

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Second Session of the Thirty-second Parliament

*Parliament was prorogued on 27 February 1987, to 31 March 1987, when it met for the despatch of business.
Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC).*

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 31 March 1987

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3.00 pm.

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

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr L. B. Marquet), read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) summoning the second session of the Thirty-second Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) entered the Council Chamber at 3.04 pm; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech—

Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Before I detail the legislative programme for this Session it is appropriate I record the death of Mr John Dolan, a former member of the Legislative Council from 1963 to 1974 and a Minister in the Tonkin Government from 1971 to 1974. He was Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council from 1973 to 1974.

Mr Cambell Nalder died earlier this month having represented the electorate of Narrogin in the Legislative Assembly since 1986.

As well, I record the retirement earlier in March of Mr Terry Burke who was first elected to the Legislative Assembly seat of Perth in 1968 and who was Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet from 1983 until earlier this year.

Mr Arthur Tonkin also retired after being in the Assembly since 1971. Mr Tonkin held a number of Ministerial portfolios between 1983 and 1986 and was Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly during that period.

I turn now to matters which will affect you directly during the Session.

The commitment of the Government to the creation of an electoral system that is fair, equal and above all properly democratic will be re-stated this Session. You will be asked to pass the Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Bill. This proposal seeks to accommodate the differing points of view expressed during the previous Session.

Promises made at the 1986 Election were placed before Parliament in July last year and the process of debate and negotiation has continued since then. The proposal contained in the Bill gives Members the opportunity to re-cast and strengthen the foundations of our democratic way of life.

A soundly designed democratic electoral system would be a powerfully beneficial legacy of this Parliament and would be in accordance with the support for reform expressed by voters at the last two elections.

The aim of the Government since it was first elected in February 1983 has been to achieve social progress for the people of Western Australia.

The method by which this is being achieved is through the re-organisation of governmental activities in a bid to reduce the costs of public administration which fall directly on taxpayers and by promoting economic development in a way which reflects the needs of the State.

The path has not been easy. The efforts of the Government have been made against the background of a rapidly changing world economic climate and the resulting sharp downturn in Australia's terms of trade. It has meant a challenge for all of us.

Australia faces a very important and fundamental economic adjustment as a result of national income declining in real terms.

There are now two fundamental imperatives. Firstly, the cut in national income must be made to fall throughout the community in such a way that there is fair and equitable sharing of the burden. Restraint has to be exercised on all sides, including moderation in wage agreements and salary packages. But the needs of the politically less powerful, including the unemployed and pensioners, must continue to be adequately protected.

The second basic imperative is the need to restructure our economy. This problem is simple enough to state. Our export earnings must be increased and our imports reduced if we are to pay our way in the world economy.

The task facing Australia cannot be solved through simplistic political propositions such as unrealistic Government programme curtailments and massive tax cuts as this country is already one of the lowest taxing of all the member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The solution lies in greater savings, investment, productivity, skilled labour and better management.

The Western Australian Government has been in the forefront of moves to bring the realisation of the changed circumstances to the attention of the National Government and the community as a whole.

For a State economy like ours which contributes so much to the economic wellbeing of the nation we have to be forthright in our determination to demonstrate that the protectionist policies being adopted by our major trading partners threaten the lifestyles of all of us.

In recent weeks the Government has made it clear, both domestically and to business representatives of Japan, that all of us have a role to play in ensuring that governments do not react in a purely selfish manner and close in on themselves in a mistaken belief that the world economic crisis will be resolved without our co-operative effort.

The Government supports strongly the efforts of the National Government to develop an international strategy to overcome the barriers to trade which are being promoted by some of our trading partners.

The slowing in the growth of the national economy during 1986 is therefore of great concern, particularly the impact of the balance of payments deficit and the level of overseas debt. It is encouraging that there has been improvement in recent months.

Western Australia has continued to record strong growth in private investment, reflecting a widespread confidence in the State's economic management. The increase in private investment in the year to September 1986 was more than double the corresponding national investment growth rate.

Private investment in Western Australia increased by 45.5 per cent during 1985-86 to just under \$2 800 million and was the highest level yet recorded for the State. The rate of increase was more than double the level recorded nationally.

The outlook for private investment in Western Australia in 1986-87 is for a slight increase on the level of the previous financial year, which compares with an expectation of a decline across the nation.

The latest estimate of the anticipated level of investment in Western Australia in the year 1986-87 is 48.9 per cent greater than the actual level in the previous 12 months and more than five times greater than the corresponding increase for Australia in the same period.

In particular, the building industry—which has been the focus of a series of Government stimulatory initiatives—continues to perform well with the value of work completed in the September quarter being 9.4 per cent greater than in the corresponding quarter last year, and one and a half times the national increase.

Retail sales are also growing with the figures for the three months to January 1987 running at 8.4 per cent higher than last year compared with the corresponding national increase of 7.1 per cent.

Although there has been an easing in the growth of employment in recent months, Western Australia's vigorous level of employment growth is being sustained if a longer term perspective is taken.

From March 1983 to February 1987 employment increased in this State by more than 72 900 people or 12.6 per cent. The increase nationally for the comparable period was 10.2 per cent.

Against the backdrop of Australia's overseas trading account problems, Western Australia's overseas trading balance continues to be favourable with the value of exports overseas increasing 7.4 per cent in 1985-86. Combined with a fall in imports, this represents a 13.8 per cent growth in the State's notional overseas trading surplus.

The Government has, since its election, concentrated resources on improving tourist infrastructure and now tourism is one of the State's major industries. The holding of the America's Cup off Fremantle served as a catalyst to increase international and interstate awareness of the potential of Western Australia as a tourist destination.

The State has been identified world-wide as a "new" holiday destination, and the benefits of the Cup period will increase in the course of the next few years.

The present investment in tourist-oriented facilities in the State involves 223 projects valued at \$1 525 million.

The Government believes the State is now well supplied with infrastructure, accommodation and attractions to cater for a continued increase in tourism into the 1990s.

In other areas of assistance to industry, the Government, through the Department of Agriculture, is playing a major role with an increased effort in extension work and in reviewing priorities for new agricultural pursuits.

The gross value of Western Australia's rural production is estimated to reach \$2 483 million this financial year compared with \$2 215 million in 1985-86. It is the second highest aggregate recorded.

Despite the theme of restraint in the last State Budget, the Government has maintained its commitments to economic and employment growth, increased protection for low income families and for the needy as well as promoting improved efficiency in the public sector.

During the past year the Government announced a number of measures designed to minimise the growth in expenditure. One of the most significant was the setting of a target of a three per cent reduction in total State Government employment by July 1 this year. The target is being achieved largely as a result of natural attrition and should result in a full year cost saving to the Government of more than \$60 million.

Recently the composition of the Public Service Board has been altered and numerous initiatives are being undertaken to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service in responding to the changing needs of the community and Government.

The Board is moving to introduce a Senior Executive Service which will provide a pool of senior managers who will be assigned managerial tasks for finite periods in various public sector organisations.

In the broader community Western Australians have been quick to use the Equal Opportunity Act. The large number of inquiries and complaints received during the year endorses the view that members of the community have a growing awareness of their rights and obligations under the Act.

Progress towards the Government's commitment to include the ground of impairment in the Equal Opportunity Act continues to be made with the appointment of a consultant to the Commission.

The Government also aims to help ensure that families can cope with increases in the cost of living by keeping down taxes and charges, providing better health services for women and ensuring women have greater access to finance and credit.

Amendments to the Child Welfare Act are being prepared to ease the trauma for children giving evidence in court during child sexual abuse cases. A major review of the juvenile justice programme for the Department for Community Services was completed recently. Changes will begin shortly to provide a more effective and credible service to young offenders and the community.

The Government is also pursuing its objective of improving the status of women.

Its philosophy towards women is to acknowledge and support the variety of roles women perform at home and in the community, to ensure that women are given the chance to realise their potential, to allow women the opportunity to take part more actively in all areas

of our economy and society and to provide more opportunities for women to choose to work in the paid workforce as well as providing for the needs of women who wish to stay at home.

Priorities in the life of this Parliament include improving support for women who are the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, encouraging equal opportunity for girls and women particularly in education, providing greater community support for women at home with children, and providing additional child care services.

Last year the Government announced the closure of the State Superannuation Scheme to new members. During this Session legislation will be introduced to establish a new superannuation scheme for its employees. Some of the features of the proposed new scheme are:

- benefits will be in the form of lump sum payments related to salary and contributory service
- contributions will be a percentage of salary
- there will be no discrimination between members of different sexes, and
- a transfer option will be extended to members of the current pension fund.

The proposed scheme will reduce the long term commitment of the Government and the taxpayer to superannuation, and at the same time provide very attractive benefits to many more public employees than did the previous scheme.

Honourable Members will not be surprised to hear that a difficult budgetary situation could face the Government in 1987-88 given the likelihood that the Commonwealth Government will endeavour to reduce payments to the States below the levels previously committed.

Once again, the Government will endeavour to restrain expenditure while continuing to introduce worthwhile initiatives. Subject to the overall goal of responsible financial management, every effort will again be made to limit increases in the rates of taxes and charges.

With the aim of easing the taxation burden major changes have been made to the system of land taxation, to apply for 1987-88. A simplified rate scale will apply with fewer tiers and a reduction in the maximum marginal tax rate of more than 16 per cent. For the average tax-

payer, the effect will be to reduce the land tax bill by more than 14 per cent in real terms in 1987-88.

The Government also proposes to move to a system of annual land valuations, hopefully by 1990. This should minimise sudden large increases in land tax bills which can occur under the present system.

During the Session a major review of a number of departments and agencies within the Industry and Technology portfolio will be completed. The review is in line with the need to tailor the form of State Government instrumentalities to ensure that the next phase of technological and industrial development in Western Australia is made with vigour and effectiveness.

It is anticipated that the review will result in a basic industrial reconstruction. It will help the Government attain its aims of modernising existing industry and developing new science-based industries.

The Small Business Development Corporation continues to develop and implement measures to act as a catalyst for greater co-operation among small business owner/managers, professions, trade and industry organisations and Government.

As Honourable Members know, the major thrust of the Government's development strategy is to encourage a greater level of further processing of basic minerals using the State's assured energy supplies and its diverse mineral wealth.

Because of the surplus of natural gas available under the take-or-pay contracts with the North West Shelf partners, particular emphasis has been placed on promoting projects which use considerable volumes of gas, whether as energy or as feedstock. The success of this policy can be gauged from the number of new projects, involving very substantial investment, which have been announced during recent months.

A decision on a \$450 million world-scale ammonia urea plant is expected by the middle of the year and a new agreement to provide for the establishment of an ammonia urea processing plant is part of the legislative programme for this Session.

A proposal for a silicon metal project estimated to cost \$70 million is currently under environmental review and a Western Australian company has begun a feasibility study into a \$540 million petrochemical unit.

It is predicted that the present wave of new resource projects will lift the State's share of Australian exports from 22 per cent to 30 per cent within three years.

Honourable Members, the capital investment in the liquefied natural gas plant on the Burrup Peninsula is now running at the rate of about \$3 million a day and the workforce at Karratha will increase sharply to more than 3 000 people by the end of the year.

Gold continues to attract strong interest with a total of 19 major new gold mines opening in the State during 1986. This year we expect 25 new gold mines to open. It is anticipated that the 56 tonnes of gold produced last year will increase to about 73 tonnes this year and possibly as much as 85 tonnes next year.

The Government is committed to the continuation of its policies based on consultation and the tripartite process which recognise the rights and obligations of all participants in the industrial relations environment. The benefits of this approach are demonstrated through the significant improvement in industrial dispute statistics.

The latest figures available show that for the year to October 1986 the number of working days lost because of industrial disputes was the second lowest since 1975—the lowest was in 1985. It is pleasing to note that the past two years have produced the lowest figures for working days lost for 11 years.

In occupational health and safety the Government is continuing to act on its belief that the level of occupational injury and disease amongst Western Australian workers is too high. Accidents in the workplace generate enormous human and financial costs for our community.

During this Session the Government will introduce the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Amendment Bill 1987 which constitutes the second stage of the legislative reforms begun in 1984. The new legislation will broaden the existing occupational health, safety and welfare framework under which effective strategies to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of workers can be implemented.

The Government intends to institute a number of reforms relating to small shops. As part of new legislation this Session which will replace the existing provisions of the Factories and Shops Act, amendments will be made so as to permit small shops to sell any goods at any time and to remove a number of anomalies regarding small shops.

It is proposed that legislation will be introduced to rationalise occupational licensing within the Department of Consumer Affairs. This is expected to achieve greater efficiency in the administration of occupational licensing through the Commercial Tribunal.

Legislation aimed at reforming the law as it relates to residential tenancies will be introduced to ensure that the private residential market operates in a manner which is both fair and reasonable to landlords and tenants.

The Government will also present further amendments to the Workers' Compensation and Assistance Act including provisions to provide compensation for noise-induced hearing loss for workers who have not suffered loss of earning capacity.

In the health area generally the Government will be introducing three major Bills during the Session.

These are:

- the Guardianship and Administration Bill which has been drafted with help from both the general public and from experts in the field. It will establish a board with power to appoint guardians and administrators to handle the affairs of people within the scope of the Act.
- the Psychiatric Services Bill which results from a review of the existing Mental Health Act and will establish new procedures for the assessment of people with psychiatric problems. It will provide greater protection for the rights of people detained for psychiatric treatment.
- the Health Amendment Bill which, after consultation with local government authorities, will increase virtually all the penalties prescribed in the present Act, some of which have remained unchanged since its original enactment in 1911. It will also introduce new controls over public buildings, venereal diseases, statutory mortality committees and therapeutic goods.

The Government will introduce legislation to change the title of the Department of Education to the Ministry of Education as part of a major programme of school improvement. The effect of the new administrative arrangements will be to decentralise the education system. The central bureaucracy will be reduced and more authority and responsibility will be devolved to schools and the communities they serve.

The Government will also legislate to implement recommendations of the Hetherington Report to improve the governance of institutions for tertiary education.

In the criminal law area, the review of the Criminal Code conducted by Mr Michael Murray, QC, has been the basis for substantial amendments to the Code.

Further work on the review will continue this year with priority areas being tougher and improved provisions relating to kidnapping and deprivation of liberty, and new anti-terrorism offences. In the area of law reform, where the Government has an unparalleled record, priority will be given to the implementation of Law Reform Commission Reports.

The Government will legislate also to establish an Independent Statutory Costs Committee to fix the scale of costs for lawyers' fees. Half the Committee's members will be non-lawyers. Legislation will also be introduced covering complaints and discipline of lawyers and to deregulate the Private Trustee Companies.

Substantial reform of the Parole System will be placed before Parliament this year as well as measures to reduce the rate of imprisonment, particularly for less serious offences.

The strength of the Police Force will be increased by a further 67 officers during the next financial year and 30 temporary clerical appointments made for the America's Cup have been made permanent. This latter action will release 30 police officers to assist in overcoming staffing shortages caused by the recent granting of a 38-hour week to police officers.

Other legislation will include Bills to:

- extend greater autonomy to local councils under the Local Government Act
- change the composition of the Betting Control Board and to allow bookmakers to have agents deputise for them
- implement some of the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Gaming in Western Australia and
- introduce significant amendments to the Dog Act.

Honourable Members, the legislative programme I have outlined indicates the breadth and variety of activities and responsibilities which all of you are charged to consider, to debate and in some cases to determine so that the interests of all people in this State can be properly served.

I now declare this Second Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your deliberations.

[His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.]

THE LATE HON. JERRY DOLAN

Condolence: Motion

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [3.40 pm]: I move, without notice—

That this House expresses its sincere regret at the death of the Hon. John (Jerry) Dolan, a former member of this House, places on record its appreciation of his long and devoted public service to the people of Western Australia, and extends its deepest sympathy to his widow and members of his family in their bereavement.

Mr President, Mr Jerry Dolan died on 26 December 1986 at the age of 85. He was born in Victoria Park on Christmas Day 1901, and was educated at Christian Brothers College, Kalgoorlie, where he met the Premier he was later to serve, Hon. John Tonkin.

Parliament today is widely regarded as an occupation to be entered while relatively young and most members these days have already retired by the time they reach 60. Jerry Dolan's political career was in marked contrast to that. He first joined the Labor Party at the age of 19, but he was aged 61 when he was first elected to this Council as the member for West Province on 29 June 1963. What he may have lacked in youth he more than compensated for in vigour and experience. He came to the Parliament, in particular, with a rich and extensive background in education and sport.

He had been a teacher in Fremantle for 40 years and had a remarkable record in league football, having played for 16 seasons and in 22 finals and nine grand finals, in the last seven of which he was a member of the premiership team. He was the first Western Australian footballer to receive the National Football League's merit award certificate, and he was inducted into Western Australia's Sporting Hall of Fame this year.

Jerry Dolan held a number of important portfolios in the Tonkin Government, including Police, Transport and Railways, and Edu-

cation, and was Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. He retired in May 1974.

The combination of champion footballer and successful politician conjures up a robust image of a man, and Jerry Dolan was certainly robust enough in advancing his views and the welfare of those he represented. He achieved that, however, with a personal courtesy and consideration which reflected the gentleman he was, and which earned him such widespread respect.

I invite the House to join in this expression of respect to Jerry Dolan and of sincere sympathy to Mrs Eileen Dolan and the Dolan family.

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Leader of the Opposition) [3.42 pm]: On behalf of the Liberal Party I second the condolence motion moved by the Leader of the House. I never had the opportunity to serve in Parliament with Jerry Dolan, but I knew him and heard a lot about him. He was a man with a distinguished record both inside and outside Parliament, and he was also Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and served in that capacity with great distinction. He held a number of ministerial positions and was perhaps best known in his role as Minister for Police. His contribution to his party and to this Parliament was immense and will not be easily forgotten. He was greatly liked and respected by all members of Parliament of all political persuasions. It was a great credit to him indeed.

He had a tremendous sporting record, as we have all heard, and I believe his record as a teacher was also above reproach. I offer my sincere condolences on behalf of the Liberal Party to his family on their sad loss.

HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [3.44 pm]: As Leader of the National Party in this place I would like to join with my two parliamentary colleagues, the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition, in expressing our sincere regret and condolences to the family of Jerry Dolan on his passing.

I was in this place in 1971 when he came here. I knew the man, and I worked with him on committees, and I can vouch for the fact that he was one of the finest gentlemen one could wish to meet. His impartiality was well known to everybody in this place. Indeed, he conducted himself as a true and great sportsman would.

His maiden speech in 1963 said two things which indicated the vision of the man. On page 273 of *Hansard* of 14 August, he said:

The day of the ordinary labourer has passed. Men of the future have to be trained. There have to be competent technicians, and men competent in the field of automation. The ordinary "wood and water joey", as we used to call him, is receding further and further into the background. If we do not move forward we will be left out of the race for a supreme place in world affairs.

I remind members that this was said in 1963. He went on as follows—

We have to train the youth of today to occupy his or her leisure time profitably; . . .

One of the greatest causes of delinquency is when people are listless and have no means of occupying their time profitably.

These sentiments were part of his life; they espoused that which he believed in.

I talked this morning with one of Western Australia's greatest footballers who was coached by Jerry Dolan. I said, "What do you remember most about Jerry Dolan?" He said, "He was talented, he was dedicated, and respected by everybody with whom he came in touch. We thought the world of him."

I will confine my sentiments to saying that it was a pleasure to have known Jerry Dolan. We of the Country Party, now the National Party, absolutely enjoyed serving with him during his period in the House.

HON. MARK NEVILL (South East) [3.46 pm]: I wish to be associated with this condolence motion. I knew Jerry Dolan for about 35 years. When I first went to my local church in East Fremantle he was a familiar figure at the back, organising things and taking up the collection plate. I cannot recall a Sunday when I went to church when Jerry Dolan was not there. He was always strongly involved in the church and in his community.

He was from the goldfields, part of the electorate which I represent. His brother Tim still lives in Kalgoorlie, the last member of the family remaining there. I also had the privilege of being taught by Jerry Dolan at John Curtin Senior High School, and I can say that my mathematics improved considerably after two years of Jerry Dolan's coaching. He continually exhorted all the students in my class to try hard and do better. He was a man who demanded excellence of

everyone in every field. I would like to add my condolences to his wife and family.

HON. T. G. BUTLER (North East Metropolitan) [3.47 pm]: I would like to join in the condolences to the Dolan family on the sad loss of Jerry Dolan. I, too, knew Jerry Dolan for a number of years as a member of the Australian Labor Party. Jerry was, as we all know, a sporting legend in Western Australia, and he carried that sportsmanship through his lifestyle and into this Parliament.

I remember well his period as Minister for Police in the Tonkin Government. I remember him well for his contributions to the community and to the Labor Party generally.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, before I put this motion I want to take the opportunity of joining with previous speakers in expressing my condolences to Mrs Dolan and the Dolan family on the sad passing of Jerry Dolan.

As I have told most honourable members in this place many times, I am an old Fremantle boy, and in particular an old East Fremantle boy, and therefore I could not help but have a lot in common with Jerry Dolan, hence my great delight in seeing the blue and white colours wherever I go.

I first met Jerry Dolan in 1941 when I went to Fremantle Boys School on the first morning after I had passed out of primary school, and the first teacher I had was Jerry Dolan. My mathematics did not improve an awful lot, but my football ability did. I have always had an incredible regard from him personally, and for him as a teacher and a man.

It was quite coincidental that 24 years later when I was elected to the newly-established South East Metropolitan Province the member who joined me in representing that province was Jerry Dolan. Although there were many years difference in our ages I had nine very enjoyable years sharing representation of the South East Metropolitan Province with Jerry Dolan. My wife and I spent much of our time with Jerry and Mrs Dolan at various functions we attended when representing that province.

I was quite sad when I heard about his passing and it was more sad to me that his passing occurred while I was out of the State. I assure the honourable members who have spoken that the comments they have made will be recorded

in *Hansard* and, as is my custom, I will send Mrs Dolan a copy of the *Hansard* record of the comments that have been made.

As is the custom in this place with the passing of a condolence motion, I ask members to be upstanding for a few moments.

Question passed, members standing.

MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ministerial Statement

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [3.52 pm]—by leave: I take this opportunity to formally advise the Legislative Council that since it last met I have been appointed as Leader of the Government in the Council, that Hon. Kay Hallahan has been appointed Deputy Leader and that Hon. Graham Edwards has been appointed as the third member of the Ministry in this Chamber. Details of our respective portfolios and representative duties will be circulated to all members.

The new ministerial arrangements have followed on the retirement from the Ministry of Hon. Des Dans and, despite his unavoidable absence today and the essentially formal nature of this sitting, I cannot allow the occasion to pass without paying my respects to him and recording some appreciation for the outstanding record of public service which Des Dans has achieved.

Hon. Des Dans has been a member in this Council since 1971. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Council from 1976 to 1983 and he was the Leader of the Government in the Council and Minister for a number of senior portfolios from the election of the Burke Labor Government in 1983 until his retirement from the Ministry on 16 March this year. In all of those capacities Des Dans provided active and very effective service to the Australian Labor Party, to his constituents, to the Parliament and Government and, thereby, to the people of Western Australia.

I believe that I speak not only for all members on this side of the Chamber, but also for others when I say that Des Dans enjoys and has well earned a very high degree of respect for his efforts and achievements and his qualities and that he has attracted to himself, as well, a very warm and widespread personal goodwill.

Speaking personally, I can only say it has been a pleasure to work with Des as a colleague and friend and I look forward to continuing

that relationship with him in the continued performance of his duties in this House. I congratulate him on his record and wish him well.

HEALTH: MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Merredin: Petition

The following petition bearing the signatures of 1 340 persons was presented by Hon. J. M. Brown—

To The Honourable, The President and Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament Assembled. We the undersigned citizens of the Eastern Wheatbelt request the Government to ensure that continuous Doctor Services are always available at Merredin.

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

(See paper No. 78.)

[Questions taken.]

DECLARATIONS AND ATTESTATIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.08 pm]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Declarations and Attestations Act.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon. J. M. Berinson (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): I wish to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to honourable members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

HON. GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [4.09 pm]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency—

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

Mr President, this opportunity I have to move this motion and to respond to His Excellency's Speech is an honour I appreciate.

The Government front bench in this place has undergone some considerable changes since the House last met. I extend my warm congratulations to Hon. Joe Berinson on becoming the Leader of the Government. To Hon. Kay Hallahan, double congratulations are in order, firstly for being elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Government in this Chamber, and secondly for being the first woman from any party to fill a leadership position in this House. And to the newest member of the front bench, my congratulations go to Hon. Graham Edwards on his election to Cabinet.

I would like to wish Terry Burke and Arthur Tonkin well in their pursuits outside Parliament.

On a sad note I would like to extend my sympathy to Mr Dolan's family, and also to Cambell Nalder's family and his party colleagues on their sad loss.

Mr President, the Government is to be commended for the wide range of initiatives proposed in the Governor's Speech. Time precludes me from mentioning but a few.

On the matter of electoral reform the Government has once again indicated the high priority it attaches to the putting in place of a fair electoral system in this State. As His Excellency said in his Speech, the proposal is a sincere attempt by the Government to accommodate different points of view that have been expressed on this subject.

It is my earnest wish that at the conclusion of the debate on the electoral reform Bill we, in this House, achieve a meeting of minds on this issue.

I refer to residential tenancy law reform. New residential tenancy laws are long overdue in this State. The legislation has had a long gestation period. The Government has consulted widely and the principles contained in the Bill will, I am sure, enjoy wide community support.

The big advantage of the proposed law is that all residential tenancy law will be contained within one Act with the rights and responsibilities of both parties to a tenancy agreement being clearly spelled out. The Bill will provide a mechanism for the quick resolution of disputes that arise between landlord and tenant.

Mr President, I would like now to draw to the attention of the House a couple of matters that are of concern to me. Firstly, there is the plight of the head injured. I am a victim of quite a serious head injury, and lest anyone says, "So that's what is wrong with him!", I can assure everyone I have made a pretty remarkable recovery. As a result of that experience of seven years ago I have a particular interest in the provision of rehabilitation services to the young head injured.

The wider society is unaware of the virtual epidemic of brain injury caused largely as a result of road trauma. The Head Injured Society has struggled valiantly, until the last few years without Government assistance, to increase community awareness of the problem and to provide some services to the head injured and their families.

Despite its recent disappointment in respect of the Melville Rehabilitation Centre, the society must continue to explore other avenues to achieve its goals. It cannot afford to waste time, money and resources in contemplating what might have been.

The Minister for Health recognises the need to provide appropriate services to the young head injured. As a first step the Minister is moving to have the Commonwealth funding for the existing programme at the Melville Rehabilitation Centre transferred to the State and I am confident that an effective service to young head injured will be established in the short term.

As with most public health issues, prevention is better and a lot cheaper than cure. Head injuries among children who ride bicycles

could be minimised by the wearing of an approved helmet. I will be pressing the Government to examine ways to encourage the wearing of helmets by children. Some form of subsidy scheme, coupled with an intensive education programme in schools suggests itself as a good starting point.

Mr President, the public health issue of the eighties is that of AIDS and it is finally sinking in that the population at large, and not just the so-called high risk group, is liable to fall victim to this disease. In the absence of a vaccine the only effective defence is an effective education programme.

I was concerned to hear the chairperson of the National AIDS Advisory Committee, Ita Buttrose, criticise State education authorities for trying to duck their responsibility in not taking the AIDS prevention message to high school students.

My fears were allayed when I read the AIDS education material produced by the WA ministry for education which is in the process of going out to schools and becoming part of the year 10 health education syllabus. It is excellent material and the Minister and his officers responsible for its preparation are to be applauded. Effective education in schools is important but it must be allied with a community education programme.

An aggressive public education programme is being undertaken with respect to AIDS in overseas countries, particularly in Britain, which is in stark contrast to the attitude taken in Australia thus far. I think there is a big need for a fairly intensive AIDS education programme to be mounted in this country. The problems that this disease presents in our society are quite profound and it is important that we get across to the general public measures with respect to AIDS prevention.

Mr President, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I commend this motion to the House.

HON. FRED MCKENZIE (North East Metropolitan) [4.14 pm]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. G. E. Masters (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.17 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRISON OFFICERS

Reduction

1. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) In view of the Government's plan to effect a State-wide reduction in prison officers by six per cent, will he explain the reason for placing at risk the people of the Bunbury region by the prospect of reducing the number of prison officers at Bunbury prison by 15 per cent, namely, from 61 to only 52 officers?
- (2) In implementing the proposal for reduced surveillance of prisoners, does the Minister realise that the general public and prison officers alike are likely to be disadvantaged?
- (3) For these reasons will the Government reconsider this policy?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) In the first place, it should be understood the Government has made no decision in this matter. It should be understood even more clearly that there is no question of anyone being placed at risk following the Government's eventual decision on the current review of prison staff utilisation. At all steps in the process of reviewing the present staff position, both in terms of numbers and current management practice, security is paramount.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Swimming Pool Subsidies

2. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Budget Management:

- (1) Is he aware of the consternation of country shire councils in general at the reception of his decree that the maximum level of swimming pool subsidy of \$3 000 instituted in 1975-76 is to be withdrawn as from 1 July 1986?
- (2) Is he aware that under new accrual accounting practices obligatory to shire councils, budget provisions for 1986-87 included the \$3 000 subsidy?
- (3) Is it possible in all the circumstances, together with the fact that it was not included in the State Budget proposals of the last year, that a Government rethink on the issue could re-establish the much-needed subsidy towards meeting country swimming pool losses?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) I emphasise it was not my decree.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I thought you were Minister for Budget Management.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON: It was a decision of the Government. This is a case where the importance of collective responsibility ought to be acknowledged.

Having said that, I also indicate to the honourable member that the Treasurer has in fact announced that a swimming pool subsidy scheme will be introduced on the basis of need, and special regional considerations. Details of the replacement scheme are yet to be finalised, but the result of that process should be available shortly.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 31 March 1987

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr B. L. Okely) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid, AC) summoning the second session of the Thirty-second Parliament.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (see Council report preceding), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

THE LATE MR C. C. NALDER, MLA

Condolence Motion

MR COWAN (Merredin—Leader of the National Party) [3.43 pm]: I move, without notice—

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr Cambell Crawford Nalder, Member of this Legislative Assembly from 8 February 1986 till his death on 14 March 1987, and tenders deep sympathy to all members of his family in their tragic loss.

My association with the late Cambell Nalder was one I enjoyed very much. It spread over a period of about 20 years and latterly—in the last 12 months—in his association with the Parliament as the newly-elected member for Narrogin.

I doubt whether many people in this Chamber know how much effort he put into the reunification of what is now known as the National Party of Australia. It was a very difficult time for all of us. At that time we desperately needed people with cool heads, common-sense, and limitless energy. Cambell Nalder demonstrated that he had all of those requisites and we in the National Party owe all to him for the success we enjoyed as a political party at the last election.

Cambell's election to the State Parliament on 10 February 1986 was really the recognition he deserved for all of his efforts, and it is tragic that he has been unable to carry on the job that he started out to do. It is certainly tragic that his parliamentary career was cut short so soon after it started.

I have no doubt that I speak for all of my parliamentary colleagues, particularly those in the National Party, when I say that we have all lost a very good friend. His wife, Janice, his children Gillian, Peter, Dean, and Grant, and his father, Sir Crawford, have lost much more than that. My sympathy goes out to them. In losing such a fine man their loss is very great indeed.

I ask all members of the House to support this motion.

MR EVANS (Warren) [3.45 pm]: I formally second the motion. I appreciate the opportunity to support, on behalf of the Government, the condolence motion moved by the Leader of the National Party. Over the years I have had a number of dealings with Cambell Nalder in his involvement with local government and rural industries. It became apparent quite early in our association that he was a man of high moral standing and principle. He also demonstrated that he was capable of bringing leadership to those associations and organisations with which he was involved.

Although a member of this Parliament for just over one year, he had developed a presence in this place. He had served as secretary of his party and as a member of the parliamentary inquiry into the sale of the Midland abattoirs site. He could have gone on to emulate the record of his father, Sir Crawford, had he been permitted that opportunity. Regrettably it was not given to him.

The Government joins with the Opposition in extending deepest sympathy to Mrs Janice Nalder and her family.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Leader of the Opposition) [3.46 pm]: I, too, wish to support the motion on behalf of the Liberal Party members of this House. Cambell Nalder made a short but significant impact on this House. If I were to sum up his characteristics in the time I have known him, I would sum them up in three words: Honest, persistent, and parochial.

He was honest in that his approach to the work of the Select Committee on the Midland abattoirs was aboveboard at all times and in the best interests of both this House and the com-

munity. He was persistent in making sure that his point of view was heard, despite the many pressures placed upon him during that inquiry.

He was parochial as he should have been as a country member of this Parliament. I referred to his maiden speech to ascertain the issues about which he spoke and nearly all were issues that were impacting upon the community of which he was such an important part during his life and which are still important today—that is, the work ethic and the disappearance of small towns in his area. Having travelled in those areas I know very much the feelings of those people and the feelings that Cambell was trying to express to us at that time. At that time, also, he expressed his concerns about the impact that high interest rates were having on country communities. I am sure that my National Party colleagues know that that impact is still as significant today as it was then.

Cambell was honest, persistent, and parochial. It is of extreme disappointment to the Liberal Party members of this House that we will not be able to work with Cambell as we did in the short time he was here.

I share some affinity with Cambell and his family. I am also an old boy of Wesley College. The current principal of that school extended to Cambell what I thought was a tremendous honour in his latter days by inviting him to open the extended pool which his father had originally opened. I know that that was a great honour for Cambell and, on behalf of all members and his family, I thank Rod Kefford and his school for making such a significant gesture to Cambell. I know he appreciated it.

I join with the Leader of the National Party and his colleagues in extending to his widow, Janice, their four children, and to all of the Nalder family our deepest sympathy.

MR SCHELL (Mt Marshall) [3.49 pm]: I join with those members who have expressed their sympathy to the family of the late Cambell Nalder. One year after his election to this House as the National Party member for Narrogin, Cambell died following a three-month illness. Cambell shared, with me and with other members of the National Party elected at the February 1986 election, the elation of a successful election and the fruition of an ideal to regain the strength once held by the Country Party in this Parliament.

The National Party leader and other speakers have outlined Cambell's constructive and active role in this Parliament. I will not enlarge on those matters except to add that he was

always easy to work with and enthusiastic in carrying out his duties, especially in taking up the challenges that arose—for example in his appointments to the positions of National Party secretary and member of the Select Committee into the Midland Abattoir Land Sale.

Although his parliamentary career was short, Cambell nevertheless was involved in politics and the activities of his political party for many years, beginning from the time he left Wesley College. He was a foundation executive member of the original Young Country Party which Australia-wide has grown into one of the largest political youth groups in this nation today. I am sure that if Cambell's political career had continued it would have been as long and distinguished as that of his father, Sir Crawford Nalder. My thoughts today go to his wife, Janice, and children, Gillian, Peter, Dean, and Grant, and father, Sir Crawford, who all showed such outstanding courage during Cambell's final weeks.

MR D. L. SMITH (Mitchell) [3.50 pm]: I rise to support the motion of condolence. I cannot claim to have known the late member for Narrogin very well prior to his arrival in this Parliament. I cannot claim to have been a close associate of his in any personal sense while he was a member. However, I was the Chairman of the Select Committee on which he served. It is no secret that that Select Committee was investigating matters which were divisive and which at times created a degree of acrimony. However, I place on record the fact that throughout the activities of that committee the late member displayed characteristics such as I would hope to see in most of the members who serve in this place.

The member for Narrogin was obviously a man of great discipline, great integrity and high principle. Whatever the differences between us while serving on the committee, I am glad to say that we both left that committee as good friends. We respected each other's positions and the values each of us held. I believe his death is a great loss to this Parliament.

MR LEWIS (East Melville) [3.51 pm]: I also support the motion of condolence to the late Cambell Nalder. I came into this House at the same time as Cambell and I had the privilege of serving with him on the Select Committee into the Midland Abattoir Land Sale, as did the member for Mitchell. Although I did not know Cambell before coming to this Parliament, after sharing the experience of serving with him on that Select Committee I found him to be a man of very high integrity, of great honesty,

and great determination. He believed that the truth should always prevail. I greatly respected Cambell and I am very saddened by his passing.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Janice, the rest of his family, and Sir Crawford and Lady Nalder.

Question passed, members standing.

FISHERIES: SHARK

Geographe Bay: Petition

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [3.54 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows—

To: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned request that all shark netting on reefs, set line fishing and trawling in Geographe Bay, be stopped.

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

The petition bears 2 493 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(*See petition No. 1.*)

LAND: RESERVES

Protection: Petition

MRS BUCHANAN (Pilbara) [3.55 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows—

To: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, request that the Western Australian Government take urgent action to implement all proposals for new National Parks and Nature Reserves made by the Environmental Protection Authority in its various "Red Books".

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

The petition bears 14 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(*See petition No. 2.*)

FISHERIES: ROCK LOBSTER

Pot Entitlements: Petition

MR CRANE (Moore) [3.56 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows—

To:

The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, request the Government to refrain from reducing rock lobster pot entitlements without adequate compensation to fishermen and to this end to return the 10 per cent pot entitlement already taken this season and that fishermen be granted legal title to any pots presently held or bought in the future.

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

The petition bears 481 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(*See petition No. 3.*)

CRIME: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Reintroduction: Petition

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [3.57 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned are very concerned at the increase of violent, sadistic, senseless murders being committed in this country. Therefore, we wish it to be known that we want the re-introduction of the death penalty for people who have committed murder or murders and who, by their actions, show that they have no regard for human life. Those who have been convicted by a court of law, beyond all reasonable doubt, that they have committed murder or multiple murders must face a punishment fit for the crime.

We feel that a change in the law is imperative and that we must have a deterrent by way of severe penalties for crimes of

extreme violence leading to death and these crimes must be punishable by the death sentence.

The petition bears 1 675 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 4.)

ENVIRONMENT: OLD SWAN BREWERY

Demolition: Petition

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [3.58 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth we protest strongly against the proposed development for the old Brewery and Stables sites and urge that the buildings be demolished and the area be converted to parkland under the control of the King's Park Board.

Your Petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 25 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 5.)

ENVIRONMENT: OLD SWAN BREWERY

Demolition: Petition

MR LEWIS (East Melville) [3.59 pm]: Mr Speaker, I present a petition from 32 residents of Western Australia praying that the Parliament reject the proposed development of the old Swan Brewery site by Brewtech Limited. The petitioners believe the site should be landscaped for a public recreation area and linked to Kings Park.

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

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

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

(See petition No. 6.)

[Questions taken.]

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (FINANCIAL INTERESTS) BILL

Leave to Introduce

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [4.30 pm]: In the absence of the member for Perth and in order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of the House to initiate legislation, I move—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to require disclosure of certain financial interests by Members of Parliament, to establish a register of interests so disclosed, and for connected purposes.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Brian Burke (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett): Accompanied by the honourable members of this Chamber I attended His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid) in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear his Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed among members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park) [4.31 pm]: I move—

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.

Indeed it was a pleasure to hear the Speech of the Governor outlining the nature of the important situation and the challenges that face our State at the moment and outlining the plans of our Labor Government for the current session of Parliament.

I think the time has come for me to reflect upon the achievements of the Burke Government over the last four years in office, but before doing this I will make a very brief preliminary comment about the role of State Governments in our federal system.

The powers of and the limitations on State Governments in the Australian federal system are the crux of politics. In particular, we need to note the very limited financial autonomy of the States. Even though they spend most of the money, most of it is collected by Canberra and then redistributed to the States. Roughly speaking, in our system of government 50 per cent of the revenue of the States comes from the Commonwealth. In the last Western Australian Budget, 48.2 per cent of revenue came from the Commonwealth. The other 50 per cent came from what economists over the years have consistently called a hotchpotch of inequitable, inefficient and regressive taxes and charges. Nevertheless, under our constitutional system the States have enormous powers and a great range of responsibilities.

In effect, under the Australian system the State Governments administer the modern State. The State Governments are the providers of law and order; they provide the health and community services systems; they provide the gas, electricity, water and transport services to the citizens of the State.

The challenge to State Governments in the current economic climate is to manage that great State machine as effectively and as efficiently as possible. In fact one of the first and most central challenges that faced the Labor Party when it came to power in 1983 was to take a grip on the public sector in this State and make it appropriate, efficient, and effective, to make sure that the services supplied by the State were of the type and in the manner that was a reflection of our principles—that is to say, to make the public sector appropriate; to make it work at maximum levels of productivity; that is to say, to make the State efficient; to make the State work as much as possible to achieve the objectives set for it by the Government and not by individuals in the bureaucracy; that is to say, to make the public sector effective.

The other two challenges continuing to face the Labor Government and other Governments in Australia are, firstly, the economic challenge to strengthen our traditional industries and to diversify into new areas in the interests of wealth and employment creation. The changing nature of the international mar-

ketplace, of technology, and of economic power means that we must rethink our approach to economic policy making.

Secondly, we continue to face a major reform challenge. The legacy of the Court-O'Connor years was reaction rather than reform in the areas of the electoral system, the legal system, industrial relations, Aboriginal affairs, and conservation, and the delivery of health, education, and welfare services.

The Labor Party came to power in 1983 facing economic and reform challenges; and central to dealing with those two challenges was the question of the public sector.

We needed and still need to provide economic development in this State, but at the same time we need to defend and extend the citizens' political and civil liberties, to promote a fairer system of distribution in our society, and to ensure better procedures for environmental protection. They are traditional Labor goals, many of which have been achieved by our Labor Government over the last four years.

Today I focus on the public sector, changes within which are a precondition for economic growth and wider reforms in our society. A central achievement of the Burke Government has been to carry through major changes in the public sector and at the same time produce excellent results on the revenue and employment side of the public sector ledger.

We have been a responsible State Government. We have introduced many changes in the public sector, and in all those changes the total package revealed is a very good one for the citizens of this State. Let us consider the facts and figures on public sector employment, revenue, and expenditure.

In real terms the revenue raised per person in the last State Budget was less than that raised in the last Liberal Budget of 1982-83. The Liberal Budget of 1980-81 involved expenditure of \$1 504 per person. In 1986-87 the ALP State Budget expressed in 1981 prices was \$1 471 per person. Major fees and charges in Western Australia have risen by 5.6 per cent per annum in the time of the Burke Government compared with an inflation rate of 6.3 per cent. That can be compared with the last three years of the last Liberal Government when they rose by 20.6 per cent when the inflation rate was 10.2 per cent.

The following material was incorporated by leave of the House—

WA PRINCIPAL FEES AND CHARGES

	1980/81 to 1982/83 Average % change per annum	1983/84 to 1986/87 Average % change per annum
MTT	15.3	5.6
HOSPITAL FEES	24.1	6.0
ELECTRICITY	15.3	8.5
GAS	16.5	8.5
WATER		
Domestic Fixed Charge	23.9	4.2
Sewerage	23.9	6.3
Drainage	6.5	2.4
Country Water	28.1	7.6
WESTRAIL (freight)	12.7	4.8
THIRD PARTY INSURANCE	40.0	2.4
AVERAGE	20.6	5.6
CPI	10.2	6.3

Source: Office of the Premier.

Debate Resumed

Dr GALLOP: That table clearly indicates the fine achievement of the Burke Government in this period of public sector change. The Government continues to leave no stone unturned in an effort to make the public sector efficient, flexible, and appropriate to the needs of the late 1980s. This has all been achieved at the same time as we have created 21 new departments and 27 new statutory authorities, many of which reflect our goals and aspirations in respect of changes that need to be made in our society.

Of course, many of these changes have met with resistance. Change can be a very uncomfortable and difficult process for those experiencing it, but we have faced up to that challenge. Unlike the Opposition, which for short-term political gain supports particular interest groups and pressure groups in respect of proposals for the public sector, support which is absolutely inconsistent in the way outlined by the Premier in a reply to a question today about statements the Opposition makes on public expenditure, this Government has not budged in its continuing commitment to improve the public sector.

Indeed, there is no choice for an honest Government but to do this. In the first place the public sector will experience a loss in public confidence if it is not seen to be efficient and effective in its operation. We on this side of the House are proud to have a coherent social democratic ideology, unlike members opposite. We believe the public sector has a very important role to play in society, and if the public

sector is not made efficient and seen to be efficient one opens the floodgates to the advocates of minimalist government. This is because the perceptions of the public towards the public sector will be diminished.

In the second place, the Government has little choice but to seek greater productivity from existing resources if it is to finance social progress in a climate of limited finances. This Government has not backed off from its traditional social and economic reforms but has placed the achievement of those reforms in the financial context which applies. Importantly as well, the Government has been highly innovative in its approach to public asset management in this State—the idea that the public sector can be a source of wealth generation as well as a source of taxation and regulation.

Mr MacKinnon interjected.

Dr GALLOP: It is good to hear from the Leader of the Opposition. He reminds me more and more of the Ascot water playground—very shallow.

I preface my comments on the public sector innovations by this Government by referring to *The Economist* survey on Australia on 7 March. Before I turn to the specific item in that survey which I want to deal with, there was a magnificent quotation in the early pages which was a very clear and truthful statement about the nature of politics in Australia. It stated—

On the most radical fringes are the think-tanks and spokesmen of the New Right, preaching unadulterated free-market theory. Somewhere in their slipstream is a lacklustre and unimpressive parliamentary Liberal (conservative) party, muddled but predominantly under the sway of Thatcherite ideas. On the left is an assortment of opportunists, ideologues and environmentalists, sometimes influential on individual issues.

Mr Brian Burke: What communist publication is this?

Dr GALLOP: *The Economist*. Let me complete the quote; it goes on as follows—

But dominating all is a right-wing Labor government of exceptional talent, driven by economic rationalists. The fact that Australia is not in much more serious trouble than it is can largely be attributed to a remarkably successful relationship between the Labor government and the trade unions.

That is a clear indication of what the overseas community thinks of the Labor Government we have in this State and, in particular, the

Government in Canberra. But tucked away in this survey of Australia is a reference to the Western Australian Government. I do not know whether other people noticed this, but there is a reference to the nugget coin which has been initiated by this State Government. It refers to the role played in this process by the Western Australian Development Corporation and points to the important part played by Mr Don Mackay-Coghill. The article states—

And characteristically, the nugget's home is Western Australia, the frontier state where so much innovation is taking place. A new mint is being built in Perth to promote that city as a bullion centre, and two new refineries are planned.

That is what the international financial community thinks of the State Labor Government. Why does it think that? It is because this Government has faced up to the question of public asset management through the creation of the WADC and through the staffing of that corporation with intelligent people with business acumen.

Mr Brian Burke: Mind you, they have seen the Opposition and they know there is not much choice.

Dr GALLOP: That is right.

To give one illustration for today's Address-in-Reply debate, when this Government came to power the Premier said to the Western Australian Development Corporation, "Compile a list of all public assets, buildings, and real estate in this State." That had never been done by those who parade as the best financial managers of this State. The WADC has discovered over 70 000 separate buildings and pieces of Government real estate, 4 000 of which the Government did not know it owned. As well as this, there are 2 000 properties which it knows it owns, but which no authority will come forward to claim.

It was the Burke Government which called on the WADC to compile this comprehensive register. It is the first step in a process we will continue by which it is hoped to improve the taxpayers' returns from the many assets they have purchased over the years.

We need now as a State Government to engage in an exhaustive cost-benefit analysis of current and potential uses of all these assets. We need to work to achieve a proper balance between passive and income consuming uses of public assets and productive income-creating

uses of those assets. Our Government is facing and meeting the challenge posed by the financial climate in which we live.

What is the Liberal alternative in this State? It can be put under two headings: In philosophy and rhetoric the Liberal alternative is extremist on the issues of taxation, public expenditure, regulation and deregulation, and on law and order; but in practice, when it is confronted with a specific issue of public policy, it is totally incoherent and rudderless. Its tax cutting commitments are ludicrous in the light of the expenditure commitments it makes. It is worth going through the local Press from week to week to look at the expenditure commitments made by local Liberal members of Parliament in their electorates. For example, I have two Liberal members as my upper House counterparts. They are constantly making requests for public expenditure while at the same time their leaders talk about the need for cutbacks.

We heard in the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition his attack on the Government over its fuel excise policies on the one hand, and on the other hand his call for more expenditure on roads. Such is the incoherence of this Liberal Opposition! We see the shadow spokesmen of the Liberal Party doing exactly the same thing consistently over a period—making public expenditure commitments which they know they cannot meet if they are serious about their taxation policies.

We see what the Federal Treasurer has described as the "Ash Street Gang" in action. Ash Street was the previous headquarters of the New South Wales Liberal Party, a party without any honesty or coherence in its politics. An enormous credibility gap exists in moderate liberalism—a gap which at the Federal level is of the order of \$10 billion to \$20 billion. The latest proposal is to abolish all excise on fuel—another \$5.6 billion to add to the deficit. We will either get the policies of Reagan with a blow-out in the deficit, inflation, and a collapse in the exchange rate, or we will see an attempt to sell off all our assets, much to the chagrin of the National Party, as is being done in Great Britain. My point is simply that the Liberal Party is in a bind. How does it meet the revenue costs of its tax cutting commitments? Reagan did not do it, and could not do it, because Congress stopped him. Thatcher has done it because, as the late Lord Stockton—one of the great Conservative Prime Ministers of Britain—said, she has flogged off all the family silver. The Liberals cannot do it in this

country; the National Party will stop them because much of the public sector in this nation exists to bring about redistribution towards the country areas. I applaud much of that redistribution.

So they cannot do it. There is a massive credibility gap on the side of conservative politics. What do the conservatives do? They have no substance and no policies, and that was indicated very clearly by the Leader of the Opposition when he said on radio yesterday, "I am not concerned about legislation; I am concerned about the day-to-day issues." They are not concerned about legislation because they have not thought about the subject for years. They have no policies in respect of the legislation which faces this nation.

What does the Opposition do? It turns to mudslinging. The member for Murchison-Eyre, well-known pen pal of the Secretary of State of the United States, well-known messenger boy in the Liberal Party of WA for Joh Bjelke-Petersen and well-known private detective, employs those mudslinging tactics because the Opposition has no policies. The member for Murchison-Eyre reminds me of the well-known

character Biggles, without W. E. Johns to embellish the truth. The Opposition has absolutely nothing to offer this State.

The alternative is a Labor Government which continues to meet the economic reform challenges which face this State and a Government which continues to attempt to achieve a more efficient, more effective, and a more appropriate public sector.

MR MARLBOROUGH (Cockburn) [4.50 pm]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR PEARCE (Armadale—Leader of the House) [4.51 pm]: I move:

That the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday, 1 April at 2.15 pm.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.51 pm.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Employee: Police Interview

1. Mr LIGHTFOOT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that a senior employee of the State Superannuation Board has been interviewed by the Western Australia Police Force fraud squad in regard to the association between Mr Rob Martin and the State Superannuation Board?
- (2) Has the Treasurer been made aware of statements reportedly made to the fraud squad by that employee relating to direct or indirect involvement of a private nature by the employee with Mr Martin or any company associated with Mr Martin?
- (3) If yes, what action has the Treasurer taken in regard to those statements?

The SPEAKER: It is my understanding from Press reports that the matter about which the member is questioning the Treasurer is the subject of at least two writs. I have not seen copies of those writs although I have called for them.

It is not my intention to bar debate on this subject unless absolutely necessary; but until I have seen the writs, determined the nature of them, and ascertained whether or not certain other actions have been taken, I shall consider the matter sub judice.

Points of Order

Mr MacKINNON: I am on the receiving end of both writs and neither of them refers in any way to the question asked by the member for Murchison-Eyre. Therefore, I cannot see why the question should be ruled sub judice.

As should be public knowledge by now, the writs relate to statements made about the police raid on the office of Mr Martin. They have nothing to do with any other aspect of this particular matter. I would therefore ask, Mr Speaker, that you allow this question.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I am perfectly happy to answer the question or not, or to debate the matter, but of course, Mr Speaker, I bow to your undoubted authority in matters touching upon debate in this Chamber. Let me say quite simply that whether or not you see fit to permit this point of order is of passing interest to the Government, as I have indicated that we are perfectly prepared to answer any questions on this matter, including the one raised by the member for Murchison-Eyre.

I should also point out that the question posed by the member for Murchison-Eyre is a very mild one because in all sorts of other forums he has been posing other questions and making other statements, most of which we will touch upon in debate in due course.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: I reiterate that I do not intend to withdraw from my ruling. It is my intention, I hope in the near future, to look at these writs and determine if what the Leader of the Opposition says is true. In that case, it is my probable intention to allow debate in this place. It is not my place to stop it. However, until I have seen those writs and determined those matters myself, the matter will be considered sub judice.

Questions without Notice Resumed

STATE FINANCE

Budget: Forecast

2. Mrs WATKINS, to the Treasurer:

In view of the current economic climate and the indications from Canberra that the Commonwealth will be taking a tough line on funding for the States in its May economic statement, does he expect Western Australia's Budget for 1987-88 to be another stringent one? In particular, does he believe there will be scope for significant new undertakings in Government activity?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I expect that the financial situation will continue to be a stringent one in 1987-88 with little scope for initiatives involving significant new expenditure. Indeed, I believe that is what the community is demanding from Government at all levels at present. The community wants the lid kept on Government expenditure for both recurrent and capital purposes, and the demands made by Government through taxes and charges and borrowings restricted.

The Government believes such an approach is economically necessary at present, even though it must inevitably mean that the needs and desires of some sections of the community will be disappointed. In this context the attitudes expressed by the Opposition in this State are worthy of comment.

The Leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues have tried to present themselves as the party of restraint. Their public utterances have paid some lip service to smaller government, lower taxes, and reduced Government borrowings. In *The West Australian* on 26 February the Leader of the Opposition was quoted as saying that Western Australia's public borrowings had "reached unacceptable levels". In the same paper on the next day, 27 February, he called for "sensible cuts in spending".

These two comments are typical of the image of financial frugality and responsibility that the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues attempt to paint of themselves when they discuss financial and economic issues in non-specific terms. There is no doubt they have a burning desire to be regarded as the driest of the dries, especially as they seek to attract funds for their party. Unfortunately they lack the discipline to carry through the rhetoric of restraint when they move away from financial issues.

Since July last year, members of the Opposition have made public comments calling for increased public expenditure in no fewer than 105 areas. They range from the commendable to

the bizarre. The cost involved in these requests, so far as we have been able to calculate it, runs into capital expenditure of more than \$440 million and recurrent expenditure of more than \$37 million, and that is on the basis of our only being able to cost 44 of the 105 proposals put forward.

In addition there were a number of proposals from the Opposition to reduce Government revenue collections from taxes and charges, though none of these was specific enough to be costed precisely.

The cold, hard facts are that the Opposition's demands for such massive increases in Government expenditure are just not possible. They would be economically irresponsible.

MR LEN BRUSH

Breach of Fiduciary Duty

3. Mr MacKINNON, to the Treasurer:

I preface my question by indicating for your explanation, Mr Speaker, so that I can indicate to you the direction of the question, that the police are inquiring into the alleged payments to Mr Brush. The question I intend to ask relates in no way to those individual payments.

- (1) Has the Treasurer sought or obtained advice as to whether or not Mr Len Brush, when acting as Chairman of the State Superannuation Board, breached his fiduciary duty to the board?
- (2) If so, from whom was the advice sought?
- (3) Did the advice indicate that any such breach occurred?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (3) The Leader of the Opposition would know that as a result of the complaint by the member for Murchison-Eyre and the member for Mt Lawley a police inquiry has been initiated into those matters to which he drew your attention, Mr Speaker, in the preface to his question.

I have consistently said that my view of the fair and proper course in those circumstances is not to make statements or take actions that would prejudice the interest people

legitimately hold in this matter. On that basis I have consistently said that the police inquiry should be allowed to continue without the intimidation that the Opposition seems to think is appropriate, and that if that inquiry results in charges being laid, then of course both charges would proceed in the normal fashion.

It may be that this Leader of the Opposition believes there is political mileage to be made from this sort of issue. He may well be right. My best guess is that he is atrociously wrong, and the day he decides to substitute some positive policies for the emotional and sideshow issues such as that he is now pursuing will be the day he and his party start to make some ground. But if he wants to pursue them, we will accommodate him. I can tell him now that there is not one member on this side of the House who would know what a Slutskin scheme is. We have not been in the sports specialist business.

Mr MacKinnon: You had better speak to the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment about Slutskin schemes.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the Opposition wants to pursue those sorts of things, they will be accommodated. But it is our preference that we maintain a level of debate that is positive and constructive. Leaving aside the question of the interests of Mr Brush—and it may well be someone else known to the Leader of the Opposition at some other time—leaving aside that, and the way in which it may be prejudiced, the Leader of the Opposition has an obligation to lead from the front by example, not from the rear as he seems very comfortable in doing.

TAXES AND CHARGES

Income Tax: Flat Rate

4. Dr GALLOP, to the Treasurer:

Does the Western Australian Government support a flat rate of tax as proposed by the Premier of Queensland and supported by the Leader of the Western Australian Opposition?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In all of these areas where there is a legitimate opportunity for this Leader of the Opposition to demonstrate his substance he is found to be lacking, and it may well be that he can pursue on a personal basis the Midland abatements decisions or the loan to Mr Len Brush. It may well be that the Liberal Party at its meeting can decide to make finance available to assist those people in Queensland who are providing information to meet their legal costs. That has not been denied, I understand.

In all of those areas where there is an important contribution to be made by this Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition either puts his foot in it or is found to be absolutely lacking. When they asked him what was his policy on education, he said he was in favour of it!

Mr Pearce: That is an improvement on their past policy.

Mr Cash: Don't talk about education my friend—you know nothing about it.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: This Government will not support a flat rate of tax, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, who has been reported as saying, "I am a firm supporter of a flat taxation system". That was said on 6PR at 2 o'clock on 6 February 1987 on the programme called "MacKinnon's Outlook".

Mr MacKinnon: I am glad you were listening.

Mr Laurance: It's better than yours.

Mr Williams: You are getting rattled, Brian.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: No, I am not getting rattled. I return to the Leader of the Opposition's comments on 6PR when he said that the Government preferred the view of his Federal leader, Mr Howard, who correctly pointed out that 80 per cent of Australians would be worse off under the single rate tax proposal of the Queensland Premier.

Mr Stephens: That's not true.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I admire the member for Stirling's loyalty, but I am simply quoting Mr Howard's words to the House.

Mr Cowan: That's okay.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We have been through this before when no-one on the Opposition benches would ever, during an extensive period of questioning, own up to supporting Mr Malcolm Fraser. Is there anyone on the Opposition side of the House who supports Mr Howard?

Mr Rushton: No trouble at all.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If that is not the kiss of death that the member for Dale—

Point of Order

Mr MacKINNON: To preface my point of order, I totally and 150 per cent support John Howard.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, you are aware of discussions that have been held between the National Party, the Liberal Party, and yourself in respect of the length of answers to questions. I do not particularly mind; I could sit and listen to the Treasurer all day because his answers do not seem to get him anywhere and they do not generally make points of any great moment. However, you have indicated that you are concerned that question time is being abused by members of the Government; in this instance question time is being abused by the Leader of this Government. I would like your advice, Mr Speaker, on the opening day of this parliamentary session, on what members can expect in this regard, and whether the Opposition is to receive the same sort of treatment in question time as in the past, or whether there are to be some changes made for the better.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Why is it that this Opposition Leader takes such exception to my answering his members' interjections? If the Leader of the Opposition wants answers to be brief, I advise him to instruct his members not to interject because it is absolutely the case that if interjections are made, I will answer them. I am aware of the need to keep answers brief and—

Mr Clarko: You could have fooled me.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That would not be hard. The member's interjection is a perfect example. I am perfectly happy to keep my answers as brief as possible. While not wanting to educate the

Opposition, I will maintain my answers' brevity provided only that I am not expected to remain silent when there are such oafish interjections as those practised by everyone on that side of the House.

The SPEAKER: In respect of the point of order, I think both the Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition have very good points. I think both are correct, but equally I am quite sure the Treasurer was about to draw his answer to a close.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As I was saying, the Leader of the Opposition supports the flat tax proposal put forward by the Queensland Premier. Does he deny that?

Mr MacKinnon: Yes, I do deny it.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Well, why did the Leader of the Opposition say, "I am a firm supporter of a flat taxation system" in answer to a question asked of him on Radio 6PR on 6 February 1987 in respect of the Queensland Premier's proposal?

Mr MacKinnon: Give the Opposition time for a debate on the taxation question and we will explain our position.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: There will be a debate in due course. Can the Leader of the Opposition inform the House how in the space of two months he has been able to turn such a somersault on an important issue?

Mr MacKinnon: I have not turned a somersault on this question at all; I have been totally consistent.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Leader of the Opposition has been consistent in changing his mind about a flat taxation system. On 6 February 1987 he said that he was a firm supporter of the flat taxation system. As far as the Government is concerned, I will wind up my answer by seeking to table a document that sets out in statistical form the devastating effect on average family income and well-being of this flat taxation proposal. The amount of money that it would confiscate from family budgets would render the existence of so many hundreds of thousands of Western Australians less

comfortable simply because the Leader of the Opposition thinks it is politically convenient to be a flat taxer.

(See paper No. 63.)

HEALTH: AIDS

Publicity Material

5. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Western Australian branch of the Australian Family Association written to him protesting about the quality of material published by the Western Australian AIDS Council?
- (2) Has the Council informed him as to why, in its endeavours to combat the serious threat AIDS presents to our society, it has openly promoted homosexual activity in its advertising material?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) and (2) I cannot recall receiving a letter from the Australian Family Association on this particular matter, but the member's question gives me an opportunity to make some points in respect of this issue.

Firstly, I hope to have the opportunity next Thursday to make a ministerial statement in this House in relation to the question of AIDS in our State and how it can best be tackled. I have offered members of both the National Party and the Liberal Party the opportunity to be briefed tomorrow by Dr McNulty and other people associated with the campaign in Western Australia so that they may be better informed on this particular matter before I make that ministerial statement.

In relation to the WA AIDS Council, last year I had somewhat of a difference of opinion with the then director of that council in respect of the way in which its campaign was being run in this State. Since then that director has moved on and a new director has been appointed. My difference of opinion with the then director of the AIDS Council related to the nature of some of the material the council was putting out. I was in fact concerned that the AIDS Council was itself more con-

cerned with the homosexual side of the AIDS question than the total question of AIDS.

There is no doubt that AIDS is a threat to society as a whole and not simply to one particular section of society. It was my intention to try to broaden the scope of what the AIDS Council was seeking to do. I have no doubt that the AIDS Council will move along that road and I also hope that its material does not promote homosexual activity. I say that without trying to be judgmental about that sort of activity but I hope that the AIDS Council recognises, as I recognise, that some aspects of homosexual activity do in fact result in people acquiring AIDS. That is of great concern to me as the Minister for Health in this State.

I hope that with the cooperation of the National Party, the Liberal Party, and the WA AIDS Council, we will see a campaign in Western Australia that will make the community as a whole aware of the problem which is bearing down on it. It is a problem which cannot go away and I say to the member for Merredin and to others in this House that there is a type of advertising that the Government and the community will have to face, despite the fact that it may be unpalatable to family-orientated people. I agree with the member for Merredin that the type of material distributed last year should not be published; and that is the sort of thing that I took up with the WA AIDS Council last year. There are some things in respect of AIDS that some people might not want to hear but if people do not want to hear those sorts of things, AIDS in our community will be a threat not just to homosexuals but to everyone in the State and in the nation. For that reason the Federal Government is starting a campaign next weekend relating to this matter which will be followed up by our own State campaign in April. I certainly do not endorse the type of material the member for Merredin has just handed to me and it was for that reason that I took issue with the way in which the WA AIDS Council ran its campaign last year. I

will meet officially with the President of the AIDS Council and the new director next week, and I will be meeting with them again prior to making my ministerial statement on the whole question of AIDS and our response to it both as a Government and as a community in the House next Thursday.

MR KEITH GALE

Strategies

6. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Economic Development:

- (1) Has the Minister reached agreement with the Premier on whether or not the senior management and consultants, including Mr Keith Gale, who were involved in establishing Exim, were good or bad, or whether they had a strategy for the direction Exim should take?

- (2) If the Minister has resolved his differences with the Premier, does he still stand by his criticism which blamed the involvement of early personnel and lack of clear strategy for the corporation's problems?
- (3) Could the Minister further elaborate on what he described as, "Mr Gale's very grandiose ideas that were out of keeping with the sorts of things the Government envisaged for Exim"?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) I am in complete agreement with the Premier on this, as I am on almost every other matter.
- (2) My views on Mr Gale are on the record.
- (3) I refer to the point raised by the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition earlier. It would not be in the best interests of the House were I to go into great detail about some of those matters now.

