

Mrs Edwardes: Take a special case to the commission. Try it. What are you frightened of - that it might be granted? Is that what you are worried about?

Dr LAWRENCE: Not at all. I am a responsible member of this Cabinet and have responsibilities not only to the teachers but also to other workers.

Mrs Edwardes: You should not have promised it, then.

Dr LAWRENCE: I would like the member to point to the document that she claims indicates I promised the teachers a special case. Today teachers from some schools were on strike again in support of a pay claim but I am pleased to say - although I would be the last one to want to be critical of teachers - that at some schools all of the teachers were present, as were the principals and the students. At many schools at least half of the teachers were present. However strongly they feel about their pay claim and the matters discussed by the member for Scarborough, some teachers are now saying that the sort of action apparently supported by the member for Kingsley is not the sort of action they want to continue to undertake.

Mrs Edwardes: I do not support strike action, I never have and never will. It is their cause I am championing, and it is a cause that you are not addressing at the moment. Don't talk about what the Government is doing, talk about what is happening now.

Dr LAWRENCE: We are very impressed by the fact that the member is championing their cause. As I see it, there are several reasons for the concern teachers are exhibiting and the low morale which has been referred to - and I have never denied that or suggested it is not happening. Firstly it is about salaries. All workers in this country have suffered a drop in real wages. Teachers, in comparison with some blue collar workers, have lost some ground, but so too have many other professionals. That has been one of the principal goals of the Accord, to some extent - to bring up the low wage earning blue collar worker to a living wage, to supplement that with a social wage, and to keep wages down in such a way that we could ensure a job for everybody.

Of course we can provide high increases to certain sectors of the economy, but the inevitable outcome of that would be increases in the inflation rate, wage demands by other sectors, increases in the private sector and in taxes and charges, and the net benefit to everybody would be nothing. The net outcome in terms of the economy would be a disaster. So certainly teachers feel aggrieved about their salaries, and in our package we have offered opportunities for significant increases - especially at the top of the scale - and over time there is nothing to prevent further improvements. This is one year in the life of the system we are talking about. The Government has never suggested that improvements in salaries and conditions would happen only in one year and never again.

Another thing that teachers are concerned about - and I am very concerned that members opposite have reinforced this feeling - is that they have lost status in the community. Surveys carried out from time to time by popular magazines indicate that teachers, in the estimation of the public, have slipped further down the scale than they previously were. I might say that the same goes for politicians and journalists, but in a way we are trained to take it. Teachers feel that loss of esteem and say things like, "Other members of my family and my friends are earning higher wages than I am, and in our very materialistic society the only way you know your worth is by the dollars that attach to your salary." I can understand that feeling, but although I regard the work teachers do as fundamental I do not have stars in my eyes about the nature of the real world. Teachers will be criticised from time to time but I hope that criticism is fair.

Teachers feel the public criticism has become too strident, and in some cases it has. I am disappointed that the member for Kingsley has added to it today by being belligerently destructive of those members of the administration in the Ministry of Education, who are principally teachers who have been promoted to that level. They regard the community as having a lack of appreciation for their contribution and they are particularly critical of the media, who often set up situations that describe teachers in negative terms, that attribute to them motives and feelings they do not have, that insist they have life easy, and that, generally speaking, they do not have the interests of their students at heart. I utterly repudiate all of those things and I would wish the community generally would not put so much weight on teachers' shoulders.

I have already referred to the pace of change, and a good deal of that low morale can be attributed to the pace of change. However, I ask teachers to examine the changes that other workers have experienced, in both the private and public sectors; for instance, in areas such as social work. In this State there has been a major restructuring of the Department for Community Services in a way which means social workers have had to take on extra responsibilities, learn new roles and have different responsibilities in relation to their superiors. So teachers are not the only ones who have been asked to take on new roles and additional responsibilities. Many workers, as part of the restructuring and the greater efficiency that is required of them, must work smarter and more efficiently. I do not suggest teachers are not prepared to carry their load too, but simply that it would be helpful sometimes if they examined the position of other workers while looking at their own changed circumstances.

An important thing to recognise in all of this - and I have heard some of the phrases that have become familiar to me during this dispute because they came straight from the Teachers Union and are coming now from the member for Kingsley - is that the union's executive, and particularly its leadership, has expressed on many occasions that its avowed intention in this process we are going through now, and beyond, is to deprofessionalise the teaching profession. They think their professionalism is the reason teachers have been "exploited" and unless they become like blue collar workers in their industrial relations they will not get anywhere in this world. I am most disappointed that that is the view the union has taken, because I think they can get appropriate wages and conditions without necessarily using some of the tactics that they do.

I will briefly go through what has led to this dispute, because again I think it is worth placing on record. On becoming the Minister I started to address the question of morale, along with many other people in the ministry who were most concerned about it. This problem is not peculiar to our State - it is an Australia-wide and a worldwide phenomenon. If one goes from State to State one finds that the same themes emerge from Ministers - no matter what the colour of their Government - and from teachers and professional educators generally. Indeed, in the United Kingdom the system really is in crisis. Not only has the Thatcher Government insisted on certain changes to the education system but also it has kept teachers' wages to an horrendously low level and many schools in England are now being staffed by people on holiday there from places such as Australia, Canada and Holland.

So the problem is worldwide. It is not as bad here, although members could be forgiven for thinking otherwise at the moment. We met with the Teachers Union at Mandurah about June-July last year. A result of that, and of what we thought would put a stop to some of the ill-feeling, was the establishment of a negotiating group - a full-time group with a number of subcommittees working on specific questions that had been raised by the union and placed high on the agenda. The two items were to increase DOTT time - duties other than teaching - and to get an agreement of class sizes. The ministry paid for a full-time official from the union to work on the strategic planning and negotiating group, as it was called.

Mr Kierath: A union organiser?

Dr LAWRENCE: He was seconded from a school, basically.

That process resulted in agreements with the union on a wide range of issues. Firstly, extra DOTT time was provided particularly for primary school teachers who in the past had and still have less time for their preparation. There was also an agreement on monitoring literacy and numeracy standards in schools - a goal I would hope the Opposition supported - and the main elements of the Better Schools program. We reached agreement on class sizes and procedures to resolve grievances when teachers felt their workload or class size was unreasonable. There was a promise of additional administrative support staff, which was delivered in the Budget, and administrative computers to support schools particularly in programming and budgeting matters.

Further negotiations resulted in an historic conditions of work agreement for 1989. I still hope that out of this we can sign a similar agreement for next year because it gives significant improvements in long service leave for teachers and brings them into line with other public sector employees. Incentives for country teachers were provided for the first time in the form of cash incentives. Again, that is not the last word. We want to make further improvements in relation to, for instance, credit for long service leave and so on. But

those teachers are paid a relocation cost after they have served for the minimum time. In some cases, teachers with families can receive an extra \$4 000 per year.

Payment for relief teaching - and the member for Kingsley made some comment on that - was important because it removed the two day barrier. In the past, teachers had to wait until two days had passed before they could get a relief teacher. It also enabled the teachers to work the extra time in country areas where no relief teachers were available in the town.

I believe these negotiations could have produced early agreement on award restructuring, and an early agreement on a wage package. However, that was not to be. Negotiations bogged down; some of the personalities involved were clearly at odds; the union executive is divided and has been for some time. I mentioned yesterday that they described themselves in terms of the "white hats" and the "black hats". They do not get on very well together. The so-called black hats have been continually accusing Mr Bateman, and his supporters, of selling out through the process of negotiation. An extremely poisonous atmosphere was created in the union with writs flying, private investigators allegedly undertaking investigations, and allegations of non-democratic procedures being adopted. So it is not surprising, with that atmosphere surrounding them, that the ability of union executive members to negotiate with ministry people was perhaps less than perfect.

I made comments earlier suggesting that the ministry was slow to respond to some of the signals of that discontent, and slow to make the necessary changes once the log of claims was put in to the commission. The union did put in a log of claims despite the fact that we thought we were quite reasonably negotiating the changes that could have led to an early pay rise for teachers. The claims were logged prior to the national wage decision, which meant it was extremely difficult to evaluate in terms of what would apply on 1 July. Remember, the union had agreed not to make further wage claims until that date as part of a previous salary agreement. We made the formal response at the time - since that was all we could do because it was not due to be considered until after 1 July - that it was not acceptable. Following that initial log of claims the campaign accelerated and the 15 per cent claim was with no restructuring; if we were to do any restructuring, they would have another six per cent. That became the catchcry of the union. A series of conferences, stop work meetings, and strikes took place.

The important thing about the union's claim is that it should be assessed in terms of the effect that not only has on costs to the Ministry of Education but also the cost effect it would have if it went through the entire wages system in this State. I am surprised members opposite do not have a little more concern for the possible flow-on effects for the workers throughout the economy. My estimate is that costs to the economy in a case of that kind -

Mr Kierath: You don't understand the basics. There should be no flow on.

Dr LAWRENCE: I will get to that in a minute. The important thing to recognise is that if that were translated across the economy in Western Australia that would cost some \$4.2 billion to employers, both Government and non Government. I doubt that the Western Australian economy could survive that. As I indicated earlier, inflation rates and increases in taxes and charges would inevitably follow. As far as the teachers are concerned, the important point is that the after-tax differences per week between what they would get from the package the union is offering now, and what they would receive from ours are: At the top of the 2-3 year trained teacher scale the amount is \$3 per week. Teachers have more than lost that in the industrial action which they have taken. A 4-5 year trained teacher, at the top of the scale, receives the difference of \$12 per week; a principal of a class IA primary school receives \$5.50 per week. So the differences are minuscule after tax. Teachers are taking extraordinary action at the direction of their union in a way that is not to their advantage at all. The loss to teachers after the rolling strikes are concluded this week has already exceeded some \$4 million.

Several members interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: I know that they do it out of principle. I am pointing out the cost to members.

The interesting thing about all this is that Mr Bateman, in a discussion with Howard Sartler said, "I have been prepared to run the whole range of proposals, right down to 'let's agree on no salary increase, if you agree to bring about none of the restructuring changes'." No salary

increases is what Mr Bateman proposed to Howard Sattler. He also proposed that to me, so Mr Bateman has said in the public arena he is for no salary increase and no restructuring. I am sure that Governments would be happy to oblige but I do not think the teachers of this State would be satisfied with that.

The special case question has been raised a number of times. I will put that at rest. In his former order, the commissioner - and the union is now in defiance of the second commission order - made the following observations about the Teachers Union claim. Commissioner Fielding said -

Notwithstanding its commitment the State School Teachers Union has recently served notice on the Minister for Education, as the employer of teachers, that unless and until the Ministry acknowledges that the teachers have a claim for a special case, justifying an across the board increase of 15 per cent in the salaries prescribed under the award, it will embark on industrial action.

That was the explicit threat, and that is the way that Commissioner Fielding described it. The ministry has not acceded to that demand and this has led the parties to the commission.

The principles do not allow for any across the board increase of the kind sought by the union. The effect of the principles is that increases in rates in pay beyond the extent of three per cent and subsequently \$10 per week, cannot be further entertained without adequate restructuring save in special cases. In this context, special cases are rare and exceptional. The mere fact that the parties might agree that a particular case is special does not make it such. Furthermore, the mere fact that employees consider themselves underpaid or the restraint imposed by the wage fixing principles of recent years to be too harsh, does not make the case special.

Many, if not most, employees considered themselves in that category. Thus even if the ministry was convinced that the union's case was special there is no guarantee it would succeed. The case must be able to withstand scrutiny from the commission, and the commission is duty bound to scrutinise any such agreement thoroughly to ensure that the principles are adhered to. What the principles do allow is an increase in salaries based on proper restructuring of the award. That might lead to increases of the magnitude sought for some of the teachers; on the other hand, it might produce less for others and it could produce more for the remainder. It is unlikely that proper restructuring will produce a uniform increase of whatever magnitude for all.

The problem with the Teachers Union case was that they said 15 per cent equals a special case, and that is where members opposite have not done their homework.

Several members interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: I will deal quickly with a couple of allegations that were made. The first allegation made by a couple of members was that teachers have lost relative to other occupations. Teachers have received the same rate of increase as, for instance, civil engineers and accountants. They are not disadvantaged relative to teachers in other States. Currently, they have the shortest time to reach the top of the scale with the three year salary scale and only teachers in the ACT receive a higher salary. It takes seven years to get to the top in Western Australia and 11 years in Queensland. The so-called generous package that the Queensland Government is offering means the teachers will take 16 years to get to the top of the scale. There are no four-year trained teachers in Queensland so where did the Government offer the big increases - to four-year trained teachers.

High rates of resignation were referred to. Last year, 2.4 per cent of teachers resigned. Of those, 1.7 resigned without retirement and 0.7 retired. That has been the average for the last 10 years and the figures are running on course this year. Far from being a work force from which most experienced teachers are resigning, the age profile very clearly indicates that the older and most experienced teachers are staying on, whereas 10 to 15 years ago, we had a young and growing work force and resignation rates ran as high as 10 to 15 per cent. We now have many teachers on the top of the salary scale and a great number of them staying on. Indeed, the highest resignation rate in the last decade was 3.73 per cent in 1981-82 when the Liberal Government was in power.

I will deal with the quality of graduates finally because I think comments made in this regard by all parties in the dispute are the most insulting. It has been said that the quality of teacher

graduates is inherently deficient and that we have in our system a whole lot of people who should not be there. In the restructuring process, the one thing that I believe is fundamental - obviously the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Governments believe it, too - is that, before moving into promotional and high level positions, teachers be asked to demonstrate satisfactory performance. We ask it of all our public sector employees. It is not an onerous demonstration. In that way we can identify those teachers who need assistance and professional development rather than allow them go through the system and be transferred from school to school as some members know has been the case in the past.

Yesterday I mentioned the TEE aggregate furore. At the Western Australian College of Advanced Education, the aggregate for education is 314, 312 for health, 313 for science and 315 for arts - a mean for the whole institution of 317. At Murdoch University the aggregate for education is 344, agriculture 342, arts 336 and business 345 - a mean of 349. How someone can conclude from that that the quality of the intake of teachers is appallingly low I do not know. It is true to say that in the top 25 per cent of TEE aggregates, fewer people are going into education at a primary level than is the case -

Mrs Edwardes interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: It has been the case for 15 years since we have had statistics that can be compared with each other.

The other thing is that some of those students who were referred to as very low-grade students are often mature age women, Aboriginal students and people of a non-English speaking background.

Mr Kierath interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: That is what the Opposition called them.

Mr Kierath: You just called them that.

Dr LAWRENCE: I did not. Finally, education is not in crisis in this State. The Opposition is, as usual, in crisis, and I oppose the motion.

Mr Court: Your time has expired.

The SPEAKER: Order! I would like members to give me the opportunity to make the decision about whether the member's time had expired. The member's time had not expired; she had 10 minutes left. I do not know how much longer the Business Management Authority will ask us to put up with this ridiculous timing system. I hope it is not much longer and is fixed by the end of this week. While we have it, the same problem befalls everybody. I do not think it is appropriate that members should tell each other to sit down because their time has expired when we all know that they have 10 minutes left.

Mr Court: Are you sure she had 10 minutes left, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes I am positive, I can see the clock.

Dr Lawrence: Despite the interjections, Mr Speaker, I am finished.

MR AINSWORTH (Roe) [10.45 pm]: The motion before the House refers in part to a crisis in education in Western Australia. The crisis has manifested itself recently in the teachers' strikes. It is the first strike by teachers in 69 years. It is not just about a pay dispute. We have spent a lot of time this evening talking about a 15 per cent pay claim and various other things. That is only part of the argument. The dispute is not only about the pay system. The problem is deeper seated than that. There is a long running dissatisfaction with the education system which began to manifest itself with the introduction of the Better Schools report. Many of the recommendations in that report were bulldozed through with little consultation and even less monetary compensation for some of the changes that took place and are still taking place. Major structural changes and additional curriculum increased pressures on staff. For example, in primary schools, teachers must teach computing and sex education and a host of other new material. There are no more hours in the day for teachers than there were before these extra subjects were introduced. However, teachers are expected to fit those new subjects into the same number of hours and maintain the same standard of teaching in the basic subjects of what used to be known as the "three Rs".

Recently we have seen the introduction of a school-based decision-making program and

school development plans. Again, these have placed greater responsibilities on school staff for financial management and planning in the schools. These problems are exacerbated in small country schools with small staff numbers. No recognition has been given to these added problems and, in addition, no preparation given to teachers during their training to cope with some of the situations new teachers may face in country schools. For example, there is no training or preparation of teachers to cope with three or four year groups in one class. Primary school teachers are prepared to go to the country and teach only one class - they are not prepared for anything else. They get quite a shock when they are expected to teach years one to three and, in some schools where rural integration has taken place, from preprimary to year three. No monetary recognition is given for the different workloads under such conditions.

Members should try to imagine for a moment the situation of a two teacher school with a teaching principal and a permanent on probation teacher teaching years one to three. That P on P teacher may just have come out of teachers' training college and is probably a city person who has gone to the country for the first time. He or she may find himself or herself in a small school teaching three year groups in one class with only one other teacher to work with. That teacher is the principal who is not only teaching, but also has to administer the school and get involved in all of the other extraneous programs that have been introduced. Absolutely no recognition is given to the added workload placed on teachers in those situations. That principal does not have a large staff to spread his workload across; he has one inexperienced person who is already trying to cope with some of the difficulties that he or she was not trained for.

The general workplace conditions do not help the situation. Yesterday, I referred to some well documented cases of inadequate facilities, poor equipment and buildings which are not being repaired; in other words, the quality is being allowed to run down. Playgrounds are deteriorating and there are unsafe conditions for students. Upgrading work has been scheduled but has never been paid for or done. Those sorts of pressures and the inadequacies of the infrastructure in which teachers are expected to work all add to the problem. That situation and the pay claims have manifested themselves in the sorts of problems we have seen in the last few months.

On top of these problems, there has been a lack of opportunity for advancement and promotion. I know some of those factors are being addressed, but there are still major constraints within the system that are forcing teachers to look elsewhere for work. There has been little financial reward for ongoing restructuring. All of these problems have been exacerbated by the recent industrially provocative action of the Ministry of Education.

One example is the levelling of relief teachers' salaries to one rate, regardless of their qualifications. If that is not industrially provocative, I do not know what is!

Mr Pearce: Are you related to any teachers?

Mr AINSWORTH: I am married to a teacher, but she is a fully employed teacher and this situation does not apply to her. However, there are many relief teachers in the city and in the country who have high qualifications and are sought after. They found themselves in a situation where their pay was to be cut to the same rate as that of an inexperienced teacher who may have taught for one year only. In anyone's language that is provocative. There was also an insistence that little recognition be given to the restructuring that had taken place.

Mr Pearce: Didn't the union agree to that change?

Mr AINSWORTH: Regardless of what the union may have done about their situation, the relief teachers are now suffering and are of the opinion that their qualifications are not recognised. It is extremely provocative.

Mr Pearce: How can it be industrially provocative if it was discussed with the union and the union agreed to it?

Mr AINSWORTH: The Leader of the House is known as the "Minister for interjections" and he is trying to divert me from the point I am trying to make; that is, the real situation in the workplace - that teachers have had a gut full of what has been served up to them and have taken industrial action.

It is worthwhile my mentioning one of the major aims listed on the Education Ministry's

discussion paper prepared for the Teachers Union recently. It states that quality education for students will be enhanced by retaining and attracting high quality teachers who have opportunities to develop their skills. If that is the aim of the Education Ministry, it is going the wrong way about it. Experienced teachers are not staying in the profession. Many experienced teachers have been offered small pay increases in comparison with some of their compatriots and they are looking for other jobs. Some have already left. They are hedging their bets by staying in the system until they find an alternative occupation.

Mr Pearce: How come the resignation rate has not increased?

Mr AINSWORTH: As I said they are still in the system and they are planning to leave. They will not resign tomorrow and find they do not have a job to go to.

Mr Pearce: That is what the union said when I had responsibility for education and the resignation numbers did not increase.

Mr AINSWORTH: The previous Minister for Education got out also.

The higher academic achievers leaving school are seeking occupations other than teaching. On that basis the average skills level of teachers must drop. I hark back to my previous statement about the ministry's document which stated that one of the aims of the ministry was to retain and attract high quality teachers. That is not what is occurring at the moment. The ministry is losing the highly qualified people. Obviously it is retaining those people who are career teachers, but it is not attracting people who are looking at their options and at better salaries and opportunities.

It is imperative for the future of this State that we not only maintain, but also improve the quality of education. I mentioned in this House yesterday that we are in competition with Asian countries and the number of Asians furthering their education at tertiary level is growing and is much higher than it is in this country. We cannot afford to fall further behind. We must catch up and we certainly will not do it if we continue down this path.

The industrial problems are having a major effect on the students' morale, particularly those TEE students who, as a result of the strike action, are wondering what their future holds. It will have long-term detrimental effects on their future and if the Government does not take a tougher line with the ministry and accept responsibility for rectifying the inadequacies in the education system the industrial action will continue. It must resolve this situation very soon. This problem is not only one of a pay dispute, but also it is a problem concerning the lack of resources within the system. It is time for the Government to take urgent action and I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

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

House adjourned at 10.55 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

R & I BANK - ROTHWELLS LTD
Bad and Doubtful Debts - Losses Contribution

709. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) How much of the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia bad debts as shown in its accounts to 31 March 1989 was attributed to losses associated with Rothwells Ltd?
- (2) How much of the R & I Bank's doubtful debts provision allowed in the accounts to 31 March 1989 was attributed to losses associated with Rothwells Ltd?
- (3) (a) Did any of the bad or doubtful debt provision include a part or all of the \$6 million about which the Hon Julian Grill, the then Minister for Agriculture, approached the bank in 1988; and
 (b) if so, for what amount?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

It is not appropriate that the bank provide details of write-offs and provisions relative to individual accounts, but the managing director is on record as saying that, in relation to the bank's exposure of \$17.7 million on account of Rothwells, part of that amount has already been written off and a further small provision has been made for another amount.

- (3) No funds were provided as a result of Mr Grill's contact with the bank. Write-offs and provisions referred to in answers to (1) and (2) above take account of the total exposure of the bank on account of Rothwells.

WATER RESOURCES - WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
Technical and Review Committee - Establishment

743. Mr TUBBY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has a technical and review committee been established as recommended in the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into effluent disposal which was presented to the Legislative Assembly on 25 August 1988?
- (2) If yes, when will this committee issue its report on alternative wastewater treatment systems, including aerobic treatment systems and the RUCK systems?
- (3) If no, why has this committee not been established as recommended?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The matter was referred instead to the senior officers committee of the Cabinet committee on waste management. The issue of alternative wastewater treatment systems is being examined for that committee by a working party on wastewater disposal systems. A report on this issue will be presented to the Cabinet committee on waste management by mid October.

PAPER - RECYCLING PLANT
Establishment Consideration

758. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Has consideration been given to establishing a plant to recycle paper instead of -
 (a) exporting such paper for recycling; and

- (b) building a paper pulp mill?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) (a) Yes. This year Government contributed \$200 000 by way of a capital establishment grant to Austissue Pty Ltd to assist in construction of a tissue manufacturing plant using local waste paper.
- (b) Yes. Cabinet has established a pulp mill task force and has called for an options paper on a pulp mill including paper from "non traditional" sources such as kenaf and straw as well as recycling.
- (2) Answered by (1).

ROTHWELLS LTD - ASSISTANCE PACKAGE
Bond Corporation - Government Agreement

779. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is it correct that on the weekend of 22-23 October 1988 there were negotiations between the Government and Bond Corporation which culminated in a written agreement between Bond Corporation and the Government to give Rothwells an assistance package of \$150 million?
- (2) If so, on what basis did the Government enter into that agreement?
- (3) What were the basic terms of that agreement?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) I believe not.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - SPEDLEY SECURITIES LTD
Investments - Premier's Awareness

780. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) When did the Premier first become aware of the State Government Insurance Commission's investments in Spedley Securities?
- (2) Did the Premier give any instructions, either verbally or in writing, to the SGIC in relation to those investments?
- (3) If so, when were those instructions given and why?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) I am unable to recall precisely when I became aware of this investment.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

SPORT AND RECREATION - COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND
Projects

793. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

What projects have been committed to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund for the year 1988-89?

The answer was tabled.

[See paper No 427.]

**SPORT AND RECREATION - COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION
FACILITIES FUND
*Funds Allocation***

794. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

What total funds were allocated to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund for the year 1988-89?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

\$2 800 000.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION
FACILITIES FUND
*Projects***

795. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

(1) Have there been any projects committed to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund for the year 1989-90?

(2) If so, would the Minister please list the projects?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Projects committed to the community sporting and recreation facilities for 1989-90 -

Wyalkatchem Golf Club - redevelopment of golf clubhouse.

Toodyay Tennis Club - upgrade four tennis courts with synthetic grass.

West Stirling Tee Ball & Softball Club - construction of clubrooms.

Albany Sea Rescue - construction of amenities block.

Walliston Riding and Pony Club - reconstruction of clubhouse - Kalamunda.

Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club - planning of clubhouse.

Shire of East Pilbara - construction of swimming pool in Marble Bar.

Shire of Boddington - construction of recreation centre, recreation grounds, Boddington.

Shire of Shark Bay - construction of recreation centre, Denham.

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup - construction of aquatic centre and recreation centre, V.C. Mitchell Park, Donnybrook.

Women in Sport Council - provision of child care facilities.

ENERGY - WIND PARKS

Installation Timetable - Cost

820. Mr COURT to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) What is the timetable for the installation of wind parks at Greenough River, Leeman, Jurien Bay, Leschenault Inlet and Moses Rock near Cowaramup?

(2) What is the budgeted cost of these parks?

Mr CARR replied:

(1) A definite timetable has not been established. A preliminary investigation into the suitability of some sites for wind parks has been undertaken and several sites are to be investigated further. SECWA is currently in the process of obtaining additional wind monitoring equipment in order to determine local wind conditions more precisely. Wind conditions can vary significantly over

relatively small distances. It is important to understand local wind variations in order to assess accurately the value of wind turbines in specific locations.

- (2) A 10mw wind farm would cost approximately \$17 million to install. This cost would double for a 20mw wind farm.

TRADE - CHINA

Tiananmen Square Massacre - Government Modification

821. Mr COURT to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Has the Government modified its trade dealings with China since the Tiananmen Square massacre?
- (2) If yes, what changes have taken place?
- (3) What official links has the Government retained?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The Government has not changed or modified its attitude towards continued trade and commercial relations with the People's Republic of China.

In response to the brutal suppression of the peaceful student demonstrations in Beijing on 4 June, the Premier immediately cancelled a visit he was scheduled to make in late July. Subsequently, the Government has decided, consistent with a decision of the Federal Government, that no visits by Ministers or other visits of a political character will take place until at least the end of this year when policy will be reviewed. The Government, however, also decided that it was important not to act in ways that would be injurious to the Chinese people, and therefore has not sought to restrict continued contacts through trade and normal commercial exchange.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Government has done nothing to alter the formal status of its links with Western Australia's sister province in China, Zhejiang. As the then Acting Premier stated publicly in June, the Government would be very reluctant to undo the patient and constructive work that has gone into building that relationship, which will continue to be an important vehicle for enhancing mutual understanding and building a stable and durable relationship with a major country in our region.

AGRICULTURE - LAND CLEARANCE

Notices of Intention - District Area Involvement

836. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) For each of the following agricultural district areas of Albany, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Harvey, Jerramungup, Katanning, Lake Grace, Manjimup, Merredin, Metropolitan, Midland, Moora, Narrogin, Northam and Three Springs, will the Minister please provide the following information for the 1987-88 financial year -
 - (a) the number of notices of intention to clear land;
 - (b) the total area involved for each district;
 - (c) the range of areas for clearing for each district;
 - (d) the total area for each district which the Department of Agriculture approved for clearing;
 - (e) the total area for each district which was actually cleared in the 1987-88 financial year; and
 - (f) the total area of remnant vegetation on private land in these districts?
- (2) For each of the following agricultural district areas of Albany, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Harvey, Jerramungup, Katanning, Lake Grace, Manjimup, Merredin, Metropolitan, Midland, Moora, Narrogin, Northam and Three Springs, will the Minister please provide the following information for the 1988-89 financial year -

- (a) the number of notices of intention to clear land;
 - (b) the total area involved for each district;
 - (c) the range of areas for clearing for each district;
 - (d) the total area for each district which the Department of Agriculture approved for clearing;
 - (e) the total area for each district which was actually cleared in the 1988-89 financial year; and
 - (f) the total area of remnant vegetation on private land in these districts?
- (3) For each of the Shires of Albany, Plantagenet, Denmark and Manjimup, will the Minister provide the following information for the 1987-88 financial year -
- (a) the total area for each shire for which the Department of Agriculture approved for clearing;
 - (b) the total area for each shire which involved the taking of woodchip logs from privately owned native forest; and
 - (c) the area of privately owned native forest converted to commercial tree plantations?
- (4) For each of the Shires of Albany, Plantagenet, Denmark and Manjimup, will the Minister provide the following information for the 1988-89 financial year -
- (a) the total area for each shire for which the Department of Agriculture approved for clearing;
 - (b) the total area for each shire which involved the taking of woodchip logs from privately owned native forest; and
 - (c) the area of privately owned native forest converted to commercial tree plantations?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) Number of notices of intention to clear land 1987-88 -

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of notices</u>
Albany	100
Bridgetown	12
Bunbury	12
Busselton	33
Esperance	5
Geraldton	4
Harvey	11
Jerramungup	26
Katanning	14
Lake Grace	10
Manjimup	14
Merredin	14
Metropolitan	13
Midland	Nil
Moora	38
Narrogin	18
Northam	10
Three Springs	6
Total	340

- (b) The total area involved for each district, 1987-88 -

<u>District</u>	<u>Total area (ha)</u>
Agricultural areas	
Albany	5 183
Bridgetown	499
Bunbury	210

Busselton	1 067
Esperance	1 416
Geraldton	1 600
Harvey	783
Jerramungup	5 596
Katanning	519
Lake Grace	2 049
Manjimup	590
Merredin	2 914
Metropolitan	327
Midland	-
Moora	7 442
Narrogin	1 804
Northam	404
Three Springs	1 585

Total 33 943

(c) Range of areas for clearing for each district 1987-88 -

District	Range of areas for clearing (ha)		
Albany	1.5	-	1 000
Bridgetown	1	-	150
Bunbury	2	-	93
Busselton	1.5	-	200
Esperance	45	-	500
Geraldton	200	-	1 000
Harvey	4	-	310
Jerramungup	5	-	600
Katanning	2	-	130
Lake Grace	40	-	660
Manjimup	1	-	240
Merredin	44	-	450
Metropolitan	1	-	81
Midland	-	-	-
Moora	2	-	820
Narrogin	2	-	400
Northam	4	-	120
Three Springs	25	-	600

- (d) Under the Soil and Land Conservation Act the Commissioner of Soil Conservation does not approve areas of vegetation to be cleared but rather has a responsibility to reserve those areas which are likely to be a degradation hazard if cleared.
- (e) The area of vegetation actually cleared in 1987-88 is not known. Information on actual clearing will be available when the geographic information system for monitoring remnant vegetation becomes fully operational in 1990.
- (f) The area of remnant vegetation on private land for 1987-88 was estimated as follows -

Bunbury Agricultural District - 44 900 ha
 Busselton Agricultural District - 35 200 ha
 Albany Agricultural District - 44 700 ha
 Manjimup Shire - 18 000 ha.

Information on the other areas is not known for 1987-88 because aerial photography is not available for the relevant period.

(2) (a) Number of notices of intention to clear land 1988-89 -

District	Number of notices
Albany	176
Bridgetown	4
Bunbury	34
Busselton	44

Esperance	34
Geraldton	15
Harvey	17
Jerramungup	90
Katanning	24
Lake Grace	17
Manjimup	73
Merredin	30
Metropolitan	22
Moora	70
Narrogin	20
Northam	18
Three Springs	17

Total 705

(b) Total area involved for each district 1988-89 -

District	Total area (ha)
Agricultural areas	
Albany	10 661
Bridgetown	242
Bunbury	787
Busselton	3 210
Esperance	25 852
Geraldton	5 023
Harvey	780
Jerramungup	8 332
Katanning	1 472
Lake Grace	5 228
Manjimup	6 355
Merredin	7 050
Metropolitan	1 434
Moora	17 071
Narrogin	2 011
Northam	451
Three Springs	5 347

Total 101 306

(c) Range of areas for clearing for each district 1988-89 -

District	Range of areas for clearing (ha)	
Albany	25	- 260
Bridgetown	0	- 150
Bunbury	0.5	- 115
Busselton	2	- 400
Esperance	8	- 10 000
Geraldton	25	- 1 400
Harvey	3	- 121
Jerramungup	2	- 660
Katanning	1.2	- 300
Lake Grace	32	- 700
Manjimup	1.5	- 600
Merredin	25	- 700
Metropolitan	1.5	- 600
Midland		-
Moora	2.5	- 1 100
Narrogin	4	- 400
Northam	10	- 50
Three Springs	12	- 2 000

(d) See (1)(d) above.

(e) See (1)(e) above.

(f) The area of remnant vegetation on private land in 1988-89 was estimated as follows -

Albany Agricultural District	36 200 ha
Bunbury Agricultural District	44 300 ha
Busselton Agricultural District	36 600 ha
Manjimup Shire	13 000 ha.

Information is not currently available for the other areas. Such information will become available as the geographic information systems data base on remnant vegetation is progressively updated.

- (3) (a) See (1)(d) above.
- (b) Until 1989 the information on timber sold to WACAP was recorded in tonnes of timber, not area of vegetation cleared.
- (c) For 100 tonnes of timber sold to WACAP for woodchips a landholder may enter into an agreement with WACAP to plant one hectare of plantation trees. On this basis the following areas were planted -

Albany	0 ha
Plantagenet	50 ha
Denmark	30 ha
Manjimup	190 ha

- (4) (a) See (1)(d) above.
- (b) The total areas of privately owned land which have been cleared in 1988-89 and the timber sold to WACAP for woodchips are as follows -

Albany Shire	0 ha
Plantagenet Shire	30 ha
Denmark Shire	0 ha
Manjimup Shire	755 ha

- (c) The area of privately owned native forest converted to commercial tree plantations is estimated as follows -

Albany	0 ha
Plantagenet	10 ha
Denmark	0 ha
Manjimup	250 ha

RACING - PACING INDUSTRY

Downing, Michael; Report Recommendations - Review Committee Establishment

841. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:
- (1) Has a review committee been established to report on recommendations of the Michael Downing report on the pacing industry in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, who is on that committee?
- (3) When is that committee expected to report?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Messrs G.E.T. Ellis, G.M. Hodgson and A.J. Secker.
- (3) In the near future.

HEALTH - BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Silver Thomas Hanley - Upgrading Report

843. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

When can the public expect to see the report prepared by Silver Thomas Hanley on the upgrading of the Bunbury Regional Hospital?

Mr WILSON replied:

The report will be released this week.

BUNBURY TOWER - GOVERNMENT PURCHASE*Austmark - Bond Corporation*

845. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for South-West:

- (1) Has the Government considered buying the Bunbury tower from Austmark or Bond Corporation?
- (2) If so, what is the result of that consideration?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any consideration being given to the purchase of the Bunbury tower by the Government.
- (2) Not applicable.

STATE FINANCE - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM*Windell Tourist Complex - Financial Assistance*

853. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What financial assistance is proposed to be extended to the Windell tourist complex which totals \$500 000 as listed under the heading of proposed expenditure 1989-90 in the Capital Works Program?
- (2) Would the Treasurer detail for me what the Windell tourist complex is?
- (3) Who are the people involved in the Windell tourist complex proposal?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The financial assistance proposed is a loan of \$500 000 out of a total project cost of \$2.5 million.
- (2) The Windell tourist complex will consist of 60 motel units - 40 units stage 1 - roadhouse, restaurant, caravan park and camping facilities and will be located on the Great Northern Highway between Newman and Port Hedland, 43 km from Wittenoom.
- (3) Auski Holdings Pty Ltd.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - PROFITS DISTRIBUTION*Agreements*

860. Mr MacKINNON to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) In the Government's agreement through Western Australian Government Holdings with Bond Corporation to develop the petrochemical project, what agreements, if any, exist with respect to the distribution of the profits arising from Petrochemical Industries Ltd's operation?
- (2) Do those agreements indicate that the profit will be distributed in any way other than relating directly to the proportionate shareholding of the various parties within the project?
- (3) If so, would the Deputy Premier detail those agreements and table the relevant documentation?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Shareholders' agreement and the articles of association of Petrochemical Industries Ltd and Petrochemical Holdings Ltd.
- (2) See clause 10(1) of the shareholders' agreement.
- (3) See (1).
- (4) Not applicable.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - DEBTS*Government Liability*

868. Mr MacKINNON to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Does the Government believe it has any liability for the debts of Petrochemical Industries Ltd, including outstanding staff salaries?
- (2) If so, on what basis?
- (3) If not, on whose advice has the Government acted in refusing to accept liability?
- (4) Will the Premier table that advice?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1)-(4)

I understand that this matter is sub judice based on Western Australian Government Holding's petition of 28 July 1989 for the winding up of PIL which will be heard in the Supreme Court on 20 September 1989.

STATE FINANCE - ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE*Miscellaneous Services Division - State Government Insurance Commission Payments*

879. Mr MacKINNON to the Treasurer:

What payments were made to the State Government Insurance Commission that were included under the Miscellaneous Services Division as detailed on page 58 of the Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1990 that totalled \$436 037 as paid during the year ending 30 June 1989?

Mr PARKER replied:

The amount of \$436 037 was paid to the State Government Insurance Commission as a contribution towards the cost of engaging legal services to provide financial advice on the position regarding Rothwells Ltd.

STATE FINANCE - ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE*Public Service Commission - Information Services Expenditure*

882. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Would the Premier detail for me the expenditure which totalled \$3 340 490 under the heading "Information Services" under the Public Service Commission for 1988-89?
- (2) Would the Premier also detail for me the expenditure under the same heading which is expected to total \$5.140 million for the year ending 30 June 1990?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

The expenditure details for the Information Services Division are as follows -

	1988-89	1989-90
Consultants	649 000	699 000
Bureau service charges	2 200 000	3 988 000
Network	148 000	133 500
Computer maintenance	10 000	30 954
Computer consumables	9 000	14 000
Software purchases	8 000	2 950
Hardware purchases	33 000	83 146
Staff training	26 000	42 250
Staff travel	6 000	11 500
Miscellaneous	2 000	10 700
Records management system	89 000	39 000
In-house office automation	75 000	85 000
GPS development costs	85 490	- *
	3 340 490	5 140 000

*Included in figures above.

CRIME - "YEAR'S GAOL FOR VICIOUS ATTACK"

Youth Sentence - Newspaper Report

902. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Does the Attorney General recall a report in *The West Australian* on Friday, 14 April 1989 under the heading, "Year's gaol for vicious attack"?
- (2) Was that report correct in stating that a youth may only serve four months in gaol for a monstrous attack which left a 16 year old girl permanently disfigured?
- (3) How much time in gaol did the youth actually serve?
- (4) What was the prior record, if any, of Stephen Daniel Davis, referred to in the said article?
- (5) Did the Crown appeal against the sentence?
- (6) If so, what was the outcome?
- (7) If the Crown did not appeal against the sentence, why not?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Mr Davis is still in custody.
- (4) It is inappropriate to disclose a person's criminal convictions other than for official purposes. Such convictions, if any, are available to a judge or magistrate for sentencing purposes. The member is also referred to sections 40 and 126A of the Child Welfare Act.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The sentence was increased to three years 10 months and 15 days with an order for parole.
- (7) Not applicable.

ROTHWELLS LTD - MUSCA, MR LEON

McKechnie, Mr John - Proceedings Publication Ban

921. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Who instructed Crown Counsel, John McKechnie, to seek a blanket ban on publication of proceedings involving former Rothwells' lawyer Leon Musca?
- (2) Was the matter discussed with the Attorney General or anyone on the Attorney General's behalf in advance of the application being made?
- (3) Did John McKechnie act at the behest of the Attorney General in seeking the ban on publication?
- (4) Why did the Crown oppose an urgent hearing of the media application to the Supreme Court to lift the ban on publication?
- (5) What public interest was served by a delay in determination of the issue whether publication should be permitted?
- (6) What public interest was served by the ban on publication, as proposed by the Crown Law Department?
- (7) Was the Crown Law Department acting in the public interest or in the interests of the present Government?
- (8) What senior officers of the Crown Law Department formed the opinion that the public interest would be served by -
 - (a) seeking a ban on publication; and
 - (b) seeking or supporting effectively a delay in the determination of the issue when it was appealed by the media?

- (9) What precise heads of public interest were said to be involved in relation to each matter?
- (10) To what extent were the issues or either of them -
 - (a) discussed with the Attorney General; and
 - (b) discussed with any adviser, or officer, or person on behalf of the Attorney General?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) No-one. A blanket ban was not sought. As counsel for the Crowns, it was appropriate for Mr McKechnie to ensure the proper application of the Justices Act to those proceedings.
- (2)-(3) No.
- (4) The Crown had already sought and obtained an expedited hearing for consideration of the application and interpretation of section 101C of the Justices Act by a superior court - the Full Court - and the media application had other legal deficiencies.
- (5) There has been no delay.
- (6) The Crown Law Department did not propose a ban on publication. If a ban arises on the publication that ban is imposed by force of section 101C of the Justices Act.
- (7) The Crown Law Department sought the proper application of the provisions of the Justices Act.
- (8) For the reasons set out above, no officer of the Crown Law Department -
 - (a) sought a ban on publication; and
 - (b) sought to delay the determination of the issue.
- (9) Not applicable. See (7).
- (10) The issues were first discussed with the Attorney General on 8 June 1989 - the day after the hearing at which Mr Musca's deposition was taken - when Crown Counsel, Mr McKechnie, in the normal course, sought formal approval of the Attorney General to institute proceedings for contempt against two radio stations and their news editors. That approval was given.

STATE FINANCE - ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE
New Works-New Primary Schools - Five School Names

925. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the names of the existing State primary schools within a five kilometre radius of each of the five primary schools listed under new works/new primary schools on page 14 of the Estimates of Expenditure for the General Loan and Capital Works Fund for the year ending 30 June 1990?
- (2) What are the total student numbers at each school, categorised into primary and preprimary, attending each of those schools at this time?
- (3) What are the proposed or projected enrolments, categorised into primary and preprimary, expected for the commencement of the 1990 school year in each of the five new primary schools previously referred to?
- (4) What are the proposed or projected enrolments, categorised into primary and preprimary, expected at the commencement of the 1990 school year at each of the schools within a five kilometre radius of the five proposed new schools previously referred to?
- (5) What are the current enrolments, categorised into primary and preprimary, at each of the five new primary schools that were listed and constructed via the General Loan and Capital Works Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1989?

The answer was tabled.

[See paper No 426.]

"HANSARD" - PREMIER'S STAFF MEMBERS
Electronic Access - Index Completion

938. Mr KIERATH to the Speaker:

- (1) Do members of the Premier's staff have access to all or any part of an electronic form of *Hansard*?
- (2) Does this facility include speeches made in the House?
- (3) Does this facility include questions on notice?
- (4) Does this facility include questions without notice?
- (5) For which parliamentary years is this facility available?
- (6) Has any consideration been given to making this service available to all other members of Parliament and, if so, what is the result of this consideration, and what are the reasons for that result?
- (7) Is the Premier aware that the last completed cross-reference index of *Hansard* is for 1987?
- (8) Is the cross-reference index for 1988 being prepared and, if so, when will it be available?

The SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) replied:

(1)-(4)

No. However, a pilot project is under way to test the electronic transmission of questions on notice and answers between the Parliament and the offices of the Premier and Deputy Premier.

(5) Not applicable.

(6) Yes. It is intended that all members will have access to the parliamentary system. Initial efforts have been directed at reducing costs, especially in the area of printing parliamentary records. Further expansion of the system is dependent on the availability of funds.

(7)-(8)

The proof copy of the 1988 *Index to Parliamentary Debates* was delivered last week. The delay in production was caused by unforeseen difficulties in implementing a new computerised indexing system.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - COMPUTER SYSTEMS
*Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly, Hansard - Introduction,
Expenditure*

940. Mr COURT to the Speaker:

- (1) When were computer systems first introduced to assist with the operations in Parliament of -
 - (a) the Legislative Council;
 - (b) the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (c) Hansard?
- (2) What expenditure was involved in the years -
 - (a) 1985;
 - (b) 1986;
 - (c) 1987;
 - (d) 1988; and
 - (e) 1989?

The SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) replied:

- (1) (a) I am unable to provide information in respect of the Legislative Council; and
- (b)-(c) a pilot project using Wordplex word processors was introduced in the Legislative Assembly and Hansard in 1984-85. Installation of the present system to service all departments was commenced early in 1986.
- (2) The following figures include purchases, maintenance, salaries and consumables, but do not include expenditure by the Legislative Council -

	\$
1984-85	28 000
1985-86	121 000
1986-87	32 360
1987-88	208 468
1988-89	433 257
1989-90	494 000

TAXES AND CHARGES - FUEL TAX
State Increase - Federal Funding Level

945. Mr COURT to the Treasurer:

- (1) Will the State Government's increase in fuel taxes affect the level of Federal funding for this State?
- (2) Has the Federal Government expressed concern to the Government about this increase in fuel tax?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) There is no direct link between fuel taxes and Federal funding for Western Australia.
- (2) To my knowledge, there has been no statement by the Commonwealth on this matter.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
Judge, Mr Ken; Heron, Mr Bill - Financial Sources Letter

953. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH39 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that in a letter dated 6 July 1989 from Mr Ken Judge of Bond Corporation to Mr Bill Heron, Chairman of WA Government Holdings Ltd, Mr Judge wrote -
- We are confident that there are other possible sources of project finance available. We are aware that you have received advice that these other sources should be explored.
- (b) when was the Treasurer advised that WAGH had been advised that it would explore these other sources of project finance;
- (c) can the Treasurer confirm that the advice WAGH received and that is referred to in Mr Judge's letter of 6 July 1989 -
- (i) came from Whitlam Turnbull; and
- (ii) if no to (i), from whom did it come;
- (d) what were these other sources of project finance;
- (e) were these other sources of project finance properly explored before WAGH issued the notice of default to Petrochemical Industries Ltd on 27 June 1989; and if not, why not;

- (f) why was the advice referred to in Mr Judge's letter not tabled along with other documents relating to the petrochemical project; and
- (g) will the Treasurer now table the advice to WAGH that other sources of project finance existed and should have been explored?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) much of the correspondence from Bond Corporation to WA Government Holdings Ltd in relation to the failure to obtain project finance for the petrochemical project, and indeed in relation to the project generally, is self-serving and written with litigation in mind. Simply because Mr Judge makes the statement referred to does not mean that any such advice was received by WAGH.

Advice received by WAGH as to its rights and obligations under the agreements relating to the project is, naturally enough, confidential to WAGH and its release in the Parliament would clearly have the capacity to prejudice the ability of WAGH to conduct its defence to the proceedings brought against it by the Bond Group and PIL.

I do not propose to facilitate the use of parliamentary questions to assist the Bond Group in the preparation of its cases against WAGH, the State and Ministers of the Crown. Similarly, I do not propose to permit the Parliament to be the forum for this matter to be litigated. The Bond Group has chosen to take the matter to law and the rights and wrongs of it should therefore be determined in the courts.

As to the specific question asked, I must say that I do not understand it. If the word "would" were to be read as "should", the question might make sense. In any event, for the reasons given above, I do not propose to answer the question; and

- (c)-(g) for the reasons given in my reply to (b), I do not propose to answer this question.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING

Credit Facility, Terms and Conditions Summary - Missing Pages

955. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH19 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that the first three pages of the summary of terms and conditions of the credit facility are missing from the tabled documents;
- (b) why were the first three pages removed from the document before it was tabled; and
- (c) will the Treasurer now table the missing pages?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a)-(b) The summary of terms and conditions of the credit facility was photocopied from a draft information brochure prepared by the co-arrangers. Pages 1 and 2 defined terms referred to in the draft brochure. Page 3 was a leader page which indicated where the executive summary of the finalised brochure was to be located; and

- (c) yes. The pages are attached -

SECTION I: DEFINITIONS

The following capitalised words shall, unless otherwise defined, have the meaning ascribed to them hereunder :-

"Arrangers" :	Indosuez Australia Limited and Security Pacific Australia Limited
"BCH" :	Bond Corporation Holdings Limited
"BCP" :	Bond Corporation Pty Limited
"Chiyoda" :	Chiyoda Chemical Engineering & Construction Co. Limited
"Clough" :	Clough Engineering Limited
"CPI" :	Consumer Price Index for eight capital cities (all group) published by The Australian Bureau of Statistics
"Complex" :	The proposed Chemical Complex at Kwinana
"Confidentiality Undertaking" :	The confidentiality letter signed by each of the recipients of this memorandum
"Credit Facility" :	The financial arrangements as summarized in Section III
"EDC" :	Ethylene Dichloride
"EPA" :	Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority
"ERMP" :	Environmental Review and Management Programme
"Goodrich" :	The B.F. Goodrich Company
"JEA" :	JGC Engineers Australia Pty Limited
"JGC" :	JGC Corporation
"Lenders" :	the Underwriters of the Credit Facility and any other banks who ultimately participate in the provision of the Credit Facility
"LPG" :	Liquified Petroleum Gas
"Mitsubishi" :	Mitsubishi Corporation
"PICL" :	Petrochemical Industries Company Limited
"PICL Group" :	PICL, Petrochemical Holdings Pty Limited and Petrochemical Investments Pty Limited
"PVC" :	Polyvinyl Chloride
"SECWA" :	The State Energy Commission of Western Australia
"VCM" :	Vinyl Chloride Monomer
"WAGH" :	Western Australian Government Holdings Limited

SECTION II: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING

Treasurer's Letter - Peter Identification

956. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to a handwritten letter from the Treasurer to Peter dated

17 October and that was tabled recently with other documents relating to the petrochemical project -

- (a) who is Peter; and
- (b) what year was the letter written?

Mr PARKER replied:

This matter is the subject of litigation and I do not propose to answer it.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
*Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd - Bond Corporation,
 Letters Tabling*

957. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH24 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that a letter dated 7 June 1989 from Western Australian Government Holdings to Bond Corporation Holdings is, in part, a reply to a letter from Bond Corporation Holdings to WAGH, dated 31 May 1989;
- (b) why was the letter dated 31 May 1989 from BCH to WAGH not tabled along with other documents relating to the petrochemical project; and
- (c) will he now table that letter?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b); and
- (c) no, for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b).

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
*Petrochemical Industries Ltd - Western Australian Government
 Holdings Ltd, Letters Tabling*

958. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH25 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that the letter of 14 June 1989 from Petrochemical Industries Ltd to Western Australian Government Holdings refers to a letter dated 7 June 1989 from WAGH to PIL, which, in turn, is a reply to the letter dated 1 June 1989 and tabled recently as PCH23;
- (b) can the Treasurer confirm that the letter of 7 June 1989 referred to in the letter of 14 June 1989 is not the letter dated 7 June 1989 which was tabled as PCH24 and relates to viability;
- (c) if yes to (b), why was the second letter of 7 June 1989 from WAGH to PIL not tabled along with other documents relating to the petrochemical project; and
- (d) will the Treasurer now table the letter dated 7 June 1989 from WAGH to PIL that was the response to the letter dated 1 June 1989 already tabled as PCH23?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes; and
- (b)-(d) for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b) I do not propose to answer this question.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
*Petrochemical Industries Ltd - Western Australian Government
 Holdings Ltd, Matters, Treasurer's Procurement*

959. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH25 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that in a letter to Western Australian Government Holdings dated 14 June 1989 the company secretary of Petrochemical Industries Ltd states -

You have advised that Western Australian Government Holdings Limited (WAGH) has not yet procured the Treasurer to attend to the matters referred to in Clause 6 of the Deed of Undertaking.;

- (a) had WAGH undertaken to procure the Treasurer to attend to these matters and, if yes, when; and
 (b) did WAGH procure the doing of these matters; if yes, when; if no, why not?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes;
 (b) the member is referred to the documents already tabled in this matter; and
 (c) for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b) I do not propose to answer this question.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
Bond Corporation - Johnson, Mr Nick, Advice and Opinions Letter

960. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to PCH36 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project -

- (a) is the Treasurer aware that in a letter dated 28 June 1989 to Bond Corporation Holdings, Mr Nick Johnson wrote -

Without listing all the problems faced by the project over the past nine months and repeating all the advice and opinions given by us since August 1988 ...

- (a) why has none of the advice given by First Boston, apart from the valuation dated 29 September 1988, been tabled; and
 (b) will the Treasurer now table all the advice and opinions referred to in Mr Johnson's letter of 28 June 1989?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes;
 (b) for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b) I do not propose to answer this question; and
 (c) no, for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b).

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - DOCUMENTS TABLING
*Kwinana Chemical Complex Document - Petrochemical Industries Board
 Presentation*

961. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that a document entitled "Kwinana Chemical Complex - Project Facilities Definition, Estimate and Execution Plan" dated 12 June 1989 and referred to in PCH31, PCH32 and PCH35 of the documents tabled recently in relation to the petrochemical project was presented to the board of Petrochemical Industries Ltd on 13 June 1989?

- (2) Why was this document not tabled along with other documents relating to the petrochemical project?
- (3) Will the Treasurer now table it?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The document contains a proposal for a petrochemical project radically different from the one which is the subject of the documents tabled by the Government in this matter. The Government does not propose to table documents which do not evidence arrangements entered into by WAGH, or which are the intellectual property of others and are therefore commercially sensitive. To do so would, in the Government's view, simply be irresponsible.
- (3) No.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD - PROMISSORY NOTES

Issue - Offer Document

963. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

With reference to the Treasurer's recent statements about the issue of Western Australian Government Holdings promissory notes -

- (a) was an offer document for this issue sent to the market;
- (b) if yes -
 - (i) what are the names of the financial institutions to which the offer document was sent;
 - (ii) what bids were received from these financial institutions; and
 - (iii) will the Treasurer table a copy of the tender document submitted to the market?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) I do not understand what the member means by "the market". The promissory notes were sold on behalf of WAGH by First Boston Corporation Australia as the agent of WAGH. I do not know by what means First Boston invited offers for the notes. Its access to potential purchasers of commercial paper and its ability to sell commercial paper is the reason why it was commissioned by WAGH to sell the notes; and
- (b) these matters are known only to First Boston. The means by which First Boston sells notes such as these are no doubt confidential to it.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - WHITLAM TURNBULL *Government Advice - Document Tabling*

965. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has Whitlam Turnbull provided advice to -
 - (a) the Government;
 - (b) Treasury; and/or
 - (c) Western Australian Government Holdings,
 in relation to the petrochemical project?
- (2) If yes, why was it not tabled along with other documents relating to the petrochemical plant?
- (3) Will the Treasurer now table that advice?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) (a) Yes;
(b) no; and
(c) yes.
- (2) For the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b).
- (3) No, for the reasons given in my reply to question 953(b).

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - MINISTER FOR BUDGET MANAGEMENT
June 30 1985

967. Mr LEWIS to the Premier:

What person was the Minister or Acting Minister for Budget Management at midnight on 30 June 1985?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Hon J.M. Berinson, MLC.

TRANSPORT - AIR, INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
Western Australia - Separate Country Treatment, Premier's Proposals

970. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Federal Government accepted the Premier's proposition that Western Australia be treated as a separate country as a step towards easing controls on international air services?
- (2) If not, what proposals put forward by the Premier have been accepted by Canberra?
- (3) What changes are to be made?
- (4) When are changes to be made?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(4) The matter is the subject of an ongoing contact.

CHANGE OF NAME REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL - PURPOSES
Minister for Justice - Second Reading Speech

976. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Are all the purposes of the Change of Name Regulation Amendment Bill set forth in the second reading speech of the Minister?
- (2) Is the Bill in any way connected with or required for the purposes of establishing or facilitating a national register of births, deaths and marriages?
- (3) Is the Bill connected with or required for the purpose of computerisation of records relating to births, deaths and marriages?
- (4) Has the Government been engaged in any discussions directly or indirectly with the Commonwealth in relation to the establishment of a national register of births, deaths or marriages?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(4) No.

**TRAFFIC LIGHTS - BURRENDAH BOULEVARD-VAHLAND AVENUE
INTERSECTION**

Willetton - Installation

979. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government given consideration to installing traffic lights at the intersection of Burrendah Boulevard and Vahland Avenue in Willetton?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated that traffic lights will be installed at this intersection?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department monitors the performance of all major intersections in the State including the intersection of Burrendah Boulevard and Vahland Avenue in Willetton.
- (2) Signals cannot be justified at the present time.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS - APSLEY ROAD-VAHLAND AVENUE INTERSECTION

Willetton - Installation

980. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government given consideration to installing traffic lights at the intersection of Apsley Road and Vahland Avenue in Willetton?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated that traffic lights will be installed at this intersection?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department monitors the performance of all major intersections in the State including the intersection of Apsley Road and Vahland Avenue in Willetton.
- (2) Signals cannot be justified at the present time.

MINERAL SANDS - BEENUP AND JANGARDUP

Transport Option and Route - Environmental Impact Consultations

981. Mr OMODEI to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the preferred transport option and route for the Beenup and Jangardup mineral sands industry?
- (2) Has the Government consulted with surrounding land-holders at the Beenup and Jangardup mineral sands sites with regard to -
 - (a) mining impact on their properties;
 - (b) their attitude to mineral sands mining in close proximity to their land;
 - (c) environmental impact on the said properties; and
 - (d) road access to the mine sites past or through these properties?
- (3) (a) Has the Government undertaken a thorough hydrological study of the mine sites and surrounding area; and
 - (b) if yes, will the Minister release this report?
- (4) If sea transport is an option, will there be beach access by road?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) The matter is still being studied by an interdepartmental task force. I am advised that this group is close to reaching a recommendation on the issues.
- (2) All interested parties including surrounding landowners have the opportunity to make submissions during the ERMP process. The land-holders at Beenup are the proponents of the mining operation. In the case of the Jangardup operation, consultation with landowners has taken place and appropriate compensation agreements have been concluded with the land-holders involved.

- (3) A hydrological study on the Jangardup project was required in the ERMP. The results of this study were made available for examination and public comment by the EPA during the assessment stage. A notice of intent has been submitted on the Beenup project, but the level and requirements for assessment have not yet been advised by the EPA.
- (4) If sea transport proves to be an option, then some form of road access to an appropriate shiploading facility will be required. There are a number of options for such a facility.

EDUCATION - SCHOOL BASED DECISION MAKING GROUPS

New Legislation

984. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will any legislation be prepared and presented to Parliament to give legal backing to school based decision making committees?
- (2) If so, when?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) The Education Amendment Act No 53 of 1988 allows for the formulation of school based decision making groups.
- (2) It was assented to on 8 December 1988.

CIGARETTES - SHOPKEEPERS

Youth Sales - Penalty Increase

994. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Health:

Will the Government urgently consider increasing the penalty payable by shopkeepers for selling cigarettes to minors?

Mr WILSON replied:

The Premier recently announced that as part of a comprehensive program to reduce smoking, with particular emphasis on young people, the penalties for illegal sales of cigarettes to minors will be raised from \$4 to \$1 000.

EDUCATION - MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Chair of Peace Studies (Irenology) - Establishment Donations

995. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Education:

What was the amount of money received from donations for the establishment of a Chair of Peace Studies (Irenology) to Murdoch University/Murdoch University planning committee?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

None. There is no Chair in peace studies. In the original establishment of the University in 1973 there was a proposal for a Chair of Peace Studies, but this actually inaugurated as a Chair in Social Science.

VLAHOV, KARMELO - DEATH

Heathcote Hospital Inmate - Depression Sufferer

998. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the late Karmelo Vlahov of 45 Dumond Street, Bentley, was an inmate of Heathcote Hospital on and before 27 June 1989 suffering from depression, fear and anxiety?
- (2) Is it a fact that Mr Vlahov attempted suicide by swallowing broken glass and, because of this, was taken to Royal Perth Hospital for examination and treatment on or about 27 June 1989?
- (3) Is it a fact that Mr Vlahov was not given sufficient custody, which enabled him to escape at some stage during his visit to Royal Perth Hospital?
- (4) Is it further a fact that Mr Vlahov committed suicide by jumping from a block of flats in Belmont during his escape?

(5) What was the Coroner's finding about the death?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes; he was admitted and under treatment for a typical depressive illness.
- (2) This occurred in a closed area of the hospital where he was being managed for his own safety. He was escorted by a nurse for treatment at Royal Perth Hospital.
- (3) No. He entered a toilet while his escort remained outside. He managed to escape through a toilet window, which was completely unexpected.
- (4) Yes. Before he could be found it is believed he took his own life.
- (5) The Coroner has not yet received a full report on this matter and therefore no finding has been made.

AIRPORTS, BROOME - BROOME SHIRE COUNCIL
Purchase and Redevelopment Proposals - Government Approval

1001. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it correct that the Government "has endorsed Broome Shire Council's" proposals to buy the local airport and enter into a joint venture for its redevelopment?
- (2) If so, what approval was given?
- (3) Why was approval required?
- (4) Was the total plan presented to the Government for approval?
- (5) Did the Government examine the total plan before approving the action of the Broome Shire Council which required Government approval?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1)-(2)

The Government has approved "in principle" the proposal by the Shire of Broome to purchase Broome Airport from the Commonwealth and to resell it to the joint venture - Australian City Properties and Ansett Transport Industries. This approval is subject to the Government's receiving a copy of the Commonwealth Government valuation of the property and subject to the Minister for Local Government being satisfied with the terms of the agreements between the parties.

- (3) Parts of the proposal require my approval under sections 514A and 529(e) of the Local Government Act.
- (4) The parties have provided the Government with copies of the draft agreements and other information required by the provisions of the Local Government Act.
- (5) The Government examined the agreements and information requested from the parties to the agreements.

TRADE UNIONS - TRAIN DRIVERS' STOPPAGE
Duration - Stoppage Details

1002. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the duration of the train drivers' stoppage last week?
- (2) What was the issue involved?
- (3) How much notice of the stoppage was given to the employer?
- (4) Has the dispute been resolved?
- (5) If so, in what way?
- (6) Were those involved in the dispute, who stopped work for any period, paid for the period of the stoppage?

- (7) If payment was made, can it be said that no deduction was made for the stoppage?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Twenty-four hours.
- (2) A meeting on 14 September clarified union concerns over safe working and communication issues in the metropolitan area and a disciplinary fine of \$20.
- (3) Notification was given at 4.00 pm on 13 September that the stoppage was to commence at midnight that night.
- (4)-(5) Work was resumed at midnight on 14 September and talks are continuing with the union to resolve its concerns.
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.

TRADE UNIONS - TEACHERS' STRIKE
Students' Marks - Withholding Threat

1003. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What threat has been made by Western Australian teachers or their union to withhold students' marks from the Secondary Education Authority to prevent final year school leavers getting their tertiary entrance scores?
- (2) Was this threat conveyed to the Minister or the Minister's representatives?
- (3) Is there any indication that the threat will be carried out?
- (4) What teachers or group of teachers made the threat, and what proportion of teachers supported it?
- (5) What response has the Minister given to this threat?
- (6) Has the threat been withdrawn?
- (7) What action will the Minister take in relation to the conduct of teachers making such a threat?
- (8) What action will the Minister take if the threat is carried out?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1)-(4) The Teachers Union last week in statements to the media raised the possibility of taking action which would directly affect year 12 students, including the withholding of students' marks from the Secondary Education Authority. Following strong objections from teachers, parents and students, the Teachers Union later conceded that such action had not been formally considered by its executive and that teachers had not been directed to withhold students' marks.
- (5) In a ministerial media statement dated 14 September 1989 the Teachers Union was condemned for indicating that its members might take such action, as the use of innocent students in their final year of school in the union's push for higher wages would be quite unconscionable.
- (6) See (1)-(4) above.
- (7)-(8) The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education is empowered by the Education Act and regulations to take appropriate steps in response to any industrial action in schools.

EDUCATION - PRESCHOOL CENTRES
Funding - Parents' Fee Relief

1004. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Education:

With regard to the funding of preschool centres, as it was stated in 1988-89

under early childhood education that the Government will place all present preschools and preprimaries on the same funding basis as early childhood education centres, with fees to be phased out, will the Minister advise -

- (a) how does the Government intend to give fee relief to parents of students enrolled in preschool centres;
- (b) when can parents expect to have fee relief; and
- (c) will the \$50 education allowance be available to the 8 000 or so students enrolled in preschool community kindergarten centres?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (a) Fee relief to parents of students enrolled in community-based preschool centres is part of the Government's election commitments and will be introduced at an appropriate time during its term of office.
- (b) See above.
- (c) No.

EDUCATION - FIVE YEAR OLDS *Full Day Schooling Option - Commencement*

1005. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Education:

When does the Government intend to commence the introduction of an optional full day schooling for five year olds?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

No date has been fixed for the introduction of optional full day schooling for five year olds. This matter is under review in the light of -

the introduction of the Government's family centre program;
incomplete deliberations by the Australian Education Council on issues related to the mobility of families between States; and
advice from professionals in the field of early education that full day schooling may be deleterious to five year olds' development.

EDUCATION - STUDENTS, REGISTERED *Allowance - Fourth and Fifth Year Application*

1006. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Education:

As preprimary students are registered students attending Government and non-Government primary schools, and it has been stated that the allowance will be paid to registered students attending Government and non-Government schools, will the Minister advise, if the allowance is to apply to preprimary students, will it extend to children in their fourth year as well as children in their fifth year?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

No, the Government's commitment on this allowance refers only to enrolled primary - that is, years 1 to 7 - and secondary - years 8 to 12 - students. The question of whether a student is registered to attend a school or not is irrelevant.

WATER RESOURCES - GENEFF STREET, INNALOO *Ground Water Reduction Throughflow - Deep Sewerage Installation, Priority*

1009. Mr STRICKLAND to the Minister for Water Resources:

Given that it has been investigated and found that hydraulic mounding has resulted in a reduction of ground water throughflow in the vicinity of Geneff Street, Innaloo, because of sediment mobilisation by the mounds of sand adjacent to the Mitchell Freeway and the Cedric Street access ramp -

- (a) will the Minister give a top priority to the deep sewerage requirement

should the drainage system become overloaded by flooding, whereby back-pressure problems on septic systems in Geneff Street would persist;

- (b) what is the estimate of cost required to complete the recommended deep sewerage installation in the triangle between Oswald Street and Mitchell Freeway; and
- (c) what would be the time frame to complete such works?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (a) The Water Authority's priority would be to establish the cause of the overloading on the drainage system and to seek the most practical means of relieving the flooding.
- (b) \$600 000.
- (c) Approximately six months.

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT - LOT 20 TUDOR AVENUE, SHELLEY
Disposal - Noise Complaints

1011. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) (a) Will the property owned by the Main Roads Department at Lot 20, Tudor Avenue, Shelley be available for disposal; and
- (b) if so, when?
- (2) When is the current lease due to expire, and what are the terms of the current rental arrangements?
- (3) (a) Is it anticipated the house on the property will be demolished; and
- (b) if so, when?
- (4) Is the Minister satisfied that the house and surrounding yard are in a state of safe and satisfactory repair?
- (5) Is the Minister aware of complaints by neighbours of excessive noise made by the tenants?
- (6) What is the intended use of the property, and when will this take place?
- (7) Is the Minister aware that one of the neighbours is suffering from leukaemia and the noise from the motorcycles used by the tenants causes severe stress to the person?
- (8) What action can the Minister now take to rectify this situation, and will the Minister take it?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes. The part not required for roadworks will be available for disposal mid 1990.
- (2) Currently leased on a weekly basis. Tenant expects to continue occupation until property is disposed of.
- (3) (a) Yes; and
- (b) mid 1990.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes. A complaint was lodged with the Main Roads Department in February 1989. The matter was resolved at that time and no further complaints have been received.
- (6) Part of the property will be used to widen the road reserve to consistent verge width for safety reasons. The rest of the property will be disposed of next year.
- (7) Yes.

(8) Steps will be taken by the Main Roads Department to minimise any problems.
**VRISAKIS, ALECO - NATIONAL CORPORATIONS REGULATORY AGENCY,
 FEDERAL**

Member Suitability - Premier, Representations

1018. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

Has the Premier made any representations to the Federal Government as to the suitability of Aleco Vrisakis, a former director of Rothwells, to be a member of the Federal Government's proposed National Corporations Regulatory Agency to which he has been appointed by the Federal Labor Government?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

No.

**VRISAKIS, ALECO - NATIONAL CORPORATIONS REGULATORY AGENCY,
 FEDERAL**

Member Suitability - Deputy Premier, Representations

1019. Mr HASSELL to the Deputy Premier:

Has the Deputy Premier made any representations to the Federal Government as to the suitability of Aleco Vrisakis, a former director of Rothwells, to be a member of the Federal Government's proposed National Corporations Regulatory Agency to which he has been appointed by the Federal Labor Government?

Mr PARKER replied:

No.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ROTHWELLS LTD - STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

Financial Advice, Legal Services - Government Authorised Payment

148. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) During the time the Premier was Treasurer and the Minister responsible for the State Government Insurance Commission, why did the Government authorise the payment of \$436 037 to the SGIC "as a contribution towards the cost of engaging legal services to provide financial advice on the position regarding Rothwells Ltd"? The payment was authorised and included in this year's Budget, hence the question today. The response was as above.
- (2) Can the Premier advise the House if the payment made by the SGIC was to Whitlam Turnbull?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

The Leader of the Opposition is asking for detail which I do not carry with me. I am happy to have the matter examined, and I will do that.

STATE FINANCE - BUDGET, CAPITAL WORKS

Schools - Allocation, Decrease Allegation

149. Mrs WATKINS to the Minister for Education:

Allegations have been made that the Budget allocation for capital works for schools has decreased this year. Could the Minister please inform the House if this is the case?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

The member's question gives me the opportunity to put on the record the absolute silliness of that proposition. Last night, I listened to an extraordinarily trite and ill-informed list of deficiencies in schools identified by the shadow Minister for Education in her pseudo survey of some schools. The reality is that, in constant dollars - in other words, taking into account the

effects of inflation - the Liberals in their last Budget spent \$194 per student for new schools, additional stages, additions, improvements and renovations. Last year, a Labor Government spent \$246 per student -

Mr Clarko: Is that in real terms?

Dr LAWRENCE: In real dollar terms per capita. The figure takes account of both inflation and the growth in student numbers. The increase from \$194 per student in real dollar terms to \$246 is an increase of 36 per cent. In other words, in constant dollars, the Capital Works budget has risen from \$40.6 million during the last Budget of the former Liberal Government to \$65.4 million this year. I hardly think that can be seen as a decrease by anybody. The Government fully acknowledges the sorts of deficiencies that exist in schools, but it has to be cognisant of a reasonable expansion in that area and it is fair in its allocation of funds.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - BELL SHARES

Bond Corporation, Indemnity - Wran, Mr, Premier's Meeting

150. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Premier meet this week with Mr Wran and/or Mr Whitlam of Whitlam Turnbull to discuss the position of Bond Corporation's indemnity to the State Government Insurance Commission in relation to its Bell shareholding or any other matter?
- (2) If yes, what was the outcome of those meetings?
- (3) If not, is he aware that senior State Government Insurance Commission officers met with those officials this week?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(3)

It is not my practice to discuss meetings that I have with people. In particular, it is not normally my practice to discuss meetings that I have with people who, as the Leader of the Opposition suggests, might have something to do with matters that concern the Government's interest in litigation. Why the Opposition Leader would want that question answered is beyond me. The State Government is acting in the interests of the community and will continue to do that and will take whatever advice is appropriate in respect of that activity.

I suspect there is an ulterior motive in the Leader of the Opposition's question because it is clear from sitting in this House as I have since 1986 and seen the way the Opposition has conducted itself since we have been in Government that it will attack the reputations of any group of professional people, whether it be solicitors, financial advisers or accountants, the instant it is apparent that it has provided services to the Labor Party in Government. We have seen that in this place time and time again and in respect of some of the largest and most respected financial institutions in Western Australia including one of the major accounting firms in this State with international links and an international reputation.

I make it clear to the Leader of the Opposition and to the member for Contesloe who delights in this sort of practice as well that it is not well thought of by the business community that the Opposition should attack an organisation, firm or body that provides proper legal or other advice to the Government or Government instrumentalities. I will certainly do nothing to allow the Opposition to succeed in that sort of unwarranted character assassination.

PROMISSORY NOTES - TREASURER'S REMARKS

Media Conference

151. Mr THOMAS to the Treasurer:

Will the Treasurer expand on his remarks made recently at a media conference on the question of promissory notes?

Mr PARKER replied:

It is interesting that some people at least take the trouble to find out what they are talking about before they issue statements.

Mr Clarko: You called it a promissory note on the radio. You mispronounced it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PARKER: The member's leader did not even know what one was.

Mr Clarko: You said on the ABC it was a promissory note - you mispronounced it.

Mr PARKER: It is a promissory note.

Mr Clarko: You mispronounced it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PARKER: Now we know the level of understanding of these matters by members of the Opposition. I appreciated, even before the interjections by the member for Marmion, that there seemed to be -

Mr Clarko: Do you deny mispronouncing "promissory"?

The SPEAKER: Order! I took the trouble earlier this evening to make a statement to the House which I felt would allow question time to be much more fair for everybody. I would appreciate it if members would take notice of what I say in those statements. If members do not intend to take notice of them they should go outside and have a cup of coffee. If they do not have a cup of coffee and they persist in this practice, I will ensure they take a much longer break.

Mr PARKER: Unlike the member for Marmion, I do not have the benefit of having been a junior lecturer in history and English at a teachers' college so I may not be quite as good at my pronunciation of words as the member. However, unlike the member for Marmion and unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I do at least know what the word means. So does a journalist by the name of Louis Beckerling of *The West Australian* who took the trouble to find out what a promissory note is from people in the financial markets as well as from people in the Treasury Department before he wrote an article on it. I present to the Leader of the Opposition a copy of that article. He might like to give a copy of it to the member for Marmion. It appeared in *The West Australian* today and it details what promissory notes are. Mr Beckerling said -

For some readers, however, the nature and purpose of a promissory note might remain a mystery.

After describing what one is, he said -

In other words, an IOU, albeit with some refinements.

Chief among these is the fact that the PN may change hands several times in secondary trading before the deadline for payment arrives and the issuer will pay whoever happens to be the bearer when the term of the loan expires.

Mr Court: You misled the House and you got caught out.

Mr PARKER: No, the Opposition misled the House.

Mr Court: You said there was no money from South Australia, and there was.

Mr PARKER: The member misled the House and his leader misled the House.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Court: You told a little porky. You said there was no money from South Australia. You misled the House.

Mr PARKER: The member misled the House and his leader misled the community.

The SPEAKER: Order! Today I am in a particularly good mood and I will not allow members to detract from that. I ask members for the last time whether they

might desist from making that sort of interjection so we can get down the list of questions. I think it would not be inappropriate for us to sit here until we get through 12 questions. If members want to interject all night, that is what we might do.

Mr PARKER: The people who misled the House and the public were members of the Opposition because they did not take the trouble to do what that journalist did and find out what the notes were all about before they made their statements. I am sure the Opposition will rue the day that it made the statement. It is a laughing stock in the financial community because it does not know the details of one of the fundamental, basic and most ancient forms of finance raising in this community.

ROTHWELLS LTD - McCUSKER, MR MALCOLM

Inquiry - Full Authority Assurance

152. **Mr LEWIS** to the Premier:

Will the Premier assure the House that the McCusker inquiry or otherwise formal investigation into the collapse of Rothwells Ltd as instituted by the Attorney General has full authority and ability to comprehensively inquire into all persons, parties and matters involved and including the imputations that the petrochemical project was originally part of a deal to do with the financial survival of Rothwells Ltd?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I understand the Opposition's enthusiasm for the issue, but its level of research falls far short of that expected from a responsible political organisation. Members will note that the terms of reference of the McCusker inquiry were not simply dictated at the whim of the Attorney General, but were actually approved by - I think I am right in saying - the Council of Ministers; and, if not, the agreement of the Council of Ministers was reached to ensure the terms of reference were approved by the National Companies and Securities Commission. It did not arise at the whim of the Attorney General.

The other aspect of it which has caused me a great deal of concern about the attitude of the Opposition, is what happens in question time in another place when the Opposition persists in suggesting that the Government should interfere in that inquiry, that somehow or other the Government should influence the inquiry, and it should be in there monitoring what Mr McCusker is doing on a day by day basis. Nothing would give rise to more suggestion of impropriety than the Government's interfering in that sort of activity. Whatever the Opposition thinks, I do not believe anyone in the local community has anything other than the highest regard for the integrity of the person conducting the inquiry. In addition to the individual conducting the inquiry, this Government has resourced that person with 17 professional people conducting the inquiry under his direction. I make it absolutely clear that although the Opposition in Government would interfere in such an inquiry, invites the Government religiously and regularly to interfere in matters that are properly at arm's length from the Executive of Government, invites the Government to interfere in matters concerning the Commissioner of Police, or matters that might be conducted by the Crown Law Department - even the member for Cottesloe did that through the Press yesterday - this Government regards it as important that those people should have the independence to operate as is necessary to achieve the objective which it set out to achieve; that is, a proper inquiry into these matters.

Let us see from the Opposition less of the desire to make a headline and a bit more in the research line to justify the public's view that the Opposition should have some responsibility when talking about these issues. The answer to the question is clearly that the terms of reference were set in a proper way and, because of the integrity of the person conducting the inquiry, I am confident that it will be conducted in a proper way.

TELEVISION - ABC
Parliamentary Coverage - Level of Balance

153. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Leader of the House:

Does the Government plan to approach the ABC about the level of balance of parliamentary coverage in ABC programs?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The Government is satisfied with the level of balance shown by the ABC in its coverage of Parliament and other matters. It is reported in this morning's newspaper that a Federal spokesman for the Opposition has stated his lack of satisfaction in that regard. Some evidence is available that ABC radio in particular has almost obsessive concern with maintaining a balance. Members will be aware that the Premier is in the habit of reviewing films and books on Sunday morning radio, and I understand that in order to get some balance the ABC radio invited the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to do a review. He chose to review the film "Batman", although I understand that was not his first choice. It has been suggested that his first choice was "Biggles in Australia", but that was out of print. It was not a particularly distinguished review but I cannot -

The SPEAKER: Order! I am a little disappointed that members on both sides of the House do not appear to have taken a great deal of notice of my earlier statement. I do not think this is appropriate use of question time; it is a fun thing to do but it is not appropriate. I am not inclined to sit the Leader of the House down, but he should draw his bit of fun to a close fairly quickly.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - WHITE PAPER "INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE"
Principles and Guidelines - Government Dealings, Adherence

154. Mr COWAN to the Premier:

With reference to the White Paper entitled "Investing for the Future" -

- (1) Were the principles and guidelines laid down in that White Paper adhered to by the Government in its dealings in the petrochemical project?
- (2) If not, which principles and guidelines were not adhered to, and which Ministers failed in this regard?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

The guidelines in that White Paper were developed in part as a result of the controversy which followed from the petrochemical project. I must say to the Leader of the National Party that the guidelines were also not followed in a range of previous Government investment decisions.

Mr Cowan: That is an admission that they were not followed?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Yes. The largest and the most public after the petrochemical project is the North West Shelf project in which case the Leader of the Opposition, again with the most extraordinary duplicity with which he treats the public, suggested that was not the case. The Leader of the Opposition on talkback radio the other day said that the full facts about the North West Shelf project arrangements were laid out to the public and the Parliament. He is either not telling the truth, is naive, does not know, cannot remember, or a combination of all these things. No one in the community who is a student of politics believes that the North West Shelf agreements were laid out to the public or Parliament or anybody else outside a very small coterie of Liberal Party Ministers. The details cannot even be laid out by a Government which wishes to do so; that is, this Government.

Reverting to the question from the Leader of the National Party: No, in respect of many projects over the last 20 or 30 years the guidelines were not

adhered to. It is the Government's view that it is important to keep under constant review the way in which the public changes its demands on the performance of the Executive and of Parliament. That was the purpose of the issuing of those guidelines.

**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT - NANNUP
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Tree Plantation - Joint Establishment Proposal

155. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Is the Minister aware of a proposal by the Parents and Citizens Association of the Nannup District High School to jointly establish a plantation of trees with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and, if so, will he inform the House of the scheme?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

It is an interesting matter and I am very pleased to make the House aware of this scheme; I am sure the member for Warren will also be interested. The Department of Conservation and Land Management received a proposal from the Nannup P & C association suggesting that the department lease 10 hectares of land for the establishment of a plantation of trees by the students. The proposal has a number of benefits in that the students develop an understanding of forestry and how plantations work. The department has decided, with my blessing and support, to set 10 hectares aside for the P & C association on which they will plant marri trees. As a result of that the school involved will understand how plantations are started and developed in Western Australia, and it will also be an opportunity to gain funds for the P & C through the earnings of the plantation. The students will be paid contract rates by the Department of Conservation and Land Management for the management of the plantation.

It is a very good opportunity for parents and citizens associations in areas such as Nannup to get involved with CALM. I would like to take this opportunity of commending that P & C association and to say, as Minister for Conservation and Land Management, that if other community based organisations see this as an opportunity to get involved in forestry in Western Australia, to understand matters such as the greenhouse effect, and the effect of salinity on the planting of trees, I am more than happy to support them.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - WINDING-UP

Creditors - Non-Payments

156. Mr COURT to the Premier:

- (1) Now that the Government has been successful in its move to wind up Petrochemical Industries Ltd, will he advise whether PIL has any unpaid creditors?
- (2) If yes, are any arrangements being made for their payment by the Government?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

Members will have to understand in respect of this event that it was litigation which the Opposition indicated would fail, and it then indicated that it had failed; which was a mistake in its recent alibi advertisements, which were clearly designed to avoid any suggestion that it was only Bond Corporation which was supplying it with all its material. This bears a notable resemblance to a similar mistake contained in the advertisements of that other lover of truth and freedom, Bevan Lawrence, which makes me think that the Liberal Party and Bevan Lawrence are very closely allied. That belief had some support on polling day, when he was in my electorate, handing out how-to-vote cards, with a large Liberal Party sign and rosette emblazoned on him.

Mr MacKinnon: A very intelligent man!

Mr PETER DOWDING: I cannot tell the Leader of the Opposition whether he is intelligent; he has bad judgment. His sister has intelligence, and I predict that she will one day go even further than she has in the political scene.

The thing about this side of the House is that not only are we supportive of our colleagues, but also we are generous in our praise for them, and we believe they are undoubtedly the *creme de la creme* of the political scene; unlike the Leader of the Opposition's side of the House, which is riddled with bitterness.

Dr Turnbull interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: There are a few National Party members with a bit of get up and go, but it is early days yet; they need a bit of seasoning in order for us to see what they are made of.

The decision to move to wind up Petrochemical Industries Ltd was the proper decision. It was attacked by the Opposition at the time, which foreshadowed that it would fail; but the Opposition has been proved to be absolutely wrong. It is clear also that PIL was incurring obligations at a time when at least the directors representing the interests of WA Government Holdings Ltd were of the view that there would not be funding to meet those obligations. That view was resisted by the Opposition and, funnily enough, Bond Corporation, with whom the Opposition has now so closely aligned itself.

The responsibilities for the liabilities of PIL rest with PIL, and to the extent that the Government, through WAGH, had the interim funding obligations, which have been made public, those obligations will, of course, be met; and to the extent that there were obligations in respect of JGC and Clough - which were also made public some time before the Opposition was able to grasp the implications of it - they will also be met.
