centre where all wages and running costs are paid by the Government. More support is required for this most worth-while industry. I believe it is regarded as the largest industry in the world. As I have already said, I think it is Albany's greatest economic hope in the foreseeable future and it is imperative the industry receives as much encouragement from the Government as possible.

There are a number of other matters which I could canvass during this debate but I think, perhaps, they could be left for another occasion. I will make brief reference to the future of the Albany rail passenger service. I was pleased indeed to learn recently from the booking clerk in the Albany office that since what he described as a certain amount of free publicity was given to the Albany passenger rail service the patronage has increased quite dramatically. I believe that with a little more publicity, and some assistance from the Railways Department by improving facilities, the service provided by the train could become an economic proposition. As I have said publicly in Albany, and in this place previously, the withdrawal of the service would have a serious and detrimental effect on Albany. I hope that never happens. With those remarks I support the motion.

MR MOILER (Mundaring) [9.04 p.m.]: In the four years that I have had the pleasure of representing my constituents

in this House I have come to realise that Western Australia is governed by departments and not by this Chamber. I have learnt in the last four years that the boast by heads of departments that Ministers make statements but heads of departments make decisions is true. This may not be so bad in the short term, if the departments are competent and dedicated to the well-being of the public of Western Australia. However, in the case of a department which is incompetent, and in which the greatest motivating force is the concern for the well-being of those employed in the department, the Minister concerned and the Government needs to be particularly wary.

In my dealings with the Department of Agriculture—and I can only speak from my own experience—I have found that it is an incompetent department and falls into the category where its officers are more concerned about building their own empire than doing the job for which they were engaged.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr MOILER: I suggest to members that the recent submission by the Department of Agriculture to the Meat Industry Advisory Committee was an instance of incompetence. The department was more concerned in absorbing additional authority by way of controlling meat inspection within this State than getting on with its job.

Mr McPharlin: That applies in every other State of Australia.

Mr MOILER: What is that?

Mr McPharlin: The Department of Agriculture controls meat inspection.

Mr MOILER: I propose to spend some time on this issue. I agree that the State Departments of Agriculture control meat inspection in every other State of Australia, and that is exactly the argument I will use tonight.

I believe that many Ministers for Agriculture, who have preceded the present Minister, have been provided with false and inaccurate information by the department. Anything I say tonight is not critical of the present Minister. To be critical of a Minister one has to know that the Minister has been provided with adequate and correct information to do his job. I merely point out to members, and the Minister concerned, I believe it is necessary to have a close look at the department to which I am referring.

When I speak of incompetency, I believe we will have an opportunity to show where the Department of Agriculture has been incompetent when the Minister introduces his Bill to cover some sections of the poultry industry.

Tonight, however, I want to speak about the meat industry and the attempts made by the Department of Agriculture, over a

period of many years, to wrest control of this industry in regard to meat inspection from the Public Health Department.

Mr McPharlin: Has the member for Mundaring ever taken advantage of an opportunity to talk to the officers whom he is ready to criticise?

Mr MOILER: I have not only talked to them, but I have challenged them, and I will do so again. With regard to anything I say tonight I would be only too happy to meet with any officer concerned, with the Minister present, so that the officer can have an opportunity to point out where I am wrong.

It is remarkable that at every change of Government and, I would imagine, at every change of Minister, the Department of Agriculture has moved in an attempt to take over meat inspection services within Western Australia.

I want to explain what is entailed in meat inspection within this State. It could not be better explained than by quoting from a policy statement agreed to by the Chief Veterinary Officers of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia. The Chief Veterinary Officers considered meat inspection to entail—

In any State the functions of the Meat Inspection Service may include a wide range of activities such as, licensing and inspection of abattoirs, slaughterhouses, meat depots, boning out rooms, smallgoods factories, retail butcher shops, knackeries and pet food wholesale establishments; meat inspection training and examination for certificates of competency; maintenance of construction and hygiene standards in the various licensed premises and vehicles transporting meat and branding or marking of meat in accordance with the requirements of State laws.

So it can be seen that meat inspection covers a vast area between the production of the animal on the farm right through to the time the meat is sold to the consumer. It is into this field that over the years the Department of Agriculture has attempted to crawl. This is an area where the State Public Health Department has been able to achieve a high standard of meat inspection. It has the highest standard of any State in Australia and I think it is worth repeating what the Minister has already said: it is the only State where meat inspection is controlled by the Public Health Department. All the other States of Australia trail behind Western Australia in meat inspection and the conduct of abattoirs. I think the Minister made a very good point earlier.

Mr McPharlin: Can the honourable member verify that?

Mr MOILER: Yes.

Mr McPharlin: You can prove the statement you just made?

Mr MOILER: Yes, and I will make many more similar statements which I hope the Minister will take the trouble to check out. Those members who took the trouble to read the submission made by the Department of Agriculture to the Meat Industry Advisory Committee, which carried out an inquiry into the meat industry, will observe it continues to provide the half truths which have been provided to Ministers year after year for the very purpose of wresting control from the Public Health Department.

The Department of Agriculture cannot claim that the Public Health Department has been inefficient because it has, in fact, done an excellent job in this State. The Department of Agriculture has not been able to indicate one area where the Public Health Department has been inefficient, and it has not been able to advance any evidence to support the argument regarding the other States.

There is not an abattoir in Australia today which could surpass the Midland Junction Abattoir. There would be no abattoir outside of Western Australia which could surpass the Katanning abattoir. No abattoir in the Southern Hemisphere could claim to be a better abattoir than either of those I have mentioned.

Yesterday I asked a question without notice part (3) of which was as follows—

(3) How many abattoirs operating at present do not have meat inspection carried out on the premises of the abattoirs?

The answer stated that there are only 19 abattoirs within Western Australia which do not have meat inspection carried out on the premises—only 19 in this vast State of Western Australia. Almost every one of those 19 would be a small abattoir owned and operated by a local butcher, where the butcher would slaughter his own stock. Usually it would be in a small outback area, and it would be very insignificant. However, there are only 19 such abattoirs in the State.

In South Australia, where the abattoirs are controlled by the State Department of Agriculture jointly with the Australian Department of Agriculture, there are no fewer than 180 abattoirs which do not have meat inspection carried out on their premises. In Queensland, where the Department of Agriculture of that State has been in control of meat inspection since the turn of the century—1898 to be precise—there are at least 180 abattoirs which do not have meat inspection carried out on the premises.

There are two or three examples of the comparison between some of the other States which are controlled by their Departments of Agriculture and our State which is controlled by the Public Health Department. One of the reasons that Dr M. R. Gardiner, the chief of the animal division of the Department of Agriculture, has put forward a 30-page report to the

inquiry to control meat inspection is the surplus of veterinary officers within the Department of Agriculture. It would be great to absorb these officers into the meat industry, disregarding the additional cost to the industry, with absolutely no benefit to the State. He puts forward an emotional submission, and if his conclusions are true, the result would be no different whether or not a veterinary officer was in charge of meat inspection. Dr Gardiner included statements which anyone could read in the most elementary handbook on meat inspection. He then adds to these statements and says that if veterinary officers were in control of meat inspection, all its ills would be overcome. He makes his claims without any substantiation.

In the light of this submission, I intend to spend some little time tonight going through the recommendations made by this committee, and also looking at the effect the recommendations would have on the State of Western Australia. I do not hesitate to say that the submission made by the Department of Agriculture fell on very receptive ears; the composition of the committee was most suitable for the reception of a submission of this type. The first recommendation reads as follows—

All inspection at export abattoirs being carried out by the Australian Department of Agriculture.

It is worth looking at this recommendation because it is time the people of Western Australia were told just how much it is costing us to have export abattoirs operating in conjunction with local meat inspection.

To illustrate my point, and starting with South Australia again, I will refer to the Gepps Cross abattoir which has slaughtered an average of 1.6 million sheep per year over the last 10 years. The annual throughput has ranged between 1.5 million and 1.7 million—a fairly consistent figure and therefore a perfect example to make my point.

Meat inspection at this abattoir is under the control of the Australian Department of Agriculture which naturally has to work at the standard set by the importing country, in this case America. A standard was set in relation to a disease known as CLA, which is ubiquitous in Australia, although it is not seen in America or Japan. Naturally enough, these countries wish to remain free of it. The disease is not transmissible to man, and it causes no harmful effect to humans if ingested. The lesions can be excised from a carcass and the public will suffer no harmful effect from the meat. Hundreds of tons of this meat are put on the market each year, and this is a logical course to take. The disease is prevalent throughout Australia, and I challenge the Department of Agriculture to state that it could ever rid Western Australia, let alone Australia, of CLA.

It is fair enough that America wishes to remain free of the disease, and so the American Government has set a standard in relation to carcasses. It may happen that for political reasons the American Government does not want our meat and it sets a standard that any carcass with, say, three CLA lesions, must be condemned—thrown down the chute for fertiliser. We see wholesome carcasses condemned because of this American standard.

In the Midland abattoir, the Robb Jetty abattoir, and the major abattoirs in Western Australia where export inspection is carried out by the Australian Department of Agriculture, the whole throughput is subject to the conditions set by the American regulations. So meat for local consumption at those abattoirs must meet the standard set by the American Government. Wholesome carcasses are condemned at the abattoirs which are subject to export inspection.

This may not sound too bad until we consider the numbers involved. I will return to my example of the South Australian abattoir where 1.6 million sheep are slaughtered each year. In 1964, when the Australian Department of Agriculture took over the complete control of export and local inspection in South Australia, 120 whole carcasses were condemned because of CLA. In 1973—nine years later—14 000 sheep carcasses were condemned. Perhaps members can visualise the waste involved—an increase from 120 carcasses in 1964 to more than 14 000 in 1973.

I cannot give the total figure of sheep condemned at the Midland abattoir because of the difficulty of obtaining them from the Australian Department of Agriculture, but in 1965, 564 386 sheep were slaughtered there for the local market. Of this number, 18 carcasses were condemned for this condition of CLA. In 1973—eight years later—413 355 sheep were slaughtered; that is, 150 000 fewer than in 1965. However, in that year, 14 202 sheep were condemned because of CLA, as compared with 18 in 1965. These figures sound unbelievable, but such is the case.

In 1965 a ratio of one in 25 000 sheep were condemned for CLA. Because of the Australian Department of Agriculture control—which this committee recommends—the ratio in 1973 was one in 29. In fact, in the previous year, 1972, the ratio was one in 22 sheep carcasses thrown down the chute. With the excision of one or two lesions, probably the sheep were completely wholesome. Members can see just how much it is costing Western Australia for the honour of exporting our meat. It is fair enough if we decide to accept this loss for the benefits of exporting, but I do not believe we should tolerate this terrific waste. I point out that the local throughput at Midland would probably be about one-fifth of the total throughput for the abattoir, so the figure of wasted carcasses should be multiplied by five to obtain the

true figure. Country Party members and other members who represent country electorates should be aware of these figures and they must have regard for this wastage when it is suggested that the Australian Department of Agriculture should take over complete control of meat inspection. I will read the first recommendation again—

All inspection at export abattoirs being carried out by the Australian Department of Agriculture.

As well as the money that would be lost through the implementation of this recommendation, we must consider what would happen if the Australian Department of Agriculture inspectors go on strike. This has already occurred in this State, and if these inspectors had complete control, and a strike took place, the amount of meat available to consumers in the metropolitan area would be greatly reduced. During a recent strike by the Australian Department of Agriculture inspectors, the local public health inspectors continued to inspect meat for the local market so this State was not affected. The second recommendation reads as follows—

All inspection at non-export abattoirs being carried out by a single State authority.

I believe I am correct in saying that there would be no argument about this recommendation. Already throughout the State inspections are carried out by one body; that is, the Public Health Department. In the areas where the local authority employs a health surveyor/meat inspector or a meat inspector full time, he is paid by the local authority but he is under the control of the Commissioner of Public Health, so he is operating under a single authority. That system is working particularly well, especially when it is compared with the systems in the other States of Australia.

The qualifications of meat inspectors in this State are the highest required in Australia. A meat inspector is trained as a health surveyor and meat inspection is part of this course. Any meat inspector trained under the Western Australian system is accepted by the Australian Department of Agriculture. If one wishes to engage in meat inspection under the public health system, it is necessary to undertake a three-year full-time, or five-year part-time diploma course at the Western Australian Institute of Technology. Compare this with the three-month course which is necessary for engagement under the Australian Department of Agriculture as a meat inspector. For a short time the three-month training system was operating here. The third recommendation reads as follows—

Veterinary ante-mortem inspection being progressively introduced at non-export abattoirs to ensure that animals are clinically healthy and are not affected by an exotic animal disease.

If the Australian Department of Agriculture were doing its job properly, it would be doing this already. Possibly then we would not have had the outbreak of footrot which recently occurred in some areas where sheep with the disease were brought in from another State. The Australian Department of Agriculture should be watching this type of thing rather than trying to expand its empire. In abattoirs where a full inspection is carried out by a public health inspector, an ante-mortem inspection does form part of the examination. I can assure members that a meat inspector who has worked for some years in an abattoir is very knowledgeable and can pick up the presence of a disease by ante-mortem inspection of sheep which come in to be slaughtered.

Clauses 4 and 5 state—

A uniform inspection fee being determined and applied in relation to meat inspected at non-export abattoirs.

The A.D.A. inspection brand being approved by the State inspection authority as evidence that the meat is fit for human consumption and need not be "reinspected" on an additional fee basis.

I should like to clear up this point for members. Up till the time of the election of this very fine Australian Government, the ADA used to carry out inspection of meat for export free of charge. The taxpayer used to cover the cost of the meat inspection fees.

When the Australian Labor Government took office the system was changed and 1c a pound was charged for the inspection of meat for export. At present in Western Australia no more than 10 per cent of meat inspected for export is actually exported. Even during the peak periods of export a few years ago, only a little more than one-third of meat inspected for export actually left our shores.

What is happening now is that the big wheeler-dealers—the wholesalers who are involved in exports as well as the local market—are having their meat inspected free of charge. If they export it, it costs them 1c a pound. However, the vast bulk of the meat finds its way back to the local market.

The big wheeler-dealers, who have such influence in the Liberal Party, are complaining that when this meat comes back onto the local market the Public Health Department and the local authorities concerned insist on inspecting the meat again and branding it for the local market and charging them accordingly.

There are several ways of considering meat inspection charges. If meat inspection is carried out free of charge, everybody pays for it. However, if the Government feels that such people as vegetarians, or people who cannot afford to buy more than one pound of meat a week

are being unfairly treated the meat inspection fee must be applied and would be passed on to the consumer, who would pay according to the amount of meat he purchased. It is up to the Government to decide whether or not it wants a branding fee imposed.

However, while we have a meat inspection fee it is only right that those who try to dodge around the legislation should be caught and required to pay the fee. As I said, there is still a huge quantity of meat supposedly for export which returns to the local market and which is subject to a second branding.

Mr Blaikie: Can you explain why that is?

Mr MOILER: Why it gets back onto the local market?

Mr Blaikie: Yes, after it has gone through the export inspection.

Mr MOILER: I have just explained this to the honourable member, but perhaps he was not in the Chamber. The meat is not for export, but comes back onto the local market.

Mr Blaikie: All meat going through the export works for export purposes is the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

Mr MOILER: Yes, and that authority brands the meat. It places one brand on the neck of the carcass, but if that neck is cut off and the carcass goes to a butcher shop, there is no way of knowing whether or not it has been inspected.

State inspectors brand the meat in a number of places and when the carcass is broken down, one can still see that it has been inspected. That is one reason for the rebranding. Another reason for the Public Health Department insisting on double branding when meat comes back onto the local market is that people who genuinely supply the local market in the first place and have their meat inspected by State inspectors are required to pay a branding fee.

As I mentioned, only 10 per cent of meat inspected for export is actually exported, and there is no Commonwealth branding fee for the other 90 per cent; however, the benefit of the saving of the branding fee is not passed on to the consumer but is retained as profit by the wholesaler. If the member for Vasse agrees with that, fair enough; but surely it would be better for this Government to abolish meat branding fees altogether.

Either the Government should provide the facility free of charge, or it should make everyone pay it.

Mr Blaikie: Including all the meat for export. What you are suggesting is that export meat must be branded, as well as ordinary meat.

Mr MOILER: Only if it comes back onto the local market. What the Commonwealth Government should do is to impose a 1c

a pound charge on all meat inspected for export, regardless of whether it is exported. We would then find the Public Health Department gaining a terrific number of friends overnight because the charge for meat inspection by the State authority is less. There would be a terrific increase in the quantity of meat going through local authority and State inspection services for distribution on the local market. The reason wholesalers are classifying their meat as "export" is to—

Mr Blaikie: Do not say "dodge" because the markets just are not there.

Mr MOILER: If the market is not there, too much meat is being inspected for export. The people who benefit are not the consumers but the wholesalers.

I was hoping to have completed these remarks by now; however, in the remaining time at my disposal I want to spend a little time on the so-called dual inspection system, because obviously it has been misconstrued. There is no such thing as dual inspection at export abattoirs. The export inspectors and the local inspectors work side by side inspecting both export and local market meat. Only on a few occasions has there been any conflict, where perhaps the chief veterinary officer in charge of export has decided that a carcass is not fit for export, but can go onto the local market. The public health inspector in charge at that abattoir on a few occasions has replied, "No, you can have it for export but if you do not want it, put it down the chute because we are not putting it on the local market."

On every occasion that such a disagreement has occurred and pathological tests and investigations have taken place, the public health officer has been 100 per cent correct on the stand he took. I concede that this has happened on only a few occasions; however, it is quite reasonable that a person in charge of the quality of meat should have such powers.

Clause 6 states—

The cessation of the present outmoded system of "inspecting" the carcasses of stock at metropolitan meat markets; this would be a positive step in the interests of consumer protection.

This is the first time the consumer has been mentioned. I agree wholeheartedly with this proposal. For those members who do not understand the situation, I should like to explain the operations of the metropolitan meat markets, which are situated in Perth and Fremantle.

Farmers and other people operating abattoirs where there is no inspection service available send stock—it might be 20 sheep, a vealer which a farmer has killed in the bush or anything of that nature—to the metropolitan meat markets for inspection and sale. The shocking position is that the

inspection could take place 24 hours or even 36 hours after the actual slaughter of the animal.

Mr Blaikie: In whose opinion is it a shocking situation?

Mr MOILER: It is a shocking situation in the opinion of any reasonable or qualified person. I concede that such an expression does not include farmers, because they are interested only if there is a quid in it, regardless of the consequences.

Mr Blaikie: Why have not the metropolitan markets been closed down years ago?

Mr MOILER: The honourable member will get all the answers to his questions; I do not have much time remaining. People are in complete agreement that the metropolitan markets should not accept meat which has not already been inspected at the place of slaughter.

The Public Health Department has been working on this for some years and the only reason the situation has been allowed to continue is political. Because of the influence the Country Party and members representing country areas have been able to exercise, this facility has been permitted to continue to operate so that a few farmers can gain some benefit. It might interest members to know that only 1 per cent of meat now passing through the metropolitan markets has not been inspected before it gets to the markets, as a result of the efforts of the Public Health Department to improve the situation.

I guarantee the member for Vasse that within six months or 12 months, all meat passing through the markets will have been inspected previously.

Mr Laurance: You seem as though you hate the farmers even more than you hate local government.

Mr MOILER: The interjections of the honourable member are too stupid to answer.

Mr Blaikie: Are you suggesting malpractice in the metropolitan markets in the past?

Mr MOILER: I did not say that; I am suggesting that for years politicians have used whatever influence they have to allow the metropolitan markets to continue to receive meat that has not been inspected at the place of slaughter. Even though the Public Health Department and local authorities have tried to correct the situation, it is the politicians who have created the situation. The Public Health Department has improved the position only by continually working at it.

Mr Blaikie: You are quite wrong in what you are saying. The only authority which is responsible for inspecting meat is the Perth City Council, because only that body has been prepared to carry out the inspection service.

Mr MOILER: The member does not know what he is talking about. Inspection is carried out at the meat markets, and we say it is completely wrong; it should be carried out at the place of slaughter.

Mr Blaikie: Which department carries out the inspection?

Mr MOILER: The Perth City Council. The influence of some councillors on the Perth City Council and members on the other side of the House has contributed to the situation. Clause 7 states—

The evidence available indicates that the single State Authority administering meat inspection should be the Department of Agriculture and not the Department of Health...

The Department of Agriculture might have been able to arrive at that decision, but this House has not made a similar decision because yesterday I asked a question regarding the number of departments which had put in late submissions. I did not mention the Public Health Department, but the committee must have had a bit of a conscience because I received the following answer—

The Public Health Department provided useful information to the enquiry, particularly in the area of non-export abattoirs. The Department indicated however in a letter of January 6 to the Committee that it did not propose to make a submission on meat inspection.

I should imagine that there would be some reason for a department so vitally concerned in this issue not making a submission. The answer continued—

Two papers on meat inspection were received from the Health Department on February 21 and February 24, but were not accompanied by a covering letter indicating that they were to be regarded as a late and formal submission.

Good heavens! Did they think the submission was sent down to be put into a Father Christmas stocking, or something of that nature? Of course it was not.

When the Department of Agriculture controlled the abattoir at Kalgoorlie it was placed in the very position that is now recommended by the Meat Industry Advisory Committee. When the abattoir at Kalgoorlie was under the control of the Department of Agriculture it was allowed to deteriorate to a most deplorable condition, and when it was so run down the Department of Agriculture decided to get rid of it. The department called in experts in the Public Health Department for assistance to prepare a works schedule aimed at bringing the works up to a standard to enable them to be sold. That is the sort of thing that happens when management and inspection are placed

under one control, which would be the case if the Department of Agriculture controlled meat inspection.

The Kalgoorlie abattoir was sold, but subsequently the Public Health Department had to take steps to compel the new owners to bring it up to standard. They received no assistance from the Department of Agriculture. It has been proved time and time again that the Department of Agriculture is not capable of working in the best interests of the State in regard to meat inspection where management and inspection are carried out by the same authority, as was the case with the Kalgoorlie abattoir.

Meat passing from the abattoirs to the consumers should be covered by health regulations; it is not a matter for the Department of Agriculture. I repeat that in respect of meat inspection Western Australia leads the rest of Australia; the fact that Western Australia is out of step in that meat inspection is controlled by public health authorities emphasises the need for this method to be retained, and the other States should do away with the jurisdiction of their Departments of Agriculture.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member's time has expired.

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [9.47 p.m.]: In my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate I want to deal with the proposed national health scheme which now seems to be a *fait accompli*. I want to outline what takes place in respect of the doctor-patient relationship, and what might happen as a result of the so-called free health scheme. It is supposed to be a free scheme, but in fact it is not a free one and it will be financed from taxes.

The present high standard of medical attention is based on the doctor-patient relationship. The patient has confidence in his doctor, and the doctor is responsible to the patient. Under the traditional methods of medical practice which are persisting today and have persisted for many years, firstly the patient and his family decide when the patient should receive medical attention. If they think the patient needs medical attention they seek a doctor in whom they have confidence, either by repute or from past experience. No matter how we regard the question, the doctor-patient relationship comes about through the needs of the patient. The doctor does not look for the patient; the patient goes to the doctor because he needs medical attention.

Secondly, once that relationship comes into existence, a personal contact is made between the patient and the doctor under which the patient voluntarily submits to the line of treatment recommended by the

doctor. By accepting such treatment the patient declares his confidence in the doctor.

Mr Hartrey: If the doctor has no confidence he will make the patient pay in advance!

Dr DADOUR: Thirdly, all transactions remain at the doctor-patient level. A contract is established under which the doctor is responsible to his patient, and the patient becomes financially responsible to the doctor. That is a fairly basic procedure, and it is easy to understand.

Mr Skidmore: Do you agree that people seek medical treatment—

Dr DADOUR: I know what the member for Swan wants to say, and I shall deal with that later. At the moment I am dealing with what pertains. Medical attention is available to the Australian public in three different ways. Firstly, it is available through home care, where the doctor visits the patient at his home and treats him there; secondly, the doctor may see the patient in the doctor's consulting room; and, thirdly, the doctor may attend the patient in one of the hospitals.

It is very pertinent for me to point out that each day approximately 500 000 patients are attended by doctors, either in the home or in the consulting room. That is a great number of patients. Furthermore, each day another 100 000 patients are attended to in all categories of hospitals. So, about 80 per cent of the medical services is received outside of hospitals.

It is important to note that under the existing system, treatment and medical attention are available to everyone, regardless of his ability to pay. I shall come back to this point at a later stage.

What are the objectives of the national health scheme? They are divided into two distinct areas. Firstly, there is the Medibank health scheme. This is the Commonwealth Government's medical scheme under which it proposes to pay 85 per cent of the medical fees, provided such fees conform with the prescribed schedule of fees. This is the prescribed schedule of fees put out by the Commonwealth Government. It is not a method of payment for medical attention, yet the central Government has consistently and persistently suggested that the medical profession should bulk bill the patients. The Medibank health scheme can accept only 85 per cent of the fees.

The patient pays nothing but his taxes. I might mention that I intend to get my story over in the sequence that I desire.

Mr Skidmore: I was only trying to be helpful.

Dr DADOUR: Thank you. The Government has made it clear that it prefers bulk billing and if this is accepted by the

doctors the patient pays nothing but his taxes. The doctors will be paid directly by the Government and then they will be nationalised by default. Whatever way one looks at it the doctors will become public servants. What will be the inevitable consequences? We have seen the consequences of a similar scheme introduced in other countries. I am not so much concerned as to what will happen on the 1st July, but what will happen subsequently. It may take one year or several years but consequences similar to what has happened in other countries must follow.

Mr Skidmore: The general practitioners do not object to Government policy on workers' compensation cases. They have not complained about that.

Dr DADOUR: Some of the unions have so much faith in the proposed national health scheme that they are contemplating building their own hospital in which workers' compensation cases can be looked after and enjoy the treatment they are getting today instead of the treatment they will get if they become patients in standardised public wards. However, the request of the unions to put that scheme into operation was refused by the Central Government.

Mr Skidmore: Your facts are incorrect.

Dr DADOUR: The inevitable consequence of doctors accepting bulk billing is that there will be a steep increase in the public demand for medical attention. Members of the medical profession will be disinclined to exert themselves once they become public servants. I can assure the members of this House that those doctors who have been in private practice, once they become salaried officers, will not perform the same amount of work they did previously. In private practice a surgeon would perform 16 or more operations a day. However, once he enters the national health scheme he will perform only four or five operations a day, because it will take away from him the incentive to work for himself.

Sir Charles Court: And the demand for medical attention will increase immediately by 12 per cent.

Dr DADOUR: Yes. There will be a sharp decline in medical standards. This has been instanced in Great Britain. Medibank may appear very attractive at first, but in the long term the result will be a destruction of the personalised doctor-patient relationship. This will not happen immediately on the 1st July. For example, I will not alter my ways as a general practitioner because I have learnt to practise in a certain way, and this is the way I wish to continue to practise. In the present circumstances I have a very personalised doctor-patient relationship. This is borne out by the fact that I am holding a seat that would normally be held by a member of the Labor Party, the reason being that my patients have confidence in me.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: What sort of a judge are you? Will Western Australia join the scheme?

Dr DADOUR: If the Leader of the Opposition had heard my comments on whether or not the State of Western Australia would accept the scheme at the time he moved his amendment to the Address-in-Reply, he would have noted that I said it is inevitable that we must join, but we need to ensure that we get the best deal for the people of Western Australia. That is what the Premier and his Cabinet are trying to do. They are trying to obtain the best deal for the people of Western Australia. We keep worrying about the fact that the private practice of a general practitioner will become defunct. The next thing that will occur following doctors accepting bulk billing, is the nationalisation of the medical profession. The third thing that will happen will be the degradation of the Australian medical standards. At the moment these standards are regarded as being among the best in the world. No one will refute that.

It is important to note that if the medical practitioner's fees exceed the Government schedule of fees, insurance to cover the difference between the doctor's fees and the scheduled fees is forbidden. So one cannot take out insurance for medical assistance because it is forbidden.

I have dealt with Medibank, so if any person is ignorant about Medibank it is his own fault. The second objective of the central Government is that it demands standard ward accommodation. There are two parts of the national health scheme. Firstly, there is Medibank where, under the medical scheme the doctors are recouped for their services. The second part is that the central Government demands standard ward accommodation, including medical services which will be provided free to the patients.

If the State Government agrees to the national health scheme the central Government will pay 50 per cent of the running costs of any hospital. There is no confusion on that point. Permission can also be obtained by a person to be hospitalised in a public or private hospital, but the cost of such accommodation is only partially met by the national health scheme. A patient who wishes to enter a private hospital will have to take out additional insurance to meet the difference in costs. This is permissible. A person will be able to have private hospital accommodation if he so desires.

At present both State-owned and privately-owned institutions provide hospital beds for the acutely ill. If the States accept the new scheme, anyone, regardless of his financial position, will receive free standard ward accommodation. At the

same time medical treatment in that hospital will be free. In other words the hospital accommodation and the medical fees will all be met by the Government.

Mr Harman: A wonderful scheme!

Dr DADOUR: Another point is that most people will cease to belong to any voluntary hospital insurance and will gravitate to the standard ward accommodation. As a result two things will occur. The first is that the patients who were insured and will no longer be insured will, as I said, gravitate to the public hospitals. This will result in a shortage of public hospital beds, because there will be a greater demand for them.

Mr Harman: You are only surmising.

Dr DADOUR: For the first time we will have waiting lists.

Mr Skidmore: Why do you say people will stop paying private insurance?

Dr DADOUR: I will talk about that later.

Mr Skidmore: That is about the fifth thing you are going to deal with later. I hope you get on to them eventually.

Dr DADOUR: At present there are virtually no waiting lists at our hospitals. However, the Minister for Social Security has indicated that a 12 per cent increase will occur in usage.

The second consequence will further aggravate the first for the simple reason that as there will not be so many privately insured patients, private hospitals will be deprived of patients and will no longer remain viable; so they will be forced to close down. This situation will apply particularly to the religious institutions as they are basically nonprofit-making hospitals.

Mr Harman: They will have the alternative of providing standard ward care.

Dr DADOUR: I will come to that later, too. We have only to consider the position in South Australia to answer that interjection.

Mr Skidmore: I will move for an extension of time for you.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is entitled to make his own speech.

Dr DADOUR: In time both intermediate and private accommodation will disappear.

Mr H. D. Evans: What is the position in Queensland?

Dr DADOUR: We are not talking about Queensland. That is something different again.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Subiaco.

Dr DADOUR: It is obvious that when the intermediate and private accommodation disappears, waiting lists will result. This will be inevitable.

All medical attention will be free in the standard ward beds which will mean that when admitted to public hospitals, patients will not get the doctor of their choice. With the vagaries of the system to be introduced this will be the situation.

Mr Skidmore: Why won't they get the doctor of their choice?

Dr DADOUR: I am predicting events of the future. What has happened in Great Britain and Scandinavia, and what is occurring in Canada? These are the countries where the system has been in operation.

The all-important factor and the real crux of the matter concerns the cost. All I can say is that the Minister for Social Security must be paranoid because he is hell-bent on self-destruction. Let us consider the costs which will be enormous, have no doubt about that. These costs must be added to the other social services of dubious wisdom and will make a further financial drain on the country because we will be living beyond our capacity.

We must remember that the money to pay for the scheme will come from the taxpayer and if the costs escalate as I predict they will—and I will prove this in a moment—Government expenditure will increase with a resultant increase in taxation.

Mr Hartrey: Doctors' fees go up, too.

Dr DADOUR: The only alternative is that the money will be diverted from other essential areas such as education. The Treasurer already has a deficit of nearly \$4 000 million. When the cost of the Medibank scheme is added next year the deficit will be something like \$10 000 million.

Mr Skidmore: It is good to see the honourable member showing concern about the Australian Government.

Dr DADOUR: I do not care about the Australian Government. I care about Western Australia first, and Australia overall. What happens to Australia worries me and this is why I am making this speech tonight.

If the patient pays some benefit contribution, plus a little out of his own pocket, he protects himself and his family and at the same time he retains the right to a choice of doctor and hospital.

Mr Skidmore: He will retain that under the new scheme.

Dr DADOUR: Under the scheme to be introduced he will lose this in the long term.

Let us have a look at the costs of running some of our hospitals. The costs of running two major Perth hospitals—one

for adults and one for children—rose from \$25.5 million in 1973 to \$33.5 million in 1974, which represents an overall rise of 30 per cent.

These hospitals combined received from patients' fees \$8.5 million in 1973 and \$7 million in 1974 which represents a 30 per cent and 20 per cent contribution to the running of the hospitals. Admittedly this was paid by the hospital benefit funds and the Government.

With the introduction of a national health scheme this will not be the situation because everything will be free. It will be paid by the Taxation Department. With the overutilisation of the facilities the costs will escalate.

In Australia there are about 85 000 acute hospital beds which cost well over \$50 per day to maintain, but we will say it is \$50. When the free scheme is in operation the cost will be paid from taxation, some from the State, but most from the Commonwealth. This will represent \$4.25 million per day just for our acute beds.

As I have said, 500 000 patients attend medical practitioners per day, but this number will increase considerably when the new scheme is in operation. When we break this number down into groups who attend general practitioners and consultants, and those who receive X-ray treatment and have other pathological tests, the average will be \$10 per attendance. That involves 500 000 per day.

An amount of \$10 per person per consultation runs out at \$5 million per day. If we add to that another \$500 000 approximately, for outpatient running costs in the public hospitals—and the figure will probably be in excess of that—and add to that the cost of surgery and consultations, we arrive at a figure of \$10 million per day. If we multiply \$10 million by 365 we get a grand total of \$3 650 million in the first year which represents \$300 per man, woman, and child in Australia per year—a total of \$300 per head of the total population per year. With inflation and overuse that figure will escalate year by year as happened in Great Britain.

When the scheme was introduced in Great Britain the estimate for the first year was exceeded twofold or threefold. It has escalated each year since it was introduced by the amount it was estimated to cost during the first year. That will happen here.

Mr T. D. Evans: Can you explain why that should happen?

Dr DADOUR: The scheme will be overused. I ask the member for Kalgoorlie: Does he think I will work for 65 hours a week?

Mr Barnett: Why should you not?

Dr DADOUR: Why should I? I will be a public servant and I will work the usual 35 hours per week.

Mr Harman: How?

Dr DADOUR: I will become a civil servant and I will be paid by the Government.

Mr T. D. Evans: You are paid by the Government now.

Dr DADOUR: I sense sour grapes from the member for Kalgoorlie.

Mr T. D. Evans: No, not at all. You have not explained why.

Dr DADOUR: I do not think I need to say any more. I see many people in my practice and I send some of them away for an X-ray, a blood test, or a pathology test. When they come back I explain what is wrong with them and what the tests show. I make one charge for both consultations, but does the member opposite think I will let the Government get away with that? I do not charge for repeat prescriptions.

Mr Skidmore: But some doctors do.

Dr DADOUR: I do not care what some doctors do, I am saying what I do and I think I represent most doctors. Do members opposite think I will sit down and write prescriptions all day for no return? Of course I will charge.

Mr Hayden has stated that we will have to play the game but if the incentive is taken away we cannot play the game. A surgeon who moves from a private practice to a hospital situation will have his workload halved but his pay will not be doubled.

Mr Barnett: Your taxation will go up.

Dr DADOUR: I do not mind. Why do we have to follow other countries which have made this blunder? We do not know whether the present situation will be retrievable, and this is most important. I suggest that most people stay in a private scheme until we see exactly what will happen. I have no doubt that the Premier and the Cabinet will accept Medibank in some form or other—

Mr Harman: Of course they will.

Dr DADOUR: —otherwise the people of Western Australia will be disadvantaged. Why should we pay taxes to support people in other States?

Mr Harman: Tell the Premier.

Dr DADOUR: The Premier is aware of the situation and is trying to get a better deal and a better understanding. What about the private hospital sector? Members opposite do not worry about the private sector, but it does worry us. The private sector and the private hospitals make a great contribution to Western Australia.

Mr Harman: And they will still make it.

Dr DADOUR: I am rather doubtful about that. We have to bargain, and that is what the Premier is trying to do.

Mr Bertram: There is nothing wrong with that.

Dr DADOUR: Then why go crook at the Premier.

Sir Charles Court: If we do not win our argument it will be the end of private hospitals.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The Premier is after more money.

Dr DADOUR: That is how it should be.

Mr T. D. Evans: He said he was not worried about dollars and cents.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: That makes a mockery of what the Premier has said.

Sir Charles Court: The main issue is not money; it is more important than that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Subiaco has the floor.

Sir Charles Court: Does the Leader of the Opposition want us to sell out because the Commonwealth dictates to us?

Dr DADOUR: An article appeared in *The West Australian* of the 8th April, 1975, in which the Secretary of the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Medical Association (Mr R. G. Hayward) criticised Federal Government advertising of Medibank. Mr Hayward stated the Federal Government advertising was untrue in relation to the number of people who were not covered by any form of medical or hospital insurance. The advertisement which Mr Hayward was criticising is very emotional and states that over one million Australians do not have health insurance. Let me say that any person who has to go into hospital, and who does not have any hospital insurance, can have the debt wiped off. There was a time when such a person had to pay the bill, but that has not applied for a number of years. I, as a member of Parliament, had only to pick up the telephone and make a call, to have a debt wiped off.

Mr Harman: That is not very good business for the hospitals.

Dr DADOUR: Well, no-one is deprived of treatment.

Mr Harman: In any event, such a person should be covered by the Commonwealth scheme.

Dr DADOUR: If a person is too ignorant, are we supposed to lead him to water? The 5 per cent of the population who are not covered include the rubbish who cause all the trouble. Those people do not care; they do not want to belong; they are nonconformists. They probably vote for members opposite.

Mr May: They are not rubbish.

Dr DADOUR: I am talking about a particular 5 per cent.

Mr May: You said they were rubbish.

Dr DADOUR: Those I am referring to are.

Mr May: They are not at all.

Dr DADOUR: I regard them as misfits. Without doubt many of those who are not covered do not want to be covered. Some of them can afford it but they decide they will not get sick and they do not want to pay anything.

Then there is the group who cannot afford to pay and they are automatically covered if they apply for assistance. There are some in the middle and this is where the scheme breaks down. This is where the deficiencies in the present scheme can be overcome.

Let us have a look at the hospital benefits contribution. Contributions have increased markedly over the last few years not only because of inflation but because the Commonwealth has been reluctant to increase its contribution. The Commonwealth has made the hospital benefit scheme appear to be unattractive so that Medibank will appear attractive.

I still do not understand why the Commonwealth Government wants to introduce it. It cannot be said that the Commonwealth is worried about the few people who are not covered. There must be another reason and that reason seems to be that the Commonwealth wants socialism.

Mr Skidmore: It wants to provide a good medical scheme for Australia.

Dr DADOUR: We already have the best scheme in the world. People come here from all over the world to study it. The English people are most envious of our scheme because their own costs so much. Great Britain cannot cope with the cost of its scheme and the same blunder will occur here.

If a patient has to pay a small part of the cost of treatment out of his own pocket he will show some restraint; otherwise he will show no restraint. Advertisements for Medibank have appeared in the Press on almost every day for the last month.

Mr Watt: It cost only \$1.5 million!

Dr DADOUR: The advertisement states—

Medibank starts on July 1 because among other reasons, there are at present over one million Australians not insured against the high cost of sickness or injury.

Not insured because they cannot afford to insure themselves. So they simply cannot afford to become ill.

An investigation which was carried out revealed that half that number of people were not insured.

Mr May: The Premier said he did not believe in newspaper reports.

Dr DADOUR: The Secretary of the Australian Medical Association stated an investigation showed that to be true.

Mr Barnett: That would be the most biased source you could find.

Dr DADOUR: I would believe him before I would believe a man like Mr Hayden, who lives in a world of fantasy. The advertisement also states—

Even for those people who are insured, the rising cost of health fund contributions is a real and continuing worry.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for that. It has made sure that contributions have increased so much that people cannot afford them. The Commonwealth Government did not increase its share as much as it should have, so the greater amount of the contributions is coming from the pockets of the people. Further on the advertisement says—

YOU CHOOSE YOUR OWN DOCTOR

Although Medibank will change many things, it will not change in any way whatsoever the existing relationship between you and your doctor.

That will be the case between me and my patients, because that is the way I am. What about the young chaps coming up who know they have to get through 30 to 50 patients in a surgery? They will be overworked and will never achieve this doctor-patient relationship because they will not have time. That was proven in Great Britain. I say in five or 10 years we will have very little personal doctor-patient attention.

Mr Barnett: How long do you spend on each consultation now?

Dr DADOUR: Somewhere between 10 and 15 minutes.

Mr Barnett: Will it make any difference later on with Medibank?

Dr DADOUR: It will not make any difference to me. If I have a surgery full of people and I must see them all, a quick consultation will take a split second and a long consultation 10 seconds. That is the only way we will be able to get through them. I will be ordering X-rays for everyone so that I can get a bit of breathing space; and when they come back with their X-rays there will be another consultation, so one cannot moan.

Mr Skidmore: And if they come in with a headache you will send them for an X-ray.

Dr DADOUR: No; I will send them to a psycho.

There is another good reason for the Commonwealth Government's instituting this scheme. Why is it hell-bent on controlling the doctors? I did not intend to bring politics into this matter but I cannot avoid doing so because I am sure it is political. The most anti-socialistic influential group in the community is, without a doubt, the medical profession.

Mr Skidmore: Do you have authority to speak for all doctors? I can mention one who does not share your ideas.

Dr DADOUR: Another point is that we are also very privileged members of the community. I am permitted, without any hesitation and without any rebuff, to put my finger in the most tender private spot of a patient, and I get away with it. What is more, he pays me and very often he thanks me. I do not know why this scheme is being introduced.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has six minutes.

Dr DADOUR: I will reiterate what I have said previously in this House. It is the quality of patient care that is in jeopardy. That involves, firstly, the choice of one's own doctor; secondly, if a patient is not satisfied with his first doctor he is entitled to a second opinion from another doctor; thirdly, he should be able to choose the hospital, the doctor who will look after him in that hospital, and the time at which he will have an operation if one is necessary; fourthly, he should have the basic right of total privacy in consultation, accommodation, and the documentation of his illness. I believe these rights will be in jeopardy under the Medibank scheme, and that one of the best medical schemes in the world will deteriorate into one of the worst.

Mr Barnett: You do not really believe that.

Dr DADOUR: I believe that will happen in the long run.

Under the Medibank scheme, what are the chances for specialisation of the young doctors coming into the hospitals from the universities? After they have completed their six-year medical course and one year at a hospital, I have a feeling they will be told where to go.

Mr May: What about the people?

Dr DADOUR: They will be directed, so their chances for specialisation will not be very great. Even if they do specialise, with the public ward system they will be great-grandfathers before they become consultants. They will be junior registrars for many years, and by the time they become grandfathers they will reach consultant status.

Mr Skidmore: Are you suggesting that after coming out of university and completing 12 months in a hospital a GP will be directed where to go because of Medibank?

Dr DADOUR: He will be directed; the system will demand it. The Government will turn around and say, "We have given you the privilege of studying medicine", and we will end up with a bonding system like that which applies to school teachers. They will be given a choice of going to one or two places.

I should explain what I meant by the "5 per cent rubbish". The people I was referring to are those who upset everybody—they are the misfits in our community. We must accept the fact that they exist, and to my mind the Medibank scheme is being implemented mainly because of those people. It is for that reason that I referred to them as "rubbish". I probably should have said they were the misfits.

MR CARR (Geraldton) [10.29 p.m.]: I rise in this debate to mention a number of matters concerning my electorate which are all within the province of the State Government and for which the Government deserves criticism.

The first of these matters is the projected closure of the passenger train services to Geraldton, Bunbury, and Albany. I think it is common knowledge that a submission has been forwarded by the Commissioner of Railways to the Minister advocating that these services be discontinued.

Mr O'Connor: I have stated that has been relieved.

Mr CARR: that is right. It is also commonly understood that the basis of the submission is one of economics; a certain loss has occurred and this is the reason for the cancellation of the services. It is arguable that the financial position can be improved upon. One constructive suggestion has been put forward by a number of people, particularly the member for Collie, the Labor Party shadow Minister for Transport. He advocated the upgrading of the services to something comparable with the *Prospector* service using comfortable air-conditioned diesel rail cars. Such a service could attract custom, and possibly improve its economics.

Mr Laurance: Are the Geraldton people using the service?

Mr CARR: I will come to the service as it is operating in my time. However, I feel the main objection to the service should not be an objection based on economics. I agree here with the remarks made by the member for Bunbury the other night when he said that a decision about these rail services should not be based on economics.

Mr O'Connor: They should be taken into account.

Mr Sibson: I did not say that, I said it should be one of the aspects.

Mr May: You did say it.

Mr CARR: I suggest that the position in Geraldton is somewhat different from that in Bunbury where several trains per week operate between the two centres, and there may be a case for reducing some of the services and substituting buses. Geraldton is in the position that one passenger train operates weekly between Perth and Geraldton. This is an overnight train leaving Perth Friday evening and arriving in Geraldton Saturday morning. On the return journey it leaves Geraldton on Sunday evening and arrives in Perth on Monday morning. In view of this most of the WAGR passenger customers are already using the bus. I argue that the one remaining train service to Geraldton should be retained as a community welfare service.

This facility is a very valuable one to the aged persons and the pensioners in the area. These people and others who are sick may wish to travel to Perth for specialist or medical treatment. I accept the point made by the member for Gascoyne that not a large number of people is involved.

Mr Laurance: They could be accommodated by bus.

Mr CARR: That is the point I want to make; many people who are sick or aged find that bus travel is fairly uncomfortable. They must sit in the one position for the whole journey, whereas an overnight sleeper service by train is a much more comfortable proposition. Economics have forced this service to be cut to one train per week, but please let us keep that one train on community welfare grounds.

A second suggestion to overcome the problem was put forward at the WAASRE Conference. Members of that union said that it would be feasible to add a passenger carriage to a goods train. Remembering that only a relatively small number of passengers is involved, and that an overnight goods train travels from Perth to Geraldton six nights a week, it seems quite practical to add a passenger carriage to the train.

Mr Watt: That system already operates to Albany.

Mr CARR: It already operates to Albany?

Mr Watt: Yes, and it has done for some years.

Mr CARR: I hope the Minister will see fit to consider that precedent and introduce it on the Geraldton run. I repeat that this should not be an economic decision; it should be a sociological decision with regard for more than mere profits.

The second point I wish to raise during this debate is in regard to State Housing Commission accommodation in Geraldton. A while ago the member for Albany

mentioned that his electorate was not doing as well economically as Geraldton, which is booming. The honourable member implied that there were more problems in Albany than in Geraldton. We have a quite different economic climate in Geraldton, but we also have problems associated with the booming activity and rapid growth.

A principal problem in Geraldton is that of State Housing Commission accommodation, and we have very long waiting lists for this type of accommodation. I recently obtained some figures from the Minister for Housing, and they illustrate my point. In March of this year, the longest wait for domestic single unit accommodation was 21 months. Members will see that the applicants are divided into domestic and Aboriginal. An Aboriginal can expect a wait of 36 months for single unit accommodation.

The wait for one-bedroom accommodation is 24 months for domestic and 23 months for Aboriginal. The figures for two-bedroom accommodation are 20 months and 17 months. For three-bedroom accommodation the longest waiting period is nine months for domestic and 35 months for Aboriginal; and for four-bedroom accommodation the waiting periods are 13 months and 10 months. Practically every day my office is visited by an applicant for State Housing Commission accommodation. Several of these people are living in dreadful circumstances. Some large families are living in caravans.

Mr Laurance: You should change your office site.

Mr CARR: Yes, it is quite close to the State Housing Commission office.

Mr Laurance: So I have heard.

Mr CARR: Some applicants are living in condemned houses, in one room of someone else's house, and I have known of cases where families are living in motor-cars. I admit I have plagued the life of the local State Housing Commission regional officer in Geraldton trying to get assistance for as many people as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the fine job he is doing under very difficult circumstances. The position is very serious, and it is rapidly becoming worse. To substantiate my statement I will quote two sets of figures which the Minister gave in this House.

On the 13th November, 1974, I asked for the number of people on the waiting list in each category. The Minister's answer showed the position to be quite serious. I asked a similar question on the 27th March—almost exactly 4½ months later, and the answer revealed a massive deterioration in the situation.

I would like to quote these figures to the House. The best figures are for single unit accommodation, and these show a deterioration from 29 listings to 31 listings—not too bad. Applications for one-bedroom accommodation deteriorated from 17 to 25 listings. The problem becomes much greater as we come to the larger houses. Last November, 34 applicants were listed for two-bedroom accommodation, and 69 are listed in March. For three-bedroom accommodation, 85 applicants were listed in November and 126 applicants are listed now. The applicants for four-bedroom accommodation have increased from 11 to 17. There were no applicants for five-bedroom accommodation in November, and now there are two.

The figures I have given are for rental accommodation only. The total rental figures reveal 176 applicants in November and 270 rental applications as at March, this year—in that 4½-month period an increase in applicants of 53 per cent.

A similar position applies in respect of people registered for purchase homes. In November, 1974, there were 59 applicants, and there are now 76. This gives a total of all applicants registered as 235 in November, 1974, and 346 as of March this year—an increase of 111 applicants in 4½ months. This is a total deterioration in the situation of 47 per cent.

The question must be asked: What is being done to solve the problem? Not enough is being done in general terms. I will deal with the single unit accommodation first. Applicants for this type of accommodation increased from 29 to 31. Six units are under construction and 24 units are under tender, and therefore the single unit position is reasonably satisfactory. However, when we turn to the position of single detached homes, the picture is very different. Ten three-bedroom homes are under construction and tenders are expected to be called by June for 12 single detached homes for Aborigines.

This will obviously not go anywhere near to clearing the backlog. In fact, the backlog has gained ground much more quickly than the steps taken to remedy it. As I said, it has increased by over 100 applications in 4½ months. I am aware there is a problem of limited resources. The Federal Government is concerned to provide more low-cost housing, and the State Government should co-operate to the utmost to get as much as possible instead of abusing the Federal Government.

I hope the Government realises that Geraldton is experiencing a boom and that housing resources are stretched to the limit not only in the public sector but also

the private sector, which is also experiencing a shortage of homes. I call on the Minister to do all within his power to increase the building operations of the State Housing Commission in Geraldton.

The third electorate matter to which I wish to refer concerns school buildings. The position at nearly all of the schools in Geraldton is most unsatisfactory. In fact, there is not one school in Geraldton which could be described as being in a comfortable position. Three new building projects were under way before the beginning of the present school year, and all were late.

The Premier advised me on the 20th March that he had continued the policy of starting projects before allocating funds; and he said he would advise me of the reasons for the delays in the three cases to which I refer. I am looking forward to receiving that information.

I will take the schools one by one. Firstly I refer to the new John Willcock High School. Stage 1 of that high school has been contracted out in two parts. The first part is the administration building and classrooms, and was due to be completed prior to the beginning of the current school year. At this stage it is two months late and this is obviously causing great inconvenience to students, staff, parents, and all others associated with the school.

I think it is a fair comment to say that most people in Geraldton knew when the tenders were called that the buildings would not be finished on time, because they were started too late. The second part of stage 1 is due to be completed by the 25th May. It consists of buildings for home economics, manual arts, a canteen, and a hall-gymnasium. My prediction—and it is also the prediction of many people in the area—is that there is no chance on this earth of the buildings being anywhere near ready by that time. My last comment on the John Willcock High School is that I hope when stage 2 is being constructed for completion in February, 1977, that earlier action is taken to ensure that the present situation is not repeated.

I refer secondly to the Bluff Point School. In this case a contract was let for three new classrooms and an Australian Government library-resource centre. I understand that two classrooms were due to be ready for the commencement of this school year, but of course they were not. There are a couple of associated problems in respect of these buildings which are worth mentioning. The architects responsible for the extensions did not inspect the site because it is against PWD policy to do so.

Mr O'Neil: They didn't request permission.

Mr CARR: I accept the point that the blame is not so much with the department as with the architects.

Mr O'Neil: You said it was against PWD policy, and it is not. You read the answer to the question.

Mr CARR: Be that as it may, the architects working in these circumstances made three drafts of the extensions. I will explain the reason for this. The first draft was unsatisfactory because three classrooms were put on the end of two wings, and extended over a 20-foot drop. Apparently the plans the architects worked on did not show the ground slope. The second draft blocked the access between the school and its oval, and construction of the building in that position would have meant that students and teachers would have to follow a circuitous route around an extremely long wing to reach the oval. Obviously that was unsatisfactory. Both drafts were corrected by the headmaster. This sort of error could well have been eliminated if arrangements had been made for the architects to visit the site.

With regard to the Allendale School the project was to complete the second half of the cluster to replace prefabricated classrooms which had been there for many years. Again, the work was not completed until at least a month after school commenced. The work was financed by the Schools Commission programme of the Federal Government to replace old buildings—a very worthy project using Karmel funds; and in my opinion it was abused by the State Government. The prefabricated buildings were not removed but moved to another position and are still being used as classrooms. That is certainly not my idea of replacement.

The other schools in the Geraldton area are not well off, either. The Geraldton Senior High School has 12 temporary classrooms which date back to 1952 and are in a dilapidated state. On two occasions this year fibreboard panels have fallen from the ceiling onto students in the class below. That has been confirmed by an answer given in this House by the Minister. I think we would all agree that is a most unsatisfactory situation. In answer to questions I have asked in the present and last sessions of Parliament the Minister has justified the non-replacement of these classrooms on the ground that numbers at the school will fall considerably following the opening of the John Willcock High School.

I suggest in reality this is simply not being borne out. This year the John Willcock High School has 160 students, and the numbers at the Geraldton Senior High School fell by 80 when compared with the enrolments for February last year. In fact, there are more students at the school now than there were in December

last year. The prediction of staff and others—which I agree with—is that the population of Geraldton Senior High School will never fall below 1100 students. I know it is difficult to estimate the capacity of the permanent buildings at the school because of the varying use of the buildings; but I suggest that an estimate of somewhere between 800 or 900 would probably be fair. Therefore I would suggest there is obviously a need for sufficient permanent classrooms to cater for another 200 or 300 students.

The Beachlands Primary School also has an interesting problem. It started the year in not too bad a position with eight rooms for eight classes. It had the problem of accommodating its library resources and its library aide, but it was considered the school could have managed in that situation until the new Federal library-resource centre was built, and until new classrooms were constructed. But since then problems have occurred. Firstly doubt has now been cast on whether the new classrooms will be built and, secondly, a demountable room has been taken away so that now the school has seven rooms for eight classes, including a special class; and it has no place for the library. So we have a situation where the special class—which I think we would all agree probably needs the most assistance but always receives the least—is sharing corridors and storerooms with the library books and library aide.

The Geraldton Primary School is very old, as most members would realise. Its buildings include three or four very old pavilions, which were old wrecks when I attended the school as a grade 1 student in 1950. They are now at the stage where they should be replaced before they fall down.

The one remaining State school in the area is the Rangeway School, which is probably better off than the other schools mainly because it is classified as a disadvantaged school. It has done well from the disadvantaged schools programme of the Australian Government; but it is also crowded and has classes in places which are not meant to be classrooms—such as music rooms.

To conclude my remarks on this aspect of my speech I would appeal to the Government to give a great deal more attention to the school building programme in Geraldton. I can assure the House that the people of Geraldton are not convinced that things are being put right in that town.

Before I sit down I would like to make a couple of other comments. I want to explain an error I made during the Budget debate last year and to apologise to the Premier for an accusation I made against him in that debate. I thought the accusation was justified at the time, but

I have since discovered that it was not and I will apologise to the Premier and explain what I am talking about. My criticism in fact should have been directed at the Deputy Premier and Leader of the Country Party. I am only sorry he is not present in the Chamber to hear what I have to say. However, I am sure my remarks will be passed on to him.

I have long been critical of the Country Party for not really representing all country people, as it claims. I have watched the falling vote and loss of seat of the Country Party and have been very pleased that people have come to see the Country Party preoccupation with vested interests and the large farmers, to the detriment of the majority of people living in country areas and, in particular, of small farmers.

I was quite amused that the Federal Country Party member, Mr Katter, said in Geraldton during a recent visit that Geraldton should be a Country Party stronghold, because he obviously failed to appreciate the lack of performance and leadership of the Country Party in this State in appealing to country people.

However, I have now been shown that I over-estimated the Country Party and its leader. I am not talking about its campaign to return to political significance by getting its leader to change his moustache; I am not talking about the effort of the member for Moore last night to return Australia to its war-mongering racist past; nor am I talking about the Deputy Premier's statement in the House on the 19th March that the reason he bowed to the Liberal majority on the lamb marketing issue was that, "If one does not do that, one does not remain a member of a Cabinet." I am not even talking about his explanation of contradictory comments that, "Naturally on endeavours to answer in a manner that satisfies the questioner."

I am referring to the issue of a full scale inquiry into costs in country areas. Members will recall that in July last year the Parliamentary Country Party issued a Press release saying that it had asked its leader, the Deputy Premier, to make representations to the Premier to have undertaken a full-scale inquiry into country costs.

I raised this issue in my maiden speech and supported the proposal in general terms. I raised it again during the Budget debate, expressing disappointment at the lack of action. But that is where I made my mistake, for which I apologise. I guessed where the fault lay, and accused the Premier of failing to act. In fact, I was wrong, as I found out today.

I asked a question of the Premier today spurred by the ABC programme "TDI" which conducted a survey which tended

to show that much was not well in some areas of country costs. I asked the Premier question 72 on today's notice paper, intending to call on him to act on the Country Party suggestion. The first part of my question stated—

Has he received representations seeking a Government inquiry into costs in country areas?

I thought the Premier would obviously say, "Yes, I have received representations" and I would then have said, "Why the devil have you not done something about it?" But the answer stated—

No representations were received seeking a Government inquiry into the costs in country areas other than for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

So, I am sorry. However, I do not excuse the Premier completely because he knew there were people who wanted this sort of inquiry conducted; in fact, I could claim that it should have been conducted long before now.

Sir Charles Court: Read the whole answer.

Mr CARR: But what about the Leader of the Country Party? Where does he stand? What a disgraceful performance this is. I see the Leader of the Country Party is now in the Chamber. After nine months of waiting, he has not even produced a representation. What a job he is doing for the country people! He cannot even produce a representation which he was asked to produce by his own parliamentary members. What a shambles! It is no wonder the country people of this State are turning away from the Country Party. If they do not get a better performance than that, the Country Party will lose even more seats.

I suggest to the House that the Country Party should correct its mistake and get on to its leader and tell him he has not done the job he was asked to do nine months ago. He should use the strength the newspapers at the weekend said he had in the Cabinet to instigate an inquiry into country costs.

Sir Charles Court: Read the rest of the answer to the House.

Mr CARR: I will.

Sir Charles Court: Read it out tonight to the House!

Mr CARR: The Premier is going to suggest that the Commissioner for Consumer Protection has no statutory power to inquire into or examine prices.

Sir Charles Court: Read the rest of the answer.

Mr CARR: There is no need to read the rest of the answer.

Sir Charles Court: Read it out to the House. We have caught up with your technique.

Mr CARR: There seems to be a suggestion that I am covering up, so I will read it. The answer to part (1) of my question continues—

The Pilbara report has already been released. The report on a survey into factors affecting the cost of living in the Kimberley, is in the final stages of preparation by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

There is nothing in that to contradict what I said. Part (2) of my question states—

If "Yes", who have representations been received from?

The answer states—

Answered by (1).

Mr Harman: Not by the Country Party!

Mr CARR: I expected the answer that the Country Party made the representations, but that is where I was wrong. I had over-estimated the working strength of the Country Party and its leader. Question (3) asked—

(3) Will he agree to conduct such an inquiry, especially as a survey conducted by the ABC programme TDT and discussed on last Friday's edition, appears to suggest that unfair mark-ups or other unfair practises may be occurring?

I really do not know why I am reading this out.

Mr Laurance: You are enjoying it.

Sir Charles Court: Read the answer! It shows that work has already been done.

Mr CARR: The Premier is talking about the Pilbara and the Kimberley; I accept that point. But what about other country areas?

Sir Charles Court: Read the answer to question (3).

Mr CARR: I will read the answer.

Sir Charles Court: Read the whole answer!

Mr CARR: Does not the Premier want to hear it? The answer states—

The Commissioner for Consumer Protection has no statutory power to examine prices.

That is one part of the answer. However, there is a lot more. The Minister continued—

However, preliminary research of available statistics on the retail price of food in country areas indicates that a similar inquiry to those carried out in the Pilbara and Kimberley, is not justified.

The matter will be kept under review.

Mr Bryce: Under review!

Mr CARR: That is something we have heard many times before; that is not a proper answer.

Mr Bryce: Under review! What a joke!

Mr CARR: The answer concludes—

If the Honourable Member has specific cases he feels call for study, he should advise details to the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Sir Charles Court: I hope that gets printed in *Hansard* correctly instead of in the mumbling way you read it out to the House to try to avoid the issue.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order!

Mr Grayden: You realise that when we get the statistics in a couple of weeks you will be very surprised. They cut right across the argument.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Grayden: You will get those statistics soon.

Sir Charles Court: I hope the answer to question (3) gets into *Hansard*.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I would appreciate it if the honourable member was able to continue his speech without interruption.

Mr CARR: Actually, Mr Acting Speaker, I was about to conclude by saying that the Premier has not done the job. Instead he has used his old excuse of "under review". The Deputy Premier is particularly at fault here. He has not even made a representation which his own party asked him to make nine months ago. Does the Deputy Premier and Leader of the Country Party deny that?

Mr McPharlin: What particular issue are you talking about?

Mr CARR: Mr Acting Speaker, I am speechless! I leave it at that.

Mr Bryce: This is the man who emerges as the strong man in the Cabinet!

Mr McPharlin: Oh, you idiot! I have not been in the Chamber to hear the speech; I have only just entered the Chamber and cannot be expected to know what preceded my entry.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

House adjourned at 10.59 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 10th April, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE POLICE

John Martin Best: Assault Charge

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice:

In view of the advice conveyed to the House when I spoke to the adjournment motion on Wednesday, the 9th April, will the Minister—

Institute proceedings to appeal against—

(a) Magistrate C. A. Fisher's decision in the case of the Police Department v John Martin Best of J. M. Best Holdings Pty. Ltd., in which he found the defendant not guilty after he had admitted the offence,

(b) the awarding of costs amounting to \$150 against the Police Department?

The PRESIDENT: I am inclined to think the question is not in order and I therefore rule it out of order.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: May I ask on what grounds you, Mr President, rule the question out of order?

The PRESIDENT: If the question asked by the honourable member refers to proceedings before a court—and let me say I am not sure whether that is so, because I was not present when the discussion took place last night—then I think the question could be *sub judice*.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: With respect, I am not asking for any opinion in respect of the proceedings before a court. I am simply asking whether the Minister would be prepared to institute an appeal on behalf of the Police Department against the decision handed down by the magistrate.

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

In reply to the question asked by Mr Cooley, and in deference to your advice, Mr President, it is my understanding the prosecution was taken by the Police Department. It is therefore up to the